



City Manager's Report
with John Weidl

5/5/2026



Highlights

- **Construction:**

STH 59/89 – Asphalt milling started last week on STH 59 west of Janesville Street and will continue into this week. Base patching and the first layer of asphalt is planned for this week.

Putnam Street – The contractor is wrapping up storm sewer and is anticipated to start on cutting out the road this week.

- In the Street Department crews dealt with flooding issues including repair of the Franklin Street shoulder and a driveway south of Caine Street. Crews also worked on brush collection throughout the City and in Starin Park. Other work included street sweeping and catch basin cleaning, streetlight and sign maintenance, ballfield preparations for a tournament, fountain preparation, fixing snowplow damage in terraces, and playground equipment repair and maintenance.
- In the Water Department, staff pushed back the start of hydrant flushing to this week to give time for the ground to dry out and the streams to reside. Other work included landscaping areas where water main breaks

occurred over winter and clean up from fall projects, setting new water meters, backwashing of filters, submitting raw and finished water samples and locating testing sites for lead and copper testing.

- **In the Wastewater Department, staff continued with fixing the screening/grit removal system, walked interceptor lines looking for possible infiltration locations at manholes and met with homeowners who had possible backups.**



Highlights

- **The Police Department celebrated Administrative Professionals Day. We're truly grateful for our team members who are exceptionally skilled and also a joy to work alongside. Thank you – Cathy Swartz, Angela Sahr (Sah-r), Jamie Hough(Huff) and Araceli Wence(We-nce) – we appreciate all you do for our department and the community!**
- **Officer Riley Fitzgerald was officially sworn in as our newest officer. Riley comes to us with prior experience at the City of Racine Police Department. He will be formally recognized at a public swearing-in ceremony along with other new officers in the coming months.**
- **Hiring update: Our detective bureau is currently conducting background investigations on the top candidates in our patrol hiring process. The next step for qualified candidates will be the Police and Fire Commission interview.**
- **PD Staff met with representatives from the Whitewater Unified School District and Walworth County Emergency Management to begin planning a**

tabletop training exercise.

Details

PD staff provided area students with a department tour and brief job shadow.



- **Highlights**

- Whitewater responded with a Tender to Palmyra for a structure fire and established a water point for Tenders to fill. About 170,000 gallons of water was transported from Whitewater to Palmyra over a 5-hour period.

- Saturday, April 25th Whitewater was requested with an Ambulance to the Town of Turtle for a structure fire. A pass was taken due to 1 ambulance being out of service.

- Tuesday, April 28th 2 recruits completed their training academy and will begin working on their assigned shifts.

Details



Highlights

- The library has welcomed over 10,000 visitors since opening in December 2025. The actual door count is 10,557.
- The library has a ceramic sculpture by former artist Albert Benedict. This beautiful piece of art was donated by his wife Donna. It can be seen in our atrium area near the Teen Space
- We applied for and were approved for a \$3000 Library Improvement and Innovation Grant through the Bridges Library System. This grant will go towards a self-checkout machine.

Details

We had 12 volunteers from UW-Whitewater join us for Make a Difference Day. Volunteers helped reorganize the basement and posted flyers at various local businesses advertising our upcoming May events.

Director Diane Jaroch completed the 10-week Leadership Action Series through CVMIC.

Assistant Director Sarah French has completed the Emerging Leader

Certification Program through CVMIC.

Programming & Makerspace Librarian Hunter Swanson took part in the Wellness Fair at UW-Whitewater on April 8.

Youth Services Librarian Deana Rolfsmeyer participated in the International Children's Day event on Saturday April 18 at Lincoln Elementary School.

City of WHITEWATER
Live • Learn • Work • Play

Community Development

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS: HOUSING & BUSINESS

SCAN ME!

- 01 Down Payment Assistance Loan**
Provides up to \$25,000 in financial aid to help residents purchase a primary residence within the City of Whitewater. The program offers a 0% interest second mortgage that can be applied toward a lender-required down payment.
- 02 Home Renewal Program (HRP)**
Provides 0% interest, deferred loans to help residents repair and improve single-family, owner-occupied homes to ensure they are safe and structurally sound. Subsidized residents can combine these efforts. All state-tax owners are PSE. Knowledge of fees on a property to specifically finance livable upgrades like solar or energy-efficient systems at a reduced 0% interest rate.
- 03 Façade Loan Program**
Provides financial assistance to commercial property owners and businesses to enhance the exterior appearance of their business. These low-interest loans help cover initial costs such as storefront renovations, signage upgrades, interior repair, and other improvements. The loan aims to sustain local business vitality, encourage reinvestment, and strengthen the overall visual appeal of commercial districts.
- 04 CDA Loan Fund**
Provides low-interest loans to foster local entrepreneurship and supporting companies within the City of Whitewater. The fund targets high-growth startups and emerging businesses in key innovation sectors. By making these seed funds available to business owners and operators in Whitewater, the City aims to stimulate creative investment and create sustainable, high-wage job opportunities.
- 05 CDA Grant Fund**
The CDA Grant Fund is an all-in-one financing tool to provide flexible grants to qualify businesses. The program typically serves as a seed-pool financing offer used to match other funding sources. Like the Loan Fund to ensure local companies have the necessary capital to grow within the city.

Highlights

- **Building permits are up sharply in 2026, with 148 issued year-to-date compared to 71 last year—a 108% increase—signaling strong reinvestment in both residential and commercial development in Whitewater.**
- **The Community Development Director and Chamber Executive Director continued Business Retention & Expansion visits, meeting with Coburn Company, which reports positive operations in the Business Park, and First Citizens State Bank leadership.**
- **The Community Development Authority approved updates to its loan fund (formerly Capital Catalyst), now supporting businesses at all stages—especially high-growth startups in key sectors like advanced manufacturing, ag/food processing, IT/software, medical devices, and renewable energy. Over \$720,000 is currently available, with details and applications on the city website.**



Highlights

- **Seniors In The Park Volunteer Appreciation: Thursday, April 23.** This year's theme was **Volunteers help us grow!** They received a pot, trowel, soil disk, and plant able thank you card. We had a harpist come and perform and demonstrate. They also got to build their own bouquet. The seniors volunteered 2,454.25 hours in 2025. We had a total of 88 volunteers for 2025.
- **Make a Difference day: Friday, April 24** We had 8 UW-Whitewater students come and help spruce up the senior center by cleaning the kitchen (fridge, stove/ oven, sink, counters), wiping down walls, cleaning windows, and wiping down and cleaning the tables.

• SAVE THE DATE!

Join us for Wisconsin Free Fishing Weekend and Whitewater Parks & Recreation's Reel Fun Fishing Day! Sunday, June 7th, 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Cravath Lakefront Park 341 S. Fremont Street, Whitewater Bring your own fishing gear or we'll have everything you need!

Never fished before? No problem—we'll teach you!
Fun for all ages, FREE hot dogs while supplies last. Come enjoy a relaxing day by the lake with family, friends, and great community fun. You won't want to miss it!

Facilities:

Details

New Class: Deep HydroX at WAFC: Low-impact. High-energy. This class will help you build strength, boost endurance, and move better-without impact on your joints. Be sure to watch the May class schedule for dates and times for this fantastic new class.

New Class: Move together, Dance together: Starting Friday May 1st. This class is for caregivers and their babies ages 0-walking. This is a low-cost class for those who have babies and want to get out and move. The dance and music are great for both baby and caregiver along with building a community of those in similar situations.



Highlights

HR staff participated in the first annual Whippet Pathways Day on April 17, 2026, at the high school. This year's event featured three interactive classroom sessions followed by a traditional career and college fair. HR staff led three sessions on "How to Nail a Job Interview," providing students with practical guidance and real-world insights. During the career fair, staff also managed to (mostly) defend their candy supply against determined efforts from the fire department, demonstrating HR's resilience under pressure.

Anniversaries

We would like to congratulate the following employees with work anniversaries in the month of May:

- Sabrina Ojibway(oh-JIB-way) (PD) – 28 years
- Rick Babcock (Bab-cock) (Streets) – 20 years
- Ryan Taft (PD) – 8 years
- Jeanette Gonzalez (PD) – 7 years
- Kirsten Bishop (PD) – 4 years
- Jamie Hough (Huff) (PD) – 4 years
- Thomas Cushman (Streets) – 3 years

Llana Dostie(Das-ee)(Community Development) – 3 years

Ariel Mora (Streets) – 2 years

- **We truly appreciate all you do!**

Retention

The City is accepting applications for a wide variety of positions right now.

Please check out the employment website at

<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/whitewaterwi> for more

information.



Contact Info



For Questions or concerns:
Becky Magestro
Chief of Staff
262-473-0101
bmagestro@whitewater-wi.gov

For questions or concerns- reach out to Becky Magestro, Chief of Staff, 262-473-0101 or bmagestro@whitewater-wi.gov



Contact Info



John S. Weidl
City Manager
City of Whitewater



As always, I am John Weidl, City Manager of Whitewater.