



FROM THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR

As we head into the extended Memorial Day weekend, I hope everyone is in good health and spirits. Summer is upon us!

We hope you all had a chance to glance at the 2023-2027 SAP document. We are very proud of it and are implementing the projects and priorities outlined. To round out the process, the City is engaging human resources consulting firm, humanworks8, to help “unearth” our organizational values. Throughout the summer months, ~25% of employees will be asked to participate in a focus group to discuss the work we do and come up with our new organizational values. More to come on this effort.

This edition of In a Nutshell showcases many ways the Common Council is investing in our community quality of life. The major announcements this month, including finalizing the residential component of DTS with Emerald Row phases III and IV, awards of contracts for major projects at the lakefront, and unveiling the plans for the new lakefront park continuing to the north, are very exciting. It has taken a lot of work and vision to get to this point, and tons of work remains.

While we continue to build our physical assets, the quality of life in OC is not just about the “things” to do, it’s even more so about the care and services our residents and visitors receive from the City. Our staff is really the secret sauce behind our services, and in turn, our quality of life.

With Gratitude,
Andrew J. Vickers

Renderings from the North Bluff Planning Study. Highlights include an elliptical pier and a pedestrian bridge connecting to Lake Vista Park.

ACTIONS TAKEN

2023-2027 STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN ADOPTED

Council adopted the 2023-2027 Strategic Action Plan (SAP). The SAP outlines the City’s principal priorities for the next 5 years. It also provides a framework for OC’s mission, vision, values, and critical success factors. These are statements about what we want the community and the organization to be.

[Link to the entire SAP plan here.](#)

NORTH BLUFF PLANNING STUDY

Council adopted the North Bluff Planning study which features a pedestrian bridge connecting to Lake Vista Park, parking areas, multi-use paths, gardens, natural play areas, slides, shoreline trails, and stacked stone revetments, shelters, overlooks, and a pier. This project will be phased in over many years.

See select renderings above. [Link to the entire plan here \(p. 34\)](#)

ACTIONS CONT.

APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS

Aldermanic appointments by the Mayor and Common Council President were made at the May 16th Council meeting. Ald. Jim Ruetz was appointed to the Tourism Commission, Personnel & Finance Committee, and License Committee. Ald. Lisa Marshall was appointed to the Board of Public Works and Capital Assets. Other Aldermanic committee assignments have remained the same.

[Link to the full list of appointments on page 2.](#)

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL - PHASE I APPROVED

Council approved the first phase of the State Municipal Agreement. The Safe Routes to School project will make improvements within a 1/2 mile radius of 4 elementary schools and West Middle School. Pedestrian improvements, upgraded curb ramps, and speed tables will be constructed, likely beginning this summer.

[See the full agreement here \(p.68\)](#)

ABENDSCHEIN PARK PAVILION DESIGN CONTRACT AMENDED

Construction bids came back \$1,341,600 over budget. Council rejected those bids in October 2022. The overall area has been reduced by 35% and the design has been simplified. When design work is finalized, the City will identify funding sources for construction to move forward.

[Link to the amended design contract & renderings \(p. 166\)](#)

EMERALD ROW PHASES III AND IV APPROVED

Council approved development agreements required to move forward with the final two luxury apartment complexes to round out DTS. Together, 399 new units will be added. Construction is expected to begin in May 2024 and the developer is utilizing tax increment financing (TIF) incentives provided by the City.

[See Milwaukee Business Journal article here.](#)

THREE-PARTY DESIGN CONTRACT FOR 6TH STREET BRIDGE

Council approved a design contract between the WI Department of Transportation, OC, and Alfred Benesch and Co. The total contract amount is \$108,322 but the City will only be responsible for 20%, or \$21,665.

[Link to the full contract here \(p. 181\)](#)

CONGRATS TO OUR PD & DISPATCH AWARD RECIPIENTS!

The OCPD presented awards on May 15th in honor of National Police Week. Categories included: Citizens Lifesaving Award, Physical Fitness, Attendance Award, Meritorious Arrest, Unit Citation, Award of Excellence, Exemplary Officer Award, Thomas P. Bauer Career Achievement Award, Distinguished Service Cross, Telecommunications Lifesaving Award, Crisis De-Escalation Medal, Lifesaving Award, and Chief's Award. Congratulations!