

*Our mission is to provide reliable, quality water and services at a reasonable cost.*

## Todd Blomstrom appointed to AWWA standards committee

Todd Blomstrom was appointed as a voting member of the national American Water Works Association Standards Committee for Distribution Systems Operations and Management as of August 9.

The committee is responsible for developing AWWA standards and educational materials for water distribution systems, including distribution water quality, operational programs, lead service lines, and system management.



Todd Blomstrom

## Distribution to hold final retirement fund party

Retirees and employees who have contributed to the distribution division's retirement fund over the years will have one last retirement party starting at 4 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 9 at the B-Dale Club.

There hasn't been a distribution retirement party since well before the pandemic clamped down on such gatherings. But, many current and former employees contributed to the fund for such events and retirements over the years with the expectation that when they retired, a gathering and gift would be provided to them, too. With numbers of those contributors waning and no one taking the helm of the fund and event planning, the decision was made to close out the fund, pay out any remaining balances to members and hold one last distribution retirement event to do so.

All staff are invited to the gathering. Distribution retirees from the past few years are especially invited to attend, as well as current distribution staff.

Only members of the distribution fund who contributed will receive any remains from the account.

## Staff take part in block party as part of larger engagement goals



Photo by Ilona LaDouceur

**Ben Robetor and Amber Sullivan work the Rice and Larpenteur block party on August 13 at the corner of Rice and Larpenteur. The Community Engagement Team has been stepping up SPRWS appearances at local events this summer, taking part in the block party, Safe Summer Nights, and What's Going On events throughout the city, among others.**

## Use vacation hours over 120 or risk losing them

If you have quite a few vacation hours still on the books, you might want to start planning when you are going to use those hours before it gets too late in the year. Don't wait until the last minute to try to use your vacation hours.

You can carry over 120 hours of vacation into the next year, but anything over that amount will go back to the city. You will effectively lose that time off.

You can apply for vacation carry over if you have extreme circumstances. However, those requests have to be approved by the department director and the city human resources director. Requests for such carry over

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## Clarifier one taken down



Photo by Will Menkhaus

*The demolition of clarifier one is nearly complete, as seen in the foreground, as is the demo of the secondary settling basins seen in the background, as of Friday, Aug. 5. The demolition clears the way for construction work to begin on the upgrade to the treatment plant.*

## Scott Anderson hired as a temporary plumbing inspector

The water utility has hired a temporary plumbing inspector to help with the Lead Free SPRWS program.

Scott Anderson started work on Aug. 15 and works across from Mollie Gagnelius in the administration building on the second floor.

Please welcome Scott to the water utility.



Scott Anderson

## Use your vacation time soon

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can be made to Sandy Kimbrough by Oct. 31.

The carry over must be used by March 31, 2023, if granted. The carry over does not have to be allowed, so please take that into account when applying.

Without carry over, any hours left above 120 will be lost on Jan. 1, 2023, if they aren't used by Dec. 31, 2022.

## Century college courses available to sign up for fall semester

You can take free professional skills courses to help you keep current with today's business environment through a partnership between the utility and Century College.

These continuing education courses start in September and run through December.

If you wish to see a catalog, please contact Sandy Kimbrough at 266-6510 or at [Sandy.Kimbrough@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Sandy.Kimbrough@ci.stpaul.mn.us).

Courses will be offered both onsite and online via Zoom.

The catalog will indicate classroom location for courses held at the main Century College campus in White Bear Lake.

Students will receive an email by the evening before the class is to run with links to pick up materials, enter the virtual environment, and

evaluate the class. Participation is an expectation of enrollment.

Course topics include leadership, negotiating, and planning an effective meeting.

Classes are offered on a first-come, first-served basis as the utility has two seats available for each course. You must obtain management approval prior to signing up for the course(s) you are interested in.

Once you have obtained approval, send an email to [sandy.kimbrough@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:sandy.kimbrough@ci.stpaul.mn.us) with the course name, ID number and date. You will then receive an email either confirming your registration or letting you know that the available seats have already been filled.

Additional questions can be directed to Sandy at 266-6510 or at [sandy.kimbrough@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:sandy.kimbrough@ci.stpaul.mn.us).

## LeMay retires



Francis LeMay with Jerry Ludden in 2019.

Francis LeMay retired on Friday, Aug. 19 after working at the water utility for six years.

She started in 2016 as an office assistant II and was promoted to office assistant III in 2018. This is the position from which she retired.

Best wishes to Francis!