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

## Employees earn promotions

Two utility employees have recently earned promotions.

James Brown, a water lab tech. has been promoted to a water quality specialist I as of Dec. 17.



James Brown



Joe Garcia

Joe Garcia, a water system worker II, was promoted to a water distribution supervisor II as of Dec. 3.

Congratulations to James and Joe.

## Retiring in the new year?

Are you planning on retiring in 2023?

To help with secession planning, consider discussing those retirement plans with your supervisor. Giving ample time to hire someone new and have them train alongside you before you retire will help them transition to their new position after your retirement.

This will help the utility find and hire a successful new employee, and you will leave the utility knowing you left it in good hands.

## Retiree Betty Spurr passes away

Betty Spurr, retiree, passed away on Dec. 13 at the age of 83.

Betty began working for the water utility as a clerk typist in 1987 and became a customer service rep in 1989. She retired in 2010 under that title after 23 years of service to the water utility.

Our condolences to her friends, family, and former co-workers.



Betty Spurr

## Staff work at Winter Warmup



**Kelsey Feirer, water utility worker, and Jodi Wallin, PR and marketing manager, worked the Rice and Larpenteur Alliance's Winter Warmup social event on Dec. 3 in the parking lot at Rice and Larpenteur.**

## John Larkin appointed as new commissioner on the Board

The water utility Board of Water Commissioners is once again at full strength after the departure of James Bykowski earlier this year.

At the Board's Dec. 13 meeting, John Larkin was appointed to the Board as a commissioner.

John represents the interests of the suburban customers and is a citizen from Falcon Heights.



John Larkin



## Plumbing staff makes changes

Jeremy Miller, plumbing inspector, has taken a job as a business representative for the Plumber's Local #34 union.



Jeremy Miller



Scott Anderson

Today, Dec. 30, is his last day at SPRWS.

Scott Anderson has been hired as a full-time certified plumbing inspector to take over Jeremy's role.

Congratulations to them both.

## Tuition reimbursement can make classes affordable

Keeping up-to-date on your area of expertise is essential in today's economy.

The city and SPRWS assist employees in maintaining their education by providing tuition reimbursement for eligible coursework.

The city provides up to \$600 of tuition reimbursement per year for full-time employees and up to \$300 for part-time staff.

The utility will provide up to \$2,500 per year for full-time employees and up to \$600 for part-time staff. With city and SPRWS benefits combined, a full-time employee could be reimbursed up to \$3,100 for coursework taken as part of an accredited program.

If you are interested, the new year is the time to apply. Funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Forms are available in Documentum under employee documents.

Water-related courses offered through the Water Utilities Treatment Technologies (WUTT) program at Saint Paul College may also be an option for water utility staff.

For more information on these employee benefits, contact Sandy Kimbrough at [Sandy.Kimbrough@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Sandy.Kimbrough@ci.stpaul.mn.us) or 266-6510 or Becky Carlson at [Becky.Carlson@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Becky.Carlson@ci.stpaul.mn.us) or 266-6296.

## Staff celebrates the holidays



Staff from different divisions gather together to take part in a holiday luncheon on Dec. 20. The get-together also included individual and team games for staff. To the left, Justina Ross, senior customer service rep., wins in a game seeing who can stack 15 cups the fastest.

## Flashback Friday



Staff have been scanning old photos of the plant and utility for a book on the plant to be done in conjunction with the new plant project. Here we see a photo of the bacteriological lab as it appeared in the 1950s.