

Emergency evacuation drill at McCarrons set for Sept. 12

We will be having an evacuation drill to train employees on the procedures to follow in the event of a chemical emergency at McCarrons on Thursday, September 12.

The drill objectives will focus on:

- Communicating the situation and providing direction to employees and contractors on and off site.
- Communicating with emergency response agencies.
- Evacuating personnel from McCarrons to the Vadnais Heights location.
- Ensuring accountability for all employees.

A new tool that SPRWS will be testing during this event is a communications system called EverBridge that distribution is currently using for overtime call outs. EverBridge is a two-way platform that sends text or voice messages to cell phones, emails, and/or land-lines and can also receive text or touchtone responses. SPRWS plans to use this system for business and

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City staff enjoy good weather, high turnout at city cookout



Gao Moua, a water utility worker, attends the city cookout on Aug. 20 with children in tow. With temps in the 80s and a clear afternoon, the annual cookout drew many city employees. Helicopter landings, jaws of life demos, magician tricks, free massages, kickball games, face painting, visits from the Winter Carnival courts and the Vulcan Krewe, along with free food and beverages offered something for everyone to enjoy.



Mark Cullen (left,) carpenter, and Chris Cullen, water utility worker, share a toast before enjoying a cold, adult beverage at the cookout. They are some of the roughly 20 SPRWS employees who took part in the cookout.

College courses available for fall semester

College students are not the only ones heading back to campus this fall.

You can take professional skills courses to help you keep current with today's business environment.

SPRWS continues to partner with Century College to offer continuing education classes to utility employees. Courses start in September and run through December.

A fall class catalog was emailed to staff last week. If you wish to see one and did not receive the email, please contact Sandy Kimbrough at 266-6510 or at sandy.kimbrough@ci.stpaul.mn.us.

Course topics range from finance and accounting to management and leadership. You can learn better speaking skills and how to improve your Power Point presentations. You can sharpen your writing skills or learn to deal with conflict. And you can get some helpful insights into customer service.

Courses may last four hours or a whole day. The utility has two seats available in each of the classes it is offering. Some series courses, such as the Excel series, are sequential and must be taken in order. Others are stand alone. If textbooks are required for the course, they will be provided.

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SPRWS hires new staff

Kyle Rozier started at SPRWS on August 19 with the title water utility worker II. He works in dispatch at the control desk under the supervision of Kathy Travis.



Kyle Rozier



Kaitlin Swanson

Kaitlin Swanson joined the utility on August 26 as a civil engineer II working in the project engineering area under Rich Hibbard.

Please welcome our newest employees to the utility.

Emergency evacuation drill

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emergency communications to ensure all employees receive important information.

A communications form to register your contact information for EverBridge was emailed out earlier this week.

In preparation for the evacuation drill, there will be emails and flyers posted with evacuation specific information from the Emergency Action Plan (EAP). All employees should be familiar with the components of the EAP, which is located in the Employee_Documents application within Documentum.

If you have any questions about the upcoming drill or the EAP contact Hayley Heidelberg, emergency planning and security supervisor, at 651-266-6309.

College courses available

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Most classes are held at the main Century College campus in White Bear Lake.

Classes are offered on a first-come, first-served basis. 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 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.

Monson, Kelbe retire

Dave Monson, water utility worker I, retires today, August 30, after 39 years with the city and water department.



Dave Monson



Brad Kelbe

He started with the water department as a park aide in June of 1980. He worked as a water plant aide beginning in 1984, holding both titles. He moved to water plant aide full time in 1985. He took the position of water utility worker I in 1999 and held that title as of his retirement.

Brad Kelbe, water utility worker I, retires today, August 30, after 31 years with the city and water department. He was hired as a water utility worker I in March of 1988 and continued in that role throughout his tenure at the utility, retiring with that title.

Congratulations to both Dave and Brad on their retirements.



From top left, Dave Monson takes a hearing test, 2006, and plays softball at the B-Dale Club in 2007. Above, Brad Kelbe listens to a safety message in 2013 and shovels out the front walk in 2006.