

SPRWS Celebrates Start of Lead Free SPRWS at July 12 event



Left: Patrick Shea, general manager, addresses the crowd at the Lead Free SPRWS event on July 12 at 1426 Van Buren. Above: Shea, Councilmember and Board of Water Commissioner Chris Tolbert, Mayor Melvin Carter, and Board President Mara Humphrey at the event.

Tuesday marked the start of a 10-year commitment to ensure long-term drinking water quality by removing lead service lines in both public and private property.

Up until the late 1920s, water service lines delivering water into the home were made of lead. SPRWS been working since the 1980s to eliminate these lead service lines from our system. The Lead Free SPRWS program is designed to remove the remaining 26,000 lead service lines in system by 2032. The program is voluntary and free to the homeowner.

“It’s an ambitious goal that the Board of Water Commissioners set to completely remove all lead service lines from both the public and private property,” said SPRWS General Manager Patrick Shea. “It is one of the largest investments of its kind in the Midwest.”

“Replacing drinking water infrastructure is a critical need,” said Chris Tolbert, Saint Paul City Council member and Board of Water Commissioner. “Providing safe drinking water to our residents is vital to their health and safety.”

“We are proud to leverage American Rescue Plan dollars for this massive effort to replace lead service lines to our residents’ homes,” said Saint Paul Mayor Melvin Carter. “Not only does this project offer peace of mind for families, it offers jobs and job training to Saint Paulites ready to work.”

This is a \$300 million investment over 10 years. The \$200 million from bipartisan infrastructure act dedicated to Minnesota for lead replacement is a good down payment, though more is necessary to finish the job. More assistance from our state and federal partners is needed to help replace these lead service lines with copper.

For more information, go to stpaul.gov/water.

Volunteers sought for day with Habitat for Humanity

The utility is looking for volunteers to donate a work day at a local Habitat for Humanity worksite on July 28 or 29, or on August 16 or 17.

You must have supervisor approval to volunteer and have a negative COVID test or proof of vaccination.

Talk to Hayley Heidelberg at hayley.heidelberg@ci.stpaul.mn.us or 266-6309 to volunteer or for more information on the projects.

Come to the MN AWWA conference



If you have never been to the Minnesota Section AWWA conference in Duluth, ask your supervisor about attending this Sept. 13-16. It is a great opportunity to meet water professionals from around the state and network. Learn about current trends and issues within the water industry at the keynote address and learning sessions on general topics such as operations, research, case studies, and systems business solutions. Specific courses will be detailed once available on the MN AWWA website at www.mnawwa.org. Talk to your supervisor today about attending this worthwhile, statewide event. Registration is open and it is necessary to book hotel rooms in advance.

Come view Saint Paul from atop the Highland tower

Have you seen the view from atop the Highland Park water tower?

Views of both downtown Saint Paul and Minneapolis can be seen from the observation deck.

The next open house from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, July 16-17.

The tower is a historical landmark, built in 1928 and designed by African-American architect Clarence “Cap” Wigington.

Come enjoy a view of the city that can only be seen twice a year.

The next open house is the second weekend in October, this year that is Oct. 8-9.

Water quality reports available

Saint Paul Regional Water Services is proud of the quality of the water we supply to 450,000 residents of Saint Paul and the surrounding communities.

“We continue to be in full compliance with all state and federal requirements for drinking water quality,” said Patrick Shea, general manager.

We consistently meet all United States Environmental Protection Agency and Minnesota Department of Health regulations governing drinking water.

The EPA requires that water suppliers provide consumers with an annual report detailing all substances detected in the water in the prior year.

The report contains information about the sources of SPRWS water, as well as methods of water treatment and distribution.

In an effort to be more environmentally friendly, the report is available via our website at www.stpaul.gov/waterquality.

The drinking water covered in this report covers customers in Saint Paul, Falcon Heights, Lauderdale, Lilydale, Maplewood, Mendota, Mendota Heights, and West St. Paul.

Utility promotes water system workers

The water utility has promoted the following employees to water system worker II effective as of July 2, 2022:

Roy Bougie, Andrew Lardani, Thomas McBride, James Rodgers, Raymond St. Germain, and Curt Waege.

Congratulations to all of the distribution division workers earning these promotions.



Roy Bougie



Andrew Lardani



Thomas McBride



James Rodgers



Raymond St. Germain



Curt Waege