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# Pipeline Express

Providing reliable, quality water and services at a reasonable cost.

## Utility Trainees Graduation Takes Place

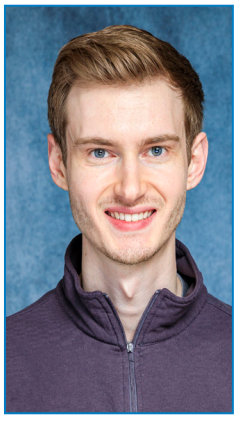
Six water utility trainees were promoted to water utility worker I titles after graduation from the program on April 4. Congratulations to the graduates.

Recent graduates of the trainee program and the people that made it possible. From left are: Sandy Kimbrough, Mike Knutson, Racquel Vaske, Becky Carlson, Eric Jonas, Josh Jonas, Dakota Fey, Maddy Tusler, Quinton Shackleton, Gavin Petroskas, Sabirah Aleem, Kevin Romero, Joe Tronson, and Jon Beck.

## Staff Earning Promotions

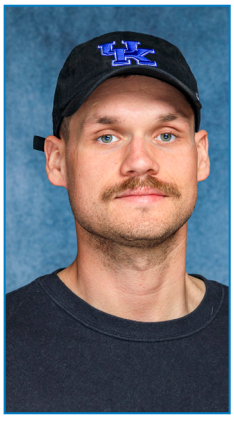
Staff earning promotions recently are James Brown and Blake Castagneri, to water quality specialist II; Jake Conway, to water utility tech. II and Tucker Long to a water system worker II.

James Brown



Blake Castagneri

Jake Conway



Tucker Long

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*Story ideas? Contact Jodi Wallin, 651-266-6308 or Jodi.Wallin@ci.stpaul.mn.us*

# Construction Kick Off Safety Picnic

## Gearing up for the New Season

By Tom Miller

Join us for a fun and informative safety picnic packed with activities, vendors, and food. We'll have resources to keep you safe on the job and a few ways to kick back and enjoy the day, too.

### Safety Gear Vendors

**Walman Optical** Need safety glasses? Bring a valid prescription (dated within 2 years) to start the process.

**Fastenal** Expect safety gear and maybe a guest vendor with more tools and equipment.

**Red Wing Shoes** The retail truck will be onsite. If you're eligible for the annual boot allowance, this is your chance to gear up.

### Hands-On Safety Experience

We're working to bring back the fire extinguisher simulator, so you can practice how to safely put out a fire in a realistic setting.

### Appetizer Contest (Bring Your Best!)

Show off your culinary creativity in one of these tasty categories:

- Cheese dips
- Vegetable dips
- Meat-based appetizers

Dips must include an appropriate side (chip, cracker, veggie, etc.)

Bring enough for 24 sample-sized servings so everyone gets a taste!

### We Need Volunteers!

Help us make the day a success. Contact Tom Miller at Thomas.Miller@ci.stpaul.mn.us to sign up for the following:

- Coordinate and deliver food to work site employees
- Set up and take down the games
- Run the fire extinguisher simulator

If you'd like to help cook or serve food, contact Richelle Nicosia at Richelle.Nicosia@ci.stpaul.mn.us.

Come hungry, leave safer, and maybe even with a prize winning dip!

## COME TO THE SAFETY PICNIC

**When: Wednesday, May 7**

**Time: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

**Where: Outside near the employee entrance and the picnic tables**

# JOHN BYRD, RETIREE, PASSES AWAY

John Byrd retired in 2014 from the water utility

John Byrd

John Byrd, retiree, passed away on Wednesday, April 2 after a battle with cancer.

John worked for the city of Saint Paul for 22 years, starting in 1992 as a park aide.

He came to the water utility in 1999 as a water utility worker I, the position from which he retired in 2014.

Our condolences to John's family, friends, and former co-workers.

# Register Replacement: Powering a Shift to AMI

By Steve Nystrom

Over the past few years, Saint Paul Regional Water Services has been steadily working to upgrade every water meter register across our system. If you're wondering, **what exactly is a water meter register?**—think of it like the odometer on a car. It displays the total amount of water used at a property. Many of our current registers are nearing the end of their expected lifespan, making now the ideal time to begin replacements.

These new registers come equipped with a remote transmitter that sends water usage data to a centralized collector. This work is a key part of our larger Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) initiative—a major leap forward in modernizing our service delivery.

Together, the register replacement and AMI projects will bring significant benefits, including more accurate billing, faster leak detection, and the ability to identify unusual usage patterns much sooner. It's a win-win for SPRWS and our customers.

We've taken the time to carefully test installation methods and evaluate technology options to ensure we're making the best long-term choices. So far, our team has successfully replaced 7,031 registers. Looking ahead, we're planning to replace around 10,000 more in 2025, and approximately 12,000 each year through 2031—totaling about 80,000 over the next six years.

And here's what makes this effort even more impressive: it's all being done in-house. That's a true testament to the expertise, commitment, and hard work of our outstanding meter operations team. Huge thanks to everyone involved—your efforts are moving SPRWS forward in a big way!

# Elmer Stevenson: Retired After 20 Years of Service

Elmer Stevenson retired from the water utility on April 11 after 20 years of service.

Elmer started with the utility as a water utility worker I in 2005 and was promoted to a water system worker II in 2008. He became a water distribution supervisor I in 2014 and a water distribution supervisor II in 2015. Along the way he also held the title truck driver, heavy equipment operator, and cement finisher.

We wish Elmer well on his retirement.

Above, Elmer Stevenson in 2023.

Left, on Mississippi Street/ Cayuga bridge in 2008.

# Getting Ready for the Construction Season, Round Two

Aaron Atkins

Travis Benick

Briggs Gerads

Tre'Shon Glasgow

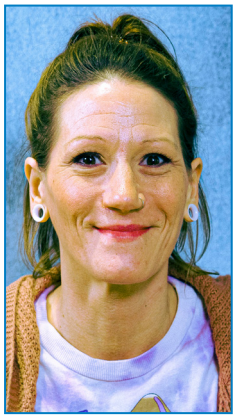
Spencer Mead

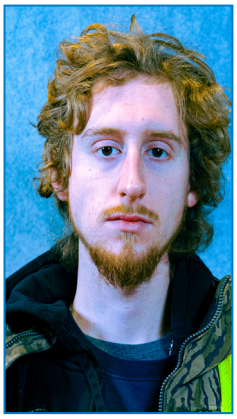
Luis Mejia

Brian Myers

Alex Paitich

David Satnik


Jordan Skender


Dustan Wilmar

Returning to distribution are Aaron Atkins, Travis Benick, Briggs Gerads, Tre'Shon Glasgow, Spencer Mead, Luis Mejia, Alex Paitich, David Satnik, Jordan Skender, and Dustan Wilmar. Returning to engineering as a plumbing inspector is Brian Myers.

Sam Caliguire

Jacob Masiello

Rick Reese

Mike Searson

The following staff will be working out of title: Sam Caliguire, Jacob Masiello, and Mike Searson as water distribution supervisor II, and Rick Reese as a water distribution supervisor I.

## JOB OPENINGS

The utility has posted openings for two interns, one in a communications specialist and engagement role and one in content development. These are part-time internships and the dealine to apply is May 6. The utility also has a posting for a water meter technician which ends April 28. And it has an internal posting for a maintenance worker II, which also closes April 28.

Jobs must be applied for online at StPaul.gov/jobs.