

## Putting in actuating valves



*Leeann Smith, water meter tech., works along Selby Ave. where a clean and line project is taking place on the 6-inch and 8-inch pipe. She is installing actuating valves to allow the contractor to backflush the service lines using the temporary water service lines without disruption to the homeowner.*

## Conference room named: Trout Brook is the winner

The new conference room in the administration building officially has a name: Trout Brook.

The entry was submitted by Jim Bode. It was one of 42 entries from across the water utility. With such a resounding response, it was up to a select committee of employees representing all areas of the water utility to narrow down the choices.

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## City cookout date is Aug. 20; volunteers sought for event

Free food, free entertainment, and free adult beverages await city employees and their guests at the annual employee cookout set for August 20.

There will be a jump castle, face painting, climbing wall, chair massages, Bingo (with prizes), and entertainment by Brodini the Magician.

Saint Paul police and fire will have staff doing demonstrations. Police will have SWAT teams and the bomb squad while fire will have fire trucks.

You can get more information from agencies such as Medica, Healthy Saint Paul, Voya, and other various city departments who will have tables onsite.

The annual employee cookout will take place from 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 20 in the East Pavilions at Como Park. Registration begins at 4 p.m. Please register yourself and any guests and get a bracelet prior to taking part in the free food and activities. This helps staff know who should be there, as well as tally participants for future planning.

Adults must provide ID and register for an armband to take part in adult beverages.

### **Kick-ball tournament needs teams**

Are you interested in forming a kickball team and playing in a tournament at the picnic? Get 10 of your co-workers or friends together and register as a team to play, starting at 5 p.m. at Como Park East Pavilion fields. Winners get a traveling trophy.

### **Volunteers Needed**

Volunteers are sought for set up (mostly getting the food service and beer service areas prepared during the day, prior to the cookout), clean up (putting items away as the event winds down), registration, the beer wagon, food service, and more.

Contact Nancy Denkinger at [nancy.denkinger@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:nancy.denkinger@ci.stpaul.mn.us) or at 228-6206 if you can volunteer an hour or two of your time on the day of the picnic.

## Trout Brook represents our commitment to quality water

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Mark Cullen, Amanda Leier, Tom Lopez, Gayle Moser, Richelle Nicosia, and Alexis Rossow volunteered to be on the selection committee. They carefully considered each option, bringing energy and enthusiasm to the discussion.

From 42 entries, they narrowed it down to three:

- Superior Room
- Trout Brook Room
- Tradesman Conference Room

The second round of voting finished up last week, with Trout Brook coming out on top.

Bode said he was inspired by the proximity to the stream and how it shows SPRWS' commitment to protect and care for all waters within our properties and system. The utility releases more than 1.5 million gallons of water a day into the brook as it flows south to the Mississippi River. The water discharged by the SPRWS to Trout Brook is of high quality, supporting wildlife and the efforts to restore the ponds and wetlands downstream.

The Business Improvement Team thanks everyone for participating in this contest.

The next naming contests will be in August for the North, South and West conference rooms.

Get your ideas ready!

## Hands-free driving now in effect

Hands-Free driving laws went into effect August 1 that require drivers to keep their hands off their phones while in the car.

If you talk, text, or listen to music from your phone, it must be done by voice command or single-touch activation.

Drivers cannot hold onto the phone, or use it for video calling, live streaming, social media, gaming, videos, phones, reading texts, scrolling or typing.

If you break this law while driving a company vehicle, all fines are your personal responsibility.

The first ticket is \$50, subsequent tickets are \$275. That does not include citations for distracted and unsafe driving, court fees, or other costs.

Visit [HandsFreeMN.org](http://HandsFreeMN.org) for more information.



Jim Bode

## HR consultant joins utility

Sandy Kimbrough joined the water utility July 22 as a human resources consultant I. Sandy brings much experience to the position as she served 6 years as an human resources consultant in the city's downtown offices.

Sandy reports to Racquel Vaske.

As Sandy transitions into her role at the utility, please contact her or Racquel for any human resource needs.

Sandy's new office is directly across from Hayley Heidelberg on the second floor of the administration building.

Stop in and introduce yourself.



Sandy Kimbrough

## Water Works gave out grants worth \$30,448 in 2018

Every summer, the water utility asks its customers to contribute to *WaterWorks*, a program that assists needy residents with their water bills. *WaterWorks* is jointly administered between the water utility and the Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties (CAP).

Customer contributions provided \$30,448 in grants to customers in need in 2018. This amounted to 148 grants, with the average amount of the grant being \$176. A grant assists the customer in need with paying the water and sewer bill to ensure that they continue to receive water services. This might be an individual, a family or another adult with dependents. So, while 148 grants were provided, your contributions kept more than 148 people supplied with water service.

Applicants must meet certain criteria to receive the grants, which include water service termination or pending termination, financial crisis, and qualification under low-income guidelines. Grants have annual limits and are subject to availability of funds. CAP determines whether a customer qualifies under Minnesota state median income guidelines from the US Department of Health and Human Services.

The program received \$30,448 in contributions last year, of which \$5,000 came from matching funds from SPRWS. The remainder of the funds came directly from customer contributions. One-time contributions totaled \$5,649 while on-going contributions totaled \$19,799.