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



Water pitchers provided to customers exposed to lead

By Steve Schneider

The Board of Water Commissioners recently approved a new program that allows us to provide our customers with a drinking water pitcher with a filter that is effective at reducing the amount of lead in the water. SPRWS has historically advised our customers to flush their tap for a few minutes if the water has not been used in the prior six hours. While flushing is very effective at minimizing exposure to lead and is still recommended, the filtering pitcher offers customers with recently cut lead pipe an additional option.

SPRWS and our customers replace lead water services throughout each year and studies have shown that, when a lead service line is disturbed, the amount of lead in the drinking water can increase for a short period of time. In August, 2015, a group of SPRWS employees convened and recommended that SPRWS make the investment and provide customers filtering pitchers where active lead water service lines are cut. The Board agreed to this customer service effort and we began the program in May of 2016.

As of May 20, 2016, we have provided 47 pitchers to our customers. The activities that result in a pitcher being provided are a partial lead service replacement (either inside property or in the ROW) or any work around the meter setting that requires cutting the lead service. In each case the customer is provided a

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Getting rid of zebra mussels



Vadnais crews have been working since April to rid the 90-inch conduits of zebra mussels for the season.

Top photo, Mike Sherman and Nathan Cassity, water utility workers, vactor up piles of zebra mussels lining the floor of the 90-inch steel conduit on May 11.

Above, Nathan Cassity and Tom Longendyke water utility workers, work to remove the attached zebra mussels from the walls of the conduit.

Also working on the crew were Nate Torgerson, water system worker; Brian McLaughlin, water utility worker; and Ron Reeves, supply systems supervisor.

Al L'Allier passes away

Allard "Al" L'Allier passed away May 6 at the age of 80. He worked for the water utility for nearly 38 years.

He started in 1955 as a water shed laborer. In 1967, he was promoted to a groundsman. Three years later, he became a tractor operator.

In 1981, he earned the title heavy equipment operator. By 1985, he was a revolving power equipment operator, the position from which he retired in 1992.

His funeral was held May 10 and he is buried at St. John's Cemetery.

Water pitchers provided to customers exposed to lead

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pitcher and extra filters effective for six months of use.

Special thanks to Jodi Wallin, Tony Palumbo, Justine Roe, Tom Zangs, Dave Marruffo, Kathy Travis, Graeme Chaple, and Jim Graupmann for the many meetings it took to develop the SOP for this program. With your help, we are able to confidently continue updating our system by replacing the lead water services while offering customers with recently cut lead lines an additional option to minimize lead in their drinking water.

Volunteers needed to help build a Habitat for Humanity home August 1

The water utility is seeking volunteers to help build a home at 1788 Minnehaha Ave. in Saint Paul on Monday, August 1. Volunteers need to take a comp day or day of vacation and get supervisor approval to take part.

Keith Owens retires after 18 years

Keith Owens, welder, retired from the water utility May 12 after serving SPRWS for 18 years.



Keith Owens

He started work for the water utility as a welder in 1998 and continued to work in that position for all 18 years he was with the utility.

Congratulations to Keith on his retirement.



Utility hires certified, seasonal staff

The water utility has hired two certified staff and three seasonal workers.

Tony Ledo was hired on April 20 as a water utility worker I and works in distribution with Pete Davis' crew.

Tom Courteau, water service worker-control desk, was hired May 21. He works in dispatch and reports to Kathy Travis.

Greg Gauster, a water utility aide, was hired on April 30 for the season to work at Vadnais with Ron Reeves' work crew.

Kel Ferdig and Joe Furlong were hired as utility aides and started on May 16.



Tony Ledo



Tom Courteau



Greg Gauster



Kel Ferdig



Joe Furlong

Ferdig will work for Reeves out at Vadnais, while Furlong will work for Rick Svoboda, also out at Vadnais.

Contact Steve Schneider at 266-6274 or email him at Steve.Schneider@ci.stpaul.mn.us to sign up. More information to come in a future issue of the Pipeline Express.