

SPRWS sets Habitat for Humanity volunteer day



Todd Freking, IS information tech. analyst, pounds in a nail on the siding of a house at last year's Habitat for Humanity build. This year, SPRWS will again team up with Human Resources and the Department of Safety and Inspections to help build a house at 1788 Minnehaha Ave. in Saint Paul on August 1.

Saint Paul Regional Water Services employees can get in on the ground floor of a new home.

SPRWS, along with the Department of Safety and Inspections and Human Resources are joining forces to help build a new house at 1788 Minnehaha Ave. on Monday, August 1.

The city of Saint Paul is one of the partners with Habitat for Humanity.

"This is a great opportunity to give back to the community," said Steve Schneider, general manager. "Helping others creates a positive experience for all of those involved."

If you are interested in volunteering, you may bring family or friends ages 16 or older to help.

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WaterWorks provided \$27,436 in assistance to customers in threat of shut off last year

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 \$27,436.52 in grants to customers in need in 2015. This amounted to 139 grants, with the average amount of the grant being \$197.39. 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 an adult with dependents. So, while 139 grants were provided, contributions kept many more people supplied with water than the number would indicate.

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 federal poverty guidelines.

The program received \$26,751 in contributions last year, of which \$5,000 came from matching funds from the SPRWS suspense account. (The suspense account consists of deposits from customer credits that have not been claimed by customers after a notification period has expired.) The remainder of the funds came directly from customer contributions. One-time contributions totaled \$4,636 while on-going contributions totaled \$17,115.

If you are interested in contributing to *WaterWorks*, you can sign up at www.stpaul.gov/waterworks.

Glenn Crain passes away

Glenn Crain, retired plumbing inspector with SPRWS, died on May 30, 2016.

He was 73 years old.

Glenn worked for the city for 32 years and the water utility for 25 of those years.

He came to the water utility in 1979 from the Board of Education.

He started at SPRWS as a plumbing inspector and kept that title until he retired in 2004.

He leaves behind a wife of 51 years, Virginia, four children, and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

His funeral service was June 6 at the Church of St. Michael in Stillwater with interment at Cavalry Cemetery.



Glenn Crain

Utility hires certified staff and temps

The water utility has hired one certified staff and several temporary workers.

Samantha Staffa started work on June 7 as an office assistant II in the meter operations office under Gayle Moser.

Latoris Jones was hired June 6 and Reid Mathson was

hired May 31, both as utility aides at Vadnais working under Ron Reeves for the summer.

Fermin Alcanthra-Mendoza, Jeremy Larson, Walter O'Neal, and James Gill all started on May 31 as temporary water utility workers reporting to Bob Meyer in distribution for the summer.

Please welcome all the new staff to the water utility.



Samantha Staffa



Latoris Jones



Reid Mathson



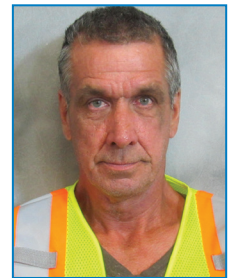
Fermin Alcanthra-Mendoza



Jeremy Larson



Walter O'Neal



James Gill

MERSC offers discounts

As an employee of the city, you are eligible to receive discounts to area businesses and entertainment venues through MERSC, the Minnesota Employee Recreation & Services Council.

Get discounts or deals on tickets to the Twins, Lynx, and Saints. Or deals on events at the Target and Xcel Energy centers.

There are discounts on services ranging from child care to auto sales and everything in between.

If you haven't checked out their website, you should to see if you can save yourself some money on events or services you might use anyway.

Go to www.MERSC.org to find out ways you can save.

Volunteer for Habitat for Humanity

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The utility will provide lunch. You should bring any snacks or beverages. You should wear safety shoes or rugged leather shoes or boots and bring work gloves. Hard hats are required, as are safety glasses in certain situations. Bring your own if you have them; otherwise, they will be provided.

While tools will be provided, if you are more comfortable with your own hammer, screwdriver, tape measure, utility knife, pencil or nail apron, it is helpful to bring your own. Make sure to label them with your name.

To volunteer, you must use vaca-

tion or comp time and the time must be approved in advance by your supervisor.

You must also fill out a waiver to bring with you to the site. Go to volunteering.tchabitat.org and choose group type, Business or Corporation.

On the registration form, under the group affiliation, scroll down and select Travelers. Then fill out the rest of the contact information and print it out to bring with you to the site.

Contact Steve Schneider at 651-266-6260 for more information on the build or to sign up to volunteer.