

**Stan Denkinger**  
retires

Holidays  
celebrated at  
the water utility

Page 2

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

## Organics recycling: More than food scraps



*Phi Pham, water utility tech., tosses a paper towel in one of the new organics recycling containers located in the bathrooms around McCarrons. Paper towels should be placed in organics recycling containers and be composted. They should not go in the trash.*

In an effort to reduce waste generated at SPRWS, the Business Improvement Unit is expanding the organics recycling program. All of the paper towels we use in bathroom and kitchen areas can be composted. New organic recycling bins have been placed in the bathrooms near the paper towel dispensers.

Organic recycling is the composting of what was organic matter. Organic recycling takes food and plant products and creates compost. Coffee grounds, tea bags, vegetables, fruit, dairy products, orange peels, eggs and egg shells, the gray paper egg cartons, paper towels and napkins, can all be placed in organics recycling containers to be composted.

These should not be placed in regular recycling or the trash.

Materials like copier paper, newspapers, pop cans, plastic, glass, cardboard, etc. should continue to be placed in regular recycling.

Not sure where it goes? Ask the BIU team.

## Vacuuming up zebra mussels



*Above, Tom Murphy (left), and Nate Cassidy, water utility workers, prepare to vacuum out zebra mussels from the steel 90-inch conduit at the Vadnais gate house on December 19. The volume of mussels in the conduit has been drastically reduced due to the use of a molluscicide called EarthTec QZ in the water near the gate house intake pipes.*

*Right, Mike Knutson, (left) supply field supervisor, shines a light on the remaining zebra mussels in the 90-inch conduit while showing Patrick Shea, assistant general manager, the work being conducted in the conduit. The light above them is the open access point for a well. In the past, this conduit would have been covered in zebra mussels, requiring weeks of physical labor to remove the stuck on layers. This year, the crews were done in about a week.*





## Holidays celebrated at the water utility



**Allen Fung, IS support specialist, and Natalie Squires, Info. tech analyst, find something to their liking at the holiday luncheon at the plant on Dec. 19.**



**Tom Lopez, water plant worker; Salam Hamid, water quality specialist; and Matt Bailey, toolmaker, talk after their meal.**



**Dave Wagner, engineering division manager; Brent Marsolek, eng. tech. supervisor; Jeff Murphy, water utility tech.; Kaitlyn Swanson, engineer; and Alex Boie, GIS specialist, gather for a potluck on the second floor of the administration building on Dec. 23.**



**Jim Siebenaler, plumbing inspector, and Brian Galloway, water utility tech., look over the offerings at the admin. second floor potluck.**

## Stan Denkinger retires after 33 years

Stan Denkinger retired after 33 years with the water utility on Friday, December 20.

Stan started as a water utility worker I in the summer of 1986. He added the title heavy equipment operator in 1989, as well as earning a promotion to water system worker II. In 1996, he earned a promotion to revolving power equipment operator, also keeping his title of water system worker.

He worked the last three positions as needed until his promotion in 2006 to water service supervisor. The title underwent a name change in 2009 to water distribution supervisor I. He was promoted to water distribution supervisor II in 2014. This is the title he held upon his retirement.

Good luck to Stan on his retirement.



**Stan Denkinger**



**Top, Steve Schneider, general manager, presents Stan with his retirement plaque during a reception in his honor on Dec. 20 in the cafeteria.**

**Above, Stan talks with Dennis Rosemark, management assistant.**

**Left, Stan listens to stories of his career at the utility.**