

Drinking Water Week full of activities, kicks off May 6

The utility is gearing up for a host of activities during National Drinking Water Week, May 6 - 10.

For more than 35 years the American Water Works Association and its members have celebrated Drinking Water Week as a unique opportunity for both water professionals and the communities we serve to join together in recognizing the vital role water plays in our daily lives.

For water utility staff in particular, water is at the center of everything we do. While everyone needs water to live, water is our livelihood as well.

While it may feel mundane and ordinary some days, the work we do is paramount to the survival of our communities. We provide water for living, manufacturing, fire fighting, and more to 445,000 people. It is no small task and we do it well. Take some time to reflect on the life-giving product we produce every day and take pride in the work we do to make that happen.

Look over the events that will take place during the week. Come celebrate your fellow employees at the Years of Service Awards, or take on a co-worker in a game of bags during the safety picnic. You can take part in an employee tour of the plant or jump in on a tour with the public during the open house.

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Cleaning the re-carb chamber



The re-carbonation chamber got a cleaning on April 17. Staff worked through the day to get the area cleaned out and make any necessary repairs. This year they had some help from a hired crew using a vactor truck to move the excess spent lime that accumulated in the chamber over the past year. The annual clean out must be completed in one day, as the plant must shut down during the clean out. Above, Paul Scott, maintenance worker, and Corey Horvath, water plant worker, used water pressure to break up the spent lime to create a slurry that the vactor truck can remove and haul away. A member of the vactor truck crew is to the left to assist SPRWS staff with the vactoring.

Several employees earn promotions in the last month

Several water utility employees have earned promotions in the last month.

On March 30, Ramsey Coronado and Phi Pham both earned promotions to water utility technician II in the damage prevention unit.

On April 13, Tony Palumbo was promoted to water distribution supervisor II.

Please offer your congratulations to these employees.



Ramsey Coronado



Phi Pham



Tony Palumbo

Water utility welcomes back temporary, seasonal staff

As we continue to gear up for the construction season ahead, we welcome back our temporary, seasonal staff.

James Gill, Jonathan Hakes, Matt Lanars, Tom Longendyke, Logan McRae, Walter O'Neal, and Mike Sherman are all back as water utility workers. William Strouts is back as a cement finisher.

Hakes, Gill, O'Neal, Lanars, McRae, and Strouts are working in distribution.

Longendyke and Sherman are working out of Vadnais.

Please welcome back our seasonal staff if you see them around campus or out in the field working.



James Gill



Jonathan Hakes



Matt Lanars



Tom Longendyke



Logan McRae



Walter O'Neal



Mike Sherman



William Strouts

Drinking Water Week activities kick off starting May 6

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Years of Service Celebration

We start our celebration on Monday, May 6, when employees with 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, and 35 years of service will be recognized from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. in the cafeteria. Light refreshments will be served.

Honoring the 5-year recipients is new this year. Steve Schneider will recognize this year's recipients.

Employee Tours of the Plant

At 2 p.m. take a tour of the plant and find out how we treat our water to make it potable. If you have never been on a tour of the plant, now is a great time to take an hour out of your day to learn more about the facility where you work. Tours are limited to 20 participants.

If interested, sign up in advance with Steve Schneider. Meet in the cafeteria following the years of service awards.

Elementary Students Tour Plant

Monday through Thursday, we will welcome 225 fourth graders from four local schools as they tour the plant and learn more about water.

We will host one school each of those days.

Safety Picnic to Start off Construction Season

A safety picnic to kick off our construction season will take place from 11:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, May 8, near the employee entrance on the east side of the administration building.

Bring your appetite and best bags throwing skills for a game of bags.

Making sure you know the driving rules will allow you to safely return to your family and friends at the end of your shift every day.

McCarrons Open House and Tours

We welcome the public to our plant for tours on Thursday, May 9, starting at 2 p.m. Guests will have a chance to meet with employees in the lobby while waiting for their tour to start. Water quality specialists will give a glimpse into the process of making our water potable for customers. Please make our guests feel welcome during their visit.

Drinking Water Week is a chance to reflect on the vital role water plays in our lives and the vital role we play in the lives of those we serve.