

August is water quality month and we are proud of our lab staff



James Brown, water quality specialist, runs liquid through a filter in the lab on August. 9.



The water lab staff gather in front of the McCarrons building for water quality month. Front row from left are: Clare Focht, water quality lab intern; Alex Rossow, water quality specialist; Sarah Brown, water quality specialist; and Justine Roe, water lab supervisor. Back row from left: Blake Castagneri, water quality specialist; James Brown, water quality specialist, Jeremy Gavard, water lab tech.; and Jeremy Erickson, water quality specialist.



Jeremy Gavard, water lab tech., gets a water sample from a temporary main off of Kellogg Blvd. on August 10.

August is water quality month and our water lab works hard to ensure the quality of our water.

“We all work together to produce and distribute safe drinking water,” said Alexis Rossow, water quality specialist.

The lab currently has eight staff who perform a wide variety of tests throughout the month on samples taken from inside the plant and out in the distribution system.

Rossow runs a variety of lab analyses; primarily UV 254, Total and Dissolved Organic Carbon, Inorganic Carbon and Particle Charge which can drive treatment

decisions. Alexis is also the Quality Manager, coordinating lab accreditation activities and maintaining and updating the Laboratory Information Management System.

Jeremy Gavard, the water lab tech. takes samples from out in the distribution system including homes, businesses, hydrants, and the like.

Other staff, like Sarah Brown run tests on water samples brought in for lead sampling to let customers know if their water contains lead, and if so, how much.

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26 employees pass operator's exams

The water utility is one of the most licensed utilities in the state after 26 employees passed their water operators licenses.

"The time and effort staff put into studying for this exam and learning more about the system around them is truly appreciated," said Patrick Shea, general manager.

"This is something for employees to be proud of individually and for us to collectively be proud of as a team," Shea said.

Below is a list of those passing their exams in June of this year.

Class B: Tom Blanchard

Class C: Alex Boie, Graeme Chaple, Steve Nystrom

Class D: Jon Beck, Keith Burket, Nate Cassidy, Matt Chernugal, Jake Conway, Brian Finnegan, Don Graf, Andrew Lardani, Eric Larson, Bob Meyer, Tyler Orvis-Bjorgaard, Don Raway, Rick Reese, Nick Roth, Carl Sandwick, Aaron Schmidt, Erik Sorenson, Greg Sorenson, Raymond St. Germain and Kathy Travis.

Congratulations to all that passed their exams and are now licensed water operators!

Mary Hartzheim earns promotion

Mary Hartzheim was recently promoted to an accountant III.

Please offer your congratulations to Mary when you see her.



Mary Hartzheim

Water utility techs sought for DPU

We are currently looking to fill up to two water utility technician I openings in the Damage Prevention Unit in engineering.

If you are interested in being considered for a transfer or reduction to this position, please let Sandy Kimbrough know by the end of the day on Friday, August 18, 2023.

If you have any questions or would like to verify that you qualify as a transfer or reduction candidate, please feel free to contact Sandy Kimbrough at 266-6510 or stop by her office.

New HVAC system goes in at plant



A new heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system was installed at the treatment plant on Friday, August 4.

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Blake Castagneri assists with the calibration/maintenance of instruments and meters throughout the plant, Sucker Lake sampling, and a variety of other tests as needed

James Brown assists water quality staff in various analyses such as fluoride and suspended solids during the treatment process, and he is currently taking lead on our summer Sucker Lake Project to combat zebra mussel infestation.

Jeremy Erickson, a water quality specialist, analyzes samples for nutrients such as phosphorus and ammonia, provides support for day to day lab operations, and performs data analysis.

Clare Focht, the intern, helps with tests around the plant and picking up Lead and Copper Rule samples and other duties as assigned.

"We are an accredited lab," said Justine Roe, water lab supervisor.



Blake Castagneri, water quality specialist, mixes chemicals under the safety hood on August 9.

"So, we're able to test our own water for a variety of substances."

The lab publishes a monthly water report on our website that allows customers to view the results of laboratory analyses. The results include microbiological, chemical and physical analytes.