

## Message of farewell and thanks from Shea Patrick Shea resigns as GM

As I take this moment to bid you farewell, I wanted to express my heartfelt gratitude for the incredible journey we've shared at SPRWS. As a new chapter in my career begins, I look back at the experiences and memories created here. They will forever hold a special place for me and my family.



Patrick Shea

Theodore Roosevelt once said, "Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing." This quote, hanging on my monitor, has been a constant reminder of the meaningful endeavors we've pursued together. Working alongside such a dedicated, creative, and innovative team has been an honor beyond measure.

As general manager, my role was not about the location on an organizational chart or my spot on the hierarchical structure. I approached my position as a commitment and opportunity to support and facilitate your incredible efforts and implement your ideas for improvement. Each one of you has contributed to the success and growth of SPRWS in profound ways. Your hard work, passion, and

*Shea continued on page 2*

## Utility hires maintenance staff

Nick Padowski was hired to as a maintenance worker I in the treatment plant as of Dec. 18, 2023.

Please welcome Nick to the water utility.



Nick Padowski

## Utility begins using ortho-phosphate in water treatment

The utility will soon begin using orthophosphate as a corrosion control inhibitor additive to the water we treat at McCarrons.

This new additive is intended to form a protective layer of scale on the interior of pipes in the water system, particularly lead service lines. This should help reduce lead exposure to SPRWS customers with lead service lines.

While there are many benefits to this new treatment additive, as we adjust the dosage in our system to find the right balance, staff who work in the distribution system or interact with customers are asked to be on the lookout for any signs the dosage needs to be adjusted.

These include:

- Plugging of lines/valves/etc. – The new chemical is a corrosion inhibitor which means that it will form scale inside of pipelines by design. If this is too extensive, then it could lead to plugging in small diameter lines such as services
- Taste or odor complaints
- Any trends in customer calls/complaints/etc.

Please be diligent in collecting/recording background information about any such complaints/calls (i.e. location, details of the complaint, etc.) since they will be helpful for further investigation

It will take some time for the new additive to reach throughout the distribution system and for the system to reach a steady-state, so please keep an eye on this at least until mid-February.

Other water utilities have used orthophosphate successfully to reduce the amount of lead in finished water at the tap that could otherwise be affected by lead service lines or lead in household fixtures.

## Matt Morelli retires after 33 years of service

Matt Morelli, custodian, retired Dec. 29 after 33 years of years of service.

Matt started July of 1990 as a provisional appointee in public health as a maintenance trainee, but was soon offered a certified position as a street services worker in public works. He worked in that title until 1995 when he become moderate duty worker/laborer.

In 1997 he moved to the water department as a custodian and was promoted to a custodian-engineer I in 2006. He acquired a second title as a service worker in 2013 and held both titles until his retirement on Dec. 29, 2023.

Congratulations and best wishes to Matt on his retirement.



*Matt Morelli receives his retiree plaque from Patrick Shea on Dec. 28.*



*Matt and Chuck Kavalowski try to figure out their new cell phones.*



*Jodi Wallin and Matt Morelli in 2009.*



*Matt Morelli in 2005.*

## Bill Wood passes away

Retiree William "Bill" Wood passed away on December 10, 2023.

Bill started with the Board of Education in 1986 and became a park aide in 1994. He came to the water utility in 1996 as a water plant aide. He became a water plant worker in 2003 and retired from that position in 2008.

Our condolences to his family, friends, and former co-workers.



*Bill Wood*

## Shea bids farewell as general manager

*Shea continued from page 1*

unwavering dedication have been the driving force behind the achievements of SPRWS. This is a great utility built on the ingenuity and hard work of the people that came before us. I know the work we have done over the past four years has made a difference and will lead to even greater days ahead.

I am incredibly grateful for the cooperation and collaboration I've received from each member of the team, the City of St. Paul, and the Board of Water Commissioners. The journey wouldn't have been as remarkable without your trust and support.

The Board of Water Commissioners and the City's Human Resources department have begun the transition process. Because of you and the exceptional leadership team here at SPRWS, the Board has complete confidence in the continued success of this organization in the days to come.

As I step into a new chapter, I carry with me the lessons learned, the challenges conquered, and the relationships formed during my time at SPRWS. Thank you for making this journey so incredibly rewarding and fulfilling. I will be forever grateful.