

Taking inventory



Corey Horvath and Jake Schlussler, water utility workers, count brushes in the warehouse while Greg Sorenson, water system worker, writes down the exact number during annual inventory on Friday, Oct. 23.

SPRWS earns fluoridation award from US CDC

The water utility earned the Water Fluoridation Quality Award from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for 2014.

Fluoridation is the adjustment of fluoride in the drinking water to a level that is effective for preventing tooth decay. Fluoridation has been shown to prevent about 25 percent of tooth decay in children and adults, said Katherine Weno, a dentist and director of the CDC Division of Oral Health. Fluoridation has been hailed by the CDC as one of the 10 great public health achievements in the 20th century.

Fluoridation continued on page 2

GM Corner

By Steve Schneider

Policies, rules, and procedures are there for everyone

Policies, rules, and operating procedures: every organization has them, every organization needs them, and every organization struggles with them from time to time.

Here at SPRWS, we have rules and guidelines to follow that range from operational procedures to personnel rules; from safety and security procedures to bargaining agreement language. All of these are critically important to our success and I, along with all SPRWS management, expect all employees to follow each of the various procedures, policies, and rules.

Over the past few years, systems have been put in place to help the city be consistent in the application of many of these rules. With the new timekeeping and finance systems, the application of many procedures and policies have been automated and made more transparent than ever. As public servants, we are always visible and our actions are under the scrutiny of the public. After all, they are the ones funding our jobs and operations by paying their water bills. They deserve to know what we are doing with those payments.

What happens if we don't follow these rules, policies, and procedures? As we all know, violations of rules have consequences. Consequences can range from discipline for violating personnel policies and rules to serious injury if safety rules are not followed. The bottom line is that these rules, policies, and procedures are in place to ensure that SPRWS continues to have a safe, secure, and generally good

Policies continued on page 2

Employee conference set for Dec. 2

Mark your calendars!

The employee conference is only about four weeks away!

Set for Wednesday, December 2, at the TIES education center in Falcon Heights, the event provides a full day of activities solely dedicated to the employees at SPRWS. We have the entire facility to ourselves as we launch into a day of getting to know our own divisions and employees a little bit better. In addition, we'll have a chance to learn more about other city departments and what fun and cool activities we can do in the city of Saint Paul.

Starting with a hot breakfast and registration from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m., the photo booth will be back with props for you to let out your creative and fun side.

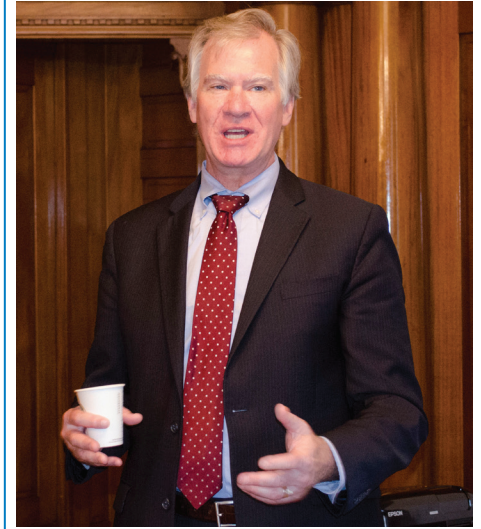
Deputy mayor Kristen Beckmann is slated to kick things off around 8 a.m. with Matt Anfang of the Board of Water Commissioners to follow.

You'll need to be on your best behavior as the dogs of the police K-9 unit make an appearance. Then the fire department shows us what all they do. It's not only about fighting fires.

Learn about what your own co-workers do in the damage prevention unit, meter shop operations, and the water quality lab.

So, come to the employee conference with an open mind and an excitement to learn new things about what we do and who you work alongside every day.

Charitable giving campaign kick off



Mayor Chris Coleman praises the community charities involved in this year's giving campaign for the work they do in and around the city. He kicked off this year's campaign at an event at the Landmark Center on Oct. 21. He urged city employees to get involved and give back to the community we all serve. The deadline for giving is Nov. 2.

SPRWS wins fluoridation award from US CDC

[Fluoridation continued from page 1](#)

The water utility was recently awarded the commendation recognizing those water communities that achieved excellence in community water fluoridation by maintaining a consistent level of fluoride in drinking water throughout 2014. In Minnesota, about 112

out of a possible 625 water utilities received these awards.

"We can be proud that in Minnesota, communities are employing this effective public health measure," said State Oral Health Director Merry Jo Thoele.

Retiree Dupre passes away

Melvin J. Dupre, age 95, a WWII Army veteran, a lifetime Centerville resident, and a retiree of Saint Paul Regional Water Services, passed away October 9, 2015.

Melvin joined the water utility in 1947 as a watershed laborer and station fireman. He held those positions until 1954, when he became a pump station engineer. In 1957, he became a watershed foreman. In 1964, he was promoted to watershed foreman II, the position from which he retired in 1985.

Melvin worked for the water utility for just short of 38 years.

He was buried on October 14 at St. Genevieve's Church Cemetery.

Our condolences to his family.

Policies, procedures, and rules are there for everyone

[Policies continued from page 1](#)

working environment.

You have received (or will receive in the near future) a memo from SPRWS administration about the use of TASS and some incidents of misuse that were noticed following an internal audit of payroll data. We also provided a copy of a summary of some basic employee expectations. We expect that all employees follow the rules, policies, and procedures we have here at SPRWS.

We believe this is a great place to work and want to keep it that way. Please help us by making sure you are aware of and follow these rules, policies, and procedures.