

GM Corner

By Steve Schneider

GM Corner to become managers' corner for division articles

I have been writing articles for the Pipeline Express GM Corner since 2004. Roughly every other month, you could read about upcoming projects, the annual revenue outlook for SPRWS, and other reports about special events going on here at the utility.

The first article I wrote, in August of 2004, included information on CMMS/Synergen go-live, campus construction and move and the 2005 budget proposal.

While I am sure that everyone looks forward to the articles, I have decided that it is time for others here at SPRWS to have the opportunity to share their stories with you.

Beginning next month, all of the divisions of the utility will get their chance to showcase what is going on in their part of the world. You will hear from production, distribution, engineering, business and the administration areas.

I want to take this last opportunity to write a GM Corner article to thank each and every one of you once again for your contribution to making SPRWS one of the best utilities in the country. The recent poll that identified us as tops in the Midwest in customer satisfaction is yet another indicator that many others agree with me. I believe that we provide our customers with the water and services that are second to none.

We could not do so without the efforts of all 250 employees.

Thank you!

Pouring concrete



Workers pour concrete June 1 to create a platform that will become an area to clean new pipe prior to capping and stock piling. Located across from McCarrons on Roselawn Ave.

Working on the cement-laying crew are John Pope, cement finisher; Herman Audett, water utility worker; Brad Kelbe, water utility worker; and Bill Strouts, cement finisher.

Three new classes open for the summer at Century College

A handful of continuing education classes through Century College are available this summer.

You can choose from:

Verbal Judo-June 14, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Critical Thinking in the Workplace-June 20, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Responding to Conflict-June 21, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

All classes are held at Century College East Campus located at 3300 Century Avenue.

Contact Debbie Szulim to sign up or for more information.

You must have supervisor approval to attend.

Hibbard promoted

New temps, customer service representative hired

Rich Hibbard has earned a promotion to civil engineer IV, and will be the assistant division manager in engineering. He reports to Dave Wagner.



Rich Hibbard



Kenn Eisenmenger



Matt Lanars



Peter Trooien



David Denton

The utility has hired three new temps for the season. Kenn Eisenmenger, Matt Lanars, and Peter Trooien all started May 15.

David Denton is a new customer service representative

hired on May 30. He works in the customer service unit.

Congratulations to all and welcome to our new employees.

Habitat for Humanity date for SPRWS moved to July 11

We all know that safe, affordable housing is key to healthy and vibrant communities. We are again teaming up with Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity to help build a new single family home on the Eastside at 715 Cook Avenue East.

Habitat for Humanity builds safe, affordable, durable homes in partnership with low-income families and helps make the dream of home ownership a reality.

City of Saint Paul employees have a long history of supporting this event. Please consider joining in volunteering for this year's build - it's a great way to make a difference in the lives of Saint Paul residents. You will have to generously give up a day of vacation or comp time to help build the house, but this opportunity is extremely fulfilling and has a profound impact on a family for generations.

The utility was signed up for a June date, but many people were going to be out for the Fourth of

July holiday.

Instead, SPRWS will be working on Tuesday, July 11 alongside the mayor's office and the police department. The mayor's office will be providing lunch to all volunteers.

There is also a new, easy way to sign up to volunteer. Go to <https://tchabitat.volunteerhub.com/lp/saintpaul/events>. SPRWS will confirm your registration as the date gets nearer. Please let Steve Schneider know if you have any questions.

"I hope to see some of you join us in helping out the family and learn some new skills in building a house," said Schneider. "No experience is necessary!"

Supervisor approval is required to participate.

Wear comfortable clothes that can get dirty and closed-toe shoes. Bring work gloves and personal tools if you would prefer to use those. Also bring sunscreen, snacks, water, and your completed volunteer waiver paperwork.

Former employee John "Bucky" Yanez passes away

John Henry "Bucky" Yanez, who worked as an accounting clerk I in billing from 2004 to 2006, has passed away at the age of 58.

Bucky started working for the city in the office of financial services in 2000, and transferred to the water department in 2004.

He moved to Florida in 2006.

He passed away on May 28.

His funeral was held on Friday, June 2 at the Church of our Lady of Guadalupe in Saint Paul.

He will be sadly missed by his family and friends.



Bucky Yanez