

Managers' Corner

By Jim Graupmann

Old Highland Reservoir site purpose to be determined

The old Highland Reservoir went into service around 1925. It has a capacity of 18 million gallons, but it has been out of service for the past three years. It was taken out of service because demands on the high service system, which it serves, have declined in recent years. This has led to water quality issues in the reservoir, due to the fact that the water in the reservoir would not turn over fast enough and would lose its disinfectant.

Because of the trend in water consumption, we have concluded that the reservoir is no longer necessary for our system, and we've decided to demolish it. The result will be an approximately five-acre parcel of land that we have no immediate need to use. To that end, and at our Board's direction, we recently sought proposals for re-development of the parcel. At first, there were no restrictions placed on the proposals, and eleven proposals were received. After discussing, the Board of Water Commissioners decided that the land was not surplus, and so wouldn't be sold, but could be leased on a long-term (40-year) basis. That brought the number of proposers still interested with those terms down to five. The proposers include two public entities (St. Paul and Ramsey County Parks) and three private parties.

At its January meeting, the Board discussed the proposals, and did not reach a consensus on which proposal was the best fit. Our current direction is to involve the city agencies that deal with planning and redevelopment (PED, among others) to try to determine a plan that is best for the city.

So, for now, the old reservoir still stands. Stay tuned to see what happens to the site, which sits on prime property, the highest ground in Highland!

Winter maintenance underway



Herman Audett, water utility worker, begins clean out of flocc 3, which also needed repairs, during its annual maintenance Jan. 5.

Distribution crews thanked for holiday main break repairs

Compliments and thanks were offered to some of the crews that worked on Christmas Eve and Christmas day to get water service restored to two areas after main breaks. The first is from David Rosenbloom:

"Our family wants to thank the intrepid crew who came out to the corner of Dora Lane and East Dora Court on the evening of Christmas Eve and stayed into the early hours of Christmas morning, fixing a water main break. We certainly appreciated your work and hope that you were able to spend some quality time with your families after making our lives better."

And another one from Thomas O'Brien:

"There was a main break on Parkview Ave. in St. Paul on Christmas. They had to shut the water off at 6 p.m. The workers came to our house 1/2 hour before the shutoff to give us time to hoard some water, and they were all done by 9 p.m. Thanks for the quick work and for doing it in sub-zero temperatures on their holiday."

Vacation donation approved for Bill Launderville

Vacation donation has been approved by the office of human resources for Bill Launderville, water utility worker I.

Bill has exhausted all his sick leave and vacation due to a medical condition and has requested vacation donation.

If you would like to donate vacation to Bill, please e-mail your own payroll person or provide her with a

signed release indicating how much vacation you wish to transfer. Our payroll person with the city is Lori Ann DeVile. She will be responsible for all the record keeping.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request.



Bill Launderville

Don't spread the flu or cold; be sensitive to your co-workers

This is a particularly bad year for the flu around the state and the nation. The flu shot is only about 30 percent effective for the strain that is going around.

If you are feeling particularly ill or are running a fever and are contagious, it's in everyone's best interest if you stay home until you are feeling better.

If you must come into the office, consider your co-workers when dealing with your symptoms.

Despite its effectiveness percentage this year, your first line of defense is still getting the flu shot. Even though it's no guarantee against getting the flu, it's the best protection available and can help shorten the length of the flu if you do get it.

Did you know you can spread the flu to others from up to six feet away? The Center for Disease Control says that is possible when you cough, sneeze or talk. You can also spread the flu by touching surfaces and then a co-worker touches that same surface.

To protect your co-workers and to be considerate of them, think about these things:

Stay home and seek medical attention – Don't go to work; go to the doctor. While a virus must run its course, other treatments or medications may still be

required to help fight against whatever ails you.

Wash your hands or use a hand sanitizer often – Especially after blowing your nose.

Use disinfectant wipes at your desk – Clean up your phone, keyboard and mouse. Wash thoroughly your eating ware and your coffee mug.

Keep a supply of cough drops These will help keep your coughing to a minimum. It can be very distracting to listen to constant coughing. If you can't help but cough, make sure to cover your mouth.

Sneeze into your left arm or shoulder – This is a must do! Keep germ spreading to a minimum. And if you're meeting with people, it leaves your right hand sanitary and free for handshaking.

Stay connected with technology until you are fever free for 24 hours – Just like school children are not supposed to return to school until they are fever free for 24 hours, you should do the same.

Keeping up communication via email and text allows you to respond to urgent matters and stay on top of your work until you are back in the office.



Difference between cold and flu symptoms

Some of the general differences between colds and flu are listed below. Know what to look for and how to help prevent the flu:

Symptom	Cold	Seasonal flu
Fever	Rare with a cold.	Usually present with flu. A 100°F temp. or higher for 3 to 4 days is typical.
Coughing	A hacking, productive (mucus-producing) cough is often present with a cold.	A non-productive (non-mucus producing) cough is usually present with the flu (sometimes referred to as dry cough).
Aches	Slight body aches and pains can be part of a cold.	Moderate to severe aches and pains are common with the flu.
Stuffy nose	Commonly present.	Not commonly present with flu.
Chills	Uncommon with a cold.	60% of people who have the flu have chills.
Tiredness	Fairly mild with a cold.	Moderate to severe with the flu.
Sneezing	Common with a cold.	Not common with the flu.
Sudden symptoms	Cold symptoms tend to develop over a few days.	The flu has a rapid onset within 3-6 hours.
Headache	Fairly uncommon with a cold.	Flu hits hard with high fever, aches, pains. Very common with the flu, present in 80% of all flu cases.
Sore throat	Usually present with a cold.	Not usually present with the flu.
Chest discomfort	Mild to moderate discomfort.	Often severe with the flu.

Source: www.UtahFluFighters.org, Utah Department of Health

