

Managers' Corner

By Dave Wagner

Providing fire protection services

Much of our focus at SPRWS is on providing high quality drinking water to our customers and rightfully so. But we also provide an important service in supplying fire protection in order to protect the residents and infrastructure in our community. There is much that goes into having a reliable fire protection system in a city: properly sized piping, adequate water storage and pumping capacity as well as proper system maintenance.

Imagine being a fire fighter and responding to a burning building. There are many issues to address, so they count on us to have the water system ready for them. Where is the nearest hydrant? What is the water availability and is the hydrant cap indicative of flow?

More recently our maps and records staff led by Mike Anderson and Renee Huset met with the fire department in Saint Paul to provide them with the most up-to-date information on our water system.

We are providing electronic maps to them indicating hydrant locations, water main sizes, and water availability. These maps will also have GPS tracking, where the maps will zoom to the physical location of a fire hydrant, rather than having to search a location on the map. We also color code our hydrant caps based on the approximate amount of water that can be expected: green (high flow), yellow (medium flow) and red (low flow).

Having this information accurate and available to the fire department is just one example of how we help provide quality service.

Front Ave. main break requires two repairs by two crews



Marcus Fitzgerald, water utility worker, grabs equipment from a co-worker to pass down to the worker at the bottom of the trench on Front Ave. at Woodbridge on Feb. 7. A 12-inch water main broke on Feb. 6, which was offset and went under a 72-inch sanitary sewer line, adding to the difficulty of repairing the water main. Mark Luzinski's crew worked through the night to repair it, only to have a nearby joint fail due to corrosion of the bolts. On Mark's crew were Tony Gillette, Joe Moy, Sam Caliguire, Greg Sorenson, Aaron Schmidt, and Mic Searson. Jeff Abbott's crew then took over on Feb. 7 and completed the secondary repairs by mid-day. Jeff's crew included Fitzgerald, Searson, Jake Wolf, Travis Siedl, Chad Sandwick, and Brandon D'Agostino.

Several utility jobs open

The water utility is hiring and is looking for water utility worker I's, utility aides, a water treatment plant operator II and a water utility tech. I. There are multiple jobs available in the water utility worker I and utility aide areas.

Applications for water utility worker I close on Feb. 20 while the utility aide and water treatment plant

Jobs continued on page 2

Staff promoted, Barnes moves to the dewatering bldg.

Rob Ralston has been promoted to a water plant worker doing maintenance in the treatment plant. He is doing the work of Randy Barnes, water plant worker, who has shifted responsibilities to the dewatering building where he has taken over the duties of Curt Willier. Willier retired at the end of December.

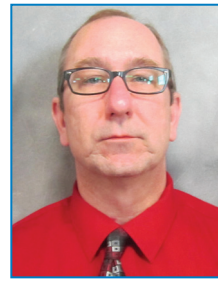
Brent Marsolek has been promoted to engineering tech supervisor, taking over the duties of Bill Tschida, who retired at the end of



Rob Ralston



Randy Barnes



Brent Marsolek



Rich Rowland

December.

Rich Rowland has been promoted to a water utility tech. III and has been assigned to distribution operations.

Congratulations to Rob, Brent, and Rich on their new positions at the water utility.

Congratulations to Randy on his move to the dewatering building.

Charlie Neumann, retiree, passes away Jan. 28

Charlie Neumann passed away on January 28 at 62 years of age. He worked at the water utility for 35 years, retiring in 2011.

He started his career with the city in 1976 working for public works as an unskilled laborer and transferred to the utility in 1977 in the same title. In 1980 he worked as a ditch digger (water system worker I) and moved to water serviceman II in 1983. By 1985 he was a heavy equipment operator. In 1996 he added revolving power equipment operator to his titles, as he kept his title of HEO.

He retired in 2011 at the age of 56.

According to his obituary in the Pioneer Press, he was a proud member of the Local "49rs" Union of Operating Engineers. Charlie enjoyed golf, hunting, and fishing.



Charlie Neumann



A private celebration was held.

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

Charlie Neumann working in 2010.

Utility posts several job openings online

[*Jobs continued from page 1*](#)

operator positions are open until Feb. 26.

Jobs are posted online at www.stpaul.gov/jobs.

The primary requirements of a water utility worker I are manual labor in the construction, maintenance, and repair of streets, sewers, water mains, right-of-ways, and on grounds and buildings. Also drives and operates vehicles, power tools, hand tools, and other equipment.

The seasonal temporary positions for utility aides perform routine labor/grounds maintenance on utility maintained land, such as land near water reservoirs/tanks, supply lakes and conduits.

The water treatment plant operator is responsible for the continuous functional operation of water softening and purification equipment at the water treatment plant. Operates filter units, including backwashes. Controls the flow of water through the treatment process. Monitors and controls the appropriate application of all chemicals used during the treatment process.

The water utility tech I performs entry level field and office engineering work including inspecting the installation, repair and maintenance of SPRWS water systems.

If you know someone interested in working for the utility, please encourage them to apply.