

Managers' Corner

By Steve Gleason

Business div. moves toward the future

Spring is in the air! My spirits are lifted welcoming the birds, the warm sun and new challenges and opportunities of 2018.

In the business division, initiatives are moving forward. To name a few:

- The 2019 budget and planning processes are underway. We anticipate approval of a budget that continues investment in the buried pipe network infrastructure and the treatment plant.
- The city of Saint Paul and SPRWS are implementing new voice over internet protocol (VOIP) digital phones. SPRWS will be using VOIP by January 1, 2019, and will no longer receive phone service from Ramsey County.
- The city is implementing a finance system upgrade. The go-live of the INFOR upgrade is planned for Jan. 1, 2019.
- An upgrade to our on-line water bill payment processor called *Infinity Link* is planned for 2018. The enhanced software offers customers the ability to register on-line, have payments auto drawn from a credit card or bank account, view past bills, and use any device: cell phone, tablet and/or computer to process a payment.
- We are partnering with city of Saint Paul public works to implement a field mobile/data capture solution for processing work orders and service orders in the field. The solution will integrate with our shared CMMS system and SPRWS' CIS system.

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Drinking Water Week full of activities, kicks off May 7

The utility is gearing up for a host of activities to take place during National Drinking Water Week, May 6 -12.

For more than 35 years the American Water Works Association and its members have celebrated Drinking Water Week as a unique opportunity for both water professionals and the communities we serve to join together in recognizing the vital role water plays in our daily lives.

For water utility staff in particular, water is at the center of everything you do. While everyone needs water to live, water is our livelihood as well. While it may feel mundane and ordinary some days, the work you do is paramount to the survival of our communities. You provide water for living, manufacturing, fire fighting, and more to 435,000 people. It is no small task and you do it well. Take some time to reflect during Drinking Water Week on the life-giving product you produce every day and take pride in the work you do to make that happen.

Years of Service Celebration

We start our celebration on Monday, May 7, when employees with 10, 20, 25, 30, 35, and 40 years of service will be recognized from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. in the cafeteria with light refreshments. Steve Schneider will hand out years of service pins to this year's recipients.

Employee Tours of the Plant

At 2 p.m. take a tour of the plant and find out how we treat our water to make it potable. If you have never been on a tour of the plant, now is a great time

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Drinking Water Week activities kick off starting May 7

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to take an hour out of your day to learn more about the facility where you work. Tours are limited to 20 participants. If interested, sign up in advance with Steve Schneider. Meet in the cafeteria following the years of service awards.

Middle Schoolers Tour Plant

On Tuesday, May 8, we will welcome sixth and seventh graders from a local school as they tour the plant and learn more about water.

Safety Picnic to Start off Construction Season

A safety picnic to kick off our construction season will take place from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 9, near the employee entrance on the east side of the

administration building. Bring your appetite and best bags throwing skills for a game of bags. Learn the importance of returning safely to your family and friends at the end of your shift every day.

McCarrons Open House and Tours

We welcome the public to our plant for tours on Thursday, May 10, starting at 2 p.m. Guests will have a chance to meet with employees in the lobby while waiting for their tour to start. Water quality specialists will give a glimpse into the process of making our water potable for customers. Please make our guests feel welcome during their visit.

Drinking Water Week is a chance to reflect on the vital role water plays in our lives and the vital role we play in the lives of those we serve.

Business division moves toward the future

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Our current target is to test processes by next winter (2019).

I thank and tip my hat to all business division staff. All of you in metering, billing, collections, finance and information systems make me proud of your fine work.

Finally, I want to thank all SPRWS employees for all you do. I hope employees at all levels know you can ask me for information and I will do my best to provide helpful answers.

New water utility worker I's start work in distribution

The water utility has begun preparing for the construction season by hiring a slew of new water utility workers, who started on April 16.

Joseph Ahrens, David Dilts, James Hellzen, Mike Hiveley, Dylan Johnstone, Latoris Jones, and Robert Jones all began work in distribution this month.

These are all certified, full-time employees.

Please welcome our new employees to the water utility if you see them around campus.



Joseph Ahrens



David Dilts



James Hellzen



Mike Hiveley



Dylan Johnstone



Latoris Jones



Robert Jones