

## Managers' Corner

By Jim Bode

### Drinking Water Week shows off our facilities

The first week in May was National Drinking Water Week. We use the week to honor our employees and our customers with various events. This year's events went well and my sense is that all of you enjoyed the chance to have some fun with your co-workers and with the public.

On Monday we honored employees with a years-of-service event that recognized employment milestones of 10, 20, 30, 35 and 40 years. All are impressive, but 40 years really stands out! Way to go John Anderson and Pete Davis! There was also a chance for employees to take a tour of the campus with our general manager, Steve Schneider, on Monday.

Many of you attended the Safety Luncheon on Wednesday for a free lunch, to receive encouragement for working safely, and also see a demonstration by our neighbors from the St. Paul Police canine training facility. As a dog owner myself, I am always amazed and envious of the talent those teams exhibit. If only my dogs were that well trained!

And of course we had lots of tours, both with school kids from area schools on Monday through Wednesday and with the open house on Thursday. This year's open house again went very well, though participation was down a little from previous years with 179 people coming through.

I think events for the public to come and see what we do and who we are are a good thing. It builds confidence for our customers to see that we have a well-run and well-maintained facility operated by people who know what they are doing and care about the quality of the water we provide.

## McCarrons open house



*Joe Tronson, meter tech lead worker, explains water meters to some visitors to McCarrons at the May 10 open house and tours. The event was the culmination of Drinking Water Week, which included tours to elementary and junior high students, the AWWA young professionals, and tours from Steve Schneider to employees. Years of Service awards were also given out that week, and a start of the season safety picnic was held.*

## Have a green thumb? Garden at the water utility

Are you interested in gardening?

Become a container gardener in the employee community garden.

Preparation and planting begins soon.

There are limited containers available so consider creating a group or joining existing gardeners (lime plant, lab, business improvement, warehouse, and Vadnais station all have had group containers in the past).

Participants agree to:

Maintain their container and the garden area (weed, harvest, water, etc.)

Garden organically by not using chemical herbicides or pesticides, etc.

*Water continued on page 2*

## New and seasonal workers return to utility



**Erika Allery**



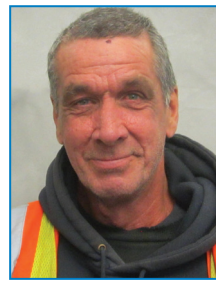
**John Conroy**



**Mark Coulter**



**Chris Cullen**



**James Gill**



**Jonathan Hakes**



**Matt Lanars**



**Jeremy Larson**



**Zachery Lee**



**Tom Longendyke**



**Matt Mariani**



**Mike McGrane**



**Walter O' Neal**



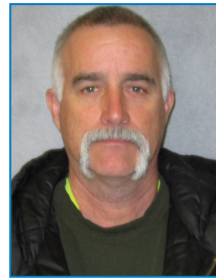
**Nicholas Pappas**



**Christopher Robinson**



**Mike Sherman**



**Bill Strouts**



**Ryan Travis**

The utility has much of its construction staff out in full force as the following people have returned or been hired for the season:

Ericka Allery, utility aide; John Conroy, utility aide; Mark Coulter, water utility worker; Chris Cullen,

water utility worker; James Gill, water utility worker; Jonathan Hakes, water utility worker; Matt Lanars, water utility worker; Jeremy Larson, water utility worker; Zachery Lee, utility aide; Tom Longendyke, water utility worker; Matt Mariani, water utility worker;

Mike McGrane, utility aide; Walter O'Neal, water utility worker; Nicholas Pappas, water utility worker; Christopher Robinson, utility aide; Mike Sherman, water utility worker; Bill Strouts, cement finisher; and Ryan Travis, water meter technician.

## Interns hired in lab, maps and records

The utility has hired two interns this summer.

Anna Sampson is working in the water quality lab and started May 21.

Meric Birol is working maps and records and started on May 1. Please welcome them to the utility.



**Anna Sampson**



**Meric Birol**

## Want to garden?

[Garden continued from page 1](#)

Interested?

Please let Rich Rowland know as soon as possible. Email him at [Richard.Rowland@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Richard.Rowland@ci.stpaul.mn.us) or call him at 266-1659.

New participants will be added on a first-come, first-served basis.