

Managers' Corner

By Steve Gleason

Take care of number one: Be safe

Ideally, a workplace is completely hazard free. However, at SPRWS treating and delivering water inherently involves various hazards and unstable environments.

Accordingly, we have safety policies in place to address regulatory requirements but primarily to keep all employees and customers safe, sound and healthy. Our well-being cannot be compromised to achieve our work.

Please observe safety policies and ergonomic guidelines. The policies may be inconvenient. Nevertheless, please observe them and take care of number one.

- Wear appropriate PPE.
- Do not enter an unprotected trench.
- Don't rush.
- Don't get lax, take shortcuts, skip steps and assume risks.
- Get help with heavy lifting as needed.
- Step up.
- Look out for co-workers.
- If you see a fellow employees cutting corners or fooling around remind them that they are number one.
- If you see a safety hazard, do something about it. Either remove it or report it.

Looking out for our own personal safety is an important job responsibility for each of us. Think about what could go wrong and how you'll prevent it. Report accidents and near misses so SPRWS can better understand workplace hazards and design safe practices.

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Schneider previews 2019 budget proposal for staff



Steve Schneider, right, answers questions about the 2019 proposed budget at a presentation in the cafeteria on August 14. The 2019 proposed budget includes a 2.1 percent rate increase on water usage, or 9 cents a unit of water, which will be discussed at a public hearing on Sept. 11 in the lobby. The 2019 budget is \$77.4 million, with most of that coming from water fees. The largest expense is for operations, which includes salary and benefits. The talk included information on the project to update the treatment plant beginning in 2020. A consultant will be hired in 2019 to help us through the design build process.

Water plant worker sought

The utility is looking to hire a water plant worker. Applicants must have one year experience performing entry level water plant labor, waste water physical plant duties, water utility worker I duties or equivalent, or the completion of a vocational school program in water treatment/operations.

Applicants must obtain a class D water operator certificate from the Minnesota Department of Health within 18 months of appointment. They must possess and maintain a class D driver's license. They will need a drug test and background check as conditions of employment.

A water plant worker performs entry-level labor tasks in the operations, maintenance and repair of the

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Next system tour shows off distribution crews on Sept. 13



Staff get a behind the scenes look at what goes on in the warehouse on August 8 during the McCarrons campus systems tour. From left are: Jacob Pauna, engineering aide; Chantha Siv and Allen Fung, IS support specialists; Greg Thompson, water treatment plant operator; and Sandy Hernandez, storeroom supervisor.

The distribution system tour on September 13 will take you out into the field and show you the work of service crews, temp crews, UDF flushing and hydrant inspections, and restoration crews. It will also cover water quality actions taken in the field. The tour will be held on Thursday, September 13, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Brad Eilts will lead the tour. The overflow date is Oct. 3. Tours leave from the cafeteria in the admin. bldg. Sign up with Dennis Rosemark, 266-6822.

Stanley Hunter passes away

Stanley Hunter, retiree, passed away on August 6. He was 88.

Stanley started seasonal work at the utility out at Vadnais as a watershed worker in the summer of 1957. He returned each summer for that work until 1961, when he worked as needed as a meter reader and for a short time as a senior clerk. He began full time employment as a filter plant helper in the summer of 1961. In 1963, he became a filter plant operator I and in 1965, he became a filter plant operator II, the position from which he retired in 1995.

Customer congratulates staff on director's award

Bill Rasmussen called in to congratulate the entire SPRWS staff on their 20-year director's award of recognition from the Partnership for Safe Water earlier this year.

Noting that it takes everyone to make something like that happen, Bill wanted to be sure that all staff members were congratulated for their part.

As a veteran of the US Navy, he sends out a hearty Bravo Zulu (well done) to the utility.

Dennis Splittstoesser retires after 30 years



Dennis Splittstoesser receives his retirement plaque from Jim Bode on July 30 at Vadnais station.

Dennis Splittstoesser retired at the end of July after 30 years of service to the water utility.

Denny started with water as a park aide in 1988.

He became a water utility worker in 1992.

This is the position from which he retires.

A reception was held in his honor on July 30 at Vadnais station, where he most recently worked.

Congratulations to Denny on his retirement.

Look out for No. 1: Be safe

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SPRWS records workplace incidents involving employee injuries every year. You can make a difference and help protect yourself and fellow employees by thinking about and acting safely.

Be safe.

Thank you.

Water plant worker sought

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water treatment pumping and lime recovery plants.

For more information, you can contact Sandy Kimbrough in human resources at 651-266-6510 or at jobs@stpaul.gov. You can also apply online at www.stpaul.gov/jobs. The job closes at 4:30 p.m. on Aug. 20.