

Managers' Corner

By Dave Wagner

\$250K grant acquired for Highland Park water tower

The Highland Park water tower has been an iconic landmark in our city for many years. We are excited to announce that the Minnesota Historical Society has awarded SPRWS a Historical and Cultural Heritage grant in the amount of \$250,000 for renovation of this historic landmark!

The Highland Park water tower was built in 1928. It has been a neighborhood landmark as well as a symbol for the utility for 90 years. The tower was designed by Clarence "Cap" Wigington, the nation's first black municipal architect.

The tower has a capacity of 200,000 gallons. Although no longer in use as a water storage reservoir, it is an important part of our history and community.

Thousands of people come to the tower open houses each year to enjoy the view from the top of the observation deck.

At this point in its life the tower is starting to show its age. A condition assessment of the structure was commissioned and completed by MacDonald and Mack architects in 2017, with Tim Bagstad overseeing the project.

This report indicates various improvements need to be done, ranging from repairs to some of the masonry and windows, doors, stairway, exterior grading, and the observation deck.

Work on the deck includes repairing areas of deterioration caused by water problems and improvements to the viewing area openings, which are currently enclosed with chain link fencing.

A contract is planned to be bid soon with construction slated to take place this coming summer.

Sign up now for biometric screenings in January

Now is the time to sign up for biometric screenings on site. They are free and you don't have to travel to your doctor's office.

The screenings are one of the items that you can earn points for under the Healthy Saint Paul incentive program. Biometric screening participation will earn you 100 points.

You will receive \$300 in health retirement account money for use in 2020 by earning 200 points in 2019. You will receive a total of \$900 in HRA money if you earn a total of 300 points from Jan. 1 to Sept. 30, 2019.

Details on the Healthy Saint Paul well being program are available at <http://healthy.stpaul.gov>.

As part of the bio-metric screening, medical staff will take measurements of your blood pressure, blood glucose levels, body mass index, triglycerides, and cholesterol levels.

In order to get the most accurate reading of the LDL cholesterol and triglycerides, it is recommended that you fast if possible. The tests do not require fasting, however.

The screenings are set from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. on January 8 and 24 at the water utility cafeteria, but you can attend any of the city testing locations that fit your schedule.

No matter where you go, you must schedule the appointment in advance using an online site. You need an email address in order to sign up online. You must also use your full name when signing up for your appointment to be sure your results are sent to Medica's My Health Rewards portal.

Go to <https://pickatime.com/cityofstpaul> and create an account using an email address and password. Pick a date and time from the available slots. Make sure to confirm your appointment. You can opt to get a reminder via email, text, or both.

Talk to Racquel Vaske at 266-6815 if you need more information.

Put down your phone and drive; make it home alive

Both the city and the utility have policies prohibiting the use of cell phones while driving. Notice it doesn't say no talking on the phone, or no texting on the phone. The policy prohibits using the phone, in any capacity, while operating a vehicle.

Given the potentially deadly consequences of distracted driving, give yourself and the people around you a gift this season, and stay off your phone while driving. The life you save might be your own.

Don't lose your hard-earned money; spend your FSA funds

Don't lose your hard-earned money. Make sure you spend all of the money you put into your 2018 medical flexible spending account by the end of the year.

Anything not spent by Dec. 31, 2018, is not carried over in a flexible spending account. It is lost.

To determine your balance, go to www.wealthcare-admin.com and select the participant portal to login. If you have difficulties remembering your login or password, contact CieloStar at 612-436-2778.

Remember, there will be two balances if you use both a flexible savings account and have earned health account money from the city for participating in certain health care plans and the Healthy Saint Paul well being program incentives.

The flexible spending money you set aside in 2018 must be spent in 2018 or it will be lost. The website abbreviates that balance FSA.

The website lists the health account money as HRP. This money rolls over each year and does not need to be spent each year. If you have questions, call CieloStar at 612-436-2778.

You have until February of 2019 to get reimbursed for the FSA money you spent in 2018, but it must have been spent in 2018. It can not have been spent in 2019.

You can submit claims by fax, 612-335-9217; by email to flex@cielostar.com by attaching the form and supporting materials after scanning your documents; or submit them within the wealthcareadmin.com site.

You can elect to have the payments directly deposited to your bank account, or you can have a check mailed to you.

Wallace Martin passes away

Wallace Martin, a water utility retiree, passed away on September 2, 2018, at the age of 86.

Martin started work for the utility in 1953 as a ditch digger, a title later changed to unskilled laborer.

He became a water service-man I in 1967 and a water service worker-control desk in 1980. In

1983, he became a water service foreman, and in 1988 he became a water service supervisor. This is the title from which he retired.

A memorial was held on October 11. Memorials to the Listening House preferred.

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



Wallace Martin

Andy Kronholm, Sr., passes away

Andy Kronholm, Sr., an SPRWS retiree, passed away on Oct. 31, 2018. He was 82 years old.

Kronholm retired from the water utility in 1993. He began work for the city in public works in 1958. He transferred to water in 1971 as a ditch digger. He became a water laborer and an asphalt raker in 1976, holding both titles until 1988. He became a heavy equipment operator in 1983, the job he held until his retirement a decade later.

He was buried on Nov. 3 in St. Mary's Cemetery in North St. Paul.

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

Thanks to those who gave to the charitable giving campaign

This week families gather for turkey, football, and Black Friday, and think about reasons to be thankful this holiday season.

Many people have a reason to be thankful for the employees of Saint Paul Regional Water Services.

This year, 12 SPRWS employees provided \$5,578 to the annual Charitable Giving Campaign.

In this season of giving and thanksgiving, the efforts of all employees who gave to the Charitable Giving Campaign this year are greatly appreciated.

Thank you to all who participated.