

Sprucing up the walls



Matt Stone, painter, adding a coat of paint to the coat closet behind the customer service desk on the first floor of the administration building. Stone has been sprucing up the walls with a new coating of paint throughout the building.

SPRWS earns fluoridation quality award from US CDC

The water utility earned the Water Fluoridation Quality Award from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for 2017.

Fluoridation is the adjustment of fluoride in the drinking water to a level that is effective for preventing tooth decay. Fluoridation has been hailed by the CDC as one of the 10 great public health achievements in the 20th century.

The water utility was recently awarded the commendation recognizing those water communities that achieved excellence in community water fluoridation by maintaining a consistent level of fluoride in drinking water throughout 2017.

In Minnesota, about 233 out of a possible 605 water utilities received these awards.

The award is hanging up in the Vadnais room in the treatment plant.

Che Fei Chen, water quality supervisor, thanked staff for making the award possible.

Do your part to make the holidays merry and bright

The water utility is offering a few ways for you to make the season a bit brighter for others.

Non-Perishable Food Second Harvest Heartland

As in the past, we are collecting non-perishable food for Second Harvest Heartland. Steve Schneider will deliver the items at noon on Friday, Dec. 21.

There is a box in the lobby for the food.

If donating personal care or cleaning items, please keep them separate from the food items.

Gifts for Seniors

New this year, we are partnering with Gifts for Seniors to provide some holiday cheer for isolated seniors living across the Twin Cities.

This is a new venture, and you might have seen the brightly wrapped blue barrel in the lobby just waiting

for your new, unwrapped gifts to arrive.

Simple gifts can mean the world to someone who may otherwise be alone during the holidays.

- Warm hats, scarves, mittens or sets and shawls
- Pairs of socks – especially packs/sets
- Music, movies, coloring books, and puzzles
- Large-print activity books (word find, crossword)
- Coffee, tea, or hot chocolate sets
- Box or tin of candy and nuts
- Greeting card assortments with mailing stamps
- Bathroom and kitchen towel sets

The barrel will be in the lobby until late December, but get your new gifts in well before Christmas so that they can be delivered to someone who is truly looking forward to your thoughtfulness.

Belair hired at treatment plant

Jason Belair is a new water treatment plant operator II who started with the utility on Nov. 26.

Jason reports to Chad Wrightson and works in the treatment plant.

Please welcome Jason to the water utility when you see him!



Jason Belair

Dan Gatzke starts security role

Dan Gatzke has taken on a new role as a security and safety officer working out of Vadnais station.

He began the new position on Oct. 27. He previously held the title of service worker.

Congratulations to Dan on his new role at the water utility.



Dan Gatzke

Get out of the house and celebrate the holidays

There's no place like home for the holidays....unless it's Christmas break and everyone is stir crazy and you just need to get out of the house and do something.

Well, here are some ideas for inexpensive holiday activities.

Wells Fargo Winterskate. Now through Feb. 3 near the Landmark Center in downtown Saint Paul.

Free if you already have skates, \$4 to rent them if you don't. Friday - Saturday open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4:50 p.m. Open during the week, with private events most evenings after 5 p.m. Sunday - Thursday.

More information at www.visitsaintpaul.com/things-to-do/winterfun/wells-fargo-winterskate

Sledding. Free if you own a sled or even a large piece of cardboard.

For sledding around Saint Paul, find a map of the best locations at www.visitsaintpaul.com/sledding

Union Depot Christmas events. The European Christmas market runs from Dec. 7 -10, with Dec. 8 a holiday bake sale. See a Canadian Pacific Holiday train stop and musical performance for the cost a healthy food donation at 6:30 p.m. on December 10. More information at <https://www.uniondepot.org/holiday>. Free Metro Transit light

rail passes online there as well.

Holiday lights. View the holiday lights presented by the Schultz Family at 1526 York Ave. and listen to synchronized music on 91.5 radio in your car from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Accepts food donations.

For more lights locations around the Twin Cities, go to www.familyfuntwincities.com/minnesota-holiday-light-displays.

Holidazzle. Thursdays through Sundays, now through Dec. 23. Loring Park, Minneapolis. Outdoor movies Thursday and Sunday evenings. Fireworks at 7 p.m. on Saturdays. Ice skating, kids play zone, games, live musical performances, illuminated art installations, sleigh rides, bingo, beer gardens, and more. Check hours for visits with Santa Claus. www.holidazzle.com.

Minnesota Boy's Choir winter concerts. 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Dec. 16 at the Ted Mann Concert Hall. Concerts from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. and again from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Jan. 6 at the Landmark Center. Freewill donations accepted.

Holiday tours of the Governor's residence, 1006 Summit Ave. Free, with food or money donations to Second Harvest Heartland accepted. 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Dec. 11, and from 10:30 a.m. to

12:30 p.m. on Dec. 18. mn.gov/admin/governors-residence/tours/schedule

Holiday Flower Show. Marjorie McNeely Conservatory, Como Park. Open daily 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Jan. 6. Free, donations appreciated.

Holiday Music Festival. Now through Dec. 26 in the rotunda on the east side of the Mall of America. Mondays and Wednesdays through Sundays: every two hours starting at 10 a.m. Tuesdays, every two hours starting at 2 p.m. The last concert for all dates starts at 8 p.m. Free. www.mallofamerica.com/hmf

Skate the Star. Dec. 8 - Jan. 27 at the north entrance of Mall of America. Free with your own skates, \$5 skate rental.

Hours listed online at www.mallofamerica.com/skate

Winter Blast. At a variety of Saint Paul recreation centers. Dec. 26 - 28 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Ages 6 - 12. Crafts, art, gym, and other activities. A snack is provided. Free, but must register in advance. stpaul.gov/winterblast

Click on winter blast. For more winter programs, click on *browse all winter break programs*. Make sure to filter your search by date to include current events.