

## *400 lead service line replacements scheduled* **Construction on 10.6 miles of water main slated for this year**

Our crews will be busy this season with construction work planned on 10.6 miles of water main throughout our system.

Several projects, about 4.4 miles of main replacement, will be done in conjunction with city and county street reconstruction projects.

For work done in these street construction areas, we will be working to replace main where the streets are already under construction by the cities and counties within our service area.

The utility will be doing an additional 3.9 miles of main replacement work outside of these construction projects.

About half of the projects will use pipe bursting, a method that pulls high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe through existing water main, bursting through the old main to leave the new main in place.

This type of construction is typically selected where there are long spans between water service connections and few tie-ins to the water main. Crews will excavate holes in the street approximately 500 feet apart to allow access for pulling the underground pipe. After the pipe is installed, utility crews will excavate and complete pipework for the few service connections, hydrants, and other connections to the distribution system. This can be much less disruptive to the streets than traditional open cut trenching.

Where service connection taps occur every 50 – 100 feet, open trench excavation is used for main replacement. Open cut trenches will be used in about half our project areas.

We will also be cleaning and lining the water main with a cement mortar on an additional 2.3 miles of main.

In addition, we plan to replace 400 lead service lines in the right-of-way with copper pipe throughout Saint Paul this year.

## **Managers' Corner**

**By Dolly Ludden**

## **Conference room coming to the admin. building**

A new conference room on the first floor of the administration building is in the works.

It will be in the large office that payroll support occupied. In the wall near where Yvonne Hutter sat, a new door will be created that will open up near the elevators into the lobby. Once complete, those attending meetings from outside the utility will be able to access the conference space without having to go through security doors.

A team is working on the interior components of the room to make for a great meeting space. It will have an updated look and near state-of-the-art technology with seating for 10 - 14 people.

This move required finance staff to review years of payroll documents and decide what needed to be kept and relocated and what could be shredded.

In addition, Yvonne found a new home in the space next to Judy Howard that allows Yvonne to be closer to her team and other finance staff.

The next phase is already underway, which includes relocating cabinets and other hardware that once made up the office space, soundproofing the walls, changing the door, electrical work, painting, etc.

This is a true team effort involving all parts of the organization. From getting a permit for the work (engineering), moving boxes (distribution), all the trade work necessary (production), relocation of staff and figuring out technology (business), and overseeing the project (administration). Every work area has contributed.

Thank you to everyone that has or is participating in this vision! I know we will have a great conference space that will serve us for many years to come.

## Minnesota Urban Search and Rescue Task Force 1 uses plant for training



*A member of the Minnesota Urban Search and Rescue Task Force 1 uses a series of ropes and pulleys to traverse across the open floor 2 chamber with her K-9. The exercise allowed the rescue workers to practice getting across a wide expanse, like a river or gorge, where they would need to drop down to assist with a rescue or recovery. The K-9s are trained in rescue of survivors as well as the recovery of bodies after an incident. The K-9s like to have solid footing, so the rescue teams try to keep the dog's feet planted on the rescuer's lap as they move across the expanse. Not an easy task with a large dog.*



*The task force also used the plant to practice confined-space rescues, dropping down into the floor and providing medical assistance as needed prior to hauling wounded mannequins out on stretchers and other apparatus. The training was set up Feb. 14-15, and took place Feb. 16 and 19 - 20, involving a half dozen chiefs and captains, 150 team members, and several K-9s.*

## Seasonal utility aides sought

The water utility is looking for utility aides to join us for the season.

Utility aides perform routine labor/grounds maintenance on utility maintained land, such as land near water reservoirs/tanks and supply lakes and conduits. Duties may include: Trimming, planting and seeding, watering, trash clean up, cutting grass, shoveling, hauling brush and debris and other work.

Hours are from 7:15 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Successful candidates need a valid Minnesota class D driver's license or equivalent with no suspensions or revocations in the past two years. They will be required to submit to a background check. Medical/ audio tests, a drug test, and a job simulation will be required.

The position is temporary and does not accrue benefits.

The deadline for applying for the position is 4:30 p.m. on Monday, April 1.

Applications must be submitted online at [www.stpaul.gov/jobs](http://www.stpaul.gov/jobs).

## Need to file your taxes? Free tax help is available

If you haven't started on your taxes and need a little help, free assistance is available within the Saint Paul library system from the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP).

Assistance is aimed at low- to moderate-income taxpayers, with an emphasis on those 50 and older.

Several sites within the city library system have been hosting tax preparation sessions since the beginning of February.

Times and dates vary and are listed on the library's website.

Appointments are available through the second week in April.

Central Library, Hayden Heights, and Rondo are first-come, first-served.

Most appointment-only venues are full.

You will need to bring all necessary paperwork and taxes will be filed electronically.

To find out times, dates, locations, and a list of the paperwork you will need to bring with you, check out the library's website at <http://www.sppl.org/tax>