

Open House
held May 9

Wilbert Taylor
retires May 31

Lab hires intern

Page 2

*Our mission is to provide reliable,
quality water and services
at a reasonable cost.*

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Students tour facility for Drinking Water Week



Sarah Brown, water quality specialist, gives a tour to fourth graders from Jackson Elementary school on Friday, May 10, as part of the Drinking Water Week activities May 6 -10. Nearly 260 students and staff from fourth-grade classes in Saint Paul toured the plant during the week.

Managers' Corner

By Dave Wagner

A historic look at the water supply from Centerville

The Rice Creek chain of lakes at Centerville was a source of water supply for the city of St. Paul in its early days of development. Like most aging systems, portions of the old Centerville infrastructure previously used to transport water into the Pleasant and Vadnais chain of lakes are in disrepair. A study was recently commissioned to review the Centerville water supply system with the purpose of assessing the condition of the infrastructure and to consider the fate of a source moving forward.

But first, let's look back on the history or how St. Paul's supply system was developed. Phalen Lake was the first source of supply used by the St. Paul Water Company. Shortly after the city of St. Paul purchased the St. Paul Water Company in 1882, the city worked to expand and strengthen the water supply system and its infrastructure. A conduit to Vadnais Lake was constructed in 1884. Not long after, the city expanded into the Rice Creek Chain of Lakes. Drawing water from the Mississippi River didn't begin until 1925. Our predecessors understood that the lake system alone wouldn't support a growing city and the Mississippi River was the only practical source of water supply. Development of the Mississippi River supply created a long-term source that serves St. Paul and surrounding region today. Wells were developed in the 1970s and the early 2000s, providing a reliable and redundant backup water supply system. In recent years, Centerville has been dormant as the river, lakes and wells are the primary and secondary sources of raw water supply.

Centerville continued on page 2

Utility aides return



Ericka Allery



Mike McGrane



Zach Lee

Ericka Allery, Mike McGrane, and Zach Lee returned to work as water utility aides on April 19.

They all work out of Vadnais. You likely saw them at the safety picnic on May 8, as they were helping out here for the day and can often be seen working on the grounds on the campus.

Please welcome them back to the utility.

Open House draws nearly 170 visitors



Visitors to the utility mill about the lobby to visit with staff and our guests from the Vadnais Lakes Area Water Management Association and the Capitol City Watershed District. The event drew 166 tour participants and a handful of lobby guests. Visitors could learn about reading their water meter, look up their service line, zoom in on water construction projects

via an interactive map, and take a sneak peak at the future of the treatment plant. They could also take home information on toilet and other water leaks, activity books, and a variety of other information. Special guests from the Minnesota Department of Health toured the plant to kick off the afternoon. The open house ran from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. on May 9.

Wyatt Huberty interns in lab

Wyatt Huberty started working in the water quality lab on May 20 as an intern.

He reports to Che Fei Chen.

Please welcome Wyatt to the water utility.



Wyatt Huberty

Taylor to retire May 31



Wilbert Taylor

Wilbert Taylor is retiring from the water utility on May 31.

Join us for a reception at 1 p.m. in the cafeteria in the adm. bldg.

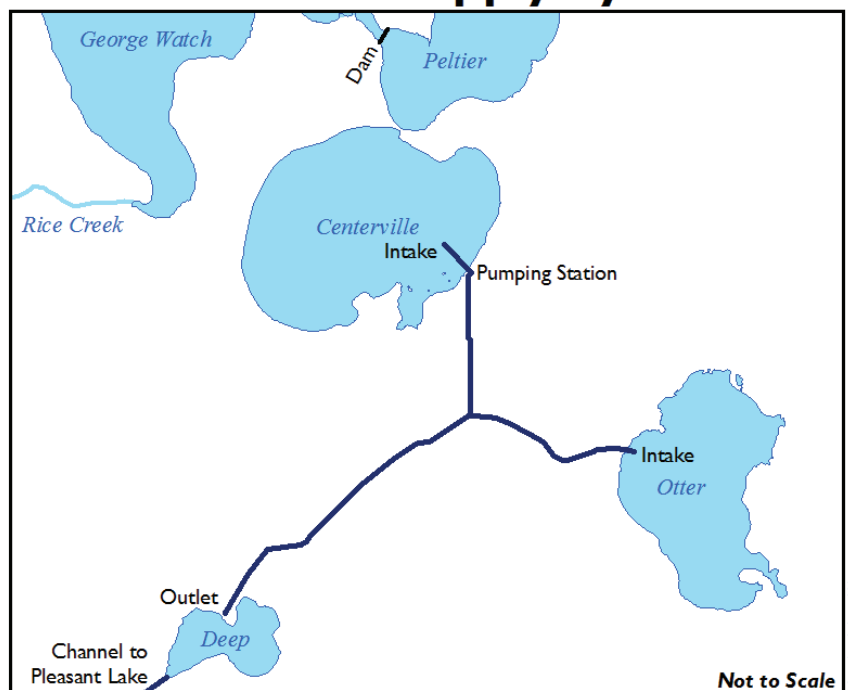
A historic look at the water supply from Centerville

[Centerville continued from page 1](#)

The study conducted on the Centerville source reviewed the infrastructure condition, water availability, and water quality. It found that portions of the supply conduits are in poor condition, its capacity is limited from a water availability standpoint, and the water quality of this source is poor with high phosphorus and chloride levels.

Other issues to consider include water appropriations, water rights, and future potential land-use considerations along the conduit Right-Of-Way. The Board of Water Commissioners will decide what short-term and long-term actions to take with this infrastructure and source of supply moving forward.

Centerville Supply System



A map of the Centerville water supply system that is being reviewed. Its future as a back-up water course for the utility is yet to be determined.