

## Designating parking areas



*Jerry Pierce, painter, lays down the stencil to paint the designated parking areas for SPRWS vehicles last month. These spots are reserved for SPRWS vehicles and should not be used by staff for their personal use.*

## Parking safety and security

The water utility is blessed with ample, free parking for its staff. If you have ever worked downtown, you know what a perk that is.

But it isn't something we should take for granted. We still need to be smart about using our parking areas to make sure that they work for everyone safely.

Hayley Heidelberg, emergency planning and security supervisor, has sent out a reminder to staff about maintaining a safe and secure work environment.

Parking for staff is in the south parking lot. No vehicles, either personal or SPRWS, should be in customer service parking for our guests during working hours of 7:30 am. - 4:30 p.m. Personal vehicles should not be parked behind security fenced areas. Be considerate of others and only take up one space. The lot gets crowded in the construction season with the additional staff.

Park in the handicapped areas only if you have a permit, plate, or placard. Never park in the areas

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## Managers' Corner

### Technology upgrades are coming

By Dolly Ludden

Technology changes are abounding at SPRWS this summer and fall. These changes will be bringing our technology footprint forward for staff and customers.

The first technology upgrade you will see is our IS staff moving many of our computer users to a Virtual Desktop Interface or VDI. This technology will replace the large computer processing unit (CPU) with a smaller black box. Throughout this spring and summer SPRWS-IS staff have been transitioning many utility staff to the VDI. Right now, about 60 staff are using VDI, with another 40 slated for this fall.

The new VDI has the same applications and drives (G,Q,U,V) as your physical computer, but now everything is hosted inside our virtual environment. The small black box is the connection back to the virtual environment. VDI is a technology that saves the utility time and money and positions us for a robust bring your own device option, including use on smart phones, tablets, laptops, and desktop computers.

We are also upgrading our desktops to the Windows 10 operating system starting in September. This will be rolled out on both VDI and the remaining physical computers at that time. Look for emails about training as we get closer to the upgrade.

SPRWS-IS staff is working with our CIS vendor to upgrade our bill pay website. The new website will allow electronic registration for auto payment, have ADA compliant registration methods, and better-looking reports for our customers. It is expected to be more intuitive and easier to use.

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## New employees join water utility in various roles



Abdi Ahmed



Ben Fedje



Nate Sullivan



Izak Hofstad



Jevon Tanner



Jeremy Jordin

The utility has hired two new interns, four new utility aides, and three water utility workers.

The interns are working in the damage prevention unit, under Graeme Chaple.

Abdi Ahmed and Ben Fedje both began on June 17.

Nate Sullivan, Izak Hofstad, Jevon Tanner, and Jeremy Jordin are all utility aides working out of Vadnais for the season. Sullivan and Hofstad began on June 12, while Tanner began July 1. Jordin has been working here since the end of May.

Thomas McBride, Hugo Lopez, and Tait Tellefsen all hold the title water utility worker I.



Thomas McBride



Hugo Lopez



Tait Tellefsen

McBride started work on June 24 while Lopez and Tellefsen started July 8.

Please welcome them all to the water utility.

## Highland water tower open this weekend

If you haven't seen the view of Saint Paul from the Highland Park water tower, this weekend is your chance.

The tower will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday on July 20 - 21. Admission is free and open to the public.

In addition to the view from the observation deck, several original Highland tower blueprints, many of which bear tower architect Clarence Wigington's signature, can be seen. The open house is designed to inform residents about municipal water and the efforts of the utility to preserve and protect water resources.

The water tower is located at the intersection of Snelling Avenue and Ford Parkway.

## Parking lot safety and security info

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marked by yellow paint as these are for emergency response.

There are special spots designated for SPRWS vehicles, marked in blue paint, that you are not to park in with personal vehicles. SPRWS vehicles should not stop at personal vehicles in the parking lot.

When entering secure areas, badge in and make sure the gate closes before proceeding.

Lock all unoccupied vehicles, whether personal or SPRWS, as we have had break-ins/theft in the past.

When traveling through the

parking lot, keep the speed down to 10 miles per hour and obey all traffic signs and pedestrian crossings. We have had some close calls in our parking lot and want to make sure no one is injured.

A more detailed version of these rules along with a map are available on the new Safety & Security button on the top of the Waternet home page, and they were distributed to staff last week.

If have questions about these policies, contact Hayley Heidelberg.

## Technology upgrades are coming

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We are also hiring a consultant to help us with a three- to five-year technology roadmap. With the speed of changing technology,

SPRWS wants to position ourselves with a plan to ensure we are making good choices for the future.