

## Employee conference moves to Como Zoo & Conservatory



Joe Schmit, sportscaster for KSTP TV, delivers the keynote address Wednesday morning during the employee conference held at Como Zoo & Conservatory on Dec. 4.



Patrick Shea, the new assistant general manager, introduces himself to attendees during the morning session. Steve Schneider also spoke and welcomed all employees to the conference. More photos on page 2.



Matt Anfang, president of the Board of Water Commissioners, reviews the many changes he has seen at the utility in his 20 years on the board. He also answered several questions about the board.

## Celebrate the holidays with fun, free stuff to do

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

Here are some ideas for free or inexpensive holiday activities.

**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.visitsaint-paul.com/sledding](http://www.visitsaint-paul.com/sledding)

**Wells Fargo Winterskate.** CHS Field. Skate rental, located in the visitors' clubhouse down on the service level of the ballpark, is \$5 or free for Wells Fargo credit card holders. See website for hours and dates. [saintsbasketball.com/team/news/destination-winter-saint-paul-coming-chs-field](http://saintsbasketball.com/team/news/destination-winter-saint-paul-coming-chs-field)

**Union Depot Christmas events.** The **European Christmas market** runs weekends from Dec. 6 - 22, with Dec. 6 featuring a **tree lighting ceremony and short fireworks display**, followed by the movies *Elf* and *Polar Express*.

See a **Canadian Pacific Holiday train stop and musical performance** for the cost of a healthy food donation at 6:45 p.m. on December 10. More information at [www.uniondepot.org/holiday](http://www.uniondepot.org/holiday). Free Metro Transit light rail passes online there as well.

**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. 13, and from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Dec. 10 and 17.

[mn.gov/admin/governors-residence/tours/schedule](http://mn.gov/admin/governors-residence/tours/schedule)

**Holiday Flower Show.** Marjorie McNeely Conservatory, Como Park. Open daily 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 7 through early January. Free; donations appreciated.

<https://comozooconservatory.org/category/como-special-events/>

**Holiday lights.** View the holiday lights at a multitude of locations around the Twin Cities metro area. Find the latest at [www.familyfuntwincities.com/minnesota-holiday-light-displays](http://www.familyfuntwincities.com/minnesota-holiday-light-displays).

*Holidays continued on page 2*

# Celebrate the holidays with fun and free events

*Holidays continued from page 1*

**Holidazzle.** Thursdays through Sundays, now through Dec. 22. Loring Park, Minneapolis. Outdoor movies Thursday and Sunday evenings. Fireworks at 7 p.m. on Saturdays beginning Dec. 7. 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](http://www.holidazzle.com).

**Holiday Music Festival.** Now through Dec. 26 in the rotunda on the east side of the Mall of America. Mondays and Wednesdays through Saturdays: every two hours starting at 10 a.m. On Tuesdays, every two hours starting at 2 p.m. The last concert for those days is at 8 p.m. On Sundays, concerts are every two hours starting at 10 a.m., with the last concert at 6 p.m.

Free. [www.mallofamerica.com/hmf](http://www.mallofamerica.com/hmf)

**Holiday concerts, Hamline University:**

**Hamline Orchestra Winter Concert,** December 8, 2 p.m., Sundin Music Hall.

**University Chorale Winter Concert,** December 14, 7 p.m., Sundin Music Hall.

**Jazz Ensemble Winter Concert,** December 16, 4 p.m., Anne Simley Theatre.

<https://www.hamline.edu/cla/music/concert-season/>

For a list of holiday concerts at surrounding private



*Union Depot. Tree lighting.*

colleges, go to [mnprivatecolleges.org/events-news/upcoming-events/holiday-concerts](http://mnprivatecolleges.org/events-news/upcoming-events/holiday-concerts)

**Minnesota Youth Symphonies Play-A-Thon.**

Rosedale Center. Noon – 4 p.m., Dec. 14.

**Minnesota Boys Choir.** Landmark Center. 1 p.m. Jan. 5, 2020. Freewill donation requested.

<https://boychoir.org/support/attend-a-concert.html>

**Winter Blast.** At a variety of Saint Paul recreation centers for students in grades first through fifth.

Dec. 23 - 24, Dec. 30 - 31, and Jan. 2 - 3. from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Crafts, art, gym, and other activities.

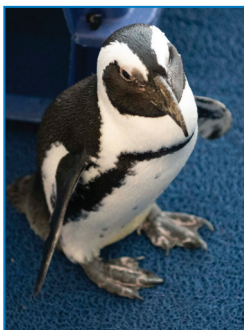
A snack is provided. Free, but must register in advance. [stpaul.gov/winterblast](http://stpaul.gov/winterblast)

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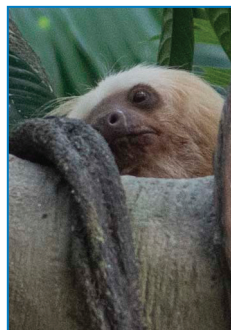
*Right: Kara Hirdman, health and wellness coordinator for the fire department, indicates the three most important ingredients to good health: diet, exercise, and sleep, during her session on healthy foods and lunches.*



*Right: An African penguin greeted staff as they came to the registration table.*



*Far right: A two-toed sloth made an appearance in the tropical encounters room of the conservatory.*



*Above: A. J. Neis talks about delivering good customer service in the face of challenges presented by being recorded, both in video and audio by customers, the public, and those who might want to make themselves famous on the internet at the expense of government workers. It was one of several afternoon breakout sessions.*