

Removing a dead tree hanging over Trout Brook



Nate Cassidy, water utility worker, rides a lift over to the dead tree branch while preparing to remove it from Trout Brook on July 23 near the water utility.

Many have more than 120 hours on the books

Use vacation hours over 120 or risk losing them

If you have quite a few vacation hours still on the books, you might want to start planning when you are going to use those hours before it gets too late in the year. Don't wait until the last minute to try to use your vacation hours.

You can carry over 120 hours of vacation into the next year, but anything over that amount will go back to the city. You will effectively lose that time off.

In emergency situations, it might be possible to carry over hours into the next calendar year, to be used no later than March 31, 2021. However, you should be aware that the COVID 19 pandemic is not going to be

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Board of Water Commissioners reviews budget, rates for 2021

The Board of Water Commissioners reviewed the proposed budget and water rates for the 2021 fiscal year at its July 14 meeting.

The board will hold budget workshops in August. The proposed budget and water rates will then be discussed during a public hearing on Sept. 8 before the board votes on whether to recommend the budget to the city council for adoption.

If recommended for approval and approved by the council during a series of council meetings, the proposed budget will go into effect on January 1, 2021.

The budget proposal includes a 2.45 percent increase in water usage rates for the typical, single-family residential property in St. Paul.

Typical water consumption for that residence is 17 units (12,716 gallons) per quarter.

Water charges are result of the combination of:

- the water service base fee

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Water utility workers hired



James Gill



Walter O' Neal

Two water utility workers started working in distribution on July 20.

James Gill and Walter O' Neal are returning this summer as water utility workers. Gill will be reporting to Bob Meyer and O' Neal will be reporting to George Moy.

Please welcome back these returning water utility workers.

O' Brien retires after 23 years

Ruth O' Brien has retired.

Ruth started her career with the water utility in the spring of 1997 as an accountant II. In 2001, she became an accountant III.

The next year she was promoted to accountant V and became head of the finance section of the business division.

She held that title until her retirement on July 31, 2020, after serving the utility for 23 years.

New remote-controlled mower improves safety



Photo by Jim Bode

Nick Jaeger, water utility worker, steers the new remote-control mower along the steep slope of the Highland Park reservoir. Traditional mowing methods have resulted in injuries in the past, due to the steep angle of the sides of the reservoir. The new mower will help protect workers from such injuries.

Use vacation hours over 120

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considered an acceptable reason to carry over vacation hours into 2021 at this point. Management at the water utility is recommending that employees take their vacation hours to get them under 120 by the end of the year rather than risk losing them.

You can still apply as you normally would for vacation carry over if you have extreme circumstances. However, those requests have to be approved by the department director and the city human resources

director. Requests for such carry over can be made to Racquel Vaske by Oct. 31.

The carry over must be used by March 31, 2021, if granted. The carry over does not have to be allowed, so please take that into account when applying.

Without carry over, any hours left above 120 will be lost on Jan. 1, 2021, if they aren't used by Dec. 31, 2020.

Board of Water Commissioners reviews budget, rates for 2021

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- the water usage fee (water volume),
- the right of way recovery fee (Saint Paul residents)
- the water main replacement surcharge

For a single family, residential property with a meter smaller than one inch or has a 1" single-family meter, the total charge would be \$313.04 a year for water.

This means that the typical family, using 50,864 gallons of tap water per year, pays \$0.006 cents per gallon of water, or receives about 1.6 gallons of water

for a penny.

This is up from the \$305.56 for water charges for the year in 2020. This is an increase of \$7.48 per year or a 2.45 percent increase for the typical customer.

More information on the proposed rates and the overall budget can be found in the 2021 budget letter to the board online at www.stpaul.gov/departments/water-services/customer-service/rates/2021-proposed-water-charges.