

*Staff receive  
thank you*

*Longendyke  
returns*

*Fall tower open  
house canceled*

*Page 2*

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

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## Production staff view new technology options



Photo by Patrick Shea

*From left: Adam Bourassa, water services manager with the city of St. Cloud discusses new batch lime systems and solids contact clarifier systems with Luke Trossen, production supervisor; Jim Bode, production division manager; and Che Fei Chen, (back to camera), water quality supervisor, for the upcoming treatment plant improvements. The production staff visited the St. Cloud facility on Aug. 20 as part of the research into technology options. Contact clarifier systems will likely replace our current clarifiers and flocs. Batch lime systems are desirable, but need to fit into the new plant.*

## Board meets and recommends approval of the 2021 budget

Customers will pay about \$0.006 for a gallon of water in 2021 if a budget that the Board of Water Commissioners recommended to the Saint Paul city council for approval gets passed this year. The Board made the recommendation at their Sept. 8 board meeting following a public hearing.

The rate increase will cost the average consumer 11 cents more per billing unit (748 gallons) or \$7.48 more per year for water use alone. This means it will cost a penny for 1.6 gallons of water in 2021.

*Budget continued on page 2*

## McCarrons treatment plant earns 5-Year President's Award

Saint Paul Regional Water Services' McCarrons water treatment plant received the 5-Year President's Award from the Partnership for Safe Water.

The 5-Year Presidents Award recognizes achieving very stringent individual filter performance turbidity goals over a five-year period, signifying the outstanding operations and maintenance practices at this high performing water treatment plant



The award reflects the SPRWS's outstanding commitment to delivering superior quality drinking water to their customers. Those utilities that subscribe to the Partnership for Safe Water are dedicated to providing high-quality water to customers beyond the regulatory requirements. SPRWS has participated in the program for more than 22 years.

"Maintaining the President's Award status for five years demonstrates our philosophy of constant vigilance to improve water quality," said Steve Schneider, general manager. "We are proud of the hard work of our employees who made it possible to receive national recognition for this ongoing commitment."

Due to Covid-19, SPRWS was not presented the award in person, as the American Water Works Association's Annual Conference & Exposition was canceled for this year.

SPRWS received the 20-Year Directors Award in 2018, being recognized for 20 years of maintaining Directors Award status for the McCarrons treatment plant. This is an honor achieved by only 14 utilities across North America at the time.

*President's Award continued on page 2*

## Staff members get a thank you from a grateful customer

Dear Mr. Rowland,

Thank you for sending Mark (Luzinski) to my address this morning (July 8). He has fully assessed the situation and is going to get back to me with the best way to handle the water leak repair that was made yesterday.

I truly appreciate the help from all I've dealt with at the water utility during the last week concerning the leak. That includes you (Rich Rowland), Seneca (Kruse) (patience of Job), and now Mark. Also, Becky (McKenzie) at dispatch, and the guy in dispatch working yesterday evening (didn't catch his name) who

helped to get Herman (Audett) here at a late hour. He went the extra mile to get inspector approval for this.

Mark just explained to me that the St. Paul water utility is a self-sustaining entity, something that I didn't know but now have no hard time believing when considering your quality staff. No matter how this turns out I appreciate that.

Most jobs can be thankless jobs, so I try to change that a little bit when I can. With that said, thank you.

Sincerely,

*Jamil J.*

St. Paul

## McCarrons treatment plant earns 5-Year President's Award

[President's Award continued from page 1](#)

The Partnership for Safe Water is a national volunteer initiative developed by Environmental Protection Agency and other water organizations representing water suppliers striving to provide their communities with drinking water quality that surpasses the required federal standards. The program began in 1997 and includes more than 200 water utilities, collectively serving more than 85 million people. This represents 60 percent of the U.S. population served by surface water systems.

Established in 1881, the American Water Works Association is the largest nonprofit, scientific and educational association dedicated to managing and treating water, the world's most important resource. With over 50,000 members, AWWA provides solutions to improve public health, protect the environment, strengthen the economy, and enhance our quality of life.

## October Highland Park water tower open house canceled

The water utility has decided to cancel the Highland Park water tower open house set for October. Due to the social distancing required due to Covid 19, it seemed prudent to hold off on the event this year.

We are hopeful that we will be able to welcome back visitors to the tower in 2021.

## Board meets and recommends approval of the 2021 budget

[Budget continued from page 1](#)

There will be no increase to either the water service base fee or the water main replacement surcharge.

Average St. Paul residential water use is 17 units of water per residential single-family household each quarter.

The rate increase is necessary to continue investing in system renewal and perform critical operations and maintenance.

The water utility is responsible for the charges related to water: water service base fees, water consumption rates, and water main replacement charges.

A safe water drinking fee is collected on behalf of the state. In 2021, that fee will be \$9.72 per year, which will be pro-rated on the water bill at \$2.43 per quarter or \$0.81 per month.

In St. Paul, a right-of-way recovery fee of \$4.50 per quarter is also charged.

## Longendyke returns to Vadnais

Tom Longendyke has returned to work for the remainder of the season as a water utility worker I out of the Vadnais location.

His first day back was Sept. 3.

Please welcome Tom back.



**Tom Longendyke**