

## Managers' Corner **SPRWS one option for East Metro water**

By Dave Wagner

The much anticipated draft report to review and recommend options for drinking water supply to the East Metro was recently released. This report stemmed from the 2018 settlement between 3M and the state relating to groundwater contamination in the East Metro. Funds from the \$850 million settlement will allow for improvements with a goal of enhancing the quality, quantity and sustainability of drinking water in the East Metro. In total, there are 14 impacted communities including Woodbury, Lake Elmo, Cottage Grove, and Oakdale, among others.

The recommendations presented in the report include three options for improvements to enhance drinking water in those communities. Two of those options provide treatment to existing groundwater supply wells. The third option includes SPRWS providing drinking water to the cities of Oakdale and Lake Elmo (with treatment of existing groundwater being provided to the other communities). Because of community preference for retaining their groundwater source, the report recommended the option of treating existing wells in lieu of having water provided by SPRWS.

The report is currently out for public comment and SPRWS is providing feedback to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Department of Natural Resources, co-trustees of the settlement, for their consideration.

Overall, we believe that SPRWS has an exceptionally good story to tell. We provide a high-quality product. Our water is softened, which

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## Fall colors frame utility



*Those coming to the water utility from Rice Street were treated to bright red foliage along Water Works Road on Oct. 8. The rows of trees in the grassy area between the railroad tracks and Rice Street were in prime color the second week in October.*

## Charitable Giving Campaign kicks off on October 26

The charitable giving campaign starts Oct. 26.

This is an opportunity to give to the cause(s) of your choice through the convenience of payroll deduction.

Employees are encouraged to give, even as little as \$1 a paycheck or a one-time gift in any amount helps.

You can find out more about the charities or pledge at: [https://www.ipledgeonline.org/\\_stpaul](https://www.ipledgeonline.org/_stpaul).

The campaign will end on Friday, Nov. 13.

Contact Jodi Wallin at 266-6308 or [Jodi.Wallin@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Jodi.Wallin@ci.stpaul.mn.us) if you have questions.

## Don't forget! Benefits enrollment ends at midnight tonight!

### SPRWS one of three options for East Metro water supply

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is a significant benefit to our customers, both from a cost and aesthetic standpoint. We are an environmentally friendly option. In those communities that use groundwater, home softeners discharge salt into the environment. We can also be proud that, as a surface water supplier, we offer a sustainable product while groundwater supplies in the region are being increasingly scrutinized.

The DNR and MPCA expect to finalize the drinking water supply plan in early 2021. Whether or not we are chosen in the end, we can be proud that we offer an economical, sustainable and environmentally friendly product to the customers that we serve.

### Could you use 500 Healthy Saint Paul points this year?

If you still need Healthy Saint Paul points to get your \$900 VEBA account money in 2021, join ERN the Burn in a virtual 5k (3.11 miles) by running, jogging or walking with a tracking device during the month of October.

Not only will running get you 500 points, running can significantly improve physical and mental health. It can also reduce stress, improve heart health and help alleviate symptoms of depression.

To earn the 500 points, all 3.11 miles must be completed in one run. Email [bridget.hajny@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:bridget.hajny@ci.stpaul.mn.us) a screen shot for proof of completion. You will receive your redemption code via email.

### Help is available for families with school/daycare challenges

Are you or your family trying to coordinate around virtual learning, hybrid schedules, or school/daycare closures?

If so, you may qualify for Expanded-FMLA, which is available to employees whose school or daycare has been closed or is partially closed due to COVID.

This leave can be used consecutively or intermittently and can provide up to 12 weeks of support.

The first two weeks (80 hours) are unpaid but

### Derek Olson named customer service & billing supervisor

Though working unofficially as the customer service and billing supervisor since Marie Weinhandl's retirement in July, Derek Olson was officially named to the position on Monday, Oct. 19.

He has been with the city for 26 years and the utility for 22. He has held a variety of positions within the utility, including accounting, billing and in the merged customer service/billing area.

"Derek brings a lot of knowledge and experience to this new role and we are excited to see him take the lead," said Dolly Ludden, business division manager.



Derek Olson

### Opt-in for W-2, 1095-C

Opt-in to get your W-2 and 1095-C tax documents to ensure you are able to get these documents on-line when you need them. Both documents will be required to file your 2020 taxes.

Log in to Employee/Document Self-Service at <https://ess.stpaul.gov> and check your Delivery Settings starting during open enrollment through the end of the year. Setup is quick. It takes about two minutes and can be done from any computer with internet access.

Opt-in by December 31 to be sure everything's in place when W-2s and 1095-Cs are ready in January.

Please note that you will not receive a hard copy mailed to your home address if you opt-in, since you can print off a copy anytime from your ESS document self-service account.

employees may use accrued leave including EPL-Emergency Pandemic Leave.

The next 10 weeks (400 hours) are paid at two-thirds of the regular rate of pay and can be supplemented with other forms of accrued time off.

If you have questions or would like to explore options, please contact Sandy Kimbrough: (651) 266-6510 or Racquel Vaske: (651) 266-6815 in water human resources.