

**Hydrant hysteria
teams needed**

**Vi Thompson,
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GM talks drought

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quality water and services
at a reasonable cost.*

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Managers Corner

By **Racquel Vaske**

**Excitement for
new role includes
soliciting new
ideas from staff**

Since being selected to serve as your new assistant general manager, it has been a whirlwind of emotions, I'm sure for many of you as well. The most important thing I want to tell you is that I couldn't be more excited to continue my career here at SPRWS. It's an honor and a privilege to be asked to step into this role for our organization.

As you may know, I have worked for SPRWS for seven years and central human resources for a year prior to that. During my time as a human resources consultant for SPRWS, I've met and worked with nearly all of you in some capacity. I have experienced firsthand over and over the hard work, dedication, and expertise that you each contribute every day to ensure SPRWS delivers on our mission to provide reliable, quality water and services at a reasonable cost.

You've trusted us with your career. With your time. Your talents. That means everything to me. I know periods of change can be unsettling, but I plan to root myself each day in the fact that my vision for this role is to provide the best for our employees and to not take your decision to serve SPRWS and our customers lightly. I believe that if we focus on making SPRWS an employer of choice, make our people feel valued, appreciated, and invested in then we will all be able to work together to deliver the best possible experience for our customers.

I am looking forward to getting around to the different teams and doing a lot of listening. I will be taking time to get to know the business better,

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Safety picnic returns



Steve Evanson, production supervisor, puts out a fire during a hands-on fire extinguisher class in front of the plant during the safety picnic. Held June 22, the safety picnic had this event, a hands-only CPR overview, bags, and sign ups for the hydrant hysteria and pipe tapping contests in September. Teams for those events are being formed now. (See back page.)

IS systems consultant II starts

An IS systems consultant II started work at the utility on Monday, June 21.

Gary Slowiak comes to the utility from the University of Minnesota. He reports to Carol Kaszynski and he has his office in the IS area of the treatment plant.

If you see him, take the opportunity to welcome him to the water utility.



Gary Slowiak

GM talks drought on WCCO



Patrick Shea, general manager, answers questions for WCCO TV regarding this year's drought and the utility's ability to produce water for the east metro area. The segment was filmed the afternoon of June 24 and aired on the 10 p.m. news edition of WCCO that same day.

New AGM solicits ideas

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to better understand the challenges and opportunities we face. I intend to communicate openly and transparently with you, and I'd like to encourage the same from you in return. I want to hear your thoughts, concerns, and ideas. I want to hear what you think we could do differently or better. I want to see your vision for the future.

This is a great organization made up of great people, with significant knowledge, and I am confident that together we will only continue to build on our history of success.

Hydrant hysteria, pipe tapping teams forming now for fall

Teams are forming right now for two competitions held at the Minnesota Section AWWA conference in mid-September.

Hydrant hysteria requires teams of two and a coach to put together a hydrant the fastest, competing against other water utility crews from across the state.



Bob Meyer, water dist. supervisor, and Jim Duffy, HEO, competed in Hydrant Hysteria at the MN AWWA conference on Sept. 16, 2015, in Duluth. The pair put together a fire hydrant in the best time that year.

Pipe tapping requires a team of five, including three participants, an alternate, and a coach. The team must tap a pipe and attach a water line to it faster than the other teams. Winners of both events get a berth in the regional competitions.

Bob Meyer and Jim Duffy took home the trophy for hydrant hysteria back in 2015. (See photo above.)

Contact Bob Meyer at 651-775-6230 for more information or to sign up for these events.

Retiree Violet "Vi" Thompson passes away this spring

Violet "Vi" L. Thomson, an SPRWS retiree, passed away on Feb. 22. She was 87 years old.

Vi worked for the water utility for 35 years.

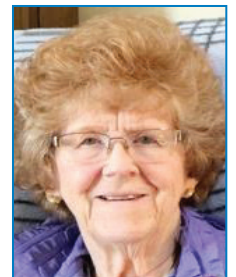
She started her career in 1954 as a junior billing machine operator and was promoted to billing machine operator two years later.

In 1964, she became the assistant supervisor of water billing. Three years later, she became the supervisor of water billing.

She worked as the supervisor of water billing until her retirement in 1989.

A celebration of life was held in April.

Our condolences to her family, friends, and former co-workers.



Vi Thompson