

The Pipeline Express

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

The Pipeline Express

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Admin. cafeteria to be closed to staff from July 29-31

SPRWS to host Drinking Water Institute July 29-31

The water utility is hosting the Drinking Water Institute for Educators from July 29 - 31 in the administration cafeteria, closing it to use for water utility staff.

The three day workshop is designed to educate teachers on our most important resource: water.

Twenty-six school teachers from across the state will converge on the cafeteria to not only learn about water and the challenges in producing safe drinking water, but they will develop curriculum to take back to their classrooms to teach their students about water.

"We are very excited to host this important event at SPRWS. It offers an opportunity to showcase our facilities, initiatives, and staff," said Racquel Vaske, general manager.

Several utility staff will be speaking as subject matter experts on water during the three-day event.

Vaske will provide a welcome and overview of the organization and serve on a panel.

Kirill Maloylo, assistant distribution division manager, will conduct a tour of a lead service line replacement site that is part of the Lead Free SPRWS program.

Pipe tapping practice underway



Photo by Kelsey Feiler

Maddy Tusler and Sabirah Aleem practice tapping a pipe for the pipe tapping contest to be held September 18 in Duluth as part of the Minnesota Section of the American Water Works Association conference. This will be the first time SPRWS has an all female team competing.

The pipe-tapping team of Joe Garcia, Andrew Lardani, Marcus Fitzgerald, Jake Wolf, and Jake Masiello practices during an employee family fun day last year. The men's pipe tapping team will also compete this Sept. 18 at the MN AWWA conference in Duluth.



Justine Roe, assistant production division manager, and Jeremy Erickson, water quality specialist, will give a primer in water treatment chemistry and lead a tour of the water treatment plant. They will also conduct a tour of the lab and demonstrate water sample testing.

Todd Blomstrom, assistant general manager, and Graeme Chaple, distribution division manager, will provide an overview of the water distribution system.

Staff are encouraged to use the administration commons area for breaks and lunch during the three-day program.

The workshop will run from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. each day from Monday to Wednesday.

"We appreciate everyone accommodating this workshop and providing the space for it to take place," said Vaske.

The cafeteria will be open for staff again starting on Thursday, August 1.

Willy Water mascot debuts at Highland



Willy Water, the SPRWS mascot poses with Richelle Nicosia, water utility tech., at the Highland tower open house on Saturday, July 20. Josh Jonas, custodian, worked as Willy for the afternoon.

Flashback Friday: repairing a main break



Workers make repairs on a 36-inch water-main in this undated photo. These images are part of research being done to make a

coffee table photo book of the history of the water utility.

New IS/Info. tech analyst hired

The water utility has hired Joao Vitor Xavier Coelho as an IS/Information tech. analyst III in the IS section.



Joao Coelho

He will be working with Elena Illiarski on the third floor of the water treatment plant in the IS area.

His first day was July 15.

Please welcome Joao to the water utility.

Highland Park tower open house draws crowds

Nearly 1,700 visitors climbed to the top of the Highland Park water tower over the weekend of July 20 - 21.

Despite thunderstorms the morning of July 21, the tower was as busy as usual for the summer open house, with afternoon crowds more than making up for a slow morning.

A new Clarence “Cap” Wigington display debuted at the summer open house, featuring a 32-foot mural covering Wigington’s career and his work on the Highland tower.

If you have never been to the Highland tower, the fall open house is scheduled for October 12 -13 and is open from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. both days.

Make plans to attend!