



# Pipeline Express

Provide high-quality water and exceptional services to the people and communities we support

February 20, 2026

## Tom Zangs Retires After 25 Years



Tom Zangs, senior plumbing inspector, has retired after 25 years of service to the city.

Tom was hired in August of 2000 and worked as a plumbing inspector until 2024, when he was promoted to senior plumbing inspector.

We wish Tom well on his retirement.

*Tom Zangs, left, receives departing awards from Rich Hibbard on Feb. 19 in the cafeteria.*

## Chhun and Noe Promoted

Bounkheana Chhun and Eric Noe both earned promotions to civil engineer III on February 7, 2026. Bounkheana and Eric are both located on the second floor in the engineering division. Please extend your congratulations to them when you see them.



*Bounkheana Chhun*



*Eric Noe*

# Fleet Management at SPRWS

by Tom Miller

Did you know that SPRWS has close to 166 vehicles that are utilized by our employees in the conduct of their jobs? We utilize ten different models ranging from Ford Escapes all the way up to a dump truck tandem-axle. The number varies due to new vehicles arriving and others going to auction at different times.

We have close to 317 separate pieces of equipment that our mechanics service or make sure that they are maintained by a vendor. This includes, vehicles, trailers, mowers, compressors, tapping machines, Pneumagophers, pumps, breakers, saws, backhoes, bulldozers, Vactor, loaders, skid steers, excavators, and forklifts. This is quite impressive considering that our mechanics must know a little about everything to keep our equipment functioning.

## Experience

SPRWS Our mechanics perform most of the maintenance on these vehicles in three bays of the garage. Craig Landkamer, Bryan Jensen, Jim Sadowski, and Mike Schiller-Feidt have combined professional experience well over 100 years in the field amongst the four of them. Bryan provides upfitting, fabrication, and welding repair services while Craig, Jim, and Mike service vehicles and equipment. Each of these employees must maintain certifications and always be ready to learn something new on an ongoing basis.

## Factors

What does it take to manage the fleet of vehicles? We look at several factors when deciding whether it is time to replace a vehicle or to keep it in service. Factors include mileage, condition, age of vehicle and what the expected life cycle is for each type of vehicle. Division managers will also consider the mission and what type of vehicle is necessary to accomplish the work. We use data, vehicle inspections, and the input of mechanics and fleet manager to let division managers know which vehicles should be in consideration for replacement.



*Craig Landkamer, Jim Sadowski, Bryan Jensen and Mike Schiller-Feidt work to keep our fleet running.*

## Data

Verizon Connect provides us with much of the data with items such as mileage, total idle time, high speed events, and other data points that are found on the Verizon dashboard. The insights tab of the Verizon program also tells us other interesting facts about our fleet. For example, during the week of February 6-12 vehicles 577 and 546 significantly exceeded the fleet average daily distance with 577 driving 131.8 miles per day (440% above fleet average) and 546 driving 70.6 miles per day; 189% above fleet average. Our fleet averages 24.4 miles per day.

## Driving Behaviors Affect Vehicle Performance and Longevity

Speeding, harsh braking or acceleration, and idle time are just a few of the behaviors that if they were reduced our vehicles would have less wear and tear and a longer service life. Obviously, there are controllable distractions that should not occur with the driver while the vehicle is in motion such as cell phone usage and eating. One driving behavior that could potentially lead to a better performing vehicle is to simply do an inspection of the vehicle before using it to include looking at lighting, tires, mirrors, windshield wipers, fluid levels, coupling devices, and damage of any kind.

Report all issues to Craig Landkamer, senior mechanic supervisor. Thanks for taking care of the fleet!

# Emergency Action Plan Distributed to Office Staff Last Week



Did you get your emergency action plan? One should have been delivered to you if you have an office job on campus. The plan covers a variety of situations that could occur in the workplace that you should be familiar with. The plan provides contacts and checklists if you need them.

If you didn't get a plan, contact Tom Miller in the administration building for a copy.

## Upcoming Events

### No Water, No Beer Happy Hour Feb. 24

Join your co-workers in celebrating one of the products made in St. Paul with your SPRWS water!

- 4 - 7 p.m.
- Feb. 24
- MetroNOME Brewers, Lowertown

No reservations or RSVP required, just show up as you are!

### Luncheon March 4

Come enjoy some delicious soul food and take time to connect with coworkers. This is a great opportunity to get to know someone new and celebrate together.

- 11:30 - 1:00 p.m.
- March 4
- Administration cafeteria

**Please RSVP by Tuesday, February 24** to ensure there is enough food for everyone!

### Want to get more involved?

We are also looking to recruit others to join the Employee Engagement / FUN Committee!

If you're interested in joining the team, please reach out to Faith Xiongblaxang or Justina Ross on the second floor.

### Blood Drive March 10

Please consider giving blood with other staff from the water utility on March 10. We were able to hit our goal of 25 units last year, and we are looking for a goal of 33 units next month! We are currently behind on sign ups so please sign up for a slot at [https://www.mbcherohub.club/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/77289](https://www.mbcherohub.club/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/77289)

For those taking part in the Healthy Saint Paul incentive program, 250 Healthy Saint Paul points are available for those giving blood.

- 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- March 10
- Bloodmobile outside the east entrance of the water utility

# Become Eligible for 2026 Community Engagement Events!

by Josh Cobb

Are you passionate about connecting with our community and representing SPRWS at local events? Exciting news: We're kicking off the 2026 Community Engagement season with training sessions led by Josh Cobb, our Public Information Specialist!

## Why Training Matters

To become eligible to work at Community Engagement events and enjoy the benefits of being part of the team, employees must complete the required training. This training is designed to equip you with the tools, knowledge, and confidence to represent SPRWS effectively. Everyone, regardless of position or title, is required to go through training to participate in events!

## What You'll Learn

During the training, you'll gain insight into:

- SPRWS's mission and key programs, including Lead Free SPRWS.
- Effective ways to engage with the public at events.
- Policies and procedures for event participation, including attire, conduct, and staffing expectations.
- Responsibilities for employees at events
- The staffing needs required to pull off each event

## Why Join the Team?

In 2025, the Community Engagement Team participated in nearly 60 events, connecting with thousands of community members and showcasing the amazing work SPRWS does. Whether you enjoy public outreach, sharing knowledge, or simply want to make a difference, this is your chance to be part of something impactful, rewarding, and fun! So far, the team has trained and have over two dozen people equipped with the knowledge to be at events. Come get trained to be a part of this quickly growing team!

## Training Details

- Dates: Training will occur three times this year. Once on Wednesday, March 11, again on Wednesday, April 8, and then on Wednesday, June 3 as a final opportunity.

All three will start at 3:00 p.m. You only need to attend one session to become eligible.

- Official Event Signup will begin on Tuesday, April 14.
- Led by: Josh Cobb, Public Information Specialist.
- Training session will be approximately 60-90 minutes.

## Next Steps

Don't wait! Sign up for the training and take the first step toward joining the Community Engagement Team. For more information, contact Josh Cobb at:

- Email: [Joshua.Cobb@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Joshua.Cobb@ci.stpaul.mn.us)
- Phone: 651-266-6289
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## Make a Difference in 2026!

This is your opportunity to shine as the face of SPRWS and help us build stronger connections with our community.

## Upcoming Events:

- Home Improvement Workshop Day, Sat, March 7th, 2026
- Community Action Resource Fair, Wed, April 15th, 2026
- Mears Block Party, Fri., May 29th, 2026
- Grand Old Days 2026, Sun, June 7th, 2026
- Twin Cities Jazz Festival 2026, Fri, June 19th, 2026-Sat, June 20th, 2026
- Taste of Rosefest, Thurs, June 25th, 2026
- Highland Tower Open House, Sat, July 18th, 2026-Sun, July 19th, 2026