



## Todd Blomstrom appointed new assistant general manager



Todd Blomstrom

Todd Blomstrom has officially been appointed as Assistant General Manager effective April 22.

“Todd has a wealth of experience and deep understanding of our operations. I am very

excited to partner with him to support our talented and dedicated team as we pursue the variety of initiatives occurring across the utility” said new General Manager Racquel Vaske.

As Assistant General Manager, Todd will provide direct oversight to the distribution and engineering divisions as well as the garage and safety teams.

Blomstrom brings extensive experience and expertise to the role. He served as the distribution division manager here at SPRWS for the past three years and has been integral to launching Lead free SPRWS. Prior to that, he worked in a variety of roles in municipal engineering and management. He served as a consultant for seven years prior to coming to SPRWS and 18 years in public

works director roles, including management of water utilities for the cities of Apple Valley, Brooklyn Center, and Arden Hills. His past responsibilities have focused on the management of street and utility improvement projects as well as coordination of operations and maintenance functions. He holds a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in engineering from the University of Minnesota and is a licensed professional engineer in Minnesota.

“I look forward to serving in this new capacity as assistant general manager,” said Blomstrom.

“SPRWS has accomplished wonderful things in the last few years and I am eager to continue to build upon this success with our team.”

## Drinking Water Week activities to be held May 7 - 9

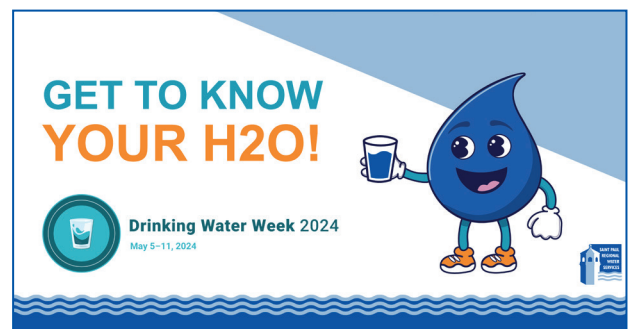
National Drinking Water Week is May 5 -11 and the utility will be celebrating with a variety of activities.

We will be hosting a **Snacks and Services** presentation on May 7 from 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. for city staff to showcase what

we do at the water utility, cumulating in tours of the water plant.

On May 8 we will honor and celebrate **Years of Service** recipients starting at

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## Century college courses available to sign up for summer semester

You can take free professional skills courses to help you keep current with today's business environment through a partnership between the utility and Century College.

These continuing education courses start in May and run through June.

If you wish to see a catalog, please contact Sandy Kimbrough at 266-6510 or at [Sandy.Kimbrough@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Sandy.Kimbrough@ci.stpaul.mn.us).

Courses will be offered both onsite and online via Zoom.

The catalog will indicate classroom location for courses held at the main Century College campus in White Bear Lake.

Students will receive an email by the evening before the class is to run with links to pick up materials, enter the virtual environment, and eval-

uate the class. Participation is an expectation of enrollment.

Course topics include leadership, negotiating, and planning an effective meeting.

Classes are offered on a first-come, first-served basis as the utility has two seats available for each course. You must obtain management approval prior to signing up for the course(s) you are interested in.

Once you have obtained approval, send an email to [sandy.kimbrough@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:sandy.kimbrough@ci.stpaul.mn.us) with the course name, ID number and date. You will then receive an email either confirming your registration or letting you know that the available seats have already been filled.

Additional questions can be directed to Sandy at 266-6510 or at [sandy.kimbrough@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:sandy.kimbrough@ci.stpaul.mn.us).

## Climbing out of a concrete conduit



*Christopher Robinson pulls himself up from out of a 60-inch conduit while Erik Sorenson supports the ladder. The two were on hand to assist the office of technology and communications film Eric Noe in the conduits while talking about being an engineer for SPRWS for an upcoming jobs video on the position. The filming took place on Monday, April 29.*

## Flashback Friday



*An undated photo shows the lab in the original McCarrons Treatment Plant from the late 1800s. This image is part of research being done to make a coffee table photo book of the plant prior to the changes taking place with the new plant updates at McCarrons.*

## Drinking Water Week activities to be held

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11:15 a.m. outside of the east service entrance, which is right before we begin our **safety picnic luncheon** at 11:30 a.m. in the same location.

The safety picnic will feature pulled pork and pulled chicken sandwiches, chips, cookies, and soda, which will be delivered to any staff working out in the field during that time.

There will also be hands-on safety equipment and games to play.

Then Racquel Vaske, General Manager, will be presenting on **Drinking Water Week** with Brooke Cunningham, Commissioner of Health, and Charlie Zell, Met Council Board Chair, starting at 10 a.m. on Thursday, May 9 from the steps of the State Capitol building.