



Utility trainees graduate



Utility trainees graduated at a ceremony for them on Nov. 21. From left are: Racquel Vaske, Isra Saleh, Mike Knutson, Jamal Evans and his daughters, Carson Vang, Tre'Shon Glasgow, Luis Mejia, David Douglas, and Mayor Melvin Carter. The trainees are now all water utility worker I's upon graduation. Congratulations to them all.

New employees hired recently

The utility recently hired three new employees.

Luke Sandstrom was hired as a civil engineer III on October. 23. He reports to Rich Hibbard.

Justin Hahn and Keith Lubinski were



Luke Sandstrom



Justin Hahn



Keith Lubinski

hired as maintenance worker I, reporting to James Lee in the pump station and storage section of the distribution division.

Please welcome them to the water utility.

Adopt a Family underway for this year; due Dec. 6

SPRWS is participating in the Adopt a Family Holiday Sponsorship Program again this year and there are sign-up sheets in all lunchrooms across the utility.

If you're interested in participating, you can simply sign your name next to the gift item(s) of your choosing for the person assigned to your building to receive a gift.

Next steps would include bringing the gift item(s), already wrapped, labeled, and with a return receipt attached as well.

You may drop off the gift item(s) at Becky Carlson's office in the administration building.

Gifts need to be purchased, wrapped, labeled, and delivered to Becky's office by Dec. 6.

Please contact Diana Flores with any questions you may have regarding the program at Diana.flores.castillo@ci.stpaul.mn.us or 651-266-1642.

If you will need a receipt for your donation for tax purposes, please contact Luna Wright at humanservicesvolunteer@co.ramsey.mn.us. Send in your receipts to Luna by Dec. 31 for your tax form to be sent out by Jan. 15, 2024.

Dolly Ludden retires after 36 years

Dolly Ludden, business division manager, retires today, Dec. 1 after 36 years of service to the water utility.

Dolly began working for the utility as a water plant aide in 1987 and also worked as a service worker II in 1988.

In 1989, she became an engineering aide II and was promoted in 1993 to a water utility tech. I and then a water utility tech. II in 1995.

She was promoted to management assistant I in 1999, and kept

her water utility tech. title in place, earning a promotion to water utility tech. III in 2002 while also earning a promotion to management assistant II in 2001.

She became an engineering tech. supervisor in charge of the damage prevention unit in 2005 and a public service manager in charge of the business improvement unit in 2012.

She was promoted to the business division manager in 2015, the position from which she retires.

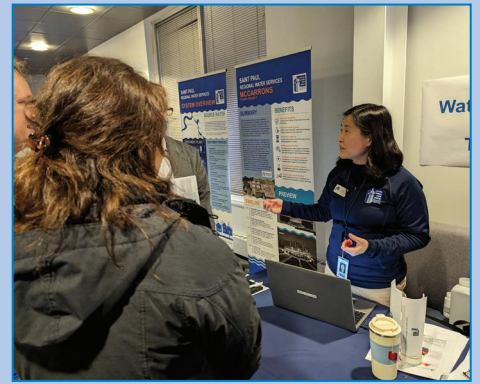


Above, Kathy Travis, Martha Burckhardt, Dennis Rosemark, and Dolly Ludden, BIU group in 2013.



Above, Jerry and Dolly Ludden, AWWA MN conference in 2005.

Open house attracts 200



Che Fei Chen talks with customers about the free lead testing at a lead public open house held Nov. 28 at the utility. Other information available included a service line look up and how to clean and flush home aerators. Representatives from the Minnesota Department of Health and Ramsey County Public Health were also on hand.

Employees take on new roles



Brent Marsolek



Isra Saleh

There were recently changes in roles for some staff.

Brent Marsolek will be transferring to the damage prevention unit (DPU) as of Dec. 2 and will serve as the unit supervisor.

Isra Saleh graduated from the utility trainee program and has been selected to fill a vacancy in meter operations as of Nov. 26.

Congratulations to both Brent and Isra.

Controlled burn facilitates new growth



Staff from Minnesota Native Landscapes with oversight by the Vadnais staff conducted a controlled burn on Nov. 18 to remove dead undergrowth, suppress weeds, and facilitate new growth of native vegetation for pollinators. Vadnais crews have also planted new trees in the area to replace dead or dying trees.