



# Pipeline Express

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

April 17, 2026

## 2026 Construction Season Underway

by Kirill Maloylo

The utility distribution team continues to deliver high-impact infrastructure improvements in 2026, combining modern trenchless methods with proven construction practices to strengthen system reliability and extend asset life.

### Pipe Bursting Program

The Distribution Division is completing approximately 7,500 linear feet of pipe bursting as part of its ongoing system renewal efforts. This trenchless method allows crews to replace aging pipelines with minimal surface disruption, reducing impacts to roadways, landscaping, and surrounding infrastructure. Pipe bursting continues to be a reliable and efficient solution for upgrading deteriorated assets while maintaining project timelines and controlling restoration costs.

### Trenchless Lining Program

In addition to pipe bursting, crews are installing approximately 1,700 linear feet of trenchless lining. This method rehabilitates existing pipes from within by creating a new structural liner, extending the life of the infrastructure without the need for full excavation. Trenchless lining plays a key role in preserving system integrity while minimizing disturbance to the community.

### Open-Cut Replacement

While trenchless methods are preferred, approximately 300 linear feet of open-cut replacement is being completed where conditions require full access to the pipe. This approach allows for complete removal and replacement of infrastructure in areas where trenchless solutions are not feasible. Open-cut work remains an important part of maintaining system reliability in complex or constrained environments.



### Water Main Cleaning and Lining

The Distribution Division is also completing roughly 14,000 linear feet of water main cleaning and lining. This process removes internal buildup and applies a protective coating inside existing pipes, improving water quality and extending service life. Cleaning and lining provides a cost-effective alternative to full replacement while maintaining strong system performance.

### Lead Service Line Replacements

A continued priority in 2026 is the removal of legacy lead infrastructure. Approximately 300 lead service lines are being replaced in-house, allowing the Distribution Division to maintain control over quality, coordination, and scheduling. This work directly supports public health initiatives and reduces potential exposure to lead in drinking water.

Through this structured and balanced approach, the Distribution Division continues to deliver improvements that often go unnoticed once complete—but are critical to ensuring safe, reliable water service across the system. After all, if everything is working properly, most people never think about what's underground—and that's exactly how it should be.

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Equally important is recognizing the people behind this work. The Distribution Division consistently responds to watermain breaks, emergency leaks, after-hours calls, and holiday events—ensuring service is restored quickly when it matters most. These efforts often require long hours, difficult conditions, and time away from family and loved ones.

Their dedication, professionalism, and commitment to public service are what keep the system running day in and day out. The work they perform—often in challenging environments and outside of regular hours—deserves sincere appreciation and recognition for the vital role they play in serving the community. To all Distribution staff — thank you for everything you do.



## Registration Now Open for Century College Courses This Spring

Registration is now open for the spring session of the Century College Performance Plus Learning Partners (PPLP) program.

SPRWS continues its commitment to professional growth by offering access to courses in supervision, management, technology, and other career-development areas.

If you missed the fall session or are ready to begin a new certificate program, now is a great time to review the spring course catalog and consider your options.

If you didn't get an email copy of the course catalog and are interested in taking classes, please contact Sandy Kimbrough at [sandy.kimbrough@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:sandy.kimbrough@ci.stpaul.mn.us).

Key reminders:

- Limited seats: To encourage broad participation, a maximum of two employees may attend each individual class.
- First come, first served: Classes fill quickly, so early interest is strongly encouraged.
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How to register:

1. Obtain supervisor approval
2. Email Sandy Kimbrough at [sandy.kimbrough@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:sandy.kimbrough@ci.stpaul.mn.us) with the course name, course ID, and date
3. Await confirmation of your seat availability

Please note that registration is not complete until you receive confirmation that your seat has been secured.

Let's continue building skills and supporting professional growth across SPRWS.

# Water utility workers, plumbing inspectors start work



**Andre Cannon**



**Victor Chang**



**Sesavah Moua**



**Rylee Opal  
Wheelock**



**Tim Perez**



**Emmett  
Giddings**



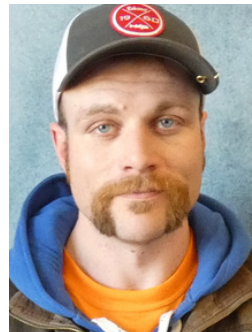
**Dominic Grillo**



**Drew Johnson**



**Roland Johnson**



**Kenny McLean**



**Riley Meyer**



**Matt Overton**



**Josh Reinhardt**



**Mike Schwab**



**Jon Weibusch**



**Robert Walfoort**



**Justin Weitnauer**

In preparation for the upcoming construction season, water utility trainees have started work as water utility worker I after their graduation on April 3. They are Andre Cannon, Victor Chang, Sesavah Moua, Rylee Opal Wheelock, and Tim Perez. New water utility worker I's have been hired. They are Emmett Giddings, Dominic Grillo, Drew Johnson, Roland Johnson, Kenny

McLean, Riley Meyer, Matt Overton, Josh Reinhardt, Mike Schwab, and Jon Weibusch. Both the trainees and the new water utility workers started their new roles on April 6.

Temporary plumbing inspectors for the season are also at work starting on April 6. They are Robert Walfoort and Justin Weitnauer.

Please welcome the water utility trainee graduates in their new roles and all of the new hires starting on April 6.

# Women of Water Welcome Panel



*Mayor Kaohly Her discusses her path to the Mayor's office while DSI Director Angie Wiese; Division Director at Minneapolis, Annika Bankston; and Public Works Operations Manager Beverly Farrarher listen as part of panel of women leaders hosted by the Women of Water employee resource network on April 2.*

The utility's Women of Water employee resource network recently hosted a panel of women in leadership roles at the bi-monthly meeting on April 2.

The panel featured Saint Paul Mayor Kaohly Her, DSI Director Angie Wiese and Public Works Operations Manager Beverly Farrarher as well as Division Director at Minneapolis, Annika Bankston.

Discussion centered on a variety of leadership topics including their path to their leadership role and lessons learned to generational differences in the workforce. Water utility staff in Women of Water as well as women from Minneapolis were able to attend and take part in the event with a question and answer period following the panel discussion.

## Women of Water

Women of Water was started to provide women with opportunities to learn about the utility, gain new skills, and network with one another. Members can learn about career opportunities at the utility as well. The group is focused on women, but any employee is welcome to join. They meet every other month and people interested in joining can contact Renee Huset in maps and records.

# Water Utility Trainees Graduate

Water utility trainees hired in 2025 recently graduated from the trainee program at Vadnais on April 3.

The five graduates are all now water utility worker I. Andre Cannon, Victor Chang, Sesavah Moua, and Rylee Opal Wheelock will be working in distribution while Tim Perez will be working in production out at Vadnais.

Congratulations to our utility trainee graduates!



*Victor Chang, Andre Cannon, Sesavah Moua, Tim Perez, and Rylee Opal Wheelock at their graduation for utility trainees on April 3 in the cafeteria.*