

## Utility hires two new employees; Bruhn moves to damage prevention



Francisco Fernandez



Mary Hartzheim



Allison Bruhn

The water utility has hired two new certified employees and another employee has taken on a new role within the department.

Francisco Fernandez started working as a customer service rep on March 13. He works in the call center.

Mary Hartzheim started working as an accountant II on March 13. She is located across from Dolly Ludden in the finance section.

Allison Bruhn has taken on a new role, working as engineering aide II in the damage prevention unit.

Please welcome Francisco and Mary to the water utility when you have an opportunity.

## Town hall provides updates



**Above, Patrick Shea, general manager, welcomes staff to a town hall meeting on March 17.**

**Above, Adam Worm, management assistant, gives an overview of the new Sharepoint site during the town hall meeting on March 17.**

## Town hall provides overview on several current projects

The utility held a town hall to inform staff of several projects that employees are working on.

The meeting provided an overview of the funding for the Lead Free SPRWS project that the state is hoped to provide. Discussion is around \$800 million over 10 years for lead service line replacement in the state. That would be between \$80 - \$90 million a year annually for that time, which would be shared throughout the state. SPRWS is hopeful that it could receive about a quarter of that funding if it is approved.

A quick overview of the new Sharepoint site was given by Adam Worm, management assistant. Adam

explained what the new Sharepoint site incorporates from the old Waternet site and the new features it will have in the future.

Martha Burckhardt, IS manager, provided a look inside the process of obtaining a new customer service portal online for our customers that will include many new features and allow for greater flexibility in accepting payments.

Todd Blomstrom, distribution division manager, talked about the new Enterprise Asset Management System (EAMS) that is to replace the current

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## Bob Hamm, retiree, passes away

Robert “Bob” Hamm, retiree, passed away on March 14. He was 61 years old.

He started working for parks and recreation as a park aide in 1980. He transferred to the water utility in 1981.

He became a water laborer in 1986 and was promoted to driver operator in 1990. He held dual titles of driver operator and water utility worker from 1992 until he focused solely on driving in 2003.

Bob retired from the water utility in 2018.

Our condolences go out to his family, friends, and former co-workers.



Robert “Bob” Hamm

## Flashback Friday



*Staff have been scanning old photos of the plant and utility for a book on the plant to be done in conjunction with the new plant project. This is Trout Brook in 1937 as part of the 1937 plant extension work.*

## Tuition reimbursement available

Looking for a way to pay for schooling?

The city provides up to \$600 of tuition reimbursement per year for full-time employees and up to \$300 for part-time staff.

The utility will provide up to \$2,500 per year for full-time employees and up to \$600 for part-time staff.

With city and SPRWS benefits combined, a full-time employee could be reimbursed up to \$3,100 for coursework taken as part of an accredited program.

Forms are available in Documentum under employee documents.

For more information, contact Sandy Kimbrough at [Sandy.Kimbrough@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Sandy.Kimbrough@ci.stpaul.mn.us) or 266-6510 or Becky Carlson at [Becky.Carlson@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Becky.Carlson@ci.stpaul.mn.us) or 651-266-6296.

## Town hall provides overview on several current projects

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Computerized Maintenance Management System (CMMS) in tracking our more than 300,000 assets and all of the work orders, time management, warehouse materials, etc. in that program. After a long process, a new vendor called Oracle Work and Asset Management Cloud Services (WACS) was selected to provide all of the functionality of CMMS plus future looking abilities. Look for more information on this

new asset management system in the future.

Rich Hibbard, engineering division manager, provided an update on where the Lead Free SPRWS program is right now and how many properties are slated to have new copper piping put in this year.

The town hall was presented in person in the cafeteria and online via Teams.

The next town hall will be at 8:15 a.m. on June 29.