RPU Receives Diamond RP3 Designation from the American Public Power Association
Read more on page 4

RPU’s Annual Arbor Day Issue
#RPUArborDay2019
Recap on pages 2-3 inside!
The weather worked out and RPU’s 17th Annual Arbor Day Celebration was a success!

The day included a lot of activities connected to the Arbor Day Celebration starting with the RPU line crews partnering with Rochester Parks & Recreation to plant 50 boulevard trees in NW Rochester. RPU, Maier Tree & Lawn, and Rochester Parks & Recreation did more tree planting when they all visited Gibbs Elementary School to plant a tree on the school property in recognition of this year’s poster contest winner Hope Peterson, a fourth grader at Gibbs.

At the Arbor Day Celebration at Three Links-Silver Lake Park, over 1,400 Rochester elementary school students came to participate in the activities, have lunch, and celebrate all of the benefits of trees in Rochester. Hundreds of community members also came down to celebrate Arbor Day with us.

At noon, Mayor Norton recognized the 2019 poster contest winners and their teachers. Those posters will be featured in the upcoming 2020 RPU calendar.

Thank you for coming down to celebrate Arbor Day with us and for taking a free tree home to plant in your yard. We all benefit when you plant a tree!

We are already looking forward to next year’s Arbor Day Celebration!
Co-sponsors of this year’s event include: Hy-Vee, Jim Whiting Nursery & Garden Center, Minnesota Energy Resources, Sargent’s Gardens, and Seneca Foods.

Participants include: Boys & Girls Club of Rochester, Minnesota Children’s Museum Rochester, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Olmsted County Environmental Resources, Quarry Hill Nature Center, Rochester Police Department, Rochester Public Library, Rochester Public Works, Rochester Water Reclamation Plant, Sekapp Orchard, and Zumbro Valley Audubon.
RPU received the 2019 Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3) Diamond designation by the American Public Power Association (APPA). RPU was honored at the APPA Engineering and Operations Conference in Colorado Springs, CO on Monday, April 1, 2019.

The Diamond designation is the highest level achievable within the RP3 designation. RPU scored 99.5 points out of a possible 100. RPU is one of only 254 public power utilities nationwide that hold the RP3 designation.

The RP3 designation, which lasts for three years, recognizes public power utilities that demonstrate proficiency in four key disciplines: reliability, safety, workforce development, and system improvement. Criteria include sound business practices and a utility-wide commitment to safe and reliable delivery of electricity.

Applications are reviewed by an 18-member panel of public power representatives nationwide.

The APPA has offered the RP3 designation for 13 years now. The Association is the voice of not-for-profit, community-owned utilities that provide power to 49 million people in 2,000 towns and cities nationwide.

RPU Lineworkers Compete at the APPA Lineworkers Rodeo

RPU sent a Journeyman team of three lineworkers and one Apprentice lineworker to compete at the 2019 American Public Power Association (APPA) Lineworkers Rodeo in Colorado Springs, CO. The Journeyman team included First Class Linemen Tyler Meiners, Chad Peterson, and Mitch DenBoer. The Apprentice Lineworker was Hunter Gleason.

More than 50 teams and 100 apprentices from municipal utilities across the nation participated.

The rodeo is a series of competitive events demonstrating lineworker skills and safe work practices. Lineworkers do their job in all types of weather conditions and at the Lineworkers Rodeo, it was no different. The night before the competition, snow fell in the Colorado Springs area, and the morning of the competition began with 23-degree temperatures.

The Journeyman team competed in five events:
- Hurtman rescue
- 12 KVA phase transfer
- 12 KVA arrester change out
- 4 KVA alley arm insulator change out
- Underground transformer makeup

The Apprentice events were:
- Apprentice written test
- Load transfer pole
- 3 Phase fuse replacement
- Secondary connection change out

From left to right: Chad Peterson (First Class Lineman), Hunter Gleason (apprentice Lineman), Mitch DenBoer (First Class Lineman), and Tyler Meiners (First Class Lineman).
**It’s time to schedule a SPRING CLEANING!**

Complete a Central Air Conditioner Clean & Tune and apply for a **$25 REBATE!**

Regular preventative maintenance is the best way to ensure trouble-free, energy-efficient operation.

Visit [www.rpu.org](http://www.rpu.org) to download a rebate application with complete terms and conditions; some exclusions apply.

Need a new air conditioner? We have a rebate for that too!

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**Is it time for a new cooling system?**

RPU offers great rebates on high efficiency air conditioning equipment!

- Room Air Conditioners
- Central Air Conditioners
- Ductless Mini-Split Systems
- Heat Pumps

Visit [www.rpu.org](http://www.rpu.org) for a complete list of eligible equipment and to download an Electric Rebate Application with complete terms and conditions.

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**The 2018 RPU Annual Report is now available online and at the RPU Service Center.**

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**CONSERVE & $AVE®**
Do Not Fall Victim to a Utility Scam Call

Please be vigilant and mindful of utility scams. Scams come in many forms, but the one we are made aware of the most is the phone scam. Never offer financial or bank information over the phone, unless you prompted the call to RPU at 507.280.1500.

Imposters are calling RPU customers stating that their utilities will be shut off unless immediate payment is made over the phone by credit card or pre-paid debit cards. These calls can happen at any time of the day or night. Beware — with phone technology today, the scammers can even make the caller ID show RPU’s customer service line (507.280.1500). This is not how RPU operates, and remember, RPU would never call with this threat.

RPU will never request bank or secure information from you over the phone unless you ask to discuss your account. The RPU representative will then ask for information to identify who you are and that you are authorized to speak on behalf of the account.

What to do if you receive a scam call:
- If someone calls threatening to cut off your power if you don’t pay, hang up!
- Call RPU at 507.280.1500 if you are concerned about being scammed.
- Never give personal or financial information to an unknown caller.
- Remember that RPU will never use threatening language or make forceful demands for payment.

This type of scam is not just seen in Rochester. Utilities throughout the nation deal with scam calls as well. Please share this information with friends and family to help ensure that they don’t fall victim to a phone scam.
RPU Utilizes Technology in the Field Everyday

In today’s world, it isn’t uncommon to see people walking around using mobile devices and tablets, but what about RPU field crews? Every single day, RPU field crews utilize Esri’s GIS (geographic information system) technology to view and conduct workflows with RPU electric, water, and fiber systems.

The use of mobile field technology has not only enhanced workflows, but has increased productivity and helped with data accuracy and precision. Field crews use Esri’s Collector for ArcGIS for a variety of workflows including:
- Inspections of electric distribution facilities
- Water valve operations and hydrant flushing routes
- Water inspections
- Locating curb boxes
- Tree-trimming inventory
- Tracking ground/property work and repairs
- Passing notes/updates to other crews and office
- Preplanned field work ready for completion

RPU crews complete the job/work within the application, which is then tracked by work planners and others at the RPU Service Center.

Some workflows include automated notification emails that go to departments to create work orders or finalize them. Previously, the workflow would require a significant amount of paper forms and time sorting through work orders, but now with the use of GIS field applications and technology, there is significantly improved data accuracy and efficiency. In addition, it has eliminated unnecessary paper waste and allows for a more real-time GIS.

The next time you see an RPU field crew using a tablet during their field work, know that they are taking advantage of some of the latest technology to provide a safer, quicker, and more efficient RPU electric or water system for you!

RPU’s Distributed Generation Rules Annual Disclosure

In compliance with Rochester Public Utilities Distributed Generation Rules adopted April 24, 2018, Rochester Public Utilities (RPU) is obligated to interconnect with and purchase electricity from co-generators and small power producers that satisfy the conditions as a qualifying facility. RPU is obligated to provide information regarding rates and interconnection requirements, free of charge, to all interested customers upon request. All interconnections require an application and approval to become a qualifying facility.

Any disputes over interconnection, sales, and purchases relative to qualifying facilities should be brought to the RPU Board for resolution. Rochester Public Utilities Distributed Generation Rules and associated documents can be found on the RPU website at www.rpu.org. For further information, customers can contact RPU at 507.280.1500.
CALLING FOR NOMINATIONS!

Environmental Achievement Awards are given annually for outstanding environmental achievement in Olmsted County. Nominations are sought for individuals, families, youth, organizations, or businesses in any or all categories:

- Climate Change
- Conservation
- Education
- Energy
- Renewables
- Sustainable Food Production
- Water
- Other

Download a Nomination Form at www.rpu.org. Deadline is October 4.

Photo by Nick Ryan

RPU SERVICE CENTER
Holiday Hours

The RPU Service Center will be closed on:

Thursday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day

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