

RPU Plugged In

*Construction of the Broadway Plant
circa 1915 in northeast Rochester.*

FROM THE
RPU
ARCHIVES



*A 16-inch well with a depth of 52 feet
is tested before being put into service.*



Mark Kotschevar

Letter from the GM

A new year brings changes to the RPU Board. Long-time Board members Roger Stahl and Jerry Williams attended their final meeting in December. These two gentlemen have graciously volunteered their time and talents, on your behalf, to provide governance for both the water and electric utilities. This governance provided leadership and strategic direction in the areas of conservation, customer service, environmental stewardship, infrastructure planning, rates, staffing, and utility operations.

At the foundation of the municipal utility model is local control and through local volunteers – like Roger and Jerry – decisions are made that reflect the community's values. On behalf of myself and the entire RPU organization I want to extend our sincere gratitude for their commitment and service to RPU and the community.

As we honor the service of past Board members, we also look forward to having two new members join the Board in January. Through an application and selection process Mayor Brede recommended, and the Council confirmed, the appointments of Tim Haskin and Melissa Graner Johnson to fill the open seats.

We are excited to work with these new Board members as they volunteer their time and talents for the betterment of RPU and the community.



Jerry Williams and Mark Kotschevar



Roger Stahl and Mark Kotschevar

Water Conservation Tip of the Month

One of RPU's core values is **Environmental Stewardship**. We work to protect our environment through the wise use of our resources.

Water is not an unlimited resource. Depending on the geographic location, water conservation is sometimes beneficial and in some areas it is a critical practice necessary to better ensure water availability. Conserving water through the wise and efficient use of our greatest natural resource is at the heart of what RPU's core value stands for. However, this cannot be done without your help. We must work together to be good stewards of our water, to make sure it is clean and plentiful for generations to come.

RPU's Conserve & Save® rebate program provides rebates for the purchase and installation of water-efficient devices promoting the conservation of water. An entire list of the 2016 water rebates can be found on the RPU website (www.rpu.org), but to make it even easier for you; we will embark on a year-long awareness of water conservation with a water conservation tip of the month.

In 2014, RPU's residential per capita water usage was 51 gallons per day. The residential usage in 2006 was 66 gallons per day, so we are on the right track, but can still do more to conserve and use water wisely!

By installing more efficient water fixtures and regularly checking for leaks, households can reduce daily indoor per capita water use to about 45.2 gallons per day. Here's how it breaks down for households using conservation measures:

| Type of Use | Gallons per Capita | Percentage of Total Daily Use |
|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Showers | 8.8 | 19.5% |
| Clothes Washers | 10.0 | 22.1% |
| Toilets | 8.2 | 18.0% |
| Dishwashers | 0.7 | 1.5% |
| Baths | 1.2 | 2.7% |
| Leaks | 4.0 | 8.8% |
| Faucets | 10.8 | 23.9% |
| Other Domestic Uses | 1.6 | 3.4% |

WATER CONSERVATION

Monthly Tip on Saving From the Tap...



Designate one glass for your drinking water each day, or refill a water bottle. This will cut down on the number of glasses to wash.

rpu
we pledge, we deliver®

CONSERVE & \$AVE®

New Year's Resolution: WORRY LESS!

(By enrolling in Service Assured®)



A typical underground water service repair costs over \$3,500... protect yourself with Service Assured®!



For only \$2.99 per month*, you can rest assured that if your underground electric or water service breaks, you won't have to pay costly repair bills out-of-pocket. To learn more and/or enroll, please visit: www.rpu.org



* Contact us to determine your eligibility; some exclusions apply. Visit our website at www.rpu.org to review our Terms & Conditions.

RPU ARCHIVES

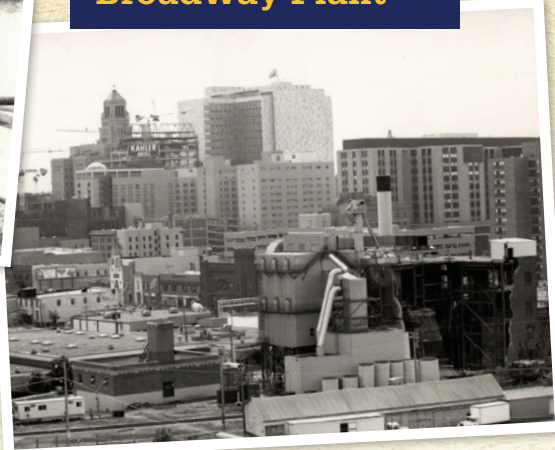


The Broadway Plant was constructed in 1916.



Steam is turned off for the final time at the Broadway Plant by (pictured l-r) Dave Klinkhammer, Dave Hoeft, and Sam Blackburn.

Broadway Plant



Demolition of the Broadway Plant in 1986.

Lake Zumbro Hydroelectric Dam



The Lake Zumbro Hydroelectric Dam was designed by Hugh L. Cooper with construction beginning in 1917. It was completed and operational in November of 1919. The facility consists of a powerhouse and a 440-foot spillway across the Zumbro River. Today, the dam can produce a maximum of 2.8 megawatts per hour.

RPU Service Center

The groundbreaking for the RPU Service Center was held in 1986.



The RPU Service Center was completed in 1988 and is still a viable facility for many of RPU's operations today.



A photo from the inside of the Service Center lobby circa 1990.



Silver Lake Plant



The addition being built onto the north side of the Silver Lake Plant (SLP) in October of 1968.



The construction along the northeast side of SLP to accommodate the addition of Unit #3 in 1961.



The thaw shed for railroad cars filled with frozen coal being built in 1968.



An aerial shot of SLP during the flood of 1978.



Utility Scams Are Back!

Please be vigilant and mindful of utility scams this winter. We have received calls from customers sharing that they have received phone calls stating that if they don't pay their bill immediately, their utilities will be shut off. With phone technology today, the scammers can even make the caller ID show the RPU customer service line (**507.280.1500**).

The callers have requested payment in the form of pre-paid debit cards or a credit card over the phone.

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** to report the scam.
- Never give personal or financial information to an unknown caller.
- Remember that RPU will never use threatening language or make forceful demands for payment.

Photos from the 48th St. SW Outage

On Nov. 21 at approximately 10 p.m., over 1,000 customers were without power or had their power flicker momentarily. The cause was a car hitting an RPU utility pole. The overhead line equipment and safety mechanisms operated properly – ensuring the safety and protection of people in the vicinity of the accident. RPU line crews are on call for when emergency situations arise.

Photos by Josh Banks



tweet! tweet!

@rpualerts

new and ready to fly
january 1, 2016

general inquiries • communication • questions • feedback



New Year's Resolution:

CONSERVE & \$AVE®

It's That Easy!

Visit our website at
www.rpu.org
to learn how to
conserve energy
and save money
all year long!

You'll also find a
list of available
rebates for
energy- and
water-efficient
equipment.



Energy Education

• Presented by Rochester Public Utilities •

• SOLAR ENERGY •

For Your Home or Business

Saturday, February 20, 2016 • 10:00 am-12:00 pm
Saint Mary's University of Minnesota – Cascade Meadow

• GET OUT OF THE DARK •

**Brighten Your Knowledge
On Home Lighting Purchases**

Tuesday, March 1, 2016 • 6:00-7:30 pm
Saint Mary's University of Minnesota – Cascade Meadow

• SAVING ENERGY 101 •

Neighborhood Energy Challenge Workshops

Attendees qualify for a \$50 home energy audit!
Choose one; more dates are listed at www.rpu.org.

Monday, January 11, 2016 • 6:30 pm
George Gibbs Elementary School

Tuesday, February 16, 2016 • 6:30 pm
Lincoln Choice Elementary School

Saturday, March 12, 2016 • 10:00 am
Saint Mary's University of Minnesota – Cascade Meadow

Visit www.rpu.org to learn more about these
FREE Energy Conservation Classes/Workshops.

To register, call 507.328.4000 or sign up
online at rochester.thatscommunityed.com.



CONSERVE & \$AVE



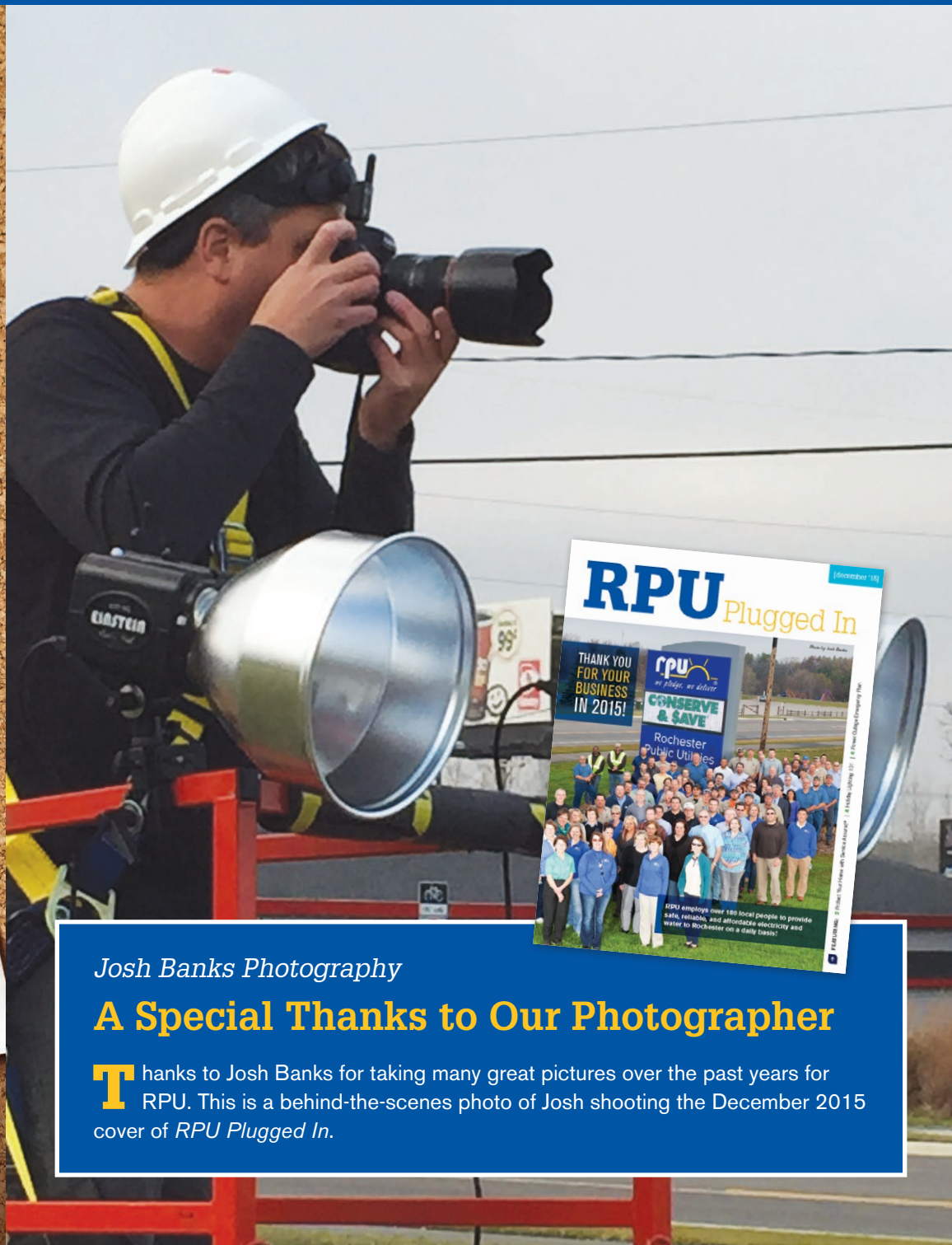
4000 East River Road NE
Rochester, MN 55906
507.280.1500
www.rpu.org

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RPU Closed

The RPU Service Center will be closed on Monday, January 18, in recognition of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.



Josh Banks Photography

A Special Thanks to Our Photographer

Thanks to Josh Banks for taking many great pictures over the past years for RPU. This is a behind-the-scenes photo of Josh shooting the December 2015 cover of *RPU Plugged In*.