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# News & Views

September 20, 2018

The City of New Hope's Employee Newsletter

## Police Department & City Hall Construction

Construction is continuing on schedule and the contractor still intends to have the exterior completed by winter. Currently, progress is being made on the construction of the sally port and tennis court retaining walls, as well as finish stone and brick. Many meetings are taking place between staff and vendors as they determine specific equipment and feature needs for the new facility.

If you have not had a chance to view the construction personally, watch the city website and Kirk's weekly memo for photos and progress notes.



## Council Approves 2019 Preliminary Budget

By Keith Beise (excerpts)

The New Hope City Council adopted the 2019 New Hope preliminary budget and tax levy at its meeting on Sept. 10 and they were certified to the Hennepin County Auditor.

The preliminary 2019 general fund budget is \$14,286,812, which is an increase of \$549,050 over the 2018 budget.

Major changes in the budget in 2019 include:

- Approximately \$366,000 for wage and benefit increases; a 3% cost of living adjustment is budgeted for employees along with an increase in the city's share of health insurance coverage. This amount includes the compensation plan adjustments that were approved in 2018. A 3% increase in city council salaries is also included in the budget.
- A part-time communications position is included in the budget at a cost of roughly \$63,000 to assist the expanding number of communication needs for the city.

The preliminary tax levy for the entire 2019 budget is \$15,364,310, which is an increase of \$2,451,568, or 18.99 percent higher than 2018. However, the majority of the levy increase, \$1,709,452 or 13.24%, is for the new police station/city hall bonds.

## City Hall Fire Drill

Thank you to everyone for taking part in the fire drill on Aug. 22. Despite the interruption to our work day, it is important to do, so that everyone knows what to do if a real fire occurred. And it was a great day to take a brisk walk to the fire station. A reminder that all non-sworn employees are expected to participate. Sworn officers should follow their procedure for clearing and checking the building.

## Mark Your Calendar

Sept. 26—Wacky Wednesday

Oct. 3—Employee Golf Outing

Oct. 13—Final New Hope Farmers Market for the Season

Oct. 24—Wacky Wednesday

Oct. 26—Mayor's Prayer Breakfast

Nov. 1—Open Enrollment Starts



## New Employee and Council Member

### Brad Johnson, Maintenance Worker

Hopefully you have all had a chance to meet Brad, our newest maintenance worker, who started on Aug. 20. Brad, his wife, Jean, and their son, Nick, live right here in New Hope. Brad was raised in a home near Northwood Park, attended high school at Armstrong and, except for a 10-year period living in Robbinsdale, has been a life-long resident of New Hope.

His connection to the community is one of the reasons he considered working for the City when his previous employer, Construction Materials, decided to relocate to Hugo. Jean, previously an HR professional, also recently went through a career change and is now operating an in-home daycare. Brad has one brother, and he, along with their parents, still live in the greater metro area.



For recreation, Brad and Nick enjoy watching NASCAR, biking and playing tennis. Brad is also a dedicated Vikings fan. The entire family enjoys camping in the Leech Lake area. Brad's brother owns a cabin in Luck, Wisconsin. Fishing is Brad's time for rest and relaxation.

We are very glad you decided to get closer to home and chose the City for the next step in your career, Brad. We know you will help keep the city looking great. Be safe out there!

### Cedrick Frazier, City Council Member

By Keith Beise (excerpts)

Frazier has been involved in New Hope, including serving on the city's planning commission since 2017. His other Twin Cities community involvement includes serving as an election judge in Minneapolis, and volunteer work at William McGee Moot Court, HOME Line Connect, the YMCA's Youth in Government Day, Street Law at Johnson Elementary School and Loaves & Fishes.

Frazier has a B.A. from the University of Minnesota-Morris, an M.A. from Minnesota State University and a J.D. from the William Mitchell College of Law. He has worked in the legal profession for more than a decade and currently serves as a staff attorney for Education Minnesota.



Frazier was sworn in at the Sept. 10 council meeting.

## Employees of the Quarters Nominations

*The editorial staff neglected to mention the nominations for our first two quarters in the last issue. Each of them should be applauded for their nominations.*

### 1st Quarter

**Brandon Bell**, public works admin specialist, for "tackling" a large software project for the public works department and becoming the expert on the product. **Lorilee Stafford**, police clerk, for training the new police clerk and taking on additional duties through several departmental changes.

### 2nd Quarter

**James Bardon**, police officer, for obtaining his doctoral degree in criminal justice and sharing that knowledge with other members of the department. **David Fritzke**, police officer, for his ongoing efforts and successes as a school resource officer at Cooper High School. **Aaron Thelen**, recreation supervisor, for his innovation and collaboration with Crystal in launching a major new and successful event, Young Mudder.

### Nominations Sought

Reminder...nominate one of your outstanding co-workers for EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER today. The deadline is Friday, Sept. 28, by end of day. Forms can be found on the I drive under Forms (EOQ Nomination Form) or by emailing human resources.



# World Of Wellness 2018

## **Aug. 22—Summer Games**

Public works hosted almost 50 employees for lunch and some friendly outdoor competitions. A few lucky door prize winners also won their choice of outdoor games and winter wear to encourage them to stay active and healthy.

## **Sept. 19—Mutual of Omaha**

Connor Murphy from Mutual of Omaha presented to employees on the ancillary services offered to all permanent city employees. These benefits include employee assistance program (EAP), hearing discount program, travel assistance plan and access to will preparation services. 19 employees attended.

## **Sept. 19-20—Flu Vaccination Clinic**

The city once again offered a flu vaccination clinic to employees and their families on-site at City Hall administered by Hy-Vee pharmacy. There were 34 employees/family members that attended.

## **Oct.—Healthy Soup and Comfort Food Workshop**

Information will be coming soon on an event to give ideas for healthy alternatives to our favorite go-to foods for the winter months. Especially important in the land of hot dishes!

## **Announcements**



**City of New Hope  
Minnesota**

### **New City Website Launches**

After a great deal of planning and work by many employees, the new city website launched on Aug. 15. With the new website, each department has more flexibility and control over their department's pages. The next phase of the project will be a new employee intranet. If you have ideas for features and information that should be included, please let the Jolly Journalist know.

### **City of New Hope, Minnesota now on LinkedIn**

If you are already on LinkedIn, you may have noticed that the only New Hope previously on the social platform was New Hope, Alabama. Adding New Hope to LinkedIn is a component of city staff's efforts to expand New Hope's social media presence, especially in the areas of job openings and local business news. For those of you not familiar with the platform, LinkedIn can be a great tool for monitoring trends in your chosen profession and staying in touch with classmates and colleagues from previous employments. Follow the City's account by searching "City of New Hope Minnesota" on LinkedIn.



### **Police Station/City Hall Clean-up Countdown**

We are quickly approaching the six-month mark before the move to the new building begins. In November, you will begin seeing monthly activities to complete to be ready for this transition. Employees that are not located in the soon-to-be-demolished building will be asked to complete the activities as well to ensure that we are making the best use of all city facilities and keeping neat, efficient workspaces.

### **HR Coordinator Splits Time**

Starting last month, the HR coordinator has been working Thursday mornings at public works. It's an opportunity for pw staff to stop in and ask questions without needing to make a trip to city hall. During these times Walker will continue to be available by email, Jabber or calling the utility billing line at 6760.



## Happenings

### Safety Camp Hosts 61 Campers

Congratulations to city staff and volunteers for hosting another successful three-day event that took place Aug. 16-18. *The primary staff involved were as follows:*

Safety Camp Coordinators: Nichole Korth, police; Aaron Thelen, parks & recreation; Shelby Wolf, West Metro

Safety Camp Volunteer Staff: Matthew Collier, Britni Austin, Pat Beaumaster—police; Olivia Schmitz, Moriah Sundby, Elizabeth Rohe—parks & recreation; Andy Nichols, Eric Grimes, Ben Stauffer—West Metro

Other city staff: Kaitlyn Baker, Keith Beise, Laurie Dube, Tim Fournier, Melissa Guse, Lucia Pabon, Miguel Robles, Zak Schermerhorn, Marty Williams, West Metro firefighters, and parks & recreation staff.

Plus many additional other police and parks & recreation volunteers.



### High Turn-Out at Election Primary

Valerie Leone, city clerk, and Beth Kramer, admin specialist, ran a successful 2018 state primary election for the city, starting with the absentee voting at City Hall on June 29 and culminating on Election Day, Aug. 14. Voter turnout was 21% compared to 13% in the 2014 State Primary. There were 2,771 election day voters and 515 absentee voters. Val and Beth issued 350 absentee ballots and never had a line more than a couple of voters deep. Nice job ladies! No time for rest though, absentee voting for the general election starts tomorrow (September 21).

### Cop on Top

On August 17, police department staff went ABOVE and beyond in their fundraiser in conjunction with Dunkin' Donuts. This year they raised \$826.87, beating their total from last year by more than \$100. The department has already set a goal for next year to break the thousand dollar mark! The funds raised go to Special Olympics Minnesota.



### SWAT Team Training

Four New Hope police officers attended Basic SWAT School at Fort Ripley, Sept. 9-14. The week was filled with training topics ranging from slow search tactics, warrant entry movements and firearms training to team-building exercises. Per Sergeant Stanley, this is the first step in the officers' training and moving forward they will be trained within the West Metro SWAT Team for quite some time before being included in actual operations. The officers put in long, hard hours during the week. Thank you, gentlemen, for putting in this extra effort to ensure the safety of our community.

### Bus Tour

Members of city staff hosted city council members and commissioners on an 18-mile bus tour of New Hope project improvements on Sept. 11. Highlights of the trip included safety features along Boone Avenue (bump outs and bike lanes), new equipment and basketball court at Sunnyside Park, and the new police department/city hall building. Thank you to Jeff Alger, CD coordinator/management analyst, for coordinating the event, and Aaron Chirpich, Megan Albert, Susan Rader, Bernie Weber, Jeff Sargent and Kirk McDonald for their writing and speaking contributions; as well as other city staff that helped make arrangements and host.

