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News & Views

October 7, 2021

The City of New Hope's Employee Newsletter

City Council Declares Police Week



At the Sept. 27 city council meeting, the Council passed the following resolution (excerpted), "the City Council of the city of New Hope calls upon the citizens of our community to especially honor and show their sincere appreciation for the police officers of this city by deed, remarks, and attitude. We call upon all our citizens to make every effort to express their thanks to the men and women who are willing to sacrifice their lives, if necessary, to guard our loved ones, property, and government against all who would violate the law; and NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the city of New Hope proclaims October 10-16, 2021, as Police Week in the city of New Hope.

Chief and Sergeants Sworn In

Congratulations again to Tim Hoyt, police chief, and Mike TenEyck and Chris Cazin, police sergeants on their swearing in ceremony that took place during the New Hope city council meeting on July 26. *Pictured: Chief Hoyt, Mike TenEyck and Chris Cazin with Valerie Leone, city clerk, presenting. Photo Credit: Beth Kramer*



Captain Announces Retirement

After 36 ½ years with the city, Captain Scott Crocker has announced his retirement from the city effective Oct. 31, 2021. Look for an upcoming article on Captain Crocker's adventures over the last many years! A celebration in his honor will be held on Oct. 29.



Promotions

Sergeant Dave Johnson Appointed Captain

Congratulations to Sergeant Dave Johnson! He has been appointed to the role of captain effective Oct. 11, 2021. Dave has been with the department since 1999 as an officer, investigator and then as a sergeant starting in 2006. He's been employee of the quarter and recently he's been responsible for the field training program, body worn camera implementation and many other duties and recognitions.

Mark Your Calendar:

Oct. 9 – City Day
Oct. 9 – West Metro Open House & Waffle Breakfast
Oct. 10-16 – Police Week
Oct. 27 – Wacky Wednesday – Jeans

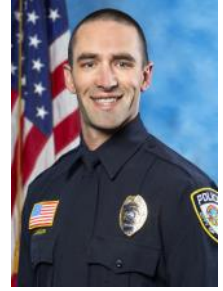
Oct. 29-Nov. 16 – Open Enrollment for Benefits
Nov. 17 – Wacky Wednesday – Jeans
Nov. 25-26 – Thanksgiving Holiday: City Offices Closed
Dec. 9 - SAVE the DATE: Employee Recognition Event



Promotions (*continued*)

Officer Eernisse Appointed Sergeant

Congratulations to Josh Eernisse who was appointed sergeant as of Sept. 22. Josh has been an officer for the city since 2014. He was a school resource officer for several years, has been a field training officer and a firearms instructor and is a member of the SWAT team.



Officer Janson Appointed School Resource Officer

Congratulations to Justin Janson for his appointment as an SRO effective Sept. 1. Justin has been with the city since 2015. He has served as a use of force trainer and is currently on the SWAT team. We look forward to his representation of the city at Cooper High School.

New Employee



Ben Rouse, Police Officer

Welcome to Ben Rouse, our newest employee and police officer as of Sept. 20. Ben comes to the city from the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office where he worked a couple of years in the jail and finished his time patrolling HC Medical Center and North Memorial. Ben was raised in Duluth, where his mom still lives and is a paralegal for an architectural firm. One of Ben's brothers still lives there, and Ben gets up as often as he can so he can spend time with his six-year-old nephew, Luka. Ben's dad, sister and other brother all live in the Twin Cities area. His dad is a fleet coordinator for Memorial Blood Center.

Ben enjoys being active. Before leaving the Duluth area he played on an amateur baseball team. He enjoys ice fishing, after the first time out he said he was "hooked." His favorite spots are Fish Lake and the Mississippi, where he uses a pop-up tent, sometimes with a buddy and sometimes just himself to enjoy the quiet and contemplative time. Ben also likes to golf and manages a couple of Fantasy Football teams.

He says that he cooks often and is not picky so it's easy to find new things he's willing to try. His favorite meal would be eggs benedict, but all breakfast food is appreciated! Ben gets out and listens to live bands as often as he can, the venue isn't important, he just enjoys listening to the locals.

When he can't get out, he enjoys watching TV, The Office being one of his favorites. Comedians Tom Segura and Bill Burr are as well. And while TV shows are his usual, he does have a passion for the Jurassic Park movies. He prefers the older movies but enjoys the new ones as well. He said that he was hooked on dino movies from a young age, starting with The Land Before Time. The Jolly Journalist asked how old he was when he started watching Jurassic Park. He thought probably five or six. When asked if his mom was ok with that, he said with a smile, "my siblings were."

Ben is excited to be here at New Hope and is looking forward to meeting everyone.

Recruitment Updates

Police Officer – In addition to Ben starting, William Leon-Aguilar was promoted from CSO to police officer on Sept. 20. Will has been a CSO since 2016 and passed his P.O.S.T. test this summer.

Community Service Officer – The preferred candidate from the May recruitment withdrew and as he was the only certified candidate, a new process was started. A new preferred candidate was notified last week and is undergoing backgrounding as well as psychological and physical examinations.

Police Clerk – The preferred candidate is undergoing backgrounding.

Stormwater Specialist/Projects Coordinator – Six candidates interviewed with staff last week and two interviewed with the personnel board Wednesday evening. Both were certified and will meet with City Manager Kirk McDonald and Public Works Director Bernie Weber next week.

Employee Departures

Megan Hedstrom, Stormwater Specialist and Project Coordinator

As announced to staff by Bernie Weber (edited): Megan Hedstrom, stormwater specialist and project coordinator accepted a position with the City of Blaine and her last day with the city was Sept. 2. Megan started her position with the city in 2016, after working on city projects as a Stantec employee prior to that, and will be greatly missed. We very much appreciate her contribution and time coordinating projects and taking care of the residents over the years as well as her willingness to always lend a helping hand when needed.

Employee of the Quarter

The city received a record 13 nominations for the Employee of the Quarter, four of which were nominated by multiple nominators.



Congratulations to Brad Kallio, community relations and crime prevention officer, on being selected Employee of the Quarter for July-September 2021. Brad started with the city in January of 2017 and was named to his current appointment in January of this year, although he had taken on many of the responsibilities after the departure of the former crime prevention officer in July of 2020.

Brad's nominator submitted, "Our department is now part of community conversations, community BBQs, Coffee with a Cop and Meals on Wheels to name just a few of the new events our department has never done. He has been an integral part of shaping our new community policing program, and has helped staff reshape the way our department interacts with our citizens. He has tweaked the way National Night Out was organized and I have heard

nothing but rave reviews from staff and council." The nominator went on to commend Brad for how others are noticing how "Brad is engaging our department in the public."

Good work, Brad! You've done fantastic work in a short amount of time!

Other nominations:

Scott Anderson, CSO, for improvising and deploying a storm damage reporting system with public works, as well as his volunteering to represent New Hope with our leg of the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics.

Linda Bergemann, office specialist for community development, for creating and coordinating the Employee Club's new dip-off event.

Julian Kidd, CSO, for putting in the effort to personally change a tire for a stranded motorist.

Andrew Kramer, streets and parks supervisor, (by two nominators) for adding the supervision of five seasonal parks staff to his already busy summer.

Tony Loser, investigator, for taking the time to transport a juvenile shooting victim home to check in with his mom, to his pharmacy and then back home.

Riley McIlrath, police clerk, for taking steps to save a detainee's life in an emergency situation when an officer was not available, as well as, her work in reorganizing the police department's predatory offender registration records system to make it easier for officers to navigate and determine when offenders are in compliance.

Lorilee Stafford, police clerk, for her coordination of and participation in Coffee for Champions and participation in (and encouragement of others to do the same) the Special Olympics Torch Run.

Jessi Weber, admin. specialist for community development, for organizing and implementing the City of New Hope's Food Truck Fridays. Many employees and members of the community enjoyed this event through the summer and it brought awareness of the new aquatic.



Employee Kudos



Tony Portesan and the Aquatic Park Staff

The last day of the season for the aquatic park this year was Aug. 15. The total 2021 attendance for open swim was 46,863 (ages 2 and older). What an amazing outcome with the year-long delay and early-on shortages of staff. Much appreciation and recognition of awesomeness to the parks and recreation staff that made it a great season!

Parks and Recreation Staff

New Hope Parks and Recreation received an Award of Excellence from the Minnesota Recreation and Park Association (MRPA) for its 2020 Virtual Bike Rodeo. The award was presented at the Sept. 13 city council meeting. *Pictured: Aaron Thelen, Recreation Supervisor and MRPA Awards Committee Co-Chair Alyssa Fram. Photo Credit: Susan Rader*



Public Works Improvements/Addition

Public works storm sewer work is complete. The parking lot (*pictured*) has been removed and gravel has been spread. The contractor began working on grading, curb and gutter last week.



Employee Insurance Committee Meets

The employee insurance committee, composed of 18 employees, gathered in early September to discuss changes in the 2022 insurance offerings by the city. If you have questions prior to open enrollment (Oct. 29 – Nov. 16), you are welcome to talk to human resources or ask Walker or Rich for the name of your groups' insurance committee representatives. Thank you to the committee members for participating.



Celebration!

Dan Peacock, maintenance worker, and Carol, his significant other of 35 years, were married on August 21. To celebrate they went to Bayfield to see the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band perform as well as to enjoy the area. Congratulations to Dan and Carol!



Happenings



Coffee with a Cop – On-going

Representatives from the New Hope Police Department, including Brad Kallio, community relations and crime prevention officer and Chief Hoyt have been meeting with various groups in the city over the summer. *Pictured: Chief Hoyt and Brad Kallio at St. Therese this summer.*

National Night Out – August 3



After a hiatus last year, there were more than 70 block events throughout the city this last August. Thank you to Officer Brad Kallio and many others for the many hours put into assisting residents to organize safe and successful neighborhood events. Residents appreciate the visits by police and fire personnel as well as city council members and staff.



Pictured with residents: Left—Officer Lee Larson, Right—Sergeant Marty Williams and Officer McGruff the Crime Dog

Safety Camp Hosts 49 Youngsters! – Aug. 10-12

Congratulations to city staff and volunteers for hosting another successful three-day event. The campers participated in various safety sessions including: electrical safety, fire safety, personal safety, water safety and many others throughout the week. On the last day of camp, staff held a graduation dinner for families where the campers received certificates and medals. The primary staff involved were as follows.

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

Safety Camp Leaders: Josh Arthur, Britni Austin, Pat Beaumaster, Lee Larson—police; Adrianna Nichols —parks & recreation; Andy Nichols, Dan Halvorson, Eric Enselein—West Metro

Other city staff: Laurie Dube, Tim Hoyt, Beth Kramer, Jared Kuyper, Tony Portesan, Miguel Robles, Jill Smisek, Penny Spitzer, Pete Stanley, West Metro firefighters, and additional staff from both public works and parks & recreation. *Photo Credit: Beth Kramer*





Dip-Off Competition – Aug. 19

The City of New Hope Employee Club sponsored a new event this summer which was open to all city employees. Conceived and organized by Linda Bergemann, employees had the opportunity to enter their favorite summer dips and other related foods for judging by their peers. There were eight judged dips and one bonus dip to just be enjoyed. The Heluva Good Dip Trophy was awarded to Brandon Bell, for his Elote Dip, also known as Mexican Street Corn. Congratulations, Brandon! *Pictured Linda and Brandon*

Coffee for Champions – Aug. 20.

New Hope and Crystal police departments worked together with Dunkin' Donuts and raised almost \$1,000 to help fund athlete participation in the Special Olympics. Pictured are CSOs Isaac Gorman and Scott Anderson, Police Clerk Lorilee Stafford and two athletes that were present to talk with donors that stopped by to make a gift. *Photo Credit Beth Kramer*



Employee Appreciation Cookout – Sept. 1

On Sept. 1, the management team served up picnic fare for the enjoyment of staff in appreciation for all of their work. It was a beautiful fall day with almost 60 employees attending. Good manners dictate that you can't thank someone for a thank you BUT it was greatly enjoyed! *Pictured: City Manager Kirk McDonald with Directors Bernie Weber, Tim Hoyt and Jeff Sargent*

Commissioner Bus Tour – Sept. 9

More than 30 attendees were taken on a tour of 27 projects throughout the city. Thank you to Brandon Bell, community development assistant, for coordinating the event, and Susan Rader, parks & recreation director; Jeff Sargent, community development director; Bernie Weber, public works director; Jeff Alger, community development specialist; Dan Boyum, city engineer; Ann Ackerson, Stantec; and Kirk McDonald, city manager, for their writing and speaking contributions; as well as other city staff that helped make arrangements and host.





Firefighters Provide Relief Effort to Louisiana - September

Matt Rowedder, utilities maintenance supervisor, recently spent almost three weeks in Louisiana providing relief work to an area devastated by Hurricane Ida. 22 firefighters, two of which were from West Metro Fire-Rescue, traveled to an area north of Grand Isle, one of the hardest hit communities. They were based out of tents set up at a local university. While there, they worked day-long to multiday shifts in 90°+ weather fighting fires, providing community clean-up and distributing supplies throughout the community. During one of the storms that moved in while they were there, it rained six inches in one hour. Matt said it was a

humbling experience and he's grateful to have had a chance to contribute to the massive relief effort that will be ongoing for a long time to come.

Torch Run for Special Olympics – Sept. 23

CSO Scott Anderson ran the segment of The Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics that came through the city of New Hope. This international program has raised over \$600 million to support Special Olympics. *Pictured: Crystal Sergeant Adam Harrer and CSO Scott Anderson*



Employee Golf Outing – Sept. 28

Parks and recreation staff Jill Smisek, Penny Spitzer, Aaron Thelen and Mark Severson arranged for the perfect evening for the employee golf tournament. After not being able to hold the event in 2020, the beautiful weather was definitely appreciated. 28 participated and following the golfing, attendees enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by Jill and Penny. Following the meal, prizes were awarded: Closest to Pin #1 - Jeff Sargent, Closest to Pin #3 - Tony Loser, Closest to Pin #5 - Jason Ryan, Closest to Pin #8 - Johnny Vang, Longest Putt #2 - Jason Ryan, Longest Putt #4 -

Linda Bergemann, Longest Putt #6 - Jessi Weber, Longest Putt #7 - Jeff Sargent, Longest Putt #9 - Jeff Alger. Lastly, three teams tied for Low Gross: Tony Loser, Jared Kuyper, and Jason Ryan; Jeff Alger, Jeff Sargent, Brandon Bell and Tom Evans; and Kay Myers, Jim Cox, Warren Bindewald and David Reynolds.

Habitat for Humanity

The Economic Development Authority (EDA) committed funds to a Habitat for Humanity rehabilitation project here in New Hope. Habitat for Humanity purchased the home at 8720 47th Avenue North in 2020 and started work on improvements to the property this last May. Six staff members (pictured left to right), Susan Rader, Carissa Hoyt, Tim Hoyt, Brandon Bell, Aaron Thelen, and Jeff Sargent volunteered for the build on Sep. 29. They helped install a roof vent for the bathroom fan, kitchen countertops, and interior vent caps; painted; and other various tasks. Staff also helped load up extra materials that were not needed at this site so that they could be used at an alternate site Habitat for Humanity was working on in North Minneapolis.

On Friday, Oct. 8, Jeff Alger, Kirk McDonald, Rich Johnson, Bernie Weber, Gina Karstens, Linda Bergemann and Tom Evans will be on-site to volunteer.



Food Bank Update

Susan Rader, parks and recreation director, shared the following totals for 2021 to-date: 452 pounds of food and \$640!



In Memoriam



Our sympathies to:



- John Elder, council member, for the passing of his father, Alfred, on July 16.
- Linda Bergemann, comm. dev. office spec., for the passing of her father-in-law, Scott, on Aug. 9.
- The family of Dan Ekstedt, police officer for the City of New Hope from 1967 until his retirement in 2003. Dan (*pictured to left*) passed away on Aug. 12.
- Vicki Thompson, city manager admin. specialist, for the passing of her father, Richard, on Aug. 15.
- Dan Boyum, city engineer, for the passing of his mother, LaVonne, on Aug. 16.
- Tom Mahan, animal control officer, for the passing of his father, Harold, on Aug. 22.
- The family of Lowell Campbell. Lowell (*pictured to right*) was the second officer on the City of New Hope's police force. Lowell passed on Sept. 16.



Wellness Program

Summer Picnic and Games in the Park – Aug. 25

Delayed by sweltering July heat, grilled brats and burgers prepared by Matt Rowedder and Mic Rusk were enjoyed by 22 employees on a beautiful summer day. Following lunch, games of Giant Jenga, Giant Connect Four and bag toss were played and door prizes were given out to participants. *Pictured: Maintenance Workers Dan Peacock, Kevin Zurn, Art Sorenson, Rick Nelson, Brad Johnson and Pat Cunningham*



Outdoor Activity Passes – August

Sixteen employees co-purchased New Hope Village Golf rounds, Minnesota State Parks permits or University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum tickets. This wellness program, intended to give employees additional opportunities to be active and outside with friends and family in a pandemic-safe way, was started last year and continued this year because of its success.

Vaccination Clinic – Sept. 28/29

Nineteen employees received their influenza and other vaccinations as part of this partnership with Hy-Vee.

Upcoming



Workouts for Every Ability – Nov. 10

Sergeant Chris Swaja and Officer Josh Arthur will present ideas for starting a workout routine and then give a tour of the fitness room at City Hall. Look for more information later in the month.



Home Safety – Dec. 8

Staff from West Metro will be presenting on home safety tips that will mirror what they would do if they were conducting one of their home safety inspections. Look for more information soon.

