

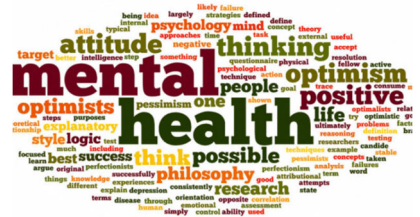
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The City of New Hope's Employee Newsletter



The city received three nominations for the Employee of the First Quarter 2022.

Congratulations to Britni Austin, investigator, on being selected Employee of the Quarter for January-March 2022. Britni has been a police officer with the city since 2012. Over the years she has received several commendations and letters of appreciation for her work. Her nominator recognized her initiative in leading the police department's mental health efforts. They stated that "Britni coordinates with our embedded social worker, the group home social worker and case workers to see that people get in contact with services that can reduce calls for emergency police services. Britni represents the NHPD on various collaborative projects within the West Metro and Hennepin County. She is also part of the county-wide discussion of response options to crisis calls." They went on to commend her for her passion and the benefit seen both internally within the department and externally in the community. Congratulations, Britni! The city commends you for this work that has continued to rise in importance for the community.



Tony Loser, police officer, for coming to work each day with a positive attitude and excitement for helping the community in whatever ways he can.

Pete Stanley, patrol sergeant, for demonstrating to the New Hope community that police personnel are approachable and willing to go above and beyond to help those in need.

Thank you, Sergeant Stanley and Officer Loser, for leading by example!

On April 6, **Tim Hoyt** was presented with the President's Award by the president of the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association "In appreciation for your steadfast leadership and raising awareness of the crime problem in your community and in Hennepin County." Congratulations, Chief!



April 13 – Wellness: Gardening Discussion
 April 27 – Wacky Wednesday – Jeans
 May 1 – Step to It Starts
 May 7 – Plant Sale at Golf Course
 May 10 – Wellness: Healthy Grilling
 May 19 – Employee Appreciation Picnic
 May 24 – Dorothy Mary Park Staff Clean-up Event
 May 25 – Wacky Wednesday – Jeans/Shorts
 May 30 – Memorial Day: City Offices Closed

New Employees

Melissa DeLeeuw, Police Clerk

Outside is the place to be for new police clerk, Melissa DeLeeuw, that started with the city on March 14. Originally from Aitkin, Melissa, husband Jeff and children Ellie and William live in Otsego with their fox-red lab, Ziva. The whole family enjoys camping and fishing, so they often go to the North Shore where in addition to the fishing and hunting, they enjoy agate hunting. Melissa and her siblings also gather their families, load into a 15-passenger van and car and take a yearly road trip. She has two older brothers, five nephews and nieces and is about to be a great aunt for the first time – so it's a big group by the time you add in spouses! One of her favorite places they have visited is Dauphin Island, Alabama. From there they were able to take a ferry to Pensacola, Florida as well as a quick two-hour drive to New Orleans.

Back home, Ziva accompanies Melissa and Jeff while hunting duck, pheasant and grouse. Melissa also hunts deer and bear. William, who is nine, shot his first deer this last year. Melissa's dad lives in St. Francis where he enjoys driving a school bus in his retirement. Her mom was a homemaker and recently passed away. Both of her brothers live in Mankato where one own/operates group homes with his wife and the other brother and his spouse work for them.

Melissa has many years of working with government in law enforcement and judicial branch positions. Most recently she was a courts operations associate with the Minnesota Judicial Branch in Anoka County. Jeff works as a project manager for Kalcon Construction. His work with Kalcon and building breweries has led to another of Melissa's past times, visiting breweries throughout the country. She and Jeff sometimes travel just the two of them and sometimes with Ellie and William or other groups. Some of her favorite breweries include Forgotten Star in Fridley, Castle Danger in Two Harbors, and Zaftig in Columbus, Ohio. This also allows Jeff to do research for upcoming projects!

When I asked what might surprise others about her, she said that she greatly enjoys visiting battlefields and other war history sites. Her grandfather took her to the location of the Battle of Pea Ridge in Arkansas when she was nine and she's been hooked ever since. Often the road trips she and her siblings take will include visits to these types of sites.

Welcome, Melissa, we're very glad to have you here!

Officers DeMars and Gray

Who really likes to travel to Florida on an annual basis?! Both of the City's new police officers! Welcome, Officers Sabrina DeMars and Jared Gray, who both started on March 28.

Sabrina DeMars, Police Officer

Sabrina and her significant other, Ben, live in White Bear Lake with their four children, along with their two poodles, Graham and Edison, and morkie, Lincoln. Originally from Oakdale, Sabrina's family are all still in the general area. Her parents now also live in White Bear Lake, her older sister in Hugo and younger sister in Bayport.

Sabrina and Ben met through mutual friends. Ben is a construction contractor in partnership with Sabrina's younger sister's husband. Her dad works maintenance at a steel mill and her mom was a stay-at-home mom and has transitioned happily to a stay-at-home grandma. This transition allowed her to watch all of Sabrina's children before they started school instead of going to daycare.

The entire family enjoys being outside and being active. Sabrina plays for WHAM (Women's Hockey Association of Minnesota) and has the opportunity to travel around the state and to Wisconsin and Iowa to play. Her boys, Bennett (15) and Orrin (6), both play football and the girls, Merrick (13) and Kinnley (10) both play softball. Ben enjoys working out and being a spectator at the many sports the family is involved with.

When they're enjoying downtime, she says you'll often find the kids enjoying video games and the whole family playing board games. Ben does most of the cooking for the family as enjoys researching new recipes and things to cook. One of their staple menu items are street tacos and the many sauces that can be created from scratch to top them – a recent



favorite was an avocado-based sauce.

Back to Florida. The entire family enjoys a yearly vacation to Florida, typically around the Clearwater area. And in case that's not enough time down south, Sabrina also annually travels with a friend to the Cape Canaveral area!

Jared Gray, Police Officer

Jared and his girlfriend, Melissa, live in Maple Grove with their German Shepard, Ryker, and Belgian Malinois, Royal. Jared's dad is a machinist, his mom a senior accountant for Hennepin County Sheriff's Office and his sister is a registered nurse that is returning to school in the fall to become a certified registered nurse anesthetist. Melissa is a Hennepin County Detention Deputy.

Jared is close with his family and enjoys spending time with them. Growing up he played hockey and spent time pheasant hunting. He also worked in the family meat shop that his grandfather owned in Mounds View along with many other members of his family. Now he enjoys working out and is looking to take jujitsu training back up.

When Jared and Melissa are staying in, they enjoy watching action and horror movies. On his to-do list, he wants to travel to Sweden and Finland. His maternal great-grandmother was an immigrant from Sweden. And his paternal grandfather is a genealogist that has collected a lot of the family history and memorabilia.

Back to Florida. For many years his family has taken near annual vacations to Florida to visit Disney World and Universal Studios. He really enjoys Epcot and exploring the representations of other countries and cultures. In line with his interest in horror flicks, the Halloween events at Universal Studios are one of his favorite haunts.

Jared said he views himself as easy-going and approachable, and looks forward to working here at New Hope.

Welcome, Sabrina and Jared! So glad that you've joined us here at New Hope!



Chief Hoyt Named Acting City Manager

Congratulations to **Tim Hoyt** for being named acting city manager effective June 2, 2022. Tim interviewed with Council at a special work session on March 7. Then at the March 28 council meeting, Council approved a resolution appointing him to succeed Kirk McDonald on a provisional basis until Dec. 1, 2022. During this time, Tim will retain the position of chief of police and should he or the Council decide that they do not want to move forward with a permanent appointment, Tim retains the right to return to the chief of police position. Tim will train with City Manager McDonald for the next several weeks and will be performing both jobs during his provisional appointment.

Recruitment Updates: CSO/Sergeant

CSO – **Kade Madden** will start on April 18!

Patrol Sergeant – The process is underway with applications due April 8. Staff anticipate a promotion being made by City

Manager McDonald before his retirement.

Departures

Anthony Larson, police officer, finished work with the city on March 3. Anthony had been with the city since March 2020, first as a CSO and then as a police officer starting in May of 2021. He and his family have relocated to the Moorhead area to be closer to extended family. We wish you the best of success, Anthony!

Jean Andersen, part-time police clerk, finished work with the city on March 26. Jean is expecting to become a grandmother in the coming days and wants her *extra* time (she still works full-time with Blaine PD) back to spend with her grandbaby. Congratulations, Jean!



Police Swearing In Ceremonies

The following individuals have been sworn in at recent city council meetings with their friends, families and peers in attendance. **City Clerk Valerie Leone** administered the oaths. *(photo credits; Beth Kramer, Communications Coordinator)*

February 28

Rajaneé Michael – Police Officer *(pictured right in oath photo)*

Corey Cracknell – Police Officer *(pictured left in oath photo)*



Congratulations to each of you!

March 28

Josh Arthur – Police Officer (*pictured left in oath photo*)

Josh Eernisse – Patrol Sergeant (*pictured center in oath photo*)

Dave Johnson – Police Captain (*pictured right in oath photo*)





Staff Kudos



Letter of Appreciation for Mutual Aid

On Feb. 16, a Golden Valley police officer was shot at and nearly struck. Many officers from surrounding agencies responded. Thanks to the combined efforts of those assisting, the suspect, who was connected to burglaries and other shots fired incidents, was captured and charged. Golden Valley Police Department sent a thank you to Chief Hoyt, the department and the New Hope officers directly involved: Miguel Robles and K-9 Drago, Dan Fitzmaurice and Ben Rouse. There are not words to express our appreciation for putting yourselves in harm's way to keep our community safe, but most sincerely, THANK YOU.

K-9 Officer Robles and K-9 Drago Take First Place Award

New Hope K-9 Officer Robles and partner Drago attended the annual United States Police Canine Association (USPCA Region 12) certification in Brainerd last weekend. More than 50 K-9 teams participated in the event hosted by the Brainerd and Baxter police departments.

In addition to individual certifications, Officer Robles and Drago teamed up with three other teams to form a Region 12 team to compete against other region teams.

The Region 12 team of Officer Robles and Drago from the New Hope Police Department, Officer Ellis and Rudy from the Austin Police Department, Deputy Carlson and Doc with the Winona County Sherriff's Office, Officer Cameron and Parker with the St. Cloud Police Department, and alternate Officer Jerdee and Luna from the St. Croix County (WI) Tribal Police Department were awarded the honor of first place region team!

Congratulations to all the handlers and their K-9s!



PERA's Virtual Benefit Fair

New or returning to public service? Mid-career or ready to retire? The virtual benefit fair video on this page provides members with high-level information on PERA. It also highlights key resources to help you find more details about the topics that apply to you.

<https://mnpera.org/education/virtual-benefit-fair/>



Seasonal Hiring Continues!

Parks and recreation and public works are still hiring for the summer. There are many positions available for students and adults alike. All active postings for the departments are now on www.newhopemn.gov/jobs.

And speaking of summer.....

Reminder: Staff Receive Reduced Parks & Recreation Rates

Staff can purchase half-price golf passes for \$7.50 (staff use only) and recreation programs or aquatic park passes (for staff or immediate family) at the resident rate. Penny and Jill at the parks and recreation counter can help you with all the above!



Happenings

Chili Cook-off – March 9

We had six chefs compete at this year's annual event: **Brandon Bell, Linda Bergemann, Brad Kallio, Beth Kramer, Kirk McDonald and Mark Severson**. The city hall breakroom was packed with those eager to taste the entries and cast their vote. The cook-off was made extra special by the attendance of the 2020 winner (event cancelled in 2021 due to COVID), Retired Officer **Nichole Korth**. Thank you to Shari Rains for organizing. And congratulations to Linda for cooking the winning entry and taking home the trophy!

DUCK! – March 25

Jeff Alger, community development specialist, caught a unique photo of a distinguished guest outside of his office.



Her mate was nearby, and they have been hanging out at city hall frequently over the last few weeks. Concerned quackers?



NEAR Update

Susan Rader, parks and recreation director, shared the following totals for 2022 to-date: 497 pounds of food and \$380! The food donated far exceeds the amount collected by last year at this time.

- ⇒ **Great Shingle Creek Watershed Clean-up,**
will be held Wednesday, May 4, at 5 p.m.
- ⇒ **Employee Appreciation Picnic,**
will be held Thursday, May. 19 at 11:30 a.m. and noon.
- ⇒ **Dorothy Mary Park Staff Clean-up,**
will be held Tuesday, May 24 at 4:45 p.m.



Employees participating in a clean-up can wear jeans on the day of.



In Memoriam

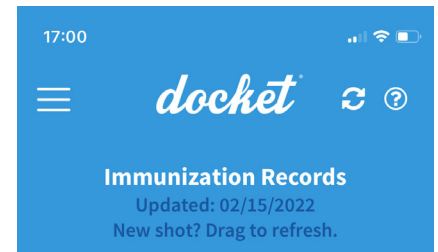


Our sympathies to:

- The family of longtime seasonal golf course employee and police department volunteer, Jean Levissee, who passed away on March 15.
- The family of former Communications Coordinator Keith Beise, who passed away on March 15.

Wellness Tip of the Issue:

Recently an employee needed assistance with providing proof of vaccination when Hy-Vee wasn't able to initially find the employee's record. One of the things I learned along the way is that there is an app titled "Docket" that syncs with the State of Minnesota's immunization records. Once downloaded, it was extremely easy to sync my records to the app on my phone.



Wellness Program

March 23 - Social Media Dos and Don'ts:

Fourteen employees enjoyed lunch and asked questions as Communications Coordinator Beth Kramer presented an overview of social media platforms. She also shared many things to look for when setting up and maintaining your account to help protect yourself, as well as your "friends" on social media.

April 13 – Gardening Discussion

Come participate in a discussion led by Eric Piper and Walker MacBeath as we share lessons learned over the years, and what you might want to start thinking about as you begin this year's outside adventures. Whether it be in your yard, in your garden or on your balcony, the options are many! Deadline to order food from Crisp and Green is today.

May 10 – Healthy Grilling

Hy-Vee Dietitian Alea Lester Fite will provide guidance on choosing healthy options for grilling in the great outdoors, while city staff grill for attendees. The menu will be smoky grilled potatoes; tomato, cucumber and avocado salad; angel food cake served with fresh fruit, as well as your choice of sirloin steak, chicken breast or vegan burger. More information will be sent out after the April 13 event.

Group Ticket Purchases

Twins Tickets – The purchasing period for these ended today.

Renaissance Festival Tickets – Look for information next month on purchasing these through the city.

State Fair Tickets – Staff investigated options for ordering and because there is no additional discount for ordering as a group, the city will not be purchasing as a group this year.

