



News & Views

November 30, 2016

The City of New Hope's Employee Newsletter

A Season of Giving

'Tis the season for giving to those less fortunate and here are some ways you can help.

- ✿ For the very first time, the Canadian Pacific Holiday Train will stop in New Hope! It will arrive on Saturday, December 10 at 2:20 p.m. on 49th near the Ice Arena. Attendees to this family-friendly event are encouraged to donate heart-healthy, non-perishable food items and/or cash to benefit the Food Group, which is based in New Hope.



- ✿ The annual city of New Hope holiday food drive will benefit those in need through NEAR (North Suburban Emergency Assistance Response). The drive continues through December 16. Bins can be found in City Hall and Public Works.



- ✿ The annual Police Department Toy Drive is in full swing! New, unwrapped toys can be dropped off in the New Hope Police Department until December 14.

- ✿ The Potluck & Teen Toy Drive will be held on Wednesday, December 7, at 11:30 in Parks & Rec Conference Room. The event collects new, unwrapped gifts suitable for teens, who are often forgotten. See Jeff Alger for details.



- ✿ Charitable Giving to organizations of your choice are always appreciated, especially at this time of the year.

Thank & Congrats!

City Earns Certificate of Achievement

Certificate

City of New Hope



Once again, the city of New Hope has earned the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. The award, based on the fiscal year ending

December 31, 2015, is awarded by the Government Finance Officers Association.

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

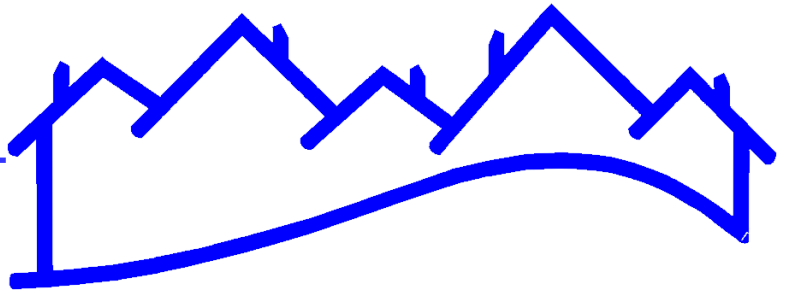
Many thanks to the Finance Department and to AEM for their diligence and excellence in keeping the city's financial records!

League of Minnesota Cities Honored

The League of Minnesota Cities has been named one of the Top 150 Workplaces in Minnesota by the Star Tribune. The Top Workplaces report is available online.

Top Workplaces recognizes the most progressive companies in Minnesota based on employee opinions, measuring engagement, organizational health, and satisfaction. The analysis included responses from more than 73,000 employees at Minnesota public, private, and non-profit organizations.

Congratulations, LMC!!



Absentee Voting Record Smashed!

This year, the city of New Hope processed a record number of absentee ballots, more than 3,000, which was almost a fourth of the registered voters in New Hope.

Special thanks go to **Valerie Leone and Walker Crawford** for their untiring attention to this very complicated system and the surprise number of people. They kept their cool through it all.

Thanks, also, to **Lizzie Miller**, who worked part-time for the last four weeks and was a very big help.

The process is quite time consuming and requires several steps for each ballot. The last few days saw lines to Parks & Rec but residents waited patiently to cast their ballots.

Of course, this was just part of Valerie and Walker's job duties, and day-to-day tasks had to be completed, too, in addition to seeing to all the details involved in voting.

Again, many thanks to Valerie and Walker for a huge job very well done!

Open Enrollment Completed

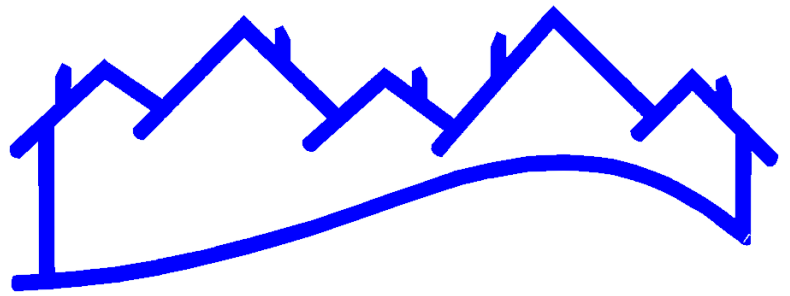
Thanks to all benefited New Hope employees for your completion of Open Enrollment for 2017. ✓

The city again used JDE through LOGIS for this process and it went smoothly, with only a few glitches.

Special thanks to the LOGIS staff, especially Nancy Hilary, for their assistance throughout the process.

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News & Events



Recruiting Update

- ❖ Six Police Officer candidates were certified by the Personnel Board on November 22. At this time, two of the candidates will be backgrounded.
- ❖ The city received 48 applications for the Office Specialist position in Community Development. The 45 qualified applications are currently being scored by staff. Interviews are planned for December 6 & 7, with the Personnel Board scheduled to meet on December 13.



Coming Up...

December 7	Potluck & Teen Toy Drive
December 8	Recognition Event
December 14	Toy Drive ends
December 16	Holiday Food Drive ends
December 23 & 26	City Holidays
January 2	New Year's Holiday
February 8	State of the City

Deferred Comp Presentation

Representatives from ICMA and MNDPC spoke to employees on November 14, detailing their respective plans and how saving even a small but regular contribution can add up nicely and be very beneficial at retirement.

Each presenter was also available for individual appointments that afternoon.

Anyone interested in adding a deferred comp contribution to their benefits or increasing their current contribution can do so at any time of the year. Just see HR.

Year-end Things to Remember

All Leave Plans:

- ❖ Floating holidays and any unused holiday hours must be used by December 30 or they will be lost.

Personal Leave:

- ❖ The annual maximum accrual is now 400 hours. Any hours over 400 should be used by December 30.
- ❖ You may cash out up to 24 hours over 200 hours if you wish. See Rich Johnson to do so.

Other items:

- ❖ December has three pay dates so the December 30 pay advice will not include deductions for benefits.
- ❖ The January 13 pay advice will be the first to include 2017 benefit deductions.

Development Update

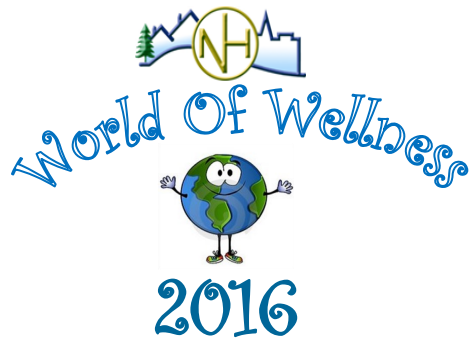


Alatus Project Approved

At their November 28 meeting, the EDA approved the Alatus proposal for the city-owned property next to the golf course.

Alatus will construct a 4-story, 183-unit luxury apartment building. The project will include high-end amenities, underground heated parking, and a joint entrance with the golf course.

The developer anticipates closing in February 2017 and completing construction by August 30 of 2018.



City of New Hope

Rule\$ of the Road for Inve\$ting

Twenty-two people attended the November 30 Financial Wellness event, a seminar that touched on understanding the opportunities available to everyone who is willing to save for the future. Financial Advisor Aaron Lindman talked about the various ways to save, the reason we save, and the cost that waiting can have on our future.

One of the most important things a person needs to consider when planning their savings is their risk tolerance. Generally, a younger person can withstand more risk while an older person might want to be more conservative. However, this is not a hard and fast rule—it is different for everyone. Another thing to keep in mind is the compounding factor. Each year of savings makes a considerable difference in the final result.

The event was coordinated by Sarah Hansen, Wellness Committee member, who did the footwork in finding a speaker and planning the seminar. Many thanks, Sarah!

This concludes the 2016 Wellness events. The Wellness Committee is now working diligently to plan the new program for 2017 and would appreciate hearing your suggestions.

Stay tuned for details.



It's beginning...



Signs of the season are popping up in city hall and public works.

Ho, Ho, Ho!!





Wellness Tip from Mayo Clinic

Deep Breathing

Hello !

When your mind begins to fret and worry, focusing on your breath can help bring you back to the present moment. Practicing deep breathing can be particularly calming.

Deep breathing is slower and deeper than shallow chest breathing and involves relaxing your belly so that your diaphragm, the muscle anchored to your lower rib cage, can push down farther and allow more air to flow into your lungs. If you're not used to deep breathing, it can seem a little awkward at first, but you'll soon get the hang of it.

Here's how to do it:

- **Inhale** — With your mouth closed and your shoulders and belly relaxed, inhale as slowly and deeply as you can. When you breathe in, your abdomen should expand.
- **Hold** — Keep the air in your lungs for a few seconds.
- **Exhale** — Slowly release the air through your mouth.
- **Repeat** — Do all the steps three to five times.

It may be helpful to place your hand over your belly. If it rises when you inhale and falls when you exhale, you're on the right track.

Wellness is a GOOD thing!

