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News & Views

May 8, 2023

The City of New Hope's Employee Newsletter

Employee of the Quarter

Congratulations to **Shawn Markham**, contract manager and city forester, for being selected as the employee of the quarter for first quarter 2023. Shawn was selected for his contributions in assisting visitors to City Hall. Often fielding questions they have about trees and weeds but he's more than willing to answer any questions they have or just generally point people in the right direction.

Shawn began with the city as a maintenance worker in March of 2000 and was promoted to his current position in 2005. Given his dual role, on any given day he might be out planting trees, as he was doing recently at Civic Center Park, writing a grant to help battle emerald ash borer or working with a contractor on a quote for carpet cleaning.

Shawn's nominator noted that he brings a calm demeanor and can deescalate situations when needed. Thank you for all of your work to keep the city under a healthy green canopy and operating efficiently, Shawn!

(photo credit: Communications Coordinator Beth Kramer)

Additional Nominees:

Rhonda Peske, police clerk, for jumping in recently and providing some information to Acting City Manager/Police Chief Hoyt on short notice. Given the shift she works, she is often the only clerk on duty and no matter the volume of work that comes at her, she manages to complete it all.

Lorilee Stafford, police clerk, for assisting with a special project to strengthen the connection retired members of the New Hope police force have to the current force. As you may remember, Lorilee was last quarter's EOQ, a testament to the fact that she's often willing to contribute her many skills to projects that go beyond the usual day-to-day operations.



Mark Your Calendar:

May 13 – Golf Course Plant Sale

May 23 – Appreciation Picnic

May 23 – Dorothy Mary Park Clean Up

May 24 – Wacky Wednesday – Jeans/Shorts

May 29 – Memorial Day- City Offices Closed

May 31 – Music in the Park: Capital Sons

June 3 – Aquatic Park opens for the weekend

June 7 – Music in the Park: Mitchell Hall & The Tennessee Trio

June 8 – Aquatic Park opens for the season

June 9 – Food Truck Fridays opens for the summer

June 10 – Young Mudder

June 15 – Movie in the Park: Top Gun Maverick

June 16-17 – City Wide Garage Sale

June 21 – Music in the Park: Wendy's Wiggle, Jiggle & Jam

June TBD – Wellness: Golf Putting

July 3-4 – Independence Day – City Offices Closed

Employee Spotlights

Scott Fendrich, Maintenance Worker

Welcome to Scott who comes to the city from Atomic Recycling where he worked as a hauler for 14 years. Scott is originally from Anoka where his parents, both now retired, still live. He and his wife Michelle have been together for 32 years and currently live in Big Lake with their canine companion, Oliver. Michelle works for the USDA as a HR benefits specialist, primarily working as a retirement counselor. Michelle was raised in New Hope and encouraged Scott to apply for the position here as she knew it was a good community to be a part of!

Scott and Michelle have two children Shane and Makenna. Shane works for B&B Industries as an apprentice welder building custom tow trucks and Makenna is a student at UW-Stout studying to be a physician assistant.

They enjoy being outside and spend a lot of time camping in their fifth wheel, often in Annandale or Platte Lake Township with family. When traveling, they'll often be out on their ATV, a 2-up Can-Am. One of Scott's favorite recent trips was to Yellowstone last spring before the floods hit. The trip also included time in the Black Hills. They have a fish house and spend time out on Lake Mille Lacs ice fishing when they can.

Both when around home and when traveling, they enjoy spending time with friends and family and trying new places to eat. Harding Bar and Grill up north is a favorite.

We're glad you're working with us here in New Hope, Scott!



Thomas Ford, Senior Social Worker

Joining the City as an employee of Hennepin County on April 17, Tom is the City's new embedded social worker. Prior to starting here, he worked as a housing manager with Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative and before that he was with Hennepin County as a youth program associate and then a juvenile correction officer. He earned his master's in human service/criminal justice from Liberty University and Bachelor of Arts in criminal justice/political science from Metro State.

Very glad to have you working in our community, Tom!



Officers Sworn In

Congratulations to Officers **Sabrina DeMars** and **Jared Gray** (pictured with City Clerk **Valerie Leone**) for being sworn in at the April 24 city council meeting. Both started with the city on March 28, 2022 and have done a fantastic job of representing the city with residents. *Photo credit: Communications Coordinator Beth Kramer*





Kudos



Received via Ready311/Report An Issue on March 2 from a resident: "I went to clean up after the plow pushed back snow. I didn't need to, very nice job thank you very much."



May is Arbor Month – On April 10, the City Council proclaimed May as Arbor Month in the City of New Hope. A thank you and kudos to the city forester and public works staff for their work in maintaining New Hope as a designated Tree City USA for the last 25 years and for their diligence in combating the emerald ash borer.

May is Building Safety Month – On April 10, the City Council proclaimed May as Building Safety Month in the City of New Hope. A thank you and kudos to the building code and inspections staff as well as fire prevention officials for ensuring the safety and desirability of New Hope properties through their work.



National Police Week – On April 24, the City Council proclaimed May 14-20 as National Police Week in the City of New Hope. A thank you and kudos to all of the police department staff for their vital role in maintaining the city as a safe and secure community.

National Public Works Week – On April 10, the City Council proclaimed May 21-27 as Public Works Week in the City of New Hope. A thank you and kudos to public works staff for maintaining the city's infrastructure to provide a safe and healthy environment for the community.



Recruitment Updates

Evidence Technician – Congratulations to **Melissa DeLeeuw** for being promoted to this position as of March 27! Melissa started as a police clerk in March of 2022. This is a new position for the City and she will be gradually transitioning into it as the City recruits to fill the police clerk vacancy created by her promotion. Two big projects for Melissa will be bringing new systems of efficiency to evidence storage and providing greater access for fingerprinting services to community members.

Police Clerk – The City has a preferred candidate from a process that wrapped up earlier this month. That candidate is currently undergoing backgrounding with a projected start date of late-May.

Police Officer – The most recent recruitment did not result in a hire, so the City has begun another process that went external this week.



Admin. Specialist-Community Development – Congratulations to **Linda Bergemann** for being promoted to this position as of April 24! Linda started as community development's office specialist in June of 2020. The admin. specialist position was vacant due to Jessi Weber's resignation earlier in April, and Linda was promoted following a recruitment process that stayed internal. Linda was able to spend time with Jessi before her department getting an overview of these tasks Linda had not previously done and she will handling both roles for now.

Office Specialist-Community Development – The City started a process last month that has now gone external. If the current timeline is followed, a new specialist should be working with the city by late-June.

City Manager – The Council finished interviews last week and the City is excited to welcome **Reece Bertholf** as the new city manager. His first day will be June 12! More on Reece in the next issue.

Seasonal Hiring Continues!

Parks & recreation and public works departments still have positions available. All active postings are available at www.newhopemn.gov/jobs.



Parks and Recreation Discounts

Did you know that regularly scheduled full-time and part-time employees can:

- Reserve a picnic pavilion at no charge. Pavilions are located at Civic Center, Hidden Valley and Northwood parks and are available from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. between May 1 and Sept. 30. If you're looking for a place to hold a birthday party or family event, we may have the space for you!
- Purchase half-price golf passes for \$8 (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!



Celebration!

You might have noticed that Jenn Storkamp, Solution Builders technician, has not been around for the last couple of months. Congratulations to her and her family, on the birth of Owen on March 4!



In Memoriam



Our sympathies to:

- Cole Anderson and his family for the passing of his mother, Julie, on April 3.

Wellness

Biometric Screening – March 28-30

Fifty-eight employees participated in a 15-minute screening process that earned them a buy one, get one breakfast coupon, a gift card to Hy-Vee or Fleet Farm and important health metrics.

Minnesota Grown: CSAs and other healthy food sources – April 12

Rachel Wandrei, marketing manager for Minnesota Grown, presented to 16 employees on sourcing healthy food grown locally. She shared the following resources that are a great starting point for grocery store alternatives.

- MinnesotaGrown.com
- Grownby.app: Farmer-owned app/site where farms sell individual products.
- MarketWagon.com: Aggregator with delivery on Tuesdays in seven-county metro.
- Farm Direct Minnesota: Facebook Group



Step to It Launch – May 1

Aaron Thelen, recreation supervisor and New Hope's coordinator for Hennepin County 2023 Step to It program, led 13 employees in learning about the many benefits for participating in this program and then a quick stroll around City Center Park. It's not too late to sign up for the program that runs through May 28 and can earn you several cool prizes!

