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News & Views

October 24, 2018

The City of New Hope's Employee Newsletter

Police Station & City Hall Construction Update

On the city hall side, the following work has been done since the last issue: completion of underground utilities on the north side, progress on the interior buildout, installation of aluminum window frames, roofing, framing and topping out walls. In-wall electrical and plumbing is underway, along with HVAC ductwork and fire sprinkler piping.

On the police station side of the building: blocking at the parapet, exterior framing at the penthouse, forming of grade beams and placed at the sally port, installation of weather barrier, roofing and installation of windows. Stone and brick work continues.



Open Enrollment

Selection for 2019 benefits will begin on Thursday, Nov. 1. There are no plan design changes and very little change in coverage. All rates are staying the same except for medical. The total increase for medical was 6.4%, but the Council has agreed to cover a portion larger than the historic 50/50 split with employees to bring the city contribution more in line with comparable cities. In 2019, employees' portion of the increase will only be approximately 0.65% and the city will cover the remaining 5.75%. Thank you City Council!

HSA limits have increased to \$3,500 for individuals and \$7,000 for families, plus \$1,000 for employees 55 years of age and older.

Flexible spending account (FSA) limit has increased to \$2,700.

Reminders:

- You can add PERA Life during Open Enrollment without evidence of insurability.
- If you currently have between \$10,000 and \$90,000 in voluntary life coverage through Mutual of Omaha, you can increase the amount by \$10,000 without evidence of insurability during open enrollment.

Once again, we will be using Benefit Hub (<https://connect2newhope.benefithub.com>) to host Open Enrollment. Please go there and click on the Open Enrollment link for full instructions and all related documents. You will need a password for ESS/JD Edwards. If you don't use ESS for timekeeping, don't remember your password or how to access it, please contact Shari Rains.

Lastly, and most importantly, **enrollment is each employee's responsibility**. There will be reminders sent out periodically, but any employees that chooses not to participate by the hard cutoff of **Friday, Nov. 16, at 4:30 p.m.** will be re-enrolled in the same plans as the current year and any **HSA/Flex contributions will not continue into 2019.**

Mark Your Calendar

Oct. 26—Mayor's Prayer Breakfast

Nov. 1—Open Enrollment Starts

Nov. 3—Saturday Absentee Voting at City Hall

Nov. 6—Election Day

Nov. 12—Veterans Day Observed—City Offices Closed

Nov. 22-23—Thanksgiving Holiday—City Offices Closed

Nov. 30—Teen Toy Drive and Potluck

Dec. 6—Employee Recognition Event

Dec. 24-25—Christmas Holiday—City Offices Closed

Employee of the Quarter

Chris Cazin, Police Officer

For those of you that have met Chris, you are familiar with his quiet and unassuming nature. He is well composed and confident as he interacts with residents and colleagues alike. True to that nature, in a recent call, Chris had to make a split-second decision in a situation that put himself at risk and he did so to save the life of another person.

Chris joined the city in April of 2015. Since that time he has received a Sergeant's Letter of Recognition and he has served as Acting Sergeant during the absence of his team's sergeant. Thank you, Chris. You embody the spirit of your profession and we are proud to have you here at the city of New Hope.



Employee of the Quarter Nominations

We had a total of six nominations this quarter. It is absolutely fantastic that so many are taking the time to recognize coworkers for a job exceptionally well done. Congratulations to each of you!

Bill Broman, public works maintenance worker, for making his knowledge of watermain lines here in the city available to his coworkers at inopportune times to save them hours of work. **Beth Kramer**, for her never-ceasing professionalism during the onslaught of election season voting and extra responsibilities while still learning her primary job responsibilities. **Dan Peacock**, public works maintenance worker, for the responsibility he's taken upon himself for the operation, care and knowledge of the jetter. **Eric Piper**, for cross-program partnership and being on the lookout for potential scattered site properties while performing his routine duties. **Pete Stanley**, police sergeant, for taking ownership of the MRAP vehicle project to make sure it best meets the needs of the department and the community.

Citizen Recognition of Employees

City Manager Kirk McDonald received a call earlier this month from a new resident that has been working with the community development team as she is purchasing a new home. She sung the accolades of both **Ben Frank**, community development office specialist, and **Eric Piper**, housing code enforcement inspector. The resident complimented both of them for the ease in working with them and their helpfulness in explaining the process. You may note, Ben was EOQ for 2nd quarter 2018 and Eric was a EOQ nominee for 3rd quarter 2018. Thank you for portraying the city in such a positive light gentlemen!

Employee Recognition Event

Mark your calendars!

Thursday, December 6, 2018

New Hope Cinema Grill

4:45—7:45 p.m.

Guests are invited for a fee of \$13

Our hosts for the evening, Public Works, will be sharing more information and requesting RSVPs as the date gets closer.





World Of Wellness 2018

Oct. 30—Healthy Soup and Comfort Food Workshop

As we move into the cool weather seasons, join your colleagues and Hy-Vee Dietician Caity Nienow in learning some techniques for preparing healthier versions of your favorite comfort foods. Participants will be preparing and enjoying Healthy Mac & Cheese, Vegetarian Chili and a salad with apples, pecans and cranberries.

The event will be held at Hy-Vee in their Simple Fix Room. Wednesday, Oct. 24 is the last day to sign up. Please submit your \$10 to Walker/Brandon and enter your name in the spreadsheet at I:\Wellness.

November—Declutter and Get Organized!

There will be more information coming soon regarding the last event of the year. This will be the start of a series of events aimed at decluttering our spaces throughout the city. Staff at City Hall will have the specific goal of preparing for the move to the new police station and City Hall next summer, but all employees will be given an opportunity to apply techniques and participate in their respective spaces.

Annual Employee Golf Tournament—All washed up!

Parks and Recreation staff Aaron Thelen, Jill Smisek and Penny Spitzer once again organized a fantastic evening of collegial fun. There were representatives from across the city with 26 golfers and three helpers. The weather did not cooperate fully and our golfers were a bit drenched before the night's end. However, that didn't stop the participants from golfing and enjoying a delicious meal prepared by Jill Smisek and Co. Everyone also walked away with a fabulous door prize, including items donated by Kirk McDonald, Mayor Hemken and Jill Smisek. Thank you to Ben Frank and Beth Kramer for navigating the beverage cart and to Mark Severson and golf course staff for hosting the group.

Congratulations to the following winners: Closest to Pin #5: Jeff Alger; Closest to Pin #8: Kathi Hemken; Longest Putt #4: Kirk McDonald; Longest Putt #6: Warren Bindewald; Longest Putt #7: Steve Reed; Longest Putt #9: Megan Albert.



Photo to Left: (LtoR) Kathi Hemken, Kirk McDonald, Susan Rader, Valerie Leone

Photo Above: (LtoR): Shawn Markham, Dave Lemke, Pat Cunningham, Bruce Stanchfield

Happenings—Past & Upcoming

New Hope October Fest—East to West

On Saturday, October 13, New Hope hosted its first October Fest in the City Center. The event was coordinated by the Community Development team along with The Musicant Group, SHIP, Hennepin County, Life Time, Hy-Vee and Thrivent Financial. Aaron Chirpich, community development specialist, spoke with CCX media during an interview and explained the goal of bringing together people and businesses to make spaces places both want to be. During the three-hour period individuals enjoyed live music, lawn games, pumpkin carving, sign making, s'mores making, farmers market vendors and other activities. While a bit blustery of a morning, the sun shone and visitors had fun! The family in the photo are making signs that now reside on the sign post in front of city hall.



Citizens Police Academy 2018

After more than six weeks of training, the below group recently graduated from the Citizens Police Academy. The academy, designed with the average citizen in mind, gives a behind-the-scenes look at patrol tactics, investigations, narcotics, crime scene processing, juvenile crime, dispatching, court procedures, use of force, canine demonstrations and crime prevention strategies. Congratulations to each citizen that completed the training and to Sergeant Doug Brunner who planned and coordinated the academy. *Photo courtesy of Laura Kay Prosser, Crystal-Robbinsdale Sun Post Editor*



Food Pantry Donations & Holiday Drives

To date in 2018, employees have donated \$890 for Wacky Wednesday participation and collected almost 600 lbs of food for donation to NEAR. The annual Thanksgiving food drive has started and will continue through to Nov. 18. The holiday food drive will commence Nov. 21 and last through Dec. 13. Cash for the food drives is also accepted.



Teen Toy Drive and Potluck

All city employees are invited to the annual Potluck & Teen Toy Drive, which is scheduled for Friday, Nov. 30 at noon in the Parks and Recreation conference room. Please bring a dish to share along with an unwrapped gift, gift card or cash that will be distributed locally to an underprivileged family with teenagers. Sign-up information will be distributed in early November. Contact Jeff Alger for more information.