



# News & Views

August 25, 2017

The City of New Hope's Employee Newsletter

## Introducing the All New connect2

For several years **connect2mybenefits** has been our one-stop 24/7 location for benefit details, city policies, forms, and other important city information. The site has also been the starting point for open enrollment. Now, it is time for an upgrade.

Starting August 31, 2017, the site will look different and will include even more information. Log in with your city email address (or personal email address for those without city email). **The previous connect2 login will no longer work.**

Some of the new features include:

- ◆ Easy-to-understand graphics for each category
- ◆ More details on benefits such as 'what is a life event'
- ◆ A simple and easy-to-use front page
- ◆ Easier navigation to find what you need
- ◆ A very detailed glossary
- ◆ Calculators to estimate your insurance costs

Still available:

- ◆ Benefit details
- ◆ Forms
- ◆ News & Views
- ◆ Other wellness newsletters
- ◆ City policies

You are encouraged to log in and take a look at the site to learn what is available to you. Everyone will need a login for open enrollment this fall.

See page 2 for login details.

### BENEFITS



### FORMS



### CITY RESOURCES



### BENEFIT PLANS



### FEDERAL PROGRAMS



### LIFE EVENTS



### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



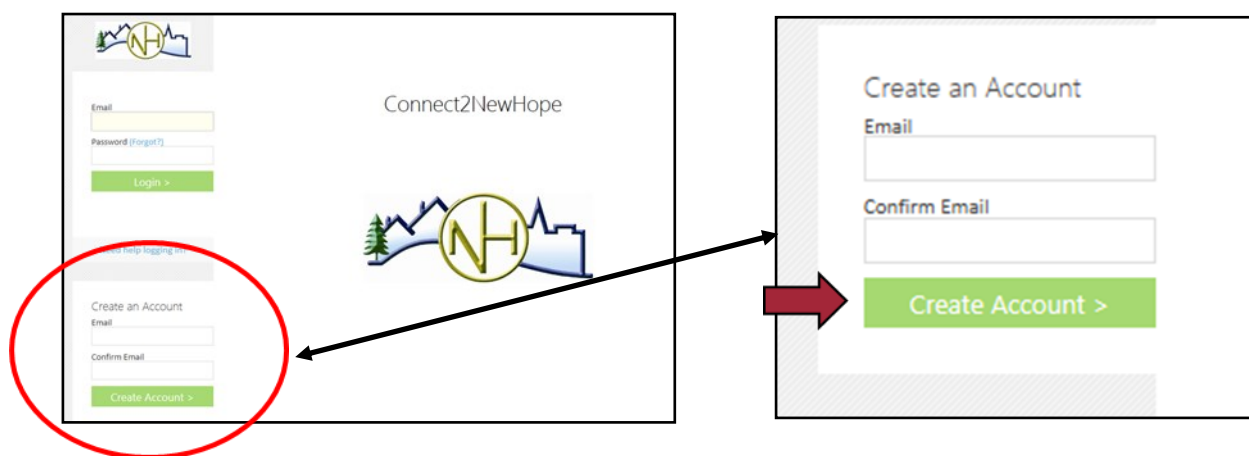


## Employee Access Instructions

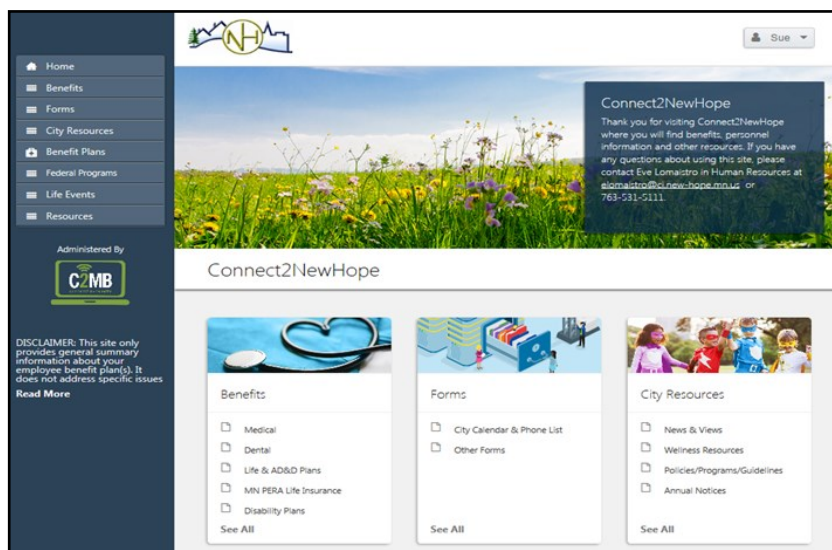
1. Launch your internet browser and enter the URL.

URL: [www.connect2newhope.benefithub.com](http://www.connect2newhope.benefithub.com)

2. Register by creating an account using your email address.



3. View resources about your benefits and city information.



## Staff Stuff

### Staff Changes

- ❖ **Aaron Thelen** started on August 21 as the full-time Recreation Supervisor. See his Spotlight on page 5.
- ❖ **Jan Sloan**, Administrative Specialist in Public Works, has resigned to take a job with Wells Fargo. Her last day is August 25.
- ❖ An internal recruitment is being held to fill the Administrative Specialist position in Public Works and to return to an Administrative Specialist position in Community Development, which is included in the 2017 budget.

### Did You Know?

Over a 10-year period (2005-2015), New Hope's population has increased by 2.3%.

Source, Northwest Hennepin Human Services Council

These fun facts about New Hope are compiled by the New Hope Human Rights Commission and posted on the city website.



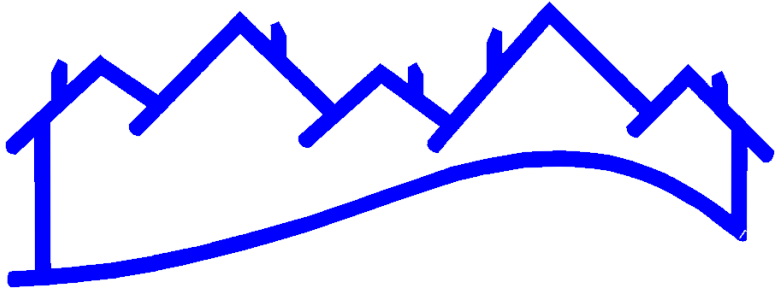
### It's Diaper Time Again

The playpen is waiting in the city hall lobby for any and all donations of diapers.

The city council has proclaimed the week of September 25 through October 1 as Diaper Need Awareness Week in the city of New Hope.

However, donations of diapers are gratefully accepted now and through next month.

Donation receipts are available (hanging on the playpen).



## Hot Topics

### Possible New Police Station and City Hall:

- ❖ Representatives from WOLD, the architectural firm working on the project, have been meeting with each department to fine tune their needs.
- ❖ Surveys are being collected from city residents.
- ❖ The project is on schedule to bring each part to the city council with the final approval being requested at the December 11 meeting.
- ❖ If approved, demolition of the pool will begin in January or February.

### Talkin' Trash:

- ❖ A listening session regarding organized trash collection was held on August 7 with an overflow crowd in attendance.
- ❖ Surveys are being collected from city residents.
- ❖ City council will continue the discussion at the September work session.

### New City Website:

- ❖ The website committee has been meeting to develop a brand new website for the city. The site is scheduled to be completed later this year.

### 2018 Budget:

- ❖ The city manager and AEM have reviewed the proposed 2018 budget thoroughly and will present it to council on September 11 to establish a public hearing and on December 11 for adoption.

### Alatus Apartments Project

- ❖ Alatus Apartments, being constructed next to the city golf course, are progressing according to plan. Driving of pilings has started; footings and foundations will follow. Both segments are expected to take about two months to complete.

## Coming Up...

- Every Saturday Farmers Market thru October 7
- September 4 Labor Day Holiday
- September 12 & 13 Onsite Flu Shot Clinic
- September 19 Council & Commissioner Bus Tour
- September 27 Wellness Healthy Potluck & Medicare speaker
- October 14 City Day
- October 27 Prayer Breakfast



## Thanks...

### National Night Out/Night to Unite

Officers and city personnel participated in National Night Out/Night to Unite on Tuesday, August 1.

There were 89 registered parties in New Hope, which is a testament to how robust our crime prevention unit is functioning. Led by **Officer Nicole Korth**, she and her many volunteers worked very hard to make the night a success.

Thanks, Nickie!! And congratulations on another very great event in New Hope!

Photos on page 6.

### Food Donations Continue Strong

In 2017, the city has donated \$632 and 203 pounds of food to NEAR, the local food shelf.

Wacky Wednesdays have been a major contributor to the cash donations by allowing non-uniform staff to wear jeans or shorts that day in return for a \$5 donation. A Wacky Wednesday is scheduled each month.

Thanks to all who participate!

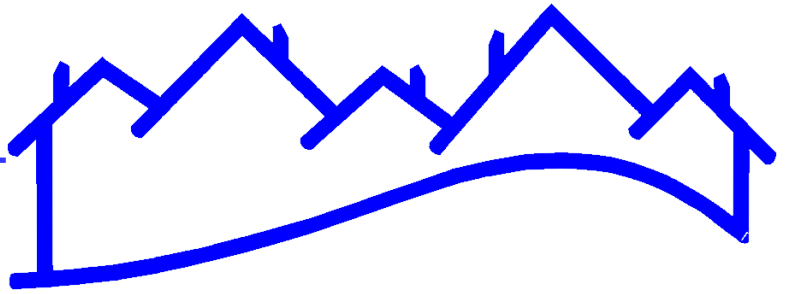
### Mayor Hemken Sends Thanks

Mayor **Kathi Hemken** sent a handwritten thank you note for all who donated children's books for her Farmers Market 'books for kids' effort.

Her note says, "Thank you so much for the books you donated for my Farmer's Market 'books for kids' every Saturday. I give away between 700 and 800 kids books a season. You guys are great!"

She loves encouraging kids to read and is always glad to see them return for more. She also likes to pick books she thinks a particular kid would like and to see their face light up when she hands them the book.

If you have some gently used children's books, feel free to leave them at the city hall information window for the mayor. She is grateful for all the books she receives.



### Thanks to Safety Camp Leaders and Volunteers

The very successful Safety Camp was coordinated by :

Parks & Rec **Melissa Guse**

West Metro **Shelby Wolf**

Police Department **Nichole Korth**

They were assisted by team leaders:

Police Officers **Nadine Jacobs, Britni Austin**

Retired New Hope Police Officer **Pat Beaumaster**

West Metro **Andy Nichols, Eric Grimes, Jacob Wheeler**

Parks & Rec **Laurie Dube, Becky Scheiller, Elizabeth Rohe**

Volunteers included:

Police Reserves **Nick Reed, Joe Rasmussen, Tyree Plude**

P&R Volunteers **Olivia Guse, Ethan Guse**

Police Volunteers **Karen Loveland, Jake Korth, Josh Boyd**

Police Explorers **Gerald Ittner, Jack Olson, Will Krey and Ben Opem**

Police Officer **Kaitlyn Baker**

Police Crime Analyst **Kate Croteau**

Thanks to all for your time, efforts, and flexibility with the erratic weather! Photos on page 9.

### New Hope Police Department Receives Thanks

The New Hope Police Department received a letter from Minnesota Attorney General Lori Swanson thanking our department for its involvement apprehending a suspect wanted in a \$7M racketeering scheme.

Well done, PD!!

### Remember the Holiday Train?

The Canadian Pacific Holiday Train will be returning to New Hope in 2017. The date and time of the stop will be determined when the schedule is formalized in October.

Last year's stop was attended by more than 1,000 people and raised approximately 2,700 pounds of food and \$6,000 for The Food Group.

This is another feather in the New Hope cap as the Holiday Train does not automatically stop at the same cities each year.

Thanks to **Jeff Alger** for all the efforts he put into the arrival of the train last year and his follow-up getting it to stop in New Hope again in 2018. This year the stop will be after dark when the lights on the Holiday Train will be especially noticeable.

Good job, Jeff!





## Spotlight On...



**Aaron Thelen** started at New Hope as the full-time Recreation Supervisor on August 21, 2017. Aaron has a bachelor's degree in Physical Education and Health Education and a minor in Coaching. He comes to New Hope after six years of various experience in the recreation field, most recently in Arden Hills as the Recreation Programmer. In that position, he planned, supervised, and coordinated all of the city's recreation programs, classes, special events, youth sports leagues, warming houses, and other recreation activities.

Aaron is most certainly in the right field. He loves the outdoors. And, he loves sports. He met his wife-to-be in college where both of them played soccer. Now, Aaron and Amy have been married for seven years and they still love to play soccer. They play in a soccer league every fall.

Amy is a talented freelance Graphic Designer who works from her home art studio. She moved from Iowa to Minnesota in 2007. She comes from a large family, the third of seven siblings, and they are all very close. Aaron is the oldest of three boys and grew up in Brainerd, Minnesota. His parents live on a lake so they spend a lot of time on the water fishing, wakeboarding, and boating. Being with family is important to Aaron and Amy and they visit as often as they can.

Aaron and Amy also love to travel. Most recently they went to visit some family in Seattle. While they were there they were able to explore the hustle and bustle of downtown Seattle's Space Needle, Chihuly Glass exhibit, and Pike's Place Market. They were also able to hike different mountain landscapes and the Pacific Northwest shore.

If Aaron has a favorite place to visit, it would be Glacier National Park in Montana. He especially likes hiking there and once went on a Sunrise Hike with Amy and a few friends. They started the hike at 3:00 a.m. in complete darkness and reached the ridge of the mountain just in time to see the breathtaking sunrise.



Aaron and Amy enjoy cooking together and working in their yard and garden. They both grew up in the Midwest and make the most of being outdoors in the Summer and as much as they can in the Winter by playing broomball and hockey. Their favorite things are to host friends and family, build community, plan games and activities, and enjoy backyard bonfires.

To sum it all up, Aaron is an outdoor guy. He loves participating in sports like soccer, biking, kayaking, volleyball, etc., and he loves being what he calls a Minnesota Fan, meaning he loves the Vikings, Wild, Twins, and Timberwolves.

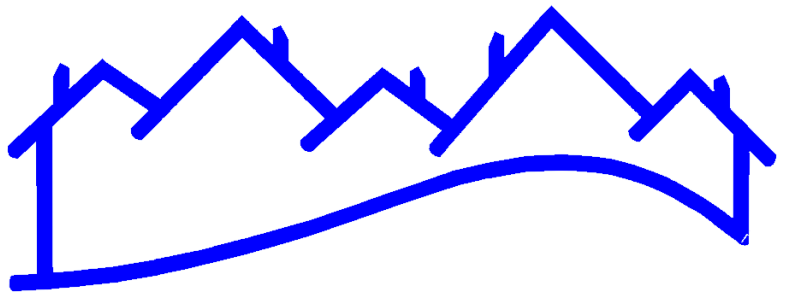
Yes, Aaron, you have certainly chosen the right career and we are glad you are bringing your love of the outdoors and sports to New Hope!!

Welcome aboard, Aaron!

The Roving Reporter







# 6

## National Night Out



Mayor Kathi Hemken, City Manager Kirk McDonald, Director of Police Tim Fournier, Animal Control Officer Tom Mahan and other staff visited a number of neighborhood parties.



Photos thanks to Jerry Beck.





## 7 Thanks, Andy & Gideon!

K-9 Gideon officially retired after his final shift on Friday, August 3 at 0700. Gideon was K9 Officer Andy Lamers third and final dog after 22 years as a K9 Officer.

Several K9 officers from throughout the metro and Mayor Hemken stopped by to pay their respects to the team.

Officer Lamers was not only a dedicated K9 officer, he was also actively involved in K9 training and events throughout the region. Andy will continue being a police officer but will be passing the K9 torch to Erick Dyer.

Gideon gobbled up a cup of ice cream and gets another treat - he has chosen Andy to be his master now that his exceptional career is done. Andy has agreed and will live with him. But now that he is retired, Gideon will probably not be allowed to drive any more!





## Cop on a Rooftop

New Hope Police Department along with Special Olympics staff members and athletes participated in the Cop on a Rooftop at the New Hope Dunkin Donuts on Friday, August 11. They were there to help raise funds for the Special Olympics. Everyone who donated received a coupon for a free Dunkin medium size coffee.

The Cops raised \$743 for the Law Enforcement Torch Run which will benefit Special Olympics Minnesota.



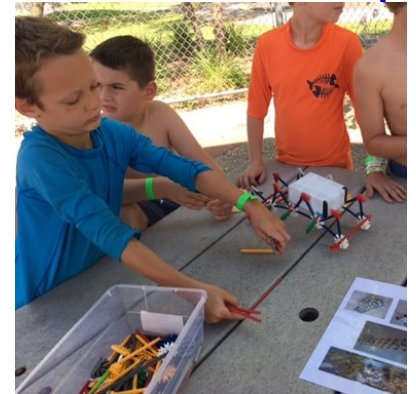
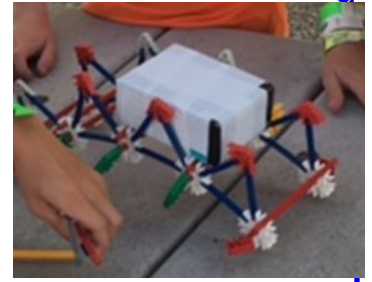
Special Olympics  
Fall Games in  
Minnesota were held  
August 18 - 20.

- ❖ Thanks to PD staff who participated,
- ❖ to all who donated,
- ❖ to Public Works for supplying ladders, and
- ❖ to Dunkin Donuts for providing the idea, location and coffee coupons!





# 9 Safety Camp photos



68 happy campers enjoyed three days of safety learning and fun August 15, 16, & 17. Campers were youth entering grades 3-5 attending 18 safety sessions. Top left, it was a treat to meet Miss Teen USA Minnesota. Some of the sessions were construction safety, 911, water safety, internet safety, animal safety, CPR, train safety, and personal safety.

Above:  
Thanks to  
coordinator  
Police  
Officer  
Nichole  
Korth and  
photogra-  
pher Jerry  
Beck.



Thanks to coordinator Melissa Guse (not pictured) and all the volunteers who were group leaders and helpers in many capacities.





# Summer Picnic and Play in the Park

10

2017



It was a beautiful, sunny, 72°, perfect summer day for the Wellness-sponsored Summer Picnic & Play held on August 23 at Northwood Park. Participants enjoyed social time, yummy food, and lawn games. Several door prizes were given away, too!

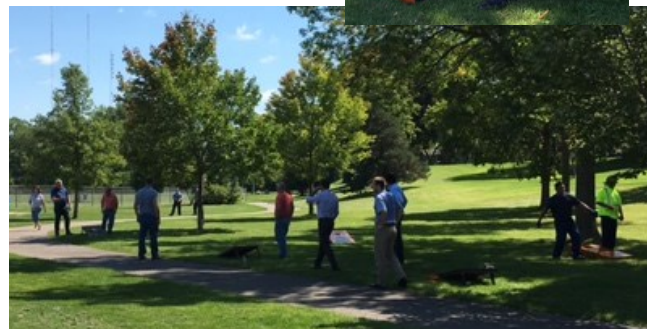


Food + Lawn Games = FUN

Special thanks go to **Dave Lemke** and **Jim Muellner**, Wellness Committee members who represent Public Works, who took charge of all the food-buying it, preparing it, and getting it to the event along with the giant grill from Public Works; and to **Rich Johnson** who did the grilling.



"Let's do this again!"



Games such as bean bag toss and horseshoes provided friendly competition and a lot of fun.



More photos on next page.





11

2017



The menu included eight flavors of brats from Hy-Vee, buns, all the trimmings, sauerkraut, potato salad, chips, delicious seedless watermelon, and bottled water. Perfect picnic food!



**Next event:**

- ❖ **Medicare Speaker and Healthy Potluck**
- ❖ **Wednesday, September 27, 11:30 a.m.**
- ❖ **Parks & Rec Conference Room**

**Medicare Speaker**

Do you have a family member or friend trying to maneuver the Medicare journey? Or, are you getting close to it? Hear from a Medicare expert what you can do to prepare for retirement.

Leif Peterson is a member of the Gallagher team, and well known for his expertise on Medicare.

See you Wednesday, September 27, at 11:30 for this new and interesting event!

**Healthy Potluck**

- ❖ Bring your favorite healthy dish to share
- ❖ Taste others' healthy recipes
- ❖ Appetizer, main course, or dessert
- ❖ Coordinated by Aaron Chirpich and Mike TenEyck