

News & Views

June 30, 2017

The City of New Hope's Employee Newsletter



First Ever Healthy Living Fair is a BIG Hit!



More than 500 people attended the **First Ever Healthy Living Fair** held on Saturday, June 24, at West Metro. North Memorial, Hy-Vee, and West Metro were partners with the city for the event.

Twenty-two organizations, mostly related to health and wellness, participated as exhibitors. Each booth had something to offer visitors such as a free screening, candy, snacks, giveaways, and/or helpful information. Nine door prizes were donated for the event, making nine people especially happy. And, everything was free (admission, giveaways, and screenings).

The Healthy You Hy-Vee Wellness Bus drew a lot of attention and Starbucks partnered with them, providing samples of their new healthy snacks. Hy-Vee provided bottles of water and a chalk hopscotch message on the driveway called "Produce Hop" with various pictures of fruits and veggies in each box.



Nichole Korth brought the New Hope Crime Prevention van, pedal karts with goggles to simulate being intoxicated, and lots of crime prevention information. Crime Prevention also provided a bag full of New Hope goodies as a door prize.

The North Memorial Ambulance was a hit with a lot of visitors looking at the many items that it carries. The paramedic noted that there are some free services an ambulance provides, in addition to transporting people to a hospital.

The fair coincided with the Farmer's Market, and most of the Fair exhibitors mentioned that it was a plus to have both occurring at the same time. Both events brought a lot of families which was seen as an advantage by the exhibitors.

The weather could not have been any better for an outdoor summer event - cool and sunny. Now, if we could just guarantee those temperatures for next year, we would certainly schedule the fair for the same part of June!!

Additional photos and secrets of success on page 7.



Recruiting Update

Since the last News & Views was published, there have been several staff changes.

Dave Lemke was named Operations Manager at Public Works. Dave came to the city in July 2014 as the Utilities Maintenance Supervisor after 16 years with Golden Valley in various Public Works positions. Dave filled the position vacated when Bernie Weber became the Director of Public Works.

Jim Muellner was named the Utilities Maintenance Supervisor effective June 26. Jim has been with the city since July 2008 as a Maintenance Worker and over the years has worked in all areas of Public Works. One of his recent accomplishments is leading the morning stretching exercises, suggested by Safe Assure as a way to help prevent injuries. Congratulations, Jim!

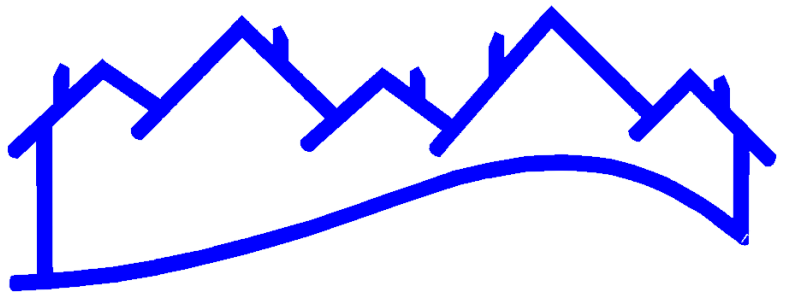
Quentin "Mic" Rusk started with the city as a Maintenance Worker on June 19. He brings with him many years of streets and other maintenance experience. See his Spotlight on page 6. Quentin fill the position once held by Andrew Kramer who is now the Streets and Parks Supervisor.

Now that Jim Muellner is a supervisor, the city has another opening for a Maintenance Worker. At this time, a person on the certified list has been given a conditional offer to fill that position.

In other recruiting news, **Adam Link** has been hired as a full-time Community Service Officer and will start on July 10 and **Kaitlyn Croteau** starts as the new Crime Analyst/Prevention Specialist on July 24.

Due to the resignation of Sarah Hansen, the city is now recruiting for a Recreation Supervisor. Forty-five applications were received and staff is currently scoring them. Staff interviews are scheduled for the week of July 10 and the Personnel Board for July 17.

Justin Reuter, police officer, has resigned, effective July 5. Justin started with New Hope on April 22, 2013 and has accepted a police officer position with the city of Maple Grove.



So Long, John

John Blasiak, Streets and Parks Supervisor, is retiring from the city on July 5th. John started with the city on June 16, 1990, as a Maintenance Worker and became supervisor on October 11, 1999.

John has declined having a party so if you see him in the next couple days, be sure to say so long.

John has been practicing retirement for the last 7 + weeks and has a sun tan to prove it. Looks like he will not have any problem adjusting to retirement!

Even though John did not want a party, a nice luncheon was held in his honor at Public Works anyway, complete with a cake. He was presented with a plaque thanking him for his 27 years with the city and a very nice gift card.

John's last day with the city is July 5.



John's "I don't want a party" surprise gathering at Public Works on June 29th. Note Gary Miller and Guy Johnson, both retired from Public Works after many years of service and both look like retirement is agreeing with them!

It will probably agree with John, too, since he has been practicing retirement for the last several weeks!

And the Award Goes To...

The city of New Hope was presented the 2017 League of Minnesota Cities Sustainable City Award at the LMC Annual Conference in Rochester on June 15. The city received the award for the Northwood Lake stormwater improvement project that was completed in 2016.

Mayor Hemken and **Jeff Alger**, Community Development Assistant, accepted the award, which is presented yearly to a single city participating in the Minnesota GreenStep Cities program.

In 2013, water quality monitoring performed at Northwood Lake indicated that the lake's average phosphorus concentrations were more than four times higher than the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's waste quality standards for shallow lakes. To address this concern, the city made reducing Stormwater sediment discharge into the lake a top priority. By using rain gardens and a stormwater pond on Jordan Avenue North near Northwood Lake, the city provided the lake with better protection from its pollutions sources, and took other measures to correct the problem. Northwood Lake now meets the goals of the GreenStep program's best practices related to stormwater management, parks and trails, and surface water quality.

Jeff Sargent, Director of Community Development, presented the beautiful glass plaque to City Council at their June 26 meeting.



Above: Jeff Sargent presents the Mayor with the glass plaque.

Below: Jeff Alger and Mayor Hemken accept the award at the League of Minnesota Cities Annual Conference on June 15.



New Hope Awarded Hennepin County Wellness By Design Award

The new and improved 2016—2017 New Hope Wellness program was presented with a Silver Level Worksite Award at the Hennepin County Wellness Awards Breakfast on June 22.

The beautiful silver plaque will be presented to City Council at their July 24 meeting.



A Busy Mayor

Mayor Kathi Hemken has already had a busy summer and summer just started on June 21. You may have noticed her photo at several events in this issue of News & Views.

Not only was she present at the Hennepin County Wellness Awards Breakfast, she also split her time on June 24 between the Healthy Living Fair and the Farmer's Market, in addition to attending other city meetings and events, and all the council meetings.

Kathi had knee surgery on June 29 and will be recovering for a while, but maintains her cheery outlook and her love for the city.

City employees sent a card from all of us with as many signatures as possible. Perhaps she will read this newsletter and know that we all wish her a speedy recovery.



A Busy Summer Calendar

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Every Saturday | Farmer's Market 7 a.m. to noon |
| July 4 | City Holiday |
| July 14 thru 16 | Duk Duk Daze |
| July 14 | Movies in the Park, "Finding Dory" |
| July 20 | Outdoor Theatre begins "Beauty and the Beast" |
| July 26 | Wellness Lunch & Learn, "Name That Veggie" |
| August 4 | Wet and Wild Water Day |
| Aug. 15, 16, 17 | Safety Camp |
| August 15 | Employee & Family Pool Event |
| August 25 | Movies in the Park, "Pete's Dragon" |

4

More Staff Stuff

Thank You...

City Council members, the city manager, and community development staff, received thank you notes for "...taking care of our city...we appreciate you!"

It was signed from "Your Friends at New Hope Church."

According to Kirk, this group is very appreciative of the city council and staff and services provided. They occasionally send a note or candy to say thank you!

Donations for Homeless Vets

The box in the city hall lunch room is overflowing, thanks to the generosity of staff.

Many thanks to all who donated items that will be very much appreciated by the Vets! The box will be delivered to the West Metro VFW Post #7051 next week.



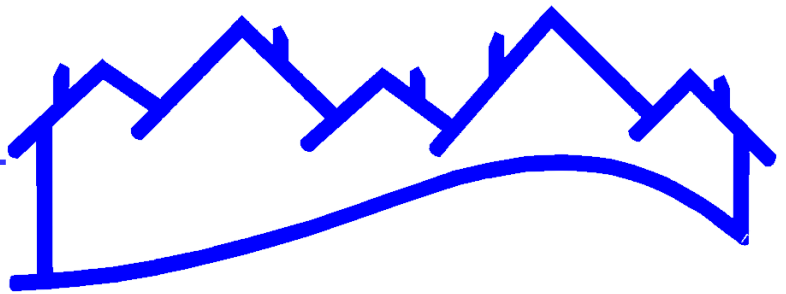
A Viking Adventure!

As a gesture of thanks, Innovative Office Solutions, the office supplies provider for many cities including New Hope, hosted an open house for customers and their families at US Bank Stadium on June 23rd. Administrative Specialists Jan Sloan and Walker Crawford, and Mayor Kathi Hemken participated, along with Walker's partner, Matt Anderson.

The open house included events for kids such as a kick-off on the field, a vendor alley, refreshments, and an opportunity to win a behind-the-scenes tour of the stadium. Walker and Jan were both lucky and won a ticket for themselves and a guest.

The tour group had the privilege of seeing many additional sights within the stadium including the press box, visiting owners box, premium suites, field area, and the Viking players locker room!

All-in-all, a fun way for a vendor to say thanks!



Employee Discounts

Cell Phone Discount

Have you asked your cell phone provider if they offer a government discount? Many of them probably do.



As an example, Verizon offers a 17% 'Exclusive Employees' discount. Access your account at www.verizonwireless.com and go to Plans, Deals & More at the bottom of the page and click on Employee Discounts. There you will need to validate your discount with the city profile ID which is 3124746. Then follow the prompts.

Travel Discounts

If you have not already tried, ask hotels and rental cars if they offer a government discount. Some honor it only when a person is traveling on government business, but others give the discount only because you are a government employee. Take your city ID card with you when you travel.

It's worth a try— even if one says 'no', the next might say 'yes'!!



Other Discounts

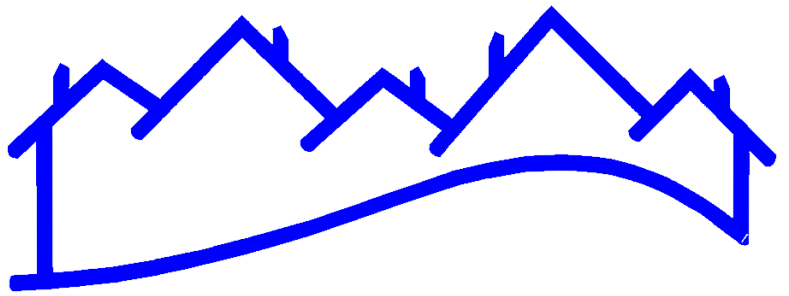


If you haven't been to the HealthPartners website, you might be pleasantly surprised to find many discounts offered to those who carry their insurance. The address is www.healthpartners.com then click on Healthy Living, then Savings and Discounts.

You might also check out a hard copy of the Town Planner Calendar for New Hope which has many coupons at the bottom of each month. One copy of the calendar hangs in the city hall copier room and anyone is welcome to snip coupons from it.

Worldwide Travel Assistance from Mutual of Omaha offers discounts and travel assistance to any employee of the city who receives benefits. One important example is Emergency Travel Support Services for things like losing a passport, locating legal services, lost or stolen baggage, document replacement, and more. Everyone received a brochure, but if yours has disappeared just see HR for another one.





5

Casual Day Attire



Jeans



Capris



Kilts



Sandals



For a mere \$5.00 donation to the NEAR food shelf, non-uniform staff can go casual on Wacky Wednesdays. The last one was on June 28.

So far in 2017, city employees have donated 115 pounds of food and \$527 cash to NEAR.

The next Wacky Wednesday will be July 26, and those who make a donation can wear jeans or shorts. See Parks & Rec to make a donation.

Thanks to everyone for the support of this important charity.

6

Spotlight On...



Quentin Rusk started with the city on June 19, 2017, as a Maintenance Worker, assigned to streets. He answers to either Quentin or “Mic” which was one of those nick names that stuck. No matter, Quentin and Mic are both fine.

Quentin has lots of interests but the main ones are fishing, fishing, and fishing. He is also a Harley ‘chopper’ builder, custom woodworker, charter boat operator, and hunter. And he probably has other hobbies, but let’s start with fishing.

As a kid, Quentin loved spending summers on his grandparents’ farm in Mapleton, MN, where he learned to fish and hunt. He has often hunted birds, ducks, pheasant, and grouse in the Mapleton area, but fishing is his favorite sport. He would probably fish in any body of water but he likes Lake Superior the best. For some time, he had a job that laid him off in the winter so he would go to Florida (Panama City, Naples, Daytona Beach, Jacksonville, etc.) and fish. In Minnesota, he enjoys Lake Vermillion, Mille Lacs Lake, Kabetogama Lake (in northern Minnesota) or probably any lake with fish in it. He has caught some pretty big fish, including an 18-pound salmon, and others. He has a ‘smaller’ boat (smaller than his charter boat) and plans to ‘take it out of the garage’ now that he might have some time off on summer weekends.

Of course, one can fish in more locations than Minnesota and Florida. Quentin has been to Baltimore and Chesapeake Bay where he fished for striper, and Greenbackville for tuna. He would like to fish in Alaska and plans to make it there sometime in the next few years.

Another hobby is custom woodworking. But Quentin takes woodworking much further. He remodeled his kitchen, two bathrooms, and basement; built a cedar deck and a shed, and added another three spaces to his two-car garage. He also built a raised garden surrounded by cedar for Pam, the special woman in his life, who is an avid gardener. Pam raises many veggies and has lots of raspberries coming up.

Pam is a good cook but, then again, so is Quentin. He is known for his spaghetti and lasagna, made even better with Pam’s homemade tomato sauce. But Pam is considered the chef, and is known for her salsa, along with many other delicious dishes. She cans the veggies she grows and is creative with lots of ways to use them.

Welcome to the city, Quentin! Although you no longer have winters off, you have landed a great, year-round job. Enjoy!!

The Roving Reporter





World of Wellness 2017

City of New Hope

FIRST EVER HEALTHY LIVING FAIR IN NEW HOPE!



What made it such a big success?

Lots of promotion such as:

- Facebook
- SunPost
- In Motion
- In Touch
- Reader Board
- Posters sent to schools
- Video on channel 12
- Signs at 42nd and Xylon

And:

- Hy-Vee Healthy You Bus
- Beautiful weather
- The Farmers Market
- A variety of exhibitors
- Lots of enthusiasm!

Plus:

- FREE** admission
- FREE** screenings
- FREE** door prizes
- FREE** demonstrations
- FREE** samples
- FREE** snacks





City of New Hope

Next event:

- ❖ Name That Veggie
- ❖ Wednesday, July 26, 11:30 a.m., Civic Center Park
- ❖ Veggies and Fruits you may have never met

Items pictured are not necessarily those that will be sampled.

However, how many can you name?

Name That Veggie

The Produce Manager from Hy-Vee will bring some lesser known veggies and fruits and show:

- ❖ how to buy them
- ❖ how to cook them and
- ❖ how to enjoy them.

There will be tastings of various veggies and fruits.

A box lunch from Hy-Vee will be available for \$5.00 as usual. Look for a lunch order to appear in your email very soon. Paper copies will be sent to public works.

