



# News & Views

June 30, 2016

The City of New Hope's Employee Newsletter

## Incumbents File for Office

To all city employees:

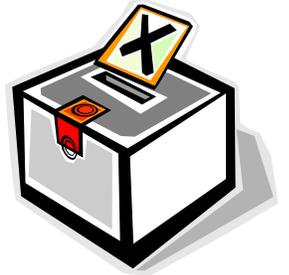
Mayor Kathi Hemken and Council Members Andy Hoffe and Eric Lammle have filed for the positions that will become vacant on December 31, 2016. Since there are only the three candidates (one for each opening), the city will not need to hold a primary for city offices. The general election is on November 8.

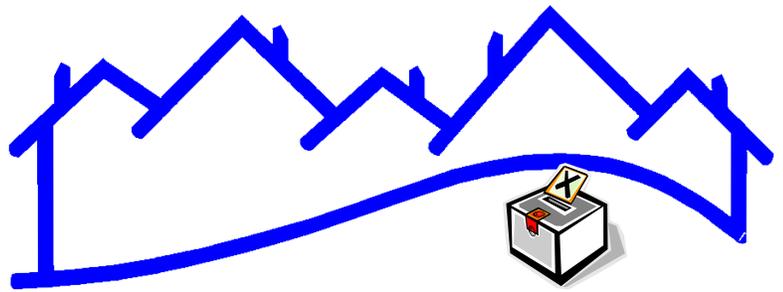
As most of you are aware, the city, its staff, and organizations providing city services, must remain impartial. Starting with me and extending to every employee of the city, the objective is to be completely fair with candidates by staying out of the politics of the race.

There are specific rules outlined in the Personnel Rules and Regulations pertaining to what an employee may and may not do regarding political activity. See page 2 for that excerpt. Bios of the candidates are on page 3.

It is up to the residents of the city to determine who they want to represent them on the council and it is our job to concentrate on giving the best service possible to the residents and to work with the officials who residents elect. They all deserve our respect.

Kirk McDonald  
City Manager



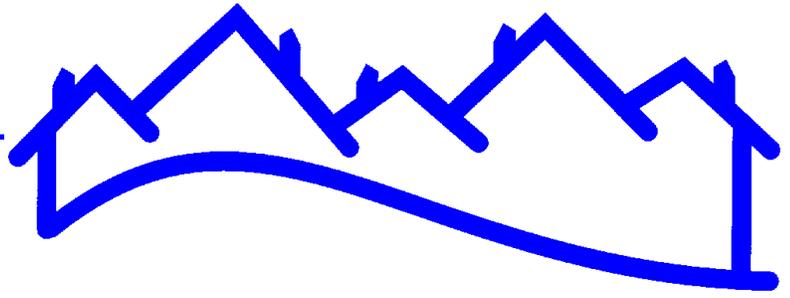


## 2 Elections, continued

### From the city Personnel Rules & Regulations

#### Political Activity:

- a. Prohibited Activities. A City employee may not:
  1. Use official authority or influence for the purpose of interfering with or affecting the result of an election or nomination for office.
  2. During working hours solicit or receive funds for political purposes.
  3. At any time use their official authority or influence to compel any officer or employee in the classified service to:  
  
apply for membership in or become a member of any political organization; or pay, promise to pay or lend any assessment, subscription, or contribution for political activity.
  4. Be a candidate for elective office in a public partisan election.  
  
Any employee who violates these provisions is guilty of a misdemeanor and, if found guilty, is automatically separated from employment with the City.
  
- b. Permitted Activities. A City employee may:
  1. Express opinion on political subjects and candidates.
  2. Take an active part in political management and political campaigns.
  3. Hold membership or office in a political party, organization or club.
  4. Attend a political convention and participate in the deliberations of proceedings of the convention or any of its committees.
  5. Be a candidate for office or serve as a delegate at a convention as long as such candidacy does not involve a public partisan election.
  6. Engage in volunteer work for a partisan candidate, campaign, committee, political party or nominating convention of a political party.
  7. Sign nominating petitions for candidates in a partisan election for public office and originate or circulate such petitions.
  8. Make a financial contribution to a political party or organization and solicit and collect voluntary political contributions.

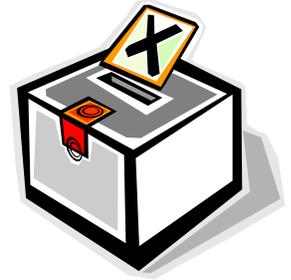


## 3 Candidate Bios

**Mayor Kathi Hemken** was elected to her first term as mayor in 2008 and reelected in 2012. She has been a resident of New Hope for 33 years.

Hemken's community involvement includes New Hope Planning Commission member and chair, Northwest YMCA board member, New Hope Women of Today (chair of Duk Duk Daze festival), League of Women Voters of Crystal, New Hope, and East Plymouth board member.

Hemken is a retired production control supervisor at Honeywell. She has a B.S. degree from the University of Minnesota.



**Council member Andy Hoffe** was elected to City Council in 2004 and reelected in 2008 and 2012. He has been a resident of New Hope for 35 years.

Hoffe's community involvement includes Northwest Community Television. He also attends District 281 Government Advisory Council meetings and other city commission meetings.

Hoffe is a retired District 281 government and economics teacher at Robbinsdale and Cooper high schools. He is an active substitute teacher for the district. He has a B.A. degree in social studies and business education.

**Council member Eric Lammle** was elected to his first term in 2008 and reelected in 2012. He has been a resident of New Hope for 13 years.

Lammle's community involvement includes serving on the West Metro Fire Rescue District Board of Directors, Winnetka Green Homeowners Association president, and Police Explorer advisor.

Lammle is a patrol sergeant with the Richfield Police Department. He has a B.A. degree in sociology of law and criminology from the University of Minnesota.

## 4 News & Stuff



### Minnesota GreenStep Cities

#### New Hope Reaches Step 3

The GreenStep Cities program is a voluntary plan that helps cities achieve their sustainability and quality of life goals. New Hope city council passed a resolution to participate in the Minnesota GreenStep City program in January 2015.

New Hope reached Steps 1 and 2 last year and has now reached "Step 3" which requires the implementation of 16 or more Best Practices, including some specific Best Practice Actions. Completed actions include entering energy use data from city-owned buildings into the Minnesota B3 database, adopting an environmentally preferred purchase policy, organizing and reporting goals/outcome measures from all city plans, and implementing a computer power management system. The city has now completed 18 of 29 Best Practices and 69 of 175 Best Practice Actions.

Mayor Hemken and Community Development Assistant Jeff Alger accepted the "Step 3" award on June 15, 2016, at the League of Minnesota Cities' annual conference in St. Paul. Thanks are extended to Jeff Alger for all his work on this program!

Of the 109 cities that participate in the Minnesota GreenStep Cities Program, 23 have reached "Step 3" and six have reached the newly implemented "Step 4."

#### *With Deepest Sympathy*

- ▶ The grandmother of **Carissa Hoyt**, Utility Billing and Special Assessments Clerk, passed away May 26.
- ▶ The father of **Rich Johnson**, Director of HR and Administrative Services, passed away on June 11.

We send condolences to Carissa, Rich, and their families.

#### Personnel Update

- ❖ **Adam Johnson**, police officer, resigned effective June 19th. Adam accepted an Assistant Project Manager position with Egan Company.
- ❖ **William Leon-Aguilar** started as a part-time Community Service Officer on June 6. See his Spotlight on page 6.
- ❖ **Jan Sloan** is the new Administrative Specialist in Public Works. Jan started on June 20. See her Spotlight on page 7.
- ❖ **Megan Albert** started as the Storm Water Specialist / Project Coordinator in Public Works on June 27. See her Spotlight on page 8.

#### Flu Shot Clinics Planned with Hy-Vee

This year there will be two dates for onsite Flu Shots, **September 20 and 21 from 7 to 8 a.m. both days**. Just bring your health insurance card and the shot is free. Anyone who cannot make either date can make a convenient individual appointment at Hy-Vee.



#### Charitable Giving

Due to reduced giving over the years through payroll deductions and the staff time required to coordinate it, the Charitable Giving Campaign has been discontinued. Donations to the charity of your choice can easily be made online to a variety of organizations.

#### Calendar of Events

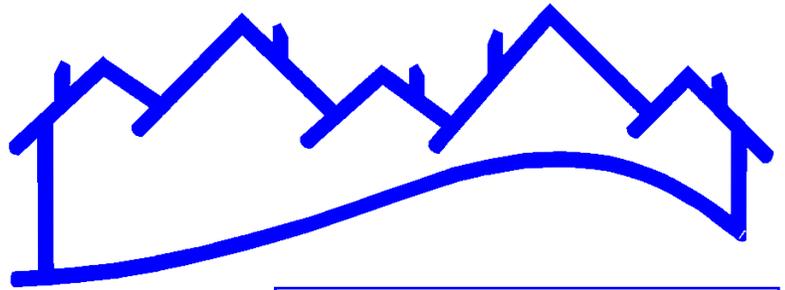
Every Saturday - Farmers Market  
July 4 City Holiday  
July 15 "Inside Out" Movie in the Park  
July 15/17 Duk Duk Daze  
July 27 Wellness Event  
July 27 Wacky Wednesday  
July 30 Waffle Breakfast at West Metro



#### Technology Tips

- ▶ All Word 2016 documents should be saved as "Word Document" in order for others to be able to open, edit, and print them. If they are saved as Word 97-2003, they do not come through correctly.
- ▶ To send a quick message without creating an email, use Cisco Jabber. Just click on the name of the person you want to reach and type your message.

# Hats Off and Thanks!



## Donut, Anyone?

Looks like New Hope will be the first location for an honest-to-goodness real Dunkin Donuts!!



Quite a delicious score for Community Development. Hats off to CD!!

Are they looking for volunteer tasters?

## City Awarded CenterPoint Grant

The Parks & Recreation department has been awarded a \$560 grant from CenterPoint Energy for various safety items that include a safety storage cabinet, a safety container, a traffic sign, and personal protective equipment.

Good job P&R!

## Thanks for Food Donations

Thanks to all who participated in Wacky Wednesday on June 29. For a \$5 donation to the food shelf, they were allowed to wear jeans or shorts that day. Their contributions helped NEAR provide groceries to those in our area who need some help. So far this year, **323** pounds of food plus **\$475** cash have been donated to NEAR.



The next Wacky Wednesday is planned for July 27 with a theme of shorts or jeans. In addition, any new, unopened, non-perishable items are always appreciated. A bin for food donations is located in the city hall lobby.

# Congrats!



**Joshua Eernisse**, school resource officer, and his wife, Nicole, welcomed their first child, Allen Michael, on June 23 at 4:43 p.m. Allen arrived at 7 pounds 3 ounces and was 21 inches long.

Parents and baby are all doing well.

**Gena Abramovich**, police officer, and his wife, Leanna, have welcomed their first child, Avi Allen, a healthy boy weighing 9 pounds 6 ounces.

According to Gena, Avi arrived "fashionably late" on June 22. All are doing well!



## Summer Movies in the Park



Friday July 15  
Movie starts at  
approximately  
9:15 pm

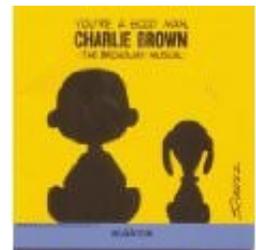
When a young girl is uprooted from the Midwest and moves to the busy and chaotic city of San Francisco, her emotions start to disagree on how to deal with this dramatic change, causing problems up in "headquarters". Sponsored by the New Hope Women of Today.



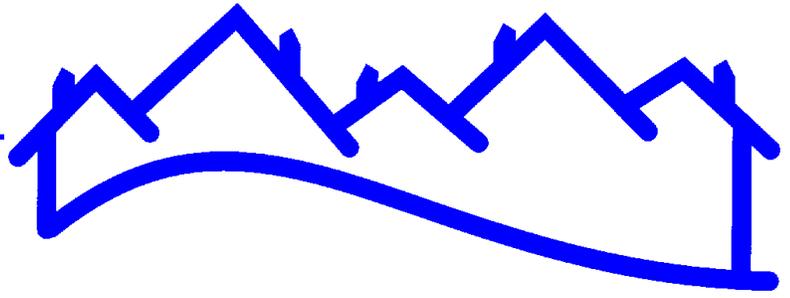
Friday August 26  
Movie starts at  
approximately  
8:15 pm

When an unexpected enemy emerges that threatens global safety and security, Nick Fury, director of the international peacekeeping agency known as S.H.I.E.L.D., finds himself in need of a team to pull the world back from the brink of disaster.

## Summer Theatre



"You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" opens at the New Hope Outdoor Theatre on July 21. It will run Thursdays through Saturdays through August 6, starting at 8 p.m.



## 6 Spotlight On...



**William Leon-Aguilar** (pronounced Laōn-I gēē la) started with the city as a part-time Community Service Officer on June 7, 2016. He likes to be called William or Will.

William comes to the city with background in the military police and is currently in school for law enforcement. He is also in the Army National Guard and was recently married, so he is a busy guy!

William's bride is Denise who works two jobs, one as a customer service rep for T - Mobile, and the other as a Personal Care Assistant for Accra Care, Inc. She plans to go to school for a nursing degree. William and Denise are the proud owners of Sky, a female Siberian Husky who will soon be a year old.

William has an older brother, Mario, who is a security officer. Mario is married to Dansey and they have two children, Emanuel 4 and Govanni 5 months. He also has two younger sisters. Shania is 14 and will be a freshman in high school this fall; she enjoys LaCrosse and soccer. Samantha is 12 and is a musician. William's mother, Monica, provides day care at home, and his father, Juan, is the manager of financial aid at Children's Hospital.

Growing up, William's family went on road trips to California, Nebraska, North Dakota, and Illinois. Asked what his favorite was, William said with no hesitation, North Dakota, because of the natural beauty and not so many buildings.

After basic training with the National Guard, William was yearning for good food, specifically lasagna. So he went on YouTube and learned how to make it. He must have been successful at it since he now does most of the cooking even though Denise likes to cook, too. William likes to be adventurous in cooking and trying new things.

Welcome to New Hope William. Your job may not be as adventurous as your cooking, but it will certainly be an important step along your road to law enforcement!

The Roving Reporter



## 7 Spotlight On...



**Jan Sloan** started with the city on June 20, 2016 as the Administrative Specialist in Public Works. Jan brings with her a background in administrative work; she was with Cargill for a number of years and then with Patterson as a project manager coordinating marketing and web projects.

Jan became interested in sewing as a kid when her mother sent her to a summer class on sewing. She loved it and eventually became an avid and accomplished seamstress. She spent 22 years with Hancock Fabrics as a part-time employee where she especially enjoyed helping customers who were making very detailed patterns. She enjoys sewing everything from basics to very intricate costumes. She even made her own wedding gown and has sewn gowns for bridal clients.

Jan met Jon about 13 years ago through a mutual friend. Although they both worked at Cargill, where he is the Security Officer Supervisor for United Protection Service, they did not know each other at that time. Once they met, they dated for three years and have now been married for 10. One of the things that Jon and Jan are both interested in is Sci-Fi and Jan describes themselves as “Sci-Fi Geeks”. They attend local Sci-Fi conventions, often in costumes that Jan has made (see photo below).

Jon is a martial arts enthusiast and teacher and holds a 5th degree black belt in Tai Kwon Do. He also creates a comic strip about a martial artist, see it online at [sa-bomjimcomic.com](http://sa-bomjimcomic.com). Jon and Jan attend two local MSP ComicCon conventions where Jan is the Costume Competition Workmanship Judge and Jon enjoys connecting with other creative artists.

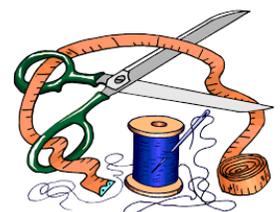
Jan also enjoys traveling. As a kid, the family took road trips to Washington DC, Florida, Yellowstone, South Dakota, and Colorado. In High School Jan went to Germany in a foreign language exchange program. She visited Oberammergau, where the Passion Play is performed every 10 years. It was not the year she was there. But in 2010, she and her mother joined a tour to attend the play and visit other cities in Germany as well as visiting Austria and Switzerland. They had a great time!

Another love of Jan’s is golf and she makes time for a league every year. Perhaps next year she will join one at the New Hope Golf Course.

Well Jan, New Hope may not be quite as exciting as traveling to Europe or making and judging costumes, but we are happy you are here and welcome you to our family.

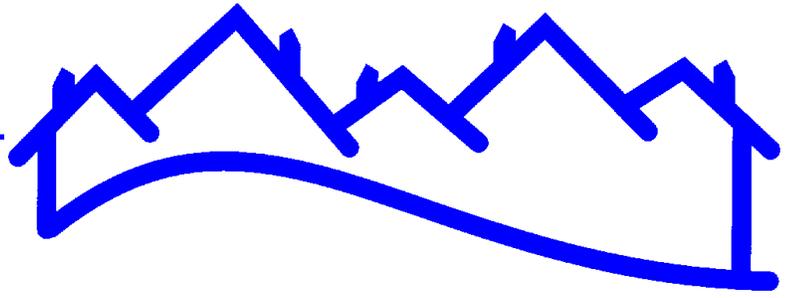


Jan and Jon in uniforms made by Jan from the movie “Star Trek Generations”.



The Roving Reporter

## 8 Spotlight On...



**Megan Albert** started with the city on June 27, 2016 in a brand new full-time position at Public Works, Storm Water Specialist / Project Coordinator. Megan will be part of the team that will define and create this important new position.

Megan may look familiar to you since she was formerly with Stantec, working on the Xylon Avenue project and the Northwood South project. She has had a first hand connection with New Hope residents and Stantec is sure to miss her. Megan's degree in Civil Engineering plus her ability to explain complicated projects and calm those affected by them, makes her a wonderful selection for this newly created position.

Megan and her boyfriend, Craig, just bought a house in Mounds View and are getting settled in it. One of the benefits is that Megan has planted a vegetable garden including tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, zucchini, and strawberries. She planted raspberry bushes which will take some time to mature but eventually will grow well. She is also 'developing cooking skills' which means she hasn't done much cooking in the past but is working on it. Evidently, Craig will eat anything (cereal, chicken nuggets, etc.) so he is not likely to cook.

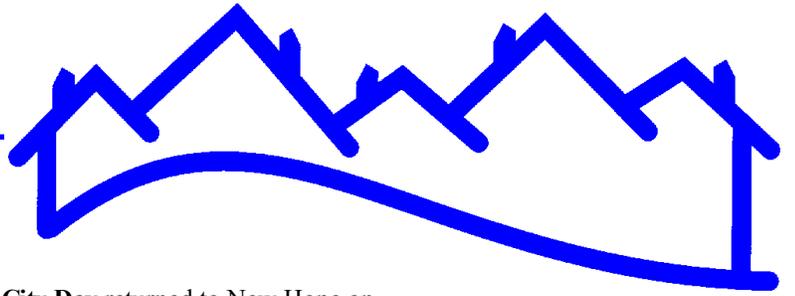
Craig and Megan met during college at North Dakota State in Fargo. He has been with Caterpillar as a Mechanical Engineer for a year and a half. Craig is one of eight siblings, so he and Megan spend a lot of time with his large family in Alexandria. His family also breeds Golden Doodles and Megan and Craig will likely get one from the next litter. Megan has two black cats, Annie, who came from the Humane Society, and Derek, who was a gift from the foreman of the Xylon Avenue project. It seems that Derek would crawl into the wheel well of the foreman's truck and go to work with him. The foreman told Megan that the cat would likely meet a nasty end if she did not take him. So, she did.

Megan has a younger brother, Matt, who is studying IT at Century College. Her mom is now a kindergarten teacher after staying home with the children and then getting her degree. Her dad is the Vice President of Tax Accounting at Medtronic and does a lot of traveling. As kids, Megan and Matt would go with him on one trip a year to places like San Francisco, Boston, and various Florida cities without theme parks. Her mom goes with him to the more exotic places such as Puerto Rico and Ireland; they just returned from Paris. When Megan and Matt were small they spent summers with both sets of grandparents in Okoboji, Iowa while mom and dad traveled. They would individually attend YMCA camps and also enjoyed the local amusement park.

Welcome to the city, Megan! You will now be able to travel to all the exotic corners of New Hope. Enjoy!



# 9 City Day



The new electronic reader board debuted with the announcement of City Day.

After a one-year hiatus, **City Day** returned to New Hope on Saturday, June 4, with a variety of events and activities. In addition, West Metro Fire Rescue held its annual open house at the same time. The weather tried to put a damper on the event but nothing dissuaded staff or visitors.



The purpose of City Day is for residents to have some fun and get a little better idea of what's going on at New Hope City Hall. One of the popular booths had a number of glass jars where visitors could put beans indicating how they would like their tax dollars spent. Other booths represented various city departments with staff available to answer questions.



Special thanks go to **Jerry Beck** for being the champion of City Day since its inceptions several years ago. Thanks also go to all the employees who helped with the planning and set up, plus those who participated in the event.



# 10 Fireworks and 4th of July



With warm weather and family events, the Fourth of July can be a fun time with great memories. But before your family celebrates, make sure everyone knows about fireworks safety.

**If not handled properly, fireworks can cause burn and eye injuries in kids and adults.** The best way to protect your family is not to use any fireworks at home — period. Attend public fireworks displays, and leave the lighting to the professionals.

The only legal fireworks in Minnesota are sparklers, fountains, ground spinners and snap-pers.

Here are some safety tips:

- \* **Kids should never play with fireworks.** Things like firecrackers, rockets, and sparklers are just too dangerous. If you give kids sparklers, make sure they keep them outside and away from the face, clothing, and hair. Sparklers can reach 1,800°F (982°C) — hot enough to melt gold.
- \* **Buy only legal fireworks** (legal fireworks have a label with the manufacturer's name and directions; illegal ones are unlabeled), and store them in a cool, dry place. Illegal fireworks usually go by the names M-80, M100, blockbuster, or quarterpounder. These explosives were banned in 1966, but still account for many fireworks injuries.
- \* **Never try to make your own fireworks.**
- \* **Always use fireworks outside and have a bucket of water** and a hose nearby in case of accidents.
- \* **Steer clear of others** — fireworks have been known to backfire or shoot off in the wrong direction. Never throw or point fireworks at someone, even in jest.
- \* **Don't hold fireworks in your hand** or have any part of your body over them while lighting. Wear some sort of eye protection, and avoid carrying fireworks in your pocket — the friction could set them off.
- \* **Point fireworks away** from homes, and keep away from brush and leaves and flammable substances. The National Fire Protection Association estimates that local fire departments respond to more 50,000 fires caused by fireworks each year.
- \* **Light one firework at a time** (not in glass or metal containers).
- \* **Never relight a dud.**
- \* **Don't allow kids to pick up pieces of fireworks** after an event. Some may still be ignited and can explode at any time.
- \* **Soak all fireworks in a bucket of water before throwing them in the trash can.**
- \* **Think about your pet.** Animals have sensitive ears and can be extremely frightened or stressed on the Fourth of July. Keep pets indoors to reduce the risk that they'll run loose or get injured.



**If a child is injured by fireworks:**

Immediately go to a doctor or hospital. If an eye injury occurs, don't allow your child to touch or rub it, as this may cause even more damage. Also, don't flush the eye out with water or attempt to put any ointment on it. Instead, cut out the bottom of a paper cup, place it around the eye, and immediately seek medical attention — your child's eyesight may depend on it. If it's a burn, remove clothing from the burned area and run cool, not cold, water over the burn (do not use ice). Call your doctor immediately.



Fireworks are meant to be enjoyed, but you'll enjoy them much more knowing your family is safe. **Take extra precautions this Fourth of July and your holiday will be a blast!**

Thanks to West Metro for this information.



This month:

- WOW partnered with Hy-Vee on a fun workshop called Salad-in-a-Jar
- 25 participants learned how to make nutritious, interesting salads that are tasty and easy to bring to work
- Participants also enjoyed eating their concoctions during the event



The next WOW event is planned for July 27, details to follow.

**Wellness is a GOOD thing!**

