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From the desk of  
**Kirk McDonald**  
City Manager

# News & Views

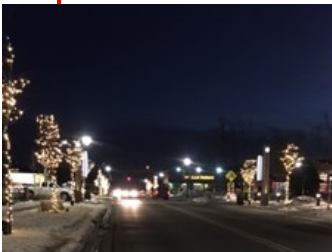
December 29, 2016

The City of New Hope's Employee Newsletter

## Another Successful Year for New Hope

New Hope continued to reinvent itself in 2016. Of course, Hy-Vee had something to do with this, but it was only the beginning. Hy-Vee has now been open a year and has become an integral part of not only New Hope, but the regional area around it, too. New Hope has become a destination, no longer a drive-thru city. Now, New Hope has a real entrance, with a reader board, streetscape improvements, and sparkling lights along Xylon Avenue. Plus, the first Dunkin Donuts in Minnesota!

All of this was not by happenstance – it took months of planning and many meetings to bring it all together and to keep it going. And, every department was involved in one way or another. So, **THANKS, EVERYONE**, for all the work you are doing to make New Hope new!!



**Community Development** spearheaded the charge by working with Hy-Vee before their name could even be spoken in public. CD has continued to move forward with Dunkin Donuts, and other new businesses, plus a very active redevelopment plan for distressed homes. Twenty-two new single-family homes were built at the Parkview development on Winnetka and another 10 are under construction. And, redevelopment was finally approved for the city-owned site adjacent to the golf course that will bring a new housing type, luxury apartments, to the city. The inspectors were busy enforcing the codes and keeping buildings in the city safe for everyone.

**Thanks, Community Development for keeping New Hope moving forward!**

**Public Works** has been a big part of all redevelopment, working on streets, and keeping the city looking spiffy! Two major street reconstruction projects were completed along with an innovative stormwater project at Northwood Park and a new noise wall erected on Highway 169. Thanks for the midnight snow plowing, watermain break repairs, the never-ending trash pickups, and all the other details that Public Works staff handles, including keeping all our equipment and vehicles in good working order.

**Thanks, PW, you are appreciated!**



**Parks & Recreation** has beautified more parks, maintained all the city parks, and continued a very active recreation plan. New playground equipment was installed at Northwood Park and a new regional trail completed with Three Rivers Park District. The arena, swimming pool, and golf course are very well kept up along with all the programs offered by the city.

**Thanks, P&R, for keeping us active!**

**Finance** is always involved where money is concerned, and efficiently paid the bills for all the projects in the city. In addition, finance maintained the city budget information, paid employees (special thanks for that!), and kept city accounts in order. AEM helped keep everything in order and the city was recognized for its excellence in financial reporting. **Thanks, finance, for keeping track of all those numbers!**



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## 2 *A Successful Year...*



**Police** kept us safe, tracked down the bad guys, kept needed records in a safe, confidential manner, controlled animals in the city, taught DARE, trained staff and residents in a number of programs, and participated in new city projects assuring the safety of getting in and out of business and residential property. **Thanks, PD, for all you do!**



**Human Resources and Administrative Services** supported all staff in many ways. HR fed information to payroll for benefit changes, wage changes, or other things that affected employee income. HR also maintained benefits, negotiated with labor unions, recruited for open positions, oversaw IT services, and many other details. The communications coordinator got the word out about all city projects and activities through newsletters, TV spots, and social media, and will be coordinating a new website update starting in 2017. A brand new Wellness program in 2016 broke all records for attendance and enthusiasm. **Thanks, HR and Admin Services, for your support in all these ways!**



**City Manager Department** was involved pretty much from day one, with the city clerk at all the council meetings and keeping track of progress on each project. Progress continued on a potential new police station/city hall facility with a task force making a recommendation to proceed, and public open houses held for resident feedback. The council will make a decision on this project the first part of 2017. Special thanks to CM staff for handling the very stressful absentee balloting this year, and for making the front desk a welcoming place for residents! **Thanks CM staff for the many details you tend to!**

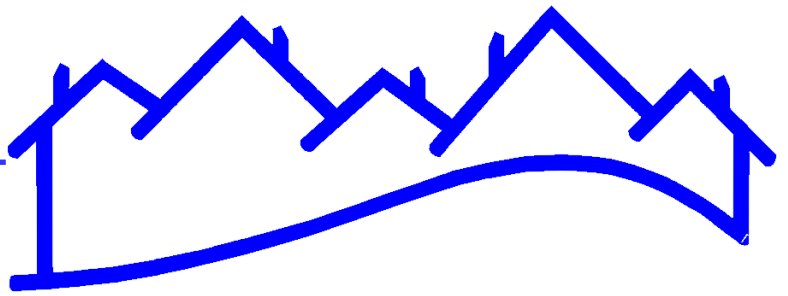


All of this would not be possible without a supportive **Mayor and City Council!!**  
**Special thanks to our elected officials!**



***A heart-felt THANK YOU to ALL staff for ALL you did, day in and day out, that kept New Hope moving forward in 2016, and will keep it moving forward into 2017 and for many years to come!***

**Kirk McDonald**  
City Manager



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## Employee of the Year



**Bernie Weber** was named Employee of the Year for 2016 at the Annual Recognition Event held on December 8. He is a very popular winner!

Bernie may know the city better than any employee since he has spent considerable time both above and below ground. He started with New Hope in 2004 in the parks area under John Blasiak and Bernie credits John with mentoring him, including how to wear his hair and dress correctly! A few years later, Bernie moved into utilities and became the utilities supervisor in 2008. He progressed to operations manager in 2014.

According to his nominator, Bernie is “very dedicated, always willing to help, go the extra mile night or day, weekend or holiday. He always answers with a chuckle, a smile and usually a little joke, and he does a great job in creating an atmosphere that promotes having fun at work every day.”

Bernie is described as a great steward who represents the city in a professional manner, be it at a resident’s doorstep, in meetings, conferences, or at a jobsite with staff. When having a conversation, he makes the other person the most important objective and gives his full attention so they feel listened to and understood. Bernie makes sure that residents know the city really cares about them, no matter how small the issue.

Even outside work, Bernie is always willing to help and volunteer his services. He is jolly year round, but especially over the holidays when he is Santa at his church and other functions (was that Bernie, the Santa who visited city hall?). He was also an almost unrecognizable Greaser for Halloween this year.

When asked what he does for fun, Bernie immediately talked about his three grandchildren, Leah 9, Colt 6, and GoJo 4. He and his wife of 28 years, Lorrie, love babysitting and do so frequently. Bernie and Lorrie have four children. Beth is 29 and almost finished with her law degree. Becky is the mom of the three grandchildren and works as an admin person for a chiropractor. Josh is finishing up his college degree and may continue studying to become a professor of English. Holly completed a tour with the Navy and is now in the Navy Reserves and studying to become a registered nurse.

The EOY nomination suggests that all of us could be a little more like Bernie in our everyday actions. But, for now, we simply thank Bernie for his stellar performance throughout his years at the city.

Congratulations, Bernie, on a well-deserved honor!! And thanks for all you do for the city of New Hope.

### Nominees for Employee of the Year

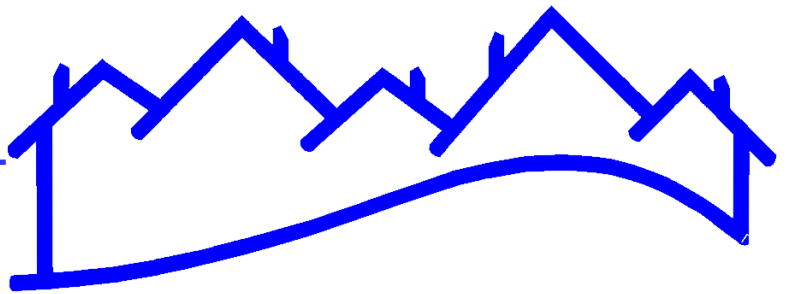
**Walker Crawford**, admin specialist in the city manager department was nominated for his excellence in catching on to his new job quickly and efficiently, for his friendliness and respect for all visitors, and his part in handling the record breaking number of absentee ballots cast at city hall this election season. In addition, he was cited for his wonderful attitude. Nothing is too much for Walker. Ask him to do something and it is done quickly, efficiently, and with a smile. He has brought a ray of sunshine to the front desk and is commended for it.

Congratulations, Walker! You are a great addition to staff.

**Scott Stephan**, ice arena maintenance worker, was nominated because he is an “all-round great employee who does many things, but likes to work behind the scenes.” He has an enormous amount of pride for the New Hope Arena and wants the facility to operate smoothly and look its best at all times. He is flexible and willing to work whenever needed. One example is the weekend when the arena lost power and Scott worked practically non stop to maintain the ice and keep the generators running. Customers saw little disruption.

Congratulations, Scott, and job well done!

**Thank  
&  
Congrats!**



#### **Annual Food Drive**

Thanks to all who donated to the ongoing food drive in 2016. The total donations for the year are 987 pounds of food and \$1832 in cash.

The addition of monthly Wacky Wednesdays brought individual staff donations of \$5.00 and allowed employees to dress down on that day. The city also collected food from both staff and residents for the holidays. All food and cash collected was given to NEAR.

Thanks again to everyone for this very needed and appreciated help.



#### **Jail Inspection and Property Room Audit**

The New Hope jail facility received a favorable inspection review from the MN Department of Corrections. The report indicates “substantial compliance” for the facility. Due to this excellent finding, the city moves to a biennial inspection rather than annual.

The police department property room participated in a random audit from the State of Minnesota. As participants of the Drug Task Force, the property room is occasionally audited by state officials.

#### **Update on the Holiday Train Contributors**

Despite the bitter cold, between 1,000 and 1,500 people enjoyed the Holiday Train when it stopped in New Hope on December 10. Approximately 3,700 pounds of food and \$5,968 were donated and given to The Food Group, who will give at least 50% of the non-perishable food items to NEAR over the coming months. All donations will remain in the community.



Special thanks to New Hope businesses for their contributions:

- ❖ Associated Bank donated \$180 to sponsor a shuttle bus
- ❖ Brama Real Estate Group donated \$180 to sponsor a shuttle bus
- ❖ Canadian Pacific donated \$4,500 to The Food Group
- ❖ Cole Papers donated \$250 to The Food Group
- ❖ Hy-Vee matched 1,500 pounds of food donated to The Food Group
- ❖ Minnesota Rusco provided coffee and cider
- ❖ Mountain Mudd provided coffee and cider
- ❖ North Memorial provided oranges, Kleenex®, and ChapStick®
- ❖ Saint Therese of New Hope provided cookies
- ❖ State Farm Insurance provided popcorn
- ❖ Wells Fargo Home Mortgage donated \$180 to sponsor a shuttle bus

Many thanks to everyone who made this first visit of the Holiday Train to New Hope such a fun and exciting event!!





## Recruiting Update

- ❖ **Brad Kallio** of Dallas, Texas will start as a police officer on January 9th. Brad comes to the city with seven years experience in law enforcement.
- ❖ **Daniel Fitzmaurice** will start as a police officer on January 9th. Dan spent two years as a Hennepin County deputy after 5+ years in the Air Force.
- ❖ One more certified police officer candidate is in the background process.
- ❖ **Jessi Weber** will start as the office specialist in Community Development on January 5. Jessi will replace Mary LaRose, who resigned.
- ❖ **Heather McKown** has resigned to take a position with Anoka County. See item below.
- ❖ **Bernie Weber** has been designated the Acting Director of Public Works, temporarily replacing Bob Paschke who resigned.

## So Long, Heather

**Heather McKown**, Admin Specialist in the police department, has resigned effective December 27, to take a position with the Anoka County Courts. She will be a juvenile judge clerk issuing orders and warrants for the judge. Heather says she especially likes working with the courts in her current position and looks forward to this more active and intense new job in the courts.

Heather started in New Hope as an over-night police clerk in 2014 and became the police department admin specialist in 2015. She will start her new job on December 28.

All the best to you, Heather, and thanks for all your contributions to New Hope.

## Coming Up...



January 2	New Year's Day
January 16	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 24 thru 27	Biometric Screening
February 7	State of the City
February 20	President's Day



## Dunkin' Donuts Arrives in New Hope

The new Dunkin' Donuts opened with a bang; it was the third biggest store opening in Dunkin' Donuts' history! With strong support from city staff and a drive-in window, it will surely continue to be a winner!! Yum, yum!!



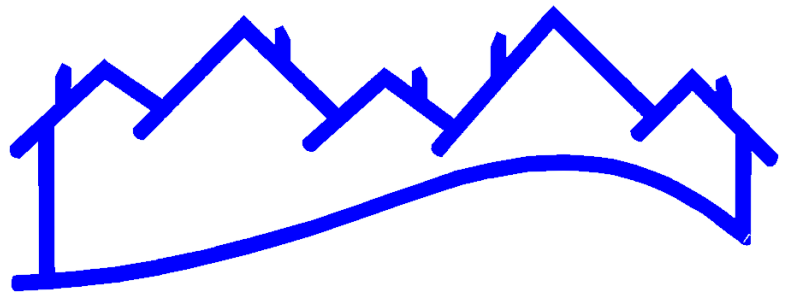
## Update on Potential New Police Station/City Hall Facility

At the December 19 work session, the city council reviewed the responses to the space needs survey questionnaire that was available at the November 2 Open House and online through the month of November. They also reviewed the proposal by Wold Architects to perform architectural/engineering consulting services for the proposed new police station and city hall project. The proposal includes five phases:

1. Schematic Design (floor plans and elevations)
2. Design Development (architectural plans/details)
3. Construction Documents (documents for bidding)
4. Bid Phase (bids for construction sought/received/evaluated)
5. Construction Phase (help contractor build project to specifications)

At the end of each phase, the city reviews the documents and authorizes moving to the next phase.

The City Council is anticipated to consider the Wold Architects proposal at the January 9 council meeting.



**Looks like New Hope employees were very good this year!\***



**\* Past & Present!**

### **Shop with a COP**

New Hope police took four children in need to Target for holiday shopping. The police department received very generous donations from the community to support this effort. Each family was assigned to an officer and after shopping, they came back to city hall where the officers helped the kids wrap gifts.

Officer Korth noted that the child she shopped with was most concerned to pick out something for members of her family, not for herself.

**Josh Earnisse, Nichole Korth, Jason Ryan, and Tim Fournier** pose with happy kids and baskets filled with goodies.





## 2016 Wellness Survey Results

The 2016 Wellness Program had more participants, from more departments, than ever before, perhaps due to simplifying the program and removing the tracking and reporting.

There was a come-if-you-like series of Lunch & Learn events on several topics.

Those who participated in biometric screening were awarded a Garmin fitness tracker which gave them the ability to track their physical activities.

A record 47 people responded to the Wellness survey, more than ever before, and gave very useable feedback.

Survey results included:

- ❖ Most were interested in follow-up biometric screening
- ❖ Of the events presented, the top two were Financial Wellness and the Summer Picnic and Lawn Games
- ❖ Most were interested in similar Lunch & Learn events
- ❖ The topics most suggested were healthy eating, decluttering, time management, and stress management
- ❖ The \$5.00 lunch does not keep people from attending and for about a third of the respondents, it encouraged participation

The Wellness committee is using this feedback to plan 2017.

Thanks to all who participated!

## Wellness is a GOOD thing!





## *City of New Hope*

### **Biometric Screening Returns**

#### **January 24, 25, 26, & 27, at Hy-Vee**

The 2017 Wellness Program will start off with the return of Biometric Screening at Hy-Vee. Once again, the Hy-Vee Wellness Bus will arrive in New Hope and provide two screening stations in addition to one in the store. Hy-Vee will also give each participant a \$5.00 voucher for breakfast since an 8-hour fast is required prior to the screen.

Since the city worked with Hy-Vee last year, returning employees will be able to compare their 2016 readings to their 2017 readings to see what progress has been made and/or what could enhance their current health. All information is confidential and not shared with the city. Hy-Vee will report who attended, but no details.

The sign-up form for the screenings will be available in the “T” drive in early January. Anyone interested who is not available for the scheduled dates can contact Eve for an individual appointment at Hy-Vee.

**Those who participate in Biometric Screening will receive their choice of a \$50 Dick’s Sporting Goods or \$60 Whole Foods gift card (Whole Foods was willing to provide an additional \$10 of value when the city purchased \$50 gift cards).**

The 2017 program will continue Lunch & Learn events with a varied list of topics, not yet completed. The topics will include a combination of new topics along with some returning favorites.

Watch News & Views for details of Wellness events during 2017.

## **Wellness is a GOOD thing!**

