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# News & Views

February 12, 2020

The City of New Hope's Employee Newsletter

## "Skate" of the City

Kirk McDonald and Mayor Hemken presented their annual State of the City to about 50 people on Wednesday, February 12. They recapped the highlights of 2019 and extended appreciation to the many staff members that have made them happen. Special thanks to TwinWest for co-hosting the group and to Brandon Bell for all of his work in designing and scripting the presentation. As you can see, it was not all business!

## 2019 Police Awards

At the Jan. 27 city council meeting, Police Chief Tim Fournier conducted the 2020 New Hope Police Awards Ceremony presenting the 2019 police awards and highlighting the great efforts officers and citizens gave to make the city a safer and better place. (Pictured left to right: Officers Dan Fitzmaurice and Jason Ryan and Chief Tim Fournier)



### Chief Commendations for Staff

Captain Scott Slawson  
Sergeant Pete Stanley  
Sergeant Marty Williams  
Officer Gena Abramovich  
Officer Kaitlyn Baker  
Officer Matthew Collier  
Officer Daniel Fitzmaurice  
Detective Cheri Galli  
Officer Miguel Robles and K9 Kody  
Officer Jason Ryan  
CSO Scott Anderson  
Clerical Supervisor Jeana Allen-Hatcher  
Clerk Lorilee Stafford

### Chief Commendations for Community Members

Julie Anderson, Community Member  
David Flesland, Community Member  
Sean Gallagher, Community Member  
Quintin Payne, Community Member  
Marco Villar, Community Member  
New Hope Tires Plus  
New Hope AutoZone

### Lifesaving Commendation

Amanda McDonald, Community Member

### Star Pin Acknowledgement

Officer Kaitlyn Baker  
Officer Britni Austin  
Officer Chris Cazin  
Officer Jason Ryan

## Mark Your Calendar

Feb. 17 President's Day – City Offices Closed

Feb. 26 Wacky Wednesday

Mar. 18 Wellness: Mental Health Awareness

May 14 Save the Date: Employee Appreciation Cook-out

## Employee of the Quarter

### Scott Anderson, Community Service Officer

Scott was selected for going above and beyond by assisting a motorist from Missouri who had a flat tire and no resources to repair it. After a suggestion from dispatch, Scott contacted Care Ministries at New Hope Church who offered to provide the motorist with a tire as well as a gas card and food. When Scott brought the tire to Tires Plus, the store manager donated a tire! When Scott went to AutoZone to buy a lug wrench, that store manager donated a lug wrench and a jack to the motorist! Soon the motorist was on their way south, thanks to Scott who frequently goes out of his way to help those he comes into contact with.

You may recall that CSO Anderson was also recently the recipient of this recognition in 4th Quarter of 2018 as well. Congratulations Scott for continuing to excel in your service to our community!



### There were six additional nominees:

Kaitlyn Baker, police officer, for exceptional dedication as she completed her assignment to the traffic unit.

Brad Kallio, police officer, for taking the time to provide above and beyond service to an elderly member of our community.

Gina Karstens, admin. specialist – public works, for quickly becoming someone that the public works staff know they can come to for help with a smile whenever needed.

Dan Peacock and Mic Rusk, maintenance workers, for designing, building and installing customized tool box storage racks for the utility trailer that are highly functional, extended the life of the utility trailer and saved the city a great deal of money.

Lorilee Stafford, police clerk, for continuing to expand her book of knowledge, which she is always willing to share when needed, and provide exceptional support in the absence of a second day clerk during the recruitment process.

## Citizen Recognition of Employees

Please join me in tipping my hat to these employees for compliments received from residents.

As relayed by Gina Karstens, admin. specialist public works: An elderly couple stopped in this afternoon and asked for the public works complaint department. I smiled and told them "It's right here, how can I assist you today?" They proceeded to say that they were just stopping by because they wanted to sincerely thank public works for the great job that we do all year taking care of the city... ESPECIALLY the snow removal crew! Great job public works!

### Employee Handbook to Be Revised



Now that work on the performance appraisals is done, as announced last week, human resources will be working on updating the employee handbook, and personnel rules and regulations. It is anticipated this process will take 6-9 months. As we did with the performance appraisals, we will be calling on various staff to lend thoughts and expertise through the process. As hinted at by the graphic to the left, our intention is to convey more than just policy. If you have specific thoughts you would like to contribute, please let human resources or your director know.

## New Hope Police Explorers Fundraiser

It's that time of year again when our police explorers are raising money to attend their state conference in Rochester. Please consider purchasing a ticket (or several) to our fundraiser. Frankie's Pizza Buffet Fundraiser benefiting the New Hope Police Explorer Post will be held on Monday, Mar. 9, 2020 from 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. at 3556 Winnetka Ave N. Dinner includes pizza, pasta, salad, breadsticks and soda. Tickets will be available for \$10 cash or check, payable to New Hope Police Explorers, up to and at the event. Please email or see Officers Baker, Ryan or Austin for your tickets. If you cannot make it to the event, the ticket becomes a \$10 gift certificate to Frankie's valid until Dec. 30, 2020.



## Wellness Program

### Getting the Most from Your Health & Dental Insurances – Feb. 5



**HealthPartners®**

Jamie Hanson, senior account manager with HealthPartners, gave staff a orientation to the HealthPartners website and spoke about benefits and options for employees as she went along. One new option for employees as of Jan. 1 is to take a wellness evaluation that will help guide you to actions you can take to improve your overall wellbeing. Other items of note are discounts for orthodontic procedures, discounts at some fitness locations and a program where employees can pay a flat \$25 per month fee for access to several other fitness locations. Also, by installing the HP mobile app employees can gain access at their fingertips to appointments, year-to-date spending and much more! It was time healthily spent for the 20 attendees from the city and West Metro Fire.

## Upcoming

### Increasing your Mental Health Awareness – Mar. 18

Next month, Officers Kaitlyn Baker and Britni Austin, New Hope Police, will walk us through identifying when the individuals we are talking with may warrant a different approach and possibly escalation to assistance from police personnel.



### Biometric Screening – Apr. 7-9

The city will once again be partnering with Hy-Vee to administer screenings for employees that are interested. Full details will be announced next month.





## Happenings

### Chili Cook-off

This fierce annual competition was held on Jan. 30 with six contestants and over 20 total attendees. Congratulations to our winner, Chef Officer Nichole Korth and to our runner-up, Kirk McDonald. (photo: Beth Kramer, admin. specialist and last year's winning chef, hands the award off to Nichole Korth) Thank you also to our cornbread and dessert bakers: Vicki Holthaus, AEM senior client manager, and Walker MacBeath, HR coordinator; our chief organizer, Shari Rains; and helping hands Beth Kramer, admin. specialist, and Val Leone, city clerk.



### New Hope Employee Safety On-Track

The safety committee met on Jan. 15 for their quarterly report and review meeting. In addition to the review of the 2019 fourth quarter, a discussion was held on the final numbers for 2019. In 2019, there were only 19 personal injury claims for the year compared to 41 claims in 2018. Most of those were low in severity of injury. For property claims the number went from 28 in 2018 down to 26 in 2019 .

Management appreciates employees' diligence in reporting. It is always great to see a decrease in the number of reports, but it's more important that reports are made. To help accomplish that goal, staff will be updating the reporting forms and making them available digitally in the near future. A question that was asked recently was what constitutes a near miss that should be reported. Anytime there is an incident that is feasibly preventable and almost results in damage to property or injury to a person, a near miss report should be filed. With this information, the committee can evaluate the situation and determine if changes to equipment and/or procedures should be considered. Without reports being filed, the committee and management do not have the resources needed to act.

### Police Ride-Along

On January 29, the Jolly Journalist (Walker MacBeath, HR coordinator) had his first police ride-along. In human resources we spend a fair amount of time talking with employees about their daily work, so we have a pretty good understanding of most positions at the city. However, to accompany someone in that work gives you a perspective that you cannot gain through another's words. Thanks to Officer James Bardon, I had the opportunity to do just that and I saw a great deal in just over 4 hours.

My first reaction when I climbed in was the intense amount of equipment surrounding the officer's seat—it truly is a mobile office. During my time accompanying James, I observed as he interviewed an individual that had reported a suspected case of fraud, stopped a driver that had a suspended license, stopped a speeding driver, responded to a report of domestic abuse, responded to a report of sexual assault, and conducted a community check-in. James indicated that it was not always that busy but I was grateful that it was, as I feel it expanded my perspective of police work a great deal in a short amount of time. And I know there is still so much more to it. Thank you, James!



## In Memoriam



Our sympathies to:

- Beth and Andrew Kramer for the passing of Beth's grandfather on Dec. 31
- Bernie Weber and his family for the passing of his step-father on Jan. 2.