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News & Views

September 10, 2024

The City of New Hope's Employee Newsletter

Officer Smith Sworn In

Congratulations to Officer **Chelsea Smith** for being sworn in at the Aug. 26 city council meeting. Chelsea started with the City on Aug. 7, 2023. During her presentation to Council, Captain Johnson praised Chelsea for "her dedication to New Hope residents and her incredible work ethic and attitude." Also pictured, administering her first oath of office, is City Clerk **Andrea Phinney**. A job well done, Chelsea! *Photo credit: Beth Kramer, communications coordinator*



Open Enrollment Starts Oct. 25

Open enrollment for 2025 benefits will kick off on Oct. 25 and run through Nov. 12. All employees are required to complete this process to ensure that contact information and insurance beneficiaries are up to date. It is also a good opportunity to review the health, dental and life insurance plans the City offers as well as tax-saving opportunities with health savings, flex and dependent care accounts.

For those interested in supplementing their pension in retirement, we will have representatives from the two deferred compensation plans that City employees can elect to participate in, Minnesota Deferred Compensation and MissionSquare, on-site Oct. 10 for a presentation and one-on-one meetings.

If you have any questions, please contact **Walker MacBeath**, HR specialist, or **Rich Johnson**, director of HR & admin. services, at any time. We are always happy to discuss benefits, even if it is not during the open enrollment period.

Mark Your Calendar:

Sept. 19 – Wellness: Harvesting and Preserving
Sept. 21 – Vehicle Fair
Sept. 25 – Wacky Wednesday – Jeans/Shorts
Oct. 1 – Wellness: Outdoor Passes
Oct. 2 – Employee Golf Tournament

Oct. 10 – Deferred Comp. Presentation & Meetings
Oct. 23 – Wacky Wednesday – Jeans
Nov. 5 – General Election Day
Nov. 11 – City Holiday: City Offices Closed

Happenings



Safety Camp – Aug. 13-15

Congratulations to City staff and volunteers for hosting another successful three-day event for 56 campers. The campers participated in various safety sessions including construction, fire, electrical and water safety plus many others throughout the week. On the last day of camp, staff held a graduation dinner for families where the campers received certificates and medals. The primary staff involved were as follows:

Safety Camp Coordinators: Police—**Brad Kallio**, crime prevention officer; Parks & Recreation—**Aaron Thelen**, recreation supervisor; West Metro—**Jesus Soto**, firefighter

Safety Camp Leaders: Police—Pat Beaumaster, Officers **Sabrina DeMars**, **Lee Larson**, **Chelsea Smith**; Parks & Recreation—**Brianna Gallup**, **Abby Hansen**, **Abigail Hanson**; West Metro—**Olivia Brown**, **Eric Grimes**, **Shelby Wolf**

Other City staff: Evidence Technician **Melissa DeLeeuw**, Seasonal Supervisor **Laurie Dube**, Officer **Dan Fitzmaurice**, Chief **Tim Hoyt**, **Beth Kramer**, Recreation Facilities Supervisor **Tony Portesan**, Office Specialist **Jill Smisek**, Admin. Specialists **Penny Spitzer** and **Lorilee Stafford**, Sergeant **Mike TenEyck**, West Metro firefighters, and additional staff from both public works and parks & recreation. Plus, many police and parks & recreation volunteers. *Photo credit: Beth Kramer*



Cop on a Rooftop – Aug. 16

New Hope Police Department staff worked with Dunkin' Donuts on this annual event and raised \$1,364.91 for the Minnesota Special Olympics. Athletes Abby and Elizabeth were present to talk with donors who stopped by to make a gift. Pictured clockwise: **Mike TenEyck**, Officer **Jared Kuyper**, **Brad Kallio**, Olympian Elizabeth, CSO **Connor Mueller**, Olympian Abby and **Lorilee Stafford**.

Aquatic Park Closes – Aug. 18

Staff closed the doors on a great season despite the below average number of “hot” days. As you can see in the photo on the opposite page, they once again built a team that enjoyed working together to greet and take care of the thousands of patrons that enjoyed the facilities through the summer months.

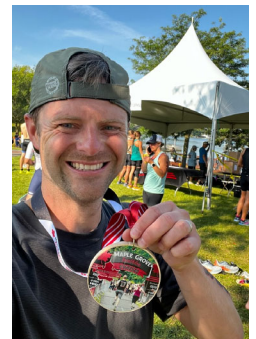
Photo credit: Tony Portesan





Blood Drive – Aug. 21

Drive Coordinator **Melissa DeLeeuw** shared this message (edited) following the drive, “The Battle of the Badges was a great success! The American Red Cross set a goal of 30 units and I am happy to say that we exceeded that goal. We had a total of 50 donors and collected 47 units. It was a tight race between donor votes for the police department and West Metro Fire-Rescue Department (WMFRD), but ultimately ended with WMFRD winning the award by one donor.” Pictured on the opposite page, Melissa and Assistant Fire Chief **Joel Nelson**. *Photo credit: Beth Kramer*



Thelen Finishes Sprint Triathlon – Aug. 24

Last month, **Aaron Thelen** checked off one of his bucket list items as he competed in his first ever Sprint Triathlon. The Maple Grove Sprint Triathlon is a 0.47-mile swim, 11-mile bike ride and a 3.1 -mile run. His time was 1:23:22, which was 111th out of 383 participants and 10th out of 24 in his age group.

All-Female Patrol Shift – Sept. 4

The police department had an all-female patrol shift last week. They are all relatively new to New Hope but their presence is making a positive impact in the community. Pictured L to R in bottom left photo: **Chelsea Smith, Sabrina DeMars, Lee Larson** and CSO **DeMeshé Baker** *Photo credit: Beth Kramer*

Employee Club Dip-Off – Sept. 10

Employee Club sponsored its fourth annual Dip-Off today. Thirteen employees judged dips made by their peers. Pictured bottom right are last year’s champions, **Krissy Barthel (L)** and **Linda Bergemann (R)** with **Shawn Markham** holding the trophy he won for his Pickle, Bacon, Cheddar and Ranch Dip. Congratulations, Shawn! Thank you to everyone that attended and the six other chefs: **Krissy Barthel, Linda Bergemann, Reece Bertholf, Brad Kallio, Beth Kramer** and **Walker MacBeath**. It was a delightfully delicious dip-off for all participants. *Photo credit: Beth Kramer*





Celebration!

Congratulations to Kelly Thompson, maintenance worker, and his wife, Monica, on their marriage that took place on Aug. 9. The ceremony took place here in Minneapolis with friends and family present. Monica and Kelly are shown here between Kelly's father, Steve, and his sister, Alexa.



Wellness

Summer Picnic and K-9 Introduction – Aug. 28

Gina Karstens, admin. specialist, and Nick Macklem, stormwater specialist and project coordinator, hosted this year's picnic. Attendees had a beautiful day to enjoy many picnic favorites and listen to Sergeant Robles give an overview of the City's K-9 program. He had intended to have a K-9 with him for demonstration but the K-9 was placed on a call shortly before the picnic started.

Vaccination Clinics – Sept. 10

Hy-Vee staff provided one or more of the flu, hepatitis b, shingles, pneumonia and Covid-19 vaccinations to XX individuals. Thank you to everyone that participated for taking an active role in preventative care that benefits us all.

Harvesting and Preserving – Sept. 19

Have you wondered what to do with all of those sauce tomatoes that ripen at different times? Corn coming out of your ears? Or what about all of those delicious apples ready to fall off the tree? Join your colleagues for a jam-packed discussion on the many options for harvesting and preserving fruits and vegetables. Lunch will be from Café Zupas. See the flyer on Connect for all of the details. <https://c2mb.ajg.com/connect2newhope>

Outdoor Activity Passes – October

Employees will have the option to select five rounds at New Hope Golf, a one-year Minnesota state parks permit, two tickets for the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum or two tickets for the Minnesota Zoo. More to come!

