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News & Views

February 16, 2024

The City of New Hope's Employee Newsletter

Employee of the Quarter

Congratulations to **Linda Bergemann**, administrative specialist for community development, for being selected the October-December 2023 employee of the quarter. Both of her nominators recognized that despite her only being in her new role since April, she has accomplished a great deal during that time. First, she covered the counter solo for much of the time until the new office specialist was hired in July. Second, she trained the new office specialist. And third, she assisted with training the temporary housing/code enforcement inspector. All of this with an infectious smile and positive attitude.

Linda keeps up on her duties without missing a beat and is always willing to help other members of staff within and outside of her department.

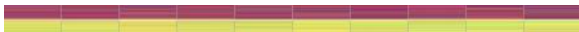
She's well known for approaching existing processes and finding ways to improve them, always documenting as she goes. In December, she also agreed to serve a two-year term on the wellness committee as well. I'm sure there are other things we're missing but thank you, Linda, for providing excellent interactions with your coworkers, residents and contractors alike!



Congratulations and thank you to the additional nominees:

Nick Macklem, stormwater specialist/project specialist, for a high-level of customer service in response to resident and business inquires no matter how they come in.

Ben Rouse, police officer, for going above and beyond in aiding a coworker on a case that resulted in several arrests, confiscation of drugs and recovery of more than \$8,000 in stolen property.



Seasonal Hiring Ramping Up!



Parks and recreation and public works have both started the hiring process for the summer. There are many positions available for students and adults alike. Please help spread the word! newhopemn.gov/jobs.

Mark Your Calendar:

Feb. 19 – Presidents Day- City Offices Closed
Feb. 22 – Chili Cookoff
Feb. 27 – Precinct Caucuses
Feb. 28 – Wacky Wednesday
March 5 – Presidential Nomination Primary Election Day
March 13 – Wellness: Using Resistance and Loop Bands
March 27 – Wacky Wednesday
April 1-11 – Bulky Waste Curbside Cleanup
April 10 – Wellness: Ice Arena Open House/Open Skate
April 24 – Wacky Wednesday

Transitions



City Clerk Leone to Retire

As City Manager Bertholf announced last month, Valerie Leone will be retiring in 2024. Val has been with the City since 1988, as clerk since 1989. Her historical knowledge of the City, understanding of municipal operations and adeptness of running smooth elections will be greatly missed. And as you can see from this photo, she has always been one to join in on every adventure and give her all. Starting Feb. 29, and accelerating once the City hires a new accounting technician, Andrea Phinney will spend several months learning all she can before Val's departure later in the year. A full article on Val's career with the City will be featured when her departure date nears.

Jason Brummer, MNSPECT Inspector to Depart

Jason Brummer, MNSPECT Inspector, joined the City as a contractor on Sept. 26 to provide coverage for the community development department during a long-term leave and an extended vacation. Friday, March 1 will be his last day on the job here at the City. Jason always comes in with a grin and a laugh no matter the day or the duty and we appreciate the assistance he has provided the community development team!

Recruitment Updates

Accounting Technician – The accounting technician position vacated due to Andrea Phinney's promotion was posted internally but did not receive at least two qualified internal applications. The posting will be made external next week.

Housing/Code Enforcement Inspector – Chris Audet will start on March 4. Chris most recently worked with Mint Properties in Minneapolis as their inspection specialist and maintenance supervisor.

Police Clerk – The recent police clerk recruitment was not successful; the City will repost the position externally next week.



In Memoriam



Our sympathies to:

- **Tom Mahan**, animal control officer, and his wife, Phyllis, for the passing of Phyllis' mother, Susan, on Jan. 21.
- **Brad Johnson**, maintenance worker, and his son, Nick, for the passing of Brad's wife/Nick's mom, Jean, on Jan. 30.

Wellness

Biometric Screening – Jan. 16-18

Fifty employees participated in a 15-minute screening process that earned them a \$10 Hy-Vee gift card to use for breakfast plus a \$50 gift card to Hy-Vee or Fleet Farm and important health metrics.

Wellness: Using Resistance and Loop Bands – March 13

Josh Arthur will lead attendees through a hands-on workshop on the many uses for using resistance and loop bands that all regular employees have access to in the City Hall fitness room.

Wellness: Ice Arena Open House and Open Skate – April 10

If it's been a while since you've been to the ice arena, you might be surprised to see many refreshes and updates that have been completed in the last year. Take a tour, enjoy lunch and take a spin on the ice!