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# News & Views

August 7, 2018

The City of New Hope's Employee Newsletter

## Election Memo from City Manager McDonald

Council Members John Elder and Jonathan London have filed for the two positions that will become vacant on December 31, 2018. Since there are only two candidates (one for each opening), the city will not need to hold a primary for city offices. The general election is on November 6.

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 12 for details).

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.

## Farmers Market Continues through Summer

The New Hope Farmers Market reopened on June 16 at 8 a.m. on Xylon Avenue and will continue into the fall. The market offers a wide variety of fresh fruits and veggies, flowers, arts and crafts, entertainment, community groups, food vendors and more. Hours are 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Go to [newhopemarket.org](http://newhopemarket.org) for more information.



## Webcam Above!



If you had not yet noticed, Solution Builders assisted city staff with the installation of a webcam late this last winter to capture the construction progress of the new police station and city hall, during the 18 month construction period. The camera is located on top of the elevator shaft of the current building. Each week is time-lapsed into a 90-second video and posted on the city's website on the "Police Station & City Hall Construction" button.

## National Night Out/New Hope's Night to Unite

National Night Out, New Hope's Night to Unite, takes place this evening. This annual crime prevention event is a way for neighbors to get to know each other and renew their commitment to working together to prevent crime and improve public safety in New Hope. Police, Fire, Ambulance, City Council and City Staff will attend several of the gatherings. Look for photos from the event in the near future!



## New Employees and Interns

We've had three new full-time employees and two summer interns since our last issue. Please enjoy the spotlight on each and extend a warm welcome to any that you've not yet had a chance to meet.

### Dean Blom, Building Inspector

Dean started as the city of New Hope Building Official on February 19, but he has been a resident of New Hope for over 11 years. He was a construction codes inspector in St. Louis Park for over 12 years but because of how impressed he was with the tone that the mayor and council have fostered here in New Hope, when the position was posted, he applied. Since he arrived he has continued to be impressed with the atmosphere and teamwork here at city hall. Plus he has the added benefit of an 8-block commute!

He grew up a farm boy in Southwest Minnesota. The closest town was Leota, then famous for their 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations that drew thousands of people to the tiny town of just over 200 residents. Before moving back to the Twin Cities, he and his wife, Sue, lived near Sioux Center, Iowa. Sue still works as a costumer for Dordt College (located in Sioux Center), and although most of her work is remote, she visits several times each semester to connect with her students. On those visits she stays with her father who still lives in nearby Hawarden.



When Dean and Sue first moved back to the Twin Cities area, they lived in Crystal. However, they found themselves spending a lot of time with their daughter, Maren, and son-in-law, Gerritt. It wasn't long before Sue and Maren decided that it made sense to buy a big house for all of them to live together. They found one that was perfect for their family. It is set up essentially as a two flat within one house, the upstairs and the downstairs having separate bedrooms and living rooms, and one large kitchen and eating area where they share their meals. Dean said that he's not allowed to cook, but he is the designated table clearer and dishwasher. Since moving to New Hope, they've had two additions to their family, grandsons Miles, 9, and Halsten, 6. What a sweet deal for them, living with Grandpa and Grandma full time!

Dean and Sue have traveled far and wide both in the United States (including Florida, California and Hawaii) and in China. Dean tells us that the trip to China was as a roadie for a band. In full disclosure, he accompanied his wife who plays bassoon and had an opportunity to play for a touring concert band. They spent two weeks traveling around the country enjoying many sights including the Terracotta Warriors, the Great Wall and traveling the high-speed train from Beijing to Shanghai.

They have also shared another adventure here in New Hope. Sue and Maren decided to volunteer as costumers for Off-Broadway Musical Theatre's productions here at Civic Center Park many years ago. When Dean discovered how many evenings Sue would be away, he decided he might as well audition. This year will be his seventh year in the annual summer show! Last year his roles were Monsieur D'Arque, a platter and other group roles in Beauty and the Beast. And this year, he played the roles of a munchkin, a winkie and an Ozian in The Wizard of Oz.

In his spare time, Dean is a motorcyclist, avid reader (reading 1-2 novels per week, usually of the adventure/political thriller genre), a Twins fan and, in his words, a long-suffering Vikings fan. So long he says that he remembers the days of Fran Tarkenton. However, he has never been to a live Vikings game.

We are glad you are here, Dean. Thank you for ensuring the safety of our community and for being an active participant in providing community entertainment!

### Beth Kramer, Administrative Specialist—City Manager Department

Beth, her husband, Andrew (whom most of you know as New Hope's streets/parks supervisor), son, Owen, and daughter, Eleanore, live in St. Michael. Because of all of the great things Andrew said about each of you, when Beth heard about the administrative specialist opening of the city manager department, she decided to apply. After a successful navigation of many interviews, tests and forms, she started here at city hall on April 16.

Beth and her family lead an active life. Owen, 14, enjoys playing upright bass for middle school orchestra, lacrosse and video games, as well as building computers. Per her mother, Eleanore, 4, specializes in mischief, but also finds time for

dance, t-ball, being outside and spending time with her grandparents. As a family, they spend a lot of time with her parents and in-laws. Beth grew up in St. Louis Park and her parents still live nearby in Eden Prairie. Beth and family also spend winters snowmobiling in the North Shore/Duluth area as much as they can and summers taking their '92 Fox Body Mustang GT to car shows and on country drives. Currently when at home they are focused on finishing their basement.

For those of us that have met her, we would not guess it but Beth tells me she is a recovering introvert. Her parents would often hear at parent-teacher conferences that she needed to be more participatory and outspoken. No worries now though, as a favorite part of her new job is helping residents both in person and on the phone. She looks forward each day to building relationships with residents and learning about city processes. She's also been intrigued by how the different city departments work together.

In a past life, Beth participated in competitive paintball, a sport that took her throughout the Midwest for competitions. She was a paintball pioneer, as the first female player on one of the oldest teams in Minnesota. As a live music fanatic, Beth has traveled across the United States to attend concerts but her favorite to-date is seeing the Rolling Stones perform right here in the Cities.

Now when she gets time alone, she enjoys baking. She shared that she has a secret chocolate chip cookie recipe that is often requested. She also confided in us that she is a known kitchen destroyer, using every bowl, pan and baking dish in the making of her creations. And when the family has pushed her out of the kitchen, she enjoys riding her moped around town. Now that she has her motorcycle endorsement, she's hoping to upgrade soon to a full-fledged two-wheeling motorized machine. I trust while out on the road she will engage her photography hobby and bring back some beautiful shots of her travels and family to share with us.

We are very glad to have you with us, Beth. And on a personal note, I know that you are taking excellent care of our front desk visitors and Kirk!

### **Keith Beise, Communications Coordinator**

Our newest employee is Keith Beise, communications coordinator. Keith was most recently with 3M as a digital community manager. He said he has long held an interest in working with a government entity and given his experience in the Marine Corps, he is surprised it took him this long to make his way to one.

Keith grew up in Forest Lake with his parents, Gordon and Patricia, both now retired postal workers, and his brothers Steve and Brad, all of whom still live in the area. Keith now lives in Corcoran with his wife Jessica and their two kids; Clara, who is 3, and Flynn, who is just 4 months. Jessica is the city clerk/administrative services coordinator for Corcoran. Clara is a huge fan of princesses, treats and playing outside with her friends and cousins. Flynn is a fan of milk, big smiles and clean diapers, and in the near future, if dad has anything to say about it, the Minnesota Twins and Vikings.

After high school, Keith joined the U.S. Marine Corps and served five years active duty. His permanent duty station was in Yuma, Arizona, and his service included a year-long Pacific deployment to Japan, South Korea, Cambodia and Australia, as well as six months aboard the USS Essex. Keith was an I-level communication navigation system technician for the Harrier (vertical take-off/landings) jet. Which for us civilians means he fixed circuitry that communicated NATO codes that ensured friendly aircrafts were not fired upon.

Once he finished with active duty, he attended the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities and graduated with a degree in professional strategic communications with a public relations emphasis.

His first job out of college was as digital communications manager for the Minnesota Twins. He is a dedicated Twins, Vikings, Timberwolves and Gophers fan. *(continued on next page)*



In addition to following our local sports teams, Keith enjoys outdoor activities, including running. In 2017, he completed the Twin Cities Marathon. He also enjoys spending time with his family, with whom he also stays very active. It is common for them to have weekend outings to the Minnesota Zoo, local farm festivals and up at Jessica's family's cabin in the Northwoods.

Thank you for joining us, Keith. We welcome you and look forward to seeing and hearing you spread the good word about our great city!

## **Lucia Pabon, Communications Intern**

**By Zak Schermerhorn**

Lucia is one of the city of New Hope's new communications interns. She grew up in and attended high school in Cleveland, Ohio before moving in the spring of 2017 to Richfield, Minnesota, where she now lives with her mother and two dogs. She is currently enrolled in a graphic design program at Boston University, where she has nurtured an interest in print publication and editorial design; an area of interest she hopes to work with in her future career. She plans to graduate in the spring of 2021 with a Bachelor of Arts degree.

While in high school, Lucia worked as a graphic design intern for a small company in the downtown Cleveland area. She also spent the summer of 2017 working as a counselor at Falcon Camp in Cleveland.

Lucia's hobbies include volunteering in community service, especially when working with kids and in nature. She also enjoys creating art and spends time working on both traditional mediums like painting, as well as more modern methods like digital graphics. In her free time you can find her visiting art museums.

Lucia prides herself on being a creative thinker and can be counted on for outside-of-the-box thinking or innovative solutions to problems.

Welcome to the city, Lucia!



## **Zak Schermerhorn, Communications Intern**

**By Lucia Pabon**

Zak Schermerhorn began working as a communications and marketing intern with the city of New Hope on June 25, 2018. He had previously interned at a recording studio for one year in Minneapolis before becoming a sound guy and AV technician for bands and live performances. He is also a for-hire private contractor for recording arts, video and audio.

Zak grew up in St. Cloud, where he graduated from Cathedral High School. He then went to school in Mankato and Minneapolis. He moved to Richfield before eventually ending up in Dinkytown. An aspect of Dinkytown that Zak appreciates the most is its vibrant arts culture.

Zak is currently studying communications at the University of Minnesota. He hopes to work in the communications field and would like to work at a video production house, which makes corporate videos and commercials.

In his free time, Zak enjoys playing music. He is a self-taught pianist, guitarist, bassist and drummer. He also likes to spend his time biking.

If you need a helping hand, Zak will not hesitate to assist you. He is able to learn quickly, and is eager to pick up new skills.

Welcome to the city, Zak! We hope that you'll learn plenty of new skills and have a rewarding experience.



## Employees of the Quarters

### 1st Quarter—Public Works Utilities Crew: Danny Peacock, Mic Rusk, Kevin Zurn, Art Sorenson, Bill Broman, Mike Thomason and Jim Muellner (clockwise in photo)

Their nominator detailed out 5 water main breaks this winter, several of which were lengthy and during extreme cold. The nominator pointed out that even though this is part of their job, the length and timing of these breaks, as well as the other extra duties that come with extreme cold (e.g. thawing frozen sewer pipes, snowplowing, etc.), deserve special recognition, and the selection committee agreed.

Because many of us are probably not aware of what the process is for repairing a water main break, we asked the water/sewer staff to take a few minutes and explain the process, specifically during the winter months. It is a lengthy 13 step process!

We asked the crew how they decide who works on the breaks. They said that it's typically an "all hands on deck" operation given the resident notices, the many pieces of equipment needed and the auxiliary tasks, including turning the water on/off, hauling sand/dirt to and from the site, traffic control, etc. When asked how they keep warm, they said a hot hamburger helps! It also helps their stomachs, as it's not uncommon for a break to take 6-7 hours to repair and they were able to recall a few that took as long as 24-36 hours.

They indicated that they work well as a team and feel that their effective communication is key to getting the job done quickly and safely. They gave an extra nod to their crewmember Bill, who's been known to have a better sense of where gate valves for water shut offs are than their maps. Once he was even called to give them intel from a warm beach in Mexico. We are sure he did not mind the call, with the alternative of being in the cold Minnesota winter!

Thank you for all of your hard work guys, and congratulations again on your recognition for a job well done.



### 2nd Quarter—Ben Frank, Office Specialist—Community Development

Ben's nominator shared the following: Ben has done a fantastic job covering for the Administrative Specialist position, while continuing to fulfill his duties as the Office Specialist for the Community Development Department. Since Jessi has gone on maternity leave, Ben has had to cover both positions, and he's doing a great job doing so.

He continues to give excellent customer service, even with the added stress of covering two positions. There have been several times when the phones are ringing and customers are lined up at the front counter, and Ben is the only person available to help. He has handled these stressful situations very professionally and has been able to manage to attend to everyone waiting for service in an efficient and friendly way, even if they have to be put on hold!

Ben always comes to work with a positive, professional attitude and has never complained about the workload given to him, especially with the

added responsibilities of covering the AS position. He is eager to help out everyone, including staff members, and is a pleasure to have in the office.

Absolutely fantastic work, Ben! You've learned a great deal in a very short time and this recognition is well placed.



## Family Additions

On February 1 at 5:07 p.m., James Everett was welcomed into the world by dad, Steve Rohloff (Public Works); mom, Emma; and brother, Jaxson. He weighed in at 5 lbs, 7 ozs and measured 18 in long.



Bryce Robert



James Everett

On May 2 at 9:31 a.m., Bryce Robert said hello to the whole wide world including mom, Jessi Weber (Community Development); dad, Rob; and sister, Emma. He weighed in at 8 lbs, 1 oz and measured 21 in long.

## Staff Appreciation

Thanks to this hard-working crew for a much appreciated appreciation lunch at the golf course on May 23. They plan, buy, prep and grill to extend their thanks for all of the employees' efforts and accomplishments over the last year.



## Staff Transitions

Community Service Officer Adam Link was offered a position with the Washington State Patrol in February and left the city on March 21. We wish him the best of luck on the West Coast!

CSO Scott Anderson accepted a promotion effective April 4 from part-time to full-time to fill the gap left by CSO Link's departure. Scott had been certified by the Personnel Board during a previous recruitment. Congratulations Scott!

Maintenance Worker Mike Thomason's last day with the city was May 23. Mike had been with public works for over 8 years and is now working closer to home for the city of Edina. Enjoy the shorter commute, Mike!

Community Service Officer Wendy Linn has resigned effective August 13. Her husband has taken a job in Wisconsin and she is looking forward to pursuing new opportunities and enjoying her lake cabin full-time. We look forward to the lake invite, Wendy!

As was reported in the last issue, HR Coordinator Eve Lomaistro's last day with the city was January 31. We have some photos of her celebration on the next page.

*(continued on next 2 pages)*



The retiree-to-be had a bit of advice for us!



## Staff Transitions

### Retirement—Jerry Beck, Communications Coordinator

He came, he saw, he told...a story. This is his.

Jerry Beck started at the city of New Hope in 2001. He was the city's first communications coordinator. Jerry brought with him 21 years of communication experience, and he was excited to use his skills to help the city achieve its communication goals. It was not his expectation at that time to dedicate 17 years of his life to the New Hope community.

But then he went to work. When he arrived, the design and production of city publications were being outsourced. He put his skills to work and brought each of them in-house. In Touch was a boilerplate production full of city jargon. Jerry shifted the focus to featuring articles that would keep residents up-to-date on happenings of the city, in terms that made sense of the legalese of ordinances, resolutions and city planning. He updated the look of In Motion, the city's recreation brochure, and made the presentation match the energy of the programming detailed in the brochure. He collaborated with CCX Cable TV to not only report the news but to convey the stories of the city. And he took a very basic website and packed it full of useful, accessible information for residents and visitors alike.

Beck channeled his passion for photography throughout the city's publications. Then in 2011, he encouraged others to develop theirs by building the In Focus photography contest to what it is today, wildly successful. Under Jerry's guidance over the last 7 years, the contest has grown to over 70 photos per year and the City Council has recognized and awarded over 50 community members for excellence in photography. This shaping and developing of In Focus is one of Jerry's fondest memories. The coordination of City Day starting in 2011 is another. He recalls working through the challenges of weather and building attendance. He also has warm memories of bringing his many skills to the State of the City and its varied iterations.

Jerry will greatly miss the daily interactions with his colleagues and the unknown challenges of each day. Though he's looking forward to transitioning that variety to his daily life and enjoying the freedom to "work" when he wants. His advice to his colleagues that he's leaving behind is, "find a reason to be excited to come to work each day, it makes the job fun!" In retirement, his list of things to explore has both places and activities on it, including learning to work with stained glass, trying his arm at fly-fishing and he has his eye on a photography instruction series on Lynda.com.

He had not planned to retire early but over the last few years, he found inspiration in a quote of John Muir, "The mountains are calling, I must go," and Jerry is glad to be going while he still has the energy to hike those mountains. He is looking forward to the gift of time and having a camera in his hand out in nature, as he no longer needs to worry about a two-week vacation limit. When he comes to an area where wildlife abound, he will have the option to wait for them, and the perfect light.

Without a doubt, the city and each of us have been influenced by Jerry and his work here. We wish him and his traveling companion, Ahanu, many safe travels, and hope that on occasion, they bring him back to us.





Jerry Beck's  
Retirement  
Celebration,  
June 28



## Congratulations to our recent employee graduates!

### James Bardon, Ph.D. in Criminal Justice: Behavioral Sciences



James finished a 5 ½-year process to earn his Ph. D. in May from Nova Southeastern University. Nova is a research-focused institution based in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He was one of 20 individuals selected to begin the program with the 2012 cohort group. At minimum the program takes 3 ½ years to complete, but as in James' case, often takes longer, as the individuals participating are professionals from many different geographic areas and levels of their careers.

His dissertation was based on a qualitative study of methamphetamine and heroin users' experience in the criminal justice system. During his studies, he had the opportunity to teach Juvenile Delinquency and Justice as an adjunct professor at UM-Duluth. He also had the privilege of being a student of Dr. Lenore Walker, the researcher who discovered Battered Women's Syndrome (BWS) and the Cycle of Violence, and Dr. Michael Bourke, who is the head of the US Marshall's Behavioral Science Unit.

James said that he had two primary motivations for taking this step in his life. First, his wife, Hyejeen (in photo with him and their daughter, Hana), whom he met here in Minneapolis, is from Korea and has her Ph.D. He said that her parents had the same expectation of him when they married. Secondly, he wants to be able to help shape public opinion of law enforcement, both the individuals and the process, through teaching and research.

He has already experienced the application of his learning to his work here in New Hope. He has had cases of both battered woman syndrome and sexual assault that he was able to identify because of his education.

### Aaron Chirpich, Master's in Public Administration



Aaron graduated with his MPA from Metropolitan State this last May. His 18-month program was primarily online but he did have a couple of classes that he attended at Metropolitan's downtown St. Paul campus.

Aaron embarked on this journey to an MPA, as the degree has become an expectation in the field of community development and something he will need to progress his career. He said the program was mentally distracting, and he is glad to be finished and very appreciative of the support shown to him by his family, Jeff Sargent and Kirk McDonald. He is also very thankful to the city for its financial support; it made a tremendous difference.

(pictured left to right: children Hudson, Averi, Carsten and wife, MaryJo)



### Jared Kuyper, Master's Degree in Criminal Justice

Jared completed an 18-month online program with Concordia University in St. Paul this last May. He stated that while most of his class time was independent, the 7-week classes did meet online in chats each Thursday to discuss the current study topic with other classmates.

The timing of taking on this challenge was primarily because the time to use his G I Bill was about to expire. While taking classes, Congress extended that expiration date, but he decided to go ahead and finish anyway. He looks at the degree as a good investment for either progression in his career in law enforcement or post-retirement in a related field. He chose the online option for the flexibility that allowed him to spend as much time with his family as possible.

## New Hope Police Explorers Represent at State Conference

By Britni Austin

Our explorers did an excellent job representing not only our post, but also the city of New Hope in Rochester at the 43rd Annual Minnesota Law Enforcement Explorer Association State Conference on April 26-29. There were 48 explorer posts from Minnesota and North Dakota, 501 explorers involved in the competition and 893 total people involved in the conference including advisors, role players and judges.

Participants from New Hope competed in the following practical exercise events:

- Crime Prevention
- Domestic Crisis
- Emergency First Aid
- Witness Interview/Interrogation

They also competed in individual events for job interview and report writing.

The explorers attended two academic sessions to include Defensive Tactics (put on by Tom Menton and Chad Malmberg from Storm Combatives) and Dark Web (by Bill Michael from Computer Forensic Services).

As first year explorers, our kids brought home a first place trophy in the Dark Web academic session. This award was accompanied by a \$500 scholarship from Computer Forensic Services toward our explorer post. We are incredibly proud of their accomplishments!



Explorers (L to R) Will Krey, Riley Reed, Jack Olson and Kandace Franklin.



## Community Connections

CSO Will Leon-Aguilar takes a few moments to build rapport and be a positive role model for some young city residents. One of the boys' mothers wrote in to thank Will for taking the time to "promote a positive image on our youth!"

## From the city Personnel Rules & Regulations *(continued from page 1)*

### 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.



Above (L to R): Bernie Weber, Susan Rader, Kirk McDonald, Penny Spitzer, Dave Lemke, Walker Crawford, Rich Johnson, Shawn Markham

### Thanks for Cleaning up!

Many thanks to those who volunteered to clean up Dorothy Mary Park after work on Tuesday, May 26.

The employees of the city of New Hope adopted Dorothy Mary Park several years ago and have been cleaning it up ever since. It's always a nice, short outing in a beautiful park.

If you weren't able to participate this year, we hope to see you next!

## Happenings Around the City

### Annual Bike Rodeo—May 3

The joint New Hope/Crystal/Golden Valley/Robbinsdale Bike Rodeo took place in early May with over 300 participants who enjoyed food, prizes, were fitted for helmets, and took part in bike safety exercises.

Thanks go to Police Officer Nichole Korth, New Hope Recreation Supervisor Aaron Thelen, Golden Valley Recreation Supervisor John Stutzman, Crystal Recreation Manager Scott Berggren, and Robbinsdale Recreation Supervisor Ryan Parks who organized the fun event. Police Explorers and Reserves assisted along with Public Works Parks Staff who had a big hand in delivering all the supplies and equipment.

Thanks to all who helped make this another big success!

### Young Mudder—June 9

The 1st ever Young Mudder event took place in June at Lions Valley Place Park. Aaron Thelen from New Hope Parks & Rec, and Scott Berggren from Crystal Parks & Rec partnered to put together a muddy obstacle course for 6-12 year olds. The participants were able to complete the course as many times as they wanted, which included climbing walls, ramps, coffee sacks, mud pit, slip n' slide and much more! A DJ was on site playing music, along with multiple businesses and associations that volunteered and sponsored the event.

In total, 192 participants registered for the event and each of them received a goodie bag which included Young Mudder t-shirt, personalized dog tag, water bottle, granola bar, free skate pass to the New Hope Ice Arena, free pool pass to the Crystal Cove and much more.

The participants enjoyed getting muddy and the Parks & Recreation departments look forward to planning the event for next year!



### Duk Duk Daze—July 13-15



The weekend was a little warm - perfect weather for an outside celebration! Held at Northwood Park and other nearby locations, the annual event is sponsored by the Lions, with a host of supporting organizations. There are many activities, from bingo to balloon tying, some of which are pictured here. And, of course, lots of fair food!

Many thanks to the many city staff including public works, police and parks & recreation for the work they contribute to the success of this community event!

### Summer Theatre—July 19-August 4

Congratulations to Dean Blom, Building Official, and the many cast and crew of Off Broadway Musical Theatre's three-week sold-out run of "The Wizard of Oz." It was a truly magical performance!

### Wet and Wild Water Fun Day—August 3

Many attendees had fun cooling off at the Wet and Wild Water Fun Day Lions Valley Place Park in Crystal. The event was sponsored by New Hope, Crystal, Robbinsdale and West Metro Fire-Rescue District. Activities included three giant water slides and sprinklers.





# World Of Wellness 2018

The Wellness Committee has been very busy in 2018, with 6 programs complete or underway with much more to come!



## March—Twins Tickets

The human resources office once again coordinated the purchase of tickets for employees through a season subscription. The price this year was \$43 per ticket and the seats are located in the infield box. Employees that have used their tickets have said that the seats are excellent and have all enjoyed themselves. Look for information on the 2019 season in January!

## April—Biometric Testing

The city once again offered voluntary biometric testing through the New Hope Hy-Vee. Individual employee results remain confidential with the employee but the aggregate report can help inform management decisions on future wellness offerings. To date 57 employees have taken part and received a gift card for either \$50 at Dick's Sporting Goods or \$60 at Hy-Vee. *Employees that have not yet been screened, may do so at anytime by contacting the dietician's office at Hy-Vee. They will invoice the city directly and human resources will then provide the gift card.*

## May—Step to it Launch

Twenty-one employees interested in learning about the Hennepin County Step to It Program attended a program on May 1, enjoyed a meal from Qdoba and partook in a short walk in the neighborhood surrounding city hall.



## June—Salad in a Jar

On June 6, 18 employees participated in a workshop where they learned several delicious recipes for salads-in-a-jar. A perfect solution for an easy and healthy option for work lunches. Plus, they walked away with two prepared salads to enjoy plus two mason jars to use again for future meals! (photos below)



## July—Financial Wellness: Foundations of Investing

It is important for us to recognize that our bodies are not the only component of healthy living. Peace of mind when it comes to our financial affairs is also very important. Aaron Lindman, an Edward Jones Financial Advisor, led 22 employees through the steps he leads his clients through when they come to him for help on investing and saving for retirement. Participants enjoyed lunch during the presentation and asked several questions following Aaron's presentation.

## Upcoming Events

### August—Summer Games

It is time for the return of the ever popular (and somewhat competitive) Summer Games Wellness Lunch! Once again, Public Works staff will be hosting us at the Northwood Park Shelter on August 22 starting at 11:30 a.m. A flyer with full details is attached and posted around city hall and public works. There is no charge to employees for this event.

If you have an outdoor game you are willing to allow us to use or haven't yet RSVP'd, please contact Walker to do so.



### September—Two Events

#### Mutual of Omaha Luncheon

On September 19th, come learn from a Mutual of Omaha representative about the value added services employees qualify for including: employee assistance program, hearing discount program, travel assistance plan, and access to will preparation services. Lunch will be ordered and provided for participants with a \$5 co-pay.

#### Flu Vaccine Clinic

The city will again be hosting a flu vaccine clinic at city hall in September. Hy-Vee staff will be on-site the mornings of September 19 and 20.

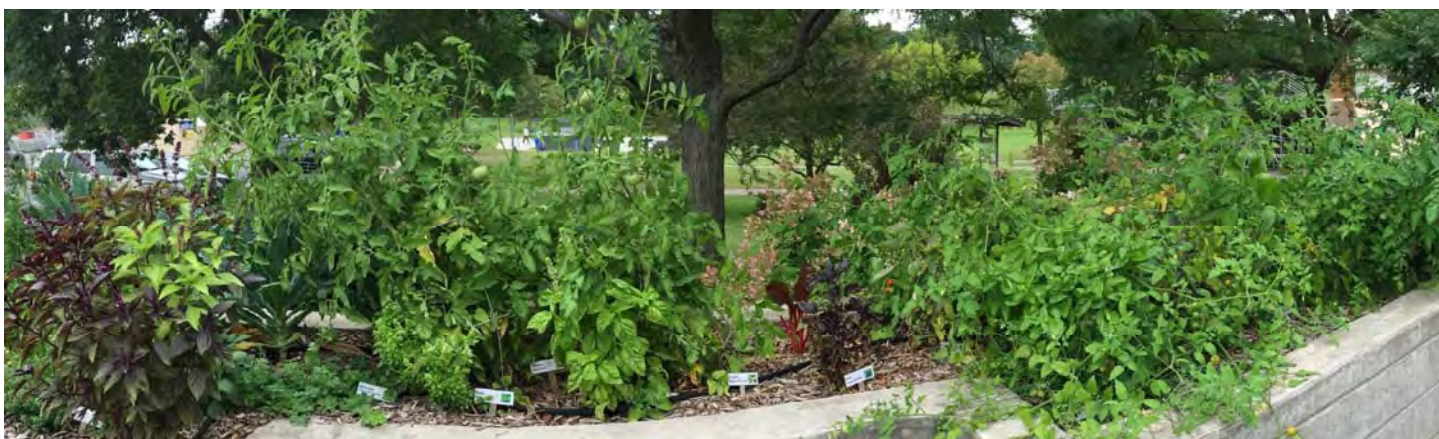
*Mark your calendars for both events and watch for more information toward the middle of August.*

## New This Year

### Sharing Garden—Harvesting Needed Now!

Volunteers from city hall staff along with assistance from public works have planted the raised planters outside of city hall with vegetables and herbs. Everyone, residents, visitors and employees alike, are welcome to help themselves. If you have any questions about proper harvest methods or need a bag, stop at the front desk and we will be happy to assist you. This is a great opportunity to try some new vegetables!

A partial listing of what is currently available includes Rosemary, Basil (multiple varieties), Thyme, Marjoram, Sage, Oregano, Chives, Peppermint, Verbena, Lavender, Chard, Bell Peppers, Zucchini, Cucumbers and Tomatoes.



## Upcoming Events

### Safety Camp—August 16-18

Youth entering grades 3 to 5 can attend the very popular three-day Safety Camp. Sessions may include fire safety, water safety, sports safety, electrical safety, computer safety, various demonstrations, and other topics to help keep themselves and others safe.



### Movies in the Park—August 24

The final showing will feature “D2: The Might Ducks” starting at approximately 8:30 p.m. Thank you to the show sponsor, Armstrong Cooper Youth Hockey Association. *Many thanks also to the New Hope Women of Today for sponsoring “Sing” on June 22 and West Metro Fire Auxiliary for sponsoring “Moana” on July 13.*

### Thanks for NEAR Food Shelf Donations

Thanks to all who have been participating in Wacky Wednesday so far this year. For a \$5 donation to the food shelf, participants are allowed to wear jeans that day. So far this year, over 377 pounds of food and \$735 cash have been donated to NEAR.

The next Wacky Wednesday is planned for August 22 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.

### Chili Cook-off 2018

Kirk had to relinquish his much coveted Chili Cook-off Trophy this last winter to Brandon Bell, a first time winner. Many thanks to our chili chefs Aaron Chirpich, Nichole Korth, Kirk McDonald, Jessi Weber, and of course, Brandon Bell. Thanks also to our dessert chef, Walker Crawford, and our condiment shopper, Valerie Leone.



### Note from the Editor:

My apologies for the tardiness of much of the information in this edition. I take the responsibility passed on to me by the former News & Views editor, Eve Lomaistro (The Roving Reporter), seriously and look forward to evolving the look and delivery of city employee news over the next six months.

Thank you, Eve, for many years of dedication to keeping all of us employees current on the work of each department and so many individuals!

The Jolly Journalist (pictured: Walker Crawford and Eve Lomaistro)

