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News & Views

September 1, 2022

The City of New Hope's Employee Newsletter



Top: A photo of Cadet Williams on one of this cakes.

Bottom: Sergeant Williams, Badge #53, receives his last sign-off for the City of New Hope.

Right: Marty with his mother, Mrs. Williams, and brother, Fridley Officer Mike Williams

Sergeant Williams Retires

Marty had never heard of New Hope before he was encouraged by a Brooklyn Center officer to apply for the cadet program operated by Crystal, Robbinsdale, New Hope, Brooklyn Center and Brooklyn Park in 1993. As he retires on August 31, Marty's presence at events and on the streets will be missed by his coworkers and the thousands of residents he has interacted with over the last almost 30 years.

Marty worked for Minnesota Public Housing Authority when he was hired as part-time cadet in '93. One day while still working for MPHA, he had a young resident of MPHA tell him that he wanted to be a police officer when he grew up. These words have stayed with Marty over the years. He knew that his goal was to be a role model and inspiration for youth of color, but he had assumed it would be in Minneapolis where he had spent the second half of his youth. However, because of his participation in the cadet program, when it was time for him to become an officer, he submitted applications, interviewed and had his choice of working for Robbinsdale or New Hope. He looked hard at what each department offered, and even though New Hope had several opportunities that drew him in, he admitted that he still had his doubts, as he would be the first person of color in the

Mark Your Calendar:

- Sept. 5 – Labor Day – City Offices Closed
- Sept. – Wellness: Outdoor Passes
- Sept. 13/14 – Wellness: Vaccination Clinic
- Sept. 21 – Wellness: Picnic & Games in the Park
- Sept. 24 – Farmers Market ends
- Sept. 27 – Employee Golf Tournament
- Sept. 28 – Wacky Wednesday: jeans or shorts
- Oct. 6 – Wacky Wednesday
- Oct. 28 – Open Enrollment Begins

department.

He did make that choice though and was hired and then promoted to a full-time cadet in 1995, before becoming an officer in August of 1996. He said he made the right choice. When he was hired, there was one other person of color hired as well, and he said he was welcomed without hesitation by his coworkers. Over the years, he has held two assignments as a school resource officer and two three-year assignments as an investigator. He has also been an Explorer advisor and worked with the ATF. In May of 2014, he was promoted to sergeant, the position he serves in today. Marty feels he has had a great career here at New Hope. He feels blessed that New Hope and he chose each other so many years ago.

Marty is looking forward to focusing on himself in this next phase of his life. He does not think he will shake his late-night schedule anytime soon. He is planning to focus on himself, and he is looking forward to spending more time with his son, now 16. He is also planning to spend more time down in Memphis where he is originally from, and his brother and sister still live.

He would leave us with the advice to keep smiling and find good in every day. In true Marty fashion, he opined that “negativity brings you down, so find the positive!”

You will be greatly missed, Marty! You could never be a stranger in New Hope and we hope to see you often!

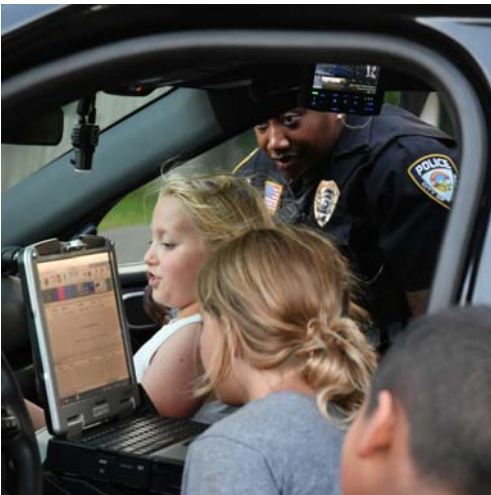
Recruitment Updates:

Community Service Officer – The city currently has three vacancies for this position. Join me in welcoming Connor Mueller who will be starting on Sept. 12. Two other candidates are currently working on prerequisites and the city hopes to have them start in September as well.

Happenings

National Night Out – Aug. 2

Despite near record heat, there were 56 block events held throughout the city. Thank you to Officer Brad Kallio and many others for the many hours put into assisting residents to organize safe and successful neighborhood events that hosted over 2,000 residents. Residents appreciate the visits by police and fire personnel as well as city council members and staff. Participants included Chief Hoyt, Captains Slawson and Johnson, Sergeants Williams, Stanley, TenEyck and Robles, Officers Loser, Kuyper, Ryan, Kallio, Michael, Arthur, Lesnikowski, Aguilar and Waldemar, Mayor Hemken and Councilmembers Hoffe, Elder, London and Isenberg, Seasonal Worker Kyah Hoyt and Communications Coordinator Beth Kramer (*photo credits to her as well*).





Safety Camp Hosts 75 Youngsters! – Aug. 16-18

Congratulations to city staff and volunteers for hosting another successful three-day event. The campers participated in various safety sessions including: electrical safety, fire safety, personal safety, water safety and 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: Brad Kallio, police; Aaron Thelen, parks & recreation; Shelby Wolf, West Metro

Safety Camp Leaders: Josh Arthur, Lee Larson, Kyah Hoyt—police; Brianna Gallup, Abigail Hanson, Jenna Korth, Elizabeth Rohe —parks & recreation; Dan Halvorson, Jesus Soto, Dean Snyder—West Metro

Other city staff: Matt Collier, Laurie Dube, Tim Hoyt, Beth Kramer, Tony Portesan, Jill Smisek, Penny Spitzer, Pete Stanley, West Metro firefighters, and additional staff from both public works and parks & recreation. Plus many additional other police and parks & recreation volunteers. *Photo Credit: Beth Kramer*

Cop on a Rooftop – Aug. 19



New Hope and Crystal police departments worked together with Dunkin' Donuts and contributed to the over \$31,000 raised by Minnesota Special Olympics in participating communities. Pictured: Captain Dave Johnson, Police Clerk Lorilee Stafford, Crime Prevention Officer Brad Kallio, officers from other agencies and Special Olympic athletes that were present to talk with donors that stopped by to make a gift. *Photo Credit: Beth Kramer*

Dip-Off Competition – Aug. 23

Employee Club sponsored the second annual Dip-Off. Six employees entered their favorite summer dips for judging by their peers plus there was one bonus dessert dip provided by Chef Hoyt. Pictured is last year's champion, Brandon Bell, passing the trophy to Shari Rains. Rains reigned with her Sweet Corn Dip entry. Congratulations, Shari! Thank you to everyone who attended and the other chefs, Brandon Bell, Linda Bergemann, Tim Hoyt, Brad Kallio and Walker MacBeath. It was a delightfully, delicious dip-off for all participants.



Upcoming!

Employee Insurance Committee to Reconvene – Sept. 7

The employee insurance committee, composed of approximately 18 employees, met on Aug. 24 to discuss changes in the 2023 insurance offerings by the city. The participants were charged with taking the information to their respective departments and bringing any feedback to the second meeting.



Open Enrollment Save the Date

The dates for Benefits Open Enrollment 2022 have been set. Materials will be distributed the week of Oct. 24th and Open Enrollment will run from Oct. 28 through Nov. 15.

Wellness

Summer Picnic and Games in the Park – Rescheduled for Sept. 21

Get outside and challenge your colleagues to some healthy sport of lawn games! Games in the past have included horseshoes, bag toss, Frisbee and bocce ball. When you sign up, be sure to select the game you would like to play and if you have specific employees you would like to challenge. To make sure everyone has a chance to play, those not making selections will be randomly assigned to games and opponents to follow the provided lunch! Raffle prizes to be drawn following score submissions. There is no charge for this event and sign-up is available at I:/Wellness. (Due to a sewer main collapse the event was postponed in August).

Outdoor Activity Passes – September

Employees have the option to purchase a one-year Minnesota state parks permit, 5 rounds at New Hope Golf or two tickets at the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum for the cost of \$15. The city will cover the remaining cost.

If you are interested, return a copy of the flyer emailed to all employees with your choice indicated and \$15 by Sept. 15. Passes will be available for pick-up from HR by Sept. 22. If you have any questions, call Walker at x5111.

Vaccination Clinics – Sept. 13 and 14

These will again be held at city hall in conjunction with Hy-Vee pharmacy. Options are flu, Hepatitis B, shingles, pneumonia and covid-19 vaccinations. Sign up at I:\Wellness or contact Walker MacBeath or Gina Karstens. If you would like to receive the Hepatitis B, Shingles or Pneumonia vaccine, provide Walker with your insurance card by Friday, 9/9, at Noon. He will provide it to Hy-Vee who will check insurance and take any required payment at the clinic.

Public Works Open House and Equipment Rodeo – Oct. 12

The committee thought with the recent improvements completed at public works, it would be a good time to get folks on-site for tours. Current plans also include a food truck and the opportunity for employees to get in some equipment and operate it. Look for more details to be sent out after Sept. 15.

