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News & Views

February 21, 2019

The City of New Hope's Employee Newsletter

Police Station & City Hall Construction Update

On the city hall side, the hanging/finishing of gypsum was recently completed along with mudding/taping/sanding. Interior painting is nearing completion and will be followed by installation of the ceiling grid. On the police station side, installation of HVAC ducting along with mudding/taping/sanding will continue, followed by the start of interior painting. On the exterior, metal coping and wall panel installation continues.

The bid opening for city hall, theater, park shelter building and hockey rink demolition was held on Feb. 7 and the bids were discussed at the Feb. 19 council work session. The low bid was about \$11,000 less than the engineers estimate/budget and staff will be recommending awarding the

contract at a March council meeting. Demolition of the theater, park shelter and rink will start later this winter/early spring, with city hall demolition to take place after the move into the new building.

Meetings were conducted with employees from each department to give them the opportunity to see plans for office/cubicle furniture and work space areas in the new building, and to give input on options for their specific spaces. Staff also had a chance to tour the building to get a sense of the new space.



Park/Pool Planning Update

The park amenities, parking lot and landscaping pre-bid meeting was held on Jan. 31. The bid opening was held on Feb. 14. The bid openings for the skate park and pool will be held the first part of March. All bids will be reviewed at the March work session, with potential contract awards at the Mar. 25 council meeting. The bid schedule has been arranged so that all costs for the pool and other Civic Center Park improvements will be known before the demolition bid is accepted.



In Memoriam

Our sympathies to Beth and Andrew Kramer and their family for the passing of Beth's grandmother, Harriet Walsh, on Feb. 4.

Our sympathies to Valerie Leone and her family for the passing of her father, Walter Veit, on Feb. 7.

Mark Your Calendar

Feb. 27—Wacky Wednesday & Chili Cook-Off

Feb. 28—Reduce/Recycle Day at City Hall

Mar. 4—Explorers Pizza Fundraiser

Mar. 19 or 20—Wellness Luncheon: Tour of Public Works

Mar. 27—Wacky Wednesday

Apr. 9-11—Biometric Screening

State of the City

Kirk McDonald and Mayor Hemken presented to a room of about 25 people on Wednesday, February 13 on the state of affairs in the city. They recapped the many highlights of 2018 and extended appreciation to the many staff members that have made them happen. Special thanks to TwinWest for co-hosting the group and to Jeff Alger and Keith Beise on all of their work in designing and scripting the presentation. Of course, the city manager requested that some humor be included!



Upcoming Events

Wacky Wednesday/Food Pantry Donations

In January, employees donated \$70 for Wacky Wednesday participation and collected 62 pounds of food for donation to NEAR. The next Wacky Wednesday will be held on Feb. 27. The proceeds will be used to support students and families from Cooper High School, Robbinsdale Middle School and Lakeview Elementary in a joint evening of service projects to benefit others in the community. Look for more details in an upcoming email from Susan Rader!

Annual Employee Club Chili Cook-Off

Join the employee club on Wednesday, Feb. 27 and vote for your favorite chili. The event is free for members, only \$5 for non-members and includes several chilies to try, all the fixings, beverages and dessert. Cooks also eat free. Look for a poster in your department or lunchroom for all of the details.

New Hope Police Explorer Fundraiser

by Britni Austin

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. 4, 2019 from 5:00 -7:30 p.m. at 3556 Winnetka Ave N. Tickets will be available for \$10 cash or check payable to New Hope Police Explorers. 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 August.



Jan. 17, 2019—Declutter and Get Organized!

Many individuals at city hall took part in this first of a series of events aimed at decluttering our spaces throughout the city. Pizza and salad was provided, and staff were allowed to wear jeans for the day. A short presentation took place over lunch as well. On

February 27, staff will be allowed to wear jeans again if they are able to dedicate time during the day to further decluttering in preparation for the move. Staff at public works will be having a similar event in the spring.

Feb. 21, 2019—Seizure Smart

Nikki Baker, Program Manager at the Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota trained staff on the basics of seizures, epilepsy and the response in a seizure situation. 19 staff members attended, many of whom enjoyed lunch catered by Hy-Vee during the presentation.

Upcoming

The Wellness Committee, comprised of Aaron Chirpich, Walker Crawford, Rich Johnson, Dave Lemke, Mic Rusk, Mike TenEyck and Aaron Thelen, has been busy planning a full wellness schedule for 2019. In March, we will be having a tour of public works and in April we will have our annual biometric screening. Watch for details to come soon. Ideas are always welcome, please contact and chat with any of the committee members at any time.

Employee of the 4th Quarter, 2018

Scott Anderson, Community Service Officer

Scott's nominator praised him for his on-going commitment to helping out wherever he can, whenever he can. His nominator has seen him lending a helping hand to many departments other than his own without being asked. This person also gave Scott a nod for helping make sure procedures run the way they should, saving time for fellow employees.

Scott started with the city in 2015 as a CSO and is definitely a "go-to guy" when you need something done and he always has a smile doing it.



Employee of the Quarter Nominations

We had a total of five nominations for the quarter. Congratulations to each of you!

Brandon Bell and Carissa Hoyt, public works admin. specialist and utility billing/assessments clerk, for designing and hosting a fantastic employee recognition event.

Beth Kramer, city manager admin. specialist, for her sincerely positive, upbeat and helpful disposition, especially during election season and in-person absentee voting.

Eric Hanson, general inspector, for performing double, and sometimes triple, duty in the months of November and December to cover for staff absences. His nominator made special note that during this time he continued to maintain his high level of service for his normal duties.

Public Works Employees for the following reason, "As part of a community giveback project the Rotary Club was doing, many pallets of donated food were dropped off to City Hall. Although public works had arranged to have employees come move the food on Friday, when it showed up unexpectedly on Thursday, Andrew and Jim (public works supervisors) coordinated a number of employees who stopped what they were doing and came to help move it off the pallets and into city hall on a moments notice. They did the same the following day when it needed to be rearranged to help get the boxes packed up."

Staff Transitions/Recruitment Updates

After over 10 years with the city, **Jim Muellner**, utilities maintenance supervisor, was offered a position with the City of Champlin utilities department and left the city Feb. 1. We wish him the best of luck!

Interviews for a **new utilities maintenance supervisor** are underway and we hope to have someone new in the position by the end of March.

Police clerk **Kate Larson** is retiring on Feb. 28 after 14 years with the city. She is looking forward to spending more time with her family, two- and four-legged. Please join us for a gathering of appreciation on Thursday, Feb. 28 at 3:00 p.m. Congratulations Kate, we thank you for your service and wish you many happy years of retirement!

The preferred candidate for a **new police clerk** is being backgrounded and we hope to have her start by mid-March.

Citizen Recognition of Employees

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

- Just a quick note to say THANK YOU to the Forestry/Pub Works guys today for trimming the trees along my street (48th Ave N). They did an AWESOME job! There was a large branch overhanging my driveway..., and I asked them to be sure to cut it back. They were very professional and I appreciate them doing this, on such a windy day. Nice job guys!
- A big shout out Thank You to the great Snow Plow drivers of New Hope. You are amazing. Thanks so much for your long hours to keep us going.
- Eric (Hanson) was just at my house to do a remodel inspection. He was very good (at) explaining why it could not be signed off on... What a gentleman! I think very highly of how professional he was in handling his inspection. You have a great employee!

2018 Police Awards

The 2018 Police Award Ceremony was held at the Jan. 28 council meeting. As Chief Fournier indicated, there were many acts to be recognized and commended for 2018. Thank you to each and every one of you. You embody the spirit of the city and your profession.

Chief Commendation

Captain Scott Slawson (2)
Sergeant Doug Brunner
Sergeant Chris Swaja
Officer Nicole Korth
Officer Todd Black
Officer James Bardon
Officer Kaitlyn Baker
Officer Ben Harty
Officer Jared Kuyper
Officer Gena Abramovich(3)
Officer Justin Janson
Officer Jason Ryan
Detective Tony Loser
Detective Cheri Galli
CSO Andrew Nickelson
Reserve Sergeant Joe Drinkwine
Supervisor Jeana Allen-Hatcher
Police Clerk Kate Larson
Police Clerk Lorilee Stafford

Lifesaving Commendation

Officer Andy Lamers
Officer James Bardon
Officer Nadine Jacobs
Officer Erick Dyer
Officer Britni Austin
Officer Chris Cazin
Officer Justin Janson
CSO Andrew Nickelson

Citizen Commendation

Mike and Allison Isenberg
Michael Culligan
Jeffrey Cerisier

Special Recognition

New Hope Police Explorers
Demeetri Martin

Medal of Merit

Officer James Bardon
Officer Nicole Korth

Medal of Valor

Officer Ben Harty



Above: Officers Nichole Korth and Gena Abramovich

Note: Supervisor Jeana Allen-Hatcher and Chief Fournier appear in all photos. Award recipients are listed alongside the photo.



Above: Mike and Allison Isenberg, New Hope residents



Above: Police Clerk Kate Larson



Above: Captain Scott Slawson and Supervisor Jeana Allen-Hatcher



Above: Police Clerk Lorilee Stafford



Right: Officer James Bardon