

Table of Contents

Employee Spotlights	pg. 2
Recruitment Updates	pg. 2
Happenings	pg. 3
Celebrations	pg. 4
Wellness	pg. 4



News & Views

October 20, 2022

The City of New Hope's Employee Newsletter

Employee of the Quarter



Congratulations to Steve Rohloff, maintenance worker, for being selected as the employee of the quarter for 3rd quarter 2022. Steve was nominated by his colleagues for picking up several on-call weeks this quarter and 11 so far this year. He's also one to volunteer to work late and come in for emergency calls when asked. Steve has been with the city since July 2017. Thanks for all of your extra work, Steve! We appreciate it and the residents of New Hope do as well! *Photo credit: Beth Kramer*

Additional Nominees:

Melissa DeLeeuw, police clerk, for going above and beyond cleaning up after a visitor came to the police department lobby.

Mic Rusk, maintenance worker, for taking the time to see that a Special Olympian that works in New Hope was recognized for her recent competition in Florida and the awards she brought home to the community.



Officer swearing in

Congratulations to Officers William Leon-Aguilar and Ben Rouse who were sworn in at the Sept. 26 city council meeting. Both were surrounded by friends, family and colleagues during the ceremony. Will was a CSO for the city since 2016 and was promoted to an officer last September. Ben has been an officer with the city since last September. Pictured: City Clerk Valerie Leone administers the oath to New Hope's newest sworn officers, Will (left) and Ben (right). *Photo credit: Beth Kramer*

Mark Your Calendar:

Oct. 26 – Wacky Wednesday

Oct. 27 – City Day/ NHPD Trunk or Treat

Oct. 28 – **Open Enrollment Begins**

Oct. 31 – WMFRD Truck or Treat

Nov. 8 – Election Day

Nov. 11 – Veterans Day - City Offices Closed

Nov. 15 – **Open Enrollment Ends**

Nov. 16 – Wacky Wednesday

Nov. 24/25 – Thanksgiving - City Offices Closed

Dec. 7 – Wellness: Drug Task Force Update

Dec. 8 – **Employee Appreciation Event**

Dec. 21 – Wacky Wednesday

Dec. 26 – Christmas (observed) - City Offices Closed

Employee Spotlights

Welcome to new CSOs Connor Mueller and Carissa Scherber-Hessian. They both started on Sept. 12 and have been getting out and about in the community!



Connor Mueller

Connor was raised in Maple Grove and comes from a family of medical professionals. His mom is a retired nurse, his dad is an emergency room technician and his sister is enrolled in the Navy and will be a corpsman. Connor enrolled in the Marine Corps straight out of high school and because of a transfer of his unit, he has now transferred to the Army National Guard. He's also attending school to obtain his associates in law enforcement.

Growing up and seeing his parents help others through tragic circumstances, he wanted to become an officer to try and prevent those tragedies whenever possible. He believes New Hope is the perfect fit for him and is excited to be here.

When he's not working or at school, Connor likes to be active inside and out. He enjoys river fishing and hiking. He once traveled around the entirety of Lake Superior, hiking much of the perimeter. He's planning to buy a dirt bike next year, as he's enjoyed riding over the years.

When he can't get out, he plays video games on occasion. He's also a collector of antique firearms. From his maternal grandfather he has an 1894 Winchester and from his paternal great-grandfather, a WWII POW, he has a Kar98K.

We're glad you're here, Connor!



Carissa Scherber-Hessian

Carissa has lived in New Hope since 2016 with her husband Zach and family of rescues, Lucian (German Shepard), HarleyQuinn (German Shepard/pit bull), Merlin (feline) and Luna (feline). She was raised in the west metro, loves the area and was very glad when she and Zach found a home in New Hope. Zach works for Boston Scientific and is also from the west metro. They are celebrating six years of marriage this fall.

Carissa's dad has been in mortgage banking for many years and her mom was a stay-at-home mom, spending a lot of time supporting Carissa as a competitive dancer as she was growing up. Carissa has one sister that lives nearby in Plymouth and works at the SLP Marriott.

Both Carissa and Zach enjoy hockey and play on multiple teams. Recently, Carissa has had to cut back since in addition to working full-time she is also enrolled in school to earn her associates in law enforcement. They also enjoy attending concerts and Wild games. When out on the town they are foodies and enjoy a delicious meal with a favorite being Manny's Steakhouse. When they stick closer to home, they enjoy gardening (this year she said the rabbits are winning) and landscaping, dog training and hosting BBQs and game nights with friends and family. When Carissa

has down time, she enjoys practicing yoga.

This time of year is Carissa's favorite with the leaves turning and the opportunity to decorate their yard and house for Halloween. They both enjoy greeting trick-or-treaters. Carissa, we hope that you find your work here at New Hope to be a treat as well!



Recruitment Updates:

Community Service Officer – The city currently has one candidate currently working on prerequisites and the city hopes to have them start in December.

Police Officer – Staff have completed their interviews and three candidates are moving forward to meet with the personnel board next week. Those certified will meet with Chief/Acting City Manager Hoyt on Nov. 1.

Happenings

Commissioner Bus Tour – Sept. 13

Thirty-five attendees toured 20 projects throughout the city. Thank you to Brandon Bell, community development coordinator/management analyst, for coordinating the event, and Susan Rader, parks & recreation director; Jeff Sargent, community development director; Bernie Weber, public works director; Jeff Alger, community development specialist; Nick Macklem, stormwater specialist/project coordinator; Dan Boyum, city engineer; Ann Ackerson, Stantec; Aaron Thelen, recreation supervisor; and Tim Hoyt, acting city manager, for their writing and speaking contributions; as well as other city staff that helped make arrangements and host. *Photo credit: Beth Kramer*



Olympian recognized by staff – Sept. 14

As mentioned earlier in this edition, Mic Rusk, tipped off the acting city manager about Hannah, an employee of The Cake Box, and her recent success at the 2022 Special Olympics in Florida. Officers Jared Kuyper and Ben Rouse and Communications Coordinator Beth Kramer volunteered to make a visit to The Cake Box and congratulate Hannah on the bronze and silver medals she brought home to Minnesota. She greatly appreciated the recognition. Thank you, Hannah, for representing our community so proudly! *Photo credit: Beth Kramer*



Employee Golf Outing – Sept. 27



Parks and recreation staff Jill Smisek, office specialist; Penny Spitzer, administrative specialist; Aaron Thelen and Mark Severson, recreation facilities manager, arranged for the perfect evening for the employee golf tournament for the second year in a row!

Twenty-two participated and following the golfing, attendees enjoyed a delicious meal of pulled pork sandwiches, baked beans, potato salad, chips and cookies prepared by Jill and Penny. Following the meal, prizes were awarded: Closest to Pin #3 – Kay Myers, Closest to Pin #8 – Steve Swenson, Longest Putt #2 – Steve Swenson,

Longest Putt #4 – Ben Rouse, Longest Putt #6 – Aaron Thelen, Longest Putt #7 – Tony Loser, Longest Putt #9 – Susan Rader and Low Gross Team went to Jim Cox, Terri Cox, Warren Bindewald and Steve Swanson. Even those not winning took home a fabulous door prize of their choice! *Photo credit: Susan Rader*

New Hope Job Fair – Oct. 13

Following a suggestion by a local business, members of the community development team led by Brandon Bell organized a job fair held at city hall from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. Twenty businesses and 48 job seekers participated. Thank you to Brandon, Jeff Alger, Linda Bergemann, CD office specialist, Jessi Weber, CD administrative specialist and Beth Kramer for a great event that was appreciated by many of the businesses, including the city! *Photo credit: Beth Kramer*



Celebrations—Congratulations to:

Engagements

- Tony Portesan to fiancée Whitney on May 6 (apologies for the tardiness!).
- Gina Karstens, public works administrative specialist, to fiancé Bret on Sept. 17.

New Baby

Brandon Bell, wife Lily and big brother Teddy on the arrival of the newest member of their family, Clara. Clara was born on Sept. 16 and is doing great!



Wellness

Outdoor Activity Passes – September

Fourteen employees took advantage of the city’s offer to pay a majority of the cost for a one-year Minnesota state parks permit, five rounds at New Hope Golf or two tickets to the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. We hope everyone has been able to get out and enjoy our beautiful Minnesota fall!

Vaccination Clinics – Sept. 13 and 14

Hy-Vee staff provided one or more of the flu, Hepatitis B, shingles, pneumonia and Covid-19 vaccinations to 21 individuals. Thank you to everyone that participated for taking an active role in preventative care that benefits you and those around you.

Summer Picnic and Games in the Park – Sept. 21

Thirty employees enjoyed gorgeous weather and good food at Civic Center Park and Pavilion. There were some “mean” games of Connect Four and bag toss observed following the meal. Thank you to Mic Rusk and Matt Rowedder, utilities maintenance supervisor, for all of their work organizing, shopping and grilling for the group.



Public Works Open House and Equipment Rodeo – Oct. 12

Though the weather threw a curveball by turning a bit cool and rainy in the middle of the event, 22 employees enjoyed food from Streetz Soul Food truck and enjoyed seeing some of the building improvements at public works. Thank you for Matt Rowedder for arranging for equipment to be available for employees to try out. Pictured: The Jolly Journalist (Walker MacBeath) tries his hand at moving dirt. *Photo credit: Beth Kramer*

Coming: DTF Briefing and Drug Awareness – Dec. 7

Hear about what’s going on in our community, and what an average day looks like for the city’s drug task force officer.

