

Special Edition

The city had three new employees start on Jan. 6. We thought waiting for the next full edition to introduce them was too long, so here are their spotlights. If you haven't already met them, introduce yourself and make them feel welcome!

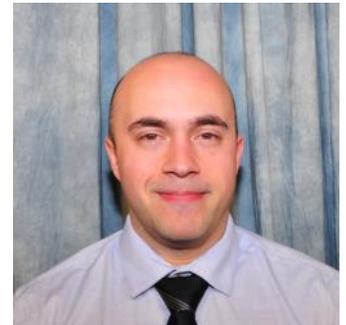
News & Views

January 17, 2020

The City of New Hope's Employee Newsletter

Adam Link, Community Service Officer

Many of you will recognize Adam. He served as a CSO previously here at the city in 2017-2018 before moving to Washington to spend time exploring the Western coast. For a refresher, his previous spotlight can be found in the July 2017 issue of News & Views. Continuing from where the Roving Reporter left off in that issue, the most exciting news is that while in Washington, Adam married his fiancé Brittany on June 29, 2019. They met here before moving to the coast together. She is from Washington County and while I didn't get the full story, their first date involved a gun range. Pretty perfect for an individual in law enforcement! Since moving back to Minnesota, Brittany has enrolled in school to become an occupational therapist.



Hand in hand with both being gun enthusiasts, they enjoy being active outdoors. They spent a great deal of time hiking and camping in the South Puget Sound area. And Adam shared that for a while they were on Mount Rainier, Mount St. Helens or somewhere on the Cascade Mountain Range every weekend (*photo is one he took while there*). When not in the mountains, one of his favorite meals is sushi. The Lobster Shop in Seattle and Trappers, a local chain in the area they lived, were two of their favorite places to enjoy it. Adam and Brittany



also enjoy spending time with friends and family, especially playing board games and cards. A current favorite card game is "Throw Throw Burrito." In his description of the game, my sense is that you need to be both a card player and a serious athlete! When asked what would be something we would be surprised to learn about him, Adam said that he used to be a hobbyist DJ, playing a wide range of music for parties and weddings. I asked Adam how it was returning to the police department. He said it was good but a little weird leaving the old city hall and returning to the new with the same staff. Welcome back, Adam. We know you will quickly adapt to the newly upgraded space!

Andrea Phinney, Accounting Technician

Andrea Phinney comes to us from Brooklyn Center, most recently working at Diversified Equities Corporation (DEC). Andrea and her husband, Geoff, have two young boys, Clay, age 5, and Jack, age 3. Geoff is currently an electrician apprentice with IBEW 292, which has him working throughout the metro area depending on the job he's assigned to. They all share their home with Lyla, an eight-year-old lab/Australian Shepard mix and as Andrea stated, her only girl! Andrea is originally from Hastings but now her father lives in Cottage Grove and her mom and step-father winter in Texas. Before finding her way to DEC, Andrea became a certified



massage therapist through CenterPoint Massage School. During her time at DEC, she earned an associate's degree in business finance. As you can see, she enjoys learning! Andrea has lived in Dallas and Denver and Geoff is from Maine, but she is glad to be back home in Minnesota.

The entire family are outdoor enthusiasts. When in Denver, Andrea's favorite hike was one just outside of Estes National Park that required off-roading to get to and allowed Lyla to be with them off-leash. Clay is involved with basketball, ninja warrior class, soccer and t-ball. When it's just mom and the kids they spend time exploring arts and crafts, including watercolors and mixed medium projects. Growing up Andrea's mom operated an art studio so she comes by it naturally. During the summer, the family enjoys exploring bodies of water and beaches. A nearby favorite for them is Golden Lake Park Beach where the boys can go looking for replica fossils in the play area. One of her favorite vacations was a trip to Deadwood where they spent time on a side-by-side exploring trails. She also has a love of classic vehicles, born from experiences with her dad growing up. He was an upholsterer and primarily worked on boats, but he also worked on cars and owned some classics personally over the years. Andrea's first car was a '79 Ford Ranchero. She has a preference for rare American muscle and would like to own one someday. Geoff would like to own a classic truck of some sort. She recalls a dilapidated BMW in a Texas field that was beyond their means to restore, but it is clear she's not given up the hunt. Welcome to New Hope, Andrea. We may not be a hot spot for classic cars, but there is no shortage of learning you will be able to do!

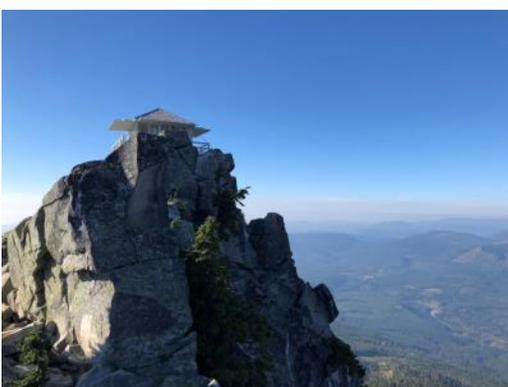
Tony Portesan, Recreation Facilities Supervisor

Tony is the city's new recreation facilities supervisor. While the position title isn't new, the focus on the expanded aquatic center is. And Tony comes well prepared for the challenge ahead of staffing and programming the large facility given his recent experience in the same role at Bunker Beach Water Park in Coons Rapids. He spent summers working there from the time he was 15 and since starting full-time with Bunker Beach, almost 5 years ago, he was the recreation facilities supervisor there as well.



Tony was raised in Andover with his sister, a resident of Wayzata, and brother, a student at the University of Minnesota. His parents still live in Andover, his mom is a financial graphic designer and his dad a voice engineer. Tony currently lives in NE Minneapolis with his girlfriend, Whitney, and their cats, Moo and Minette. Whitney is a naturalist at Wargo Nature Center in Anoka County. Tony's degrees are in English and technology communication but if his chosen vocation doesn't prove to you he's an outdoor enthusiast, his many adventures will.

In 2016, Tony ran the Twin Cities Marathon. Since then he's focused more on covering ground with the car and via hiking. In 2017 and 2018, he took advantage of the facts that his best friend lives in Seattle and his sister then living in Sacramento by taking road trips to visit them and drive the West Coast. In 2018, his brother accompanied him and one of their highlights was hiking Mount Pilchuck Trail to an old fire lookout tower (*see photo Tony took below*) that offers breathtaking panoramic views. In 2019, he and Whitney spent time hiking the Great Smoky Mountains. When looking for a more relaxing pace they enjoy frequenting local



breweries and participating in trivia night at local establishments. Tony also plays Dungeons and Dragons and the guitar.

When I asked Tony if he had anything else to add, he shared a remarkable story about an Italian man (his grandfather) accidentally leading his family from the mountains in Bolzano, Italy to Sao Paulo, Brazil. The rest of the story, as they say, is his to tell. Welcome, Tony! We doubt you will find any oysters in the New Hope Aquatic Center, but for the residents of New Hope, it will be a whole new world!