

# PLYMOUTH PUBLIC SAFETY

## EXTRA

### Welcome to the Public Safety Extra

This publication provides an inside look at fire and police services, equipment, programs and news.

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Mike Goldstein

And remember, we're just a phone call away.

Sincerely,

**Mike Goldstein,**  
Director of Public Safety

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### Fire Department Open House offers fire education, fun



October's Fire Department Open House provided fun educational opportunities for hundreds of attendees. Activities included navigating a firefighter obstacle course, watching a fire sprinkler demonstration and learning to operate a fire hose.

## Plymouth Police Department adopts 21st Century Policing

Trust between law enforcement agencies and the residents they protect and serve is essential – and the Plymouth Police Department has taken a proactive approach to maintaining and strengthening that trust by adopting the 21st Century Policing model.

“It’s about building authentic, sustainable relationships with all aspects of the community – faith communities, schools, businesses, neighborhoods, those with special needs and new Americans – whereby anybody in the community can feel comfortable contacting us if they have a need,” said Plymouth Public Safety Director Mike Goldstein.

The 21st Century Policing model is the result of a 2014 presidential task force that brought together law enforcement, community leaders, academics and others to examine how to build trust between police and the communities they serve.

To chart its progress within the model, and to increase community outreach and transparency, the Plymouth Police Department has published an ongoing report. The report can be viewed at [plymouthmn.gov/21stCenturyPolicing](http://plymouthmn.gov/21stCenturyPolicing).

The model identifies six pillars and associated action items for law enforcement agencies:

- Building Trust and Legitimacy
- Policy and Oversight
- Technology and Social Media
- Community Policing and Crime Reduction
- Officer Training and Education
- Officer Wellness and Safety



The 21st Century Policing model has helped the Plymouth Police Department bolster its community outreach efforts through new events such as Cones with Cops, which offer residents and officers the opportunity to interact in an informal setting.

Plymouth’s progress report details each pillar and includes examples of how the department meets recommendations within the model.

“Many police departments, like ours, have been doing certain aspects of this programming for a long time, but this model is a common denominator for all law enforcement organizations. It’s a call to action,” said Goldstein. He said the model has helped the Plymouth Police Department improve its focus in three main areas – community outreach, officer training and development, and officer wellness.

#### Community Outreach

While the department has been active in the community through school resource officers, police ride-alongs, programs such as the Public Safety Citizens Academy and community events like Night to Unite, the model has encouraged the department to bolster its outreach efforts.

*Policing model ... continued on page 2E*

## Home Free, police partner to launch Blueprint for Safety

Since 1980, the Plymouth Police Department has worked with Plymouth-based Home Free, which offers resources and emergency housing for women who have suffered domestic abuse. The two organizations recently partnered to launch a new comprehensive domestic violence victim advocacy program – the Blueprint for Safety.

Based on a national platform adopted by police departments across the country, the program offers increased support for victims and helps bring justice to abusers. The implementation process for Plymouth’s Blueprint for Safety involved Hennepin County courts, prosecutors, probation officers, advocates at Home Free and Plymouth police officers.

“It’s a more robust service offering to determine the best course for the victim – a systematic approach from the time the call is placed, to the time the court case is heard,” said Plymouth Public Safety Director Mike Goldstein. “It’s about getting the best possible outcome for the victims.”

In the past, after any domestic assault incidents, Plymouth police officers contacted Home Free, which reached out



The Plymouth Police Department has partnered with Home Free to launch the Blueprint for Safety, a comprehensive domestic violence victim advocacy program.

to victims to offer resources and support. However, that’s frequently where the contact ended, said Plymouth Police Sgt. Curtis Smith. With the Blueprint for Safety, the relationship between the two organizations has changed.

*Blueprint ... continued on page 2E*





# Plymouth fire chief deployed for Hurricane Irma relief efforts

As Hurricane Irma raced toward Florida in early September, a group of 16 Minnesotans was already heading south to assist Floridians with recovery efforts – including Plymouth Fire Chief Rodger Coppa.

Coppa is part of a statewide emergency response team – Minnesota All Hazard Incident Management Team – that was deployed to Marathon Key in Monroe County to help state and local officials deal with the aftermath of the hurricane.

Comprised of police officers, firefighters, emergency managers, paramedics and medical engineering technicians, with a caravan of eight vehicles, the team offered a diverse skill set and was well-prepared. Because of this, they were assigned to the field.

The team’s mission was to set up points of distribution for food and water.

Of the more than 70,000 people who live in the Florida Keys, an estimated 10,000 did not evacuate.

“They were prepared to weather the storm, but not the longer term,” said Coppa. “They were not prepared to survive the next two weeks.”

With oppressively hot and humid conditions following Hurricane Irma’s landfall, there was no air conditioning, electricity, cell phone service, running water or sewer, and area grocery stores were closed.



A member of the Minnesota All Hazard Incident Management Team, Plymouth Fire Chief Rodger Coppa was deployed to Marathon Key in Monroe County, Florida in September to help officials deal with the aftermath of Hurricane Irma.

“Some people were living off of coconuts – that’s all they had,” said Coppa.

The team set up seven distribution points that served about 10,000 people for six days across 86 miles in the Keys.

Coppa noted that some residents assisted in delivering supplies or seeking medical aid on behalf of neighbors or others who were unable to travel.

“I was impressed by the resiliency of the community – the locals who stayed around to help each other,” he said. “It was the best of humanity and we were able to see it come through even in the worst of times.”

## Policing model ... from page 1E

New community engagement events, such as Cones with Cops, Coffee with Cops and Bingo with the Badge have offered residents and officers the opportunity to interact in an informal setting.

“We are intentional in our efforts to redefine what our outreach should look like – the expectation is that all of our officers can be engaged,” said Goldstein.

The department also added a fifth patrol district due to the city’s growth, which helps balance call load and allows officers more time for community engagement. Officers are encouraged to visit with the public during their shifts by stopping into schools, daycares, businesses, neighborhoods, parks and more to get to know the community.

“A lot of our work is not enforcement-related – it’s service-related,” added Goldstein. “We are in the business of solving problems. It’s a 24/7 service.”

## Officer Training and Development

Officer training has been a longstanding priority of the Plymouth Police Department, which has continually followed and exceeded the Minnesota Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training requirements. However, the 21st Century Policing model and additional training funds available through the state have helped the department focus its efforts and learn new techniques for a more proactive response.

Officers are provided training in a variety of areas, including cultural competency, de-escalation and crisis intervention. The department also maintains policies pertaining to discrimination, impartial policing, customer service, internal affairs/citizen complaints, conduct unbecoming of an officer and bias-motivated crimes.

In addition, every officer has received an 8-hour Critical Incident Training, and the department employs 14 officers who have been certified as CIT officers after completing the full 40-hour course. The department continues to send additional officers to the full 40-hour course.



A key pillar in the 21st Century Policing model, officer wellness is vital to ensure the Plymouth Police Department is providing quality service to residents. The department’s in-house gym is available to officers as part of the wellness program.

## Officer Wellness

Another important area that the 21st Century Policing model has helped shape is the department’s officer wellness program, which focuses on three components – body, mind and spirit. All officers receive training for wellness/fitness and suicide prevention on an annual basis, per the department’s wellness program policy.

Goldstein said officer wellness is vital to ensure the department is providing quality service to residents.

“If you have broken police officers, they’re going to offer broken service,” he said.

**Body.** To offer opportunities to improve physical fitness, the department has an in-house gym and employs a part-time tactical physician who is primarily an emergency room doctor at Hennepin County Medical Center. The tactical physician helps provide fitness and nutrition advice, trains with the SWAT team and participates in annual officer trainings.

**Mind.** To combat acute and chronic stress that officers may experience throughout their career, the department has a mental health professional on retainer, available to officers at no charge for a private assessment.

**Spirit.** Chaplains are available to provide guidance to officers as needed.



The Plymouth Police Department was presented the Excellence in Innovation Award by the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association in May for its officer wellness program.

## Plymouth Police awarded Excellence in Innovation

The Plymouth Police Department was awarded the large-agency Excellence in Innovation Award by the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association in May for its three-pronged approach to officer wellness – mind, body, spirit.

“There’s no doubt it’s challenging to be a law enforcement leader right now, but Minnesota’s police chiefs and their staffs are coming up with forward-thinking solutions to a variety of issues,” said Andy Skoogman, MCPA Executive Director. “The Chiefs Association designed this award to highlight those agencies and ideas that are improving public safety, and Plymouth should be proud to be among the state’s leaders in innovation.”

Nominees for the award included other highly regarded police departments, including Shakopee, Bloomington and Albert Lea.

## Blueprint ... from page 1E

In addition to expanded training for officers regarding domestic violence abuse and abusers, officer involvement in each case has increased. The program helped develop a specific series of questions officers ask to determine lethality.

“The lethality assessment makes it easier for a judge to understand the abuser, which makes it easier for the victim to get a no contact order,” explained Smith.

Another way officer involvement has increased is through follow-up. After responding to a domestic assault incident, Plymouth police officers return within 24 hours to check on the victim. Officers make sure the victim is OK, re-examine and document injuries, and ensure that the abuser has not returned.

“We want to do what’s best for the safety of the victims,” said Smith. “We want them to think of police officers as a resource, not just the first responders who show up to make the arrest.”

“We had the opportunity to step up and do something better,” said Goldstein. “We can better prevent violent interactions from occurring within a home when the right people are working together.”

For more information or to speak to an advocate about domestic violence, call the Home Free 24-hour crisis line at 763-559-4945.

## PARKING REMINDER

On-street parking is not allowed on city streets from 2-5 a.m. This regulation is in effect year round. During winter months, parking is also prohibited after a 2 1/2-inch snowfall until the street has been plowed curb-to-curb. Violators may be tagged and/or towed.

For more information, including how to obtain a waiver for special circumstances, visit [plymouthmn.gov/police](http://plymouthmn.gov/police).