



City Council adopts budget

The Plymouth City Council has adopted the 2019 budget, which includes an overall tax levy increase of 4.9 percent from 2018. The budget includes the addition of 15.4 full-time-equivalent (FTE) employees – including six full-time firefighters, five public works positions and three Police Department positions. Since 2010, Plymouth's population has increased by more than 6,000 people, and the budget aims to keep services equitable throughout the city.

As employees are added in 2019, comparative staffing levels have remained largely unchanged for decades. For example, there were 3.5 FTEs per 1,000 residents in 1980. The proposed 2019 budget features 3.6 FTEs per 1,000 residents. More information about the budget is available online at plymouthmn.gov/financialreport. Also available online is the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, which provides detailed information on the city's financial status and practices.



Winter plowing and parking

To improve snow plowing efficiency, residents are reminded of the winter parking ordinance. Parking is prohibited on streets after a 2-inch snowfall until the street has been plowed to the curbs. Violators may be tagged and towed. Plymouth also has a year-round ordinance that prohibits parking on city streets 2-5 a.m.

Help make plowing operations more efficient:

- Place garbage and recycling containers 3 feet behind the curb in your driveway to prevent waste from being scattered if it is likely streets will be plowed on your collection day.
- Do not shovel, plow or blow snow into the street – blowing snow in the street makes it more difficult to clear streets, particularly cul-de-sacs.
- Please keep your mailbox clear of snow to ensure postal delivery.
- Please clear snow and ice around fire hydrants near your house.

For more information about snow removal operations, or to sign up for snow emergency eNotifications, visit plymouthmn.gov/snow.

Election 2018: New mayor and council members take seats Jan. 8

Four Plymouth City Council seats, including mayor, were on the 2018 general election ballot. New council members begin terms at the Tuesday, Jan. 8 council meeting.

Ward 2 Council Member Jeff Wosje was elected to serve a four-year term as mayor, replacing the outgoing mayor, Kelli Slavik, who did not seek re-election.

Nick Roehl was elected to the Ward 2 council seat left open by mayor-elect Wosje, representing southwestern Plymouth.



New council members, including a new mayor and Ward 2 council member, will take office Tuesday, Jan. 8.

Jim Prom won re-election to a four-year term as Ward 4 council member, representing northeastern Plymouth. Ned Carroll was re-elected to a four-year term as an at-large council member, representing all wards in Plymouth.

Not included in the 2018 general election were Ward 1 Council Member Judy Johnson, Ward 3 Council Member Jim Davis and At-Large Council Member Jim Willis.

Embrace the season at Fire & Ice

Cold weather can't keep Plymouth residents from having fun – Fire & Ice celebrates three decades of bringing residents outside during the chilly Minnesota winter.

The 30th-annual Fire & Ice festival is set for 3-7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 2 at Parkers Lake Park, off County Road 6 and Niagara Lane. Favorites of Fire & Ice include recycling bin races, a youth ice fishing contest, hayrides, pony and sled-dog rides, miniature golf on the ice, snow bowling, box hockey, recreational skating, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing, weather permitting.



Fire & Ice ... continued on page 2

The annual Fire & Ice festival returns to Parkers Lake in Plymouth Saturday, Feb. 2.

The past comes to life through the Plymouth Historical Society

In mid-2018, the City of Plymouth and the Plymouth Historical Society forged a new partnership to strengthen Plymouth's historical preservation efforts.

The partnership includes a city-funded part-time staff position to manage programming, grant writing, information digitization and organizational evaluation. The city hired Natasha Thoreson as historic site manager at the PHS, which is located in the original Town Hall at 3605 Fernbrook Lane N.

"Plymouth's history is continually growing," Thoreson said. "We want to be as much a part of the here and now as we are a part of retelling the past. History happens every day and shapes our future."

Increasing Preservation Efforts

In addition to hiring Thoreson, a group of about 15 volunteers from the city's volunteer program have been working in a number of capacities at the PHS.



This 1885 photo titled "The Boys at Schiebe's" showcases one of Plymouth's most historically significant early businesses – Schiebe's Corner.

So far, the PHS has launched a new website (plymouthmnhistoricalsociety.org), created a new logo, developed a weekly blog and enhanced the newsletter. Ongoing projects include digitization of historical artifacts such as documents, images and other materials.

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Indoor Walking – Stay active this winter by taking advantage of free indoor walking or jogging at the Plymouth Creek Center Fieldhouse, 14800 34th Ave. N., November through March. For hours, call 763-509-5292 or visit plymouthmn.gov/fieldhouse.

City Offices Closed for Holidays – Plymouth city offices will be closed Monday, Jan. 21 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Monday, Feb. 18 for Presidents Day.

Tree Trimming – Each year, the City of Plymouth hires a Tree Care Industry Association accredited tree service to prune boulevard and park trees. Ostvig Tree, Inc. will trim boulevard trees for street clearance and removal of hazardous and/or dead limbs. The trimming is set for February and March and will be focused in the northwest corner of Plymouth. Residents who trim their own boulevard trees should contact City Forester Paul Buck at 763-509-5944 or pbuck@plymouthmn.gov so they can be noted in the tree inventory.

Pruning of private trees is the responsibility of property owners. Pruning is strongly recommended during dormancy (typically November through March) to avoid potential pest and disease problems. Tree services with certified arborists on staff and adequate insurance are recommended.

Fire & Ice ... from page 1



The 30th-annual Fire & Ice features entertainment, games and more on Parkers Lake Saturday, Feb. 2.

To combat the cold, attendees can warm up at a bonfire with s'mores and hot chocolate, while supplies last, sponsored by Step by Step Montessori. Food trucks will also be on site. The finale of the event – fireworks sponsored by the Plymouth Civic League – will begin around 6:30 p.m.

Medallion Hunt

The ninth-annual medallion hunt begins Thursday, Jan. 10 with a clue on plymouthmn.gov and the city's social media platforms. More clues will be published Thursdays, Jan. 17, 24 and 31, or until someone finds the medallion. There is no need to register or pay to participate. A \$250 prize will be awarded to the first sleuth who finds the medallion. Only Plymouth residents are eligible. For more information, visit plymouthmn.gov.

More Information

Fire & Ice is free, aside from food trucks, and open to the public. Free shuttle service will be available 3:30-7:30 p.m. More details and a schedule of Fire & Ice events will be posted at plymouthmn.gov in early January.

For weather concerns, check plymouthmn.gov or call the weather line at 763-509-5205.

Project preview: Plymouth prepares for 2019 road work

A number of important infrastructure improvements are coming to Plymouth in 2019. Traffic impact and project sizes vary project to project.

Below is a preview of what motorists can expect on roadways this year.

County Road 9 Bridge

A high-profile project, the County Road 9 (Rockford Road) bridge over Interstate 494 will be replaced, bringing much-needed improvements and capacity upgrades to the entire interchange. The bridge, built in 1965, has failed to support growing traffic levels in the area, creating a bottle neck and posing significant public safety issues.

Funding for bridge replacement was included in the state bonding bill, which will allow the project to begin this summer and last through the end of the year. A project open house is set for 4-6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 16 at Plymouth City Hall, 3400 Plymouth Blvd. Traffic impacts will be significant, though entrance and exit ramps are expected to remain open for the majority of the project.

Railroad Crossing Upgrades

Safety improvements are coming to Canadian Pacific Rail crossings at Pineview, Larch and Zachary lanes. The projects include the installation of safety devices and upgraded technologies at existing crossings. These improvements will also allow the city to establish a consistent 24-hour quiet zone. The upgrades are expected to be complete by year's end.

County Road 47

The city will begin to study County Road 47 in northern Plymouth. As population growth continues in the area,



Infrastructure projects in Plymouth this year include replacing the County Road 9 bridge over Interstate 494 and making safety improvements at three railway crossings in the city.

the city will conduct a study this year to determine the functionality of the County Road 47 corridor.

Currently a two-lane road, the corridor study will determine the best way to manage the roadway for traffic and pedestrian safety in the future.

Public input will be sought in the process. Visit plymouthmn.gov for updates as the study progresses.

A project currently slated on County Road 47 will improve the pedestrian crossing at Dallas Lane in 2019.

Peony Lane and Schmidt Lake Road

The City of Plymouth and Wayzata Public Schools are working together to conduct a traffic study of Peony Lane and Schmidt Lake Road near Wayzata High School.

The goal of the study is to determine if problems exist and, if so, to develop a process to implement improvements jointly with stakeholders.

Learn more about projects at plymouthmn.gov as information becomes available.

Residents weigh in on the future of the PCC

For five months in 2018, more than 1,000 residents shared their thoughts with the city about a potential renovation or expansion of the Plymouth Creek Center.

The city used a variety of tools – an online survey, open houses, an interactive website and in-person feedback boards – to help residents weigh in on the future of the nearly 20-year-old activity center.

In November 2018, a comprehensive Community Engagement Report for the Plymouth Creek Center was published and presented to City Council.

The report can be viewed at plymouthmn.gov/pccproject.

A Well-Used Facility

The Plymouth Creek Center serves as an important hub for senior, arts and recreation programming, as well as community events.

The well-used center needs maintenance and updates. Additionally, in recent years, the center has struggled to meet the demand for space as Plymouth's population has continued to grow.

The community engagement process was conducted before developing project specifics to encourage residents to start with a blank slate when considering possible improvements, said Chris Fleck, Plymouth Creek Center manager.

Report Summary

Throughout the engagement process, about 58 percent of all participants voiced support for a building addition or substantial renovation of the Creek Center.

The highest levels of support were for a gym and new or improved walking amenities. High levels of support were



Residents provided feedback on a potential upgrade project at the nearly 20-year-old Plymouth Creek Center.

also shown for classrooms, an indoor playground, an art studio, a senior space and a wellness space.

"It gave us a clearer picture about what spaces people would like to see as we consider a project," Fleck said. "Hearing directly from our users is a great first step in any potential project at the Plymouth Creek Center."

Next Steps

The feedback collected from the community will help guide upcoming decisions regarding a potential project. City Council will revisit the topic in early 2019.

If a project is desired, next steps would include developing a project scope and beginning the design process.

While the initial study is complete, residents will have additional opportunities to weigh in if the project advances. For more information, visit plymouthmn.gov/pccproject.

HRA helps homeowners, home buyers and more in Plymouth

The goals of homeowners are wide-ranging and can become challenging, but the City of Plymouth and the Plymouth Housing and Redevelopment Authority offer a number of programs to assist residents.

To learn more about any of the programs below, visit plymouthmn.gov/hra or call 763-509-5410.

First-Time Homebuyer Loans

The HRA offers zero-interest deferred loans to help qualified buyers offset down payment and closing costs.

Applicants must meet income limits, attend a homebuyer education class, finance the home through a participating lender and be a first-time homebuyer or have not owned a home in the last three years.

Those interested in the program are encouraged to contact the HRA early in the home buying process.

Visit plymouthmn.gov/firsthome for details.

Home Rehabilitation Loans

Zero-interest loans are available for qualifying applicants in moderate- to low-income households. The rehabilitation loan program offers deferred, no-interest loans of up to \$30,000 to help residents make qualifying safety and energy efficiency upgrades.

These may include new roofing, siding, windows, electrical, plumbing, heating and insulation. Other repairs may also be eligible. For more information, visit plymouthmn.gov.

Senior Rental Housing

The HRA owns and operates two senior apartment buildings, which may have immediate openings and space on their waiting lists.

Plymouth Towne Square (99 affordable housing units) and Vicksburg Crossing (62 moderate rate units and 34 affordable units) offer residents quality, independent living near Plymouth City Center. The buildings serve people ages 55 and older.

For more information about Plymouth Towne Square, call 763-550-9525. To learn more about Vicksburg Crossing, call 763-559-1877 or visit vicksburgcrossing.com.

Home Energy Squad

The City of Plymouth and the HRA have partnered with the Center for Energy and Environment, CenterPoint Energy and Xcel Energy to offer the Home Energy Squad Program to Plymouth residents.

Residents can sign up for a customized home visit from a team of energy professionals who will identify ways to save energy in the home.

Home visits last around two hours and cost \$70 for residents, including materials and services. For more information or to schedule a visit, call 612-335-5874 or visit mncee.org/home-energy-squad.

Architectural Design Service

For homeowners looking to begin a project, taking the first step can be difficult. To help, the HRA offers a two-hour architectural consultation for those interested in an addition or expansion of their living space.

To be eligible, applicants must be owner-occupants of a residential property in Plymouth. Consultations are available for homes 30 years old or older.

The HRA offers a list of approved architects from which homeowners may choose.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Volunteer!

The city is seeking volunteers who are:

Committed to local history. Join the Plymouth Historical Society board of directors, care for artifact collections, assist with events and open houses, support social media efforts and more.

Enthusiastic about winter sports. Take tickets at high school hockey games through February.

Friendly and love to provide good service. Assist during the Waffle Breakfast to support senior programs on Sunday, Jan. 27. Help with a variety of outdoor activities during the Fire & Ice festival Saturday, Feb. 2.

Save the following dates. More information about these volunteer opportunities will be in the next Plymouth News:

- Great Dome Challenge: Saturday, April 6
- Primavera fine arts event: April 10-14
- Bark in the Park: Saturday, May 18
- Plant and Pull Day: Saturday, June 1

To find out more, visit plymouthmn.gov/volunteer or call 763-509-5230.



Volunteers Sue Bobzien (left) and Cheryl Moen

Take a Closer Look

Sue Bobzien & Cheryl Moen

Special Project Volunteers

As volunteers, our job is to conduct an inventory of all city street lights by entering each light's location into a GPS system and then taking a photo of it. We drive up and down every single street and cul-de-sac in Plymouth, capturing the data and moving on to the next streetlight. We enjoy each other's company and marvel at the wonderful neighborhoods and parks that Plymouth has to offer.

Our favorite thing about volunteering is:

Sue: Being fairly new to Plymouth, and now retired, volunteering has given me the opportunity to become familiar with the community, make new acquaintances and give back.

As I travel throughout the city, I've come to appreciate the great job city staff does for its citizens, something I never really noticed or appreciated before. An added bonus: Cheryl and I have become very good friends due to working so closely together.

Cheryl: I've been volunteering for the city for over 15 years. Volunteering lets me meet a variety of volunteers, city employees and the public and work on many diverse projects.

I've come across people I haven't seen in years, including a kindergarten classmate. This latest project has shown me how large Plymouth is and how well it is managed. There are many more parks and trails than I knew about. And how do they get all those streets plowed?

Because Sue and Cheryl volunteer, the city will have an accurate understanding of the type and quantity of its street lights to ensure that it is billed appropriately by utility companies.

Plymouth READS selection features thrilling plot from Minnesota author

Plymouth READS has announced "Marathon" by Brian Freeman as its 2019 book selection.

Freeman uses the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing as the template for an eerily similar plot set in Duluth. While members of the FBI and the local police department race to identify the culprit, social media fuels the worst instincts of the citizenry.

In its 10th year, Plymouth READS promotes public literacy and participation through an annual book selection, which the community is invited to read. Copies of this year's book selection will be available at the Plymouth Library, 15700 36th Ave. N.

Upcoming Events

What If? Critical Incident Management – 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 5 at the Plymouth Library

Plymouth Deputy Police Chief Erik Fadden will discuss how social media has influenced crime investigation, the reliability of eye witness accounts, and how the Plymouth Police Department shares information during critical incidents.

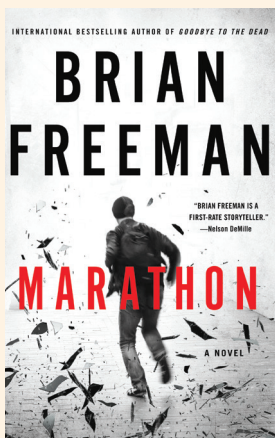
It's All About Running – 10 a.m. Saturday, March 23 at the Plymouth Library

Christopher Lundstrom, head coach of Team USA Minnesota, will talk about distance running, marathons and the Olympics.

Ripped from the Headlines – 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 26 at the Plymouth Library

Enjoy a lively presentation featuring five mystery authors from the Twin Cities Sisters in Crime.

Book Discussion – 1 p.m. Saturday, April 6 at the Plymouth Library



Plymouth READS has selected "Marathon" by Brian Freeman as its 2019 book selection. Residents are invited to read the novel and participate in book-related events through March and April.

The community is invited to join a moderated discussion about the featured book, "Marathon."

Meet the Author – 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 11 at the Plymouth Creek Center, 14800 34th Ave. N.

"Marathon" author Brian Freeman will speak, answer questions and sign books, which will be available for purchase.

Plymouth Library Display

March 1 through mid-April, the Plymouth Library will feature an informational display by Innocence Project of Minnesota that examines the reliability of eye witness accounts.

Plymouth READS is cosponsored by Friends of the Plymouth Library, Plymouth Library, City of Plymouth and the Plymouth Arts Council.





2019 Yard Waste Site, recycling dates

Curbside recycling collections will be one day late when the following holidays fall on a weekday (not on a weekend) on or before your collection day: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. For details, visit plymouthmn.gov/recycling.



Drop-Off Day – 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, May 4 at the Maintenance Facility, 14900 23rd Ave. N. More information will be posted in spring. For details, visit plymouthmn.gov/dropoff.

Yard Waste Site Opens – Wednesday, April 3, weather permitting. The Yard Waste Site is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays, Easter, Independence Day and Thanksgiving Day. On Drop-Off Day, the Yard Waste Site will be closed all day. The Recycling Drop-Off Site will be closed during Drop-Off Day, though it will reopen following the event. For details, visit plymouthmn.gov/yardwaste.

Recycling Drop-Off Site – Open daily. The site is next to the Maintenance Facility and closed on holidays. Available to Plymouth residents and small businesses located in Plymouth.

plymouthmn.gov

History ... from page 1

“Through digitization, Plymouth’s artifacts can be posted online, allowing residents greater access to our history,” Thoreson said. “Additionally, it allows Plymouth to share its history with the world.”

The Future of Plymouth's Past

Looking ahead, Thoreson said she hopes to increase the accessibility of the historical society’s information and resources. She also hopes that the organization can expand its preservation operations and serve the residents of Plymouth in interactive ways that reach beyond the walls of the Plymouth Historical Society.

“We are looking at increasing our hours, enhancing open houses, developing events and other ways to make Plymouth’s history more visible and accessible for all Plymouth residents,” Thoreson said.



The Plymouth Historical Society building at Old Town Hall, 3605 Fernbrook Lane N., features many artifacts related to Plymouth's history.

The PHS 2019 action plan aims to implement long-term improvements in organization, collections, display, cataloging, communications and outreach. For more information, visit plymouthmnhistoricalsociety.org.

HAPPENINGS

Harbor Revue – Harbor Revue, a new monthly variety show, features a range of entertainment at the Plymouth Creek Center’s Black Box Theatre, 14800 34th Ave. N.

Tailored for adult audiences, a new episode of Harbor Revue will be performed each month.

The show includes new works and classics, presented with a mix of comedy, drama, stories, poems, short plays, sketches and music.

Upcoming show dates are Thursdays, Jan. 10, Feb. 14, March 14, April 4 and May 9. All performances begin at 7 p.m. Harbor Revue is produced by Plymouth-based nonprofit Harbor Repertory Theater, in partnership with the City of Plymouth. The series is sponsored by the Plymouth Arts Council.



Purchase tickets for \$15 at the door or through the Plymouth Parks and Recreation Department – call 763-509-5200 or visit plymouthmn.gov.

Looking ahead to a productive year

By Mayor Jeff Wosje

After seven years as a council member, I am excited to begin a new role as mayor. And more than that, I am humbled by and grateful for the trust Plymouth residents have placed in me and my fellow council members to represent our community and set our city’s course.

As a council, we look forward to continuing Plymouth’s tradition of respectful, open discussions. We will build upon the strong foundation we have established working with residents, community groups and businesses.

Council and city staff will also seek opportunities to establish new and strengthen existing partnerships with elected officials who represent Plymouth at the county, state and federal level.

In recent years, those partnerships have brought us success. We worked together to pursue projects like the Interstate 494 third lane, Vicksburg Lane bridge and the soon-to-be-built County Road 9 bridge/interchange over I-494. We will continue that progress by cultivating relationships, advocating strongly and helping our partners understand that investments in Plymouth benefit our region, as well as our community.

Finally, the City Council will continue its tradition of focusing on quality of life, fiscal responsibility and sound management. This path has earned us the lowest tax rate among peer cities while keeping Plymouth’s position as one of the metro’s most desirable places to live, work, learn and play.

While campaigns can be tiring, they also energize. Like other local candidates, I met thousands of people during the past six months.

Some had neighborhood issues top of mind, but most shared one thing – pride in their community. As the City Council turns its sights to 2019, we will keep an eye on those neighborhood issues, and continue to look for ways, large and small, to deepen your hometown pride.

Plymouth News is published bimonthly by the City of Plymouth to update residents and businesses on city government news.

City Council

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Contact the City

Phone 763-509-5000

MN Relay (Hearing/Speech Impaired) 7-1-1

Hours:
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday
8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday (Community Development only)

View Meetings

Live on Channel 16, 7 p.m.
On-demand video link at city website
City Council: Jan. 8, 22 and Feb. 12, 26
Planning Commission: Jan. 16 and Feb. 6, 20

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