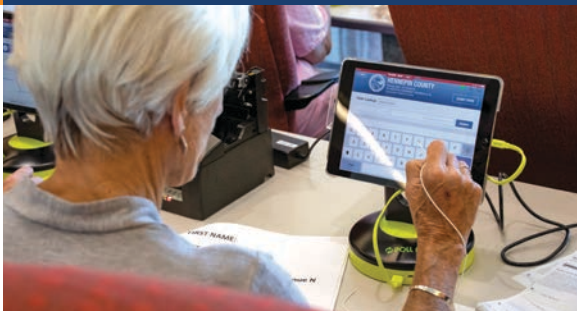


PLYMOUTH NEWS



Judges needed for 2022 election

Residents interested in playing a vital role in the election process are encouraged to apply to become City of Plymouth election judges. Applications are due Friday, April 29. Judges are needed at Plymouth polling locations for the primary election Tuesday, Aug. 9 and the general election Tuesday, Nov. 8. To qualify, election judges must be eligible to vote in Minnesota and able to write and speak English. Prior to serving, all election judges are required to complete a paid, online training in mid-July, which takes approximately two hours to complete.

Under state law, those interested in serving as election judges may take time off from work without loss of pay. Prospective judges must give employers at least 20 days written notice. Email agottschalk@plymouthmn.gov to apply. Further details can be found on the city website at plymouthmn.gov/electionjudges.

State of the City set for April 23

Plymouth Mayor Jeff Wosje brings the annual State of the City address to Discover Plymouth 10 a.m. Saturday, April 23 at the Plymouth Community Center gymnasium, 14800 34th Ave. N. Discover Plymouth attendees are encouraged to stop by to hear the brief address, which will follow a question-and-answer style discussion between the mayor and Dave Kiser of CCX Media.

Wosje will discuss a range of city topics as he recaps Plymouth's past year and shares news about the city's economy, successfully completed projects and goals for the coming year. Following the address, residents can stop by the nearby booth to meet the mayor and City Council members at a meet-and-greet from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



Drop-Off Day set for April 29-30

This year's Drop-Off Day is set for Friday, April 29 and Saturday, April 30 at the Plymouth Maintenance Facility, 14900 23rd Ave. N. Each day will offer collection of different items, so residents should take note of which date best fits their needs. This year's schedule is as follows:

- 3-7 p.m. Friday, April 29 – Only items that are free to dispose/recycle will be collected
- 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, April 30 – Pay items and free items alike will be collected

Visit plymouthmn.gov/dropoff in April for pricing and a list of accepted items for each day. The event is only available to Plymouth residents – identification is required.

Discover Plymouth offers an interactive look at the community

An all-about-Plymouth event that showcases the community, Discover Plymouth is set for 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 23 at the Plymouth Community Center, 14800 34th Ave. N.

The free event will feature local businesses, community groups, nonprofit organizations, representatives from various departments in the city, recreation activities, volunteer opportunities, community services and more.

Both long-time residents and those who are new to Plymouth will find something to discover about the city.

Discover ... continued on page 5



Discover Plymouth allows residents the opportunity to learn more about the city and participate in interactive activities, such as touch-a-truck.

The new Plymouth Community Center receives sensory-inclusive certification

Shortly after opening the doors of the new Active Wing, the Plymouth Community Center continues to gain recognition – and has been named the first community center in the United States to have a sensory room certified by KultureCity.

A space for guests who feel overstimulated, the sensory room offers a quieter environment to recharge, complete with calming amenities, such as lights, colors, activity panels, soft sensory objects, a tactile art installation, weighted lap pad and more. As part of the certification, staff are also trained to help recognize guests with sensory needs and assist those experiencing sensory overload while visiting the Plymouth Community Center, 14800 34th Ave. N.

A nonprofit organization that raises national awareness and helps create inclusive spaces for those with sensory needs, KultureCity awards the certifications to help those with sensory sensitivities or challenges with sensory regulation feel welcome while visiting a facility. Sensory sensitivities may be experienced by individuals with autism, dementia, PTSD, Parkinson's disease or other conditions.



The sensory room at the Plymouth Community Center has received a sensory-inclusive certification.

"It was important to make the Plymouth Community Center a welcoming space for everyone in our community, including individuals with sensory sensitivities," said Recreation Supervisor Paul Pearson, who coordinates education and inclusion programming.

Sensory Room ... continued on page 5

HRA assists homeowners, first-time homebuyers and more in Plymouth

The City of Plymouth and the Plymouth Housing and Redevelopment Authority offer several programs and services to help long-time and first-time homeowners achieve their housing goals. To learn more about the programs below or other HRA offerings, visit plymouthmn.gov/housing or call 763-509-5410.

First-Time Homebuyer Loans

While buying a home for the first time can be daunting, the HRA offers zero-interest loans of up to \$35,000 to help offset down payment and closing costs for qualifying buyers. Those interested in the program are encouraged to contact the HRA early in the home-buying process. For details, visit plymouthmn.gov/firsthome.

Home Rehabilitation Loans

To help residents make necessary repairs to their home, as well as qualifying safety and energy efficiency upgrades, zero-interest loans are available for qualifying applicants in low- and moderate-income households. The home rehabilitation loan program offers zero-interest deferred loans of up to \$40,000 – which are 100% forgiven if the

homeowner remains in the home for 20 years after receiving the loan. Work may include new roofing, siding, windows, electrical, plumbing and insulation. Other repairs may be eligible. Visit plymouthmn.gov/homerehab for information.

Emergency Repair Program for Seniors

The Emergency Repair Program assists Plymouth homeowners ages 55 and older with making emergency updates to their homes. Assistance of up to \$7,500 is available for residents who meet household income limits. Visit plymouthmn.gov/emergencyrepair for more information about the program.

Home Energy Squad

In partnership with the Center for Energy and Environment, CenterPoint Energy and Xcel Energy, the HRA offers home energy consultations to Plymouth residents at a reduced cost. Residents can sign up for a customized home visit – either in-person or virtual – from a team of energy professionals who will identify ways to save energy in the home. For more information or to schedule a visit, call 651-328-6220 or visit mncee.org/home-energy-squad.



Picture Plymouth Photo Contest winners



Hundreds of entries were submitted to the 2021 Picture Plymouth Photo Contest. Pictured on this page are the first-place winners in each category. Categories included City Landmarks, People & Families, Activities & Events, Pets, and Wildlife & Nature. A Readers' Choice Award winner is also selected annually, as chosen by readers of Plymouth Magazine who vote on their favorite submissions.

To view all winning photos, visit plymouthmn.gov/photocontest. The contest is co-sponsored by the City of Plymouth and Plymouth Magazine.

Overall Winner and City Landmarks – “Hilde Holiday Dawn” by Rachel Hall



Pets – “Waiting for Grandpa” by Kim LaBerge



Readers' Choice – “The Good Life” by Laura Peters



Activities & Events – “Clouds Pointing the Way for Sailors at Clifton E. French Regional Park” by Catharina Milostan



People & Families – “A Girl and Her S'mores” by Andrea Potashnick



Wildlife & Nature – “Feeding Time” by Matthew Prior

SEASONAL SPOTLIGHT

Yard Waste Site Opening – The Yard Waste Site, 14900 23rd Ave. N., is set to open for the season Wednesday, April 6 – weather permitting. The site is open to Plymouth residents only – identification is required. In April, the site is open 3-8 p.m. Wednesday-Friday and 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The Yard Waste Site is closed April 29-30 for Drop-Off Day activities. For details, visit plymouthmn.gov/yardwaste.

Indoor Walking – Stay active this spring by taking advantage of free indoor walking at the Plymouth Community Center, 14800 34th Ave. N. Walking is

available year-round at the indoor walking track. Free walking and jogging is also available (during winter) inside the Fieldhouse through Friday, April 1. For more information, visit plymouthmn.gov/pcc.

Water Main Flushing – The city will flush water mains this spring based on the schedule below.

- **April 11-13:** Industrial areas, both sides of Interstate 494, south of Highway 55
- **April 11-May 2:** Residential areas west of I-494, except areas along both sides of County Road 47 west of I-494

- **May 3-23:** Residential areas east of I-494, and areas along both sides of County Road 47 west of I-494

To find out when specific areas of the city will be flushed, check the map at plymouthmn.gov/watermainflushing or call 763-509-5950 after Friday, April 1. Residents should note that water may be discolored throughout this time, but it is more likely while an immediately surrounding area is flushed. Residents may want to consider avoiding doing laundry when flushing is occurring nearby. Residents who notice discolored water should let their outdoor water faucet run until the water is clear.



City of Plymouth continues to help protect surface water quality

The City of Plymouth continues to invest in projects and practices that help protect surface water resources and prevent pollution.

Below are some city initiatives that support healthy lakes, streams and wetlands.

Street Sweeping

Plymouth continues to use a new regenerative air street sweeper to keep streets clean and maintain surface water quality. Purchased in 2020, the machine captures fine sediment, salt and small debris that isn't typically picked up by standard mechanical broom sweepers – offering a more effective collection of pollutants.

In 2021, the city covered a total of 595 miles of curb with the new sweeper. In addition to cleaning up solids like gravel, sand and trash, the street sweeper helps prevent chlorides (salts) and nutrients, such as phosphorus and nitrogen, from entering surface water, where they encourage excessive algal growth and harm fish, plants and wildlife.

Estimated pollutant levels removed from the Bassett Creek Watershed, which makes up about 52% of Plymouth, totaled 169 pounds of phosphorus and 163 pounds of chloride in 2021.

Street and parking lot sweeping is recognized by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency as an effective practice for reducing contamination of surface waterbodies. It allows the city to work toward surface water quality goals set by the MPCA and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Stream Restoration Projects

The City of Plymouth continues to complete drainage improvement and stream restoration projects aimed at preventing erosion, mitigating flooding and improving surface water quality in the city. In 2021, work began on the Mount Olivet Stream Restoration Project south of Old Rockford Road, west of Larch Lane.

The project includes approximately 1,000 feet of stream improvements designed to help stabilize eroding stream banks, as well as reduce sediment and nutrient flow into Medicine Lake.

A similar undertaking, the Parkers Lake Channel Improvement Project set to be complete this year will help bolster water quality in Parkers Lake by stabilizing



Work began on the Mount Olivet Stream Restoration Project in 2021 to prevent erosion and improve surface water quality.



Plymouth utilizes a regenerative air street sweeper to keep streets clean and protect surface water quality.

1,100 feet of eroding channel banks upstream from the lake. Both projects will reduce the amounts of phosphorous and chloride entering the lakes.

Once complete, the city will monitor the projects to measure their effectiveness.

For more information about water resources projects in Plymouth, visit plymouthmn.gov/project-spotlight.

Cleaning Storm Drains, Marking Kits

The City of Plymouth continues to encourage residents to clean leaves and debris from storm drains to protect water quality and offers opportunities to volunteer to mark storm drains for educational purposes.

Cleaning storm drains protects rivers, lakes and streams from excess pollutants and nutrients, which encourages the growth of unwanted algae.

Water Quality ... continued on page 4



The city is seeking volunteers for a variety of Earth-friendly outdoor activities, including adopting a garden, pulling garlic mustard or marking storm drains to protect water quality.

Volunteer for the environment

For those looking to make a positive impact at the community level, the City of Plymouth offers several environmental-related volunteer opportunities.

To get involved, or for more information about the opportunities below, email volunteer@plymouthmn.gov, call 763-509-5230 or visit plymouthmn.gov/volunteer.

Drop-Off Day – April 29-30

Assist city staff with a variety of tasks at the annual Drop-Off Day – a highly attended drive-through event where residents can dispose of and recycle select household items.

Summer Tween Volunteer Program

With activities led by city staff and volunteers May-August, this program offers an introduction to volunteering for “tweens,” ages 11-13.

Participants can join a variety of active outdoor opportunities that support the community, including pulling garlic mustard, picking up trash on trails with active seniors and marking storm drains to protect water quality.

Space is limited and registration is required.

Plant Flowers, Trees – Saturday, May 21

Volunteers are needed to help create a new garden and urban orchard to help bees and other pollinators, birds and small mammals (see page 4). The volunteer event is set for 9 a.m. to noon at Fazendin Park, 17040 24th Ave. N.

Participants will plant 10,000 native flowering perennials and 10 fruit trees, including heirloom apple trees. Must be age 14 or older, or accompanied by an adult.

Plant & Pull Day – Saturday, June 4

Grab some gardening gloves and help plant flowers to beautify Plymouth parks and buildings, or pull invasive garlic mustard from woodland areas. Open to teens, adults, families and groups.

Garlic Mustard Removal

Help remove the invasive garlic mustard plant from parks and trails this spring. Work individually or organize a group event with family, neighbors or scouts at a nearby park. Contact Volunteer Services to log volunteer hours. To help with identification and removal, view an informational video at plymouthmn.gov/volunteeropportunities.

Adopt a Dog Waste Station, Storm Drain

Adopt a park, garden, dog waste station (supplies dog waste bags), fire hydrant, storm drain or street to keep Plymouth clean and safe. View more information and a map to find which spots are available for adoption at plymouthmn.gov/adoptaspot.

Storm Drain Marking

Mark your neighborhood storm drains to remind passersby that stormwater carries leaves and debris, which drains straight into wetlands and lakes untreated and can pollute the water. This opportunity features a flexible schedule and is great for families or scout projects.

Storm drain marking begins for the season when weather is consistently above 50 degrees.

To borrow a storm drain marking kit, contact Water Resources Supervisor Ben Scharenbroich at bscharenbroich@plymouthmn.gov or 763-509-5527.

All licensed Plymouth garbage haulers now offer optional curbside organics collection

While curbside organics collection has been an option in Plymouth through some garbage haulers in the city, all licensed garbage haulers in Plymouth now offer optional, voluntary curbside organics collection to residents.

The City Council, with recommendation from the Environmental Quality Committee, adopted a resident opt-in approach to organics collection. Beginning in 2022, garbage haulers must offer organics collection to all residents, which will allow residents to dispose of food waste and compostable materials (separate from yard waste) with their trash hauling service.

This organics collection approach maintains compliance with the requirement that all Hennepin County cities must offer organics collection to residents.

What is Curbside Organics Collection?

Like sorting for traditional curbside recycling, residents can separate food scraps, food-soaked papers and certified compostable products (not including yard waste) for organics collection.

Residents are encouraged to reach out to their garbage hauler and inquire about optional organics collection services and pricing – the city does not regulate how haulers charge for the service.

For a list of licensed haulers serving Plymouth, visit plymouthmn.gov/garbagehaulers.



Garbage haulers serving Plymouth are required to offer optional, voluntary curbside organics collection to residents.

Those with questions can visit plymouthmn.gov/recycling or email recycling@plymouthmn.gov.

Backyard Composting

An alternative to curbside organics collection, the city's backyard composting ordinance offers the option to compost materials such as grass clippings, leaves, weeds, wood chips, small twigs, evergreen cones and needles, garden waste, raw fruit and vegetable scraps. Backyard compost can be used as a natural mulch, potting medium and soil amendment to improve texture and water retention. The city offers low-cost compost bins for sale (see page 4).

For additional resources to help reduce organic waste, visit plymouthmn.gov/organics.

City of Plymouth creates its first pollinator-focused orchard at Fazendin

As part of the City of Plymouth’s ongoing efforts to create habitats for pollinators, promote conservation and protect water quality, the city is set to create its first pollinator-focused orchard this spring at Fazendin Park, 17040 24th Ave. N.

A unique park project for a city, enhancements slated for Fazendin include a fruit orchard, native plant garden, evergreen area and space for nut- and seed-bearing trees.

The park is designed to be self sustaining and low maintenance, and will provide habitat for pollinators, birds and small mammals, and has other environmental benefits. More than 10,000 plants, shrubs and trees of varying native species will be planted in the next two to three years and, once complete, the plantings will cover about 3 acres of land.

Residents are invited to volunteer to help with a planting project at Fazendin Park Saturday, May 21 (see page 3). For more information, visit plymouthmn.gov/parkrenovations.

What’s the Buzz About Native Plants?

Hardy and easy to grow, native plants attract birds, bees and butterflies and come in a wide variety of colors, sizes and shapes. With deep roots and scant need for chemicals or irrigation, they are a cost-effective landscaping alternative and a great choice for water quality and conservation.

Creating food and shelter for pollinators is crucial, as their populations are in decline. According to Blue Thumb/Metro Blooms, bees, butterflies and other pollinators are



Plymouth is set to create a new pollinator-focused garden and orchard this spring.

vital to supporting agriculture, contributing to clean water and capturing carbon – and generally contribute to a healthier ecosystem.

Make a Difference at Home

Residents can help improve ecological diversity by adding native landscaping to their yards and shorelines. Whether at home or at the cabin, those who own lake-front property can work to create a shoreline buffer to protect water quality. Shoreline buffers are comprised of native plants that resist erosion, minimize and filter runoff, and keep water clean. To discuss how to strategically implement a shoreline buffer, contact engineering@plymouthmn.gov.

To learn how to create an eco-friendly and resilient yard, residents may attend a free virtual workshop offered by Blue Thumb/Metro Blooms Thursday, April 14 (see Eco-Notes below for more information).

ECO-NOTES

Annual Tree and Shrub Sale – Open through Sunday, May 1, available while supplies last. City staff selects trees, shrubs and fruit-bearing plants each year that are well adapted to local growing conditions and resistant to pests and diseases. Supplies are limited.

Most trees are bare root and 5-6 feet tall at time of purchase. Evergreens are 1-3 feet tall and in pots.

Orders must be picked up May 6-7 at the Plymouth Maintenance Facility, 14900 23rd Ave. N.

Learn more and order at plymouthmn.gov/treesale.

Community Garden Plots for Rent – Open May through October (weather and soil conditions permitting), Plymouth residents may rent a garden plot at 1145 Shenandoah Lane N. Community garden plots are first come, first served. Register online at plymouthmn.gov/communitygardens.

Resilient Yards Virtual Workshop – 6-8 p.m. Thursday, April 14. Plymouth residents are invited to learn how to change their yards to nurture resilience. Free for Plymouth residents, the virtual Blue Thumb/Metro Blooms workshop features landscape designers



Sugar Tyme Crabapple is one of the available trees.

who will show participants how to use site planning, raingardens, turf alternatives, trees, native plantings, habitats for pollinators and other tactics for creating resilient landscapes. Design assistance from landscape designers and Master Gardeners is available.

To register for the workshop, call 651-699-2426 or visit metroblooms.org/events. Virtual meeting instructions will be provided upon registration.

Holiday Light Recycling Recap – The city’s recent holiday lights and extension cord recycling initiative gathered 2,734 pounds of holiday lights and helped recover material that otherwise may have headed for a landfill. At no cost to the city or residents, Plymouth coordinated with a vendor that takes strands, removes wire insulation, and collects raw metals for recycling. Bins were set up at the Plymouth Maintenance Facility throughout January to collect the lights and extension cords.

Residents should note that wires, plastic bags and items with strings or strands are not accepted in curbside recycling bins, as they tangle and cause damage to recycling processing equipment.



Plymouth collected 2,734 pounds of holiday lights.

Water Quality ... from page 3

A common misconception about storm drains is that they channel stormwater to treatment plants – when, in fact, water and debris from the street drains directly into wetlands and lakes untreated. To adopt a storm drain, visit plymouthmn.gov/adoptaspot. The city loans storm drain marking kits to residents who wish to volunteer to help educate passersby about storm drains and their relationship to water quality (see page 3).

The storm drain markers display the message, “No dumping, drains to lake.”

Pet Waste Cleanup

The City of Plymouth reminds pet owners to clean up after pets (Plymouth City Ordinance 915).

Pet waste left behind is washed into lakes and streams, polluting water.

Waste from pets should be placed in the garbage, and not composted.

Dog waste contains harmful bacteria, parasites and viruses that can also cause illness. Pet waste breaks down differently than wild animal waste, as it contains excess nutrients – which can contribute to algae blooms.



Residents can learn more about organics recycling and composting options at plymouthmn.gov/organics.

Environmental education

A variety of environmental education opportunities and resources are available for residents interested in learning about ways they can protect the environment and become better stewards of the Earth.

View details about these programs and resources at the links below:

- **Plymouth Environmental Academy**
plymouthmn.gov/environmentalacademy
- **Backyard composting**
plymouthmn.gov/backyardcompost
- **Organics recycling**
plymouthmn.gov/organics
- **Master Gardener**
hennepinmastergardeners.org
- **Water Steward**
minnesotawaterstewards.org
- **Disposal options**
hennepin.us/green-disposal-guide
- **Master Recycler**
hennepin.us/masterrecyclers

Growing Green Leaders

Ages 9-15 are invited to participate in environmental education opportunities at various Plymouth parks:

- **Systems Thinking with Climate Sleuthing** – March 9, 23
- **Down Deep ... What’s Underwater and Under Our Feet** – April 13, 27
- **Go Wild with Wetlands, Mahnomini and Mushrooms** – May 11, 25

More information and registration is available at plymouthmn.gov/specialevents.

City recycling contractor to go paperless in 2023

Republic Services, the citywide curbside recycling contractor, will no longer mail paper schedules or information to residents beginning in 2023. Residents may print a PDF schedule or view an interactive recycling map at plymouthmn.gov/recyclingschedule. The City of Plymouth contracts with Republic Services to provide curbside recycling collection every other week for all single-family homes and multi-family buildings up to eight units.

Low-cost rain barrels, compost bins for sale

To promote environmental stewardship, the city has partnered with the Recycling Association of Minnesota to sell low-cost rain barrels and compost bins. Orders must be placed at recycleminnesota.org by Friday, May 6 and are available while supplies last. Orders must be picked up 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 7 at the Plymouth Maintenance Facility, 14900 23rd Ave. N.

Cost to purchase a compost bin through this sale is \$66 plus tax. Cost to purchase a 45-gallon rain barrel is \$79 plus tax. Rain barrels help conserve water by capturing rain and stormwater runoff to use for landscaping. Using a compost bin reduces waste and provides natural fertilizer for gardens.



Parks and Recreation Director Diane Evans retires

With her final major project nearing completion – the multi-year renovation and expansion of the Plymouth Community Center – Parks and Recreation Director Diane Evans has decided to wrap up her 20-year career with the City of Plymouth and retire. Her last day with the city was Feb. 18.

Evans oversaw all city parks, trails, playgrounds, athletic fields, recreation facilities, volunteering, activities and events. She started work in Plymouth in 2002 as the superintendent of recreation and was promoted to director in 2011.

In addition to the extensive Plymouth Community Center project, Evans said her other most notable undertaking included the Northwest Greenway, which required decades of land acquisition and multiple phases of development.

The finished project includes a 350-acre wooded nature preserve with paved trails for bikers and walkers, scenic overlooks, a Challenge Course and the open-air Pavilion, which was completed in summer 2021. Despite the many parks, facilities and amenities she has built for residents to

enjoy, Evans doesn't view them as her most meaningful accomplishments.

"My legacy is about team and people," said Evans. "That is what is more important to me. It was rewarding to develop an environment where we have fun, do pranks and laugh – but at the same time work very hard."

"She is going to be missed," said City Manager Dave Callister. "She's such a passionate and empathetic leader and she has fun working. Her employees are creative and think outside the box, and she encourages new ideas and a fun culture."

"At the end of the day, it has been a great ride with Plymouth," Evans said. "A great opportunity – and wonderful people."



Diane Evans

IN BRIEF

Cranberry Ridge set to open in spring – A new 45-unit affordable housing development in Plymouth, Cranberry Ridge is set to open this spring at 18255 45th Ave. N. The new residence will offer affordable housing for households with incomes at or below 50% of the area median income. Of the 45 units at Cranberry Ridge, 12 will be available for families with a household income of less than \$31,000 per year for a family of four. Residents of Cranberry Ridge will also receive onsite support services pertaining to education, employment, social services, mental health and more, which will be provided through community partners.

As part of its efforts to support affordable housing in Plymouth, the Plymouth Housing and Redevelopment Authority partnered with the nonprofit organization Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative to offer a loan and grant that assisted with the development of the project. Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative broke ground on the development in May 2021 and anticipates families will begin occupying units in April 2022.

Primavera – Primavera is set for April 22-24 at the Plymouth Community Center, 14800 34th Ave. N.

Join the Plymouth Arts Council and the City of Plymouth in a celebration of fine art featuring local creatives. For more information and a schedule of events, visit plymouthmn.gov/primavera. Art from Primavera will remain on display in the Community Center gallery through Sunday, May 15. Visit plymouthmn.gov/pcc for gallery information.

Walk with the Mayor – Join Mayor Jeff Wosje 6-7 p.m. Monday, May 2 as he kicks off the annual Step

to it Challenge with a walk beginning at the Northwest Greenway Pavilion, 5250 Peony Lane N. For more information, visit plymouthmn.gov.

Kids Garage Sale – For kids and run by kids, the Kids Garage Sale is set for 1-3:30 p.m. Sunday, May 1 at the Plymouth Community Center. Parents may register to rent a table for children ages 6-13 to sell toys, games and clothes. Learn more at plymouthmn.gov.

Historical Society Open Houses – The Plymouth Historical Society offers a series of virtual open house events held via Zoom to provide updates about what's been happening at the museum, discuss themes related to Plymouth and its history, and provide time for discussion. Upcoming open house dates are 3-4 p.m. Wednesdays, March 9, April 13 and May 11.

To attend, those interested can visit plymouthmnhistoricalsociety.org to register.

Market value notices arrive in March for taxes payable 2023 – Market value notices for Plymouth properties will arrive in mailboxes in March. The notices list the assessed value of the property and its classification for taxes payable in 2023. Residents should note that residential property prices are increasing at historically high rates. The resulting assessed value of many properties can be attributed to the rising real estate market. Values are set Jan. 2 each year based on property sale prices. Property values affect the amount homeowners pay in property taxes each year. Residents with questions or concerns may call the Hennepin County Assessor at the contact information listed on the property valuation notice.

Sensory Room ... from page 1

To help create a calming and inclusive environment, sensory bags equipped with noise-canceling headphones, fidget tools and verbal cue cards are available to visitors at the Plymouth Community Center. Guests may check out a sensory bag from staff at the front desk or indoor playground.

"Some major barriers for individuals are overstimulation and noise, especially at a community center," said Pearson. "With this certification, Plymouth is better prepared to provide a comfortable and accommodating experience for all of our guests."

Families can download the free KultureCity App to view the sensory features available at the Plymouth Community Center and where they can be accessed, as well as view photos that explain what guests may experience when visiting the facility. In addition to the national recognition, the Plymouth Community Center is the first community center in Minnesota to be certified by KultureCity, as well as the third overall facility in the state to receive the certification. The sensory room is on the first floor of the Plymouth Community Center near the Event Wing doors and Fieldhouse entrance. For more information, visit plymouthmn.gov/pcc or call the Parks and Recreation Department at 763-509-5200.

Discover ... from page 1

City Happenings, Touch-a-Truck

Attendees can chat with city staff and elected officials in an informal setting to learn about city events, services and happenings. Mayor Jeff Wosje will also deliver the State of the City address at 10 a.m. (see page 1). Parks and Recreation staff will showcase ways to keep active with a preview of upcoming programming, as well as a variety of ways to get involved and give back to the community through volunteering.

Community members of all ages are invited to stop by the touch-a-truck exhibit to get an up-close, hands-on look at a variety of large equipment and vehicles on display, courtesy of

the Public Works Department, Parks & Forestry Division and Public Safety Department. Touch-a-truck will take place in the parking lot of the Plymouth Community Center.

Shop and Explore

Discover Plymouth features an indoor marketplace, with local vendors selling homemade and handmade items, as well as other goods and services. Attendees can also purchase snacks or meals from food trucks at the event.

Participate or Sponsor

Vendor and sponsorship opportunities are available. Visit plymouthmn.gov/discoverplymouth for more information. The deadline to apply is Friday, April 1.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Volunteer!

The city is seeking volunteers who are:

Friendly and can assist with children's birthday parties. Help facilitate birthday party rentals at the Plymouth Community Center on weekends. Must be age 14 or older.

Experienced writers. Create regular blog posts or monthly newsletter articles for the Plymouth Historical Society. Work can be done remotely. Previous communications experience preferred.

Interested in serving as Police Reserve volunteers. Assist sworn officers with traffic and crowd control, patrol activities, special events and other education programs. Must be age 21 or older, commit to 15 hours a month, have a clean driving record and undergo a background check.

Passionate about the environment and green things. Weed, water and deadhead the Millennium Garden. Assist at the Tree and Shrub Sale, May 6-7. See more environmental opportunities on page 3.

To find out more about these and other opportunities, visit plymouthmn.gov/volunteer or call 763-509-5230.

Take a Closer Look



Katherine Chen

Katherine Chen

Summer Teen Volunteer

As a Summer Teen Volunteer, my job is to engage and lead elementary-age children in summer programs. During the Park All Day program, I helped lead about

15 children in crafts, playground activities and field games; set up for snacks and lunch; and assisted on field trips.

With the All About Drawing program, I helped the instructor teach drawing techniques and guided the children as they applied their newly learned skills to sketch plants outdoors.

My favorite thing about being a volunteer is working with children and giving back to the community. I love helping others, and children are a joy to work with because of their energy and curiosity.

It's always lovely seeing a familiar face at a grocery store or park and watching their excited surprise when they recognize me.

Spending so much time with children has allowed me to connect with the Plymouth community.

I grew up in Plymouth, and volunteering is my way of giving back to the town that has nurtured me.

Because teens like Katherine volunteer, there are more helpful hands and watchful eyes available to care for children at playgrounds and other programs.

Additionally, the program helps develop potential future summer staff for Parks and Recreation.

Summer Teen Volunteers build leadership skills and gain valuable work experience while assisting with a variety of summer youth recreation programs.

To apply, go to plymouthmn.gov/volunteer and download an application, or contact volunteer services at 763-509-5230.

Those interested in the program must be age 14 or older to apply. Applications are due Friday, April 8.

There is a \$15 application fee, and a mandatory training session will be held the week of June 13.



Construction season brings upgrades to Plymouth roadways

A few road construction projects are set for Plymouth this summer and fall – and motorists are asked to pay close attention to signage and provide crews enough room to work safely.

County Road 47 Reconstruction Project

Proposed in three phases, the County Road 47 reconstruction project will begin its first phase this summer on the segment of roadway between County Road 101 and the Lawndale/Peony Lane intersection.

The project will include a complete rebuild of the existing road, including installation of concrete curb and gutter, storm sewer improvements, trails and a pedestrian underpass. The timing of future phases of the project is dependent on funding. The city has requested \$20 million in state bond funds to make the necessary public safety improvements to the County Road 47 corridor and bring the 100-year-old design to current roadway standards. The city will wait until the end of the legislative session to learn whether the request will be included in the state bonding bill.

For more information visit plymouthmn.gov/cr47.



The County Road 47 reconstruction project begins this summer.

2022 Vicksburg Lane Improvement Project

Significant improvements are scheduled for Vicksburg Lane between Highway 55 and Old Rockford Road.

Plans include completely removing the existing pavement to pave a new roadway surface, repairing existing concrete curbs and gutters, making utility repairs, improving crossing safety near the Plymouth Creek Elementary School and preparing the medians and boulevards for streetscaping. Additional landscaping, set to include installation of decorative lights and monuments, will be completed in 2023.

Pineview Lane and Plum Tree East Rehabilitation Project

In northeast Plymouth, pavement on Pineview Lane between 53rd Avenue and Northwest Boulevard will be reclaimed and the road will be repaved. Additionally, the Plum Tree East neighborhood in northwest Plymouth is set for a mill and overlay project, which involves removing a portion of the existing pavement (milling) on the edges of the street and applying a new layer of asphalt over the entire roadway.

Visit plymouthmn.gov/project-spotlight to learn more and sign up for eNotification emails.



Residents walking at night should take extra precaution and make themselves visible to motorists.

City offers guidance for walking after dark

As spring approaches and the weather warms, the Public Safety Department offers safety tips and best practices for residents who take a stroll after dark.

While walking during daylight hours is preferable, those who choose to walk in the evening are encouraged to take extra precaution to keep themselves safe.

Residents are offered the following guidance:

- Wear bright, reflective clothing to stay visible to drivers and other pedestrians
- Carry a flashlight and a cell phone
- Cross the street in a well-lit area and make eye contact with drivers before crossing
- Stay alert and be aware of surroundings
- Walk on the sidewalk whenever possible
- If a sidewalk is not available, always walk on the left side of the road, against the flow of traffic, to be more visible to oncoming traffic

Help Rename County Road 47

Residents are invited to participate in a communitywide challenge to rename County Road 47. Proposed names can be submitted March 14-31 via the city’s social media platforms or at plymouthmn.gov/cr47. The need for a new name follows the jurisdictional transfer of the road from the county to city ownership in November 2021. The Plymouth City Council will consider submissions and select the new road name, which will be announced during the mayor’s State of the City address Saturday, April 23 (see page 1).

Plymouth advocates to reduce metro area crime

By Mayor Jeff Wosje

In the past couple years, metro area cities have dealt with ongoing car thefts and property crimes. Though Plymouth has not been unaffected, we’re fortunate to have avoided many violent crimes and carjackings neighboring communities have experienced. Regardless, Plymouth has been taking action.

While the issues surrounding the crimes are inherently complex, they can largely be boiled down to lack of consequences and collaboration.

In early 2021, Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman announced a new no bail policy. The result was that many who were arrested for stealing cars were not held in jail and were immediately released. Many were never charged. The lack of consequences has emboldened perpetrators and bred a culture of recidivism. Our officers can’t effectively do their jobs if there is no escalation of consequences for those who are repeatedly arrested but never charged by the county attorney. Officers are also dealing with repeat juvenile offenders who flee from police. When they are apprehended, there are often no consequences.

To advocate for solutions, Plymouth has partnered with metro area mayors, police chiefs and city managers. We’ve issued joint statements, press releases and letters to the county attorney. Plymouth has issued more crime prevention messaging than ever before, and city leaders have spoken to the governor. I’ve been interviewed by KARE 11, Fox 9, Minnesota Public Radio, the Star Tribune and the Sun Sailor, and have asked the county attorney to partner with us.

Police chiefs must be able to collaborate with county prosecutors and voice concerns about major policy decisions that affect the safety of our communities. Thankfully, we’ve seen progress. While multifaceted issues take time to solve, I am hopeful that we will continue to see positive momentum – including accountability for repeat offenders, prevention programs for juveniles, and collaboration with prosecutors to help alleviate this metro-wide crime spree.

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

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City Hall hours:
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday
Report an issue 24/7.....plymouthmn.gov/myplymouth

View Meetings

Live on Channel 16, 7 p.m.
On-demand video link at city website
City Council: March 8, 22 and April 12, 20
Planning Commission: March 9, 23 and April 6, 20

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