

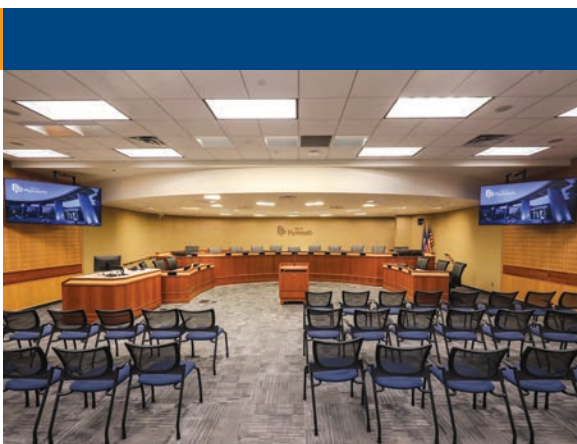
PLYMOUTH NEWS



Free drive-thru breakfast for veterans set for Wednesday, Nov. 9

The City of Plymouth will hold a free drive-thru breakfast for veterans 9:30-11 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 9. Vehicles will be routed through the parking lot at Plymouth City Hall to the Plymouth Veterans Memorial, 3400 Plymouth Blvd. Deadline to register for the event is Thursday, Nov. 3.

For more information and to register, call 763-509-5200 or visit plymouthmn.gov/specialevents.



Apply for committees, commissions

The City of Plymouth is accepting applications from residents who are interested in serving on committees and commissions that advise the City Council.

Applications will be accepted through 4:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 14. The City Council will interview applicants and make appointments later this year for terms beginning in early 2023. Groups that may have vacancies include the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission, Environmental Quality Committee, Planning Commission and Housing and Redevelopment Authority.

To download an application and learn more, visit plymouthmn.gov/commissions.



Holiday at the Hilde set for Dec. 3

Holiday at the Hilde is set for 4-7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3 at the Hilde Performance Center, 3500 Plymouth Blvd. Participants can enjoy a choir performance, view holiday lights, take craft kits home and visit with Santa Claus and his reindeer.

For more information, visit plymouthmn.gov/specialevents.

Election Day 2022 is Nov. 8, most polling locations have changed

Election Day 2022 is set for Tuesday, Nov. 8, with in-person polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. the day of the election. Please note that a majority of polling locations have changed this year due to redistricting.

For information about where to vote, visit plymouthmn.gov/election. The site includes a link to the Secretary of State's website (mnvotes.org), which offers a polling location finder and sample ballots, and will also feature election results.

Voters without internet access can call 763-509-5000 for more information.

Voter Registration

Residents can register at their polling location on Election Day. Residents already registered to vote do not need to register again unless they have changed their name, moved to a different address, or have not



Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 8, with in-person polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

voted within the last four years. For more information, including the acceptable forms of identification, visit mnvotes.org.

Vote ... continued on page 3

Plymouth keeps up with growth as preliminary 2023 budget is approved

The City of Plymouth is finalizing work on the 2023 budget, and has adopted a preliminary levy increase of 6.75% from last year.

The increase is largely due to ensuring that city services keep up with Plymouth's continued growth. This includes major infrastructure projects, such as the new Plymouth Community Center and reconstruction at two fire stations.

The 2023 budget marks the second of three scheduled levy increases related to the debt issued for the renovation and expansion projects at Fire Stations 2 and 3. The remaining debt levies will stay level through 2041.

The budget also includes an increase due to inflationary pressures related to the rising cost of electricity, natural gas and fuel. While there are more items that have experienced inflation, these are the easiest to track.

Big Projects and Proactive Practices

As the city invests in public services and infrastructure, the bottom line is managed by proactive planning, responsible debt management and conservative financial practices.

The 2023 budget is the second year of the biennial budget originally adopted in 2021. Producing budgets in sets of two is one of the city's financial planning practices designed to help prepare and adjust budgeting with a larger view.

As a part of the 2023 budget, the General Fund expenditure budget increased 6.9% over 2022. Personal services increased by 5.2%, which includes 10.4 full-time equivalent staff positions, with 6.4 FTEs dedicated to Parks and Recreation/the new Plymouth Community Center.

Budget ... continued on page 3

Newly remodeled Fire Station 3



A major renovation project was completed at Fire Station 3 in August. Construction continues at Fire Station 2. The new stations are set to better accommodate 24/7 staffing and improve response times. For details, visit plymouthmn.gov/firestationprojects.



Plow crews prepare for winter

As Plymouth residents gear up for another Minnesota winter, City of Plymouth snow removal crews stand ready for whatever comes their way. To make snowy winters less of a hassle, the city will continue to use several tools aimed at improving customer service and assisting with a smoother and safer winter season.

Snow Emergency Threshold

A snowfall of 2 inches or more prompts a snow emergency, which is a citywide full plow callout and associated parking restrictions. While each snow event is unique, the goal is to have all 325 miles of streets and 920 cul-de-sacs cleared within nine hours after snow stops, based on an average snowfall.

For snowfalls of less than 2 inches, the city treats and plows main roadways. Ice control measures are taken throughout the city, and extra attention goes to stop signs, hills, bridges and curves.

Parking Regulations

Parking is prohibited on all streets after a 2-inch snowfall until the street has been plowed curb-to-curb. Violators may be ticketed and towed. Plymouth also has a year-round ordinance prohibiting parking on city streets from 2-5 a.m.

Live Plymouth Plow Map

When plows hit the road, residents can follow along by watching the Live Plymouth Plow Map, powered by ArcGIS. Launched in 2020, the system utilizes GPS signals that display which areas of the city have been cleared and allow residents to track the progress made by snow plow crews in near-real time.

To view the map, visit plymouthmn.gov/liveplowmap.

Report Issues Through myPlymouth

While plow drivers do their best to clear streets quickly and thoroughly, issues may arise. For the most efficient service, residents are asked to allow at least nine hours from the start of citywide plowing before reporting a snow removal issue, as city staff can become inundated with requests to plow during a snow event.

Residents may report an icy patch, an area that needs to be plowed, damage or other issues through myPlymouth, which gets the reported issue to the right person efficiently.

Residents can track the status of a report and follow up with city staff, if needed. Visit plymouthmn.gov/myplymouth to learn more, download the app or report an issue.

Resident Feedback

The City of Plymouth continually implements changes to snow removal operations in response to survey results and resident feedback to offer better service.

Results from the annual FlashVote survey about snow removal administered in May 2022 reflected mainly positive feedback, with nearly 82% of respondents reporting they were “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the overall snow removal in Plymouth. To view the survey results and more information, visit plymouthmn.gov/flashvote.



Plymouth snow removal crews are ready for what winter brings.

Stay Informed

For more information about City of Plymouth snow removal operations and to sign up for snow emergency alert emails, visit plymouthmn.gov/snow.

How Residents Can Help with Snow Removal

To keep operations efficient, residents should follow these tips:

Play it Safe

- Teach children to stay away from snow piled at the curb and not build forts in snow piles. The force of snow coming off a plow can bury a fort and harm a child. Children should also be taught to stay at least 20 feet back when a plow comes down the street.
- Keep a safe distance when driving behind a snow plow. Use extreme caution when passing plowing or de-icing equipment. It is difficult for operators to see directly behind their equipment.

Shovel Smart

- Do not shovel, plow or blow snow into the street. In addition to being illegal, blowing snow into the street makes it difficult to clear roadways.
- It is the property owner’s responsibility to keep mailboxes clear to ensure postal delivery.
- Clear snow and ice near fire hydrants and storm drains.
- If it’s likely that streets will be plowed on collection day, place garbage and recycle containers a few feet back in the driveway to prevent waste from being scattered.

Make Snow Removal More Efficient

- To protect the turf, mark the edge of the road or curb to help snow plow operators avoid damaging the lawn. Mark the curb along the property with 4-foot-tall reflective or brightly colored stakes placed at 20-foot intervals.
- Inspect mailbox posts before the first snowfall. Damaged posts are more vulnerable to damage from snow being thrown by plows.
- Wait until the street is plowed before shoveling to the end of the driveway. To minimize plows filling an already cleared driveway, pile shoveled snow downstream of plow operations – on the right side of driveway when facing the street.



Plymouth Parks and Recreation crews spring into action after a snowfall event, clearing about 110 miles of trail.

Plymouth prioritizes winter trail plowing

Recognizing that residents rely on trails for outdoor winter activities, mobility and transportation – and to allow for safer trail use – the Plymouth Parks and Recreation Department clears snow on approximately 110 of the city’s 175 miles of trail each winter (as selected by City Council).

After a typical snowfall of 2 inches or more, snow removal on trails takes approximately 36 hours to complete. If snow falls over a long period of time, crews may return to repeatedly clean trails and sidewalks – especially when street plows push snow onto the trails and sidewalks.

City staff asks residents to remember the following:

- Conditions do not allow plows to clear trails down to bare pavement. Trails are not treated with chemicals.
- The Luce Line, Medicine Lake and Bassett Creek regional trails are cleared by Three Rivers Park District.
- Trails often need multiple passes to clear – in some cases, plows clearing adjacent roads will push snow on an already plowed trail.

City staff marks trails with stakes so plows can more easily navigate the paths. Staff asks residents not to remove the stakes.

According to Plymouth City Code, residents of homes with abutting sidewalks are required to keep paths clear of snow and ice. Snow and ice should be removed within 48 hours of a snow event.

Residents who wish to clear sidewalks or trails beyond their property line to establish trail loops can do so with permission from the city.

Plymouth’s recreational trails that are not cleared remain open for snowshoeing, walking or cross-country skiing, as conditions allow.

Keep Plymouth lakes and streams healthy, salt responsibly this winter

While salt helps mitigate ice buildup on roadways and sidewalks, overuse of salt (chloride) can be damaging to the environment. As winter approaches, the City of Plymouth offers guidance to help residents use salt effectively and protect precious resources.

High levels of salt can quickly contaminate water bodies, and become toxic to fish, amphibians and aquatic plants. According to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, one teaspoon of salt can permanently pollute five gallons of water – and once it’s in the water, there’s no easy way to remove it.

How the City Reduces Salt Usage

The City of Plymouth is a past recipient of an Environmental Leadership Award from the Freshwater Society for successfully reducing salt use by more than 50% and for making other changes to improve water resources. The city continues to explore ways to improve winter

maintenance operations and reduce the impacts of chloride – including upgrading snow plows and using new application methods, as well as sharing ways to reduce salt usage with residents.

Follow these tips to help reduce the harsh impact of salt on the environment:

- Remove snow early and often.
- Pay attention to the temperature. Salt only works at temperatures above 15 degrees. To melt snow and ice at colder temperatures, use calcium chloride or magnesium chloride.
- Use salt sparingly, spacing salt granules 2-3 inches apart. A rule of thumb: One 12-ounce mug is enough salt to cover 10 sidewalk squares or a 20-foot driveway.
- If salt or sand is visible on dry pavement, it’s not effective and will likely become runoff. Sweep up the extra and reuse it during the next snowstorm.



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.

Plymouth Police Department launches Safe Community Camera Program

The Plymouth Police Department has launched the Safe Community Camera Program, which allows residents and businesses to voluntarily register external video cameras to assist police if a crime occurs in their neighborhood.

Through the program, police may reach out to registered camera owners in the event of a crime and request that the owners review their camera footage for any potential evidence.

“The ability to partner with residents and businesses that may have camera footage of an incident can help detectives identify possible suspects and gather information to help

solve cases and reduce crime,” said Plymouth Public Safety Director/Police Chief Erik Fadden. “We are grateful for the technology, and we value our partnership with the community.”

The Plymouth Police Department does not have access to any registered cameras and does not use registered cameras for active surveillance. Participation in the program is voluntary and those who have registered can withdraw at any time.

Any type or brand of camera can be registered. To register for the program, visit plymouthmn.gov/safecamera.

Budget ... from page 1

Plymouth also operates with a 10-year financial plan to forecast the coming decade, which includes categories such as revenue and expenditures, levies and value, growth, and annual tax impacts to homes and businesses.

Tax Rate Remains Low

The cost of the 2023 levy increase is offset by growth in Plymouth’s tax base. In 2022, more than \$156 million in market value was added in Plymouth from new construction, which helps ease the impact of the levy increase.

Many residents have also seen their property values soar recently, with homeowners experiencing an average increase of 17% in their home value. Plymouth homeowners with properties valued at \$450,000 would see an annual tax impact of \$79.99 in 2023 over 2022.

In 2023, the City of Plymouth is expected to maintain the lowest tax rate among peer cities (Hennepin County suburbs with populations of 45,000 or more), while also continuing to provide the high-quality city services residents expect.

For information about the city’s tax rate history and financial practices, and how Plymouth compares to peer cities, view the Financial Extra and other documents at plymouthmn.gov/financialreport.

“With our strong tax base and careful financial planning, we’re pleased to offer a high value for residents’ tax dollars,” City Manager Dave Callister said. “We are able to provide excellent services across the board while maintaining a low tax rate.”

Upcoming Budget Milestones

The City Council could still lower, but not increase, the tax levy for 2023.

A City Council meeting that includes a public hearing and adoption of the Capital Improvement Plan, budget, 2023 levy and utility rates is set for 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 13 at Plymouth City Hall, 3400 Plymouth Blvd.

The City Council may hold additional budget study sessions (also known as special council meetings) prior to adoption to address questions.

View the budget, CIP, Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and more financial information about the city at plymouthmn.gov/financialreport.

Vote ... from page 1

Absentee (Early) Voting Available

Residents who wish to vote early by absentee ballot can do so in person, by ballot dropoff or by mail.

The entire absentee balloting (early voting) process can be completed in person through Monday, Nov. 7 at Plymouth City Hall, 3400 Plymouth Blvd. To vote early in person, voters must fill out an application and will be issued a ballot on site.

Voters may also apply for a ballot and drop it off at Plymouth City Hall. **Absentee (early voting) ballots must be received by 3 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 8.**

To apply for a ballot and learn more about the process, visit mnvotes.org.

The Secretary of State’s website also includes information about completing the entire process via mail, though voters are encouraged to begin the process no later than 10 days prior to Election Day to allow ample time to receive a ballot in the mail and have time to mail it back.

Vote by Direct Ballot

Direct balloting allows residents to vote in person via absentee ballot and place their ballots through a tabulator (just like on Election Day). This process is available at Plymouth City Hall Tuesday, Nov. 1 to Monday, Nov. 7.

Plymouth City Hall Hours

- Early voting hours at Plymouth City Hall are:
- **Friday, Sept. 23 through Friday, Nov. 4**
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday
 - **Saturday, Nov. 5:** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 - **Monday, Nov. 7:** 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

More Information

For additional information, including guidance for agent delivery, and military and overseas voters, visit mnvotes.org or call Plymouth City Hall at 763-509-5000.



Due to redistricting, most polling locations have changed. To view a poll finder and more election information, visit mnvotes.org.

City Council Seats on the Ballot

- The following Plymouth City Council seats and candidates will be on the ballot:
- **Mayor – Four-year term**
Jeff Wosje
 - **Ward 2 (Southwest Plymouth) – Four-year term**
Julie Peterson
Lee Ziesmer
 - **Ward 4 (Northeast Plymouth) – Four-year term**
James “Jamie” Page
Julie Pointner
James Williams
 - **At-Large – Four-year term**
Derek Anderson
Clark Gregor
Neha Markanda

The League of Women Voters held a candidate forum in September featuring Plymouth City Council candidates. View the forum on-demand at lwvwa.org.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Volunteer!

The city is seeking volunteers who are:

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

Friendly and love to provide good service. Greet and assist with children’s activities during Fire & Ice Saturday, Feb. 4.

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

Take a Closer Look



Carol Gresham

Carol Gresham
Art Ambassador
Volunteer
As a volunteer, my job is to answer questions and talk about the artist whose artwork is currently on display at the Plymouth Community Center Art Gallery.

I research the artists by reading their biographies and looking at the artwork on their websites. I also keep their websites on my iPad to show to interested people. I’m also able to provide information to visitors about previous artists.

My favorite thing about being a city volunteer is being able to help people. It is very important to me. While I have a regular schedule at the art gallery, I also enjoy the variety of other city volunteer opportunities. Through my volunteer work with the city, I’ve learned about other organizations and have begun volunteering for them as well. Sometimes I volunteer for multiple organizations on the same day. I love volunteering.

Because Carol volunteers, people visiting the art gallery can have a more informed and engaging experience, and those attending special events receive dedicated service.

Home energy assessments available for residents

As the temperature begins to drop, the City of Plymouth reminds residents that the Home Energy Squad is available to help homeowners explore how homes use energy and identify energy-saving opportunities.

Through the program, residents may sign up for a customized home visit from a team of energy professionals who will install energy saving materials, perform a blower door test, complete an insulation inspection and identify additional ways to save energy in the home.

Homeowners can also receive a personalized report that includes energy improvement recommendations, low-interest financing options and information about available utility rebates.

The Plymouth Housing and Redevelopment Authority subsidizes the cost of the energy-saving visit, making it available to Plymouth residents at a discounted rate.

Home Energy Squad is provided by CenterPoint Energy and Xcel Energy and is available to customers of both utilities.

For more information or to schedule a Home Energy Squad visit, call 651-328-6220 or go to plymouthmn.gov/homeenergysquad.

Groups encouraged to participate in Community Conversations with Police

The Plymouth Police Department invites community groups and organizations to participate in a new outreach program – Community Conversations with Police.

The initiative offers various community groups the opportunity to connect with Plymouth police staff in a small group setting to ask questions, share perspectives, tour the Plymouth Public Safety Building, view technology used by officers and more.

“Plymouth is home to a variety of different faith-based organizations, cultural groups, nonprofits and other impactful community organizations,” said Plymouth Public

Safety Director Erik Fadden. “Our goal is to continue building relationships with each of them through productive and insightful conversation.”

Groups may schedule conversations with Plymouth police staff on select Tuesday evenings at the Plymouth Public Safety Building, 3400 Plymouth Blvd. Space is limited to groups of 20 participants or less, and the initiative is geared toward adults.

For more information or to schedule a conversation, email Public Safety Education Specialist Sara Cwayna at scwayna@plymouthmn.gov.

HAPPENINGS



Winter Lights at the Hilde – For the third year, Plymouth Parks and Forestry staff will create a winter light display for all to enjoy at the Hilde Performance Center, 3500 Plymouth Blvd. Lights will go up in early December and turn on at dusk throughout the season. There is no cost to view the light display.

Santa’s Mailbox – Children can drop off a letter for Santa Monday, Nov. 21 through Friday, Dec. 2 at Plymouth City Hall (3400 Plymouth Blvd.), the Plymouth Ice Center (3650 Plymouth Blvd.) or the Plymouth Community Center (14800 34th Ave. N.). Santa’s helpers will send a response. Letters must include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Fire & Ice – Residents can mark their calendars for Plymouth’s annual winter celebration – Fire & Ice is set for Saturday, Feb. 4 at Parkers Lake Park, off County Road 6 and Niagara Lane. The annual winter favorite includes games, entertainment, food and fireworks, all on the frozen ice at Parkers Lake. Look for more information in the January/February 2023 edition of Plymouth News.

SEASONAL SPOTLIGHT

Pumpkin Drop – The city will accept discarded pumpkins, gourds and apples Nov. 1-14 at the Plymouth Maintenance Facility parking lot, 14900 23rd Ave. N.

The Pumpkin Drop provides residents an opportunity to turn old holiday decorations into food for farm animals. Residents should look for a dumpster with a Pumpkin Drop sign on the west side of the Maintenance Facility. Residents are asked to remove candles from pumpkins to protect the animals.

Homestead Filing – Residents who recently purchased a home may file for homestead classification through Hennepin County. Benefits include possible eligibility for reduced property taxes or a property tax refund. The deadline to file is Saturday, Dec. 31. Homes must be owned and occupied by Saturday, Dec. 31, 2022 to be eligible for taxes payable in 2023.

Once granted homestead classification, residents do not need to reapply for that property. Residents must notify the assessor within 30 days if they move or sell

the property, or in the event of changes in marital status or spouse occupancy. For more information visit hennepin.us/homestead.

Residents are reminded that as of January 1, 2022, the City of Plymouth no longer processes homestead applications. All homestead applications must be completed through Hennepin County via mail or online. Learn more at hennepin.us/homestead.

Yard Waste Site Closes Nov. 27 – The city-operated Yard Waste Site, 14900 23rd Ave. N., will remain open until Sunday, Nov. 27, weather permitting. The site is open 3-6 p.m. Wednesday-Friday and 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The site is closed Mondays and Tuesdays and will be closed on Thanksgiving (Thursday, Nov. 24).

Only Plymouth, Wayzata, Long Lake and Medicine Lake residents may use the site and identification is required. For more information, visit plymouthmn.gov/yardwaste.

Plymouth celebrates volunteers

By Mayor Jeff Wosje

As we approach the end of another calendar year, I want to take a moment to reflect and show gratitude for those who give back to the community – Plymouth volunteers.

Volunteers make Plymouth shine. They keep city events flowing smoothly, care for our parks, assist public safety staff in emergencies, offer friendly customer service at city facilities, help with native plantings, remove invasive species from natural areas, pick up trash to keep our city clean and more.

The impact volunteers have on our community is impressive. Last year, more than 2,000 volunteers contributed over 25,000 hours of service to the city – an in-kind contribution valued at nearly \$720,000. This offering of time and talent bolsters our quality of life and helps stretch city resources.

A few notable highlights from our volunteer program in the last year include:

- Planting more than 1,000 prairie plants at Green Tree Island Park
- Providing top-notch customer service at 83 city-sponsored events, benefitting 53,397 participants
- Dispensing 106,800 dog waste bags at 31 designated Plymouth parks so dog owners could easily pick up after their pets
- Adopting 44 parks, 23 gardens, 18.5 miles of trails and 20 miles of streets
- Removing buckthorn from seven parks and green spaces

I recently had the privilege of thanking Plymouth volunteers at a recognition event. Many have served the community for years, donating hundreds of hours of their time to others. They’ve forged lasting friendships with city staff and other community members while working on various projects. They’ve offered warm smiles, spread joy and made our city a wonderful place to live.

I am beyond grateful for our generous volunteers and their tremendous contributions to the community. From all of us in Plymouth – thank you.

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

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: Nov. 15, 29 and Dec. 13
Planning Commission: Nov. 2, 16 and Dec. 7

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