

PLYMOUTH NEWS



Recycling calendar goes paperless

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, view an interactive recycling map at plymouthmn.gov/recyclingschedule, or request a printed paper copy by calling the recycling line at 763-509-5906.

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 protects fire hydrants

Residents may have noticed fire hydrants covered in yellow plastic throughout Plymouth. The city wraps hydrants along high-traffic roadways to prevent damage from salt and sand during winter months. The plastic helps extend the life of a hydrant and is easily removed when access is needed.



Viva Las Vegas set for Jan. 20

An event for adults ages 21 and older, A Night on the Town presents Viva Las Vegas is set for 6-9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 20 at the Plymouth Community Center, 14800 34th Ave. N. Event attendees can look forward to an evening of Las Vegas-style games run by professional card dealers, prizes, light hors d'oeuvres, live music and drinks. A cash bar will be available.

Childcare for ages 5-11 is also available for an additional cost. Children may play in the K.U.B.E. indoor playground, have a pizza dinner, watch a movie, play games and more. Childcare must be purchased in advance.

Tickets and optional childcare can be purchased at plymouthmn.gov/vivalasvegas or by calling the Plymouth Parks and Recreation Department at 763-509-5200.

Three new Plymouth City Council members elected, mayor reelected

Voters elected three new Plymouth City Council members and reelected Mayor Jeff Wosje during the 2022 general election in November. The four-year terms begin upon taking the oath of office Jan. 10.

Julie Peterson was chosen by voters to represent Ward 2. The Plymouth City Council appointed Peterson in November to serve the remainder of the existing term after Ward 2 Council Member Kelli Slavik resigned. Slavik served in the seat following the resignation of former Council Member Nick Roehl in August 2022. Peterson is set to begin the new four-year term to which she was elected Jan. 10.

Julie Pointner was elected to serve as Ward 4 council member. Clark Gregor was chosen to serve as At Large council member.

Council ... continued on page 3



Three new Plymouth City Council members and the reelected mayor begin four-year terms in January.

City of Plymouth adopts the 2023 budget

The Plymouth City Council has adopted the 2023 budget, which includes an overall tax levy increase of 6.52% from 2022. The increase helps ensure the city keeps up with Plymouth's continued growth and demand for city services and amenities, including the renovation and expansion of the Plymouth Community Center and Fire Stations 2 and 3.

The cost of the 2023 levy increase is offset by growth in Plymouth's tax base. In 2022, more than \$157 million in market value was added in Plymouth from new construction, which helps ease the impact of the levy increase.

Plymouth homeowners with properties valued at \$450,000 will see an annual city tax impact of \$77.38 in 2023 over 2022. Property taxes are divided among the

city, school districts, Hennepin County and other taxing jurisdictions. The city receives about 23 cents of each residential property tax dollar, which pays for police and fire services, snowplowing, street maintenance, trail and park upkeep, recreation activities and events, community planning, housing programs, and other local services.

Plymouth utilizes long-range financial planning tools that help avoid spikes in the tax levy as new development slows, which allows the city to maintain a stable tax rate for residential and commercial properties.

Detailed information about the city budget, including the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and other documents that outline the city's financial status and practices, is available at plymouthmn.gov/financialreport.

Fire & Ice winter festival set for Feb. 4

Get ready to bundle up and head outdoors for Plymouth's 34th-annual winter festival – Fire & Ice is set for 3-6:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 4 on the frozen Parkers Lake, at County Road 6 and Niagara Lane.

The free event offers winter activities that celebrate the best of the bold north, including sled dog rides, a youth ice fishing contest, ice games, recycle bin races, horse-drawn trolley rides, pony rides, box hockey, ice skating, food trucks, bonfire pits, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing, weather permitting.

Fire & Ice wraps up with a fireworks display beginning at 6:30 p.m., sponsored by the Plymouth Civic League. Participants should bring cash and/or credit cards for food truck purchases. A schedule of events will be posted on the city website in early January. For weather concerns, call the weather line at 763-509-5205.

Free Shuttle Service

Shuttle service is available 3:30-7:30 p.m. Feb. 4 at no cost, running to and from the Plymouth Corporate Center, 1405 Xenium Lane N. Parking is free.

Fire & Ice Medallion Hunt

The 13th-annual Fire & Ice Medallion Hunt begins Thursday, Jan. 5 with a clue posted on the city's



Fire & Ice returns to Parkers Lake Saturday, Feb. 4. The annual winter festival features a variety of outdoor activities, games, food trucks, fireworks and more.

social media platforms and the Fire & Ice webpage, plymouthmn.gov/fireandice.

More clues will be published Thursdays, Jan. 12, 19 and 26, or until someone finds the medallion. There is no need to register or pay to participate. A \$250 prize is awarded to the first sleuth who finds the medallion. Only Plymouth residents are eligible.

Coloring Contest

The all-ages Fire & Ice Coloring Contest returns for the fourth year and will run Monday, Jan. 9 through Friday, Jan. 20. To participate and view more information, visit plymouthmn.gov/fireandice.



Andrea Rich named finance director

Plymouth City Manager Dave Callister has announced the appointment of Andrea Rich to the role of finance director for the City of Plymouth.

At the helm of the Finance Department, Rich is responsible for ensuring the integrity, timeliness and accuracy of city finances. She will manage the internal and external audit processes, develop and implement sound financial and accounting policies, oversee payroll and budgeting, and supervise accounting staff.

“Andrea has hit the ground running and we’re excited to have her on the team,” Callister said. “We look forward to Plymouth continuing its long history of award-winning financial practices and careful long-term planning.”

Rich plans to continue fostering a focus on customer service and will lead the team with an emphasis on collaboration.

“Plymouth has great facilities and a great team – there’s a very positive culture here,” she said. “The finances here are in ship shape and have a track record of being well run.”

Prior to starting work in Plymouth, Rich served the City of Edina as assistant finance director.

She has a bachelor’s degree in accounting from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

To learn more about the city’s financial status and reports, visit plymouthmn.gov/financialreport.



Andrea Rich

Plymouth Community Center proves popular during inaugural year

A year has passed since the opening of the first phase of the Plymouth Community Center – and the newly renovated and expanded facility has since hosted thousands of community members for sports programs, indoor playground fun, fitness and exercise classes, arts and educational opportunities, and weddings and events.

In 2022, the Active Wing welcomed approximately 280,236 guests from opening day on Jan. 3 through the end of November.

In addition to a steady number of indoor walking track users, the facility’s two gymnasiums have been heavily used, with 8,936 tickets sold for open gym activities. The K.U.B.E. indoor playground has also proved to be a popular destination – 42,513 passes were

purchased for children to play, and 431 birthday parties and celebrations were hosted in the past year.

The Event and Education wings – the second and final phase of the project, which opened July 18, 2022 – has averaged 10,822 visitors each month.

With spaces designed for hosting a variety of personal and corporate events, the Event and Education wings feature a newly renovated ballroom, conference and multipurpose rooms equipped with the latest integrated technology, classrooms, and a redesigned Black Box Theater. At press time, the Plymouth Room had hosted 37 receptions and special events in four months.

For details about the facility, including information about rentals, visit plymouthmn.gov/pcc.

280,236 Active Wing guests welcomed

8,936 tickets sold for open gym activities

42,513 indoor playground passes purchased

431 birthday parties & celebrations hosted



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Volunteer!

The city is seeking volunteers who are:

Enthusiastic about winter sports. Take tickets at high school hockey games through February. Welcome guests from around the country and serve as a city ambassador March 23-27 when the Plymouth Ice Center hosts the National High School Hockey Tournament.

Friendly and love to provide good service. Help with a variety of fun outdoor activities during Fire & Ice Saturday, Feb. 4.

Reliable with winter clean up. Adopt a fire hydrant in the neighborhood and keep it clear of snow so firefighters can access it quickly in the event of a fire. Visit plymouthmn.gov/adoptaspot to find a hydrant and sign up.

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

Take a Closer Look



Rev. Jeremy Stephens

Police Chaplain

As a volunteer, my job is to bring comfort to individuals and families, and support police officers responding to a crisis situation. Police chaplains work alongside police

Rev. Jeremy Stephens

officers and assist community members who are grieving due to loss or tragedy. We also provide comfort, guidance and counsel to officers. As a pastor ministering in Plymouth, being a volunteer chaplain allows me to work more closely with the community.

My favorite thing about being a volunteer is working with the tremendous staff in the Plymouth Public Safety Department.

I also really enjoy being on a team of chaplains who are unified and committed to helping our police officers and the community.

I am thankful and blessed to be part of the chaplain group, which offers much needed support and care.

Because Jeremy volunteers, community members receive comfort and compassionate care during crisis situations. Plymouth Police and Fire staff receive caring support following emergencies.

Plymouth seeks Charter Commission applicants

The City of Plymouth is seeking applicants to fill seats on the Plymouth Charter Commission. Seats will be open until filled, but preference will be given to those who apply by Friday, Feb. 3.

The Charter Commission is an independent body that discusses topics related to the Plymouth City Charter, which defines city government structure and operations.

Charter Commission members are appointed by the chief judge of the Fourth Judicial District. For more information, visit plymouthmn.gov/commissions.

Residents with an interest in local government, including its structure and operations, are encouraged to submit a letter of interest and application to:

City Clerk Jodi Gallup
City of Plymouth
3400 Plymouth Boulevard
Plymouth, MN 55447

For details about the application process, contact Gallup at jgallup@plymouthmn.gov or 763-509-5080.

HRA meetings to be broadcast in 2023

The monthly Plymouth Housing and Redevelopment Authority meetings are set to be televised live, streamed online and recorded in 2023. The first broadcast meeting is set for 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 23.

Cable television subscribers in the city can see gavel-to-gavel coverage of regular Plymouth City Council, Plymouth Planning Commission and Plymouth Housing and Redevelopment Authority meetings on Channel 16. Meetings are televised live and replayed multiple times throughout the

week. HRA meetings will also be livestreamed and available for replay online at plymouthmn.gov/hra.

Housing and Redevelopment Authority typically meets the fourth Thursday of the month at Plymouth City Hall, 3400 Plymouth Blvd. All meetings are open to the public. The HRA works with Plymouth’s housing and community development programs; administers federal, state and local grants for housing programs; and manages city residential buildings.



Parking, snow reminders

Residents are reminded of the winter parking ordinance, which prohibits parking on streets after a 2-inch snowfall until the street has been plowed curb-to-curb. Violators may be tagged and towed. Plymouth also has a year-round ordinance that prohibits parking on city streets 2-5 a.m.

Visit plymouthmn.gov/snow to track snow plows on the Live Plymouth Plow Map, report snow removal issues, sign up for snow emergency alert emails and view more information about snow removal in Plymouth.

Phase 1 of Chankahda Trail reconstruction open to traffic

Heading into 2023, the first phase of the Chankahda Trail (formerly County Road 47) Reconstruction Project is mostly complete and the roadway is open to traffic.

Work in 2022, from County Road 101 to Peony Lane, included new roadway, installation of concrete curb and gutter, storm sewer improvements, trails on both sides of the roadway, and a pedestrian underpass/tunnel at Peony Lane and Chankahda Trail.

Work will resume in early 2023 for a few weeks to complete outstanding items at the Chankahda Trail and County Road 101 intersection.

The reconstruction project began in spring 2022 and is set to be completed in three phases over multiple years, depending on funding.

Looking Ahead to Phase 2

Approved in July 2022, the design for Phase 2 spans from Peony to Vicksburg lanes. Depending on funding, construction could begin in spring 2023 and would include rebuilding the roadway, installing concrete curb and gutter, making storm sewer improvements, and adding trails. Learn more about the project at plymouthmn.gov/chankahda.



The new pedestrian underpass/tunnel at Peony Lane and Chankahda Trail will allow for safer crossings for pedestrians, students, bicyclists and more.

Plymouth Police Department provides tips to prevent catalytic converter thefts

Catalytic converter theft continues to be an issue across the country, and the Plymouth Police Department provides prevention tips for residents.

A target for thieves because of the metals contained inside, catalytic converters are required in all vehicles sold in the United States. The device is part of the exhaust system on the underside of a vehicle, which helps reduce pollution-causing emissions. When a catalytic converter is stolen from a vehicle, the driver will typically hear a loud “roar” noise when the vehicle is started.

To make it easier for law enforcement to make arrests for these crimes, the Plymouth City Council recently passed a city ordinance prohibiting the purchase, sale or possession of a catalytic converter not attached to a vehicle, with the exception of auto repair shops and legal purchases with a valid receipt.

Tips to Prevent Catalytic Converter Theft

The Plymouth Police Department provides tips to help prevent these thefts:

- Park in a well-lit area where the vehicle can be seen by others
- If possible, park in a garage with locked entrances
- Consider adding video surveillance to the area where vehicles are parked



The Plymouth Police Department provides tips for residents to help prevent catalytic converter thefts.

- Install a catalytic converter security locking device, or have it welded to the car frame
- Consider engraving the vehicle identification number (VIN) on the catalytic converter – this may help alert a scrap dealer that it was stolen and make it easier to identify the owner
- Calibrate the vehicle alarm to sound when it detects vibration
- Call 911 for suspicious behavior, such as a person laying under a car in a parking lot

Council ... from page 1

Seats not included in the 2022 general election were Ward 1 Council Member Alise McGregor, Ward 3 Council Member Jim Davis and At Large Council Member Jim Willis.

Voter Turnout

The City of Plymouth saw strong voter turnout in the 2022 general election – with 73% of registered

Plymouth voters participating. Of that amount, 37% cast their ballots prior to Election Day.

“The entire election process went smoothly,” said City Clerk/Administrative Coordinator Jodi Gallup.

“The City of Plymouth has great staff, and a team of dedicated election judges and volunteers,” she added. “Plymouth is committed to ensuring that residents are able to efficiently cast their votes.”

Plymouth BUSINESS buzz

Here is a rundown of some recent business news.

Chick-fil-A, a fast casual restaurant known for its chicken sandwiches, opened a new location at 3005 Harbor Lane.

The Vibe Dance and Fitness – a boutique-style training studio offering choreography, classes, private lessons and dance team intensives – has moved to a new location in Plymouth at 12975 16th Ave. N., Suite 200.

For more information about current and future development activity in Plymouth, explore the interactive Development Happenings map at plymouthmn.gov/development.

Notice: Information about a location change for Club Pilates in Plymouth was prematurely published in the printed issue of the January/February Plymouth News. The location change was not finalized. We apologize for any confusion.


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plymouthmn.gov/clickandride

Demolition underway at the Four Seasons Mall site



Demolition work began in November at the Four Seasons Mall site. The process started with asbestos abatement, and building and parking lot removal is expected to be complete in January. For more information, visit plymouthmn.gov/fourseasons.



2023 Yard Waste Site, recycling dates

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



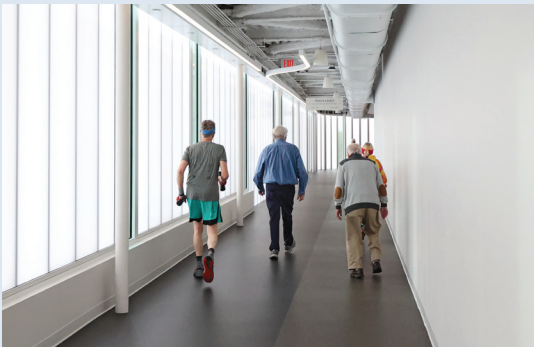
Drop-Off Day – This year, Drop-Off Day is set for Friday, April 28 and Saturday, April 29 at the Plymouth Maintenance Facility, 14900 23rd Ave. N. Check out plymouthmn.gov/dropoff in spring for more information.

Yard Waste Site – Opens Wednesday, April 5, weather permitting. The Yard Waste Site is closed Mondays and Tuesdays, Easter, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day and Thanksgiving Day. The site will also close April 28-29 for Drop-Off Day. For hours and accepted materials, visit plymouthmn.gov/yardwaste.

Recycling Drop-Off Site – Open daily. The site is next to the Maintenance Facility and is available to residents and small businesses in Plymouth. The site is closed all day April 28-29 for Drop-Off Day.

plymouthmn.gov

SEASONAL SPOTLIGHT



Indoor Walking – Stay active this winter with the free indoor walking track at the Plymouth Community Center, 14800 34th Ave. N. Free walking and jogging is also available inside the Fieldhouse dome. For more information, visit plymouthmn.gov/pcc.

Open Play – The Plymouth Community Center Fieldhouse dome, 14800 34th Ave. N., provides an indoor space for open play activities, including soccer, softball, baseball, football, lacrosse and rugby. Open play is typically available weekdays during the following times:

- 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday – geared towards toddlers/youth (ages 12 and younger)
- 2-4 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday – geared towards teens (ages 13-18)

To learn more, visit plymouthmn.gov/fieldhouse.

K.U.B.E. Indoor Playground – Bring the family for accessible indoor play at the Plymouth Community Center’s Kids Ultimate Backyard Experience (K.U.B.E.), 14800 34th Ave. N. The K.U.B.E. indoor playground offers an array of ramps, slides, climbing towers and more for children ages 2-12 to play. For admission prices and more information, visit plymouthmn.gov/pcc.

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. Trimming begins in February and is expected to last through March or April – focusing on the northeastern area 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 the respective property owners. Pruning is recommended during dormancy (typically November through March) to avoid potential pest and disease problems.

The city recommends residents utilize companies that have certified arborists on staff, as well as adequate insurance.

Adopt A Hydrant – The Plymouth Fire Department asks residents to shovel a 3-foot radius around fire hydrants after a snowfall.

Quick access to hydrants is crucial during a fire, as a fire engine’s water supply depletes rapidly. Shoveling around hydrants allows first responders to gain access to water faster during a fire and eliminates the need for firefighters to dig a hydrant out of the snow before it can be used during an emergency situation. For more information about the Adopt a Hydrant program, visit plymouthmn.gov/adoptaspot.

The Adopt a Spot webpage displays a map with the location and availability of each spot. To benefit the overall community, residents can also learn about volunteering to adopt parks, dog waste stations, storm drains and streets.

New Year, New City Council

By Mayor Jeff Wosje

As we ring in the new year and look forward to all that 2023 will bring, I’m excited to welcome three new Plymouth City Council members who will take the oath of office Jan. 10 – Julie Peterson, Julie Pointner and Clark Gregor (see page 1).

I am also honored to begin another four-year term as mayor and am grateful to all who have placed their trust in me.

The three outgoing Council members did not run for reelection to the Plymouth City Council. I wish them well, and I look forward to collaborating with a new Council.

I am excited for the city’s future and await the opportunity to strategically plan ahead – with the ultimate goal of maintaining Plymouth’s high quality of life.

While it’s inevitable that City Council members won’t agree on every topic, it’s important that we listen to each other, and consider each other’s perspectives and opinions. And when we do disagree, we must do so respectfully.

Festive Frozen Fun at Fire & Ice

As the year gets underway, I also look ahead to opportunities for winter fun – especially Fire & Ice on Feb. 4 (see page 1).

This 34th-annual winter tradition offers activities for everyone on the frozen ice at Parkers Lake. Kids can drop a line and try to catch the biggest fish. Find a partner, hop in a recycling bin, and race family and friends across the ice. Enjoy food truck treats, bundle up by the bonfire and watch the fireworks.

Winter wouldn’t be the same without Fire & Ice. I’ll be there, and I hope you will join me in this wonderful community celebration!

As we all set resolutions for the coming year, I challenge you to use the golden rule, especially with disagreements. Let’s listen to others as we would want them to listen to us.

Lastly, try to make the most of this snowy season – stop by Fire & Ice and have a little winter fun.

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

City Council

- Jeff Wosje**, Mayor
763-509-5007 (voicemail), jwosje@plymouthmn.gov
- Alise McGregor**, Ward 1
763-509-5001 (voicemail), amcgregor@plymouthmn.gov
- Julie Peterson**, Ward 2
763-509-5002 (voicemail), jpeterson@plymouthmn.gov
- Jim Davis**, Ward 3
763-509-5003 (voicemail), jdavis@plymouthmn.gov
- Julie Pointner**, Ward 4
763-509-5004 (voicemail), jpointner@plymouthmn.gov
- Clark Gregor**, At Large
763-509-5005 (voicemail), cgregor@plymouthmn.gov
- Jim Willis**, At Large
763-509-5006 (voicemail), jwillis@plymouthmn.gov

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: Jan. 10, 24 and Feb. 14, 28
Planning Commission: Jan.18 and Feb. 1, 15
Housing and Redevelopment Authority: Feb. 23

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