

PLYMOUTH NEWS



Primavera returns April 21-23

Primavera is set for April 21-23 at the Plymouth Community Center art gallery, 14800 34th Ave. N. Join the Plymouth Arts Council and the City of Plymouth in a celebration of fine art featuring local creatives. For details and a schedule of events, visit plymouthmn.gov/primavera. Primavera art will remain on display in the Community Center gallery through Saturday, May 20. For more art gallery information, visit plymouthmn.gov/pccgallery.



Indoor play available at the K.U.B.E.

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. offers an array of ramps, slides, climbing towers and more for children ages 2-12 to play.

For hours of operation, admission prices and more information, visit plymouthmn.gov/kube.



Drop-Off Day set for April 28-29

This year's Drop-Off Day is set for Friday, April 28 and Saturday, April 29 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 28 – Only items that are free to dispose/recycle will be collected
- 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, April 29 – Pay items and free items alike will be collected

Discounted pricing will be offered to those who prepay. 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.

2023 Discover Plymouth offers an interactive look at the community

Plymouth's annual community showcase, Discover Plymouth is set for 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 15 inside the Fieldhouse dome at the Plymouth Community Center, 14800 34th Ave. N.

The free event features local businesses, community groups, activities for children, nonprofit organizations and community services. Attendees can have informal conversations with city staff from various departments and learn about recreation programs, volunteer opportunities, environmentally friendly practices, city services and more.

Touch-a-Truck, Inflatables and Crafts

New this year, the event includes an area just for children – featuring inflatables, crafts and other activities.

In the Community Center parking lot, a touch-a-truck exhibit will give community members an up-close, hands-on look at a variety of large equipment and vehicles, courtesy of the Public Works Department, Parks & Forestry Division and Public Safety Department.

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 purchase snacks or meals from food trucks at the event.

Participate or Sponsor

Those interested in vendor or sponsorship opportunities must apply by Monday, March 27. For more information, visit plymouthmn.gov/discoverplymouth.



Discover Plymouth is set for Saturday, April 15 and includes a touch-a-truck exhibit, city information, nonprofit organizations, a marketplace for local goods and more.

Mayor presents State of the City

Plymouth Mayor Jeff Wosje is set to deliver the annual State of the City address 10 a.m. Saturday, April 15 as part of Discover Plymouth at the Plymouth Community Center, 14800 34th Ave. N.

In the address, 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. The address will conclude with a question-and-answer session hosted by Dave Kiser of CCX Media.

Afterwards, residents can meet the mayor and City Council members at the City Council Meet and Greet from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Plymouth Ice Center set to host the national high school hockey tournament March 23-27

The Plymouth Ice Center is set to return to the national spotlight March 23-27 when it holds the 2023 Chipotle-USA Hockey High School National Championships.

Hosted in partnership with Wayzata Youth Hockey Association, the tournament draws approximately 50 teams from across the United States to Plymouth to play roughly 100 games at the five-day event. Admission is free, and all are welcome to watch teams compete across four divisions – Division I, Division II, Prep School Division and Girls Division.

The tournament has grown significantly since Plymouth previously hosted it in 2018. This year's event is estimated to have a \$1.3 million impact on the Plymouth economy, bringing business to retailers, restaurants and hotels.

"Plymouth is thrilled to host the national high school hockey tournament again," said Plymouth Ice Center Manager Erik Halverson. "The PIC has been an asset to the community – and we're excited to welcome hockey players, parents and fans from across the country to enjoy it as well."



The Plymouth Ice Center will host nearly 50 teams from around the country for the 2023 Chipotle-USA Hockey High School National Championships in March.

Volunteers play a significant role in ensuring the tournament runs smoothly – serving as city ambassadors assisting hundreds of out-of-town guests.

When Plymouth hosted the 2018 tournament, volunteers' in-kind contributions equated to \$8,900 in value (based on the 2018 Value of Volunteer from the Independent Sector).

For information about volunteering in Plymouth, contact volunteer@plymouthmn.gov or call 763-509-5230.



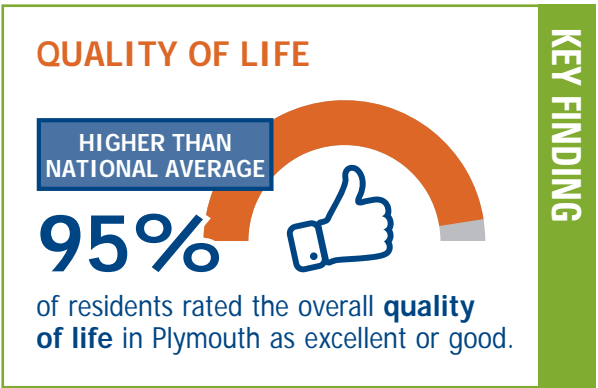
Plymouth's 2022 National Community Survey results are now available

To collect community feedback and gauge city service satisfaction, the City of Plymouth partnered with Polco/the National Research Center to complete the National Community Survey in 2022 in Plymouth – and the results are available to view on the city website.

The NCS provides national benchmarks by comparing data from more than 600 communities across the country. The survey, which included questions about quality of life, public safety, customer satisfaction in Plymouth and more, allows the city to assess changes in resident input and encourages data-driven, evidence-based decision making.

According to survey results, 97% of residents rated Plymouth as an excellent or good place to live. The survey report also found that residents:

- Praise their overall quality of life in Plymouth
- Prioritize safety and rate it positively
- Are pleased with their local government performance
- Value the city's strong economy, which makes Plymouth a desirable community
- Highly value the natural environment, as well as parks and recreational opportunities



Background, View Results

The survey was mailed to 2,800 randomly selected households in Plymouth in mid-August. Residents not part of the randomly selected group were invited to take the open-participation online survey.

Survey results were presented at the Jan. 10 Plymouth City Council meeting.

To view the NCS report, the City Council presentation and more, visit plymouthmn.gov/survey.



The City of Plymouth offers a wide variety of environmentally focused volunteer opportunities for all ages.

Volunteer for the environment

Make a positive impact in Plymouth by volunteering in ways that benefit the environment.

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 28-29

Assist city staff with a variety of tasks during 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 lead by city staff and volunteers in May and July, this program offers an introduction to volunteering for “tweens,” ages 11-13. Volunteer opportunities include activities such as pulling garlic mustard and marking storm drains to protect water quality. Space is limited.

Plant and Pull Day – Saturday, June 3

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 at a nearby park.

To help with identification, view an informational video at plymouthmn.gov/volunteeropportunities.

Adopt a Spot – Including Storm Drains

Volunteer to adopt a "spot" in Plymouth to help keep the city clean and safe – including a park, garden, dog waste station (bags supplied), fire hydrant, storm drain or street.

The City of Plymouth encourages residents to adopt a storm drain, and clean up leaves and debris to protect surface water quality. Cleaning storm drains protects rivers, lakes, wetlands and streams from excess pollutants and nutrients, which can cause unwanted algae growth.

A common misconception about storm drains is that they channel stormwater to treatment plants – when, in fact, stormwater from the street drains directly into wetlands and lakes untreated.

View more information and a map of available spots at plymouthmn.gov/adoptaspot.

Storm Drain Marking

Mark your neighborhood storm drains to remind passersby that stormwater carries leaves and debris, which drains untreated into wetlands and lakes and can pollute the water. This initiative is flexible and great for families or scout projects. Storm drain marking begins for the season when weather is consistently above 45 degrees.

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

Millennium Garden Caretakers

Keep the Millennium Garden looking lovely for residents and garden weddings. Volunteers can set their own schedule to water, deadhead and weed June through September.



COMMUNITY SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

PARKS AND RECREATION
92% of residents rated the quality of Parks and Recreation opportunities as excellent or good.

FIRE DEPARTMENT
90% of residents rated fire prevention and education as excellent or good.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
91% of residents rated police/sheriff services as excellent or good.

94% of residents rated the city newsletter, **Plymouth News**, as a source for obtaining information about city government.

EMPLOYMENT
87% of residents rated employment opportunities in Plymouth as excellent or good.

PLYMOUTH ECONOMY
91% of residents rated Plymouth's overall economic health as excellent or good.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT
Confidence in Plymouth's local government ranked higher than the national benchmark, and 91% rated customer service by city employees as excellent or good.

Plymouth Metrolink Click-and-Ride now offers expanded service to Maple Grove

Plymouth Metrolink Click-and-Ride now offers trips to the Maple Grove Transit Station, 12350 Main Street N., in Arbor Lakes of Maple Grove.

The expanded service allows riders to connect to Maple Grove My Ride, which offers trips to anywhere in the cities of Maple Grove, Osseo, Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center, in addition to the Robbinsdale Transit Center, Crystal Shopping Center and CROSS Food Shelf in Rogers.

Click-and-Ride trips cost \$3 each way and riders can request a transfer, which can be used for Maple Grove Transit services, including My Ride.

“This service addition brings new options for riders to get to and from Plymouth, and provides access to a range of locations in surrounding areas,” Metrolink Transit Administrator Nur Kasin said. “It can also bolster job opportunities by serving as a connection for commuters – and will give Plymouth employers greater access to the workforce in areas outside of Plymouth.”



Plymouth Metrolink's Click-and-Ride now offers extended service to Maple Grove Transit Station. Click-and-Ride trips cost \$3 each way.

About Click-and-Ride

Click-and-Ride provides shuttles seven days a week anywhere in Plymouth and select locations outside the city – Ridgedale Center in Minnetonka, Colonial Square in Wayzata, Golden Valley Center and Maple Grove Transit Station.

Riders can book a ride through the Click-and-Ride app or by calling 763-559-5057. Download the free app and learn more at plymouthmn.gov/clickandride.

Native Plant Garden Club volunteers build community, benefit environment

The City of Plymouth is looking for volunteers to help maintain native landscapes through a new initiative – the Native Plant Garden Club.

The city has developed a number of new native planting areas in recent years, and the volunteer club is designed to provide an active group of green thumbs to support the plantings. Work at the gardens may include weeding, pruning, planting and more.

“This is a great opportunity to learn about native plants and become part of a community of people who share a passion for the environment,” Plymouth Volunteer Coordinator Jackie Maas said. “These native areas are beautiful, and it takes dedication and care to keep them thriving.”

Help Maintain Native Species

The largest of recent native plantings in Plymouth is the pollinator garden at Fazendin Park, where dozens of volunteers came together in 2022 to install more than 10,000 plants, shrubs and trees of varying species to provide a home for bees, butterflies, birds and more.

The nearly 3-acre area requires regular maintenance and watering as the native species get established. The city is developing several new rain gardens throughout the community, which require similar care.



Residents can sign up for the Native Plant Garden Club to help care for native planting areas throughout the city.

Get Involved

Those interested may contact Maas at 763-509-5320 or volunteer@plymouthmn.gov to sign up for the group. The club offers a flexible schedule from early summer through early fall. There will be group or as-needed events with the potential for evening and weekend availability.

No gardening experience is required. Volunteers must be age 14 or older, unless accompanied by an adult.

Plymouth Water Efficiency Rebate Program rewards water conservation

To encourage conservation and reduce municipal water use, the City of Plymouth is accepting Water Efficiency Rebate Program applications.

Funded, in part, by a grant from the Metropolitan Council, the program offers rebates for projects that replace inefficient toilets, irrigation systems, dishwashers and washing machines with WaterSense® or Energy Star® certified versions. Items must be installed in Plymouth. All residential and commercial property owners who are customers of the municipal water supply could be eligible.

Rebates are available for 75% of the cost of the item, up to a maximum of:

- \$50 for WaterSense® toilets
- \$100 for Energy Star® washing machines
- \$100 for Energy Star® dishwashers
- \$200 for residential WaterSense® irrigation controllers or \$500 for commercial/multi-family controllers
- \$15 per WaterSense® sprinkler head replacement, up to \$500 (minimum 10 sprinkler heads)
- \$125 for soil moisture sensors
- \$200 per irrigation system audit conducted by a WaterSense® Certified Irrigation Professional



The Water Efficiency Rebate Program is available for select dishwashers, toilets, irrigation systems and washing machines.

Apply For a Rebate

Rebate funds are limited and will be issued to qualified applicants on a first-come, first-served basis until June 30, 2024, or until funds are exhausted, whichever comes first.

Property owners can confirm device eligibility before purchasing by emailing werp@plymouthmn.gov or calling 763-509-5500.

For more information about the program or to apply, visit plymouthmn.gov/waterrebate.

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 may be placed beginning Wednesday, March 1 at recycleminnesota.org and picked up 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 13 at the Plymouth Maintenance Facility, 14900 23rd Ave. N.

Compost bins cost \$76, plus tax. A 45-gallon rain barrel is \$90, 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 & Forestry offers career camp for teens

Plymouth is set to offer a new opportunity for teens to learn the ins and outs of the city's Parks & Forestry Division through a three-day career camp this summer.

The career camp showcases playground installation, turf and sports field management, urban forestry, and horticulture. Due to the machinery used on the job, participants must be age 16 or older. Space is limited.

Summer Teen Volunteer Program

The career camp is part of the Summer Teen Volunteer Program, which runs from June through August.

The program offers teens, ages 14 and older, the opportunity to build leadership skills and gain valuable work experience while assisting with a variety of summer youth recreation programs.

Teens may choose the city programs, locations and schedules that interest them, including sports, aquatics, art and more. To apply, visit plymouthmn.gov/volunteer or contact Volunteer Services at 763-509-5230. Applications are due Friday, April 7, with a \$15 application fee. A mandatory training session is set for the week of June 12.

ECO-NOTES



Residents may sign up for the 2023 Plymouth Environmental Academy, held August-November.

Plymouth Environmental Academy seeks applicants

Plymouth residents interested in learning more about their environmental footprint can sign up for the Plymouth Environmental Academy, held August-November.

The group meets once per month to focus on an environmental topic of interest. Each class begins at 7 p.m. and is about 90 minutes long.

“This is a great opportunity to learn more about how to lessen our environmental impact,” Water Resources Supervisor Ben Scharenbroich said. “The classes are designed to appeal to anyone – those who already try to be environmentally conscious in everyday life, and those looking for a place to start.”

The Plymouth Environmental Academy is free and open to everyone. To learn more and apply, visit plymouthmn.gov/environmentalacademy.



Plymouth's holiday light recycling initiative gathered nearly 4,000 pounds of holiday lights.

Holiday light recycling initiative proves successful

The city's recent holiday lights and extension cord recycling initiative gathered a total of 3,989 pounds of holiday lights from November through January – 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.

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

Recycle unused deicing salt from winter season

Residents may recycle unused winter deicing salt by dropping it off in the marked bins near the fuel pumps/oil drop-off at the southwest corner of the Plymouth Maintenance Facility, 14900 23rd Ave. N.

Residents should recycle unused salt only, making sure to remove the salt from bags, buckets or other containers when dropping off.

All salt collected will be reused by the City of Plymouth during future winters. Water softener salt, pellets or other types of salt are not accepted.



Upcoming construction season brings upgrades to roadways in Plymouth

Below is a listing of various street projects scheduled for the upcoming construction season. The City of Plymouth reminds motorists to pay attention to signage, slow down in construction zones and provide crews space to work safely. Visit plymouthmn.gov/project-spotlight to learn more and sign up for eNotification emails.

Highway 169/Rockford Road Bridge Reconstruction (MnDOT)

The Minnesota Department of Transportation is set to replace the Rockford Road (County Road 9) bridge interchange at Highway 169 this summer.

The project will involve the complete removal and replacement of the bridge, traffic signal additions, and trails on both sides of Rockford Road. For more information, visit MnDOT's website for project updates and road closures: dot.state.mn.us/roadwork.

City Center Projects

Road work continues in Plymouth City Center, the area 1 mile west of Interstate 494 on Highway 55. Final touches to the 2022 Vicksburg Lane Improvement Project are expected to be completed this summer with the installation of landscaping, decorative lights and monument signage.

The roadway in front of the Plymouth Community Center, 34th Avenue between Fernbrook Lane and Plymouth Boulevard, will be under construction for part of the summer as the city fixes deteriorated pavement and upgrades sidewalks and trails. Residents can also expect repairs to 34th, 35th, 36th and 37th avenues between Plymouth Boulevard and Vicksburg Lane.

Chankahda Trail Reconstruction Project

The city continues the Chankahda Trail (formerly County Road 47) Reconstruction Project with the second phase – the roadway segment from Peony Lane to Vicksburg Lane.

A complete rebuild of the existing road, Phase 2 includes the installation of concrete curb and gutter, improvements to the storm sewer, and the addition of pedestrian signal crossings and trails.

The timing of Phase 3 is dependent on funding. The city has requested \$20 million in state bond funds to make the



The Chankahda Trail (formerly County Road 47) Reconstruction Project is set to continue with the second phase this summer.

necessary public safety improvements to the 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/chankahda.

Gleason Lake Drive Reconstruction Project

Improvements are scheduled for Gleason Lake Drive and sections of nearby streets this year. Plans include a complete street reconstruction of Gleason Lake Drive and a segment of Niagara Lane, including the installation of concrete curb and gutter, storm sewer and trail gap improvements, and replacement of existing water mains.

The project also consists of improvements to Kingsview Lane, including completely removing the existing pavement to pave a new roadway surface, repairing existing concrete curbs and gutters, and making utility repairs.

Fernbrook Lane Rehabilitation Project

As part of the 2023 Street Rehabilitation Project, Fernbrook Lane will undergo rehabilitation between Highway 55 and Country Road 6. Plans include completely removing the existing pavement to pave a new roadway surface. Access to local businesses in the area, the Driver and Vehicle Services Center, and the Plymouth Yard Waste Site will be maintained throughout construction.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE



The city is seeking volunteers to serve as art ambassadors at the Plymouth Community Center.

Volunteer!

The city is seeking volunteers who are:

Passionate about art. Answer questions about rotating art exhibits as a Plymouth Community Center Art Ambassador during late afternoons, evenings and weekends. Must be age 16 or older.

Friendly and like to provide good service. Welcome people from across the country for the 2023 Chipotle-USA Hockey High School National Championships March 23-27 at the Plymouth Ice Center (see page 1). Answer general questions and provide information about Plymouth and the area.

Interested in serving as Police Reserve volunteers. Assist sworn officers with traffic and crowd control, patrol activities, special events and training scenarios. Must be age 18 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. Join the Native Plant Garden Club (see page 3). Help out during Drop-Off Day (April 28-29) and the Tree and Shrub Sale (May 12-13).

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

Take a Closer Look



Caleb Wagner

Caleb Wagner

Summer Teen Volunteer

As a Summer Teen Volunteer, my job is to help in a variety of ways, including supporting our parks and interacting with children. As a Parks & Forestry Career Camp pilot program participant (see page 3) last summer, I learned what it takes to keep our parks clean and beautiful while gaining important life skills. Volunteering has provided me a great opportunity to have a new perspective of the city.

My favorite thing about being a city volunteer is building lasting connections. By volunteering in different parts of the community, I've had the privilege of meeting amazing people of all ages. Seeing the direct impact of volunteering makes the experience so much more rewarding.

Because Caleb and other teens volunteer, there are more helpful hands and watchful eyes available to care for children in summer programs. Additionally, a pool of potential Parks and Recreation summer staff members and parks maintenance workers is developed for the future.

Summer Teen Volunteers build leadership skills and gain valuable work experience while assisting with a variety of summer youth recreation programs (see page 3). For more information, visit plymouthmn.gov/volunteer or call 763-509-5230.

Wetland buffers continue to protect surface water quality in Plymouth

Designed to filter rainwater runoff and help keep surface water clean, wetland buffers are areas of dense native vegetation along a wetland or other waterbody.

All developments in Plymouth since 1995 have been required to include marked wetland buffers to protect wetlands on the property.

Wetland buffers should be kept as natural areas and are generally low maintenance. However, if invasive species are present in the buffer, periodic weeding can help protect the native plant community. Some common invasive plants that threaten buffers are buckthorn, purple loosestrife and reed canary grass.

Mowing, cutting or cultivating plants within a wetland buffer is not allowed. Yard waste, such as leaves, sticks and grass clippings should also be kept outside of the buffer. For more information about wetland buffers, visit plymouthmn.gov/wetlands.



The city reminds residents that mowing, cutting, or cultivating plants within a wetland buffer is not allowed.

Plymouth READS features author Matt Goldman

Plymouth READS has announced its 2023 book selection – “Carolina Moonset” by Minnesota author Matt Goldman.

Goldman is a playwright, New York Times bestselling author and Emmy Award-winning writer for shows like “Seinfeld” and “Ellen.” From the publisher:

“Both suspenseful and deeply moving, ‘Carolina Moonset’ is an engrossing novel about family, memories both golden and terrible, and secrets too dangerous to stay hidden forever.”

Goldman is set to speak at a free event 7 p.m. Thursday, April 20 at the Plymouth Community Center, 14800 34th Ave. N. For information about upcoming Plymouth READS events, visit plymouthreads.org.

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

Picture Plymouth Photo Contest winners

Hundreds of entries were submitted to the 2022 Picture Plymouth Photo Contest. Below are the first-place winners in each category – City Landmarks, People & Families,

Activities & Events, Pets, and Wildlife & Nature. An annual Readers' Choice Award winner was also selected via popular vote by readers of Plymouth Magazine.

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



Overall Winner and City Landmarks – “Moonrise in West Medicine Lake Park” by Larry Paulson



Pets – “Dexter Loves Dandelions” by Avery Gerber



People & Families – “Ladybug Takes the Stage at the Hilde” by Rebecca Shamblyn



Activities & Events – “Sunset Fishing (Medicine Lake)” by Scott Anderson



Wildlife & Nature and Readers' Choice (tie) – “Affectionate nose touch by this cute fox couple!” by Jan Speak



Readers' Choice (tie) – “Mr. & Mrs. Red Fox” by Jan Speak

SEASONAL SPOTLIGHT

- Water Main Flushing** – The city will flush water mains this spring based on the schedule below.
- April 17-19: Residential areas south of County Road 6, between Gleason Lake Drive and Interstate 494, and industrial areas on both sides of I-494, south of Highway 55
 - April 19 to May 8: Residential areas west of I-494, except areas along both sides of Chankahda Trail (formerly County Road 47) west of I-494
 - May 8-25: Residential areas east of I-494, and areas along both sides of Chankahda Trail 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 the Plymouth Maintenance Facility at 763-509-5950 after Monday, April 3.

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 avoid doing laundry when flushing is occurring nearby. Residents who notice discolored water should let their outdoor water faucet run until the water is clear.

Yard Waste Site Opening – The Plymouth Yard Waste Site, 14900 23rd Ave. N., is set to open for the season Wednesday, April 5 – weather permitting.

The site is open to Plymouth, Wayzata, Long Lake and Medicine Lake residents only and 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 Mondays and Tuesdays, Easter (April 9), and April 28-29 for Drop-Off Day activities. For details, visit plymouthmn.gov/yardwaste.



Grant Fernelius named community and economic development director

Plymouth City Manager Dave Callister has announced the appointment of Grant Fernelius to the role of community and economic development director for the City of Plymouth.

Fernelius began work in Plymouth Feb. 6. He oversees the city's Community and Economic Development Department, which serves as a one-stop shop for residents, developers and businesses in Plymouth. The department offers services, programs and guidance for residential and commercial customers in the areas of planning, housing, permits, inspections and business support.

Fernelius has more than three decades of community development experience. He comes to Plymouth from the City of Coon Rapids, where he served as community development director since 2015. He previously worked

for the City of New Brighton for 10 years as community development director. Fernelius also has robust experience overseeing a variety of housing programs and has previously served in various Housing and Redevelopment Authority roles at the cities of Fridley and Columbia Heights.

Fernelius has a bachelor's degree in housing/community development from the University of Minnesota, as well as a master's degree in public administration from Hamline University.



Grant Fernelius

Roxanne the Painting Robot keeps fields in line

As spring approaches and outdoor activities are set to return, Plymouth Parks & Forestry staff will soon begin prepping athletic fields for the season with the help of Roxanne the Painting Robot.

Acquired in 2020 to assist with the paint layout at seven of the city's athletic playfields, Roxanne is equipped with specialized software and satellite GPS to accurately and efficiently paint – which saves the city time and money.

“Roxanne offers significant labor savings, especially during new field layouts in the spring,” said Parks & Forestry Manager Jason Goehring. “At minimum, laying out fields with string and a ride-on painter requires a three-person crew. With Roxanne, one staff member can lay out a new field on the tablet software, load the paint, and send instructions to Roxanne to execute in under five minutes.”



Roxanne the Painting Robot has assisted Parks & Forestry staff with field lining since spring of 2020.

The city utilizes Roxanne to paint soccer, football and lacrosse fields, as well as baseball and softball foul lines, which allows Parks & Forestry staff to invest time maintaining other amenities throughout Plymouth's 67 parks and 175 miles of trails.

IN BRIEF

Walk with the Mayor – Join Mayor Jeff Wosje for a leisurely walk 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday, May 1, which begins at the Plymouth Community Center, 14800 34th Ave. N. The walk kicks off the annual Step to it Challenge.

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

The Fieldhouse also provides an indoor space for open play activities, including soccer, football 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)

The Fieldhouse is set to remain open for walking and open play through the last week of March. To learn more, visit plymouthmn.gov/fieldhouse.

Market Value Notices – Market value notices for Plymouth properties will hit mailboxes in mid-March. Notices list the assessed value of the property and its classification for taxes payable in 2024.

Property values affect how much tax residents pay each year. Residents with questions or concerns should call the Hennepin County assessor at the contact information listed on the property valuation notice.

Movie in the Dome – Watch “Jungle Cruise” on the big screen 1-3 p.m. Wednesday, April 5 in the Plymouth Community Center Fieldhouse dome, 14800 34th Ave. N. Admission is free.

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What does good government look like?

By Mayor Jeff Wosje

We're constantly bombarded by news and information these days. We tend to skim headlines, read comments and immediately form polarized opinions. With so much going on, how do we maintain a focus on what really matters?

On a local city level, what does good government look like? How do policies, services and programs serve all who live, work and play in Plymouth? I'm glad you asked.

Stop by my annual State of the City address – set for 10 a.m. Saturday, April 15 at the Plymouth Community Center Fieldhouse dome, 14800 34th Ave. N. (see page 1).

During the State of the City, I'll discuss what good government looks like in Plymouth, along with what the city prioritizes, our focus on providing quality infrastructure, how city tax rates compare to similar communities, our management of city finances, updates about firefighter and police officer operations, our focus on investing in quality of life, and how we prioritize services to residents.

I'm excited to talk about some of the successes we've had over the last year, recognize stand-out individuals in the community, and share a bit about what's on the horizon in Plymouth.

After the State of the City address, stop by and talk to us. The Plymouth City Council meet-and-greet is set for 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

We welcome questions, suggestions and conversation about what residents value. It's also why we recently conducted a community survey (see page 2). Input from residents helps us make informed decisions and ensure that local government is serving all who call Plymouth home.

Plymouth strives for excellence – it's what the community has come to know and expect. And maybe that's what good government looks like.

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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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 14, 30 (5:30 p.m.), and April 11, 25
Planning Commission: March 15 and April 19
Housing and Redevelopment Authority: March 23 and April 27

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