



Parking, snow reminders

Residents are reminded of the winter parking ordinance, which prohibits parking on city 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 snowplows on the Live Plymouth Plow Map, report issues, sign up for snow emergency alert emails and texts, and view more information about snow removal in Plymouth.



Adopt a Fire 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, visit plymouthmn.gov/adoptaspot.



Scan the code to take the water service line material survey.

Water service line survey

Due to requirements from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the City of Plymouth asks residents to participate in a water service line material survey. The survey can be completed by scanning the QR code above, or by visiting plymouthmn.gov/serviceline. The survey asks residents to upload a photo of their service line (typically located below the water meter). The service line inventory is required for the Revised Lead and Copper Rule put in place by the EPA. For more information about the rule, visit epa.gov.

Fire & Ice winter festival set for Feb. 3

Residents should mark their calendars for Plymouth's 35th-annual winter festival – Fire & Ice is set for 3-6:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 3 on the frozen Parkers Lake, at County Road 6 and Niagara Lane.

Weather permitting, this free event offers winter activities that celebrate the spirit of the north, including sled dog rides, youth ice fishing, ice games, recycle bin races, horse-



Fire & Ice event canceled due to warm weather and unsafe ice conditions on Parkers Lake

Possible Weather Cancellation

The National Weather Service has predicted temperatures may be warmer than normal this winter. For the safety of all, the event may be canceled if weather/temperatures do not allow for safe ice conditions. Event cancellations will be announced at plymouthmn.gov/fireandice and on the weather line at 763-509-5205 in late-January.

Free Shuttle Service

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

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

More clues will be published Thursdays, Jan. 11, 18 and 25 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.

Coloring Contest

The all-ages Fire & Ice Coloring Contest returns for the fifth year and will run Monday, Jan. 8 through Friday, Jan. 19.

View more information at plymouthmn.gov/fireandice.

Plymouth offers new swim activities at Wayzata East Middle School pool

The City of Plymouth is set to offer a variety of new water-related activities – including swimming lessons, water exercise classes, open swim, birthday parties and pool rentals – beginning in late January at Wayzata East Middle School, 12000 Ridgemount Ave. W.

Pool activities are available daily from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. All programs listed below require registration in advance, except for drop-in swimming.

To register for aquatics programming, visit plymouthmn.gov/aquatics.

Swimming Lessons

Swimming lessons are available for a variety of experience levels and ages, from 6 months to adult. Additionally, 30-minute private lessons are also available for ages 5 and older.

Adaptive Swim Lessons

Plymouth offers adaptive swim lessons taught by instructors who have been certified through Swim Angelfish's Swim Whisperers program.

Aquatics ... continued on page 2



Plymouth offers new pool programs at Wayzata East Middle School.

Presidential Nomination Primary Election is March 5, early voting begins Jan. 19

The City of Plymouth is preparing for the 2024 election season, beginning with the Presidential Nomination Primary Election set for Tuesday, March 5.

In the Presidential Nomination Primary Election, voters will cast their vote for a presidential candidate to appear on the general election ballot in November.

For complete information about voting in the primary, visit plymouthmn.gov/election.

Voters without internet access can call 763-509-5000 for more information. By law, only major parties may participate in the Presidential Nomination Primary Election. The major parties in Minnesota that are eligible to participate in the nomination election are Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, Legal Marijuana Now Party and Republican Party of Minnesota.

Voting ... continued on page 4

Plymouth destination marketing organization coming soon

Attracting visitors to dine, shop, stay and play in Plymouth will soon be a full-time job. The City of Plymouth is set to launch a new destination marketing organization (DMO) in 2024.

Similar to a convention and visitors bureau, Plymouth's DMO will be tasked with promoting the city as a destination for high-quality tourism and visitor experiences.

Funded by the city's lodging tax, which is collected during hotel stays as part of the tax to rent a room, the DMO will function as an internal organization operating out of the Parks and Recreation Department.

"Travel and tourism enhance quality of life," said Parks and Recreation Director Jennifer Tomlinson.

"Attracting people to Plymouth will help provide jobs, boost local spending, and will bring more restaurants, shops, festivals, and cultural and sporting events to Plymouth."

At press time, following a request-for-proposals process, the city was finalizing a contract with a Minnesota-based advertising agency to develop a new name and brand for the DMO. The new brand will be announced later in 2024.



The DMO is geared towards attracting visitors to Plymouth and is funded by the city's lodging tax, which is collected during hotel stays when visitors rent a room.

Additionally, the city is set to hire a new full-time DMO coordinator in early 2024 to oversee marketing and public relations for the DMO; develop relationships with community partners and businesses; oversee visitor services; and promote local events, activities, dining options and more to attract visitors to Plymouth. The DMO will have oversight from a City Council-appointed board made up of Plymouth business representatives and city staff members.

Plymouth joins Just Deeds to help property owners remove discriminatory covenants

The City of Plymouth recently joined the Just Deeds coalition, which enables Plymouth residents to remove discriminatory covenants from property deeds at no cost to the property owner. Plymouth City Council passed a resolution for the city to participate in Just Deeds at its Oct. 24 meeting.

Just Deeds is a group of real estate professionals, lawyers, advocates and community members in Minnesota working together to acknowledge and address systemic racism in housing. In the early 20th century, real estate developers included discriminatory covenants in deeds to prevent a property from being sold, leased or occupied based on race, religion or ethnicity. Although legally unenforceable following the Fair Housing Act of 1968, many of these covenants remain on deeds today.

According to data by Mapping Prejudice, a University of Minnesota research project, there are more than 24,000

racial covenants included in property deeds in Hennepin County, including 245 in Plymouth. In November, the City of Plymouth mailed postcards to the properties identified with information about Just Deeds and how to begin the free process of discharging the covenant.

The process adds a statement to the property title that rejects the language of the discriminatory covenant.

"The presence of discriminatory covenants in property deeds conflicts with one of Plymouth's top priorities – to remain a city of choice that offers high-quality, cost-effective, equitable and inclusive policies and services," said Plymouth Organizational Development and Equity Partner Paul Johnson. "Removing these covenants will help create a more welcoming community for all."

For more information about Just Deeds, and to get involved, visit plymouthmn.gov/justdeeds.

Aquatics ... from page 1

Adaptive swim lessons are geared toward participants ages 5 and older who are on the autism spectrum or experience anxiety, physical disabilities, sensory sensitivities and more. Semi-private adaptive swim lessons are also available.

Private Pool Rental/Birthday Parties

Plymouth also offers the opportunity to hold a pool party. The pool may be rented privately for a minimum of two hours for up to 100 attendees.

Party packages are available, featuring mermaid, shark, pirate, tropical or glow-in-the-dark themes.

Water Exercise

A variety of no- to low-impact exercise classes are available to swimmers ages 16 and older. Offerings include deep water running, deep water cardio and aquafusion flow.

Specialty Classes/Events

Register for specialty classes to become a certified American Red Cross swim instructor or lifeguard. Special swim events for youth are also available,

including a shark tank social, party like a mermaid, tropical party and glow-in-the-dark pool party.

Drop-In Swim Activities

Drop-in swimming activities are available during select hours Monday through Friday and some weekends. Drop-in swim programs include lap swim, open swim, water walking, sensory swim and more.

To view the drop-in swim schedule online, visit plymouthmn.gov/aquatics.

Participants pay at the door (credit/debit card only) or use a punch pass for drop-in swim. Advanced registration is not available.

To purchase a punch pass, call Plymouth Parks and Recreation at 763-509-5200 or stop by Plymouth City Hall (3400 Plymouth Blvd.), the Plymouth Community Center (14800 34th Ave. N.) or Wayzata East Middle School Pool.

More Information

Aquatics registration is now available for both residents and nonresidents. Programs begin the week of Jan. 22. To learn more, register for programs and view the drop-in swim schedule, visit plymouthmn.gov/aquatics.



Stay active this winter

Plymouth residents have a variety of ways to stay active this winter at the Plymouth Community Center, 14800 34th Ave. N.

Bring the family for indoor playground fun, enjoy free indoor walking and jogging, sign up for fitness classes and more. View hours and information below.

K.U.B.E. Indoor Playground – Paid

The Kids Ultimate Backyard Experience (K.U.B.E.) Indoor Playground is an accessible play area that offers an array of ramps, slides, climbing towers, playhouses and other structures geared towards children ages 2-12. K.U.B.E. hours are as follows:

- 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday
- 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday
- 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday*

*Note about Sunday hours: Early Sunday mornings and Sunday evenings are reserved for private playground rentals. The K.U.B.E. opens to the public at 11 a.m. on Sunday and closes at 5 p.m.

View punch passes, daily rate pricing and more information at plymouthmn.gov/kube.

Indoor Walking Track – Free

Free indoor walking is available daily on the indoor walking track at the Plymouth Community Center. Strollers are not permitted. No registration is required. Hours are as follows:

- 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday
- 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

Fieldhouse Walking/Jogging – Free

Free walking and jogging is available during select hours at the Fieldhouse dome's indoor track. Baby strollers are permitted, though bicycles are not. Dome temperatures depend on the outside temperature and range from 30-55 degrees. Participants are encouraged to dress in layers. To view available hours, visit plymouthmn.gov/fieldhouse. The schedule is subject to change. No registration is required.

Classes, Sports and Open Gym – Paid

A range of classes and programs are available, including barre, TRX, yoga, Zumba, strength classes, adaptive programs, sports leagues, open gym activities and more. Offerings are available for all ages, abilities and experience levels. Learn more at:

- **Health/fitness programs:** plymouthmn.gov/recguide
- **Sports league information:** plymouthmn.gov/sportsleagues
- **Open gym activities:** plymouthmn.gov/opengym

Open Play in the Fieldhouse – Paid

The Fieldhouse dome provides an indoor space for soccer, football, rugby and other open play activities. Balls and soccer nets are provided. Participants may also bring balls, toys and other gear – bicycles baseball/softball bats and lacrosse sticks are not permitted. Inflatables are available during open play on Wednesdays. While subject to change, typical open play hours include:

- 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday
- 2-4 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday

To view pricing and check the calendar for availability, visit plymouthmn.gov/fieldhouse.

Plymouth business spotlight

Plymouth is home to a satellite campus of **St. Cloud State University**, 9750 Rockford Road. A campus that provides students the opportunity to pursue professional graduate degrees and certificate programs, St. Cloud State at Plymouth offers programs in applied clinical research, medical technology quality, regulatory affairs and services, and master of engineering management. With more than 130 med-tech and med-tech support companies, Plymouth offers a hub for students to connect with industry leaders and make an impact in the workforce upon graduation.

In other business news, **Rock Elm Tavern**, located at 16605 County Road 24, is expanding into the area next door to add **the Clubhouse** – an event space featuring three multi-sports simulators for golf, hockey, soccer and more.



St. Cloud State University has a satellite campus in Plymouth that offers a range of courses, including medical technology programs.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

VOLUNTEER

The city is seeking volunteers who are:

Friendly and love to provide good service.

Help with a variety of activities during Fire & Ice Saturday, Feb. 3. Greet attendees and assist with event logistics for Pie Day Thursday, March 14 or Discover Plymouth Saturday, March 23.

Reliable with winter clean up.

Adopt a fire hydrant to keep clear of snow so firefighters can gain quick access in the event of an emergency. Visit plymouthmn.gov/adoptspot to learn more.

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

IN BRIEF

Plymouth Adopts 2024 Budget – The Plymouth City Council has adopted the 2024 budget, which includes an overall property tax levy increase of 7.5% from 2023. A variety of factors have affected budgeting for 2024, including legislative impacts, inflation, personnel costs, capital needs, special revenue funds and other expenses.

The levy increase is consistent with recent budgets and includes the final of three scheduled levy increases related to debt issued for reconstruction of Fire Stations 2 and 3. Plymouth's continued growth in tax base helps reduce the impact of the levy, as does employing financial strategies like paying off debt early.

For the average homeowner in Plymouth, the tax levy increase is estimated to have an annual impact of \$57.45 on a \$470,000 home. 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.

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.



Annual trimming of city boulevard and park trees is set to occur in the northeastern part of the city this year.

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.

Take a Closer Look



Volunteer Sue Carver works at Old Town Hall.

Sue Carver

Book Conservation and Genealogy
Volunteer at Old Town Hall

As a volunteer, Sue's job is to provide conservation repair and archival storage solutions for books in the collections at Old Town Hall. She also plans to share her vast experience doing personal genealogy to teach others how to do family research.

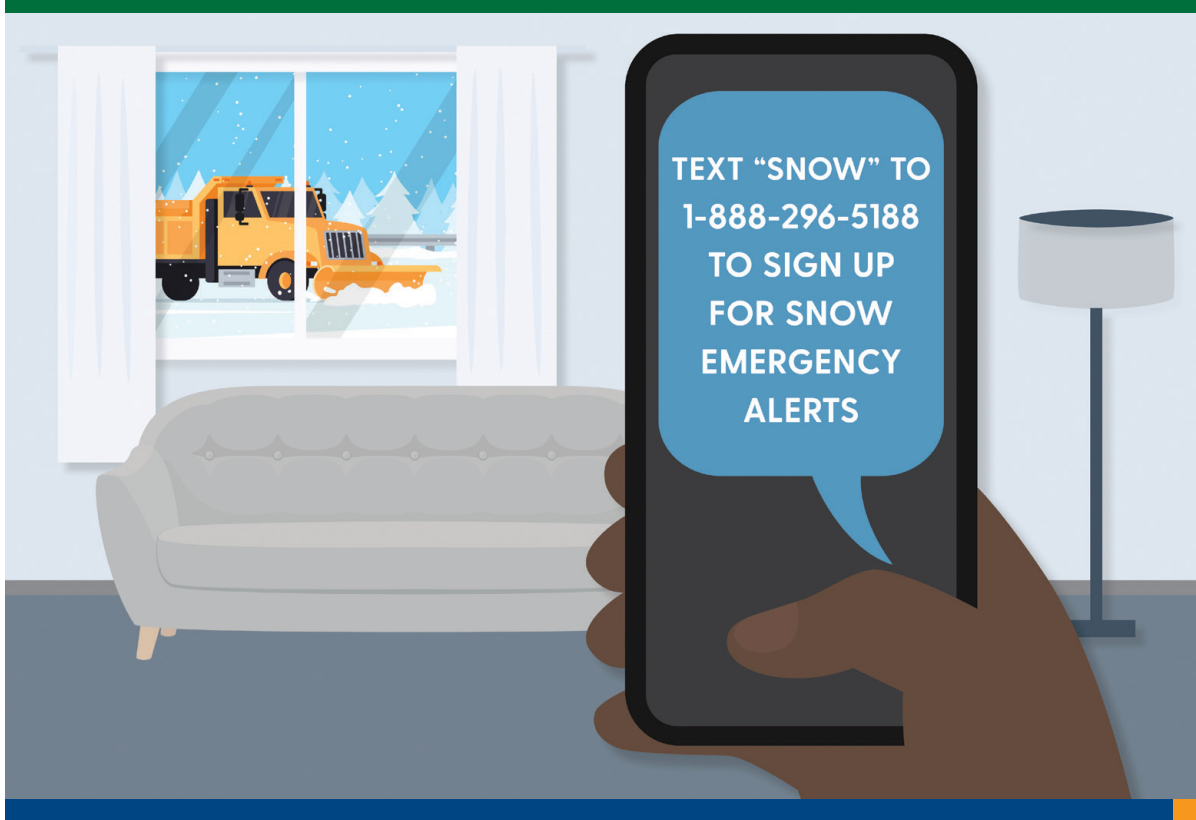
Sue's favorite thing about being a volunteer:

"Volunteering allows me to practice my belief that everyone needs to be of service to their community. Besides the service aspect, volunteering is fun and matches my interests. I have been researching my family history for more than 20 years, but don't have any local family history in Plymouth. Working in the Old Town Hall gives me the chance to help others with their local family history and to learn a great deal about Plymouth history in the process."

Because Sue volunteers, historical objects receive appropriate care from a skilled craftsperson so they will remain available for generations to come, and Plymouth residents will have the opportunity to learn how to research their own family's historic past.

Volunteer Open House: Those curious about local history can attend an Archival Adventures Volunteer Open House, 10 a.m. to noon Thursdays, Jan. 11 and Feb. 8, at Old Town Hall, 3605 Fernbrook Lane N. Learn about Plymouth history, and how to handle historical documents, photographs, artifacts and more. Volunteers will also get an exclusive peek at Old Town Hall before it opens to the public. This is a free volunteer activity. Register by contacting volunteer services at volunteer@plymouthmn.gov or 763-509-5230.

New: Sign up for snow emergency alert texts



TEXT "SNOW" TO
1-888-296-5188
TO SIGN UP
FOR SNOW
EMERGENCY
ALERTS

New this year, residents can sign up to receive snow emergency alerts via text message. To subscribe, residents can simply text SNOW to 1-888-296-5188. Residents may also sign up for email or text message alerts at plymouthmn.gov/enotify.

Plymouth seeks Charter Commission applications

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. 2.

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 details and to apply, visit plymouthmn.gov/commissions or contact Plymouth City Clerk Jodi Gallup at jgallup@plymouthmn.gov or 763-509-5080.

Clip and save



2024 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 26 and Saturday, April 27 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 3, weather permitting. The Yard Waste Site is closed Mondays and Tuesdays, as well as Easter, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day and Thanksgiving Day. The site will close April 26-27 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 26-27 for Drop-Off Day.

plymouthmn.gov

Sign up for weekly curbside organics collection

The city’s recycling contractor, Republic Services, will now offer weekly curbside organics collection to all Plymouth households beginning in March 2024.

All households pay for organics recycling through their utility bill, like regular recycling. Residents must sign up to receive an organics cart to get started. Those who sign up by Thursday, Feb. 15 will receive their carts in late February. To sign up, visit plymouthmn.gov/organics.

Background

Due to state law and county mandate, all Plymouth residents will be charged for curbside organics collection in 2024. Following a community engagement initiative that largely supported city-led organized organics collection (including food scraps and other

compostable materials), the Plymouth City Council approved a contract extension with Republic Services to add curbside organics.

Collection Schedule

While curbside organics will be collected weekly, single-sort recycling collection (plastics, metals, cardboard, etc.) will continue every other week. For those who sign up, weekly organics collection will take place the same day as garbage/recycling day. View the gray/blue recycling map at plymouthmn.gov/recyclingschedule for details.

More Information

To learn more about curbside organics collection in Plymouth, visit plymouthmn.gov/organics.

Voting ... from page 1

When voting, residents must choose which major party’s ballot they want, and only presidential candidates will appear on the ballot.

The party that voters chose to vote for will not be public information. However, the chair of each major political party will be provided a list of voters who selected that party.

Voting Options

For the Presidential Nomination Primary Election, voters have options for casting their ballot, including in person, by absentee, via mail and through direct ballot.

- **On the day of the election:** Polls are open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on the day of the Presidential Nomination Primary Election, Tuesday, March 5. Find polling locations at mnvotes.org.
- **Early voting/absentee ballots:** Voters can vote early at Plymouth City Hall, 3400 Plymouth Blvd., beginning Jan. 19 through 5 p.m. March 4.

Plymouth City Hall is open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday for early voting. In addition, there will be extended hours on Saturday, March 2 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Voters can also receive an absentee ballot through the mail. To do so, apply online at the Minnesota Secretary of State’s website at mnvotes.org.

- **Direct ballot:** Another option, direct balloting (feeding the ballot through the tabulator) can be completed at Plymouth City Hall 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Feb. 16 through March 1; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 2; and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, March 4.

Upcoming Election Dates

Following the Presidential Nomination Primary Election, future election dates in Minnesota are:

- **State Primary Election Day:** Tuesday, Aug. 13
- **General Election Day:** Tuesday, Nov. 5

More information about elections can be found at plymouthmn.gov/election.

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Smart Salting demonstrates commitment to environment

By Mayor Jeff Wosje

Despite the unseasonably warm start to winter, snow will undoubtedly make an appearance and, along with it, so will Plymouth’s commitment to Smart Salting.

A Minnesota Pollution Control Agency training program, Smart Salting is pretty much how it sounds – Plymouth snowplow crews continually make adjustments to operations to more effectively apply salt and reduce overall use without compromising safety. The MPCA recently spotlighted Plymouth as a role model for salting practices.

Salt has major environmental impacts. According to MPCA, road salt used for deicing is the largest source of chloride pollution in the state. Salt makes its way into lakes, streams and rivers, and can be toxic to fish and other aquatic inhabitants.

Plymouth has been making incremental changes for years – and has decreased overall salt use by about 40% in the last decade. Crews use anti-icing units to pretreat all roads over 35 mph, which halves the amount of salt used per lane mile. Snowplows are also equipped with prewetting systems to help the solution cling to the road instead of bouncing off like dry salt granules, significantly reducing salt use. The city’s automated brine maker can produce about 5,000 gallons per hour, used for pretreating and plowing.

Some of Plymouth’s other strategies include calibrating truck spreaders and anti-ice units twice annually, promptly sweeping spills, storing road salt in a covered building to prevent runoff, using GPS to track salt application rates and sending all 27 city snowplow drivers to Smart Salting training.

These practices align with one of Plymouth’s strategic themes – environmental stewardship. If we ever get snow this winter, we can take comfort knowing that snowplow crews are working hard to keep us safe on the roads while doing all they can to protect our precious natural resources.

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. 9, 23 and Feb. 6, 20
Planning Commission: Jan. 3, 17 and Feb. 7, 21
Housing and Redevelopment Authority: Jan. 25 and Feb. 22

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