

## Primavera is April 25-28

Plymouth's annual springtime celebration of the arts, Primavera is set for April 25-28 at the Plymouth Community Center, 14800 34th Ave. N. A partnership of the City of Plymouth and Plymouth Arts Council, the free event provides an opportunity for the public to view and celebrate fine art. Original juried artwork by local and regional artists, as well as artwork by Plymouth area high school students, will be featured in the art gallery and nearby classrooms at the Community Center. For details, visit [plymouthmn.gov/primavera](http://plymouthmn.gov/primavera).



## Pint-Sized Prom is April 5

Plymouth is set to hold Pint-Sized Prom – a new child-and-adult outing – 6-8 p.m. Friday, April 5 at the Plymouth Community Center, 14800 34th Ave. N. Children may invite a special adult in their life to walk the red carpet for an evening of dancing, photo opportunities, refreshments and more. Participants must register by Friday, March 29. Learn more at [plymouthmn.gov/recreation](http://plymouthmn.gov/recreation).



## Pie Day is set for March 14

The community is invited to participate in the annual Pie Day fundraiser 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, March 14 at the Plymouth Community Center, 14800 34th Ave. N. Slices of freshly baked cherry, apple, wildberry (no sugar added), lemon meringue, coconut cream, banana cream and French silk pie will be served with ice cream. Cost is \$5 per slice with an ice cream cup, or \$25 per pie with six cups of ice cream. Pie must be purchased at the event; presale orders are not accepted. Money raised through the fundraiser helps support senior programming in Plymouth. The Plymouth Rockers Performing Senior Chorus is set to take the stage at 11 a.m. during the event. For details, call the Plymouth Parks and Recreation Department at 763-509-5200.

## Major improvements slated for Plymouth Boulevard, motorists should expect detours

Plymouth Boulevard is set to undergo major improvements between Highway 55 and Rockford Road (County Road 9) beginning in May.

The project will add roundabouts to slow vehicle traffic, improve crossings for pedestrian safety, upgrade trail connectivity and more.

Plymouth Boulevard improvements are part of the City of Plymouth's overall, long-term plan to revitalize Plymouth City Center and cultivate a vibrant, walkable downtown area.

The construction schedule has been phased in order to maintain public access to area businesses, residential buildings, city facilities, the Plymouth Library, Life Time and more.

### Access to City Hall for Voting

To accommodate voters, City Hall will remain accessible via Plymouth Boulevard with some detours throughout all phases of construction. Voters should take note of election dates (see election article below) and view detour maps at [plymouthmn.gov/plymouthblvd](http://plymouthmn.gov/plymouthblvd).

### Phase 1 Construction: May-July

Plymouth Boulevard will be closed to through traffic from Rockford Road to Highway 55 during the first phase, which is slated for May-July. Businesses and destinations will remain accessible to vehicles throughout construction, but motorists may be required to take detoured routes.

*Plymouth Blvd. ... continued on page 2*

## Learn, shop and play at Discover Plymouth, set for March 23

The community is invited to attend Plymouth's annual community showcase – Discover Plymouth is set for 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 23 inside the Fieldhouse dome at the Plymouth Community Center, 14800 34th Ave. N.

Free to attend, the event features local businesses, community groups, activities for children, nonprofit organizations and community services. Residents 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

The popular touch-a-truck exhibit returns to the Community Center parking lot, offering attendees an up-close, hands-on look at large equipment and city vehicles. Fleet and machinery will be available, courtesy of the Public Works Department, Parks & Forestry Division and Public Safety Department.



*At Discover Plymouth, attendees can have conversations with city staff, shop local businesses, visit the touch-a-truck exhibit 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, March 23 as part of Discover Plymouth in the Plymouth Community Center Fieldhouse dome.

*Discover ... continued on page 4*

## Presidential Nomination Primary Election is March 5, early voting is now underway

The Minnesota Presidential Nomination Primary Election is set for Tuesday, March 5. Plymouth voters have options for casting their ballots, including early voting, which began Jan. 19.

Voters will cast their vote for a presidential candidate to appear on the general election ballot in November.

### Voting Options

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](http://mnvotes.org).
- **Early voting/absentee ballots:** Voters can vote early at Plymouth City Hall, 3400 Plymouth Blvd., 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.



*The Minnesota Presidential Nomination Primary Election is set for Tuesday, March 5. Early voting for the election began Jan. 19.*

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 at the Minnesota Secretary of State's website at [mnvotes.org](http://mnvotes.org).

*Voting ... continued on page 4*



# City receives funds in opioid settlement

As part of a multi-year lawsuit settlement related to opioid supply chain participants, Plymouth is among a number of Minnesota cities and counties that will receive funding for opioid remediation efforts. With this funding, the City of Plymouth is set to enhance its partnership with Plymouth-based chemical dependency treatment facility, Missions Inc.

## The Settlement and Partnership

A total of 33 cities and 87 counties in Minnesota received settlement money from the lawsuit, which alleges that manufacturers caused an opioid crisis by promoting the highly addictive drugs – while downplaying their addictiveness and failing to disclose the risks – which resulted in significant costs to state, county and local governments due to addiction-related injuries and deaths. The settlement totaled more than \$300 million for Minnesota to be paid over 18 years. A second settlement Plymouth joined could amount to an additional \$235 million in Minnesota. Plymouth is expected to receive a total of about \$660,000 from the settlements paid over a number of years. According to the Minnesota Attorney General's Office, total amounts may be subject to change.

"The opioid crisis has been detrimental across the country, so we're pleased to see settlement dollars go towards funding resources that will provide care to those who need it most," Plymouth Public Safety Director Erik Fadden said.

The City of Plymouth will use the funds to enhance the partnership it has with Missions Inc. As settlement payments

are received through the coming years, Plymouth plans to allocate \$12,000 annually to Missions Inc. for services.

According to Missions Inc., the support from Plymouth will help expand prevention and outreach activities, including:

- Providing Naloxone, which can be used to reverse an opioid overdose.
- Increasing resources provided to discharged clients, including information about harm reduction, peer support, medication-assisted treatment and other community support efforts.
- Coordinating with the Police Department to identify needs and provide outreach in key areas of the city.
- Collaborating with local emergency medical services and other community organizations to facilitate rapid referrals to detoxification and withdrawal management services.
- Educating community members about opioid overdose, including the risks, signs, stigmas and how to respond.

Expenses may include a portion of staff positions at Missions Inc., supplies, listening session incentives, travel expenses and printed materials.

According to Missions Inc., the goal of the project is to reduce overdose deaths by equipping community members with the education, supplies and services necessary to prevent and respond to opioid overdoses.

# Plymouth allocates funding from state aid

In 2023, the Minnesota Legislature approved a one-time Public Safety Aid package that allocated \$300 million to counties, cities, townships and tribal governments across the state – including \$3.55 million for the Plymouth Public Safety Department. Plymouth has begun outlining how to most effectively use the funds to enhance public safety in the city.

During the 2024 budgeting process, Plymouth selected three new positions, which will be funded for the first three years with the aid money – including a police cadet, fire cadet and an IT position dedicated to public safety.

Additionally, \$1.25 million of the funds will be used for police and fire equipment needs throughout the coming years. The department is carefully considering options for the remaining \$1.4 million, which is dedicated for public safety.

"It's a very unique opportunity," Public Safety Director Erik Fadden said. "We are assessing the best way to utilize the money – to identify needs, continue to keep Plymouth safe and provide high-quality services. We are also looking at ways to bolster recruitment and retention for police officers and firefighters."

## Plymouth Blvd. ... from page 1

**To access Plymouth Ice Center/Life Time, 3650 Plymouth Blvd.:** From Vicksburg Lane, motorists may travel eastbound on 37th Avenue and turn right into the parking lot. To exit, motorists may travel westbound on 37th Avenue and head north on Plymouth Boulevard to access Rockford Road, or head westbound on 36th Avenue and cross Plymouth Boulevard to access Vicksburg Lane. Motorists should note that 36th Avenue (the main entrance to Life Time/Plymouth Ice Center) will be closed to eastbound traffic. In July, motorists will be able to travel eastbound and westbound on 37th Avenue to cross Plymouth Boulevard.

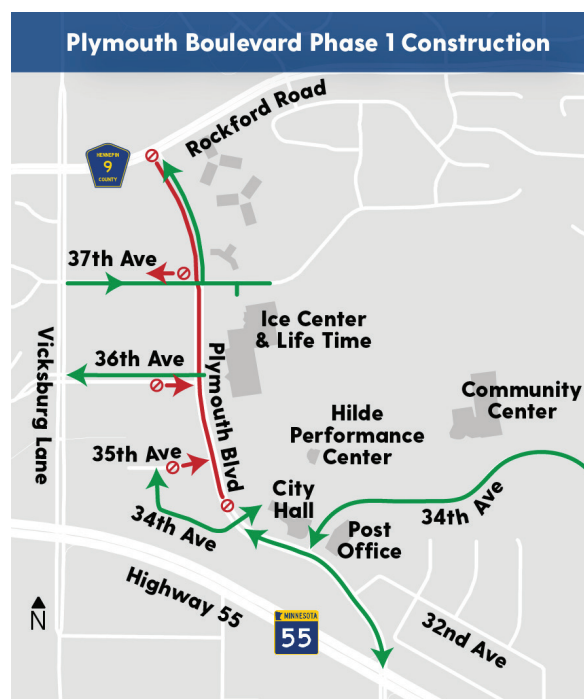
**To access Cub Foods, the Plymouth Library and other area destinations:** Motorists may use Vicksburg Lane to access area businesses and destinations throughout City Center, including the Plymouth Library, Cub Foods, Mann Theatres and other establishments. Motorists should note that 35th Avenue (near the main walkway entrance to the Hilde Performance Center) will be closed to traffic at Plymouth Boulevard.

**To access Plymouth City Hall, 3400 Plymouth Blvd.:** Motorists may access City Hall from Highway 55 by heading northbound on Plymouth Boulevard and turning right into the parking lot. Motorists may also come from Fernbrook Lane, travel westbound on 34th Avenue and turn right (by the post office) onto Plymouth Boulevard. Alternately, motorists coming from Vicksburg Lane/area businesses to the west (Cub Foods, Mann Theatres and other establishments) may head eastbound on 34th Avenue and cross Plymouth Boulevard to access the parking lot. Motorists may also take those routes to exit.

**Local access:** Residents of the apartments north of 37th Avenue and customers of the BP gas station will be granted access by the contractor throughout construction. Residents off 32nd Avenue can access their neighborhood from Highway 55 during Phase 1.

## Cultivating a Walkable Downtown

The spine of Plymouth City Center, Plymouth Boulevard was designed for vehicles and offers minimal accommodations for



Construction during the first phase of improvements on Plymouth Boulevard is set for May through July.

pedestrians and bicyclists. Redesigning Plymouth Boulevard is part of the city's overall plan to improve vibrancy and livability in the heart of the city – Plymouth City Center. The improvements are aimed at cultivating a walkable downtown with safer crossings, better traffic flow, places for public art, community gathering spaces and improved access to restaurants, retail and recreation. One mile west of Interstate 494 on Highway 55, Plymouth City Center is home to the Hilde Performance Center, Plymouth Ice Center/Life Time, Plymouth Library, Plymouth City Hall, businesses, restaurants and more. For details, visit [plymouthmn.gov/citycenter](http://plymouthmn.gov/citycenter).

## Detour Maps, More Information

Plymouth Boulevard project timing is subject to change due to construction activities and weather. The city appreciates the patience of area residents, businesses and motorists during construction. To view detour maps and more information, visit [plymouthmn.gov/plymouthblvd](http://plymouthmn.gov/plymouthblvd).



## MAKE A DIFFERENCE VOLUNTEER

Below are upcoming volunteer opportunities:

- **Plymouth Community Center Art Ambassador** – Answer questions about rotating art exhibits during the late afternoon/evening and weekends. Must be age 16 or older.
- **Plymouth Old Town Hall** – Help care for historical collections during Archival Adventure events on Thursdays, March 7 and April 18.
- **Assist with events** – Pie Day (March 14), Discover Plymouth (March 23), Primavera (April 25-28), Bark in the Park (May 18), or the Tree and Shrub Sale (May 3-4).
- **Police Reserve Volunteer** – Assist sworn officers with traffic and crowd control, transportation, patrol activities, special events and educational programs. Must be age 18 or older, commit to 15 hours a month, have a clean driving record and pass a background check.

To find out more about these and other opportunities, visit [plymouthmn.gov/volunteer](http://plymouthmn.gov/volunteer) or call 763-509-5230.

## Take a Closer Look



Volunteer Karen Richardson works at Old Town Hall.

### Karen Richardson

Collections Aide volunteer at Old Town Hall

**As a volunteer, Karen's job is to** work with historical photos and documents, including organizing the personal and professional papers of Plymouth resident and inventor Roland Knapp. She has also lent her professional expertise to plan a content calendar and advise staff on how to best reopen Old Town Hall.

**My favorite thing about being a city volunteer is:** "That it makes such a difference. As an Old Town Hall volunteer, I can impact the way Plymouth is perceived for future generations. It's interesting to learn about Plymouth's rich history – from the Dakota people to the present – and build on this. For example, Mission Farms at Medicine Lake helped the less fortunate, becoming an inspiration for programs like Hazelden."

**Because Karen volunteers,** residents will have access to valuable cultural resources and learn about Plymouth's historic past.

## HAPPENINGS

**Sensory Sundays** – Select Sunday mornings are reserved for those with sensory sensitivities at the Plymouth Community Center. To preregister and learn more, visit [plymouthmn.gov/specialevents](http://plymouthmn.gov/specialevents).

**Just Deeds Event** – 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. A free Just Deeds informational event is set for 6-8 p.m. Monday, April 29 at the Plymouth Community Center, 14800 34th Ave. N. For more information, visit [plymouthmn.gov/justdeeds](http://plymouthmn.gov/justdeeds).

**Walk with the Mayor** – Residents are invited to join Mayor Jeff Wosje for a walk 6:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 1 at the Plymouth Community Center. The free walk kicks off the annual Step to it Challenge. To participate in the challenge, visit [steptoit.org](http://steptoit.org).



# Sign up: City-led organized curbside organics collection begins in March

The city's recycling contractor, Republic Services, is set to provide weekly curbside organics collection to all Plymouth households starting the first week of March – and residents must sign up to participate.

Beginning in March, all households will pay for organics recycling through their utility bill, like regular recycling. To participate in the service, residents must sign up to receive a 35-gallon organics cart. Weekly organics collection will take place the same day as garbage/recycling day.

## Why it Matters

According to Hennepin County, approximately one-third of trash is organic material, such as food scraps and compostable paper. Weekly curbside organics helps divert that material from the waste stream. It offers residents the opportunity to “recycle” food waste and compostable materials (separate from yard waste), and create reusable compost material instead.

## Materials Accepted in Organics Carts

For organics recycling programs to be successful, participants must be committed to ensuring that only accepted materials are placed in the organics carts.

Materials accepted in organics carts include:

- All food – fruits, vegetables, meat, fish, bones, eggs, pasta and more
- Food-soiled paper products – pizza boxes, napkins, paper towels
- Certified compostable products – compostable paper, plastic cups, plates, bowls, utensils and containers
- Other compostable household items – coffee grounds and filters, cotton balls and swabs with paper stems, houseplants and flowers, wooden items such as chopsticks, ice pop sticks and toothpicks



City-led organized organics collection begins in March.

**Not Accepted:** Yard waste, bandages, diapers, animal and pet waste, litter or bedding, cleaning or baby wipes, grease or oil, Styrofoam™, dryer sheets, regular recyclable items (cartons, glass, metal, paper, plastic), frozen food boxes, microwave popcorn bags, gum, fast food wrappers and products labeled biodegradable.

“Contamination can be a major issue with organics programs,” said Engineering Services Manager Chris McKenzie. “When inorganic materials end up in organics carts, the batch must be treated as typical trash. It’s a costly issue that impacts all taxpayers – and it hampers efforts to reduce the volume of trash headed to landfills or incinerators.”

Plymouth residents also have the option of dropping off organics inside the marked bins at the Recycling Drop-Off Site adjacent to the Plymouth Maintenance Facility, 14900 23rd Ave. N. The site is open daily and is accessible to Plymouth residents at all hours.

For more information about organics recycling in Plymouth, including pricing, answers to frequently asked questions and other resources, visit [plymouthmn.gov/organics](http://plymouthmn.gov/organics).



Those with ash trees on their property are encouraged to make a plan to deal with Emerald Ash Borer.

## Make plans for Emerald Ash Borer

Nearly a decade after the first case of Emerald Ash Borer was found in Plymouth, the areas impacted by the invasive species have continued to expand. The small insect spreads quickly, typically killing most ash trees in its path.

Spring is a good time for residents to develop a plan for their ash trees – even if they have not shown signs of infection.

## Taking Action

There are basically two options for property owners with ash trees – begin a course of treatment immediately, or plan for the tree to be removed.

Removal is recommended during the dormant season (October through April). This timing minimizes the spread of EAB by removing borers and larvae while they’re inactive, to avoid dispersing them during transport to an approved disposal site. The City of Plymouth offers a Tree and Shrub sale (learn more below) for residents who want to replace their removed ash trees.

If residents would like to attempt to save their trees, treatment is recommended in May-June. Treatment will likely be necessary for the rest of the tree’s life. Residents can contact a private contractor for treatment options or explore do-it-yourself treatments.

To learn more about EAB in Plymouth, visit [plymouthmn.gov/eab](http://plymouthmn.gov/eab).

# Plymouth Environmental Academy seeks applicants for the program's fourth year

Plymouth residents interested in learning more about their environmental footprint may sign up for the free 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. Topics will be published closer to the program start date.

Back for its fourth year, the Plymouth Environmental Academy is one of the ways the city is working to achieve its Environmental Stewardship goals – a strategic theme adopted by the Plymouth City Council in 2023.

“The academy is unique in that it allows interested members an opportunity to learn about conservation and environmental initiatives from subject matter experts at no cost,” said Water Resources Supervisor Ben Scharenbroich.



The Plymouth Environmental Academy runs August-November.

“We have taught a total of 93 participants so far, and look forward to growing that number each year.”

To learn more and apply for the Environmental Academy, visit [plymouthmn.gov/environmentalacademy](http://plymouthmn.gov/environmentalacademy).

## Low-Cost Tree and Shrub Sale begins March 1

The City of Plymouth's annual low-cost tree and shrub sale begins Friday, March 1 for Plymouth residents. Non-residents may begin ordering on Friday, March 8. Orders will be accepted through Wednesday, April 24.

The sale features eight shade trees, two evergreens, seven shrubs and five fruit plants.

## About the Tree and Shrub Sale

Each year, Plymouth city staff selects plants that are well-adapted to local growing conditions and resistant to pests and diseases. They serve as good replacements for ash trees affected by Emerald Ash Borer or invasive species, such as buckthorn. They also provide food and shelter for pollinators, butterflies and other wildlife.

Most of the trees are 5-8 feet tall at the time of purchase and are bare root, which means they do not have soil on the roots. Bare-root trees cost less, are easier to transport and have up to 200% more roots than the traditional balled and burlapped plants. They are also easy to plant.

Evergreen species come in pots and are 1-3 feet tall, while shrubs are bare root and 2-3 feet tall.

## More Information, Order Online

Orders must be picked up Friday, May 3 or Saturday, May 4 at the Plymouth Maintenance Facility, 14900 23rd Ave. N. To help expedite the pickup process, all customers will receive an email with a designated pickup date and time. Trees and shrubs do not come with a warranty. Quantities are limited. To place an order or watch preview videos that provide information about this year's selection of trees and shrubs, visit [plymouthmn.gov/treesale](http://plymouthmn.gov/treesale).

## IN BRIEF

**Drop-Off Days** – This year's Drop-Off Days are set for Friday, April 26 and Saturday, April 27 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:

- **3-6 p.m. Friday, April 26** – Only items that are free to dispose/recycle will be collected
- **7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, April 27** – Pay items and free items alike will be collected

Discounted pricing will be offered to those who prepay. Visit [plymouthmn.gov/dropoff](http://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.

**Water Efficiency Rebate** – 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 set maximum depending on the device.

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](mailto:werp@plymouthmn.gov) or calling 763-509-5500.

For more information about the program or to apply, visit [plymouthmn.gov/waterrebate](http://plymouthmn.gov/waterrebate).



# Annual water main flushing begins this spring in Plymouth

Like other municipalities, the City of Plymouth is set to complete annual water main flushing this spring.

Annual water main flushing helps maintain high-quality water and removes natural mineral and sediment buildup that accumulates at the bottom of the water main. Sediment buildup is caused by internal corrosion of the water mains over many years.

In 2024, the city will flush water mains based on the schedule below:

- **April 15-17:** Industrial areas on both sides of I-494, south of Highway 55
- **April 17 to May 6:** Residential areas west of I-494, except areas along both sides of Chankahda Trail west of I-494
- **May 6-23:** 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](http://plymouthmn.gov/watermainflushing) or call the Plymouth Maintenance Facility at 763-509-5950 after Monday, April 1. Residents should note that water may be discolored throughout this time, but it is more likely



Water main flushing typically occurs each spring, which helps improve water quality by removing sediment.

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.

View more information, including a list of frequently asked questions, at [plymouthmn.gov/watermainflushing](http://plymouthmn.gov/watermainflushing).

## 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 Friday, March 1 at [recycleminnesota.org](http://recycleminnesota.org) and picked up 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 4 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.



## Discover ... from page 1

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 what's on the horizon 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 noon.

## Shop and Explore

Discover Plymouth features an indoor marketplace, with local vendors selling homemade and handmade items, as well as other goods and services.

## Participate or Sponsor

Those interested in vendor or sponsorship opportunities must apply by Wednesday, March 6. For more information, visit [plymouthmn.gov/discoverplymouth](http://plymouthmn.gov/discoverplymouth).

## Voting ... from page 1

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

For complete information about voting in the primary, visit [plymouthmn.gov/election](http://plymouthmn.gov/election).

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

## What's on the Ballot

By law, only major parties may participate in the Presidential Nomination Primary Election. Ballots are available for the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, Legal Marijuana Now Party and Republican Party of Minnesota.

When voting, residents must choose which major party's ballot they want. The party that each voter chooses will not be public information. However, state law dictates that the chair of each political party will be provided a list of voters who selected that party.

The ballots of each party include presidential candidates and may include an "uncommitted" option, which is a vote to have delegates sent to their party's national nominating convention without being bound to support a specific candidate.

Ballots may also include a write-in option. The Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party submitted a list of nine candidates with an additional "uncommitted" option and a write-in option. The Legal Marijuana Now Party submitted a list of five candidates with a write-in option. The Republican Party submitted a list of five candidates with a write-in option.

Any candidate who drops out ahead of the March 5 primary date will remain on the ballot. For questions about which candidates have dropped out, contact the party directly.

For more ballot information, visit [mnvotes.org](http://mnvotes.org).

## Upcoming Election Dates

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

- **State Primary Election Day:** Tuesday, Aug. 13 – early voting begins June 28
- **General Election Day:** Tuesday, Nov. 5 – early voting begins Sept. 20

For the elections above, those voting at Plymouth City Hall should note that Plymouth Boulevard is set to be under construction beginning in May (see page 1). Access to City Hall will be maintained throughout the project, and visitors should pay attention to signage in the area and follow posted detours.

More information about elections can be found at [plymouthmn.gov/election](http://plymouthmn.gov/election).



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

## Volunteer for the environment

### Drop-Off Days – April 26-27

Assist city staff with a variety of tasks during the annual Drop-Off Days – 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 – June 1

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

Remove the invasive garlic mustard plant from parks and trails this spring. Learn how to identify and properly remove garlic mustard via an informational video at [plymouthmn.gov/volunteer](http://plymouthmn.gov/volunteer).

### Adopt a Spot

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.

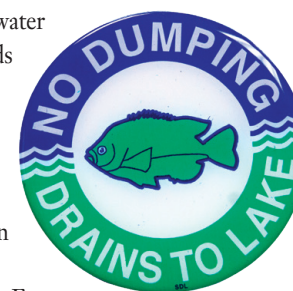
The City of Plymouth encourages residents to adopt a storm drain, and clean up leaves and debris to protect rivers, lakes, wetlands and streams from excess pollutants and nutrients, which can cause unwanted algae growth.

View more information and a map of available spots at [plymouthmn.gov/adoptaspot](http://plymouthmn.gov/adoptaspot).

### Storm Drain Marking

Mark neighborhood storm drains to remind passersby that stormwater drains untreated into wetlands and lakes.

This initiative is flexible and great for families or scout projects. Storm drain marking begins for the season when low temperatures are consistently above 50 degrees F.



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

### Millennium Garden Caretakers

Help beautify the Millennium Garden for residents and garden weddings. Volunteers can set their own schedule June through September to water and weed the garden.

### Native Plant Garden Club

The city has developed a number of new native planting areas in recent years, and the Native Plant Garden 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.

For more information and to volunteer, call 763-509-5230 or visit [plymouthmn.gov/volunteer](http://plymouthmn.gov/volunteer).



# Picture Plymouth Photo Contest winners

Hundreds of entries were submitted to the 2023 Picture Plymouth Photo Contest. Below are the first-place winners in each category – People, Pets, Places, Abstract,

Seasons and Wildlife. An annual Readers' Choice Award winner was also selected via popular vote by readers of Plymouth Magazine.

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



Best in Show and Places – “The Labyrinth in the Plymouth Millennium Garden” by Larry Paulson



Readers' Choice – “Sandhill Crane Colt Siblings” by Jan Speak



Abstract – “No Escape” by Shin Tsz Lucy Kuo



Pets – “The Ride” by Matthew Prior



Wildlife – “Peek-a-boo” by Mark Polson



Seasons (tie) – “Bass Lake Cabin” by Michael Hub



Seasons (tie) – “Nature's way of saying 'let's start again!' - Sunrise over the wetlands off 101” by Archana Mohan



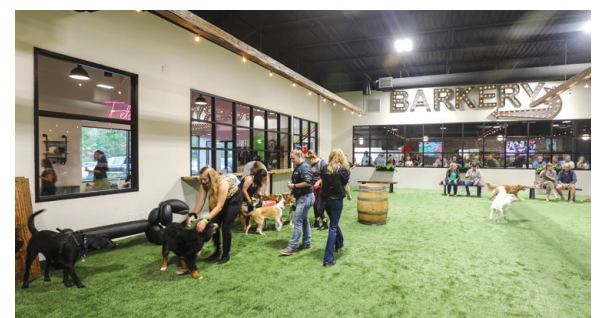
People – “Working in a Winter Wonderland” by Janet Grover-Manthey

PLYMOUTH IS  
**HIRING**  
pool program staff

APPLY TODAY

plymouthmn.gov/aquatics





Brew Park is located at 2605 Fernbrook Lane N.

## Business Spotlight

A place for dogs and humans alike to unwind in Plymouth, Brew Park is an indoor dog park and restaurant with a wide selection of food and beverages, including breakfast, coffee, beer and seltzers. Brew Park, 2605 Fernbrook Lane N., also hosts event nights and has space for dog birthday parties.

Brew Park is connected to Vet Partners Pet Hospital, a full-service veterinary clinic, as well as Pet Retreat, which offers doggy daycare, boarding, training and grooming.



## Major MnDOT construction set for Highway 55

The Minnesota Department of Transportation is preparing for a major project on Highway 55 between Old Rockford Road in Plymouth and General Mills Boulevard in Golden Valley. Construction is set to begin this spring.

Motorists can expect lane closures throughout the project as well as periodic full closures.

A number of detours will be established throughout the project to maintain neighborhood and business access. Scheduled work is set to include pavement resurfacing, safety improvements, access

modifications, accessibility enhancements and drainage improvements.

For more information, visit [plymouthmn.gov/hwy55](http://plymouthmn.gov/hwy55). The page contains a link to MnDOT's project webpage, where residents can sign up to receive email updates and view full project details, detours and maps – as they become available.

The City of Plymouth collected input from the public regarding the project in 2021. The feedback was shared with MnDOT as the project design was developed and refined.

## SEASONAL SPOTLIGHT

**Yard Waste Site Opening** – The Plymouth Yard Waste Site, 14900 23rd Ave. N., is set to open for the season Wednesday, April 3 – 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 (March 31), and April 26-27 for Drop-Off Days. For more information, visit [plymouthmn.gov/yardwaste](http://plymouthmn.gov/yardwaste).

**Free Indoor Walking** – 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 available hours, visit [plymouthmn.gov/pcc](http://plymouthmn.gov/pcc).

**Open Play** – The Fieldhouse dome also provides an indoor space for open play activities, including soccer, football and rugby. Open play is typically available weekdays. To view open play pricing and available hours, visit [plymouthmn.gov/fieldhouse](http://plymouthmn.gov/fieldhouse).

**Market Value Notices** – Market value notices for Plymouth properties will hit mailboxes in March. The notices list the assessed value of the property and its classification for taxes payable in 2025. 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 valuation notice.

**City Job Fair** – Plymouth will hold the Leap Into Summer Job Fair 3-6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 29 at the Plymouth Community Center. Community members ages 14 and older are invited to learn about job opportunities within the Public Works and Parks and Recreation departments. Learn more at [plymouthmn.gov/specialevents](http://plymouthmn.gov/specialevents).

## Construction season brings road upgrades

Below is a listing of various 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.

### 36th Avenue Bridge Over Highway 169 (MnDOT)

The Minnesota Department of Transportation is set to replace the 36th Avenue bridge over Highway 169. The bridge, including all ramps, is expected to be closed April to October 2024, weather permitting. When available, more information can be found at [dot.state.mn.us/roadwork](http://dot.state.mn.us/roadwork).

### Neighborhood Street Projects

A reconstruction project is set for the Birchwood Estates neighborhood beginning in summer 2024 and wrapping up in summer 2025. The project will completely rebuild the existing street, install concrete curb and gutters, improve the storm sewer system, and replace the existing water main. Set for summer and fall 2024, street improvements are also planned for a number of other Plymouth neighborhoods, including Mapledell, Heritage/Medicine Lake Highlands, Westridge Estates/Forster Preserve, Nathan Lane, Schmidt

Lake Road, 45th Avenue, and the Highway 169 Service Drive between Rockford and Schmidt Lake roads.

For details about the neighborhood projects, visit [plymouthmn.gov/project-spotlight](http://plymouthmn.gov/project-spotlight).

### Building Demolition Paves the Way for 36th Avenue Improvements

A significant road project is slated for 36th Avenue from Zachary Lane to Highway 169 in 2025 – and the City of Plymouth is preparing for next year's roadwork with a building demolition in 2024.

Current roadway configuration includes an offset intersection between Kilmer and Lancaster lanes at 36th Avenue. To realign and connect the roadways, as well as improve traffic flow and safety, the city purchased the former Apple Automatic Food Service building at 3525 Kilmer Lane N. for \$1.8 million, which is set to be demolished in the first part of 2024.

The 36th Avenue Rehabilitation Project set for 2025 will help improve pavement conditions, and mitigate traffic congestion and safety concerns. For details, visit [plymouthmn.gov/project-spotlight](http://plymouthmn.gov/project-spotlight).

## Legislative advocacy efforts focus on Plymouth City Center

By Mayor Jeff Wosje

Imagine Plymouth with a lively downtown. You do a little shopping, view some public art, walk to a local eatery and grab dinner, catch a concert at the Hilde, sip a crisp beverage on a rooftop patio, and you could even walk home. That's the vision for Plymouth City Center – and it's one of the city's top legislative priorities.

In addition to recently changing zoning guidelines to allow for multifamily housing in City Center, city leaders have been working with state lawmakers to advocate for infrastructure improvements that would help pave the way for vibrant redevelopment – bringing more restaurants, retail and foot traffic to the heart of the city.

Our facilities are regional assets that draw thousands of visitors. Major concerts/events at the Hilde drew about 50,000 attendees last year. With 900,000 visits to the Plymouth Ice Center in 2022, city leaders are considering a fourth sheet of ice to meet demand. Each national hockey tournament also brings an estimated economic impact of \$1.2 million – benefitting hotels, restaurants and retail. Because our infrastructure serves so many who live outside of Plymouth, we're advocating for state resources to mitigate the financial impact on residents.

We have requested \$32 million in state bond funds to redesign Plymouth Boulevard to bolster walkability and safety (see page 1), make stormwater improvements and build a public parking ramp to enhance transit connectivity.

We're also asking the state to permit a tax increment financing (TIF) district in City Center. It would allow growth in new tax base from redevelopment to help fund infrastructure improvements, and avoid placing an undue burden on Plymouth taxpayers.

While the vision will take years to come to fruition, and will require patience during construction, I am thrilled for the opportunities ahead. To learn more, visit [plymouthmn.gov/citycenter](http://plymouthmn.gov/citycenter).

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](http://plymouthmn.gov/myplymouth)

## View Meetings

Live on Channel 16, 7 p.m.  
On-demand video link at city website  
**City Council:** March 12, 26 and April 9, 23  
**Planning Commission:** March 6, 20 and April 3, 17  
**Housing and Redevelopment Authority:** March 28 and April 25

## Connect with Plymouth

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