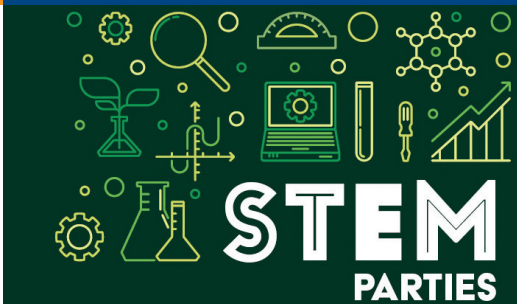


# PLYMOUTH NEWS



## Book a STEM birthday party

Host a STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) party at the Plymouth Community Center, 14800 34th Ave. N. A great way to celebrate a birthday or other special event, STEM parties include gear to look the part, themed party favors (multiple theme choices), project equipment and materials, as well as an instructor to lead the project. Learn more at [plymouthmn.gov/birthdayparties](http://plymouthmn.gov/birthdayparties).



## Get rental, hotel discounts

Hello! Plymouth, the city's destination marketing organization, has partnered with local businesses to offer savings on event rentals and hotel stays this winter. Plymouth is home to an array of restaurants, venues and hotels that offer ideal spaces to hold corporate meetings, family gatherings and fun social events. Offers are valid through March. View details at [plymouthmn.gov/winterspecials](http://plymouthmn.gov/winterspecials).



## Puzzle Palooza set for Feb. 22

Puzzle Palooza is set for 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 22 at the Plymouth Community Center, 14800 34th Ave. N. Join a friendly competition and be one of the top three teams to complete a 500-piece puzzle to win prizes. Teams of up to four people are encouraged to sign up. Cost to participate is \$35 per team. Participants must be 18 or older, or 13 or older with an adult. Learn more at [plymouthmn.gov/specialevents](http://plymouthmn.gov/specialevents).

## Story Time in Spanish is Feb. 23

Interactive Story Time in Spanish is set for 10-10:45 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 23 at the Plymouth Community Center, 14800 34th Ave. N. Celebrate the language and culture of Argentina with local author Pamela Mercado Michelli. Handouts for activities and stories will be available in Spanish and English. The event is free and open to the public. View more information at [plymouthmn.gov/specialevents](http://plymouthmn.gov/specialevents).

## Fire & Ice winter festival is Feb. 1

Residents should mark their calendars for Plymouth's 36th-annual winter festival – Fire & Ice is 3-9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1 at Plymouth Creek Playfield, 3625 Fernbrook Lane. N.

Following cancellations in recent years due to poor ice conditions, the annual event will look a little different this year as it moves from a frozen lake setting to a park. Despite the change, Fire & Ice returns with fun fan favorites.

The free event offers a variety of winter activities, including ice skating, sledding, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Attendees can wander through the snow village or gather in a heated tent for activities such as BINGO and DJ-led music. Children may enjoy a snow play area and photo opportunities at the llama meet-and-greet.

True to event tradition, Fire & Ice includes a fireworks display beginning at 6:30 p.m. Attendees may return to the tent after the fireworks for a live performance by Jonah and the Whales. Participants should bring cash and/or credit cards for food truck purchases and drinks at the ice bar. A schedule of events will be posted on the city website in mid-January.

In the event of extreme temperatures or inclement weather, cancellations will be announced at [plymouthmn.gov/fireandice](http://plymouthmn.gov/fireandice) and via the weather line at 763-509-5205.

### Parking and Free Shuttle Service

Parking at Plymouth Creek Playfield is limited to accessible parking only. Free shuttle service is available, running to and from the Plymouth Community Center, 14800 34th Ave. N. There is no cost to park at the Community Center. More information about shuttle service will be posted in late January.



The annual Fire & Ice event will be held Saturday, Feb. 1 at Plymouth Creek Playfield. The event features a variety of winter-themed activities.

### Fire & Ice Medallion Hunt

The 15th-annual Fire & Ice Medallion Hunt begins Thursday, Jan. 9 with a clue posted on the city's social media platforms and the Fire & Ice webpage, [plymouthmn.gov/fireandice](http://plymouthmn.gov/fireandice).

More clues will be published Thursdays, Jan. 16, 23 and 30, 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.

New this year, community members may join a live medallion hunt on-site at the Fire & Ice event Feb. 1.

### Coloring Contest

The all-ages Fire & Ice Coloring Contest returns for the sixth year and will run Monday, Jan. 6 through Friday, Jan. 17. Download coloring sheets and view more information by visiting [plymouthmn.gov/fireandice](http://plymouthmn.gov/fireandice).

## Voters elect three City Council members

Voters elected three Plymouth City Council members during the 2024 general election in November. The four-year terms begin once the trio takes the oath of office at the Tuesday, Jan. 14 City Council meeting.

Current Council Member Kimberly Nelson was chosen by voters to continue representing Ward 1. Nelson had been appointed last spring to serve the remainder of the term, which was vacant due to a previous council member's relocation outside of Plymouth. Scott Aldrich was elected to serve as Ward 3 council member. Joel Spoonheim was elected to serve as At Large council member.

Outgoing council members included Jim Willis, who served as At Large council member for 20 years, and Catherine Cesnik, who had been appointed last spring to serve the remainder of the vacant Ward 3 term. The City of Plymouth is grateful for their service. Current council members/seats not included in the 2024 general election

were Ward 2 Council Member Julie Peterson, Ward 4 Council Member Julie Pointner, At Large Council Member Clark Gregor and Mayor Jeff Wosje.

### Voter Turnout

The City of Plymouth saw strong voter turnout in the 2024 general election – with 85% of registered Plymouth voters participating. Of that amount, 55% cast their vote via absentee ballot.

“Everything went smoothly, and all of our precincts reported 100% accurately, I am happy to say,” said City Clerk/Administrative Coordinator Jodi Gallup.

“I'd like to thank our City Clerk Division team and the 392 election poll workers across 21 precincts,” she added. “Also, all other city staff who worked countless hours to ensure that Plymouth voters had a safe, secure, accessible and positive voting experience here in Plymouth.”

## City Council adopts the 2025 budget

The Plymouth City Council has adopted the 2025 budget, which includes an overall property tax levy increase of 5.2% from 2024.

The actual percentage increase on each residential property tax bill may differ based on market value changes to the individual property, changes to property values citywide, and changes between commercial and residential properties' share of the overall property value in the city.

A number of rate studies and analyses are considered during the city budget and forecast processes, which help the city plan ahead to manage anticipated changes to the tax levy.

Changes in this year's levy are primarily due to staff costs that support city services, in addition to building reserves for capital asset management. Staff costs represent salary

and benefit plans to attract and retain city employees, as well as new positions to support enhanced city services.

The 5.2% city tax levy increase is estimated to have an annual impact of \$88 on a median value home in Plymouth (\$481,000).

This estimated impact differs from the earlier published amount (November/December 2024 Plymouth News) due to the difference in actual property valuations and metro fiscal disparity allocations as compared to earlier forecasted amounts.

To view detailed information about the city budget, including the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and other documents that outline the city's financial status and practices, visit [plymouthmn.gov/financialreport](http://plymouthmn.gov/financialreport).



# Jennifer Erickson appointed as Plymouth’s new economic development coordinator

The City of Plymouth’s Community and Economic Development Department recently welcomed a new staff person to the team – Economic Development Coordinator Jennifer Erickson.

In her role, Erickson will lead economic development initiatives and work closely with businesses to help bolster development and redevelopment in the city. Erickson comes to the City of Plymouth from St. Cloud Technical and Community College where she served as the Dean of Business, IT, Education and Customized Training.

“My previous position focused heavily on workforce development, which is a critical part of economic development,” said Erickson. “I have been a Plymouth resident for 15 years and look forward to the opportunity to help grow businesses in my own community.”



Jennifer Erickson

## Plymouth seeks participants to help develop, champion city’s energy goals

The City of Plymouth is looking for 15-20 community members to participate in a series of workshops to develop community goals related to energy use, energy efficiency, renewable energy and access to energy related information.

Known as the Energy Action Plan Team, the group will meet for 2-3 hours every six weeks from February to September to develop a strategic energy plan for the community. The group will also encourage community buy-in to make changes such as installing window

insulation cling in the winter, adding insulation to poorly insulated areas of the home, installing solar panels, replacing inefficient appliances, and more.

To apply for the group and learn more, visit [plymouthmn.gov/energyaction](http://plymouthmn.gov/energyaction). Applications are due Friday, Jan. 31. The Energy Action Plan will be developed and implemented through the Partners in Energy program, which is a collaboration between Xcel Energy, Center for Energy and Environment, and the City of Plymouth.

# Plymouth high schooler is first to hold new PRAC student commissioner role

Pragya Thakur, a Plymouth high school senior, is the first to participate in a unique opportunity with the City of Plymouth – serving as a student commissioner on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC).

Established in 2024, the student commissioner position was created as a way for students to get involved in local government while also providing a fresh perspective in the decision-making process.

Thakur was selected as the student commissioner with PRAC – the board responsible for overseeing plans and proposals for the city’s parks and trails system, facilities, and recreation programs. The commission’s recommendations are forwarded to City Council for consideration.

“I feel like this is a great opportunity to get involved, have some input on a greater level and see what impact I can have in my community,” Thakur said.

Thakur has lived in Plymouth since she was in 2nd grade. Now a high school senior, she has experience with a number of extracurricular groups, such as the Business Professionals of America, the National Honor

Society, Link Crew and more. Following her first official meeting with PRAC, Thakur noted that she was excited to continue building an understanding of how decisions are made in local government.

She said she noticed representation from the whole community – seeing people of different backgrounds and ages. But she also noted her unique position within the group.



Pragya Thakur

“Being the only teenager allows me to bring a different perspective, and to share what is important to my age group,” she said. “Some people my age may not have a way to share their perspective and have it included in decision making. My goal is to take this opportunity and use it to be a voice for my peers.”

To learn more about PRAC and other city committees and commissions, visit [plymouthmn.gov/commissions](http://plymouthmn.gov/commissions).

### Meadows Playfield underground infrastructure benefits trees, stormwater



Illustration credit: DeepRoot Green Infrastructure

As part of the city’s commitment to environmental stewardship, the City of Plymouth recently installed a new suspended pavement system at the Meadows Playfield, 5805 Peony Lane N. The underground infrastructure was installed near the warming house/restroom building and supports healthy tree growth while more effectively managing stormwater runoff.



The Plymouth Community Center offers an array of ways to stay active throughout the winter season.

## 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 more 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.

View pricing and more at [plymouthmn.gov/kube](http://plymouthmn.gov/kube).

**Indoor Walking Track – Free**

Free walking is available daily at the indoor walking track. Strollers are not permitted. Hours include:

- 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. View hours and more: [plymouthmn.gov/fieldhouse](http://plymouthmn.gov/fieldhouse). The schedule is subject to change.

**Fitness/Sports and Open Gym – Paid**

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

- **Health and fitness programs**  
[plymouthmn.gov/recguide](http://plymouthmn.gov/recguide)
- **Sports league information**  
[plymouthmn.gov/sportsleagues](http://plymouthmn.gov/sportsleagues)
- **Open gym activities**  
[plymouthmn.gov/opengym](http://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 Monday, Wednesday and Friday. While subject to change, typical open play hours include:

- 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday
- 2-4 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday

View open play hours, pricing and more at [plymouthmn.gov/fieldhouse](http://plymouthmn.gov/fieldhouse).



# Some city fire hydrants receive a makeover

While the City of Plymouth routinely conducts painting and maintenance to extend the life of equipment and infrastructure, community members traveling through Plymouth may have noticed changes to the appearance of some of the city's fire hydrants. Below is a recap and explanation as to why some hydrants received a makeover.

## Plastic-Wrapped Hydrants

The city wraps hydrants along high-traffic roadways to prevent damage from salt and sand during winter months. The plastic helps extend the life of a hydrant and is easily removed when access is needed.

## Why Are City Hydrants Yellow?

While there is no federally mandated standard, Plymouth's regular fire hydrants are painted yellow because it's the color recommended for municipalities by the National Fire Protection Association. The color allows firefighters to quickly identify hydrants with adequate pressure. Plymouth follows NFPA guidelines to ensure consistency and reliability.

## 'Raw Water' Hydrants Go Green

Some fire hydrants have been painted a new color – olive green. These hydrants are "raw water" hydrants, which deliver untreated, low-pressure water. While these hydrants were previously identified by collars, the change to olive green helps enhance public safety (low-pressure hydrants are not used for fighting fires) and provides a more effective visual indicator for personnel who work with the water supply system. The NFPA doesn't have a systematic color for raw water hydrants, so the Plymouth Utilities Division selected olive green because it's the color used for raw water pipes at the city's water treatment facilities, which is industry standard.



"Raw water" hydrants have been painted olive green, while regular hydrants along high-traffic roadways have been plastic wrapped for winter.

## Other Hydrant Colors

Some hydrants have specific colors or features that convey additional information:

- Green operating nuts: Identify private hydrants
- Blue nozzle caps: Indicate "pumper" hydrants, which require water to be pumped out manually after use to prevent freezing or damage
- Red hydrants: Some Plymouth businesses have private hydrants that are not connected to the city's water system

This color-coded system allows city crews and firefighters to quickly assess hydrant functionality during emergencies.

For more information about fire hydrants in Plymouth, call the Utilities Division at 763-509-5950.

## IN BRIEF



Outdoor ice skating is available at five Plymouth locations.

**Outdoor Ice Skating** – Ice skating is available at no cost at five locations in Plymouth:

- LaCompte Playfield, 10795 Old County Road 15
- Plymouth Creek Playfield, 3625 Fernbrook Lane N.
- The Meadows, 5805 Peony Lane N.
- Zachary Playfield, 4355 Zachary Lane
- Bass Lake Playfield, 5450 Northwest Blvd.

Outdoor rinks and warming houses are staffed (except Bass Lake Playfield) and will be open through Friday, Feb. 28, weather permitting. Lights are on from sunset until 10 p.m. daily. Learn more at [plymouthmn.gov/icerinks](http://plymouthmn.gov/icerinks).

**Parking, Snow Reminders** – Parking is prohibited 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. To view the Live Plymouth Plow Map, report issues, sign up for snow emergency alert emails and texts, and view more information about snow removal, visit [plymouthmn.gov/snow](http://plymouthmn.gov/snow).

**Adopt A Hydrant** – The Plymouth Fire Department asks residents to shovel a 3-foot radius around fire hydrants after a snowfall. Quick access to hydrants is crucial during a fire, as a fire engine's water supply depletes rapidly. Shoveling around hydrants eliminates the need for firefighters to dig a hydrant out of the snow before it can be used. For details, visit [plymouthmn.gov/adoptaspot](http://plymouthmn.gov/adoptaspot).

**Winter Fun at Meadows** – Enjoy a new sledding hill, ice skating rink and staffed warming house at the recently renovated Meadows Playfield, 5805 Peony Lane N.

Warming house hours are 5-8 p.m. Monday-Friday and noon to 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday.

**Meet Your Neighbor Series: Dementia Friends** – 11 a.m. to noon Friday, Jan. 31 via Zoom. The free Dementia Friends session offers information about dementia, including what it is like living with the disease, as well as how to connect with people living with dementia and their caregivers. Preregistration is required and can be completed at [plymouthmn.gov/specialevents](http://plymouthmn.gov/specialevents).

**Meet Your Neighbor Series: Basics of Islam and Muslim Lifestyle** – 2-3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 26 at the Plymouth Community Center, 14800 34th Ave. N. Learn about Muslim religion and Islamic culture at the free Meet Your Neighbor event. Preregistration is required and can be completed at [plymouthmn.gov/specialevents](http://plymouthmn.gov/specialevents).



Annual trimming of city boulevard and park trees is set to occur in the areas surrounding Medicine Lake this year.

**Tree Trimming** – The city hires an accredited tree service each year to prune select boulevard and park trees for street clearance and removal of hazardous and/or dead limbs. Ostvig Tree, Inc. is slated to trim boulevard trees this spring in the areas surrounding Medicine Lake. Residents who trim their own boulevard trees should contact City Forester Paul Buck at 763-509-5944 or [pbuck@plymouthmn.gov](mailto: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 pests/diseases. The city recommends residents utilize companies with certified arborists and adequate insurance.



## MAKE A DIFFERENCE VOLUNTEER

Below are upcoming volunteer opportunities:

- **Fire & Ice** – Greet people and assist with family activities Saturday, Feb. 1.
- **Pie Day** – Cut and serve pie to community members Friday, March 14.
- **Discover Plymouth** – Help with setup and teardown Saturday, March 22.
- **Shoveling Snow** – Adopt a fire hydrant or storm drain to remove snow and ice as needed during winter. For more information, visit [plymouthmn.gov/adoptaspot](http://plymouthmn.gov/adoptaspot).

For details about volunteer opportunities, visit [plymouthmn.gov/volunteer](http://plymouthmn.gov/volunteer) or call 763-509-5230.



Volunteers Sharon Tolley (left) and Sue Bobzien help facilitate programs for active adults ages 55 and older.

## Volunteers make friends, help facilitate programming

**As volunteers**, Sue Bobzien and Sharon Tolley work together to support recreation programs for active adults ages 55 and older at the Plymouth Community Center. For the monthly movie matinee, they prepare popcorn in advance and greet moviegoers as they arrive. They also escort Community Tripsters day trip participants.

**Sue said**, "When I moved to Plymouth 10 years ago, I didn't know anyone here. Since becoming a volunteer, I've had the privilege to become friends with other volunteers and discover so many things that this city has to offer. My favorite part of volunteering is interacting with others. In my pre-retirement life, I was in constant contact with coworkers and the public. I missed that interaction, and being part of the volunteer program and senior community in our city has been so good for me, both mentally and physically. I have a great reason for getting out of the house!"

**Sharon said**, "Why do I volunteer? I guess because I can. I have the time and I love talking to people – probably due to my 40 years as a travel agent. I've been volunteering for 10 years, and I've met so many people and made some great friends. I've participated in a wide variety of volunteer opportunities, including special events and the farmers market, but now I tend to focus on the monthly movies and escorting day senior trips. Sue and I enjoy volunteering together and we make a great team. It's our pleasure!"

**Because Sue and Sharon volunteer**, their exceptional customer service and individual attention ensures that active adult participants have consistently positive experiences.

## Serve on Charter Commission

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. 7.

The Charter Commission is an independent body that discusses topics related to the Plymouth City Charter, which defines city government structure and operations. Members are appointed by the chief judge of the Fourth Judicial District. For details and to apply, visit [plymouthmn.gov/commissions](http://plymouthmn.gov/commissions) or contact Plymouth City Clerk/Administrative Coordinator Jodi Gallup at [jgallup@plymouthmn.gov](mailto:jgallup@plymouthmn.gov) or 763-509-5080.







## 2025 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](http://plymouthmn.gov/recycling).



**Drop-Off Days** – Set for April 25-26 at the Plymouth Maintenance Facility, 14900 23rd Ave. N. The event offers opportunities to declutter and get rid of unwanted items. For more information, visit [plymouthmn.gov/dropoff](http://plymouthmn.gov/dropoff) in spring.

**Yard Waste Site** – Opens Wednesday, April 2, weather permitting. The Yard Waste Site is closed Mondays and Tuesdays, Easter, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day and Thanksgiving Day, as well as April 25-26 for Drop-Off Days. Visit [plymouthmn.gov/yardwaste](http://plymouthmn.gov/yardwaste) for more details.

**Recycling/Organics 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 April 25-26 for Drop-Off Days.

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

# Plymouth City Council amends zoning ordinance with new cannabis regulations

Prior to the state’s expiration date for city moratoriums on recreational cannabis businesses, Plymouth City Council passed a resolution at the Nov. 26 council meeting amending the city’s zoning ordinance with new regulations pertaining to cannabis retailers.

Plymouth had adopted an interim ordinance (moratorium) regarding cannabis businesses following the Minnesota legislature’s legalization of adult-use recreational cannabis in 2023, which allowed the city time to conduct research while the state finalized its regulations and guidelines.

Plymouth’s new ordinance caps the number of cannabis retail licenses to one per 12,500 residents, for a total of seven retailers citywide. Additionally, the ordinance establishes buffers that restrict cannabis retailers from operating within 500 feet of any school, resident treatment

facility, or park amenity regularly used by minors. The ordinance also outlines the types of cannabis establishments that may operate in the city’s various zoning districts.

A process for licensure is set to begin in 2025, once the Minnesota Office of Cannabis Management finalizes its rules and regulations. Retailers must first receive a pre-approval permit from the state, followed by approval from the City of Plymouth, before the state will issue an official license.

The city must accommodate 13 different types of state-issued licenses, which pertain to cultivation, manufacturing, transportation, retail and more. While Plymouth can limit cannabis retailers to seven establishments citywide, the state does not permit cities to limit the other 12 license types.

## New businesses set up shop in Plymouth

**Zoom Room Dog Training** recently opened at 1400 County Road 101, Suite H. Zoom Room provides positive reinforcement dog training classes that teach obedience, dog agility, puppy training and enrichment in an indoor climate-controlled dog gym.

**Amerilab Technologies** completed a \$1.2 million solar panel installation, allowing it to secure 100% of its energy needs from renewable sources. The company develops, produces and packages customized effervescent tablets and powders, and non-effervescent powders.

**Blaze Credit Union** recently opened a new Plymouth location at 10000 Rockford Road. Blaze offers checking and savings accounts, retirement and investment services, loans and credit options, and more.

**Boss’ Pizza & Chicken** – which specializes in pizza, broasted chicken, and late-night takeout and delivery – opened its first Minnesota location at 2705 Annapolis Lane N. in Plymouth.

**Perspire Sauna Studio** opened eight private suites at 3225 Vicksburg Lane N. Perspire’s saunas use infrared and color light therapy to heat the body instead of the air to optimize health and wellness.

**Midwest Physical Therapy, Uptown Healing Clinic, and East Meets West Massage** recently opened at 14440 28th Place N. The establishments offer an integrative approach to injury recovery and chronic pain treatment that includes chiropractic care, massage therapy, physical therapy, and other healing services.

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## New year, new City Council

By Mayor Jeff Wosje

As 2025 gets underway, and a year of new opportunities awaits us, I am pleased to welcome three newly elected Plymouth City Council members, and I remain grateful for those who served before them.

Congratulations to Kimberly Nelson, Scott Aldrich and Joel Spoonheim – they will take the oath of office Jan. 14 and serve four-year terms (see page 1). I have been fortunate to work alongside Kimberly, as she was appointed last spring to serve the remainder of the vacant Ward 1 term. I look forward to continued council momentum as Scott and Joel step into their new roles.

While I’m excited for new beginnings, they are often preceded by bittersweet endings. I am filled with gratitude for outgoing council members Jim Willis and Catherine Cesnik, as well as former council members Jim Davis, who resigned due to health challenges, and Alise McGregor, who relocated outside of Plymouth in 2024.

Jim Willis has served Plymouth in various capacities for more than 50 years – including At Large city council member since 2005, and city manager from 1971 to 1993.

Additionally, he has served on the Plymouth Charter Commission and represented Plymouth for 17 years on the Northwest Suburbs Cable Communications Commission. He has been involved in countless decisions throughout his tenure and has helped shape the direction of city governance in Plymouth.

Catherine was appointed last spring to serve the remainder of the vacant Ward 3 term. She served as the council coordinating representative on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission, and has been a commissioner on the Bassett Creek Watershed since 2019 and Elm Creek Watershed since 2017.

I will forever be appreciative of those who answer the call to serve, and I look forward to all that Plymouth has yet to accomplish. Cheers to a new year!

**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, [jwosje@plymouthmn.gov](mailto:jwosje@plymouthmn.gov)
- Clark Gregor**, At Large  
763-509-5005, [cgregor@plymouthmn.gov](mailto:cgregor@plymouthmn.gov)
- Joel Spoonheim**, At Large  
763-509-5006, [jspoonheim@plymouthmn.gov](mailto:jspoonheim@plymouthmn.gov)
- Kimberly Nelson**, Ward 1  
763-509-5001, [knelson@plymouthmn.gov](mailto:knelson@plymouthmn.gov)
- Julie Peterson**, Ward 2  
763-509-5002, [jpeterson@plymouthmn.gov](mailto:jpeterson@plymouthmn.gov)
- Scott Aldrich**, Ward 3  
763-509-5003, [saldrich@plymouthmn.gov](mailto:saldrich@plymouthmn.gov)
- Julie Pointner**, Ward 4  
763-509-5004, [jpointner@plymouthmn.gov](mailto:jpointner@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](http://plymouthmn.gov/myplymouth)

## View Meetings

Live on Channel 16, 7 p.m.  
On-demand video link at city website  
**City Council:** Jan. 14, 28 and Feb. 11, 25  
**Planning Commission:** Jan. 15 and Feb. 5, 19  
**Housing and Redevelopment Authority:** Jan. 23 and Feb. 27

## Connect with Plymouth

- [plymouthmn.gov](http://plymouthmn.gov)
- [facebook.com/plymouthmn](https://facebook.com/plymouthmn)
- [@plymouthmn\\_gov](https://twitter.com/plymouthmn_gov)
- [@plymouthmn\\_gov](https://instagram.com/plymouthmn_gov)