



Plymouth PULSE



City of Plymouth 201 S. Main St. Plymouth, MI 48170 734-453-1234 <http://plymouthmi.gov>



Neither rain, nor snow, nor heat, nor gloom of night will stop the Plymouth Ice Festival from completion of its appointed task - to entertain visitors and celebrate winter. But like everything else, it will look a little different this year due to COVID-19. We like to call it Ice Fest Lite.

In order to encourage social distancing, instead of live events and large sculptures at Kellogg Park, more than 50 350-pound blocks of ice will be transformed into sculptures that will be on display outside businesses in the downtown area. That way, the event is spread out and no one needs to be within six feet of another person.

"This is yet another way we think out of the box in Plymouth," said Mayor Oliver Wolcott. "The show must go on, even in a pandemic, but of course safety comes first."

City Hall Hours

Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Drop boxes are available 24/7 in the vestibule and in the
Plymouth District Library drive-through lane.

CITY OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11 FROM 10:00 A.M. - 1:30 P.M. FOR ALL-STAFF TRAINING.



Strategic Plan

A goal without a plan is just a wish. French author Antoine de Saint-Exupéry probably didn't have municipal government in mind when he penned these words, but the sentiment has been taken to heart by the City of Plymouth when it comes to its Five Year Strategic Plan.

In 2017, the City Commission and administration met with facilitator Lew Bender to hammer out four main goal areas: Quality of Life, Financial Stability, Economic Vitality, and Service and Infrastructure. Every year since then, the group has met to review accomplishments towards fulfilling the goals and to identify one-year tasks to continue moving forward.

Typically, the group meets in one room to discuss how the previous year went, then breaks down into groups that come up with suggested one-year tasks for one goal area. Then the group reconvenes and everyone is given the opportunity to challenge or support every task. By the end of the four-hour meeting, the year's plan is set.

Of course, this year was different. On January 25, City Commissioners and members of the administration met in the large room at the Plymouth Cultural Center at long tables with chairs at least six feet apart. Some participants were connected virtually via Zoom. After an introductory message by the facilitator, City Manager Paul Sincock reviewed a ten-page document with the group, outlining more than 150 tasks that have been completed since the 2017 session. Then, a department head responsible for each goal area facilitated a discussion that led to a list of tasks for the year 2021.

That's not the end of the process, though. Every week for the entire year, Sincock will conduct a staff meeting to review a spreadsheet that includes every task (and additional projects that are identified as the year goes on) and asks department heads to detail their progress. After each meeting, he will send an updated spreadsheet to the City Commission. In addition, the Strategic Plan is on every board and commission meeting agenda.

"Communication is everything," said Sincock. "It's important for every member of the team to stay informed and to have an opportunity for input. Everyone needs to know they're moving in the same direction."

The overall goals and 2021 tasks are listed on the next page.

City of Plymouth Strategic Plan

GOAL I - QUALITY OF LIFE

OBJECTIVES

Support the neighborhoods with high-quality customer service
Engage in collaboration with private entities and surrounding municipalities to implement the Joint Recreation Master Plan
Improve communication with the public across multiple platforms
Maintain a high level of cleanliness throughout the City
Support and host a diverse variety of events that foster community and placemaking

ONE-YEAR TASKS 2021

Restore sports and recreational programs that were halted by COVID-19 as soon as possible
Review and evaluate the special event policy with safety considerations
Address challenges with the Kellogg Park improvements with safety considerations
Move Kellogg Park Fountain project forward
Continue to re-engage service clubs to help enhance parks and public properties
Increase followers by 2,000 on all our platforms
Develop an internal and external communications plan
Upgrade City Hall facilities to accommodate remote meetings
Continue investigating multi-modal transportation opportunities
Revisit noise ordinance

GOAL II - FINANCIAL STABILITY

OBJECTIVES

Approve balanced budgets that maintain fiscal responsibility
Advocate for increased revenue sharing with the State of Michigan
Encourage and engage in partnerships, both public and private, to share costs of services and equipment
Address the issue of legacy costs
Seek out and implement efficient and effective inter-departmental collaboration
Market our successes to attract new economic and investment opportunities

ONE-YEAR TASKS 2021

Find a mechanism to identify funding sources for capital improvement projects
Increase funding to the Public Improvement Fund
Create a potential package for financing emergency structural repairs
Develop a comprehensive asset management plan that includes a review of the equipment fleet
Search out other possible revenue streams through continued association with the CWW and the MML
Develop a financial plan for public safety
Continue to make extra payments towards legacy costs
Monitor outside influences on our revenue sources, including unfunded mandates, the 35th District Court and the PCCS
Negotiate three labor contracts

GOAL III - ECONOMIC VITALITY

OBJECTIVES

Continue to support and improve active, vibrant downtown branding
Support community and economic development projects and initiatives
Support a mix of industrial, commercial and residential development
Reference the Master Plan in economic decision-making

ONE-YEAR TASKS 2021

Complete Saxton's development
Develop municipal parking lot at Saxton's site
Support development of 23 parcels adjacent to the Starkweather School property
Continue to administer the grant and the brownfield plan to support the Pulte project's completion
Finish RRC by the end of the year
Develop an annual training calendar for the Planning Commission, the Historic District Commission, the Zoning Board of Appeals and the DDA, and identify a funding source
Implement temporary plans to assist businesses in recovery efforts

GOAL IV - SERVICE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

OBJECTIVES

Support administration and staff by providing professional development opportunities, supplying resources, and maintaining a commitment to recruitment, retention, succession planning
Support and deliver safe and responsive emergency services
Maintain a sophisticated and responsive technology to communicate and manage data
Continually record, maintain, update, and improve City infrastructure

ONE-YEAR TASKS 2021

Explore pedestrian safety opportunities into targeted intersections
Research funding opportunities for ADA compliance at the PCC
Implement 2021 infrastructure program
Continue training for future career development and succession planning
Conduct a traffic study to determine whether to make additional streets one way
Update mapping resources including parcel data, completing **50%** by the end of the year
Continue to add multi-modal transportation opportunities where applicable
Update/replace current technology to ensure compliance with new regulations, rules, and operating systems
Revisit paid parking

Ruth Huston Whipple Award



Mayor Oliver Wolcott and 2020 Ruth Huston Whipple Award winner Debra Madonna, who founded the Miracle League of Plymouth

The Ruth Huston-Whipple Award for Civic Engagement is named in honor of Ruth Huston-Whipple, Plymouth's first female elected City Commissioner (1934-1949), first female mayor of Plymouth (1940-1942) and first female Wayne County Board of Supervisors member.

She was a 1913 graduate of Plymouth High School and later worked as a teacher and debate coach at the school. She fought against school policies that discriminated against married women and eventually left the district in protest. She remained, however, a leader in the Plymouth community, championing the improvement of inhumane conditions at a local juvenile detention center and addressing environmental and beautification concerns in the City.

As an elected official, Ruth Huston-Whipple organized the first city-wide refuse collection system in Plymouth, served on the Zoning Board and represented Plymouth in the Michigan Municipal League. She was a tireless volunteer leader of local organizations such as the Plymouth Historical Society, Plymouth Woman's Club, Plymouth Garden Club, Plymouth Business and Professional Women's Club and Plymouth Canteen Club's War Service Committee.

Though disabled at a relatively young age by a series of strokes, she remained an example of selfless dedication to the community and leadership on issues both profound and practical improved life for every resident of Plymouth during her tenure.

The purpose of the Ruth Huston-Whipple Award for Civic Engagement is to honor a community member who, like Ruth Huston-Whipple, has positively impacted the quality of life in the City of Plymouth through his or her exceptional civic and/or philanthropic engagement.

Nominees must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Person must have demonstrated civic and/or philanthropic engagement within the City of Plymouth. Examples of impact should show a community benefit, delivered with integrity and perseverance
- Married couples can be nominated
- Past Ruth Huston-Whipple Award recipients, current members of the Plymouth City Commission and full-time employees of the City of Plymouth are not eligible to be nominated

The Ruth Huston-Whipple award winner will have demonstrated engagement, leadership and achievement over a period of time and in one or more of the following areas:

- Contributed to the City of Plymouth above and beyond reasonable expectations
- Demonstrated character, commitment and/or leadership qualities
- Actively participated in community or civic organizations whose sphere of influence falls within the City of Plymouth
- Exemplified accomplishments and contributions to the economic vitality and/or residential quality of life in the City of Plymouth

The nomination period opens January 1 and closes April 30 of each year, when a selection committee comprising two mayor-appointed City Commissioners and a representative from the City of Plymouth administration will select and notify the winner(s). The nomination form is on our website at www.plymouthmi.gov.

Police Department January Training

During the month of January, members of the Plymouth Police Department attended the following trainings.

Western Wayne County Special Operations Team Training

Team members attended the required regular monthly training sessions involving the many skills needed to successfully intervene during a critical incident situation such as a hostage rescue or barricaded gunman. These skills include: proper planning and response, firearms and equipment proficiency, team movement, surveillance, and much more.

Eastern Michigan University's Center for Regional and National Security School of Police Staff & Command Executive Leadership Program

One of our Sergeants began this 9-week program. This is an intensive program consisting of 350 hours of classroom instruction that requires out of class study, preparation of papers, projects, and examinations. The experience takes the officer beyond traditional operational methods and incorporates strategic thinking and creative and innovative problem solving skills for current and future law enforcement executives paving the way for further advancement to senior leadership positions within the department.

Scam Warning

The City of Plymouth Police Department wants to warn the residents about current scams that are going around. Several incidents have recently been reported where people have been victimized by some of the following scams: CASH BAIL BOND SCAM, COMPUTER SERVICE OR REPAIR SCAM, UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT SCAM and FILING FOR TAX RETURN SCAM.

Please use caution and common sense if someone reaches out to you via your telephone, computer or regular mail with one of the above scams or something similar to the above. Always check with family or friends who may be mentioned in the scam, ask the caller for a registered address that you can verify, or simply just ignore the contact by hanging up the phone, ignoring the email or text message, or tossing the physical mail out. Also please contact the police department if you have been victimized or contacted by a scammer asking for money or personal information.

A good rule of thumb is that if you did not initiate the call or contact, do not give out your personal information.

Please also take extra care and caution this time of year when filing your tax returns. Please make sure you are using a reputable tax or accounting firm and if you file your own tax return on the computer please make sure that you are using a secure web page or program.

If you have any questions or concerns about a possible scam or if you have been victimized by a scam, please contact the City of Plymouth Police Department.

Officer Tony Angelosanto
City of Plymouth Police
Crime Prevention Bureau
734-453-1234 ext. 526
734-453-8600 Dispatch

Snow and Ice Removal

While most of us are still in our cozy beds on blustery winter mornings, Department of Municipal Services crews are already at work salting icy streets or plowing snowy roads.

To see how our plows work or to understand the new brining process, please view the videos on the [the City of Plymouth Facebook page](#).

The effectiveness of the snow plow is impacted greatly by residents, contractors and business owners' actions. Do not push, blow, plow, throw or otherwise place the snow in the street. Most importantly for the efficiency of our plows, do not push snow back into the street after the plow has been down your street. Pushing snow into the street is against our code of ordinances, and will be strictly enforced. The minimum bill for each offense is \$150.00.

Ensure that your sidewalks are clear within 24 hours of the end of snowfall. Promptly remove all snow and ice to ensure you and your neighbors can safely walk throughout the City and to limit your liability in the case of an accident. Snow and ice left on the sidewalks is a public safety hazard and is against our ordinance. Please remove snow from edge to edge and from property line to property line including the entire approach to any crosswalks.

Failure to maintain your sidewalks in a safe condition will result in the City removing the snow and/or ice and billing you for the removal. The minimum billing for the first offense is \$150.00, the minimum billing for the second offense is \$200.00, and the minimum billing for the third and any subsequent offenses is \$250.00. Owners of corner lots must clear both frontage streets in their entirety. In addition, please DO NOT push snow from the sidewalks into the crosswalk. Ensure that all crosswalks are clear and that pedestrians have a safe path from the sidewalk, without having to step over a pile of snow.



The view from behind the wheel of a City of Plymouth snow plow

January Boards and Commissions

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF ALL MEETINGS ARE AVAILABLE ON [OUR WEBSITE](#).

City Commission –January 4, 2021

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of December 21, 2020 City Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

NEW BUSINESS

Emergency Purchase of Pump Replacement - approved

Wayne County Parks Grant - approved

Authorization for Payment – Fire Academy - approved

Historic District Commission – January 6, 2021

NEW BUSINESS

H21-01: Exterior modifications at 248 S. Union - denied

Zoning Board of Appeals- January 7, 2021

OLD BUSINESS

Z 20-10: 606 Maple, use variance for habitable space in detached garage - denied

Z20-11: 933 Church, non-use variance for lot coverage, FAR, front yard setback and side yard setback - withdrawn

NEW BUSINESS

Z21-01: 107 N. Holbrook, non-use variance for rear lot coverage - approved

Z21-02: 365 Joy, non-use variance for front yard setback - approved

Downtown Development Authority – January 11, 2021

OLD BUSINESS

Strategic Planning Update - updates on patio seating and parking structure stairway repairs

Strategic Planning Session - A draft of the five-year action plan is expected to be the result of this session

NEW BUSINESS

DDA Covid-19 Downtown Initiatives -review of programs to date and ideas for new projects discussed

Planning Commission – January 13, 2021

OLD BUSINESS

2021 Planning Commission Goals - Goals were discussed and approved

NEW BUSINESS

2020 Annual Report - report was received

City Commission-January 18, 2021

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of December 2020 Bills

Approval of January 4, 2021 City Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

Special Event: Plymouth Ice Festival, February 12, 13, 14, 2021

Special Event: Plymouth Community Band Concerts in the Park, Thursday Evenings June/July 2021

NEW BUSINESS

Community Development Block Grant Cooperation Agreement with Wayne County - approved

2021 Annual Wayne County Right of Way Maintenance Permits - approved

2021 MDOT Annual Permit - approved

Northville Plymouth Fire Advisory Board - January 19, 2021

Review of staffing levels, fire prevention, response time, training and run volume

Discussion about performance measures

Committee of the Whole - January 25, 2021

Strategic Planning Session

February Board and Commission Meeting Links

City Commission - February 1, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88301713648>

Passcode: 636086

Webinar ID: 883 0171 3648

Historic District Commission – February 3, 2021- 7:00 p.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87594760465>

Passcode: 493262

Webinar ID: 875 9476 0465

Zoning Board of Appeals February 4, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89117117001>

Passcode: 093518

Webinar ID: 891 1711 7001

Downtown Development Authority February 8, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85946832671>

Passcode: 472501

Webinar ID: 859 4683 2671

Planning Commission February 10, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81354861430>

Passcode: 426795

Webinar ID: 813 5486 1430

City Commission February 15, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85018446195>

Passcode: 830665

Webinar ID: 850 1844 6195



Install and test carbon monoxide (CO) alarms at least once a month.

CO is called the “invisible killer” because it’s a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas. Breathing in CO at high levels can be fatal.





Plymouth Community Senior Transportation

Located at Plymouth Township Friendship Station Senior Center at 42375 Schoolcraft Rd.
The Plymouth Community Senior Transportation Program is an independent, curb to curb transportation service owned and operated by the City of Plymouth and Charter Township of Plymouth. Transportation is available to residents 60 years old and older, living in the City of Plymouth or Plymouth Township.

Reservations are required at least two business days in advance and can be made by calling the reservation line Monday through Friday from 8:30am-11:30am

(734)459-8888

TRANSPORTATION PHASE 2

A MASK IS REQUIRED & MUST BE WORN CORRECTLY COVERING YOUR MOUTH AND NOSE AT ALL TIMES WHILE RIDING THE BUS FOR ALL RIDERS.

ABIDE THE 6FT SOCIAL DISTANCING TO THE BEST OF YOUR ABILITY.

RIDERS WILL SIT IN THE SAME SEAT BOTH WAYS.

EVERYONE WILL NEED TO ANSWER A SHORT QUESTIONNAIRE PRIOR TO RIDING THE BUS.

****PLEASE BE HONEST BECAUSE LATER IF YOU FIND YOU WERE CARRYING COVID-19 WE WILL HAVE TO CLOSE DOWN TRANSPORTATION AGAIN AND START OVER.**

PLEASE STAY HOME IF YOU DON'T FEEL WELL.

WELL DOCTOR APPOINTMENTS ONLY, PHARMACIES and DENTISTS WITHIN THE PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY:

Service Days: Monday and Wednesday

Service Hours: 9 a.m. until 12 p.m.

*Must be finished with your appointment by 2pm
(Limited availability)

KROGER

Service Days: Tuesday and Thursday

Service Hours: 9 a.m. until 12 p.m.

****We can transport three people each hour at 9am, 10am, 11am and 12pm. You will have approximately 1 1/2 hours of shopping time.**

Happy
Valentine's
Day

SPECIAL TRIPS - MAX. OF 3 RIDERS AT A TIME

<u>FEBRUARY</u>	<u>DESTINATIONS</u>	<u>COST</u>	<u>PICK UP TIME</u>	<u>RETURN TIMES</u>
5	WALMART	\$6	9am 10am	11am 12pm
12	MEIJER	\$6	9am 10am	11am 12pm
19	DOLLAR TREE	\$6	9am 10am	11am 12pm
26	MEIJER	\$6	9am 10am	11am 12pm

PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY SENIOR TRANSPORTATION WILL BE CLOSED:

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15 - PRESIDENT'S DAY