

PLYMOUTH PUBLIC SAFETY EXTRA

Welcome to the Public Safety Extra

This publication provides an inside look at fire and police services, equipment, programs and news.

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And remember, we're just a phone call away.

Sincerely,

Mike Goldstein,
Director of Public Safety



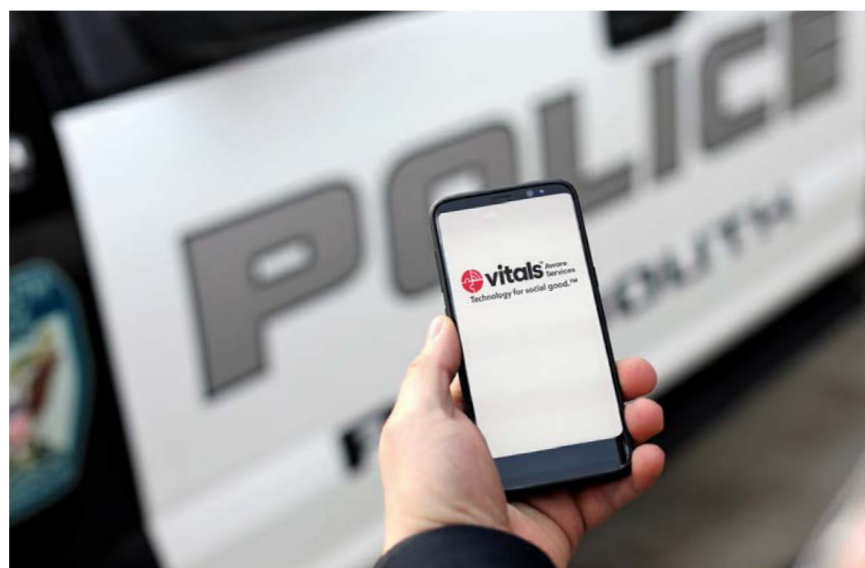
Mike Goldstein

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Plymouth police use Vitals app for improved communication

Plymouth police officers are using a new smartphone app to help improve interactions between law enforcement and people living with visible and invisible conditions, such as mental illness or disability.

The Vitals app provides police officers and first responders with real-time, critical information about vulnerable individuals, including diagnoses, personalized de-escalation techniques, behavior triggers and more.



Plymouth police use the new Vitals app to help improve interactions between law enforcement and people living with visible and invisible conditions, such as mental illness or disability.

Community Meetings

Plymouth Police Department will hold two community meetings to highlight the Vitals app and answer questions. Meetings are set for:

- **Thursday, Jan. 10** – 4 p.m. at the Plymouth Library, 15700 36th Ave. N.
- **Thursday, Jan. 31** – 7 p.m. at the Plymouth Creek Center, 14800 34th Ave. N.

Registration is encouraged. To register, visit plymouthmn.gov/vitals.

How It Works

A voluntary, opt-in program, individuals or caregivers register for Vitals online and supply relevant information. Vitals developed the app-based service in partnership with the Autism Society of Minnesota and partners with PACER Center and The Arc Minnesota to raise awareness and promote use of the app.

Once a digital profile has been created for a person, he or she wears a beacon – which can be a keychain, necklace, wallet-sized card, bracelet or an Android phone.

Police officers have installed the Vitals app on their smartphones, so when a beacon comes within 80 feet of an officer or first responder equipped with the service, the officer receives a notification about the person's diagnosis and how to best interact with him or her.

Some people are unable to communicate clearly at times due to invisible conditions, such as dementia, post-traumatic stress, autism, diabetes or seizure disorders. The Vitals app can help provide police officers and first responders with context for behavior to help improve interactions.

Sign Up

"It's important for residents and caregivers to sign up," said Plymouth Police Captain Michael Reed. "There is no charge to create a profile – and it may serve as a tremendous resource for improved communication and interactions between police officers and members of the community."

To create a Vitals profile or for more information, visit plymouthmn.gov/vitals.



The Plymouth Fire and Police departments launched Twitter accounts in November to better communicate with residents.

Plymouth Fire and Police launch Twitter accounts

Plymouth firefighters and police officers have begun tweeting – and residents are encouraged to follow the departments' accounts. To follow the Fire Department, visit twitter.com/PlymouthMNFD. To follow the Police Department, visit twitter.com/PlymouthMNPD.

The Twitter accounts are aimed at building stronger connections with the community, as well as providing pertinent and timely information. The accounts are not monitored for emergency response. Residents should call 911 for police and fire services.

Plymouth increases Fire Department staffing to meet demand for service

As the city's population increases, so does demand for public safety services. Since 2016, Plymouth has focused on bolstering its public safety staffing levels – and the 2019 budget furthers that focus with additional staffing for the Plymouth Fire Department.

In addition to increasing funding for paid-on-call firefighters, six full-time firefighters were hired in 2017. Six more will be hired in 2019 – increasing Plymouth's full-time firefighter count to 12.

"To improve response times and coverage of the city, our goal is to have two stations staffed 24/7 with a combination of full-time and part-time shifts," said Plymouth Fire Chief Rodger Coppa.

In 2016, in addition to paid-on-call firefighters, Plymouth operated with a duty crew that staffed one fire station for 15 hours per day, six days per week.

Current staffing levels allow two fire stations to be staffed 15 hours a day Monday-Friday, and one station 15 hours a day on weekends. The additional six full-time firefighters will allow the department to staff two stations 15 hours a day, seven days per week and one station overnight.



In addition to increasing funding for paid-on-call firefighters, six full-time firefighters were hired in 2017. Six more will be hired in 2019 to help meet the demand for service as Plymouth's population grows.

"As Plymouth's population continues to grow, we're looking to full-time firefighters to help staffing levels meet the city's demand for service," said Coppa. "However, this staffing model now and in the future is highly dependent on the participation of our paid-on-call firefighters – they are and will continue to be a vital and valued asset to our department."

Plymouth police rollout crash reduction program

To help reduce injuries and property damage resulting from automobile crashes in the city, the Plymouth Police Department is rolling out a data-driven initiative called the Crash Reduction Program.

The program involves multiple partnerships with internal city departments and external organizations, and relies on assessments of traffic and crash data to help improve public safety.

“Ultimately, our goal is to save lives, and prevent injuries and property damage by reducing the number of crashes in Plymouth,” said Plymouth Police Captain Mike Reed. “This is a comprehensive and strategic approach to use the data and resources available to us to make Plymouth’s roads safer.”

Though it will evolve with time and additional data, the new program consists of the following components:

- **Partnership with bus drivers** – The department has partnered with First Transit school bus drivers to identify potential improvements to bus stop locations, placement of children awaiting pickup, route times and traffic patterns. To help protect the safety of the students and other motorists, bus drivers report motorists who commit stop arm violations, while patrol officers work to reduce violations through education and enforcement.
- **Flashing yellow arrows** – Since installation, the Plymouth Police Department has collected crash data related to flashing yellow arrows, including time of day and intersection locations. Police work with Hennepin County and the Minnesota Department of Transportation to adjust the timing of lights based on the data to improve traffic flow and safety.
- **Blue light initiative** – Enforcing stop light violations can be dangerous. Traditionally, it may have required officers observing a motorist run a red light to follow the motorist through the intersection. The Plymouth Police Department has partnered with city engineers, MnDOT and external electrical engineers to launch the blue light initiative – a pilot program to help reduce stop light violations in a safer manner. Small blue lights



Plymouth Police Department uses two new portable radar speed signs, courtesy of a CenterPoint Energy Community Partnership Grant, to assist with motorist education and gather traffic data to help reduce traffic-related crashes and injuries.

installed on the backside of a stop light illuminate when the light changes to red at high-profile intersections in Plymouth, allowing officers to enforce violations from safer locations.

- **Radar speed signs** – The Plymouth Police Department received two portable radar speed signs in 2018, thanks to a \$2,000 CenterPoint Energy Community Partnership Grant – a program that helps communities purchase safety equipment. The two new signs, which bring the department’s inventory to four, assist with motorist education and gather traffic data to help reduce traffic-related crashes and injuries.
- **Summer traffic unit** – A full-time traffic unit typically patrols Plymouth, observing motorist behavior and improving traffic safety through education and enforcement. During the summer months, when school is not in session, Plymouth’s school resource officers help the department step up its efforts by adding two additional traffic officers to the mix.
- **Data-directed patrol** – The Plymouth Police Department filters traffic and crash data throughout the city to assess the times and locations that experience the most vehicle crashes. The data is pushed to patrol officers through an interactive map, so they know how and when to best patrol the affected locations.

Fire Department receives new equipment

Plymouth firefighters respond to a variety of public safety calls and rely heavily on their training during emergency situations. To assist staff with training and rescue efforts, the Plymouth Fire Department recently acquired new equipment.

- **Forcible entry door** – During an emergency fire or medical call, firefighters may need to quickly and forcibly gain entrance to a locked building. However, practicing this task is difficult because it often damages doors and entryways. To assist with this training, the Plymouth Crime and Fire Prevention Fund donated funds to purchase a new forcible entry training prop that allows staff to practice multiple repetitions on a wooden or metal door in a nondestructive way.
- **Water rescue boat** – If there’s an emergency on the water, the Plymouth Fire Department is typically the first responding agency called to the scene. The department recently invested in a new rescue boat that inflates in 90 seconds – in open water or on ice – and can be used in backyard ponds. Firefighters typically train for rescue operations on the ice in early winter and in open water during ice-out in early spring.



The Plymouth Fire Department recently invested in a new water rescue boat that inflates in 90 seconds and can even be used in backyard ponds. Firefighters typically train for rescue operations on the ice in early winter and open water in early spring.

- **Fire training facility** – The Plymouth Crime and Fire Prevention Fund donated funds to open a fire training facility for the department in 2013 – and continues to fund additions to the facility. Constructed from Conex box shipping containers, the facility allows staff to practice extinguishing fires and helps the department satisfy its live-fire training evolutions, mandated by the state and Occupational Safety and Health Administration. The latest round of modifications to the facility added steel railings for better safety and functionality.



Plymouth K-9s earned high honors during the annual statewide narcotics detection and patrol dog certification processes.

K-9s earn top honors in statewide narcotics, patrol dog certifications

Plymouth Police Department’s three K-9 teams earned top honors during the 2018 annual statewide narcotics detection and patrol dog certification processes, sponsored by the United States Police Canine Association.

Narcotics Detection Awards

Plymouth Police Officers Matt Gliniany and Bill Dane, with respective K-9 partners Stryker and Odie, took home the first place department team award at the competition for the second consecutive year. Gliniany and Stryker also earned the third-place overall award.

Officer Steve Larson, with K-9 partner Knight, was paired with another city’s K-9 team and received the second place region team award.

Patrol Dog Awards

Dane and Odie earned the first-place agility award. Larson and Knight earned second place for criminal apprehension.

Gliniany and Stryker received the Eric Christensen Award, which recognizes a K-9 handler who displays strong moral character, true sportsmanship and contributions to the betterment of the region’s police service dogs.

More than 100 city and county K-9 teams from across Minnesota and beyond participated in the certifications.

Profile of a Plymouth community service officer

Ray Ramrup

As a CSO, what do you do?

We wear many hats – most noticeably in patrol. We handle parking complaints, ordinance violations, carbon monoxide alarms, bicycle thefts, utility problems, subpoena services, routine patrol and animal control. We also assist the sworn officers with medical calls, crashes, criminal bookings and fire alarms.



CSO Ray Ramrup

What’s the most rewarding part of your job?

We have the unique opportunity to interact with residents who may never have any contact with law enforcement, such as responding to a call at 2 a.m. regarding a carbon monoxide alarm. While it may only beep to notify the residents to replace it, I go the extra step to reassure them by checking their homes with a four-gas meter so they can sleep safe and sound through the night.

What are the biggest benefits to having CSOs working for the department?

A lot of the things that make our department run efficiently is our behind-the-scenes work. We deliver squad vehicles for repairs, facilitate fingerprinting, sweep debris from a crash scene, deliver evidence or paperwork to courts and jails, and more.

“We rely heavily on our community service officers,” said Plymouth Public Safety Director Mike Goldstein. “Though much of their work is behind the scenes, it is vital to maintaining efficient and effective service for our residents. We value them tremendously.”