

# THE LAKER

Volume LXXI issue no. 4

April 2025

## MESSAGE FROM OUR MAYOR

CHRIS HEIM, MAYOR

### HELLO NEIGHBORS!

It's mid-April, and my family has already enjoyed our first pontoon ride of the season — life is good! I'm also looking forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming Progressive Dinner. It's one of my favorite annual events, and I'm so grateful to the planning committee for all the work they do each year to keep this tradition going. Enjoy this beautiful spring season in Minnesota!

### KEY UPDATES

#### WALKWAYS AT THE ENTRANCE OF CITY

The new city-entrance median was designed to slow traffic and remind drivers they're entering a special place that values pedestrian safety. After a few months of observation, we've seen positive changes in driver behavior — but also noted that the current layout doesn't provide enough space for pedestrians. With input from over 200 survey responses and further engineering review, the City Council has decided to add elevated walkways on both sides of the road along the length of the median. While it's been challenging to create a design that meets everyone's preferences, this addition aligns with our broader goal of making the roadway a safer, more welcoming, and traffic-calming feature throughout the city. The walkways will be installed in May or June, along with speed humps, roadside yard restoration, the road's final surface coat, and freshly painted lines.

#### PLEASE BE MINDFUL OF PET CONTROL

As part of the Jevne Park revitalization, the tennis, pickleball, and basketball courts will be resurfaced this spring with a two-coat acrylic finish and fresh line painting. The new layout will include one tennis court (as before) and two pickleball courts (one on each side of the tennis net with movable pickleball nets). To address sound concerns, tennis will be permitted from 7AM to 10PM, and pickleball from 8AM to 8PM. After a full season with this new setup, we will review usage patterns and noise levels to assess whether the timeframes remain appropriate and if sound barrier tarps are necessary.

#### CITY COUNCIL MEETING APRIL 28

We are excited to welcome new firefighters to Medicine Lake Fire Department. Please join for the badge pinning of the new firefighters at the April 28, 2025 council meeting. "Pinning" refers to a badge pinning ceremony, a traditional practice where a firefighter's badge is officially pinned onto their uniform.

**See you on the lake and at the upcoming Progressive Dinner!!**



## IN THIS ISSUE...

### **Enjoying the regular History articles from our Fire Chief?**

Check out *Hot Flashes* on **pages 2-3** for all the latest MLFD news.

**Questions about hooking up to City Water?** Get all the details about the process on **page 4**.

**Looking for City Council Votes or monthly Meeting Dates?** Go to **page 5**.

Have you heard that Medicine Lake residents are welcome to participate in **Plymouth Drop-off Days on April 25-26**? Find out what items will be accepted and where on **pages 7-9**.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **April 25-26**

Drop off Days  
(Plymouth)

### **April 26**

Progressive Dinner

### **April 26**

Drug Takeback Day  
(Plymouth)

### **April 28**

City Council Meeting  
*Liquor License  
Pinning Ceremony*

# Hot Flashes

FROM THE  
FIRE CHIEF

Over many years, The Laker has intermittently featured notes from the Fire Department. In celebration of our 75th year, we're bringing back its most popular title "Hot Flashes from the Fire Chief!"

## 2025 MARKS THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MEDICINE LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT!

### HISTORY

A common thread between fire departments of all shapes & sizes is **Training**. It isn't uncommon for firefighters to attend more training sessions than emergency call-outs, especially in small departments like Medicine Lake.

On the surface it sounds pretty easy: "Put the wet stuff on the red stuff" but waking from a sound sleep at 2am to set into motion each of the cogs in the machine that is a fire scene leaves little room for error. Though *muscle memory* isn't quite the literal application, you want to be able to make as many motions and decisions as you can 'automatically' (e.g. How to don your gear, get the fire engine safely to the scene, and what tools to grab) so you can focus on the dynamic nature of even the most basic of emergency calls.



### This smoke's on me

Jack Garberg's commitment to the Medicine Lake Volunteer Fire Department should be considered rock solid. Above, Garberg, who is the city's assistant fire chief, watched as the Fire Department burned down his family's garage Saturday. He donated the structure so firefighters could practice their skills. At right, Sharon Garberg, Jack's wife, and firefighter Dee Schrader surveyed charred remains following the controlled burn. A cigarette dangling from his lips, Jack Garberg said he'd planned to demolish the garage anyway, but thought it more civic-minded to give firefighters a crack at it. (Photos by Craig Lassig)

Over the years for various reasons Medicine Lake and others have done less and less burning down of donated houses— something longtime residents would have seen on more than one occasion 20+ years ago. While that may seem like a step away from our core, there has actually been a dramatic increase in the quality of training opportunities in controlled environments and an expanded focus on many other specialties such as open water rescue and medical emergencies.

In April MLFD will have held its sixth semi-annual EMS training with "Opportunities in Emergency Care"

— a high school level EMT program I have been fortunate enough to teach with for two decades. You may have seen (or more likely, heard!) some of these trainings where we have placed live "actors" in scenarios around the station or city these past few years. The students and staff both benefit from learning alongside our first responders in the fall as they play "victims" and by spring are well versed enough to help write, act out, and evaluate similar scenarios with their teaching staff alongside them. It is an awesome relationship and a great learning tool for everyone involved.

Of course, at its core, there is no way to oversell the amount of work necessary to learn the entry level firefighting skills. At the time of this writing, five MLFD members just passed their final tests, dedicating many nights and weekends over winter to completing Basic & Advanced Firefighter certification as well as

...continued on page 3





## HOT FLASHES (continued from page 2)

Operational Level Hazardous Materials response. This group worked with other firefighters from Long Lake, Mound, Wayzata and Hamel/Loretto building skills and networks throughout our mutual aid area. We are very grateful for their time and dedication!



On April 28th, our five newest firefighter members will receive their department badges at a pinning ceremony--celebrating their hard work as they completed hundreds of hours of training over the past five months.

### APRIL WEATHER PREPAREDNESS AND LAKE SAFETY

(Emergency Manager, Brian Malecha)

**April 7th - 11th was severe weather awareness week in Minnesota.** That week serves as a reminder

to be prepared for sudden and dangerous conditions like thunderstorms, tornadoes and flash floods. If you have not done so, talk with your family about your family emergency plan and what to do when a storm siren goes off. As part of that plan consider assembling a disaster supply kit that includes items like bottled water, non-perishable food, flashlights, extra batteries, medications, and important documents. Identify a safe place in your home to take shelter—preferably a basement or small, windowless room on the lowest level. Sign up for local weather alerts and warnings as well.

Finally, a refresher: a severe weather watch means conditions are possible and a severe weather warning means conditions are happening or imminent. Make sure every member of your household understands what actions to take for each.

**For more resources**, visit Ready.gov or the Minnesota HSEM at [dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem](https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem)

### EVENTS (Asst. Fire Chief, Mike Fox)

By the time this newsletter is published, we should have completed our 3rd annual bike maintenance event at the fire station--helping tune up bikes for neighborhood kids and adults alike. This should help prepare bike owners for spring and National Bike Month (May).



**National  
Prescription  
Drug Take  
Back Day**  
**SATURDAY  
April 26, 2025  
10AM - 2PM**

Safely dispose of any unwanted or expired prescriptions or over-the-counter medications.

You can drop off unused prescription drugs on Saturday, Apr 26, 2025, from 10a–2p at the locations below:

- **Walgreens Golden Valley**  
[2500 Winnetka Avenue, Golden Valley, MN 55427](https://www.walgreens.com/locations/walgreens-golden-valley-mn)
- **Walgreens Rogers**  
[21495 141st Avenue North, Rogers, MN 55374](https://www.walgreens.com/locations/walgreens-rogers-mn)
- **Walgreens Hopkins**  
[1511 Highway 7, Hopkins, Mn 55305](https://www.walgreens.com/locations/walgreens-hopkins-mn)
- **Cub Foods Minneapolis**  
[2850 26th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55406](https://www.cubfoods.com/locations/cub-foods-minneapolis-mn)

**Please Note:** Flushing unused or expired medications down the toilet is generally discouraged because it can contaminate water sources. Wastewater treatment plants are not designed to remove pharmaceuticals, so these chemicals can end up in lakes, rivers, and even drinking water. This can contaminate water supplies, harm aquatic life and contribute to anti-biotic-resistant bacteria.

\*\*\*It is important to know and stick to the expiration date on your medicine. **Using expired medicines is risky and possibly harmful to your health.**\*\*\*

# CITY WATER PROCESS

After finding a contractor to install your water, contact the Plymouth Building Inspections Department at 763-509-5430 and let them know you want to hook up to city water. This initiates an email to you from Plymouth with instructions and a Sewer and Water Hook up Worksheet.

You take the Worksheet and a check for the required fees to the Plymouth Building Inspections Department, 3400 Plymouth Boulevard, Plymouth, MN 55447. The check should be made payable to the City of Medicine Lake. The required fees on the Worksheet are a Water Area charge of \$2813 per parcel plus a WREC charge of \$1523. These do not include permit fees.

## **Contractor Tasks**

### **Before work begins:**

- The contractor applies to the City of Plymouth for the water connect permit and a plumbing permit for any interior water line, including installing the water meter.  
<https://www.plymouthmn.gov/departments/community-economic-development/permits-inspections/city-of-medicine-lake>
- The contractor also applies to the City of Medicine Lake for a Right of Way Permit. This process is handled by Medicine Lake, not Plymouth.  
[www.cityofmedicinelake.com/forms-permits](http://www.cityofmedicinelake.com/forms-permits)
- The contractor(s) must notify the City of Medicine Lake via voicemail at 763-542-9701 minimum three (3) days prior to starting work.

### **After work is complete:**

- The Contractor calls Plymouth to schedule the appropriate inspections and verify correct installation of the exterior work, inside plumbing, and water meter before the water can officially be turned on.
- The contractor calls Medicine Lake at 763-542-9701 for inspection and furnish a completion certificate to Medicine Lake.

**\*\*\*If you are currently obtaining estimates and want to share your information with the community, please reach out to [news@cityofmedicinelake.com](mailto:news@cityofmedicinelake.com) \*\*\***

# FAQs

## **Q: When am I required to get city water?**

**A:**

- Any demolition, remodel, rebuild, or addition to a private property where the value of the project as reported on the official building permit is equal to or more than \$100,000 or 50% of the existing value of the property as reported on the current Hennepin County Assessors estimated market value.
- Any act of splitting, subdividing, or combining of property.
- When the property is sold, advertised for sale or there is any other change or prospective change in the ownership of the property (ex: owner added by deed, transfer on death deed, transfer to a trust, etc.)

## **Q: Am I required to seal my well as part of this process?**

**A:** No, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) allows wells for irrigation purposes as long as there is no cross connection between the water and home domestic water lines. If the well is no longer used, it must be permitted for maintenance by MDH or sealed by a well contractor who is licensed by MDH.

## **Q: How will I be billed for municipal water services?**

**A:** Water bills will be managed by the City of Plymouth utilities. Property owners will be charged based on water usage. The City of Plymouth bills residential customers for utilities every other month.

## **Q: Are there water meters available?**

**A:** As of 3/26/25 Plymouth had both 1" and ¾" meters available. Plymouth provides the meters as part of the installation process. Questions regarding meters should be directed to the City of Plymouth. 763-509-5430

## **Q: How do I find a contractor to install water?**

**A:**

- Search online.
- For a resident's experience from 2024, you may read the October 2024 Laker article by Paul Samson. [The Laker October 2024](#) The information is a little outdated but may be helpful.
- Ask friends and neighbors for recommendations and their experience

## COUNCIL VOTES

**APRIL 7, 2025**

The following motions were approved with Mayor Heim, Councilmembers McNaughton, Hovey, Tomczik, and Zelazny in favor except as noted.



- Agenda
- March 3, 2025 City Council Meeting minutes
- Summary spending, receipts and cash balances through March 31, 2025
- Approve option B for the street entrance project: Keep the median, add in sidewalks each side at entrance, add in additional painted crosswalk at entrance (south end). Councilmembers McNaughton, Hovey and Tomczik in favor. Mayor Heim and Councilmember Zelazny opposed.
- Change Order No. 8 for Veit Construction
- Remand variance request back to the planning commission (McNaughton abstained)
- Resolution 24-11 approval of expenditures for lawn and landscaping services for 2025 and 2026 to Valdes Landcare
- Resolution 25-12 approval of expenditures for development of a subdivision ordinance contract with HKGi (Brad Scheib)
- Adjourn

## GOT NEWS?

**We** hope you're enjoying the all-digital edition of The Medicine Laker! We (the editors) appreciate your patience as we convert to this new format and add new features. We'll still be publishing monthly. Beginning in February the **submission deadline moved to the 10th of each month**. Watch for the edition to get posted to the website on or about the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.

**Send your news to:**

[news@cityofmedicinelake.com](mailto:news@cityofmedicinelake.com)

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS



### PROGRESSIVE DINNER

April 26 (registration required)

### SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, April 28 at 6p

- Liquor License

### MLFD

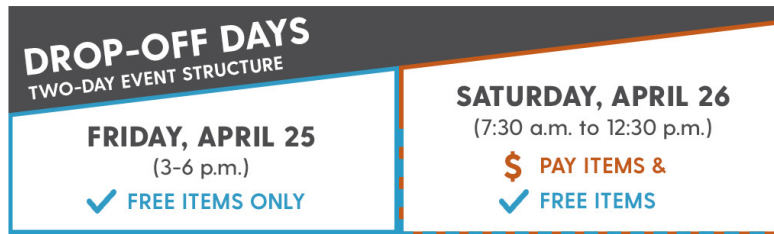
Tuesday, May 6 at 7p

Tuesday, May 20 at 7p

### PLANNING COMMISSION

Thursday, May 15 at 6p

## PLYMOUTH DROP OFF DAYS



**Note: Residents with both free and pay items on Saturday, April 26 should proceed to the pay line. The site will close to all vehicles not in line by 6 p.m. Friday, April 25 or 12:30 p.m. Saturday, April 26.**

### Free Items

The following items are typically accepted in the free line (no cost to drop off these items). *These items will be accepted during both Drop-Off Days – Friday, April 25 and Saturday, April 26.*

- Bicycles and bicycle parts
- Paper to shred (shredding will be on-site) – no 3-ring binders or large binder clips, staples are okay
- Household light bulbs (limit of 25 bulbs): Led, halogen, incandescent, fluorescent, no ballasts
- Household batteries
- Used oil – motor oil, antifreeze and oil filters
- Unused winter deicing salt
- Small appliances: Blenders, coffee makers, toasters, crock pots; items must be working and in good condition
- Textiles: Bedding, sleeping bags, clean fabric; **items must be in good, usable condition\***
- Clothing: Pants, tops, coats, jackets, shoes, hats; **items must be in good, usable condition\***
- Purses and backpacks\*
- Household recycling and cardboard
  - Note: Recycling and cardboard are also accepted daily at the [Recycling Drop-Off Site](#), which will be closed for this event

### Pay Items

The following types of items are accepted in the pay line. These items will only be accepted Saturday, April 26. **Any pay items brought Friday, April 25 will not be accepted.**

This line has a per-trip fee of \$50 per vehicle, or \$100 per vehicle with a trailer or cargo van (maximum length to navigate turns for a vehicle with a trailer is 40 feet). Box trucks cost \$325 per vehicle and may not be more than 25 feet in length.

- Tires (rims must be removed)
- Scrap metal
- BBQ grills (propane tank removed)
- Small engines: Lawn mowers, snow blowers, and leaf blowers (must be empty of gas and oil)
- Furniture, including couches
- Mattresses and box springs
- Undamaged lead acid (vehicle) batteries
- Electronics: televisions, computers, radios, audio and video equipment
- Cell phone and lithium-ion batteries
- Appliances (no commercial appliances): Stoves, refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers, washing machines, dryers, water softeners (salt removed), water heaters
- Remodeling material and construction debris
- Carpet and carpet padding
- Exercise equipment
- Traditional household garbage



# PLYMOUTH DROP OFF DAYS CONTINUED...

## Pricing Structure

Vehicle	Rates
Vehicle/Pickup Truck	\$50
Vehicle with Trailer/Cargo Van	\$100
Box Truck	\$325

## Items Not Accepted

Please do not bring the following items.

- Paint
- Liquids
- Ammonia
- Hazardous waste
- Yard waste
  - Note: Yard waste is accepted Wednesday through Sunday at the [Yard Waste Site](#), which will be closed for this event
- Commercial appliances
- Beer kegs
- Railroad ties and scrap
- Propane tanks

For questions about specific items, contact Plymouth's Solid Waste Division at [recycling@plymouthmn.gov](mailto:recycling@plymouthmn.gov) or 763-509-5906.

### **\*Note: About Textiles and Home Goods:**

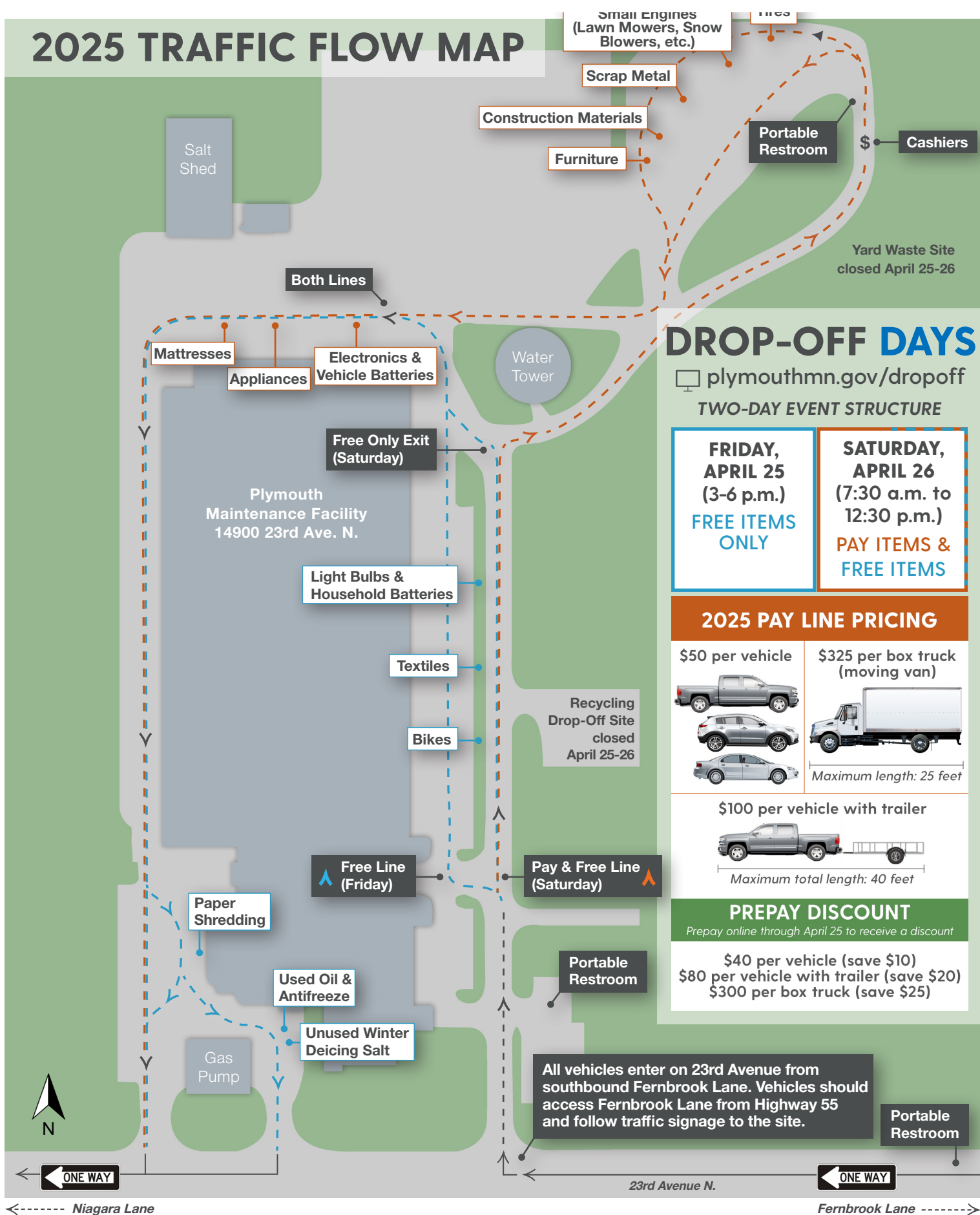
*These items are not tax-deductible.* Items are accepted by Salvation Army and must be in good, usable condition. For questions about specific items, contact Plymouth's Solid Waste Division at [recycling@plymouthmn.gov](mailto:recycling@plymouthmn.gov) or 763-509-5906.

**Wait Times:** Each year, city staff make improvements in an effort to reduce wait times and increase efficiency. However, this is a popular annual event and wait times may vary depending on traffic volume. The site will close to all vehicles not in line by 6 p.m. Friday, April 25 or 12:30 p.m. Saturday, April 26.

No semi-trailers or semi-trucks allowed. **Note: Residents with both free and pay items on Saturday, April 26 should proceed to the pay line.**

**For More Information:** [Plymouth drop-off-day link](#)

# 2025 TRAFFIC FLOW MAP



## DROP-OFF DAYS

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

### TWO-DAY EVENT STRUCTURE

**FRIDAY,  
APRIL 25  
(3-6 p.m.)**

**FREE ITEMS  
ONLY**

**SATURDAY,  
APRIL 26  
(7:30 a.m. to  
12:30 p.m.)**

**PAY ITEMS &  
FREE ITEMS**

### 2025 PAY LINE PRICING

\$50 per vehicle



\$325 per box truck  
(moving van)



Maximum length: 25 feet

\$100 per vehicle with trailer



Maximum total length: 40 feet

### PREPAY DISCOUNT

Prepay online through April 25 to receive a discount

\$40 per vehicle (save \$10)  
\$80 per vehicle with trailer (save \$20)  
\$300 per box truck (save \$25)

**FREE ITEMS ONLY:** Friday, April 25 | **PAY & FREE ITEMS:** Saturday, April 26

**Plymouth Maintenance Facility, 14900 23rd Avenue N.**



# You Are Invited!



**12864 Hwy 55  
Plymouth, MN 55441**

**APRIL 26, 2025  
9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.**

Check out our new third location!

Visit the new warehouse, drop off your donations, and enter to win great door prizes.



**Donate Your Time**



**Donate Your Money**



**Donate Your Stuff**

**[Bridging.org/Plymouth](https://Bridging.org/Plymouth)**