

PLYMOUTH NEWS

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Get hands on and up close with the Plymouth Fire Department at its open house, noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 15 at Fire Station III, 3300 Dunkirk Lane. N.

Park projects include 'pump track,' Northwest Greenway and renovations

This summer, the city continued to invest in its nationally accredited park system. Plymouth became the first city in Minnesota to unveil a pump track, construction resumed on the Northwest Greenway, a new neighborhood park was finalized and existing parks were renovated.

State's First 'Pump Track'

A first for Minnesota, Plymouth installed a new pump track this year, just west of 4 Paws Dog Park at Plymouth Playfield, 9755 36th Ave. N. This new style of track consists of 210 feet of looped track with waves and berms for bicyclists or skateboarders to use their body weight and gravity to propel themselves through the course.



The City of Plymouth has installed Minnesota's first pump track – a 210-foot looped track for bicyclists and skateboarders.

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Voters have more options for casting a ballot this year. Direct balloting begins Nov. 1 and absentee voting begins Sept. 23 for the Nov. 8 general election.

2040 Comprehensive Plan open house slated for Sept. 8 at the Creek Center

The City of Plymouth is updating its long-term vision for the community's future, and the public is invited to be part of the two-year process.

The city will host an open house to share information and garner feedback on one of the Comprehensive Plan's major components – land use – 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 8 at the Plymouth Creek Center, 14800 34th Ave. N.

The event will include a short presentation at 6:45 p.m., which will be repeated at 7:45 p.m. Staff will be on hand to answer questions and take feedback. Land use classifications throughout the vast majority of Plymouth are expected to remain the same. However, a handful of areas will be identified for potential change and special study.



The City of Plymouth will host an informational Comprehensive Plan open house 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 8 at the Plymouth Creek Center, 14800 34th Ave. N.

Comp Plan ... continued on page 2



Big projects in Plymouth are nearing completion

Later this year, drivers should see the benefit of two road projects that have posed commuting challenges for nearly two years. Major project work on Vicksburg Lane and Interstate 494 is expected to wrap up as the construction season winds down in 2016.

The Vicksburg Lane reconstruction project reaches the home stretch heading into late summer. Grading operations, utility work and the bridge over the railroad are more than 80 percent complete and the contractor is on pace to finish the project on schedule. The stretch of Vicksburg from Schmidt Lake Road to County Road 47 remains fully closed for the construction season. Detour routes are Lawndale and Peony lanes. For more information and to sign up for email updates, visit plymouthmn.gov/vicksburg.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation's two-year I-494 rehabilitation project, which will add a permanent third lane between Highway 55 and East Fish Lake Road, is expected to reach substantial completion late this year. Until then, construction on I-494 is in full swing between I-394 and the Fish Lake Interchange. Two lanes of traffic are open in each direction through the project area. Visit mndot.gov/metro/projects/i494plymouth for more information and email updates.

A Summer Classic: Music in Plymouth 2016



Music in Plymouth drew thousands to the Hilde Performance Center on a beautiful summer night in Plymouth. Clockwise from top: The Jack Brass Band got the crowd moving with its New Orleans-style music. Fire dancers amazed attendees prior to the fireworks. More than 10,000 people attended this year's festivities. The Minnesota Orchestra headlined the event with a world-class performance.



Comp Plan ... from page 1

Residents living in close proximity (750 feet) of areas where land use designations could change will receive a mailed notice of the open house. A map showing areas for potential changes within the draft land use plan is posted at plymouthmn.gov/2040CompPlan. The plan is tentatively slated to go to the Planning Commission and City Council for review on Sept. 21 and Oct. 11, respectively.

Comprehensive Plan

The 2040 Comprehensive Plan guides community development, redevelopment and public improvements. It includes plans for land use, transportation, housing, sanitary

sewer, water supply, surface water, public facilities, parks, trails and open spaces in the city.

Planning Manager Barbara Thomson noted that the 2040 Comprehensive Plan is expected to involve less change than the last update 10 years ago. At that time, northwest Plymouth was still largely undeveloped and the plan needed to layout the future vision for the area.

Thomson noted that this time around, redevelopment in commercial and industrial spaces in Plymouth will be an important area of focus.

“Moving forward, we want to ensure that the business community continues to thrive and that we anticipate changes in commercial-industrial areas over time,” she said.

Minnesota law requires municipalities in the seven-county metropolitan area to review and, if necessary, revise comprehensive plans every 10 years.

Plymouth’s 2040 Comprehensive Plan is slated to go to the Metropolitan Council, a regional planning agency, for consideration in 2018.

Stay Informed

For more information about the 2040 Comprehensive Plan, including a tentative timeline for the update process, visit plymouthmn.gov/2040CompPlan.

Residents can also sign up for email updates about the Comprehensive Plan at plymouthmn.gov/eNotify.

Get an inside look at the Fire Department

Get hands on and up close with the Plymouth Fire Department at its annual open house noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 15 at Fire Station III, 3300 Dunkirk Lane. N.

The free event allows children and families to interact with firefighters and other emergency service personnel in fun ways that promote safety. Attendees can view a kitchen grease fire demonstration, climb inside a fire truck, shoot water from a fire hose and meet a police K9.

Don't Miss

- Inflatable bouncers
- Complimentary refreshments
- Water rescue boat
- SWAT team
- Drowning awareness, pool rescue information
- Face painting
- North Memorial ambulance and helicopter
- Home Depot building station
- Low-cost bike helmet year-end closing sale
- Games

The Competition Heats Up

A crowd favorite, the Plymouth Fire and Police departments will face off in the Buffalo Wild Wings Blazin’ Wing Challenge during the open house.

Firefighters and police officers will attempt to eat 12 of the hottest chicken wings in less than six minutes without a beverage, dipping sauces or napkins. The sauce is reputed to be 60 times hotter than jalapeño peppers.



The Plymouth Fire Department will host its annual open house Saturday, Oct. 15 at Fire Station III. The free event allows residents to get a hands-on look at the fire service.



Open house events include games, inflatable bouncers, complimentary refreshments and a visit from the North Memorial helicopter (pictured above).

This year is the third of the challenge – and the Fire Department remains undefeated. For more information, call Public Safety Education Specialist Sara Cwayna at 763-509-5198 or visit plymouthmn.gov.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Volunteer!

The city is seeking volunteers who are:

Interested in serving as Police Explorer volunteers. Must be 14-20 years old, able to meet weekly during the school year to explore law enforcement careers. Applicants begin the program in September.

Passionate about the environment and green things. Greet and direct residents dropping off brush and leaves at the Yard Waste Site through November. Remove buckthorn, Oct. 22, 29 and Nov. 5. Groups welcome.

Friendly and love to provide good service. Help with activities during Plymouth on Parade (Sept. 24), Halloween at the Creek (Oct. 28) and Plymouth Arts Fair (Nov. 19-20).

Enthusiastic about winter sports. Take tickets at high school hockey games November through February.

To find out more about these and other upcoming opportunities, call 763-509-5230 or visit plymouthmn.gov/volunteer.

Take a Closer Look



Deb Rousu

Deb Rousu

Human Resources and Special Projects and Events Volunteer

As a Human Resources Volunteer my job is to regularly provide administrative support to the department,

including making copies for special projects, preparing envelopes for mailings and preparing folders for interviews. I have also worked with events, including the Plymouth Home Expo and the Tree & Shrub Sale, done data entry and special mailings for forestry, mailings and assembly projects for various city departments, registration for summer programs and cleaned various equipment for the City Clerk Division to support the voting process.

My favorite thing about being a city volunteer is interacting with so many wonderful city employees and volunteers. I have always felt that volunteering is important – a chance to give back to the community. It also helps me keep current with the different events Plymouth has to offer its residents.

Because Deb volunteers, Human Resources and other departments are supported in an efficient and timely manner. Additionally, residents are met with a warm, welcoming greeter who serves as an ambassador for city programs and events.

HAPPENINGS

Firefighters 5K – Saturday, Sept. 24 at Fire Station II, 12000 Old Rockford Road. The 12th-annual 5K run/walk begins at 9 a.m. A free Kids Fun Run begins at 10 a.m. Pre-registration through Sept. 10 is \$20 and is available at active.com. Regular registration is \$25. The registration fee includes a long-sleeve T-shirt.

Mail-in registration forms can be picked up at City Hall, 3400 Plymouth Blvd., or downloaded from the city website. Race day registration is available. Call 763-546-9220 or email pfdr5k@gmail.com for more information. Proceeds benefit the Plymouth Crime and Fire Prevention Fund.

Music in Plymouth Wine Tasting Fundraiser – 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 29 at the Plymouth Creek Center, 14800 34th Ave. N. The Music in Plymouth Endowment Fund will host a wine tasting fundraiser featuring hors d’oeuvres, live music and the opportunity to win gift baskets. Raffle tickets for a specially chosen flight of wines will be sold for \$10. Event tickets cost \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door. For tickets, call 763-551-7256, email johnb@satelliteco.com or visit musicinplymouth.org.

Fall Plant Swap – 4:30-6:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 12 at the parking lot across the street from the Plymouth Maintenance Facility, 14900 23rd Ave. N. The Stewards for Greening Plymouth will host a free plant swap.

Participants are encouraged to bring perennials and swap them for new plants shared by others. To get involved, place extra plants in pots and label them with their common names. Seeds and plant wares pots, tools, books and the like are also good swap items.

For more information about the plant swap, call City Forester Paul Buck at 763-509-5944.

History on Parade Tour – 1-3:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 9 at the Plymouth Historical Society, 3605 Fernbrook Lane. Cost is \$13 per person. Sit back and take a tour of Plymouth’s history in a classic transit bus with the Plymouth Historical Society. The tour will leave the old town hall and visit several historical sites. Guests will learn about historical farms, homes, schools and churches. Space is limited.

To reserve a spot, contact Gary Schiebe, 763-473-4889 or email garyschiebe@isp.com.

Pen your planner for Plymouth on Parade

Fire trucks whirling, marching bands twirling and children's smiles curling – the 19th annual Plymouth on Parade is Saturday, Sept. 24.

The free event begins 11:30 a.m. with a parade down Plymouth Boulevard, from 34th to 37th avenues, followed by entertainment and family activities from 1-3 p.m.

A variety of units will participate in the parade, including Armstrong and Wayzata high school marching bands, Twin Cities Unicycle Club, Twin Cities Metro Pipe Band and the Minne-Brass Bugle Corps.

Following the parade, free family activities and entertainment will be held at the Hilde Performance Center, 3500 Plymouth Blvd.

Attractions include face painting, inflatables and live music.

In addition, open swimming, gym and ice skating will be available at Life Time Fitness and the Plymouth Ice Center, next to the Hilde Performance Center. The Plymouth Concert Band will also perform.



Tweet your parade pictures with #PlymouthonParade for a chance to be retweeted by the City of Plymouth on Twitter, @PlymouthMN_gov.

All activities and entertainment are free and open to the public. However, attendees are encouraged to bring cash for food truck concessions.

The event is co-sponsored by the City of Plymouth, TCF Bank, Allina Health/Abbott Northwestern-WestHealth, Park Dental, Life Time Fitness and Channel 12.

General election set for Nov. 8, new voting option

With the availability of direct balloting and absentee voting, voters have more options for casting a ballot than in previous years. While the general election is set for Tuesday, Nov. 8, direct balloting begins Tuesday, Nov. 1 and absentee voting begins Friday, Sept. 23.

The general election includes city, state and federal offices. The voting location for precinct 1 has changed since last election. Registered voters in that area received a notice specifying the new polling place.

Vote Early with Direct Balloting

New this year, direct balloting allows residents to vote in person up to a week early, beginning Tuesday, Nov. 1.

To vote early via direct balloting, voters must complete an application and vote in person during normal business hours at Plymouth City Hall, 3400 Plymouth Blvd. Direct ballots are fed through a tabulator machine – just like on Election Day. The process does not require the use of absentee ballot envelopes.

Plymouth City Hall will be open extended hours for direct balloting. City Hall is open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday-Friday Nov. 1-4; 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 5; and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Nov. 7.

Absentee Voting Begins Sept. 23

Voters who cannot get to the polls may vote by absentee ballot beginning Friday, Sept. 23. Absentee voting is a two-step process that can be done in person or by mail.

In Person: Complete the process at City Hall, 3400 Plymouth Blvd., open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesdays. City Hall will be open extended hours 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 5, and Monday, Nov. 7 until 5 p.m.

By Mail: Absentee ballot applications are available from the city website or by calling Hennepin County Elections at 612-348-5151. Hennepin County will mail an absentee ballot to those eligible. The city must receive all absentee ballots by 3 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 8. Please be sure to allow enough time to request the application and mail it back to:

Hennepin County Elections
300 South 6th Street
012 Skyway Level Government Center
Minneapolis, MN 55487

Military & Overseas Voters: Members of the military or those residing overseas must follow a different process for absentee voting. Visit hennepin.us for details.



Candidates file for three open City Council seats

The following City Council seats will be on the ballot in the Tuesday, Nov. 8 general election:

- Ward 1, Northwest – Four-year term
- Ward 3, Southeast – Four-year term
- At-Large – Four-year term

At press time, the final list of council candidates who had filed for office was not available. To view the list of City Council candidates who will be on the ballot, visit plymouthmn.gov. The names of City Council candidates will also be published in the next issue of the Plymouth News. Top vote getters will assume office January 2017.

Candidate Forum set for Oct. 18

A League of Women Voters-sponsored candidate forum is set for 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 18 at City Hall, 3400 Plymouth Blvd. The public is invited. Video of the forum will be available on the Channel 12 website and replayed by Northwest Community Television on Channel 12. To watch or find replay times, check twelve.tv/politicalforums.



Investments in the park system this summer include continued construction of the Northwest Greenway.

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NW Greenway Construction

Construction continued on the Northwest Greenway project, from Vicksburg Lane heading west. This year's work completed an 8- to 12-foot-wide east/west paved linear trail connecting to the Plymouth Dog Park, south of County Road 47 between Peony and Dunkirk lanes. A pedestrian bridge was also installed over Vicksburg Lane in conjunction with the Vicksburg Lane reconstruction project.

Since 2000, the city has been working toward its vision of the Greenway – a more than 350-acre reserve of land with a carefully situated looping paved trail allowing access for walkers and bikers.

Neighborhood Park, New Features

Construction on a new neighborhood park on Garland Lane is underway. Sitting on a 2.39-acre parcel, Aspen Ridge Park has trails connecting to the Northwest Greenway, and includes a basketball court and a unique circular play area.

Lovers of pickleball can start warming up. A sport that combines elements of tennis, badminton and ping pong, a dedicated pickleball court installation will begin this fall at Bass Lake Playfield, 5450 Northwest Blvd.

Park Renovation Projects

Two neighborhood parks – Three Ponds and Gateway parks – received playground equipment renovations this year, in addition to fresh paint, new signage and refreshed landscaping.

In addition, trails were rebuilt and a new boardwalk installed at Three Ponds Park. Tennis court renovation will also be completed by fall at Parkers Lake Playfield, 15500 County Road 6.

The city replaces or renovates parks and park equipment as needed to maintain safe community amenities. The average life of a playground is about 15 to 17 years.

Business recycling grants available

Hennepin County is offering grants to encourage recycling, and Plymouth businesses could benefit. Grants of up to \$50,000 are available for businesses to start or improve programs to divert recyclables and organics (food and nonrecyclable paper) from the trash.

Most businesses and nonprofits are eligible – including large office buildings, small churches, restaurants and apartment buildings.

The grants can provide funds to help pay for the installation process, hauling service and purchase of containers and equipment, as well as pay for minor improvements to loading docks and waste enclosures.

Hennepin County will assist businesses with the grant application process, review project ideas, evaluate potential costs and savings, and offer resources to improve recycling and organics programs. For information or an application, visit hennepin.us/businessrecycling or call 612-543-1316.

SEASONAL SPOTLIGHT



Outdoor Water Restrictions – Outdoor water use restrictions are in effect from May through September in Plymouth. The city prohibits outdoor lawn watering from noon to 5 p.m. on all days. Water customers must also follow an odd-even schedule when sprinkling lawns. Homeowners and businesses with addresses ending in an odd number may water on odd-numbered calendar days. Those with addresses ending in an even number, may water on even-numbered days. For exceptions to restrictions and more information, call the hotline at 763-509-5512 or visit plymouthmn.gov/watering.

Yard Waste Site Hours – Fall hours are in effect September through November at the city-operated Yard Waste Site, 14900 23rd Ave. N. The site is open 3-6 p.m. Wednesday-Friday and 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The site is closed Mondays and Tuesdays throughout the season. Only Plymouth, Wayzata, Long Lake and Medicine Lake residents may use the site and identification is required. The Yard Waste Site closes for major holidays. For acceptable materials and more information, visit plymouthmn.gov/yardwaste or call 763-509-5513 (press 4).

Social Snapshot.


A look at what you may have missed

Keeping the city’s expansive utilities system working is no short order, and it’s impossible to predict what each day will bring. For instance, one day this summer, five Utilities Division workers made a few new feathered friends and captured the attention of thousands on social media.

The workers reunited a mother duck with her five ducklings after retrieving the young ones from a storm pipe. Occasionally, ducklings will become trapped in storm drains because they are small enough to fall through the grating.

When this happened in northern Plymouth, the Utilities Division responded quickly to rescue the ducklings and return them to their mother in a nearby wetland.

The story was posted to Plymouth’s social media accounts with photos provided by a resident who witnessed the event. The post reached more than 7,600 people on Facebook and earned more than 1,300 impressions on Twitter. Follow the city’s social media accounts to see more stories.

**City of Plymouth, MN - Local Government** added 3 new photos.
June 27 · 🌐

All in a day's work: A worried mama duck was reunited with her five ducklings today thanks to the Plymouth Public Works Department. Five members of the Utilities Division staff saved the ducklings after they had slipped down a storm drain in the area of 46th Avenue and Underwood Court. Workers retrieved the ducklings from the storm pipe, placed them in a large bucket and reunited them with their thankful mom in a nearby wetland. Thanks to the resident who shared these pictures with us. [#everydayheroes](#)



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 [@PlymouthMN_gov](https://twitter.com/PlymouthMN_gov)

Budget milestones on the horizon

By Mayor Kelli Slavik

City service levels and capital projects are top of mind for the City Council this time of year. In August, the council began reviewing and fine tuning the proposed 2017 city budget, along with the five-year capital improvement plan.

The budget process will continue through the end of the year when the City Council adopts the budget and CIP. Budget proposals undergo careful review by department directors, finance and human resources staff, and the city manager before they are presented to the City Council. Before adoption, the City Council also dedicates four to five study sessions reviewing proposed departmental budgets with city staff.

The council spends this time because it recognizes the importance of carefully allocating limited tax dollars for the many city services that enhance our community’s quality of life, including police, fire, street maintenance, snowplowing, parks, recreation programs, development oversight and more. Residents can follow the budget process at the meetings below. All meetings will be at City Hall, 3400 Plymouth Blvd.

Upcoming Budget Milestones

- **7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 13:** Council adopts the preliminary city tax levy and budget. Once a preliminary levy is adopted, it may not be increased – it may only be lowered.
- **7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 5:** Planning Commission holds public hearing on the 2017-2021 CIP.
- **5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 25:** Council reviews utility rates.
- **5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 15:** Final City Council budget study session. This will give the council another opportunity to fine tune the budget and staff a chance to address any remaining questions.
- **7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 13:** Budget public hearing and CIP, budget and 2017 levy adoption.

Residents can also learn more about city finances by viewing the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report online at plymouthmn.gov/financialreport. It offers detailed information on the city’s financial status.

Plymouth News is published bimonthly by the City of Plymouth to update residents and businesses on city government news.

City Council

- Kelli Slavik**, Mayor
763-509-5007 (voice mail), kslavik@plymouthmn.gov
- Judy Johnson**, Ward 1
763-509-5001 (voice mail), jjohnson@plymouthmn.gov
- Jeffry Wosje**, Ward 2
763-509-5002 (voice mail), jwosje@plymouthmn.gov
- Marge Beard**, Ward 3
763-509-5003 (voice mail), mbeard@plymouthmn.gov
- Jim Prom**, Ward 4
763-509-5004 (voice mail), jprom@plymouthmn.gov
- Ned Carroll**, At Large
763-509-5005 (voice mail), ncarroll@plymouthmn.gov
- Jim Willis**, At Large
763-509-5006 (voice mail), jwillis@plymouthmn.gov

Contact the City

Phone..... 763-509-5000
MN Relay (Hearing/Speech Impaired) 7-1-1
Hours:
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday

View Meetings

Live on Channel 16, 7 p.m.
On-demand video link at city website
City Council: Sept. 13, 27 and Oct. 11, 25
Planning Commission: Sept. 7, 21 and Oct. 5, 19

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