

PLYMOUTH NEWS

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The Plymouth City Council has adopted the 2017 budget, which includes funding for public safety improvements, such as new firefighter and police officer positions.

Winter delights at Fire & Ice

Head outdoors and embrace winter at Plymouth's Fire & Ice Festival, set for 3-7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 4 at Parkers Lake Park, off of County Road 6 and Niagara Lane.

The annual winter festival – in its 28th year – features recycling bin races, a youth ice fishing contest, the goofy hat contest, hayrides, pony and sled-dog rides, miniature golf on the ice, snow bowling, box hockey, recreational skating, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing – weather permitting.

If it gets chilly, attendees can warm up at a bonfire with s'mores and hot chocolate, while supplies last, sponsored by Step by Step Montessori. Food trucks will also be on site.



The 2017 Fire & Ice Festival promises a day of winter fun, including a youth ice fishing contest, a goofy hat contest, recycle bin races and more Saturday, Feb. 4.

Fire & Ice 2017 ... continued on page 3

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Community members can enjoy free health screenings, massages, health information sessions, giveaways and more at the Healthy Living Fair, set for Sunday, March 5.

Plan proposed for Four Seasons Mall site

The site of the former Four Seasons Mall has posed a redevelopment challenge in Plymouth for more than five years. Heading into 2017, the City Council will be considering a development proposal to completely transform the site.

The 40-year-old strip mall at Highway 169 and Rockford Road was offered for sale in 2015. The redevelopment proposal started coming together last year, and is moving closer to becoming reality.

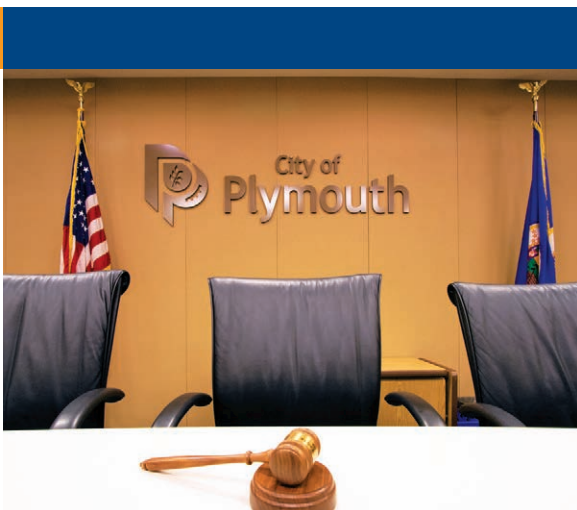
The Plan

Though details at press time are preliminary, the current development proposal is a mixed-use, multi-tenant development that utilizes all of the more than 17-acre site.



Major redevelopment is being considered for the former Four Seasons Mall site. The proposed project includes two hotels, senior housing, commercial uses and a parking ramp.

Four Seasons ... continued on page 2



Three Plymouth City Council seats were on the 2016 ballot. New council members begin terms in early January.

City Council members take seats in January

Three Plymouth City Council seats were on the 2016 general election ballot. New council members begin their terms in early January.

Jim Davis was elected to serve a four-year term as the Ward 3 (southeast Plymouth) council member, replacing outgoing council member Marge Beard.

Jim Willis was re-elected to a four-year term as an at-large council member, representing all wards.

Judy Johnson was re-elected to a four-year term as the Ward 1 council member, representing the northwestern portion of Plymouth.

Not included in the 2016 general election were Mayor Kelli Slavik, Ward 2 Council Member Jeff Wosje, Ward 4 Council Member Jim Prom and At-Large Council Member Ned Carroll.

Presents with Public Safety



In December, Plymouth's Presents with Public Safety program paired police officers and firefighters with local children to shop for holiday gifts at Target. Presents with Public Safety was made possible through generous donations of \$1,000 each from the Rotary Club of Plymouth and Plymouth Lions Club, and through the volunteered personal time of the officers and firefighters.



SEASONAL SPOTLIGHT



Winter Parking/Plowing – To improve snow plowing efficiency, residents are reminded of the winter parking ordinance. Parking is prohibited on streets after a 2.5-inch snowfall until the street is plowed to the curbs. Violators may be tagged and towed. Plymouth also has a year-round ordinance that prohibits parking on city streets 2-5 a.m.

The city asks for your cooperation:

- Do not shovel, plow or blow snow into the street. Blowing snow in the street makes it more difficult to clear streets, particularly cul-de-sacs.
- Please keep your mailbox clear to ensure that postal delivery can continue.
- If it is likely that streets will be plowed on your collection day, place garbage and recycling containers 3 feet behind the curb in your driveway to prevent waste from being scattered.
- Please clear snow and ice around fire hydrants near your house.

For more information about snow removal operations, or to sign up for eNotify emails about snow plowing, visit plymouthmn.gov/snow.

City Offices Closed for Holidays – City offices are closed on Monday, Jan. 16 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Monday, Feb. 20 for Presidents Day.

Four Seasons ... from page 1

The developer, Rock Hill Management, envisions a site that includes two hotels, senior housing, commercial uses (retail and office space) and a parking ramp available for transit park and ride. Plymouth Community Development Director Steve Juetten said the plan closely fits the city's expectation for appropriate use of the site.

"From a high-level perspective, it's exciting to see a proposal for a full mixed-use development on this site," Juetten said.

The Challenges

Redevelopment poses a number of challenges to builders interested in transforming an aging property. Challenges of the Four Seasons site include parking, traffic and soil conditions. Traffic is expected to increase, but stay within the capacity of the adjacent Lancaster Lane N. and Rockford Road intersection.

The developer is also working to create a stormwater system that benefits not just the site, but boosts water quality in the surrounding area.

The Benefits

Plymouth Economic Development Manager Danette Parr said that the proposal includes some exciting and needed elements for the area.

"The plan features a vibrant development that reinvigorates commercial use in this part of the city," Parr said. "It reflects great use of the space and we feel it will be a strong asset for the community."

She noted that the developer intends to meet underserved needs in the area, including hotels, a park and ride ramp and retail options.

Timeline

At press time, the City Council was tentatively scheduled to consider approvals needed for the project at two meetings – Tuesdays, Jan. 17 and Jan. 24. To stay abreast of City Council meeting agendas, sign up to receive email notifications at plymouthmn.gov/enotify. Select categories for both Special and Regular City Council meeting agendas.

Parks and Recreation launches new activity registration software

At the end of 2016, Parks and Recreation flipped the switch on its new online registration software in time for upcoming winter and spring programming.

The new system is more user friendly and offers new search features that allow residents to select the programs and activities best for them.

Create an Account

All users must create a new account with the system, regardless of whether or not they have previously registered for activities with Plymouth Parks and Recreation.

In the past, residents were required to call the Parks and Recreation Department to set up an account. With the new system, the entire process is completed online by the user.

After registering, residents receive a confirmation email. Please note that account finalization can take up to two business days.

When registering, be sure to add all family members to the account. Adding a family member after account finalization requires a telephone call with Parks and Recreation staff.



Residents who participate in Plymouth's variety of Parks and Recreation programs will notice a new online registration system. All users must create a new account.

New Features

The new system allows residents to purchase tickets for some of the city's paid events. Users can also print off a calendar of their activities. Residents are able to use the system to search for and request facility rentals.

The new software also improves efficiency and account management for Parks and Recreation staff.

Visit plymouthmn.gov/recreation to learn more and sign up.

FEMA updates flood hazard maps

The Federal Emergency Management Agency recently updated its flood hazard maps for Hennepin County, which includes areas of Plymouth.

The updated maps are the result of a multiyear FEMA project to re-evaluate flood risks in the county, replacing the maps that had been adopted in 2004.

Flood Insurance

Any property owner whose property is affected by a floodplain and has a mortgage or secured loan from a federally regulated or insured lender is required to carry flood insurance. Lenders are reviewing Hennepin County mortgages to verify that affected property owners have flood insurance. Property owners will be notified that they must purchase flood insurance within 45 days. If a policy is not purchased within this time period, the lender may force place a policy, which is typically much more expensive.

For information about flood insurance, property owners should contact their insurance agent or browse the insurance agent finder section of FEMA's flood insurance website, floodsmart.gov.

Appeal Process

There are often scenarios where the boundaries of the floodplain do not accurately reflect the true topographic characteristics of a site. In much of Plymouth, the floodplain boundaries have not been updated since they were originally mapped in the early 1980s. Residents who believe their property is higher than the actual flood elevation may submit an appeal through a Letter of Map Amendment process.

For more information on the update, submitting a LOMA or mitigating flood risk, contact the Planning Division at 763-509-5450 or planning@plymouthmn.gov.

IN BRIEF



Water Meter Project Nearly Done – The water meter upgrade project is nearing completion. The project, which began early last year, involves swapping out all of the outdated water meters in Plymouth for new radio-read models.

The goal of the project is to improve the consistency of water meter readings, make meter reading operations more efficient and replace a system that had exceeded its expected useful life.

"As we wrap up this project, we want to thank the homeowners and businesses that were involved,"

Administrative Services Director Luke Fischer said. "Because of everyone's patience and cooperation, the project progressed smoothly – and the city now has a more efficient, effective water meter system."

More information about the project is available at plymouthmn.gov/newmeters.

City Council Adopts 2017 Budget – With an eye towards improved public safety, the Plymouth City Council adopted the 2017 budget, which includes a general fund increase of \$1.2 million (roughly 3 percent) from 2016. The budget includes the addition of six full-time firefighters and two new police officer positions. As Plymouth's population grows, so does demand for police and fire services. The budget features a 4.9 percent levy increase, which includes funding for street reconstruction, capital improvements, recreation, park replacement and public safety improvements.

More information about the budget and Capital Improvement Program is available online at plymouthmn.gov/financialreport. Also available online is the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), which provides detailed information on the city's financial status and practices.

Fire & Ice 2017 ... from page 1

An interactive DJ will take the stage that evening, followed by fire dancers. The finale of the event – fireworks sponsored by the Plymouth Civic League – will begin around 6:30 p.m.

Shuttle Service

Free shuttles to and from the event will run from 3:30-7:30 p.m. at Oakwood Playfield, 1700 County Road 101.

Medallion Hunt

The seventh-annual medallion hunt begins Thursday, Jan. 5 with a clue on plymouthmn.gov and the city's social media platforms.

Additional clues will be published Jan. 12, 19 and 26, or until someone finds the medallion.

There is no need to register or pay to participate.

A \$250 prize will be awarded to the first sleuth who finds the medallion. Only Plymouth residents are eligible to participate in the medallion hunt. For more information on the hunt, visit the city website.



Fire dancers return to the stage for the 2017 Fire & Ice Festival in Plymouth. The event also features games, dog sled rides, s'mores, fireworks and more.

More Information

Fire & Ice is free, aside from food trucks, and open to the public. A detailed schedule of events – including times – will be posted at plymouthmn.gov in early January. For weather or cancellation concerns, call the weather hotline at 763-509-5205 or check plymouthmn.gov.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Volunteer!

The city is seeking volunteers who are:

Friendly and love to provide good service.

Help with a variety of fun outdoor activities during the Fire & Ice Festival on Saturday, Feb. 4.

Save the following dates, more information will be available in the next Plymouth News:

- Plymouth Home Expo, April 7-8
- Primavera fine arts event, April 19-23

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

Take a Closer Look



Rich Krahulec

Rich Krahulec

Photographer and Adopt a Park volunteer

As a volunteer, my job is to take pictures as directed by the Parks and Recreation Department and as requested by other departments. These photos may be used

for promoting programs, such as preschool soccer and Tae Kwon Do, or to document an event. I have also adopted Three Ponds Park, so I walk through there about once a week picking up trash and generally keeping an eye on the place. Check out the great new playground!

My favorite thing about being a city volunteer is that I love taking all kinds of pictures. As a volunteer photographer, so far I've been able to take pictures for the Parks and Recreation, Police and Fire departments. These projects have taken me outside my normal photographic comfort level, which is wildlife and landscapes.

Because Rich volunteers, more current and representative photos can be used to promote Parks and Recreation programs in the catalog and in other marketing materials.



HAPPENINGS



Healthy Living Fair – 1-4 p.m. Sunday, March 5, Plymouth Creek Center, 14800 34th Ave. N. Free. Community members can enjoy free health screenings, massages, health information sessions, giveaways and more. The fair is hosted by the City of Plymouth, Abbott Northwestern-WestHealth, and Allina Hospitals and Clinics.

Skate with the Mayor – 5-8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 20, Parkers Lake warming house, County Road 6 and Niagara Lane. Free. Bring a friend or the whole family to enjoy skating and conversation with Plymouth Mayor Kelli Slavik. Warm fingers and toes by the fire, and enjoy tasty treats.

Indoor Walking – Beat the cold and get some free indoor exercise this winter at the Plymouth Creek Center Fieldhouse, 14800 34th Ave. N. Hours may vary weekly. For hours, call 763-509-5292.

Walk with a Doc – 11 a.m. to noon Tuesdays, Feb. 7 and March 7, Plymouth Creek Center Fieldhouse, 14800 34th Ave. N. Free. As part of an initiative to encourage healthy practices in Plymouth, residents are invited to take a 45-minute walk with a local doctor, who will share information on a health-related topic and answer questions during the event. Participants will receive a water bottle. No registration is required.

Wedding Expo – 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 11, Plymouth Creek Center, 14800 34th Ave. N. The expo will showcase wedding services and suppliers, including exclusive caterers, party rentals, florists, bakeries, photographers and more.

Cost is \$2 if preregistered or \$5 at the door. To preregister for the event, call the Plymouth Creek Center at 763-509-5280.



'The Life We Bury' chosen for Plymouth READS

Plymouth READS has announced “The Life We Bury” by Allen Eskens as its 2017 book selection.

The novel, set in Minnesota, tells of Joe Talbert's class assignment to write a story about an interesting life.

Dying and medically paroled Carl Iverson agrees to tell his story and Joe sets out to unravel the fascinating tapestry of a 30-year-old murder case.

In its eighth year, Plymouth READS promotes public literacy and participation through an annual book selection, which the community is invited to read.

Copies of this year's book selection will be available at the Plymouth Library, 15700 36th Ave. N.

Plymouth READS is co-sponsored by Friends of the Plymouth Library, Plymouth Library, City of Plymouth and the Plymouth Arts Council.

Upcoming Events

Kickoff Celebration – 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 4 at the Plymouth Library. Representatives from the Innocence Project of Minnesota will discuss the organization, and share stories of efforts to free the wrongfully convicted.

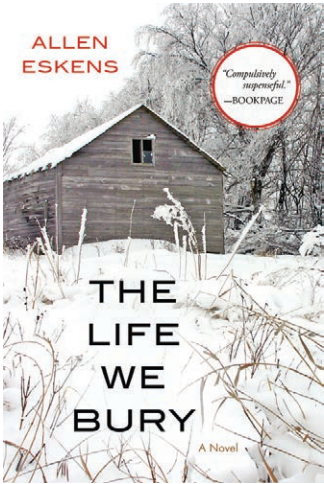
Movie Viewing – 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 18 at the Plymouth Library. The documentary “After Innocence” tells the compelling stories of seven prisoners exonerated through DNA evidence.

Community Discussion – 2 p.m. Saturday, April 22 or 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 25 at the Plymouth Library.

Literary Night – 6:30 p.m. Sunday, April 23 at the Plymouth Creek Center, 14800 34th Ave. N. Meet author Allen Eskens who will speak, answer questions and sign books. Books will be available for purchase.



This year's Plymouth READS program features “The Life We Bury” by author Allen Eskens.



For additional information about Plymouth READS, call the Plymouth Library at 612-543-5825.



✂ Clip and save



Yard Waste Site, recycling dates

Curbside recycling:

Collections will be one day late when the following holidays fall on a weekday (not on a weekend) on or before your collection day: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. For details, visit plymouthmn.gov/recycling.



Yard Waste Site Opens for Season: Wednesday, April 5, weather permitting. The Yard Waste Site is closed Mondays, Tuesdays and certain holidays (see below). Details at plymouthmn.gov/yardwaste.

Drop-Off Day: 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, April 29 at the Maintenance Facility, 14900 23rd Ave. N. Details at plymouthmn.gov/dropoff.

Recycling Drop-Off Center: Open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. Next to the Maintenance Facility. Closed on holidays (see below). Available to residents and small businesses.

Holiday Closings: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Presidents Day, Easter, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day and the Friday after, Christmas Eve and Day. Both sites are closed until 1 p.m. Saturday, April 29 during Drop-Off Day.

plymouthmn.gov



Social Snapshot.

A look at what you may have missed

As part of Plymouth's ongoing economic development initiative, the city's social media platforms often spotlight Plymouth's vibrant business community.

Photos from engineering firms opening new locations, grand openings of health specialist offices, banks starting new branches and more are periodically shared with Facebook and Twitter followers.

The city also regularly shares posts of interest from media outlets that feature local businesses – from a video about an innovative cheese curd producer, Curdtown, to interviews with CEOs from major med tech companies, such as Entellus Medical.

Ribbon cutting ceremonies, updates about local companies winning awards and more, Plymouth's social media accounts are a go-to source to keep informed about the wide range of news developing in the city's thriving business sector.



City of Plymouth, MN - Local Government
November 19 at 7:35am

Congratulations to two Plymouth businesses recognized by the Minnesota High Tech Association (MHTA) at this week's Tekne Awards for innovation in science and technology.

Proto Labs received an award for innovation in the manufacturing process to increase speed, accuracy and reduce costs, while minimizing environmental impact.

NimbeLink received an award for developing internet of things solutions that add increased efficiency or enhanced value to clients or customers....

[See More](#)



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@PlymouthMN_gov

Major 2018 tournament will put PIC in the national spotlight

By Mayor Kelli Slavik

A recent announcement gave hockey enthusiasts – and local businesses – something to cheer. The Plymouth Ice Center was selected as the site for the 2018 USA Hockey National High School Tournament.

This major tournament will bring the best high school hockey players and fans from across the nation to Plymouth in March 2018.

Plymouth earned the 2018 tournament thanks to the efforts of the Wayzata Youth Hockey Association, assisted by Minnesota Hockey and the city.

The tournament will propel PIC into the national spotlight March 22-26, 2018 and give fans a chance to see the best of the best compete.

PIC is already well known and well respected in state and regional hockey circles. It is one of the busiest arenas in Minnesota. Each year, the three-rink arena draws approximately 500,000 visitors and hosts more than 20 state and regional tournaments.

It also serves as home ice for the Wayzata Hockey Association, one of the nation's largest youth hockey programs, as well as the Wayzata High School boys and girls and Providence Academy high school hockey teams.

While the tournament is great for Plymouth's hockey and facility profile, it also promises to be a boon to the local economy. Tournament-goers are expected to spend significant dollars on lodging, food, transportation, supplies/gear and entertainment.

More than 900 hotel rooms will be needed to accommodate attendees. Spending will also spill over to other cities as people travel to the tournament.

Congratulations to the Wayzata Youth Hockey Association on landing this major tournament. We are looking forward to showcasing PIC, our community and local businesses to visitors from across the country.

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

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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: Jan. 10, 24 and Feb. 14, 28

Planning Commission: Jan. 4, 18 and Feb. 1, 15

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