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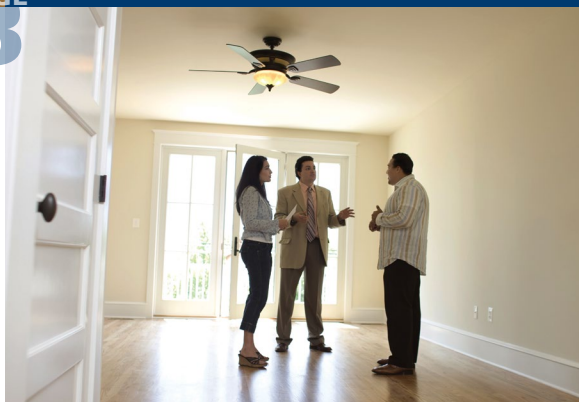
See the winning snapshots from the annual Picture Plymouth Photo Contest, which is co-sponsored by the City of Plymouth and Plymouth Magazine.

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Join the city and the Plymouth Arts Council for Primavera, a springtime celebration of the arts, April 21-23 at the Plymouth Creek Center, 14800 34th Ave. N.

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Looking to buy a first home? Have emergency household repairs to make? Want to explore options for renovating an existing space? The Plymouth Housing and Redevelopment Authority may be able to help.

Market value notices

Market value notices for Plymouth properties will hit mailboxes toward the end of March. The notices list the value of the property and its classification for taxes payable in 2017. Property values affect how much tax residents pay each year. Residents with questions should call 763-509-5350. Homeowners with concerns about valuations can dispute their value at the Hennepin County Open Book Meeting 4:30-7 p.m. Wednesday, April 19 at Plymouth City Hall, 3400 Plymouth Blvd. At the meeting, residents will work one-on-one with a representative to resolve value disputes. The updated process, which debuted last year, is easier for residents and streamlines property value adjustments.

Television, trees and treats: City Sampler set for March 4

Residents can talk trees, television and a myriad of other topics at the Plymouth City Sampler 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 4 at City Hall, 3400 Plymouth Blvd.

The free event features the mayor, Plymouth City Council members and city staff who are available to answer questions about public safety, water quality, recreation activities and more. This year's special presentation features CCX Media. Coffee and light refreshments will be served.

This year marks the 11th anniversary of the city-sponsored event. New and long time residents are encouraged to stop by.

City Sampler ... continued on page 3



On-air personalities Dave Kiser (left) and Mike Johnson will discuss CCX Media – formerly Channel 12 and Northwest Community TV – at the Sampler.

PIC upgrades keep the facility competitive

The Plymouth Ice Center has long been a leading arena in the region, hosting half a million people each year. However, as Plymouth looks towards the future of PIC, critical upgrades are required.

A range of improvements begin this year, totaling an investment of roughly \$2.2 million. PIC is an enterprise fund for the city, which means that the facility strives to operate with a net profit.

Investing in facility upgrades will help keep PIC competitive and operating in the black.

Rink Resize

A major component of the project is to reconfigure the main rink from Olympic to professional size. Olympic size rinks were popular at the time of PIC's construction, and are about 15 feet wider than professional size ice sheets.

PIC ... continued on page 4



Part of the upgrade project at PIC includes resizing the facility's main rink from Olympic to professional size, which is more popular for modern hockey programs.

Fire & Ice 2017



This year's Fire & Ice drew more than 5,000 people out to Parkers Lake, where the crowd enjoyed recycle bin races, ice sculptures, skating, games and more. The event closed with a finale of fireworks sponsored by the Plymouth Civic League.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Volunteer!

The city is seeking volunteers who are:

Friendly and love to provide good service.

Assist Millennium Garden bridal couples during evening wedding rehearsals – must have previous customer service experience. Assist with Primavera, April 20-24.

Interested in serving as Police Reserve

volunteers. Assist sworn police officers with traffic and crowd control, prisoner transportation, surveillance and patrol activities, special events and education programs. Must be 21 years or older, commit to 15 hours a month, have a clean driving record and undergo a background check.

Passionate about public transit. Provide customer feedback as an anonymous ghost rider on Plymouth Metrolink or Dial-A-Ride buses.

Passionate about the environment and green things. Adopt a park, trail or storm drain to keep clean weekly. Help maintain gardens around city buildings. Keep playgrounds free of weeds. Weed, water and deadhead the Millennium Garden. Instruct kids in basic gardening techniques and assist with crafts and games. Provide regular watering for the children's garden.

Participate in the following events: Plymouth Home Expo (April 7-8), Drop-Off Day (April 29), Tree Sale (May 12-13) and Flower Planting Day (May 20).

Teens who want to get involved. Build leadership skills and gain valuable experience while assisting with a variety of summer youth recreation programs. Apply by Friday, April 28 – application fee is \$15. Mandatory training session on Wednesday, June 14.

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

Take a Closer Look



Reverend Roy Beacham

Reverend Roy Beacham

Police Chaplain Volunteer

As a police chaplain, my job is to serve the men and women of the Plymouth Police and Fire departments, Plymouth residents and any others who might seek or need

assistance. I am one of six chaplains who volunteer in the city. For us, there is no schedule. We respond whenever and wherever there is a need. Through the years, that service has taken a variety of forms at all hours.

Many of our call-outs stem from distressing and sorrowful situations. However, along the way we have met many great people and have felt substantial joy as well. I wouldn't trade the experience for anything.

My favorite thing about being a city volunteer is playing a small role in assisting, encouraging and supporting the valiant men and women of the Plymouth Police Department. I am proud to call many of them my friends. We truly have a great city, and we certainly have a premier emergency response team. My wife, Jan, and I love and pray for them all.

Because the Rev. Beacham and other chaplains volunteer, community members receive comfort and compassionate care during crisis situations. Plymouth police and fire personnel are able to receive caring support following emergencies.

Picture Plymouth Photo Contest first place winners



Overall Winner – "S'mores Brothers" by Andrea Potashnick



Wildlife and Nature – "I'm Watching You..." by Jodi Arlt



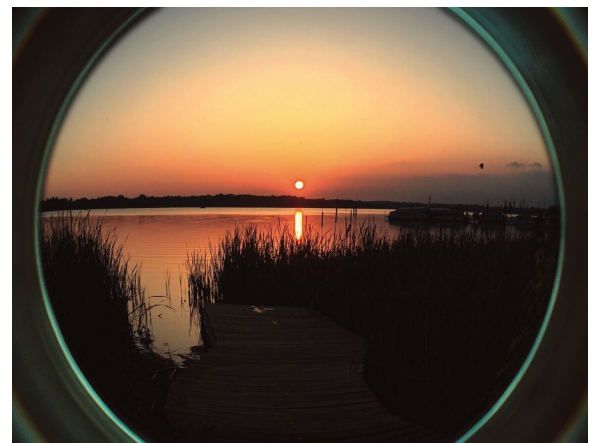
Activities and Events – "Reflecting Freedom" by Rachel Hall



City Landmarks – "Undying Gratitude" by Rachel Hall

The annual Picture Plymouth Photo Contest is co-sponsored by the City of Plymouth and Plymouth Magazine.

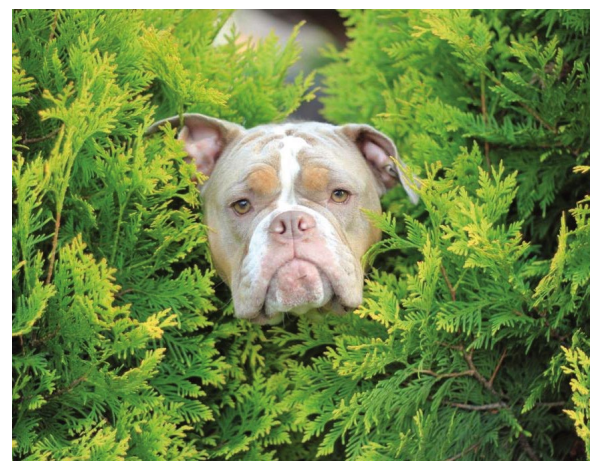
Hundreds of entries were submitted to the contest depicting people and families, activities and events, wildlife and nature, city landmarks and pets. Keep the camera handy and start snapping for this year's contest.



Readers Choice – "Portal Sunset on Medicine Lake" by Ann Harty



People and Families – "Tunnel Tumblin'" by David Dobrin



Pets – "Arbordoggie" by Rachel La Fleur



HAPPENINGS



Home Expo – 6-9 p.m. Friday, April 7 and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 8 at the Plymouth Fieldhouse, 14800 34th Ave. N. Free. Home improvement for every corner of the house. Get ready for the growing season, explore renovation options, attend presentations and much more. Hennepin County Fix-It Clinic will be available Saturday – get household items fixed for free and learn repair skills. For more information, go to plymouthmn.gov/homeexpo.

Walk with the Mayor – 6-7 p.m. Monday, May 1 at the Plymouth Creek Center, 14800 34th Ave. N. Free. Kick off the Step to It Challenge with Mayor Kelli Slavik. More information about the challenge is available at steptoit.org.

Primavera – April 21-23, Plymouth Creek Center, 14800 34th Ave. N. Free. Join the Plymouth Arts Council and City of Plymouth in an annual springtime celebration of fine art and entertainment. An opening reception is set for 5-8:30 p.m. Friday, April 21. The exhibit is open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, April 22 and Sunday, April 23. Live entertainment will be featured throughout the event. For more information, visit plymouthartsCouncil.org or plymouthmn.gov.

Plymouth BUSINESS buzz

Below are a few Plymouth businesses that city officials recently visited as part of the city's economic development outreach program.

Cargill celebrated the grand opening of a new facility in Plymouth. The new location is the result of a \$25 million investment and provides state-of-the-art facilities for roughly 200 scientists.

Pelican BioThermal expanded its Plymouth location on Highway 55 and Niagara Lane. Pelican specializes in technology related to temperature-controlled packaging solutions serving the life science industry. The expansion includes a manufacturing line at the Plymouth facility, which allows for increased versatility.

The Weitz Company recently held a ribbon cutting for a new space in Plymouth. The company specializes in commercial and industrial construction and provides design-build solutions for various industries, including agricultural and manufacturing.



Pelican BioThermal recently expanded its Plymouth location, streamlining the company's manufacturing line.

State of the City goes on the road to Smiths Medical

Formerly held at Plymouth City Hall, the annual State of the City address continues its second year of getting out and into the community. This year, Smiths Medical is hosting Mayor Kelli Slavik's annual presentation at its global headquarters in Plymouth. The free event is set for 7:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 14 at 6000 Nathan Lane N.

Get the Plymouth Lowdown

Residents and business owners are invited to join Mayor Slavik as she shares an overview of the past year and looks towards the future. Networking and refreshments begin at 7:30 a.m., followed by the mayor's presentation at 8 a.m. Topics include the city's economy, Plymouth's nationally recognized quality of life, a look at goals and a recap of completed projects. TwinWest Chamber of Commerce and the City of Plymouth co-sponsor the event.

Highlighting Plymouth Business

A goal of taking the State of the City address on the road is to highlight Plymouth's strong business sector. Smiths Medical is a leading global provider of medical devices for



Last year's State of the City was at Trillium Woods in Plymouth. This year's event will be held at Smiths Medical.

hospital, emergency, home and specialist environments. Smiths products are used during critical and intensive care, surgery, post-operative care during recovery and in-home infusion therapies.

The international company employs about 7,500 people worldwide. Last year, Smiths opened its new global headquarters in Plymouth.

The HRA is here for homeowners

Whether it's a new house, old home or an emergency repair, the City of Plymouth and the Plymouth Housing and Redevelopment Authority offer a number of programs that can help residents meet their housing goals. To learn more, visit plymouthmn.gov/hra or call 763-509-5410.

First-time Homebuyer Loans

The HRA offers zero-interest deferred loans to help qualified buyers offset down payment and closing costs. The program provides assistance on a sliding scale based on family size and income. Applicants must meet income limits, attend homebuyer education sessions, finance the home through a participating lender and be a first-time homebuyer or have not owned a home in the last three years. Visit plymouthmn.gov/firsthome for details.

Architectural Design Service

The HRA offers a two-hour architectural consultation for those interested in an addition or expansion of their living space. To be eligible, applicants must be owner-occupants of a residential property in Plymouth. Consultations are available for homes 30 years old or older. The HRA offers a list of approved architects from which homeowners may choose. Homeowners will be reimbursed for one consultation through the program.

Home Rehabilitation Loans

Zero-interest loans are available for qualifying applicants in moderate- to low-income households. The rehabilitation loan program offers deferred, no-interest loans of up to \$30,000 to help residents make qualifying safety and energy efficiency upgrades. These may include new roofing, siding, windows, electrical, plumbing, heating and insulation.

Emergency Repair Grants

The HRA has grants available for residents ages 55 and older who wish to make emergency repairs to their homes. Those who meet income eligibility may qualify for a grant of up to \$5,000 to repair or replace water heaters, furnaces, doors, locks, plumbing and other urgent repairs.

Senior Rental Housing

The HRA also owns and operates two senior apartment buildings, both of which are currently accepting applications from potential residents. Plymouth Towne Square and Vicksburg Crossing offer residents 55 and older quality, independent living near the Plymouth City Center. For more information about Plymouth Towne Square, call 763-550-9525. For Vicksburg Crossing, call 763-559-1877 or go to vicksburgcrossing.com.

City Sampler ... from page 1 Special Guests

Local news junkies and those who are curious about television production may enjoy a special presentation focusing on CCX Media – formerly Channel 12 and Northwest Community Television. At 9:45 and 10:45 a.m., CCX News anchor Mike Johnson and on-air personality Dave Kiser will discuss CCX Media's varied offerings – local news, sports and city-focused programs. The duo will also highlight how viewers can easily access programming even if they don't subscribe to cable television.

Armed with video clips, Kiser and Johnson will showcase the station's award-winning news and sports programming, share a little behind-the-scenes television magic and discuss the station's recent rebranding.

Interested attendees can have fun trying out the station's green screen – transporting themselves to various Plymouth scenes without ever leaving City Hall.

Residents can also learn about CCX Create, a leading community media center offering free video production classes, equipment use and channel time to residents and organizations in the northwest suburbs. A national leader in local cable programming, CCX News is the Twin Cities' only newscast focusing on the top stories from the northwest suburbs, including Plymouth.



Ask questions and interact with City Council, the mayor and city staff at the Plymouth City Sampler Saturday, March 4.

CCX News also features highlights from northwest suburban high school sports and regular features that focus on area businesses, students and health issues.

Much More

Also at the event, attendees can enter a drawing to win door prizes, get advice about the best trees and shrubs to plant in their yard, buy low-cost bike helmets and meet city staff members from Police, Fire, Engineering, Forestry, Administrative Services and Community Development. Residents can stop by anytime during the morning and stay as long – or short – as they like. Bring the whole family and don't miss the free giveaways at department tables throughout the event.



SEASONAL SPOTLIGHT



Tree Sale – Add variety and color to the yard, or find replacements for ash trees affected by Emerald Ash Borer. The annual low-cost tree and shrub sale is accepting orders through Monday, May 1 at plymouthmn.gov/treesale. Check the Environmental Extra for more information.

Drop-Off Day – 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, April 29 at the Plymouth Maintenance Facility, 14900 23rd Ave. N. Plymouth residents only; bring identification. Drop-Off Day features two lines – one for recycling and donation items, and one for disposal items. Cost for the disposal line is \$20 per vehicle, per trip, while the recycle and donate line is free. Some vehicles may need to move through both lines. For details and a list of accepted items for each line, visit plymouthmn.gov/dropoff.

Yard Waste Site Opening – The Yard Waste Site, 14900 23rd Ave. N., is set to open for the season Wednesday, April 5 – weather permitting. In April, the site is open 3-6 p.m. Wednesday-Friday and 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. For details, visit plymouthmn.gov/yardwaste.

Fieldhouse Walking – The last day for indoor walking at the Plymouth Creek Fieldhouse is Friday, March 31. For available hours, call 763-509-5292.



PIC ... from page 1

The wider rinks have since gone out of style and youth hockey groups, which are PIC’s largest users, find that Olympic rinks aren’t conducive to teaching the sport. Converting to a professional size sheet is expected to increase rink rental demand and allow more organizations to utilize PIC.

Energy Efficiency

The center’s refrigeration system will be transformed from utilizing R22 Freon to an ammonia-based coolant.

The current coolant is being phased out of production due to its potential for environmental harm if leaks occur. An ammonia system not only significantly reduces environmental risk, but also boosts energy efficiency.

The floor of the main rink, which is currently sand, will be rebuilt as concrete. The concrete floor will resolve uneven cooling problems and further reduce energy costs. Combined, the upgrades are expected to save roughly 30 percent in energy costs.

Finding Funding

To help offset the \$2.2 million cost of the upgrades, Wayzata Youth Hockey Association has contributed \$150,000 and the city received a \$100,000 James Metzen Mighty Ducks Ice Arena Grant from the state. The energy cost savings and increased rental capabilities are projected



The coolant R22 is being phased out of production. An ammonia system will replace the current R22 system at PIC.

to achieve project cost payback within a decade. Work is set to begin in May, after scheduled 2017 tournaments, and is expected to be completed in October.

National Notability

The upgrades come at a good time – the arena will soon be in the national spotlight. PIC was selected to host the 2017 USA Hockey Sled Classic (presented by the NHL) and the 2018 USA Hockey National High School Tournament.

These major tournaments will bring the best high school hockey players, sled hockey teams and fans from across the nation to Plymouth. The tournaments also promise to be a boon to the local economy. Tournament-goers are expected to spend significant dollars on lodging, food, transportation, supplies, gear and entertainment.

Water main flushing begins in April

The city will flush water mains on the following schedule:

- **April 10-12:** Industrial areas, both sides of Interstate 494, south of Highway 55
- **April 10-26:** Residential areas west of I-494, except areas along both sides of County Road 47 west of I-494
- **May 1-16:** Residential areas east of I-494, and areas along both sides of County Road 47 west of I-494

Water may be discolored throughout this time, but it is more likely on the day your area is flushed.

Please avoid doing laundry on that day. If water appears to be discolored, let an outdoor water faucet run until the water is clear.

To find out which day your area will be flushed, check the map at plymouthmn.gov or call 763-509-5950 after Monday, April 3.

Volunteerism thrives in Plymouth

By Mayor Kelli Slavik

Volunteers take a turn in the national spotlight once a year during National Volunteer Week, but they deserve our thanks 365 days a year. This year, National Volunteer Week will be marked April 23-29.

Volunteerism is thriving in Plymouth. The City of Plymouth, and by extension the larger community, benefits from the dedication of volunteers year-round. In 2016, more than 2,900 people volunteered with the city, contributing more than 39,000 hours – both are new records in our more than 20-year-old volunteer program.

The volunteer program harnesses the energy, talent and passion of people of all ages and backgrounds. Scouts, teens, young adults, parents and retirees volunteer – and they volunteer for many reasons.

New arrivals to Plymouth see volunteering as an entry point to the community while long-time residents see it as a way to give back.

Retirees frequently use volunteering as an avenue to keep their skill set fresh and build social connections.

Plymouth is a community of volunteers. We have more than 75,000 people to call on when we need help – and Plymouth residents always come through.

No matter how unusual the assignment, someone is ready to step up. And our volunteers even work on short notice when quick jobs need to be done. Within minutes of issuing a call for volunteers, we hear from people ready and willing to help.

It is both gratifying and humbling to have an abundance of people who value our quality of life so much that they choose to give their time, talent and energy. We see the difference their efforts make every day.

We extend our thanks to all city volunteers, as well as all those who volunteer through schools, faith communities, non-profits and other civic organizations.

Together, volunteers keep our community strong.

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 (voicemail), kslavik@plymouthmn.gov
- Judy Johnson**, Ward 1
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- Jeffrey Wosje**, Ward 2
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- Jim Davis**, Ward 3
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- Jim Prom**, Ward 4
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- Ned Carroll**, At Large
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- Jim Willis**, At Large
763-509-5006 (voicemail), 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: March 14, 28 and April 11, 25
Planning Commission: March 1, 15 and April 5, 19

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