



**Page 2.** Kick off the Step To It Challenge by joining the Walk with the Mayor on May 17. The free walk is a great family activity. It's also a good excuse to take a relaxing stroll through beautiful Plymouth Creek Park.



**Page 3.** Several roads in Plymouth will get some much needed attention this construction season. The city will reconstruct streets in four areas and Hennepin County is in the second year of a three year project to upgrade County Road 101. A segment of County Road 101 will close in June and remain closed through the construction season.



**Page 3.** It's May and that means that Plymouth's annual restrictions on outdoor water use are in effect. The odd-even restrictions and midday ban will remain in effect through September. Following the restrictions ensures that water is available in the event of a major fire

### **Step To It Challenge starts May 17**

Is it possible to stay fit just by cleaning the house, gardening or taking a leisurely walk? Leading a healthy lifestyle might be easier than you ever thought. This May, people who live or work in Plymouth can literally make their steps count towards personal and community fitness through the Step To It Challenge. The challenge is a fun, light-hearted fitness competition held annually between communities in the northwest metro area.

Beginning May 17, the four-week challenge will have participants track their daily activity using a pedometer or conversion chart (included on the website steptoit.org). Virtually every action counts, whether you're walking, biking, running, cleaning or playing with the kids. A variety of prizes will be awarded to the top three winners in each city.

Cities will also be awarded bragging rights for the top scores in a variety of categories, including most steps, highest number of average steps and so on. This is the second year that Plymouth has participated in the challenge. This year, 18 cities will be competing, up from 12 cities in 2009.

"This is a simple and fun way to raise awareness about health and fitness," said Regina Michaud, recreation manager for the City of Plymouth. "You don't need to join a club or run a marathon to be healthy. This competition is great because it tracks the day-to-day activities you already do, but probably don't think about."

The Step To It Challenge is just one of many health programs supported by the City of Plymouth, rated one of the governor's "Fit Cities," to raise awareness about health and to encourage daily exercise. As many as 30 fitness programs are offered by Plymouth Parks and Recreation. That is in addition to eight to 15 health and wellness



programs. The city also sponsors an annual Healthy Living Fair each spring, where the public is invited to talk with local health businesses and to try different health and fitness sessions. Michaud said the city has made building health awareness and offering a wide variety of fitness opportunities a top priority.

"It doesn't take much to see the benefits of an active lifestyle," Michaud said. "We support as many health programs as we can because they promote and enrich the quality of life we have here in Plymouth. From beginner yoga to martial arts to biking, there's something for everyone."

To register for the Step To It Challenge, log on to www. steptoit.org or call the City of Plymouth at 763-509-5200 to have a registration form mailed to you. Steps must be tracked online or called-in weekly between May 17 and June 13. Contestants can enter as a family, group or individual. Non-residents who work in Plymouth can also register under the Plymouth community. The Step To It Challenge is coordinated by the Hennepin County Human Services and Public Health Department.

### High profile parks to see renovations

Plymouth's Parks and Recreation Department will be renovating two of the city's most popular park venues this summer.

#### Renovation: Hilde Performance Center

The most noticeable upgrades will be happening to the Hilde Performance Center, which hosts on average 15 concerts per year. The Hilde Performance Center is also home to Music in Plymouth, the annual outdoor concert



#### emergency.



**Page 4.** Music in Plymouth is sure to draw a crowd on June 30. The Plymouth Civic League recently released the line up of entertainment for the evening. The night features the Minnesota Orchestra and notable, locally-based acts. Get the date on your calendar now.

that features the Minnesota Orchestra.

Work on the Hilde will start after the 2010 Music in Plymouth. Beginning July 12, much of the area will be closed to the public as construction begins for a small performance area, handicap accessibility improvements, fountain, food courts, irrigation system, and additional sidewalks and pathways. "It's time for the area to get a fresh look," said Eric Blank, parks and recreation director.

Blank notes that the economic climate will work to the city's advantage. "We will be able to take advantage of a very good bidding climate. Because it's so competitive, we'll be able to make enhancements at a lower cost than we would otherwise."

The center's upgrades have been in the planning phase for 18 months and were actually pushed back a year due to the recession. Mindful of other economic needs in the city,

The skate park will get a facelift this summer.

the original budget was also cut from \$2.6 million to \$1.2 million.

Blank described the currently proposed upgrades as being necessary given the amount of foot traffic, bikers and amphitheater use. The Music in Plymouth concert alone draws 13,000 visitors each summer. To accommodate the growing number of concerts and patrons, the main stage area will be adding 2,000 seats and improving an additional 900. The new performance area will be able to more

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### Walk with the Mayor on May 17





Mayor Kelli Slavik will kick-off this May's Step To It Challenge by leading the second annual "Walk with the Mayor." All are welcome and encouraged to grab their most comfortable walking shoes, a bottle of water and to join Mayor Slavik for a leisurely 30 to 45 minute walk (about 1.5 miles) on Mon., May 17, 6 p.m., at the Plymouth Creek Center, 14800 34th Ave N.

"This isn't a race," Recreation Manager Regina Michaud said. "It's a fun reason to get out, be active and talk with the mayor." The group will be walking along pathways through the scenic Hilde Performance Center and Plymouth Creek Park areas. The event is an ideal opportunity to rack up some steps for the Step To It Challenge, a fitness contest between 18 northwest metro communities, as well as to ask any questions you might have for the mayor. (See page 1 to learn how you can register for the Step to It Challenge.)

Water and snacks will be available at the Plymouth Creek Center. The event is free and open to the public  $\frac{2}{3}$   $\frac{2}{3}$   $\frac{2}{3}$   $\frac{2}{3}$   $\frac{2}{3}$   $\frac{2}{3}$ 





#### The city is seeking volunteers who are:

**Friendly and love to provide good service.** Assist during the Farmers Market from July through September.

**Committed to giving back to the community.** Help with a variety of outdoor maintenance projects.

**Passionate about the environment and green things.** Plant, prune and mulch as a member of Team Green Tree. Adopt a park, trail, storm drain or disc golf course to keep clean weekly. Weed, water and deadhead the Millennium Garden. Participate in the following events: Flower Planting Day, May 22; and Special Recycling Drop-Off Day, May 22.

Good at organizing activities and working with school-aged kids. Coach recreational evening T-ball in June or July; evening instructional baseball in June or July; or weekday youth recreation hockey in August.

To find out more about these and other opportunities, visit the city website or call 763-509-5230.

### Take a closer look...



Police Department Senior Corps and video volunteer

John Kaminski

As a volunteer my job is to: I'm involved with all the Senior Corps activities,

especially the TV production "Along for the Ride," shown on Channel 12 and our city cable channel 16. I take most of the video at remote locations and still photography for the show. I also am the backup video editor. Additionally, I'm assisting the city clerk's office in producing a training video for election judges.

# City will save money, reap benefits by serving as software test client

When the maker of a major software application that the city has used for more than a decade asked if Plymouth would be willing to test a new version of its software, the city took the company up on the offer. The result is that by investing a little sweat equity, Plymouth will influence how the software is written, get a free software upgrade, save money and lay the foundation for future service efficiencies.

Under the arrangement, the city began using a test version of a web-based version of MS Govern's land management software in March and will continue to do so through this fall.

IT Applications Manager Scott Anderson says that land management software is integral to city business because it stores information about all properties and buildings. "It centralizes all information relating to properties within the city, including utility billing, assessing information, permits and inspections as well as documents relating to the property. It's a one-stop shop for everything related to land and buildings. It's a tool all departments use," Anderson said.

As city staff members test the software, they will provide feedback along the way about how the company can modify the application to better meet city needs. In return, the company will showcase Plymouth to potential clients once the final version of the software is released in 2012. For its efforts, the city will get the software for free, eliminating the need to buy new land management software as was scheduled for 2013. Administrative Services Director Cal Portner estimates that this will save a minimum of \$120,000, and possibly many staff hours required for a conversion to new software.

The beta testing also sets the stage for other benefits. Anderson expects that the software upgrade will give residents better and more access to property information 24/7 via the city website by late 2010.

Portner points to several other near-term benefits. "We will get technology that is more efficient, user-friendly and more easily adaptable to workflow and policy changes," he said.

Portner sees long-term benefits too. "The upgrade will lay the foundation for future e-services. It'll move us into the 'e-realm' sooner," he said. At some point in the future, he says inspectors, appraisers and other field workers will be able to do real-time uploads of data from the field rather than waiting for the information to be keyed in back at the office. The software will also set the stage for customers to do more online business with the city, saving a trip to City Hall and providing 24/7 access to certain permits, licenses and information.

### Parks...from page 1

comfortably support smaller concerts and events that draw 250 people or fewer.

In addition to repairing and expanding current pathways and trails in the area, the new pathways and general seating areas will be much more sensitive to wheelchair accessibility laws. An irrigation system and electrical outlets will also be added throughout the entire center, making maintenance much simpler and adding convenience for festival vendors that require electricity for tents and exhibits.

All major construction should be completed by early

#### Update: Northwest Greenway

Plymouth's Northwest Greenway project, which will add 2.5 miles of bike paths to Plymouth's northwest corridor, is currently in the acquisition stage and has about 70 percent of the necessary land tracts purchased.

The Northwest Greenway will serve two purposes. It will preserve natural resources and provide a wildlife corridor in an area rich with high quality wetlands and trees. The greenway will also provide a recreational trail for walking and biking.

The greenway corridor is planned to be 200 to 300 feet wide with a 10 foot trail. It will stretch from Lake Camelot on the east to Wayzata High School on the west. The greenway will connect to the Medicine Lake Regional Trail, which links French and Elm Creek regional parks.

My favorite things about being a city volunteer: I enjoy having the opportunity to use some of my skills to help the city. Being retired, I have more time to give and having a community that is willing to let me give is an enjoyable experience. The people I've worked with and supported, as well as the public at large, have enhanced my life and have given me something I will never forget.

**Because John volunteers:** The city is able to provide quality media programming on public safety topics for local cable television, and election judges will be well-trained for the elections. October. Blank said all renovations would be finished in time for Music in Plymouth in 2011.

#### Facelift: Youth Skate Park

The youth skate park will also be getting a fresh new look this summer and the city wants your input. From now through early June, the City of Plymouth will be accepting feedback regarding what kinds of equipment youth would like to see added or replaced at the park. All suggestions and concerns are welcome.

"The skate park hasn't been updated in 10 years," Blank said. "We want to keep all of our youth parks nice and exciting for the kids." The skate park is located next to the Public Works Maintenance Facility, 14900 23rd Ave. N.

Skate park equipment suggestions can be e-mailed to recreation@ci.plymouth.mn.us.

The public will access the greenway from trailheads planned for Cheshire Lane on the east side of the greenway and Peony Lane extension on the west.

In 2006 voters approved \$9 million for the Northwest Greenway project. Of that, \$5 million is still set aside for land acquisition. Construction for the project is expected to begin in one to two years, pending land purchase.

"Plymouth is a very green community, and the voters have been very vocal about wanting us to invest in parks and trails," said Blank.

www.ci.plymouth.mn.us





## **Restrictions limit water use**

As the weather gets warmer, please keep in mind that Plymouth has

annual outdoor water restrictions, including a midday ban and an odd-even schedule. The restrictions are in effect May through September.

Plymouth prohibits outdoor lawn watering from noon to 5 p.m. on all days. At other times, water customers must 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. Automatic irrigation systems should be adjusted accordingly.

#### Exceptions

You may wash vehicles and do hand-held hose watering of shrubs, flowers and trees on any day and at any time if the hose has a nozzle with automatic shutoff.

If you have new sod, seed or landscaping, you do not need

to follow the odd-even restrictions during the first 30 days after planting. You must, however, still abide by the midday ban from noon to 5 p.m.

The restrictions do not apply to people who use sources of water other than the city water system.

Organizations that need to irrigate turf to prevent damage due to frequent use may submit a written request for an exemption. The restrictions also make an exception for residential users who intermittently use their outdoor water system exclusively for recreational use, such as children running through a sprinkler.

The penalty for violating restrictions is \$100 for each day of violation. You will receive one written warning before you are penalized. If you have an irrigation system that is not functioning properly or is misaligned and water is spraying in the street, you could receive a notice of violation. Failure to repair malfunctioning irrigation systems may result in additional violations.

# **Road projects on Public Works' docket**

Plymouth streets will be getting lots of attention this construction season – and several of the projects are expected to cost less than they typically would due to the economic climate.

The city will rebuild streets in four areas as well as do resurfacing and maintenance in several other areas. Meanwhile, the Hennepin County Public Works Department will close a segment of Co. Rd. 101 starting in mid-June as it continues to upgrade this major thoroughfare.

Keep in mind that several of the projects listed below are dependent upon final approval by the City Council. Timelines are tentative.

#### County Road 101

The second year of a three-year Hennepin County project to upgrade Co. Rd. 101 from 12th Avenue (just south of Co. Rd. 6) to 30th Avenue (just south of Co. Rd. 24) is already underway. Work on Co. Rd. 101 from 19th Avenue to approximately 12th Avenue is expected to continue from now through the end of June. Motorists should expect delays throughout the construction season.

**Road Closure:** The county expects to close the section of Co. Rd. 101 from Co. Rd. 6 to Co. Rd. 24 to through traffic starting June 15. The road will remain closed through the end of the construction season. A detour will be posted. The county will make accommodations for access to residences and businesses within the closed area.

Once finished, the project will help traffic flow better, improve safety and enhance storm water treatment. Specifically, the county will widen Co. Rd. 101 to two lanes in each direction and add turn lanes at key locations. The county will install state of the art signal systems at both the Co. Rd. 6 and 14th Avenue intersections. Nine retaining walls also will be built along with significant storm water runoff and treatment systems.

Walkways will be added on both sides of the corridor. The



The economy has created a competitive bidding climate for road projects.

east of Parkers Lake will get a makeover. The project will replace streets, water main and storm sewer systems. Streets will be outfitted with concrete curb and gutter. In addition, 11th Avenue and 13th Place will get a mill and overlay.

**Parkers Lake Corporate Center –** Roads will be rebuilt and curb and gutter will be replaced, as needed.

**South Shore Drive** – This area will not have complete reconstruction. Instead, the neighborhood will get a full-depth mill and overlay to enhance the street surface. The bridge in this area will replaced as well.

Cote points to the South Shore project as an example of how the Public Works Department tailors the project to neighborhood needs. "We don't use a one-size fits all. In this case, the soil borings show that the sub grade material is good so complete reconstruction is not necessary," he said.

#### **Other Projects**

**Mill & Overlay Projects:** Several other projects are also in the works. Campus Drive and 26th Avenue between Xenium and Quinwood lanes will be resurfaced. In addition, a failing culvert in the area will be replaced. Federal stimulus funding will pay for part of this project.

Drivers and bicyclists will also be treated to smoother rides on the segment of 36th Avenue from Zachary Lane to Hwy. 169 as well as Old County Road 15/Nathan Lane down to Shelard Parkway when mill and overlay projects are completed later this summer.

# ....*in brief*....

**Shutter Bugs:** Get out your cameras and start snapping pictures for the Picture Plymouth Photo Contest. The deadline will be Sept. 1. Details for this year's contest, which is being jointly sponsored by *Plymouth Magazine*, are still being worked out. Check the next *Plymouth News* for more information.

**Recognition:** The City Council and the Environmental Quality Committee (EQC) recently recognized Ward 4 Council Member Ginny Black for her service to the EQC and her leadership on environmental issues. Black served as the EQC council liaison for 14 years.

**Bike Helmet Sales:** The Fire Department will sell bike helmets for toddlers through adults on Thursday evenings, 6 - 8 p.m., May 6 - Aug. 26, at Fire Station III, 3300 Dunkirk Ln. N. Bike helmets cost \$10 and \$12. Multi-sport helmets are \$15 each. The bike helmet program is made possible through a partnership with North Memorial Hospital and the Northwest Metro-Minneapolis Safe Kids Coalition. Cash or check will be accepted as payment.

**Council Filings:** Later this summer, filings will open for City Council seats that will be on the November ballot. The mayoral seat and three council seats – wards 2, 4 and at-large – will be up for election. Filings will open Aug. 3 and close Aug. 17. The next issue of the *Plymouth News* will have more information.

**Election Judges:** The city is recruiting election judges for the Aug. 10 primary election and the Nov. 2 general election. Training is provided. Election judges earn an hourly wage. To learn more, call Lisa Baird at 763-509-5066.

**City Offices Closed:** City offices will be closed on Mon., May 31 for Memorial Day and Mon., July 5 for Independence Day.

activities. Wayzata Schools will also be making on-site improvements at these schools to improve pedestrian and bicycle access.

#### Water Resources

**Treatment Ponds:** The city will finish work on two water quality ponds at Medicine Lake. The ponds will treat water from Plymouth Creek before it flows into the lake.

**Plymouth Creek Stream Banks:** The city will also begin restoring a section of banks along Plymouth Creek that have suffered severe erosion and contribute to flooding and water quality impairments downstream. The banks are located from West Medicine Lake Drive at West Medicine Lake Park to about 1000 feet north of 26th Avenue North.

#### Tough Economy Means Lower Costs

Cote says that the city and property owners will likely

county will also realign several streets that intersect Co. Rd. 101, making it safer for vehicles turning onto the road.

For more information on the Co. Rd. 101 project, call Don Shaffer at 612-596-0416. The county will provide periodic updates on its website, www.hennepin.us.

#### Street Reconstruction

Four areas will see street reconstruction this summer. Two of those areas – the Parkers Lake neighborhood and 8th Avenue – have some of the worst street conditions in the city, according to Public Works Director Doran Cote.

**8th Avenue –** The neighborhood that includes 8th Avenue west of Co. Rd. 101 to Urbandale Lane will see its aging streets rebuilt. The project will add concrete curb and gutter. Crews will replace water main, which has been prone to breaks, as well as modify the storm sewer system.

Parkers Lake Neighborhood – The residential streets

**Maintenance:** Contractors will be busy sealing cracks and seal coating. City crews will be resurfacing streets scattered throughout the city.

School Safety: The Public Works Department will continue to work with the Police Department and Wayzata Schools to promote the benefits of walking and biking to school. The Public Works Department will make infrastructure improvements near Birchview and Sunset Hill elementary schools, and Wayzata East Middle School. Projects will include posting better signage and enhancing sidewalks and trails to make it safer for students to walk or bike to school. These infrastructure improvements will be complemented by safety education and enforcement benefit from a competitive bidding climate as it awards bids on individual projects. He cites the 8th Avenue project as an example in which fierce competition resulted in lower than expected costs.

Cote called the interest among contractors "unprecedented." Twenty one companies submitted bids. Usually about a dozen contractors submit bids. The result is that a project that was expected to cost \$700,000 came in at \$512,000. At press time, the City Council was expected to consider awarding the bid for the 8th Avenue project at its April 27 meeting.

#### Patience Please

Investments in public works projects pay off by extending the life of streets and utilities, but they can also cause inconvenience. "We ask for patience and understanding from people who live in or have to travel through the areas where work is ongoing," said Cote.



# **HAPPENINGS**

Environmental Quality Fair – Thurs., May 13. See page 4E.

Music in Plymouth 5K Run/Walk - Sat., June 26, 8 a.m., Hilde Performance Center, 3450 Plymouth Blvd. Racers, walkers and families are welcome. Pre-registration cost: adult - \$15; ages 5 to 12 - \$10; and children under age 5 - free. Race day registration begins at 7 a.m. and costs: adult - \$20; children ages 5 to 12 - \$15. Register online at active.com. All proceeds support Music in Plymouth. For more information, visit musicinplymouth.org.



Entertainment in the Parks - Grab a lawn chair or blanket and take in the free Entertainment in the Parks. Unless noted otherwise, all events start at 7 p.m. and will be at Parkers Lake Park, Co. Rd. 6 and Niagara Lane. Tues., June 15 - The Plymouth Concert Band; Wed., June 16, 11 a.m. - Sticks N Tones (Kids Koncert); Tues., June 22 - Stomp N Dixie (Dixieland); Tues., July 6, Jimeo Band (soul powered jazz and blues); Sun., July 10, 4 & 7 p.m. - Prairie Fire Children's Theatre's Peter Pan at Hilde Performance Center, 3450 Plymouth Blvd.

### **Minnesota Orchestra** headlines Music in Plymouth **Opening acts include notable, locally-based ensembles**

The Plymouth Civic League and the City of Plymouth have finalized plans for Music in Plymouth, set for Wed., June 30 at the Hilde Performance Center, 35th Ave. N. and Plymouth Blvd. (between City Hall and LifeTime Fitness.)

The Minnesota Orchestra will return for its 38th consecutive performance at Music in Plymouth, taking its place as the featured element in an evening of diverse entertainment and family activities. The theme of this year's event is "Savor the Sounds of Summer."

Entertainment will begin at 5 p.m. with a variety of local favorites performing, and will culminate in a performance by the Minnesota Orchestra. Again this year, a giant screen will bring the performances closer to the audience. The evening will conclude with a fireworks display choreographed to music.

The pre-orchestra musical line up includes a diverse mix of notable, locally-based ensembles. Hayor Bibimma Dance Company specializes in West African drumming and dancing. Salsa del Soul is a nine-piece orchestra performing various styles of dance music from the Spanish-speaking regions of the Caribbean. Rounding out the musical entertainment, the Kurt Jorgensen Band will bring its well-known blend of blues, gospel and American rock to the event. Ignite! Fire-dancing troupe will combine flames, illuminated body movement and intricate partner choreography in a fire show just prior to the fireworks display.

Roving entertainers, including a juggler and Uncle Sam, will stroll through the crowd. A variety of concessions will be available and picnic suppers may be brought to the event as well. Attendees should bring lawn chairs or blankets.



Join your friends and neighbors at Music in Plymouth on June 30.

Plymouth Metrolink will provide shuttle bus service to the Hilde Performance Center from West Lutheran High School, 34th Avenue N. and Fernbrook Lane, and from Plymouth Creek Elementary School, Vicksburg Lane and 41st Avenue N., starting at 4:30 p.m. The shuttle service will run throughout the event.

Plymouth police will be at the site to direct cars with handicap plates or permits to the designated parking areas.

In case of rain, modified entertainment and fireworks will be presented at the same location on Wed., July 7 at 7:30 p.m. Limited concessions will also be available at the site.

The Plymouth Civic League presents Music in Plymouth with the support of the City of Plymouth and Plymouth businesses and residents. Citizens can support the event with a "Friends of the League" membership with a minimum \$25 donation. For more information, visit www.musicinplymouth.org.

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### **Parents and kids** can be active together

By Mayor Kelli Slavik

Parents play an important role in helping kids discover the joy of physical activity and fitness. By instilling a love of physical activity in our kids, we can help them develop a lifelong exercise habit and help them reap the health benefits of an active lifestyle.

Designated one of the governor's Fit Cities, Plymouth offers many simple, no-cost or low-cost options for keeping kids active. Here are a few ideas that your kids will enjoy – and they can make for some great family time.

Go to the park. Plymouth is dotted with parks. Walk to your neighborhood park or head to one of the large community parks like Parkers Lake. Use the playground equipment, play some hoops, hit a tennis ball or toss a ball.

*Plymouth* News is published bimonthly by the City of Plymouth to update residents and businesses on city government news. Editor: Helen LaFave. Staff photography by Sheila Langer.

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3400 Plymouth Blvd. Plymouth, MN 55447-1482

**Ride your bike.** Plymouth has 100 miles of trails. Pack a lunch and explore the city on bike.

Take a walk. Walk through your neighborhood - and take the dog. If you live near City Center, walk to the Plymouth Library. Kids will find plenty to love once you're there.

Use Your Yard. If you have a yard, use it. My family finds that the backyard is a great place for a kickball game.

Participate in sports. The Parks and Recreation Department offers sports of all kids. Soccer is our most popular – and you can volunteer to serve as a coach.

Step to It. Make a family commitment to join in the Step to It Challenge (see page 1). Join me for the kick off Walk with the Mayor on May 17 (see page 2).

Swim. When the weather warms up, spend a day at the Parkers Lake or Medicine Lake beach.

**Skate.** Check out open skate at the Plymouth Ice Center. During the winter, skate at an outdoor rink.

#### **City of Plymouth**

Phone	 	 763-509-5000
TDD	 	 .763-509-5065
		.763-509-5177

Hours: M, W, Th, F, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Tues., 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

**View Meetings** Live on Channel 16, 7 p.m. **On-Demand Video Link at City Website** City Council: May 11, 25 & June 8, 22 Planning Commission: May 19 & June 2, 16

City Website www.ci.plymouth.mn.us