

PLYMOUTH NEWS



Drop-Off Day set for April 21

Get rid of electronics, appliances, bicycles and more at the annual Drop-Off Day 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, April 21 at the Plymouth Maintenance Facility, 14900 23rd Ave. N. The event is partially funded by a grant from Hennepin County and is only available to Plymouth residents. There is a charge for some items. For more information, visit plymouthmn.gov/dropoff.

City Sampler showcases renovated Plymouth Maintenance Facility

Get an inside look at the state-of-the-art Plymouth Maintenance Facility at this year's City Sampler, set for 9-11:30 a.m. Saturday, April 28.

While the free annual event is traditionally held at City Hall, this year's Sampler takes the show on the road to the Maintenance Facility, 14900 23rd Ave. N. The venue change will showcase recent upgrades to the facility and feature a look at the city's range of maintenance vehicles and equipment.

Get to Know Your City

Location change aside, this year's City Sampler offers crowd favorites, giveaways and other staples of the event.



The annual Plymouth City Sampler gives residents an opportunity to interact one-on-one with city staff, the mayor and city council members.

City Sampler ... continued on page 3

Plymouth City Council approves expanded partnership with Plymouth Historical Society

For more than 40 years, the Plymouth Historical Society has worked to preserve Plymouth's past and the story of its residents. This year, the City of Plymouth will step up its involvement with the Historical Society as it looks toward securing the group's future.

Part-Time Staff Position

Following a study of comparable partnerships in the area, the City Council approved funding for a part-time staff position to manage programming, grant writing, information digitization and organizational evaluation at the Historical Society. The council has also approved using the city volunteer program to recruit residents to help with the organization's work.



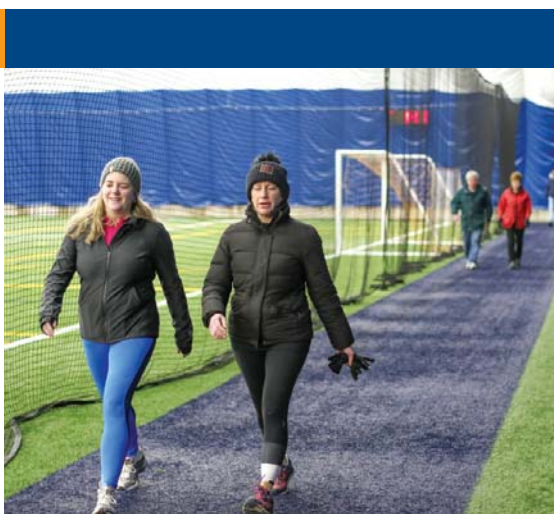
The Plymouth Historical Society operates out of the more than 130-year-old Old Town Hall at 3605 Fernbrook Lane N.

History ... continued on page 4



Celebrate art at Primavera

Primavera is set for April 20-21 at the Plymouth Creek Center, 14800 34th Ave. N. Join the Plymouth Arts Council and City of Plymouth in a celebration of fine art and entertainment. The free exhibit is open 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 20 and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, April 21. The public is invited to attend an artist award ceremony 7:30-8:30 p.m. on Friday. Live entertainment is featured throughout the event on Saturday. For more information, visit plymouthartscouncil.org or plymouthmn.gov.



Walk at the Fieldhouse dome

Saturday, March 31 is the last day for indoor walking at the Plymouth Creek Center Fieldhouse, 14800 34th Ave. N. Please note that dome temperatures can range from 30-55 degrees – dress accordingly. For the track's schedule, call 763-509-5292 or visit plymouthmn.gov/fieldhouse.

After Hours at the Creek



Plymouth recently held its first-ever After Hours at the Creek – an adults-only night out at the Plymouth Creek Center that featured adult-size inflatables, a cash bar, stand-up comedy and more. Stay tuned for information on the next After Hours at the Creek.



Picture Plymouth Photo Contest winners

Hundreds of entries were submitted to the 2017 Picture Plymouth Photo Contest. Categories included 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. Entries are accepted Aug. 1-31. The contest is co-sponsored by the City of Plymouth and Plymouth Magazine.



Wildlife and Nature – "Mushroom in French Park" by Riley Loew



City Landmarks – "Bridge to the Light" by Ann Koktan



People and Families – "Sisterly Love" by Jennifer MacCourt



Overall Winner – "The Lone Fisherman" Taken at Timber Shores Park by Riley Loew



Pets – "There's a Bear on the Patio!" by Emily Sherman



Activities and Events – "Millennium Garden in a Bubble" by Rachel Hall



Readers' Choice – "Luce Line Bike Trail" by Jessica Antinozzi

Plymouth market value notices to hit mailboxes

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 2018. Property values affect how much tax residents pay each year. Residents with questions should call 763-509-5350.

Homeowners with questions or concerns about valuations can work one-on-one with a representative at the Hennepin County Open Book Meeting 4:30-7 p.m. Wednesday, April 18 at Plymouth City Hall, 3400 Plymouth Blvd. The updated process streamlines property value adjustments.

HAPPENINGS

Walk with the Mayor – Join Mayor Kelli Slavik 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, May 1 at the Plymouth Creek Center, 14800 34th Ave. N., to kick off the annual Step to it Challenge, which features more than 20 cities racing to track the most physical activity during the month of May. More information about the challenge is available at steptoit.org.



Plymouth continues its push for key infrastructure improvements

As state lawmakers are convening this spring, Plymouth city officials are speaking to them about several local projects aimed at improving the safety and functionality of infrastructure in Plymouth. The City Council identified the projects as part of its 2018 legislative priorities.

County Road 9 Bridge

Heading into 2018, Plymouth City Council members and city officials are advocating for reconstruction of the County Road 9/Interstate 494 interchange and bridge. Although it's a county-owned road, the City of Plymouth recognizes the high importance of the interchange to the city and region.

The bridge creates a problematic bottleneck for traffic in the region that has resulted in delays and crashes. Originally designed for a far lighter traffic flow, it can no longer safely accommodate existing traffic volumes, especially considering the growth in the area and lack of designated left turn lanes.

The interchange and bridge were built in 1965 and are visibly deteriorating. The city supports state bonding of more than \$10.5 million to replace the increasingly outdated infrastructure.



Plymouth continues to advocate for reconstruction of the County Road 9/I-494 interchange. The interchange lacks designated left turn lanes, which causes traffic to back up and poses safety issues. The bridge was built in 1965 and is visible deteriorating.

Other Infrastructure Priorities

The city also supports a state capital appropriation of \$475,000 to add safety improvements at the Canadian Pacific Rail crossings at Pineview, Larch and Zachary lanes. The projects would install new safety devices and upgraded technologies at existing crossings and replace devices that have reached the end of their useful life. These improvements will also allow for the establishment of a consistent 24-hour quiet zone.

To find out more about Plymouth's goals and priorities for 2018, visit plymouthmn.gov/goals.

SEASONAL SPOTLIGHT

Water Main Flushing – The city will flush water mains this spring based on the schedule below.

- **April 9-11:** Industrial areas, both sides of I-494, south of Highway 55
- **April 9-25:** Residential areas west of I-494, except areas along both sides of County Road 47 west of I-494
- **April 30 through May 15:** Residential areas east of I-494, and areas along both sides of County Road 47 west of I-494

Your 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 you have discolored water, let your 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 2.

Yard Waste Site Opening – The Yard Waste Site, 14900 23rd Ave. N., is set to open for the season Wednesday, April 4 – 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.

The Yard Waste Site and the Recycling Drop-Off Site are closed all day Saturday, April 21 for the Drop-Off Day. Please note that the “2018 Yard Waste Site, recycling dates” article from the January/February 2018 Plymouth News indicates that both sites are open after 1 p.m. on April 21, which has since been re-evaluated.

City Sampler ... from page 1

Residents can meet with the mayor, city council members and city staff, who are available to answer questions about street maintenance, public safety, water quality, recreation activities and anything else residents are curious about. Coffee and light refreshments will be served.

Attendees can enter a drawing to win door prizes, get advice about the best trees and shrubs to plant in their yard and meet city staff members from Police, Fire, Public Works and Engineering, Forestry, Economic Development, Administrative Services and Community Development.

New and long-time residents are encouraged to stop by anytime during the morning and stay as long, or short, as they'd like. Bring the whole family and don't miss free giveaways at department tables throughout the event.

Maintenance Facility Upgrades

The Plymouth Maintenance Facility underwent a major transformation through the first part of 2017. Now complete, the building is better suited to serve the needs of a growing community. The facility houses the city fleet and all equipment, vehicles and staff needed to maintain roads, parks, trails and the water, storm water and sanitary sewer system.



This year's City Sampler, set for Saturday, April 28, spotlights the newly expanded Plymouth Maintenance Facility.

The facility was last expanded in 1990, when Plymouth had considerably less infrastructure to maintain.

The \$10 million expansion makes operations more efficient and provides better protection for the millions of dollars in equipment and vehicles maintained and stored there. The project also includes updated office space, a redesigned reception area and new meeting space.

Plymouth was able to use reserves to fund the project without incurring debt or increasing property taxes.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Volunteer!

The city is seeking volunteers who are:

Friendly and love to provide good service. Help during the USA Hockey National High School Tournament, March 22-26 at the Plymouth Ice Center. Assist Millennium Garden bridal couples during evening wedding rehearsals – must have previous customer service experience.

Interested in serving as police reserve volunteers. Assist sworn officers with traffic and crowd control, transportation of prisoners, surveillance and patrol activities, special events and educational programs. Must be age 21 or older, commit to 15 hours a month and have a clean driving record and 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. Remove invasive garlic mustard from parks in mid-May. Give Earth Day and Arbor Day presentations for third graders in April and May. 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. Provide regular watering for the children's garden. Participate in the following events: Drop-Off Day (Saturday, April 21), the Tree and Shrub Sale (Friday and Saturday, May 11-12) and Plant and Pull Day (Saturday, May 19).

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 27. The application fee is \$15. A mandatory training session is set for Wednesday, June 13.

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

Take a Closer Look



Bilquis Khan Jiwani

Special Projects Volunteer

As a volunteer my job is to develop a survey tool to assess the satisfaction level of city volunteers, analyze the survey findings, prepare a report explaining what was

discovered and then provide recommendations to improve the volunteer experience. This is the first volunteer satisfaction survey in several years, so it is important that we develop a thoughtful process that will provide a thorough examination of our volunteer demographics and experiences.

My favorite thing about being a city volunteer is having the opportunity to share my professional evaluation skills and ability to show the impact that programs have on others. I am eager to become more engaged in my own community, and I look forward to assisting with other city projects that will allow me to contribute to the great quality of life here in Plymouth.

Because Bilquis volunteers, valuable information will be gathered in a professional manner and analyzed to provide insight and direction to improve the volunteer program. Positive feedback will be celebrated and challenges will be addressed to increase volunteer satisfaction and retention.



State of the City tour continues at the Atria Corporate Center

In recent years, Mayor Kelli Slavik’s annual State of the City Address has moved out of Plymouth City Hall and into off-site locations that showcase Plymouth’s growing and vibrant business community.

This year’s event, set for 7:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 20, will be held at the recently updated Atria Corporate Center at 3033 Campus Drive in Plymouth.

Get the Scoop

Residents and business owners are invited to join Slavik as she recaps Plymouth’s past year and looks ahead to the city’s 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 booming economy, new public safety initiatives, successfully completed projects, volunteering and goals for the coming year.

The event is co-sponsored by the City of Plymouth and the TwinWest Chamber of Commerce.

Atria Corporate Center

As Plymouth’s economy continues to grow, a wave of reinvestment in Plymouth has emerged within the business community. The Atria Corporate Center, near Highway 55 and Campus Drive, is a strong example of this trend.

Based on data from building permit values, more than \$8.5 million of valuation was added to Atria in the past five years. The Atria Corporate Center recently underwent a series of major renovations in its lobby, conference center, parking lot, signage and natural site amenities.

The \$2 million project secured the facility LEED Gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council, continued its Energy Star certification from the Environmental Protection Agency and earned recognition



Plymouth Mayor Kelli Slavik will deliver the annual State of the City Address 7:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 20 at the Atria Corporate Center in Plymouth.

as a BOMA 360 Performance Building. The Atria Corporate Center features more than 350,000 square-feet of rentable space and is home to companies such as Medtronic, the Mosaic Company, MOBE, Sivantos, Travel Leaders Group, Eaton and more. The innovative campus features amenities such as a fitness center, picnic area, café, conference center, and covered ramp and heated parking.

History ... from page 1

While funding for the position has been approved only for 2018, the City Council will continue to evaluate the partnership going forward.

“This is a new effort for us,” Parks and Recreation Director Diane Evans said. “We want to be sure that we create an effective model that will keep our city’s rich history alive and available to residents.”

Preserving the Past

Incorporated in 1975, the all-volunteer Historical Society has operated out of Plymouth’s Old Town Hall, 3605 Fernbrook Lane N., with a mission of discovering, preserving and sharing historical knowledge about Plymouth. While the Plymouth Historical Society is an independent nonprofit organization, the City of Plymouth has traditionally partnered with the group for programming and a handful of special events. The city also owns and maintains the more than 130-year-old Old Town Hall.

“Plymouth residents are proud to tell their story,” Evans said. “The Historical Society works to preserve those stories and continue sharing them for generations to come. The city is happy to be a partner in that endeavor.”

To learn more about the Plymouth Historical Society, visit plymouthmnhistoricalsociety.com.

Senior housing openings available at Plymouth Towne Square

Serving residents age 55 and older, Plymouth Towne Square offers quality, independent living in Plymouth.

Two-bedroom units are available now (must be a two-person household). For more information and availability, call 763-550-9525.

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City celebrates 25 years of volunteering in Plymouth

By Mayor Kelli Slavik

It was 25 years ago that the City of Plymouth took a step that set it apart from other Minnesota cities. Plymouth created a formal volunteer program that would be coordinated by city staff and aimed at harnessing the energy, skills and talent of residents.

It was a bold decision in 1993 – and it is a decision that continually proves its value. A quarter of a century later, Plymouth’s volunteer program is going strong and has inspired many other cities to follow suit. Each year, our volunteer program demonstrates its worth. It stretches city resources, builds relationships between city staff and residents, and helps foster an understanding of the role of city government and the value of its services.

As we mark our 25th anniversary and National Volunteer Week (April 15-21), it is appropriate to review the impressive numbers that our volunteers posted in 2017. More than 2,300 people volunteered 27,216 hours. That time is valued at nearly \$657,000 of in-kind contributions.

People who volunteered last year were largely Plymouth residents. However, while 88 percent of volunteers lived in Plymouth, they also came from 26 other cities. And our volunteers encompassed all age groups – 26 percent were teens, 58 percent adults and 16 percent seniors. Plymouth’s volunteers were equally divided between male and female. While most people volunteered as individuals, 85 community and family groups participated in the program.

We are honored Congressman Erik Paulsen recently presented the City of Plymouth with a Star of the North Award for its volunteer program. Our volunteers have always been a point of pride – and never more so than now, as we celebrate our 25th anniversary.

For more information on the volunteer program, visit plymouthmn.gov/volunteer.

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: March 13, 27 and April 10, 24
Planning Commission: March 7, 21 and April 4, 18

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