



## Don't miss it – Farmers Market continues through Oct. 9

The Plymouth Farmers Market is open each Wednesday 2:30-6:30 p.m. through Oct. 9 at the Parkers Lake Playfield parking lot, 15500 County Road 6. More than 20 vendors provide fresh, locally grown produce and prepared food at the market. Donations for the local food shelf will also be collected. Visit [plymouthmn.gov/farmersmarket](http://plymouthmn.gov/farmersmarket) for more information.



## Halloween at the Creek is Oct. 25

Plymouth gets spooky for the annual Halloween at the Creek, set for 6-9 p.m. Friday, Oct. 25 at the Plymouth Creek Center, 14800 34th Ave. N. Costumes are encouraged at the event. All participants must register – adults are \$5 and kids are \$10 if registered by 4:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 25 or \$12 at the door. Ages 2 and younger are free. Registration includes a slice of pizza and a beverage. The event features carnival games, inflatables, entertainment, prizes, treats and more.



## Truck or Treat at Fire Stations

The Plymouth Fire and Police departments join in the Halloween fun with Truck or Treat, set for 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 29. Residents are encouraged to stop by their nearest fire station to see fire trucks, police equipment and other public safety vehicles. Participants can try activities with Plymouth firefighters and police officers – Halloween costumes are welcome. Plymouth's fire stations are Fire Station I (13025 County Road 6), Fire Station II (12000 Old Rockford Road) and Fire Station III (3300 Dunkirk Lane N.). At the event, nonperishable food drives will be held for People Responding in Social Ministry and Interfaith Outreach.

## City Council to consider approval of Plymouth Creek Center project design

Plans for a Plymouth Creek Center renovation and expansion project are moving forward following the city's most recent round of community engagement.

In late July, City Council reviewed community feedback and directed staff to continue developing plans for a Creek Center project, which includes gym space, a walking track, an indoor playground, fitness studios, senior spaces, classrooms, meeting spaces and an arts studio.



PCC ... continued on page 4

A schematic rendering depicts potential renovation and expansion of the Plymouth Creek Center. The City Council will review and consider a final schematic at two meetings in September.

## Community-wide survey to hit selected mailboxes in September

In an effort to collect community feedback and gauge city service satisfaction, the City of Plymouth is working with the National Research Center to complete a community survey.

### Survey Recipients

Surveys will be mailed to 1,700 randomly selected households in Plymouth.

Selected households will receive a postcard in September notifying them that they have been selected to participate in the survey and that the survey will follow in a separate mailing.

Survey ... continued on page 4



A community survey will be mailed to randomly selected households in September. An online version will also be available to residents who do not receive a mailing.

## Kids Fest 2019



An estimated 4,000-plus people attended this year's Kids Fest in August. The annual event featured the Minnesota Zoomobile, live entertainment, inflatables, games, prizes, eco-friendly activities, animals, face painting and more.



# Progress continues at the Plymouth Historical Society

A year after the city forged a renewed partnership with the Plymouth Historical Society, the organization can point to a new history video, redesigned website, digitized collections and an upcoming book as signs of its progress in preserving the city's past.

The Plymouth Historical Society, located in the original Town Hall at 3605 Fernbrook Lane N., operates with the mission to discover, preserve and share historical knowledge about Plymouth.

The partnership with the city included hiring Historic Site Manager Natasha Thoreson to manage programming, grant writing, information digitization and organizational evaluation.

Thoreson has helped boost volunteer support at the historical society. In the past year, nearly 30 volunteers donated about 900 hours to help preserve Plymouth's history. Thoreson said that new initiatives help enhance the city's history, and make the past more accessible for all residents to explore.

"It's a way for us to tell our story to a new audience – including those who don't physically visit our building," Thoreson said. "We're reaching beyond our walls."

## The Past Goes Digital

In addition to recently launching a new website ([plymouthmnhistoricalsociety.org](http://plymouthmnhistoricalsociety.org)), a major ongoing project includes digitization of historical artifacts, such as documents, images and other materials. Through the website, residents can explore a collection of about 1,800 objects, including photographs, clothing, daily-use items and more.

## Our Town's Story

A large-scale collaboration between the Plymouth Historical Society, CCX Media and the City of Plymouth was recently finished with the premier of "Our Town's Story," a 45-minute film featuring an in-depth look at Plymouth's history – from its early formation to its status as Minnesota's seventh-largest city and fourth-largest economy.



The Plymouth Historical Society, located at Plymouth's original Town Hall, continues to grow its mission to discover, preserve and share Plymouth's history.

The video highlights the area's original Native American inhabitants – the Dakota – and Plymouth's first settlers, as well as infrastructure development, school system establishment, parkland preservation, community event origins and more. Plymouth history comes to life in the video through archival photos, storytelling and interviews with those connected to the city's history.

"Our Town's Story" can be viewed online in its entirety at [plymouthmn.gov/history](http://plymouthmn.gov/history).

## Continuing Preservation

Other projects by the historical society include working with author Sarah Winans to publish "Plymouth" through Arcadia Publishing. The book, available this December, includes a rich narrative of Plymouth's history enhanced with hundreds of photos.

The original Town Hall building is also being preserved with a new roof, paint and insulation. Thoreson said the historical society will continue to pursue grants for artifact preservation, building maintenance and other improvements. As work continues, the historical society will look for opportunities to hold special events and open houses. Tours of the historical society are also available by appointment.

To learn more about the historical society, or to get involved, visit [plymouthmnhistoricalsociety.org](http://plymouthmnhistoricalsociety.org).

# Rockford Road/I-494 project continues through phases

The project at the Rockford Road (County Road 9)/Interstate 494 interchange continues to move through its three-phase construction schedule. At press time, crews were working on the second of three phases.

Construction has remained on track with an expected project completion date in late November, weather permitting.

## Bridge Closure

The project's second phase began in early July, when the bridge over the interstate was demolished. During this phase, all four Rockford Road ramps to and from I-494 remain open.

However, motorists are not able to cross over I-494 via Rockford Road. The new bridge will be completely closed to traffic as it is reconstructed. Motorists are asked to remain patient and follow detours during the bridge closure.

While the bridge is closed, motorists will be able to access businesses in the area from Rockford Road.

The new bridge is expected to be complete in October, weather permitting, and will be open to traffic, though lane closures may occur at times as crews finish details at the interchange.



As seen in this photo from early August, the current phase of construction at the Rockford Road/I-494 interchange is centered around rebuilding the bridge over the interstate. The new bridge is expected to be complete in October.

## Closure of South Ramps

When the bridge reopens, the next phase of the project will close both southern ramps (the ramp from Rockford Road to southbound I-494 and the ramp from northbound I-494 to Rockford Road). Once open, the new interchange will be a significant improvement to the former 54-year-old bridge, which posed public safety issues and featured a high crash rate. Visit [plymouthmn.gov/RockfordBridge](http://plymouthmn.gov/RockfordBridge) to learn more and to sign up for project eNotifications.

## SEASONAL SPOTLIGHT

**Outdoor Water Restrictions** – Outdoor water use restrictions remain in effect through Sept. 30. The city prohibits outdoor lawn watering from noon to 5 p.m. on all days. Water customers must also follow an odd-even schedule when sprinkling lawns. Homeowners and businesses with addresses ending in an odd number may water on odd-numbered calendar days. Those with addresses ending in an even number, may water on even-numbered days. For exceptions to the restrictions, call the hotline at 763-509-5512 or visit [plymouthmn.gov/watering](http://plymouthmn.gov/watering).

**Yard Waste Site Hours** – Fall hours will be in effect at the city-operated Yard Waste Site, 14900 23rd Ave. N., September through November. The site is open 3-6 p.m. Wednesday-Friday and 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The site is closed Mondays and Tuesdays. Only Plymouth, Wayzata, Long Lake and Medicine Lake residents may use the site and identification is required. The site closes for major holidays.

For acceptable materials or details, visit [plymouthmn.gov/yardwaste](http://plymouthmn.gov/yardwaste) or call 763-509-5930.

## HAPPENINGS



**Wine Tasting Fundraiser for Music in Plymouth** – 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 26 at the Plymouth Creek Center, 14800 34th Ave. N.

The Music in Plymouth Endowment Fund will host a wine tasting fundraiser featuring hors d'oeuvres, live music and the opportunity to win gift baskets.

Raffle tickets for a specially chosen flight of wines will be sold for \$10. Event tickets cost \$35 in advance and \$40 at the door. For tickets, visit [musicinplymouth.org](http://musicinplymouth.org).

**Fall Plant Swap** – 4:30-6:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 9 at the Plymouth Maintenance Facility, 14900 23rd Ave. N. The City of Plymouth will host a free plant swap.

Participants are encouraged to bring perennials and swap them for new plants shared by others.

To get involved, place extra plants in pots and label them with their common names. Seeds and plant wares – pots, tools, books and the like – are also good swap items.

For more information, call City Forester Paul Buck at 763-509-5944.

**Firefighters 5K** – Saturday, Sept. 28 at Fire Station II, 12000 Old Rockford Road. The 15th-annual 5K run/walk begins at 9 a.m. A free kids fun run begins at 10 a.m. Pre-registration through Sunday, Sept. 15 is \$20 and is available at [signmeup.com/plymouthfirefighters5k](http://signmeup.com/plymouthfirefighters5k). After Sept. 15, regular registration is \$25.

The registration fee includes a long-sleeve T-shirt. Mail-in registration forms can be picked up at City Hall, 3400 Plymouth Blvd., or downloaded from the city website.

Race day registration is available. For more information, call 612-516-3143 or email [nissa@runningventures.com](mailto:nissa@runningventures.com). Proceeds benefit the Plymouth Crime and Fire Prevention Fund.



# Plymouth on Parade returns to City Center on Sept. 21

A celebration of the city will march through Plymouth City Center Saturday, Sept. 21 at the 22nd annual Plymouth on Parade event.

The free event will have a new format this year, with family activities running along the parade route from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., including face painting, glitter tattoos, balloon animals and more. Food trucks will also be along the parade route.

The parade begins at 10:30 a.m. and runs along Plymouth Boulevard from 34th to 37th avenues.

A variety of units will participate in the parade, including Armstrong and Wayzata high school marching bands, Saint Paul Bouncing Team, Kracker Jacks Drumline, Twin Cities Metro Pipe Band and the Minnesota Vikings Skol Line. All activities and entertainment are free and open to the public. However, attendees are encouraged to bring



Plymouth on Parade will have a new look this year, with activities along the parade route from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The parade begins at 10:30 a.m.

cash for food truck concessions. The event is co-sponsored by the City of Plymouth, TCF Bank, Hy-Vee, Kyle Vitense State Farm Agency and CCX Media.

## City Council approves 2040 Comp Plan

In July, the City Council gave final approval to Plymouth's 2040 Comprehensive Plan. The plan will help guide development, redevelopment and public improvements over the next 20 years.

Approval of the Comprehensive Plan culminated a four-year public planning process.

The plan will assist in decision making, problem solving and defining the long-term vision of the community's future.

### A Planning Tool

The Comprehensive Plan includes plans for land use, transportation, housing, sanitary sewer, water supply, surface water, public facilities, parks, trails and open spaces. All cities in the seven-county metro area are required by state law to prepare a comprehensive plan and update it every 10 years.

Issues facing Plymouth that the 2040 plan identified include the ability of infrastructure to keep up with growth in northwestern Plymouth and an increasing focus on redevelopment and economic development for the future with diminishing undeveloped land supply. With the plan, the city can address these issues more methodically and with a deeper understanding of the bigger picture.



The City Council recently approved the 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

### Preparing for the Future

Planning Manager Barb Thomson said that the 2040 Comprehensive Plan will serve as an important tool in the city's planning process.

"This document will help us remain informed and thoughtful as we approach each planning decision," Thomson said. "It allows us to get ahead of potential planning issues and to continue building Plymouth as a successful community."

Visit [plymouthmn.gov/2040CompPlan](http://plymouthmn.gov/2040CompPlan) to view the 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

## Program offers home improvement financing to Plymouth homeowners

Residents who own homes in need of safety or energy-efficiency improvements may qualify for financing from the Plymouth Housing and Redevelopment Authority.

The Home Rehabilitation Program offers a zero-interest deferred loan of up to \$40,000 for low- and moderate-income households to maintain, repair and improve their homes in Plymouth.

Eligible improvements include repairs necessary to make a house a safer, more energy-efficient place to live. This may include new roofing, siding, windows, electrical, plumbing, heating and insulation. Other repairs may also be eligible.

Priority is given to health and safety hazards, such as correcting or replacing faulty or inadequate plumbing, electrical wiring, or malfunctioning/aged furnaces, and energy improvements, like installing insulation, storm windows, storm doors, weather stripping and caulking.

Funding cannot be used for cosmetic remodeling or to refinance any existing debt or previous rehabilitation work.



Low- and moderate-income homeowners may qualify for zero-interest deferred loans to help make safety or energy-efficiency improvements.

To be eligible, applicants must live in Plymouth and own their home. They must be current on mortgage payments, deed payments, property taxes, homeowners insurance and homeowners association dues, if applicable.

For more information and income limits, call 763-509-5413 or visit [plymouthmn.gov/housing](http://plymouthmn.gov/housing).

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE

### Volunteer!

The city is seeking volunteers who are:

**Committed to local history.** Join the Plymouth Historical Society board of directors, work with collections care, assist with special events and open houses, support social media efforts and more.

**Interested in serving as Police Explorer volunteers.** Must be 14-20 years of age and able to meet weekly during the school year to explore law enforcement careers. Accepted applicants will begin the program in September.

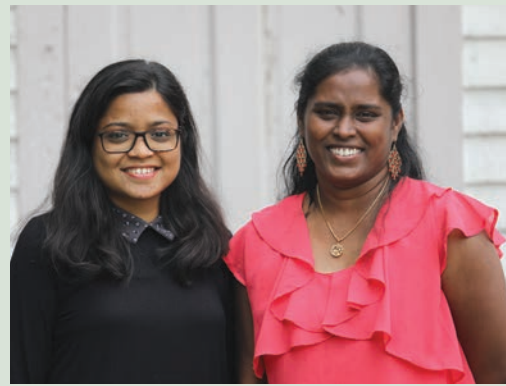
**Passionate about the environment and green things.** Adopt a storm drain or mark them to educate others about storm water pollution. Remove buckthorn Saturdays, Oct. 19, 26 and Nov. 2. Groups are welcome.

**Friendly and love to provide good service.** Help with activities during Plymouth on Parade (Saturday, Sept. 21), Halloween at the Creek (Friday, Oct. 25) and the Plymouth Arts Fair (Nov. 23-24).

**Enthusiastic about winter sports.** Assist beginning youth skaters. Must be confident on the ice. Take tickets at high school hockey games November through February.

To find out more about these and other opportunities, visit [plymouthmn.gov/volunteer](http://plymouthmn.gov/volunteer) or call 763-509-5230.

### Take a Closer Look



Aradhana Dalai (left) and Rajee Sundar

### Aradhana Dalai and Rajee Sundar

Plymouth Historical Society volunteers

**As volunteers, our job is to** assist in preserving the city's history by helping create a database to track the objects in the historical society's collection. This includes photographs of the city's residents, families, iconic buildings, landmarks and major events that have taken place in the past. These photos are scanned and saved.

### Our favorite thing about being city volunteers:

**Aradhana:** Coming from a different country, this is an incredible opportunity to learn about Plymouth and its people. It has also given me the scope to use my skills and previous work experience to help the historical society in its greater cause. My favorite thing about volunteering is that it allows me to be a part of this community, meet with different people and share our knowledge and culture.

**Rajee:** Volunteering has helped me in my career and social life. It teaches me to be confident and opens doors that can help me make great connections with our community and board members. My favorite thing about volunteering is contributing something to the City of Plymouth. Additionally, I really enjoy working with my friend, Aradhana, under the great guidance of Historic Site Manager Dr. Natasha Thoreson.

**Because Aradhana and Rajee volunteer,** the city's historic objects and images will be available and easily accessible to future generations of researchers and residents.



PCC ... from page 1

At press time, the project architect, HGA, was finalizing a schematic design, which is expected to be presented to the City Council 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 5.

A refined cost estimate is also slated to be presented at the meeting. The City Council is scheduled to consider approving the design and authorizing construction documents at its 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 10 meeting.

An Engaged Community

The city held a year-long community engagement process throughout 2018 to determine the types of spaces included in a potential project.

Another phase of community engagement took place this summer with a FlashVote survey, feedback forms and an open house.

- **Open House** – An open house was held at the Creek Center in July. About 325 people attended to speak

with city staff, architects and elected officials to learn more about the project.

- **FlashVote** – More than 1,100 participants answered a FlashVote survey about the project, which asked questions about desired spaces, project support and cost information.
- **Feedback Forms** – Questions mirroring the FlashVote survey were available for users to access through the city’s website and at the open house. In total, 211 people filled out survey forms.

The preliminary project cost estimate is roughly \$50 million, based on early schematic plans. The city is seeking state bonding funds and other offsetting revenues to help pay for the project.

If the project were to be solely funded by property taxes, owners of \$300,000-\$500,000 homes would see an average tax impact of about \$78-\$135 per year. To sign up for eNotify updates and for more information, including project background, visit [plymouthmn.gov/pccproject](http://plymouthmn.gov/pccproject).



The proposed Creek Center project includes gyms, a year-round indoor walking track, indoor play areas, senior spaces and more.

Survey ... from page 1

Residents not a part of the randomly selected group have the opportunity to fill out a survey online at [plymouthmn.gov/survey](http://plymouthmn.gov/survey). Online surveys will be available Oct. 11-25. The survey includes questions about quality of life, public safety, customer satisfaction and more. Results will be presented to the City Council at an upcoming meeting and published at [plymouthmn.gov/survey](http://plymouthmn.gov/survey).

**Encouraging Feedback**

Plymouth Administrative Services Director Laurie Hokkanen said the goal of the survey is to encourage data-driven government and evidence-based decision making.

“Plymouth is very interested in community engagement,” Hokkanen said. “We see this survey and our other engagement tools as strong opportunities to improve resident satisfaction.”



Two Plymouth business leaders were recently recognized for their achievements. Plymouth-based **SeaChange Print Innovations’ CEO Wendi Breuer** was awarded by the National Association of Women Business Owners as the Minnesota Small-Business Woman of the Year. **Christine Lantinen**, a longtime Plymouth resident and owner of wholesale food gift and candy company **Maud Borup Inc.**, has been named Minnesota’s Small Business Person of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

City offers options to engage

By Mayor Jeff Wosje

Even though it touches the everyday lives of residents, the work of city government is not always top of mind for those who live here.

Whether it’s the water they drink, roads they drive, parks and trails they enjoy or help that arrives when they dial 911, city services affect residents daily.

It’s generally a good sign that these services are not the first thing on residents’ minds. It usually means things are working. Still, it’s essential that city officials have the benefit of resident feedback as they do their work.

Public engagement helps the City Council and staff gauge the effectiveness of services and better tailor projects to meet local needs.

In addition to traditional communication and meetings, Plymouth uses several easily accessed tools to gain resident feedback.

**Mail Survey.** This fall, the city will conduct a community survey that will ask randomly selected residents to rate a comprehensive list of city services as well as quality of life (see page 1). This will provide scientifically valid results from a wide swath of residents.

**FlashVote.** All residents who can spare about a minute a month are encouraged to sign up for FlashVote, an online survey tool that provides a quick, easy way to share input on a variety of topics. Like a mail survey, FlashVote surveys provide the city with scientifically valid data. To learn more and sign up, visit [plymouthmn.gov/FlashVote](http://plymouthmn.gov/FlashVote).

**Online Forms.** The city website offers online forms so residents may share feedback on services such as snow plowing or traffic concerns. The city also occasionally posts forms to get feedback about specific projects.

**Social Media.** Many residents also engage more informally by following the city on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

No matter how you choose to engage, we sincerely appreciate your involvement.

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

City Council

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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-Friday

8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday (Community Development only)

View Meetings





Live on Channel 16, 7 p.m.

On-demand video link at city website

**City Council:** Sept. 10, 24 and Oct. 8, 22

**Planning Commission:** Sept. 4, 18 and Oct. 2, 16

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