

PLYMOUTH NEWS

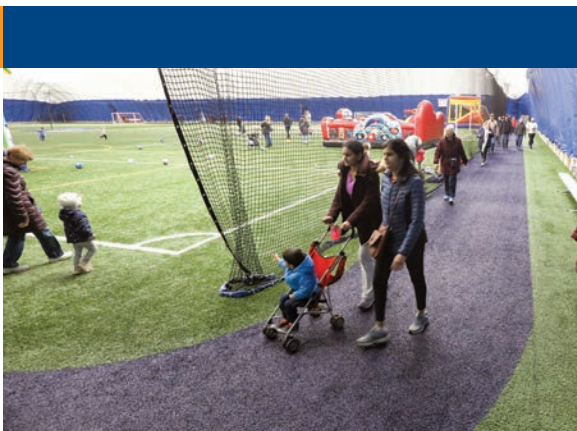


Primavera returns to Plymouth

Primavera is set for April 17-19 at the Plymouth Creek Center, 14800 34th Ave. N. Join the Plymouth Arts Council and the City of Plymouth in a celebration of fine art. The exhibit is free to attend and open during the following times:

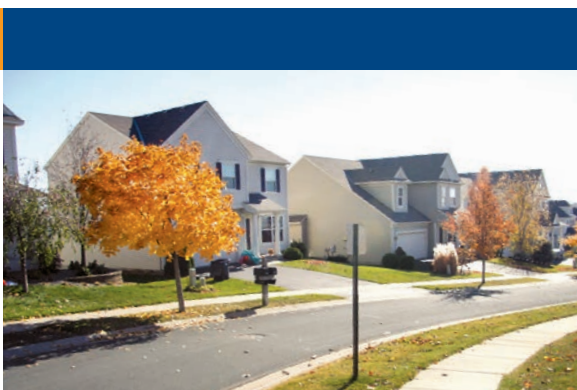
- 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Friday, April 17 with an opening reception 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, April 18
- 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 19

The public is invited to attend an award ceremony 6:30 p.m. Saturday. Live entertainment will be featured at the event Saturday. For more information about the event, visit plymouthmn.gov.



Fieldhouse walking ends March 31

The last day for indoor walking at the Plymouth Creek Center Fieldhouse, 14800 34th Ave. N., is Tuesday, March 31. For hours, call the hotline at 763-509-5292.



Look for market value notices

Market value notices for Plymouth properties will hit mailboxes toward the end of March. The notices list the assessed value of the property and its classification for taxes payable in 2021. Property values affect how much tax residents pay each year. Residents 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 15 at Plymouth City Hall, 3400 Plymouth Blvd.

Discover Plymouth event offers an interactive look at the community

A new event – Discover Plymouth – will showcase the broad range of all the community has to offer. The free event will feature components from local government, area businesses, parks and recreation, volunteer opportunities, community services and more.

Discover Plymouth is set for 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 18 at the Plymouth Creek Center, 14800 34th Ave. N. Those new to Plymouth, as well as long-time residents, will find something to discover about the city.

Learn about City Services

Attendees can chat with city staff and elected officials in an informal setting to learn about city issues, services and happenings, including a City Council Meet and Greet from 11 a.m. to noon. Also featured at the event is the annual State of the City address, set for 10 a.m. In the annual update, Mayor Jeff Wosje will recap the past year and look to the future.

Discover ... continued on page 4

Mayor Jeff Wosje slated to deliver State of the City 10 a.m. April 18

Plymouth Mayor Jeff Wosje brings the annual State of the City address to Discover Plymouth 10 a.m. Saturday, April 18 at the Plymouth Creek Center Fieldhouse, 14800 34th Ave. N.

Discover Plymouth attendees are encouraged to stop by and hear the address, which features a discussion between the mayor and Dave Kiser of CCX Media. Wosje will discuss a range of city topics as he recaps Plymouth's past year and shares news about the city's economy, successfully completed projects and goals for the coming year.

Afterwards, residents can meet the mayor and city council members at the City Council Meet and Greet from 11 a.m. to noon.

HRA helps first-time homebuyers, homeowners and more in Plymouth

Access to quality housing is an increasingly important issue in the Twin Cities. The City of Plymouth and the Plymouth Housing and Redevelopment Authority offer a number of programs to assist long-time and first-time residents alike in achieving their housing goals.

To learn more about any of the programs below, visit plymouthmn.gov/hra or call 763-509-5410.

First-Time Homebuyer Loans

Buying a home for the first time can be daunting, and a number of hurdles can get in the way of prospective homeowners. To help qualifying buyers, the HRA offers zero-interest deferred loans of up to \$35,000 to offset down payment and closing costs. Applicants must meet income limits, attend a homebuyer education class, finance the

home through a participating lender and be a first-time homebuyer or have not owned a home in the last three years.

Those interested in the program are encouraged to contact the HRA early in the home-buying process. Visit plymouthmn.gov/firsthome for details.

Home Rehabilitation Loans

Zero-interest loans are available for qualifying applicants in moderate- to low-income households. The home rehabilitation loan program offers deferred, no-interest loans of up to \$40,000 to help residents make qualifying safety and energy efficiency upgrades.

HRA ... continued on page 3

Fire & Ice 2020



Mild February weather and plenty of fun brought thousands to Parkers Lake for the annual Fire & Ice festival. Activities included an ice fishing contest, snow bowling, dog sled rides, recycle bin races (pictured) and more. Don't miss next year's Fire & Ice.



Picture Plymouth Photo Contest winners



Best in Show/People and Families – "In Their Own Little World of Happiness" by Pavan Koya

Visit plymouthmn.gov/PhotoContest to view all winning photos. The contest is co-sponsored by the City of Plymouth and Plymouth Magazine.



Wildlife and Nature – "Young Great Horned Owl" by Rick Budde



City Landmarks – "Sunrise" by Matthew Prior



Readers' Choice – "FEED ME!" by Lindsay Bergstrom



Pets – "A Pretty Pitty's New Home" by Mara Lenz



Activities and Events – "Hi-Yah!" by Rebecca Shamblin

SEASONAL SPOTLIGHT

Drop-Off Day – This year, Drop-Off Day will be held over two days to allow for more efficient service and reduced wait times.

Drop-Off Day activities are held at the Maintenance Facility, 14900 23rd Ave. N. The Drop-Off Day schedule is:

- 3-7 p.m. Friday, April 24 – Only items that are free to dispose/recycle will be collected
- 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, April 25 – Pay items and free items alike will be collected

Visit plymouthmn.gov/dropoff for pricing and a list of accepted items. The event is only available to Plymouth residents, and identification is required.

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

- **April 13-15:** Industrial areas, both sides of Interstate 494, south of Highway 55
- **April 13-29:** Residential areas west of I-494, except areas along both sides of County Road 47 west of I-494
- **May 4-19:** 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 when your area will be flushed, check the map at plymouthmn.gov or call 763-509-5950 after Wednesday, April 1.

Yard Waste Site Opening – The Yard Waste Site, 14900 23rd Ave. N., is set to open for the season Wednesday, April 1 – weather permitting. The site is open to Plymouth residents only – identification is required. In April, the site is open 3-6 p.m. Wednesday-Friday and 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

The Yard Waste Site is closed Sunday, April 12 for Easter, as well as Friday, April 24 and Saturday, April 25 for Drop-Off Day activities.

For details, visit plymouthmn.gov/yardwaste.



City Center 2.0: Plymouth City Council begins to reimagine the city's core

Last year, the Plymouth City Council adopted a goal to explore options for continued development and redevelopment of the Plymouth City Center – roughly defined as the geographic center of the city, located one mile west of Interstate 494 on Highway 55.

The initiative, dubbed City Center 2.0, gets off the ground this year with a public engagement process that includes input from businesses, property owners and residents. The purpose of City Center 2.0 is to consider development and redevelopment requests within a renewed vision.

Goal Setting

First introduced in 1996, the original vision for the roughly 140-acre City Center area was to establish a blend of cultural, recreational, civic and entertainment uses that encourage community interaction.

“As the area continues to develop, City Council found it important to recommit to City Center goals and to adjust aspects that have shifted the area away from its original vision,” said Community Development Director Steve Juetten.

Feedback Opportunities

In early 2020, the city began one-on-one meetings with stakeholders, including City Center businesses. As the city develops the City Center 2.0 vision, residents will be invited to share their observations and ideas through a variety of platforms.

During spring and summer, the city will offer an array of community engagement activities to obtain feedback from the general public. One such opportunity is available with the City Center 2.0 booth at the city's new event, Discover



The City Center, located on Highway 55 one mile west of I-494, is being re-evaluated and reimagined this year.

Plymouth – see page 1 for details. At the event, attendees can learn more and provide feedback about the initiative.

Project Consultants

The City of Plymouth is working on the project with three consultants – GRAEF, Zan Associates and Business Districts, Inc. GRAEF will take the lead role in the project and is responsible for the market analysis and plan. Zan Associates will handle the public engagement portion of the project. Business Districts, Inc. will gather market research, including data in and around Plymouth, and meet with a variety of City Center property owners, business owners and brokers.

Stay Informed

Learn more at plymouthmn.gov/CityCenter and keep up to date on project happenings with email eNotifications – sign up at plymouthmn.gov/eNotify.

Tree and Shrub Sale orders due May 1

The Plymouth Tree and Shrub Sale returns this year with a range of plant species to add to any local landscape. Orders are accepted now through Friday, May 1.

City staff selects plants that are well-adapted to local growing conditions, offer environmental benefits, and feature resistance to pests and disease. They serve as good replacements for invasive species, or for ash trees affected by Emerald Ash Borer. Selected plants also provide food and shelter for pollinators, butterflies and other wildlife.

Choosing the Right Plant

Visit plymouthmn.gov/treesale for more information about the plants available in the sale, or talk with city forestry staff at Discover Plymouth 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 18 at Plymouth Creek Center, 14800 34th Ave. N.

Online orders can be made at plymouthmn.gov/treesale. It is recommended that those interested order early, as some species will sell out quickly.

In-person orders will be accepted at the Plymouth Maintenance Facility, 14900 23rd Ave. N., during regular

business hours, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Payment is due when the order is placed.

Orders will be available for pick-up at the Maintenance Facility during the following hours:

- 3-6 p.m. Friday, May 8
- 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 9

Any trees not purchased will be sold 11 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 9 at the Maintenance Facility.

Bare Root Trees

Most of the trees included in the sale are 5-6 feet at time of purchase and bare root. Evergreen species come in pots and are 2-3 feet. Shrubs are bare root and 2-3 feet. Bare root means that the plants do not come with soil on the roots, so they cost less, have up to 200% more roots and are easier to transport than the traditional balled and burlapped plants.

Visit plymouthmn.gov/treesale for information about how to plant bare root trees. Trees and shrubs do not come with a warranty. Quantities are limited.

HRA ... from page 1

These may include new roofing, siding, windows, electrical, plumbing and insulation. Other repairs may be eligible.

Home Energy Squad

The City of Plymouth and the HRA have partnered with the Center for Energy and Environment, CenterPoint Energy and Xcel Energy to offer the Home Energy Squad Program to Plymouth residents.

Residents can sign up for a customized home visit from a team of energy professionals who will identify ways to save energy in the home.

Home visits last around two hours and cost \$70 for residents, including materials and services. For more information or to schedule a visit, call 651-328-6220 or visit mncee.org/home-energy-squad.

Senior Rental Housing

The HRA owns and operates two senior apartment buildings, which may have immediate openings or space on their waiting lists.

Plymouth Towne Square (99 affordable housing units) and Vicksburg Crossing (63 moderate rate units and 33 affordable units) offer residents quality, independent living near Plymouth's City Center.

The buildings serve people ages 55 and older.

Visit plymouthmn.gov/TowneSquare or call 763-550-9525 for more information about Plymouth Towne Square. Visit plymouthmn.gov/VicksburgCrossing or call 763-559-1877 to learn more about Vicksburg Crossing.

Architectural Design Service

For homeowners looking to begin a project, taking the first step can be difficult.

To help, 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.

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. Help with a safety event for senior drivers. Provide support at Discover Plymouth, a new event – see page 1 for details.

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 other education programs. Must be 21 years or older, commit to 15 hours a month, have a clean driving record and pass a background check.

Passionate about the environment and green things. Give Earth Day presentations to third graders in April. Remove invasive garlic mustard from parks in mid-May, a great family or group project. Adopt a park or storm drain to keep clean weekly. Weed, water and deadhead the Millennium Garden. Participate in the following events: Drop-Off Day (April 24-25), Tree and Shrub Sale (May 8-9) and Plant and Pull Day (May 16).

Teens who want to get involved. Build leadership skills and gain work experience while assisting with a variety of summer programs. Apply by Friday, April 17 – application fee is \$15. A mandatory training session is set for Wednesday, June 10.

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

Take a Closer Look



Quinn Schomburg (left) and Owen Dotseth.

Teen Volunteers

Sam Foley, Owen Dotseth, Quinn Schomburg, Matthew St. John and Connor Tyska volunteer through the Wayzata Schools Transition Work Experience program. They provide light housekeeping duties at City Hall, Plymouth Ice Center and the Maintenance Facility.

As a volunteer, my job is to:

Owen: Clean different parts of the building and learn job skills to be independent.

Quinn: Clean, supervise my coworker and tease the staff.

Matthew: Stay on track to focus on my job.

Connor: Help clean.

Favorite thing about being a city volunteer:

Owen: The people are nice at the front desk when my coworker and I greet them, as they always say "hi" and smile.

Quinn: Meeting new people and working with plants at the Plymouth Ice Center.

Matthew: Wiping bathrooms because it makes me laugh to go into the girls' bathroom.

Connor: Working together with my friend.

Because these teens volunteer, public and staff areas receive additional attention and are kept clean and presentable. The students gain independence and work skills while developing meaningful relationships with staff members who look forward to seeing them each week.



Discover ... from page 1

Community members young and old can get an up-close, hands-on look at large public works equipment and public safety vehicles at a touch-a-truck. The Parks and Recreation Department will showcase ways to keep active with a preview of upcoming programming. Residents can also learn about the city's many volunteer opportunities.

Shop and Explore

Discover Plymouth features an indoor marketplace, with local vendors selling homemade and handmade goods. Attendees can also get ideas and check out offerings from home improvement companies. Residents can learn about health and wellness opportunities from professionals and receive a free wellness screening. Attendees can also purchase snacks or meals from a variety of food trucks at the event.



Discover Plymouth will feature a touch-a-truck, where attendees can explore public works equipment and public safety vehicles.

Participate or Sponsor

Vendor and sponsorship opportunities are still available for this year's event. Visit plymouthmn.gov/specialevents for more information. The deadline to apply is Friday, April 3.

Redevelopment project at Four Seasons Mall site entered into housing funding lottery

A proposal to redevelop the long vacant Four Seasons Mall site was entered into the lottery for financing from the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency.

The redevelopment proposal comes from Dominion and Launch LLC and includes a mix of residential and commercial space with 163 affordable family units, 255 senior housing units and about 23,300 square feet of commercial space. The senior housing portion of the project ranked fourth in the random state-financed lottery system and could be funded as soon as August.

The soonest the affordable family unit portion could be funded is January of 2021. Based on that timing, it is unlikely that any demolition or site work will happen before late fall this year. To stay abreast of redevelopment projects in Plymouth, sign up to receive eNotification emails detailing City Council and Planning Commission agendas at plymouthmn.gov/enotify.



A proposal to redevelop the Four Seasons Mall site includes a mix of residential and commercial space.

Census Day is April 1

The 2020 Census gets underway this spring – and residents are encouraged to participate and ensure that Plymouth is fully represented. To mark the effort, Census Day is set for Wednesday, April 1.

The census is held nationally every 10 years with the goal of counting every person in the United States. Census results have far-reaching public policy effects – examples include funding for infrastructure and local services, planning for public facilities, political representation in U.S. Congress and more.

From March 12-20, households will receive a mailed invitation to participate, which will give details about options to complete a census form – online, by phone or through the mail. The census is 10 questions long and takes about 10 minutes to complete per household member. Residents should note that, by law, the U.S. Census Bureau cannot share respondents' answers with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities.

Visit mn.gov/admin/2020-census for more information about the census in Minnesota.

Three railroad quiet zones in Plymouth are now in effect

Over the past year, Canadian Pacific Railroad crossings at Pineview, Larch and Zachary lanes have become safer – and recently they became quieter.

The City of Plymouth worked with the railroad to install safety devices and upgraded technology at the three crossings to improve safety and allow the city to establish a consistent 24-hour quiet zone. The new quiet zone went into effect late last year.

While train engineers will no longer routinely use train whistles when approaching the crossings, whistles may still be used for emergency safety reasons.

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Stay connected with the city

By Mayor Jeff Wosje

While I hope people enjoy the print edition of Plymouth News, it's understood that residents can't always stop and read the entire newsletter cover-to-cover. I'd like to share the many ways residents can stay up-to-date with city news.

City Website – Residents can find most anything they need to know at plymouthmn.gov. With news postings, a city calendar, departmental information and much more, the website is the top resource for city information.

Social Media – Plymouth meets people where they are online with several active social media platforms. Followers can see city posts on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Nextdoor, LinkedIn and YouTube.

Alert Plymouth – For instances when residents require urgent information, the city uses its emergency notification system, Alert Plymouth. All Plymouth residents are encouraged to sign up at plymouthmn.gov/alertplymouth.

eNotification Emails – With eNotifications, users can subscribe to receive emails about an array of topics, including city meeting agendas, road projects, news and more. To subscribe, visit plymouthmn.gov/eNotify.

Discover Plymouth, State of the City – A new event this year, Discover Plymouth offers a chance for in-person interaction with the city in an informal setting – learn more on page 1. Also at this year's event, I will deliver the annual State of the City address.

FlashVote – Residents are encouraged to sign up for FlashVote, an online survey tool that provides a quick, easy way to share input on a variety of city topics. To learn more and sign up, visit plymouthmn.gov/FlashVote.

Recreation Booklet – The city mails a booklet to residents three times a year that highlights the city's extensive recreation programs and events.

Meeting Coverage – The city provides gavel-to-gavel coverage of all regular City Council and Planning Commission meetings on cable channel 16 and through online streaming via the city website.

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

City Council

- Jeff Wosje**, Mayor
763-509-5007 (voicemail), jwosje@plymouthmn.gov
- Alise McGregor**, Ward 1
763-509-5001 (voicemail), amcgregor@plymouthmn.gov
- Nick Roehl**, Ward 2
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763-509-5003 (voicemail), jdavis@plymouthmn.gov
- James Prom**, Ward 4
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- Ned Carroll**, At Large
763-509-5005 (voicemail), ncarroll@plymouthmn.gov
- 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-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: March 10, 24 and April 14, 28
Planning Commission: March 4, 18 and April 1, 15

Connect with Plymouth

-  [plymouthmn.gov](https://twitter.com/PlymouthMN_gov)
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-  [@PlymouthMN_gov](https://www.instagram.com/PlymouthMN_gov)
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