



Music in Plymouth livestream

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 2021 Music in Plymouth will not be held as an in-person event. Instead, the Plymouth Civic League will host a livestreamed concert performed from Plymouth on Wednesday, July 7. The decision comes due to uncertainty of future audience capacity restrictions and the desire to keep the event open and available for the entire community.

From the Plymouth Civic League: "We hope you will be able to gather with those close to you, perhaps even with a picnic, and enjoy musical entertainment in the spirit of Music in Plymouth."

Last year's Music in Plymouth was also held virtually due to the pandemic. More information, when available, can be found at musicinplymouth.org.



Bark in the Park is June 5

Bark in the Park is all about dogs, and features activities, contests and vendors. The event is set for 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, June 5 at the Hilde Performance Center, 3500 Plymouth Blvd. The event is free to attend. Please note that, due to the pandemic, event details are subject to change. For the latest information, visit plymouthmn.gov/barkinthepark.



Entertainment in the Parks

Plymouth's summer series of free events and activities – concerts, movies, dance performances, water ski shows and more – kicks off in mid-June. Please note that, due to the pandemic, event details are subject to change or cancellation as safety guidelines are followed. For the most current information and a calendar of events, visit plymouthmn.gov/specialevents.

Plymouth prioritizes improvements to outdated County Road 47 corridor

Plymouth makes it a priority to ensure that residents and businesses have access to the infrastructure necessary to support the city's high quality of life. In that effort, the city is being proactive and advocating for critical public safety improvements on County Road 47 in the northern part of Plymouth.

Outdated Design

Stretching from Plymouth's western border to Northwest Boulevard (County Road 61), County Road 47 was designed almost 100 years ago for farm equipment and light traffic.



The outdated design of County Road 47 in Plymouth poses public safety issues in the area, including concerns as pedestrians and motorists share the road.

Co. Rd. 47 ... continued on page 3

Plymouth Historical Society maintains the connections to Plymouth's past

Working out of the old Town Hall building at 3605 Fernbrook Lane N., the Plymouth Historical Society continues to enhance and develop its efforts to preserve and share Plymouth's history.

Since 2017, the City of Plymouth and the Historical Society have continued to build a partnership to increase capabilities and better connect the city to its past. Part of the partnership includes a city staff member assigned to the PHS. Rebekah Coffman was hired as historical site manager last year and manages programming, grant writing, information digitization and organizational evaluation.



The Plymouth Historical Society operates out of the old Town Hall building located at 3605 Fernbrook Lane N.

History ... continued on page 3

Progress at the Plymouth Community Center



The Plymouth Creek Center has a new name – introducing the Plymouth Community Center. As the facility undergoes a major renovation and expansion project, the Plymouth City Council approved the name change to better represent the purpose of the building. The new facility is designed to offer a broader range of activities, spaces and amenities for everyone in the community to enjoy. For more information about the construction project and the future of the facility, visit plymouthmn.gov/pccproject.

City of Plymouth partners to help businesses recover, establish and grow

As Plymouth businesses continue to face challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic, and as they look toward recovery, the City of Plymouth is committed to being a partner.

Whether a company needs the tools to continue on a successful path or is looking for a place to get started, Plymouth works with regional agencies to offer a range of free resources that support business.

Elevate Business HC

To help navigate some of the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the new Elevate Business HC program connects businesses with free expert one-on-one technical assistance, peer roundtables and topic-driven webinars.

According to Elevate Business HC, the free program, presented by Hennepin County and the Minneapolis Regional Chamber, is designed to create, “A business support environment that will help our region emerge from this crisis with an even stronger, more inclusive and resilient economy over the long-term.”

Technical assistance services available through Elevate Business HC include:

- Cultural competency training
- Fiscal analysis/long-term planning
- Insurance policy review
- Lease review and negotiation of terms
- Social media training
- Web-based ordering/online shop development
- COVID-19 notification procedures, safety protocols and health guidance and more

Learn more about the program and register at elevatebusinesshc.com.



Plymouth Economic Development staff work with other regional agencies to connect businesses with resources for recovery, growth and getting started.

Open to Business

Geared toward helping small businesses get their start or take operations to the next level, Open to Business is a partnership between the City of Plymouth, Hennepin County and the Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers.

Open to Business can help with:

- Business plan development
- Marketing
- Financial projections
- Licensing and regulatory assistance
- Loan packaging and financing
- Legal references

Interested entrepreneurs and small business owners may schedule an appointment with the Open to Business Program by contacting John Endris at jendris@mccdmn.org or 651-216-6252.

For more information about the above programs and other resources from the Plymouth Economic Development Department, visit plymouthmn.gov/business.

Apply for the Water Efficiency Rebate Program to save money and resources

The City of Plymouth Water Efficiency Rebate Program is now accepting applications. To encourage water conservation, the program is funded, in part, by a grant from the Metropolitan Council to reduce municipal water use in residential and commercial properties within the city.

The program offers rebates to property owners who replace inefficient toilets, irrigation systems and washing machines with WaterSense® or Energy Star® certified versions. Rebate items must be installed within the City of Plymouth. All property owners who are customers of the municipal water supply could be eligible.

Rebates are available for 75% of the cost of the item, up to a maximum of:

- \$50 for WaterSense® toilets
- \$100 for Energy Star® washing machines
- \$200 for residential WaterSense® irrigation controllers, or \$500 for commercial or multi-family controllers
- \$15 per WaterSense® sprinkler head replacement up to \$500 (minimum 10 sprinkler heads)
- \$125 for soil moisture sensors
- \$200 per irrigation system audit conducted by a WaterSense® Certified Irrigation Professional

Property owners should look for the WaterSense® or Energy Star® certification from the Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Energy.

Apply For a Rebate

Rebate funds are limited and will be issued to qualified applicants on a first-come, first-served basis until June 30, 2022 or until funds are exhausted, whichever comes first.



Rebates are available to property owners who replace inefficient toilets, irrigation systems or washing machines with WaterSense® or Energy Star® certified versions.

Devices must have been purchased after March 1, 2020 to qualify for a rebate. Payment will be issued upon successful completion of work and submission of a payment request form, accompanied by original receipts for expenses. Rebate payments are only for equipment costs – labor charges do not qualify.

Rebates Help Save Water

The City of Plymouth offers rebates to residents and commercial property owners to promote water conservation and more efficient use of drinking water. Plymouth’s water supply is abundant, but not limitless. Water usage can increase from about 150 million gallons per month in February to more than 400 million gallons per month in August (largely due to lawn watering). Replacing inefficient devices with certified appliances and equipment can help improve water efficiency, conserve water and reduce utility bills. Visit plymouthmn.gov/waterefficiencyrebate for more information or an application.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Volunteer!

The city is seeking volunteers who are:

Passionate about the environment. Remove invasive garlic mustard from parks. Adopt a park, garden or storm drain. Weed, water and deadhead the Millennium Garden. Participate in Plant and Pull Day on Saturday, May 22.

Friendly and love to provide good service. Help with children’s carnival games during Kids Fest on Thursday, Aug. 5.

Interested in serving as a Police Explorer. Must be 14-20 years old and able to meet weekly during the school year to explore a career in law enforcement. Applications are due Monday, Aug. 2.

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

Take a Closer Look



Linda and Ramon Bailer

Linda and Ramon Bailer

As volunteers, our job is to fill the dog waste bag dispensers at Parkers Lake year-round and make sure they are working properly. In winter, we keep the area around fire hydrants cleared so they are easy to find and use in an emergency. We also clear the storm drains in our area and clean up rubbish around Parkers Lake, the Luce Line Trail and portions of Vicksburg Lane.

Our favorite thing about being Plymouth volunteers is the personal satisfaction in maintaining an area to keep it a great place to live, knowing that it is enjoyed by many. People tell us how much they appreciate what we do. We hope others will take our efforts as an example and go the extra step to help care for the environment.

Because Ramon and Linda volunteer, dog owners have more convenient access to bags at parks, trash and yard waste is kept from entering storm water systems, and firefighters can assist residents quickly in case of an emergency.



The Plymouth Farmers Market runs each Wednesday, June 23 through Oct. 6, at the Parkers Lake Playfield parking lot.

Farmers Market returns

The Plymouth Farmers Market kicks off Wednesday, June 23. The market is open 2:30-6:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Oct. 6 at the Parkers Lake Playfield parking lot, 15500 County Road 6. Vendors provide fresh, locally grown produce and prepared food. For more information about the market, visit plymouthmn.gov/farmersmarket.

Co. Rd. 47 ... from page 1

As residential, school, park and commercial development have continued, improvements to the roadway have been limited. The winding corridor is unable to safely accommodate today's urban development and vehicle volumes. According to crash data, the four-mile corridor averages 20 crashes per year. Because of safety concerns and the importance of the corridor, the city is stepping up to advocate for road upgrades.

Plymouth Advocacy

Ultimately, Plymouth hopes to accept the road from the county and operate it as a city road, however, costly safety improvements must be made to protect motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists. County Road 47 is not eligible for state or federal assistance, so city officials are working with state legislators to request \$20 million in state bonding to reconstruct the roadway.

Proposed roadway improvements would:

- Expand the shoulder
- Create trails for pedestrians
- Remedy poor sight lines
- Add safe crossings for school
- Upgrade pavement
- Add dedicated turn lanes and upgrade all signalized intersections
- Mitigate drainage issues

In March, consultants hired by the city began collecting information for a preliminary design of a reconstruction project, including a topographic survey, locating utilities, gathering existing condition information and other work.

Public Engagement

Building off the corridor study and open house feedback gathered in 2019-2020, the city is preparing to launch



In March, consultants began collecting information for a potential reconstruction project on Co. Rd. 47.

another community information and engagement process, which is tentatively planned for this summer.

"While this project develops and we get closer to it becoming reality, we want to make sure that we hear from those who depend on the roadway to live, work and play," City Engineer Chris LaBounty said. "In our first stages we asked, 'What's our Vision?' As we continue the question becomes, 'What are the details?'"

Check plymouthmn.gov/cr47 to learn about how to participate in the public engagement process as information becomes available.

A Long Road Ahead

Though first steps are in motion, there remains much work to be done ahead of any future construction.

Additionally, due to the massive scope and size of a total reconstruction project spanning about four miles of heavily used roadway, work will be broken into multiple phases over the course of the coming years.

As the project develops, and advocacy continues, residents can keep up to date by visiting the County Road 47 project webpage at plymouthmn.gov/cr47. At the page, residents can also sign up for eNotifications about the project.

History ... from page 1

"I really enjoy learning about this community and helping people connect with its history," Coffman said. "There's so much to learn, and there is a great foundation that has been built over the years at the historical society."

Incorporated in 1975, the PHS was previously operated entirely by volunteers with a mission of discovering, preserving and sharing historical knowledge about Plymouth. While it remains an independent nonprofit organization, the increased partnership with the city was developed to strengthen the PHS's preservation efforts and continue its mission into the future.

Virtual Open Houses

Due to the pandemic, efforts to increase in-person activities and open houses at the site have been hampered. However, over the past few years, the PHS has greatly increased digitization, documentation and publication. With these tools, along with the rise of virtual meeting platforms such as Zoom, the PHS has developed monthly virtual open houses. Each month, the PHS shares updates about what's been happening at the museum, discusses themes related to Plymouth and its history, and provides time for discussion. Upcoming open house dates are 4-5 p.m. Wednesdays, June 16, July 14 and Aug. 18. To attend, those interested can visit plymouthmnhistoricalsociety.org to register.

Building Updates

Coffman noted that the historical Town Hall building has been undergoing a refresh to preserve and make the space more welcoming.

"Wood floors have been refinished, walls replastered and painted, and enhanced lighting has been installed," Coffman said. "It really gives new life to the space, and helps preserve the building, which is our largest artifact."

Other recent work includes new HVAC for better climate control and addressing plumbing needs. The PHS is also working on purchasing new storage and displays to better preserve and exhibit artifacts.

Looking Ahead

A new phase of inventory management is underway, which includes documenting a large range of objects located in the building's main storage space. In coming years,



Before



After

The building has recently undergone a refresh, which includes refinished floors, paint, plaster, and more.

documentation efforts will move into the carriage house located behind Town Hall, where farm equipment, furniture and other large items are stored.

Another major project in the works is Place in Plymouth, which includes expanding the stories of Plymouth's history through interviews, archival map research, digital mapping and historical site descriptions. The PHS is looking for people from all walks of life to share their experiences or favorite sites and places to add to the project. To get involved, contact Coffman at rcoffman@plymouthmn.gov.

Get Involved, Learn More

The PHS is on the lookout for help from people passionate about preserving and sharing history. There are a wide range of volunteer opportunities available at the PHS – for volunteer information, contact volunteer@plymouthmn.gov or visit plymouthmn.gov/volunteer.

For more information about the Plymouth Historical Society, visit plymouthmnhistoricalsociety.org. At the website, those interested can subscribe to an email list, learn about upcoming events, read PHS newsletters and follow blogs filled with historical information and stories.

HAPPENINGS

Safety guidelines: Please note that, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, event details listed below are subject to change or cancellation as safety guidelines are followed.

For the most current information about events, including registration, safety or other requirements, visit plymouthmn.gov.



Plant and Pull Day – Saturday, May 22. No gardening experience required. Volunteer to help beautify Plymouth by planting flowers. Volunteers will also help remove the invasive garlic mustard plant from woodland areas. Open to teens, adults, families and groups. Contact 763-509-5230 or volunteer@plymouthmn.gov.



Date Night at the Hilde – Thursday, June 17, Date Night at the Hilde, 3500 Plymouth Blvd., is an event for adults that features dinner and live music in an outdoor setting. Beginning at 6 p.m., food trucks and drinks will be available on site. At 7 p.m., the Shane Martin Band will perform. Bring blankets or lawn chairs for this fun evening under the stars. Free to attend. Registration may be required due to capacity limits. For the latest information, visit plymouthmn.gov.



Music in Plymouth 5K – Saturday, June 26 at the Hilde Performance Center, 3500 Plymouth Blvd. Participants must register online in advance, there is no in-person registration available this year. Racers, walkers and families are all welcome. Proceeds benefit Music in Plymouth. For details and registration info, visit musicinplymouth.org.



Happy Birthday America Parade – 10 a.m. to noon Thursday, July 1 at the Hilde Performance Center, 3500 Plymouth Blvd. Free. Children are invited to bring their bikes, trikes and wagons and join in a special parade. Balloons and streamers will be provided, or children can bring their own supplies to decorate their parade rides. Registration may be required due to capacity limits. Visit plymouthmn.gov for the latest information. After the parade, magician Kevin Hall will perform.

Get around the city with Metrolink Dial-A-Ride, now available weekends

With expanded Dial-A-Ride service and a redesigned mobile app, Plymouth Metrolink continues to improve transit offerings for riders going to work, shop, play, meet and more.

Ride Anywhere in Plymouth

Dial-A-Ride, Metrolink's curb-to-curb shuttle service, can take riders anywhere in Plymouth and select locations outside the city, including Ridgedale Center in Minnetonka, Colonial Square in Wayzata, and Golden Valley Center. To increase availability, Metrolink recently added weekend hours to the Dial-A-Ride service.

"Life doesn't only happen Monday through Friday," Transit Administrator Nur Kasin said. "We've expanded our shuttle service so riders can get groceries, visit friends, make appointments and more – even on the weekends."

Dial-A-Ride service is now available:

- 6 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Friday
- 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday
- 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday

To schedule a ride, Dial-A-Ride users can download the free TransLoc app or call 763-559-5057. Fares cost \$3 each way and children younger than 5 can ride at no cost. Anyone can use Dial-A-Ride – there are no eligibility requirements. All Dial-A-Ride buses are equipped for wheelchairs and bicycles. Visit plymouthmn.gov/dial-a-ride.

New Metrolink App

Plymouth Metrolink has also launched a redesigned mobile app that brings enhanced services directly to riders' mobile devices. The app – developed by Tixora, Inc. – allows riders to plan routes, pay fares and track buses in real time.

The free Plymouth Metrolink app is available on Google Play and the Apple App Store. It can be found by searching



Plymouth Metrolink now offers Dial-A-Ride shuttle service on weekends to get around Plymouth. Fares are \$3 each way.

for "Plymouth Metrolink." Users of the previous Plymouth Metrolink app will need to download the new version, as the old app is no longer supported. For more information, visit plymouthmn.gov/metrolinkapp.

"The new app improves usability for riders, while adding some new features and functionality," Kasin said.

Learn More

Operated by the City of Plymouth, Plymouth Metrolink is a community-oriented public transit service that provides high-quality, safe and cost-effective services focused on customer satisfaction.

For more information and to start planning trips today, visit plymouthmn.gov/transit.

For further assistance, contact transit@plymouthmn.gov or call 763-509-5535 (TDD 763-509-5065).

For interpretation assistance with the above message or any other information about Plymouth Metrolink, contact Transit Administrator Nur Kasin at 763-509-5013 or nkasin@plymouthmn.gov.

SEASONAL SPOTLIGHT

Odd-Even Water Restrictions – Outdoor water use restrictions are in effect from May through September. Plymouth 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. The restrictions apply to all city water customers. Automatic irrigation systems should be adjusted accordingly. Call the hotline at 763-509-5512 or visit plymouthmn.gov/watering for exceptions to the restrictions and more information.

Yard Waste Site – The city-operated Yard Waste Site, 14900 23rd Ave. N., is closed Mondays and Tuesdays throughout the season. Through August, the site is open 3-8 p.m. Wednesday-Friday and 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. Only Plymouth, Wayzata, Long Lake and Medicine Lake residents may use the site. Identification is required. The site is closed Sunday, July 4. For details, visit plymouthmn.gov/yardwaste or call 763-509-5930.

Keep Pets Leashed – City ordinances require pets to be leashed at all times, except when on their owner's private property. The ordinance protects animals and people alike. Dog owners have the opportunity to let dogs play unleashed at the city's designated dog parks, which feature a number of canine-friendly amenities. Plymouth has three dog parks:

- Plymouth Dog Park, 17005 County Road 47
- 4 Paws Dog Park, 9755 36th Ave. N.
- Happy Tails Dog Park (seasonal), 1700 County Road 101

For more information about Plymouth's dog parks, visit plymouthmn.gov/dogpark.

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Northwest Greenway use soars

By Mayor Jeff Wosje

Plymouth is home to a top-tier parks and recreation system that offers engaging opportunities with an emphasis on maintaining natural areas and open spaces.

A shining example of this is the Northwest Greenway, which is coming to fruition after more than 15 years of patient planning. Following a voter-approved referendum in 2006, the city has steadily acquired land to create a more than 350-acre natural reserve with nearly 7.5 miles of looping paved trail for walkers and bikers.

In 2020, trail counters installed on the Greenway revealed a sharp increase in use. In fact, the trail attracted nearly a half million people – far more than the typical estimated 200,000 annual users. In the peak of summer, an average of almost 70,000 users were counted on the trail each month.

The Northwest Greenway has become a very popular and important amenity – providing an outlet for residents as many sources of fun and exercise were limited due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As development continues at the Greenway, two new amenities have taken shape over the past year. At the west end of the trail, just south of 54th Avenue off Peony Lane, a new trailhead is nearing completion, which includes an open-air pavilion, multi-use plaza, parking, restrooms and other amenities.

Located next to the trailhead is the new Northwest Greenway Challenge Course, which is now available for use. It features a large open play area filled with unique activity challenges involving netting, balancing, boulder structures, agility and more for ages 13 and older. Work continues on the trail, with key connections and more amenities planned for the coming years.

It's inspiring to see the patience and commitment that have gone into making this unique Plymouth project a reality, and it reflects the value and emphasis the city places on bringing quality of life to our residents. To learn more about the Greenway, visit plymouthmn.gov/nwgreenway. At the webpage, visitors can also view an interactive map to help plan outings, find amenities and discover new features.

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-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: May 11, 25 and June 8, 22

Planning Commission: May 5, 19 and June 2, 16

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