



Last year's Picture Plymouth Photo Contest Overall Winner was "Social Distancing" by Bodhisatya Bhaduri.

Picture Plymouth Photo Contest begins Aug. 1

Compose, focus and click – capture the moment and submit it to the annual Picture Plymouth Photo Contest. Photographers of all levels are asked to enter their best shots beginning Sunday, Aug. 1. Top photos of the year receive prizes and have a chance to be published in Plymouth Magazine, which co-sponsors the contest with the City of Plymouth. All entries must be submitted via plymouthmag.com from Aug. 1-31. Each entrant must live, work or attend school in Plymouth and photos must be taken in Plymouth from Sept. 1, 2020 to Aug. 31, 2021.

Photo categories include people and families, community activities and events, pets, wildlife and nature, and city landmarks. Top picks in each category will receive \$50. A grand-prize winner will also be selected and receive \$100. After the contest closes, visit plymouthmag.com to make a pick for the Readers' Choice winner. For complete contest rules, visit plymouthmag.com after Aug. 1.



The annual water report is now available for 2020

Providing clean, reliable water is a core service provided by the City of Plymouth – and each year Plymouth prepares a system report that provides information about the city's water and how it compares to state and federal standards.

It contains monitoring results from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2020. As shown in the report, the city meets or surpasses all water quality testing, regulations and requirements. City of Plymouth water is tested weekly by an independent, state-certified laboratory and the results are submitted to the Minnesota Department of Health. Public water supplies are regularly tested for more than 100 contaminants that can cause health concerns, such as bacteria, nitrates, pesticides, solvents and metals. Water plant operators also test the water multiple times per day for appropriate chemical levels and water quality.

The annual water report for 2020 is now available online at plymouthmn.gov/waterreport. The public may download and print the water report, or request a paper copy by calling 763-509-5000 and arranging to pick it up during normal business hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday) at Plymouth City Hall, 3400 Plymouth Blvd.

Music in Plymouth returns as an in-person event this year

Originally planned as a virtual event, the 2021 Music in Plymouth is set to return in-person 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 7 at the Hilde Performance Center, 3500 Plymouth Blvd.

Due to the pandemic, last year's Music in Plymouth was presented virtually, and organizers anticipated that this year's event would be held online only as well. However, because of updated guidelines and restrictions, the Plymouth Civic League and the City of Plymouth are pleased to hold the event in-person for its 49th year.

Music ... continued on page 2



Originally scheduled as a virtual live-stream, Music in Plymouth returns as an in-person event Wednesday, July 7 at the Hilde Performance Center, 3500 Plymouth Blvd.

Plymouth is hiring part-time/on-call firefighters, applications due July 12

The Plymouth Fire Department is hiring part-time/on-call firefighters. Applications for this flexible, important and fulfilling position are due 8 a.m. Monday, July 12.

Part-time/on-call firefighters are teachers, mechanics, financial advisors, veterans, parents and more. The position is designed to be flexible to accommodate those working full-time jobs and careers. There can be tremendous satisfaction in saving a life, controlling a fire, comforting an accident victim and teaching skills that prevent disaster and injury.

Meet Firefighters and Ask Questions July 8

A Firefighter Recruitment Meeting for prospective applicants is set for 6:30 p.m. Thursday, July 8 at Plymouth City Hall, 3400 Plymouth Blvd.

Firefighters ... continued on page 3



The Plymouth Fire Department is now accepting applications for part-time/on-call firefighters.

Kites Over the Beach



Plymouth hosted Kites Over the Beach in June. Hundreds came out to East Medicine Lake Beach to fly kites and learn about water safety from the Parks and Recreation Department. The event was the first of Plymouth's new Summer Beach Series, which also includes a water ski show on July 13 and Beaches, Burgers & Bands on Aug. 13. Learn more on page 5 and at plymouthmn.gov.

The City of Plymouth announces new diversity, equity and inclusion manager

The City of Plymouth is pleased to announce an appointment to a newly created position – City Manager Dave Callister has selected Laurice Reed as the city’s first diversity, equity and inclusion manager.

In this new role, Reed will work with residents, community groups and city staff from all departments to promote inclusion, facilitate conversations about equity and diversity, and focus on fostering environments that value all perspectives to build a stronger community. While Reed began her position in April and has hit the ground running, the new program will require time to establish the necessary framework. In the coming months, Reed will work to examine the city’s mission, vision, policies and practices through a DEI lens. Her work will include developing an action plan, making recommendations to City Council, and meeting with stakeholders and groups to build relationships.



Laurice Reed

Reed comes to Plymouth from the City of Minneapolis, where she worked for nearly five years as the racial equity program coordinator in the city’s Division of Race and Equity. Reed has dual bachelor’s and master’s degrees in Industrial Organizational Psychology from Purdue University.

“It’s exciting to start a new program in the foundational stages,” Reed said. “Plymouth is a strong city with changing demographics and a commitment to community building. I’m energized by the opportunity to begin Plymouth’s DEI work.”

Reed comes to Plymouth from the City of Minneapolis, where she worked for nearly five years as the racial equity

Environmental Quality Committee introduces the new Plymouth Environmental Academy

There are many ways that people impact the environment around them. There are just as many ways – big and small – to work to lessen that impact. Plymouth residents interested in learning more about their environmental footprint can sign up for the Plymouth Environmental Academy.

The all-new program is an initiative of the Plymouth Environmental Quality Committee, which introduces the academy as a way to increase the group’s community reach.

“We designed the program to explore many everyday actions that affect the environment, from lawn care to remodeling, from gardening to taking out the trash,” EQC Chair Clark Gregor said. “By participating, it is the EQC’s hope to cause a ripple effect of positive environmental impacts around Plymouth.”

Four Monthly Classes

The academy will be held over four months with a class each month focused on an environmental topic of interest.

Each topic will be led by members of the EQC and will feature a guest speaker. All topics are focused on residents

and property owners, and how they can identify ways to reduce their environmental impact. Each class begins at 7 p.m. and is about 90 minutes long.

- **Tuesday, Aug. 3** – Lawn and Property Management
- **Thursday, Sept. 16** – Waste and Recycling
- **Tuesday, Oct. 5** – Water Quality
- **Tuesday, Nov. 16** – Home Updating

All meetings will be held at Plymouth City Hall, 3400 Plymouth Blvd.

“Reducing your environmental impact can seem daunting,” Plymouth Water Resources Supervisor Ben Scharenbroich said. “This program breaks it down into a handful of relatable topics and helps residents identify the ways they can make a difference.”

Learn More and Apply

The Plymouth Environmental Academy is free and open to everyone. Visit plymouthmn.gov/environmentalacademy to apply. Applications are due noon Friday, July 30.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Volunteer!

The city is seeking volunteers who are:

Interested in becoming a Plymouth Police Explorer. Must be 14-20 years old and able to meet weekly during the school year to explore a law enforcement career. See page 3 for more information and visit plymouthmn.gov/explorers.

Interested in serving as Police Reserve volunteers. Assist sworn Plymouth police officers with traffic and crowd control, transportation, 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 undergo a background check. See page 3 for more information and visit plymouthmn.gov/reserves.

Keepers of local history. Assist in planning and organizing a new display for the Plymouth Historical Society. Also assist in care and maintenance of the collection. Must be currently enrolled or recently graduated from a program in art history, museum studies, curatorial practices or a related field.

Friendly and love to provide good service. Help with children’s activities during Kids Fest (Thursday, Aug. 5) and Plymouth on Parade (Saturday, Sept. 18).

Passionate about the environment and green things. Adopt a storm drain in the city and keep it clear of leaves and other debris, and mark it for environmental education.

Remove buckthorn Saturdays Oct. 23, Oct. 30 and Nov. 6. Groups are welcome.

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



Sharon Tolley

Take a Closer Look

Sharon Tolley

Farmers Market volunteer

As a volunteer, my job is to welcome new customers to the Plymouth Farmers Market, greet familiar faces, answer questions they have about the market and help things run smoothly. It’s great to be outside, interacting with our awesome vendors and meeting so many people.

My favorite thing about being a city volunteer is the variety of activities I’ve participated in, such as escorting senior trips, serving drinks and making popcorn for senior movie days, and helping with outdoor activities and special events, including Halloween at Lake. Recently retired after 38 years as a travel agent, I miss the human contact of interacting with people. As I volunteer, I appreciate meeting people in my community and relating to them. Volunteering helps me enjoy life and keeps me busy and out of trouble!

Because Sharon volunteers, Plymouth Farmers Market customers receive a friendly welcome, are able to ask questions and have an enjoyable shopping experience. For more information about the Plymouth Farmers Market, see page 5 or visit plymouthmn.gov/farmersmarket.

Music ... from page 1

Adjusted Format

This year’s event will feature a smaller format, with entertainment provided by Heart and Soul Drum Academy, Medicine Show Music Company, Malamanya and Ragamala Dance Company.

Additionally, the event will include a performance by Uptown Brass, which features musicians of the Minnesota Orchestra.

While the Minnesota Orchestra will not perform in full this year, the orchestra plans to return in 2022 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the event.

Many hands-on activities typically featured at Music in Plymouth will not be available this year, though crowd-favorite fireworks will return to wrap up the evening.

Attending the Event

Event organizers will monitor and follow guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health.

Organizers encourage attendees to practice patience and accommodate one another so that all may enjoy this community event.

Limited concessions will be available at the site. Attendees may bring picnic suppers and are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets.

Please note that, due to extensive underground wiring and sprinkling systems at the Hilde, staking and roping off seating areas is strictly prohibited.

Those attending Music in Plymouth will not be allowed to leave blankets, chairs or tarps on the grounds until after 7 a.m. the morning of the event.



This year’s Music in Plymouth features live music from Heart and Soul Drum Academy, Medicine Show Music Company, Malamanya, Ragamala Dance Company and Uptown Brass.

Free Shuttle Service

Plymouth Metrolink will shuttle attendees to the event from two park-and-ride locations at no cost – West Lutheran High School (34th Avenue N. and Fernbrook Lane N.) and Plymouth Creek Elementary School (Vicksburg Lane N. and 41st Avenue N.). Shuttle service runs 6-11:30 p.m.

Support Music in Plymouth

The Plymouth Civic League presents the free Music in Plymouth event with the support of the City of Plymouth, Plymouth businesses and residents. Residents can help support the event through a tax-deductible donation. For more information, visit musicinplymouth.org.

Plymouth police offer volunteer and learning opportunities for adults and teens

The Plymouth Police Department provides programs for adults and teens that offer opportunities to learn more about the Plymouth Public Safety Department and volunteer to benefit the community.

For those who wish to learn new skills and get involved in the community, the Police Reserves offer a chance to volunteer. For those hoping to learn more about a career in law enforcement, the Plymouth Police Explorers give those ages 14-20 a first-hand look into policing. Residents also have the opportunity to get an in-depth look at police and fire operations through the Public Safety Citizens Academy. Check plymouthmn.gov for more information later this summer.

“These programs are a great option for residents interested in learning more about public safety and assisting community members,” Plymouth Public Safety Director Erik Fadden said. “It’s also a wonderful way to get to know the city while making a difference.”

Police Reserves

Plymouth Police Reserves supplement the work of sworn Plymouth police officers, performing several duties as uniformed volunteers, including:

- Providing security and traffic direction at events in Plymouth and neighboring communities
- Assisting patrol officers with transports, bookings and service-related calls
- Helping with police training as role players during scenario-based training
- Assisting with traffic accidents, crowd control, weather-related emergencies and significant crime scenes

To become a reserve officer, applicants must be age 21 or older, pass a background check, provide 15 hours of service per month and attend one monthly meeting (counted toward volunteer hours). Plymouth Police Reserves come from all walks of life and have diverse cultural and professional backgrounds. All interested candidates are encouraged to apply for the volunteer position. For more information and to apply, visit plymouthmn.gov/reserves.



With programs such as the Plymouth Police Reserves (pictured) and the Plymouth Police Explorers, the Plymouth Police Department offers opportunities for those interested in learning more about public safety in Plymouth.

Applications can also be picked up at the Plymouth Public Safety Building, 3400 Plymouth Blvd. To have an application mailed, email volunteer@plymouthmn.gov.

Plymouth Police Explorers

The Plymouth Police Explorers program is available for those ages 14-20 who are interested in learning more about a career in law enforcement. With weekly meetings during the school year, Plymouth police officers teach Explorers how to respond to and handle various police-related calls through classroom instruction and participation in practical exercises. Participants receive instruction on many aspects of the daily work of police officers.

Those interested can apply to the Explorer program at any time throughout the year, though new Explorers generally begin in September. A consistent attendance record is required. Meetings are held 6:30-9 p.m. Tuesdays at the Plymouth Public Safety Building, 3400 Plymouth Blvd. Explorers also meet on a limited basis in summer months.

“Becoming a Police Explorer can be invaluable for those looking for a career in law enforcement,” Fadden said. “Many of the women and men of the Plymouth Police Department began their careers in an Explorer program.”

Applications to join the Plymouth Police Explorers are available at plymouthmn.gov/explorers and at the Plymouth Public Safety Building, 3400 Plymouth Blvd. To have an application mailed, email volunteer@plymouthmn.gov.

Firefighters ... from page 1

At the meeting, those interested can speak with Plymouth firefighters to learn more and ask questions about the job. Potential applicants are encouraged to bring their spouse or significant other, so they can also gain an understanding of the position.

“Becoming a part-time/on-call firefighter may be one of the most personally rewarding things an individual can do,” Plymouth Fire Chief Rodger Coppa said. “Many may be surprised at the flexibility this position offers.”

About the Job

When Plymouth residents call 911, the Fire Department responds. In fact, firefighters respond to about 2,300 calls per year, which generally include medical and fire calls.

“A big part of our job is helping people through what could be their worst day,” Battalion Chief Steve Baker said. “There is a certain, unexplainable feeling you get when you’re there for someone when they really need you.”

Firefighters also spend hundreds of hours providing public education in schools, homes, businesses and community organizations. Plymouth firefighters serve others, learn life-long skills and build friendships within the fire service community.

Part-time/on-call firefighters are paid for all activities performed while conducting Fire Department business and are eligible for a pension plan. All training is provided and physical fitness facilities are open and available to all Fire Department employees.

Time Commitment, Requirements

Time commitment for first-year part-time/on-call firefighters is higher, and includes education and calls.



Plymouth firefighters come from all walks of life, and the position is flexible for people with full-time jobs and careers.

Initial training includes two nights a week from mid-January to mid-June. After the first year, part-time/on-call firefighters work an average of about 10 hours per week, which includes scheduled shifts, training and calls.

Some requirements to become a part-time/on-call firefighter include:

- Must be at least 18 years old and have a high school diploma or equivalent
- Reside within an 8-minute travel time to a Plymouth fire station
- Possess a valid Minnesota driver’s license
- Maintain availability for minimum time commitments and training requirements

Learn More, Apply

For more information and to apply, visit plymouthmn.gov/firefighter or contact the Plymouth Firefighter Recruitment Information Line at 763-509-5129. Be sure to leave a voicemail – firefighters will return calls and answer questions.



Formerly a Firefighters 5K, the new event combines the Police and Fire departments for the Plymouth Public Safety 5K on Saturday, Aug. 28.

Police and Fire host Public Safety 5K

The Plymouth Public Safety Department is proud to introduce a new event this year – the Plymouth Public Safety 5K and Kids Fun Run set for Saturday, Aug. 28.

Built on the long-running Firefighters 5K event from previous years, the new event features the Plymouth Police and Fire departments together, along with the Plymouth Parks and Recreation Department.

Race at the Northwest Greenway

The run will be held at the Northwest Greenway and will kick off at the pavilion at 5250 Peony Lane. The 5K run/walk begins at 9 a.m., followed by the Kids Fun Run at 10 a.m.

Early registration for the 5K is available for \$15 through Friday, Aug. 13. After Aug. 13, registration is \$20. Race-day registration is available beginning at 7:30 a.m. The Kids Fun Run is free.

All 5K participants will receive a draw-string bag and goodies. Snacks and water will be provided. Visit plymouthmn.gov/publicsafety5k to learn more and register.

Plymouth police share crime prevention tips

Crime can happen any time of year, but as the weather warms, some reported crimes tend to increase, and the Plymouth Police Department offers tips to prevent them.

Summers typically see a rise in crimes of opportunity, including items stolen from vehicles and homes. The majority of burglaries reported in Plymouth are unforced – meaning the burglar took advantage of unsecured homes. In some cases, thieves use garage door openers from unlocked cars to gain access to residences.

By practicing good safety habits and always locking up, homeowners can reduce the chances of these crimes occurring.

The Plymouth Police Department offers some crime prevention tips for residents heading into summer:

- Park cars in a locked garage whenever possible
- If cars must be parked in a driveway, ensure that doors are locked and remove all valuables from vehicles
- Keep garage door openers out of sight in a locked car
- When away, homeowners should make homes look occupied by using light timers
- Consider an alarm system and/or surveillance cameras
- Use locks on windows and secure sliding doors
- Use high-quality deadbolt locks on entrances and garage service doors
- Increase the use of exterior lighting
- Report suspicious behavior

Plymouth breaks ground on major projects

The City of Plymouth is excited to have recently broken ground on multiple major projects that continue to enhance the quality of life for residents in different ways.

Construction at Fire Stations 2 and 3

Fire Station 2 (12000 Old Rockford Road) and Fire Station 3 (3300 Dunkirk Lane N.) are undergoing extensive changes designed to accommodate the Plymouth Fire Department now and into the future.

Station 2 (built 1977) will be torn down and rebuilt, while Station 3 (built 1989) will be renovated and expanded.

Over the past few years, Plymouth has transitioned from a paid-on-call model to a hybrid staffing model that includes full-time firefighters working 24-hour shifts. Because of this change, new facilities are needed to provide residence spaces for firefighters, such as kitchens, dayrooms and dorms.

Other project goals are to modernize the technologically out-of-date stations, address a range of firefighter health issues, provide improved training facilities, and enhance the city’s overall public safety and emergency preparedness.

While construction is underway, work is being phased so the Fire Department can maintain full service out of both stations. For more information, visit plymouthmn.gov/firestationprojects.

Valor Place to Provide Veteran Housing

The Plymouth Housing and Redevelopment Authority is building a twin home at the northeast corner of Rockford Road and Fernbrook Lane. Known as Valor Place, the two-unit development is designed to provide stable and affordable housing for U.S. military veterans.

Each unit will be about 1,800 square feet and feature three bedrooms, two bathrooms, a full kitchen, a two-car garage and more.

Owned and managed by the HRA, the rental units will be available to veterans and their families who meet



Plymouth Fire Stations 2 (pictured) and 3 are currently undergoing major projects to better accommodate Fire Department operations.



In April, construction began at Valor Place, a twin home for veterans located at Rockford Road and Fernbrook Lane in Plymouth.

income limits and other eligibility requirements. To make Valor Place possible, the HRA partnered with several organizations, including Charles Cudd Co., Outreach Development Corporation, Hennepin County, Plymouth Beyond the Yellow Ribbon and the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans.

Those interested in supporting the project can give a tax-deductible donation, which will make a lasting difference in the lives of veterans and others in the Plymouth community who need a stable place to live.

Donations can be made online through Plymouth's secure online payment portal.

Learn more at plymouthmn.gov/valorplace.

Projects continue to strengthen Plymouth’s park and trail system

Plymouth has historically placed a high priority on the development and maintenance of its park and trail system, which has been nationally recognized for its high-quality offerings.

This year, the city continues this emphasis by investing in all-new park spaces and updates to existing facilities for residents to stay active and engaged.

Below is a rundown of some of the projects happening at Plymouth parks this year.

For all projects below, please note that dates are weather dependent and timelines may be subject to change.

Northwest Greenway Trailhead, Pavilion

A major project and key amenity for Plymouth, the Northwest Greenway Trailhead moves closer to completion.

Located at 5250 Peony Lane, the trailhead features a large open-air pavilion, a multi-use plaza, parking, restrooms, drinking fountain and more. It provides a main access point to the Northwest Greenway – a 350-acre reserve of land and looping paved trails available for walkers, runners, bicyclists and more.

Trailhead construction is expected to be substantially complete this August, weather depending. Once finished, the pavilion will be available for rentals and events. For more information, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 763-509-5200.



The trailhead under construction at the Northwest Greenway includes a pavilion, a multi-use plaza and more located at 5250 Peony Lane N.

Adjacent to the trailhead is the new Northwest Greenway Challenge Course, which is now complete and 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.

For more information about the Greenway, visit plymouthmn.gov/nwgreenway.

The webpage features an interactive map to help plan outings, find amenities and discover new features.

Horseshoe Hill Park Development

A new neighborhood park is coming to Plymouth – Horseshoe Hill Park is expected to open in late-August at 6110 Garland Lane N.

Parks ... continued on page 5

SEASONAL SPOTLIGHT



Outdoor Water Restrictions – Outdoor water use restrictions are in effect through September in Plymouth. 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 and more information, call the hotline at 763-509-5512 or visit plymouthmn.gov/watering.



Yard Waste Site Hours – 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. Visit plymouthmn.gov/yardwaste or call the Yard Waste Site hotline at 763-509-5930 for more information.

Plymouth BUSINESS buzz

Here is a rundown of some recent Plymouth business news.

Silk Road Medical, a medical device company focused on reducing the risk of stroke and treatment of carotid artery disease, will come to Plymouth this fall. The company will invest \$5.1 million in an approximately 30,000-square foot new manufacturing facility in Plymouth.

TGK Automotive, an automotive repair and maintenance business, is building a new facility at 2675 Campus Drive in Plymouth. The owners, Sue and Troy De Luca, are Plymouth residents and anticipate they’ll be ready to open for business this August.



TGK Automotive recently broke ground on a new facility at 2675 Campus Drive in Plymouth.

Parks ... from page 4

The park will feature two shelters, benches, a portable restroom and trails.

It will also feature an all-new playground with unique equipment such as a TopsyTurny® spinner, an Oodle® swing, a large climbing structure and more. There will be a separate area for children 2-5 years old with a playhouse and other equipment. Part of the park development also includes a hillside prairie with native plantings and trees.

Park Improvements

Along with the development of new parks, Plymouth continues to invest in improving and reimagining existing facilities through park improvement projects.

This year, park improvements include:

- **Heritage Park** will get a new playground, shelter and benches, in addition to concrete and asphalt improvements.
- **Turtle Lake** will also get a new playground, basketball court, benches, and concrete and asphalt, in addition to significant trail work.
- **Nature Canyon** will get an all-new shelter, in addition to a new playground and benches.
- **Plymouth Creek Disc Golf Course** is being renovated this year, with new benches, baskets, signage

and tee box pads. The course will also be realigned and increased to 16 holes.

Park Rules

Park users are asked to remember a few rules and guidelines when using Plymouth's parks:

- Pets are allowed if leashed/under restraint and owners must pick up waste. Dogs are allowed unleashed at designated dog parks, see plymouthmn.gov/dogpark.
- Trails are shared by walkers, runners, skaters and bicyclists – please be courteous when using trails and keep speed reasonable. Travel on the right side of the trail and allow space for other trail users to pass safely. Pass on the left and loudly announce intentions.
- Many parks offer pavilions or shelters for gatherings. Reservations are either required or recommended, depending on the facility. Upcoming reservations are posted at sites and users should call 763-509-5200 prior to an event if they do not have a reservation. Facility users are asked to clean up after their gatherings and leave facilities in the condition they were found.
- Tobacco use is not allowed in any Plymouth park or facility.
- Keep parks clean and dispose of litter and waste.

Visit plymouthmn.gov for more information.



The annual outdoor Plymouth Farmers Market is held each Wednesday at Parkers Lake Park through Oct. 6.

Plymouth Farmers Market returns

The City of Plymouth kicked off its annual outdoor Farmers Market in mid-June.

The market is open 2:30-6:30 p.m. each Wednesday through Oct. 6 at Parkers Lake Playfield, 15500 County Road 6.

Vendors sell fresh, locally grown produce and prepared food, including fruits, vegetables, fresh bread, oils and vinegars, honey, maple syrup, ice cream, meats, sauces, flowers and more.

A weekly newsletter is emailed to subscribers to provide information and offer recipes or health benefits for ingredients available at the market.

Visit plymouthmn.gov/farmersmarket for more information about the market or to sign up to receive weekly newsletters via email.



City of Plymouth officials, police officers and firefighters visit registered Night to Unite block parties.

Night to Unite is back on Aug. 3

After cancellations last year due to the pandemic, Night to Unite will make a return to Plymouth neighborhoods 6:30-9 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 3.

The annual statewide get-together serves as a community building event centered around crime prevention and strengthening neighborhood ties.

Block Parties

Neighbors are encouraged to host outdoor gatherings that follow the most recent guidelines from the Minnesota Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Get-togethers can be as simple as potluck dinners, ice cream socials or ordering carryout from a local restaurant. Night to Unite is a great opportunity for community members to catch up with one another, welcome new neighbors and update their neighborhood directories.

City of Plymouth officials, police officers and firefighters get out and about to registered Night to Unite block parties to introduce themselves to neighbors and provide public safety information. To register a block party and for more information, visit plymouthmn.gov/ntu.

Alert Plymouth

The City of Plymouth will conduct a test of its emergency notification system, Alert Plymouth, at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 3. To sign up, visit plymouthmn.gov/alertplymouth.

HAPPENINGS



Water Ski Show – Shockwaves Shakopee-Prior Lake Water Ski Association performs jumps, pyramids and more 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 13 on Parkers Lake, 15205 County Road 6. The event is free to attend. Get there early to claim a good spot on shore.

To check for cancellations in the event of inclement weather, call the weather hotline at 763-509-5205.



Kids Fest – The annual Kids Fest is set for 5-9 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 5 at the Hilde Performance Center, 3500 Plymouth Blvd. The event features a petting zoo, carnival games, food trucks, a dunk tank, environmental activities, face painting, inflatables and more. The Jolly Pops will perform at 5:15 p.m. followed by the Bazillions at 7:30 p.m. Entertainment is free. Games, food and some activities include a cost to participate.

Plymouth Sings – In partnership with Minnesota Sings, Plymouth will hold auditions 6:30-8:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 2 and Tuesday, Aug. 3. Call 763-509-5200 for an audition time – requests are taken on a first-come, first-served basis. To be eligible, singers must live, work or attend school in Plymouth. Two age groups will compete – ages 13-20, and 21 and older.

At the auditions, judges will decide who will advance to the Plymouth Sings Finals, which are set for 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 11 at the Hilde Performance Center, 3500 Plymouth Blvd. The public is welcome to view the final competition at no cost.

The winner and runner-up from the finals will represent Plymouth at the Minnesota Sings State Finals Saturday, Oct. 16 and Sunday, Oct. 17 in Woodbury. Total cash prizes at the state finals equal \$15,000, in

addition to recording sessions and music gear prizes. Visit minnesotasings.com for more information.

Movies in the Park – All movies begin at dusk (approximately 8:30 p.m.) and will be shown at the Hilde Performance Center, 3500 Plymouth Blvd. Movie-goers are encouraged to bring their own snacks and beverages. This year's movies are:

- **"Sing!"** – Thursday, Aug. 12
- **Community Choice** (visit plymouthmn.gov to learn more and vote) – Thursday, Aug. 19
- **"Pokémon: Detective Pikachu"** – Thursday, Aug. 26

The 2021 movie sponsors include Kyle Vitense State Farm and TCF Bank. Attendees are reminded that curfew laws still apply. In case of inclement weather, movie showings will be canceled. Call the weather hotline at 763-509-5205.



Summer Beach Series: Beaches, Burgers & Bands – Enjoy an evening of live music, food trucks and more on the beach 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 13, East Medicine Lake Park, 1740 East Medicine Lake Blvd.



Entertainment in the Parks – Plymouth's summer series of free events and activities includes concerts, movies, dance performances, a water ski show and more. Event details may be subject to change, for the most current information and a calendar of events, visit plymouthmn.gov/specialevents.



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. Devices must have been purchased after March 1, 2020 to qualify for a rebate. Payment will be issued upon successful



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

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/waterrebate for more information or an application.



Construction at the Plymouth Community Center is on schedule as new parts of the building take shape.

Plymouth Community Center takes shape

Construction continues and remains on schedule at the Plymouth Community Center, formerly the Plymouth Creek Center. The project began last fall and includes renovating the existing building and expanding the center by about 80,000 square feet. Some new features include a year-round indoor walking track, two full-size gymnasiums, multi-purpose rooms, an indoor playground, an art gallery, common spaces and more.

Work is being completed in two phases. Phase 1 is underway and includes the Active Wing and parking lot expansion. Phase 2 includes renovation of the existing building and the Education Wing. Weather depending, construction on Phase 1 is expected to be complete and the new space open for use in December. Phase 2 is set to begin in September with total project completion expected in May/June 2022.

For more information about the construction project and the future of the facility, visit plymouthmn.gov/pccproject.

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Plymouth Fire Department changes benefit residents and firefighters

By Mayor Jeff Wosje

Plymouth places a high priority on public safety services – it is important for residents to feel safe and know that first responders are ready to assist in an emergency. One way to bolster public safety is to invest in Plymouth firefighters.

As the city’s population has grown, we have steadily adjusted Fire Department operations and staff to meet increased demand for service.

We transitioned the department to a hybrid staffing model with a mix of part-time/on-call and full-time (career) firefighters. The change allows for 24/7 firefighter staffing at Plymouth Fire Station 2 and Station 3, and significantly reduces response times, especially for overnight calls. As of this year, we will have 18 career firefighters.

The department is also hiring part-time/on-call firefighters (see page 1). If you’re interested, please attend the July 8 recruitment meeting to ask questions and learn more about this flexible, valuable role.

As the department’s staffing model has changed, facility needs have also evolved. To support these changes, City Council approved a major project to better accommodate 24/7 staffing, improve emergency preparedness and update aging fire stations. Fire Station 2 will be rebuilt, and Fire Station 3 will be renovated and expanded. We were thrilled to break ground in early June (see page 4).

The new stations will provide living/sleeping space for firefighters, training facilities, an emergency operations center and improved energy efficiency.

The project also prioritizes firefighter health by incorporating toxin reduction, hot-cold contamination zoning and more.

We are excited to see these changes come to fruition. When we take care of our first responders, they are better equipped to care for us – and that mutual support enhances Plymouth’s community strength, safety and wellbeing.

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

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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: July 13, 27 and Aug. 10, 24
Planning Commission: July 7, 21 and Aug. 4, 18

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