

Brushes on the Boardwalk

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The City of Plymouth is set to host the new Brushes on the Boardwalk event 2-5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 19 at the Northwest Greenway Pavilion, 5250 Peony Lane. Brushes on the Boardwalk offers an opportunity for residents to enjoy an interactive art experience outdoors. The new event will feature plein-air painting demonstrations, family art activities, live music and a food truck. All activities are free and open to the public. Attendees should bring money for food truck purchases.

The city typically holds an annual fall celebration of the arts with the Plymouth Arts Fair. However, due to ongoing construction at the Plymouth Community Center, this year's Arts Fair will not be held (check back in 2022 for information about the event). Brushes on the Boardwalk is inspired by the autumn showcase and features a new format in a unique setting. For more information, visit plymouthmn.gov/specialevents.



Halloween at the Lake, Oct. 29

For the second year, Plymouth will host annual Halloween festivities 5-8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 29 at Parkers Lake Playfield, 15500 County Road 6. Halloween at the Lake brings together the Plymouth Parks and Recreation, Police, and Fire departments, featuring first responder vehicles for children to view, as well as treats and family-friendly fun. Costumes are encouraged.



Free paper shredding event

The city will hold a free paper shredding event 3:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 21 at the Plymouth Maintenance Facility, 14900 23rd Ave. N. Residents can also drop off other select household items to be recycled. For more information and a list of accepted items, visit plymouthmn.gov/shred. **Note: The print edition of Plymouth News listed an incorrect event start time.**

Plymouth on Parade returns to City Center Sept. 18, features a new route

A celebration of the city is set to march through Plymouth City Center. The 23rd annual Plymouth on Parade event returns Saturday, Sept. 18 with a new activity location and parade route.

The free event will include family activities from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the corner of Plymouth Boulevard and 34th Avenue N. Food trucks and stands will offer concessions for purchase, and attendees are encouraged to bring cash.

The parade begins at 10:30 a.m. and travels from City Hall, 3400 Plymouth Blvd., to the Plymouth Community Center, 14800 34th Ave. N.

Residents are encouraged to post parade photos on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter by tagging the city or using the hashtag #PlymouthonParade for a chance to be shared by the City of Plymouth.



The annual Plymouth on Parade returns this year with a new, redesigned route in the heart of City Center. The event is set for Saturday, Sept. 18.

The event is co-sponsored by the City of Plymouth, TCF Bank, Kyle Vitense State Farm Agency and CCX Media. For more details and updated parade route information, visit plymouthmn.gov/plymouthonparade.

City purchases Four Seasons Mall site to facilitate redevelopment

After it sat vacant for more than a decade – with multiple starts and stops in potential projects – the City of Plymouth has purchased the Four Seasons Mall site in an effort to spur development.

The city finalized the \$6.7 million purchase at the end of June with plans to facilitate redevelopment by soliciting project proposals and selling the land to a developer.

Request for Proposals

At press time, City Council was set to consider approving a Request for Proposal (RFP) document at the end of August, which solicits developers for project plans. The city expects to receive project proposals by Thursday, Oct. 28.

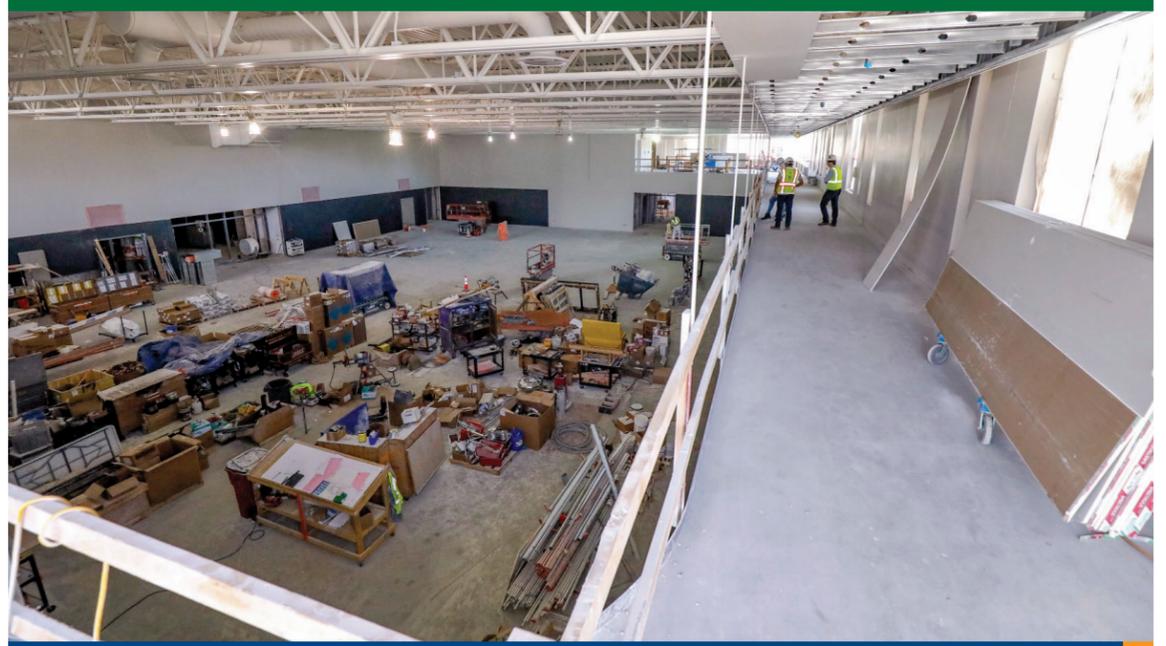
Council could then review proposals and identify a plan and developer by early 2022.

“The city has taken a proactive approach due to the site’s development challenges, which include poor soil and a shallow water table,” Plymouth Economic Development Manager Danette Parr said. “This location is a gateway to our community, and we want to ensure that we get the right project that fits into the neighborhood.”

The site is guided for mixed-use development. Parr said that successful redevelopment of the site will likely include commercial and residential spaces, such as retail, restaurant and multi-family living.

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Plymouth Community Center project heading into Phase 2



Work at the Plymouth Community Center is heading into the next phase after a busy year of construction. The PCC closed at the end of August while crews began Phase 2 construction, which includes renovation of the existing building. Phase 1 is expected to be complete in early December, at which point the new Active Wing will open for use, including the indoor playground, year-round indoor walking track and gymnasiums. For more information, visit plymouthmn.gov/pccproject.

Open-air pavilion nears completion at Northwest Greenway, ribbon cutting set

At the edge of 350 acres of nature and wetlands, joined together by more than 7 miles of paved walking and biking trails, sits the all-new Northwest Greenway Pavilion, which is set to officially open in late-September.

Designed to host gatherings and fit a variety of rental needs, the newly constructed open-air pavilion, 5250 Peony Lane, offers amenities such as an adaptable plaza, parking, a drinking fountain, restrooms, servery with a sink, green room for events, serving counter, refrigerator and more.

“It’s exciting to have a versatile community space at the trailhead to host special gatherings and events, such as picnics, meetings and small weddings,” said Recreation Manager Kari Hemp. “With beautiful scenery and nearby trails, the flexibility of the pavilion allows us to welcome visitors for a variety of occasions – including city events like the new Plymouth Public Safety 5K, which was held in August.”

Adjacent to the Challenge Course, which opened last summer, the pavilion provides a formal parking and access point for residents to utilize the Northwest Greenway’s looping trails, and offers nearby boardwalks that overlook the Elm Creek wetlands. Building on Plymouth’s reputation for high-quality parks, varied amenities and winding trails that access nature, the facility offers tranquil views in a sheltered, outdoor space and showcases a modern design.

The pavilion will be available for rentals in 2022.

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Sept. 23

The City of Plymouth will host a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of the Northwest Greenway



The new pavilion serves as a trailhead for the Northwest Greenway and offers a plaza, parking, restrooms and more.

Pavilion at 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 23. The public is welcome to attend the ribbon cutting event.

Background

The Northwest Greenway is a 350-acre wooded nature preserve with winding bike and pedestrian trails, stretching from Lake Camelot on the east side of Plymouth to the Northwest Greenway Pavilion and Challenge Course on the west. Creation of the Northwest Greenway stems from a 2006 voter-approved \$9 million referendum to acquire the land and preserve open space. Since then, the city has continued to steadily preserve natural habitat in northwest Plymouth and has worked to add amenities and pave trails for the Greenway.

Greenway trails also connect to numerous neighborhood parks and the Plymouth Dog Park, as well as the Medicine Lake Regional Trail, which provides access to regional parks such as Clifton E. French and Elm Creek Park Reserve.

For more information about the Northwest Greenway and to view a map, visit plymouthmn.gov/nwgreenway.

The U.S. Census Bureau releases data gathered in the 2020 census

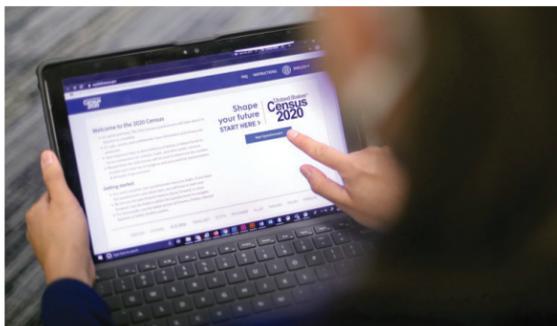
A process that takes place every 10 years, the census is crucial for gathering population data and has far-reaching effects on public policy, including funding for infrastructure, planning for public facilities and political representation. Since spring, the U.S. Census Bureau has released results from the 2020 census in phases.

Data released in August revealed population counts – including a total of 81,026 in the City of Plymouth – a 13% increase in the city’s population from the 2010 census.

Redistricting Data

Data used for redistricting was released in August. A process of redrawing the boundaries of election districts to ensure that residents are equally represented, redistricting is impacted by the total housing unit counts, ethnicity and race, population totals, voting-age population and more.

Initial release of the results was significantly delayed due to the pandemic. In Minnesota, the state legislature holds the responsibility for redistricting Minnesota’s congressional



Results from the 2020 census have been released, including information that will be used for upcoming redistricting.

districts, Minnesota Senate and House districts and Metropolitan Council districts. The City of Plymouth is responsible for redistricting other election districts, as well as reestablishing precinct boundaries. More information about redistricting will be shared as it becomes available.

For details about the 2020 census, visit 2020census.gov.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Volunteer!

The city is seeking volunteers who are:

Interested in serving as Police Explorer volunteers. Must be 14-20 years old and able to meet weekly during the school year to explore law enforcement.

Passionate about the environment and green things. Adopt or mark storm drains to educate others about stormwater pollution. Remove buckthorn Saturdays Oct. 23, Oct. 30 and Nov. 6.

Enthusiastic about winter sports. Assist beginning youth skaters – must be confident on the ice. Take tickets at high school hockey games.

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

Take a Closer Look



Patrick Schwinghammer, left, and Shane Breault

Patrick Schwinghammer and Shane Breault

Youth Athletics Volunteers

As volunteers, their job is to coach recreational flag football in the spring and fall.

Shane and Patrick’s favorite thing about being city volunteers is making a positive contribution to the community and paying forward all the time former coaches and mentors spent with them.

Shane said, “I enjoy fostering a love of the game at a young age and seeing the joy players experience when they put in the effort and finds success in their personal growth and development. Scores will be forgotten, but the friendships and memories they make on the field with their teammates will endure.”

Patrick added, “It’s great to spend quality time with my son and teach young kids the values of a team sport: effort, friendship and teamwork. I have cherished youth football memories of my own that I think about from time to time.”

Because Shane and Patrick volunteer, children have a positive first experience playing sports in a supportive environment. Having trained leadership on parent-coached teams ensures quality interactions, and children have great role models from which they can learn.

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, which is outlined as:

- 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 more information, call the hotline at 763-509-5512 or visit plymouthmn.gov/watering.

Yard Waste Site Hours – Fall hours will be in effect September through November at the city-operated Yard Waste Site, 14900 23rd Ave. N. Fall hours include 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. Visit plymouthmn.gov/yardwaste or call the hotline at 763-509-5930 for more information.

Adopt a Storm Drain – Help keep storm drains clear of leaves, yard waste and trash to prevent stormwater pollution by volunteering in the Adopt a Storm Drain program.

With an increase in yard waste and debris on the ground, fall is an especially important time to maintain storm drain grates. In wintertime, whenever possible, grates should be cleared of ice and snow to improve drainage in the area. While residents can unofficially care for storm drains, registering to adopt a storm drain allows city staff to properly inventory drains and log participants’ volunteer time.

Adopt a Storm Drain volunteer positions are not supervised, and they can be a great introduction for residents of all ages to begin volunteering and giving back to the community. To adopt a storm drain, visit plymouthmn.gov/adoptaspot – those interested can select a drain from an interactive map of Plymouth.

Mall Site ... from page 1

The space is also expected to include a central element for Plymouth Metrolink, the city-operated transit service, such as a park and ride component.

Community Engagement

As part of the RFP, the city asks developers to provide community engagement plans to gather feedback about potential projects. The city has launched a webpage for those interested to keep up to date on site happenings, including information about community engagement, when available. To learn more, visit plymouthmn.gov/fourseasons.

Site History

For years, the aging Four Seasons Mall building at Highway 169 and Rockford Road has stood nearly completely vacant. Built in 1978, usage of the mall gradually declined in the 2000s. As the number of tenants dwindled, the property was purchased by Walmart Inc. in 2010. Ultimately, the site was not approved for development into a large retail store.

Over the years, interest from other developers has come and gone without projects becoming reality.

In all instances, project funding and/or the challenging nature of the site caused plans to fall apart before any work began. Because of these difficulties, the city moved



The City of Plymouth purchased the Four Seasons Mall site in late-June in order to facilitate a redevelopment project at the location.

to purchase the site and take a new, more active route to encourage redevelopment.

“We want to facilitate the best use of the site that is compatible with the adjacent community and the city as a whole,” Parr said. “We want to ensure that it’s done right, and purchasing the property allows us that control.”

Optional curbside organics collection coming to Plymouth homes in 2022

With a recommendation from the Environmental Quality Committee, the Plymouth City Council has adopted a resident opt-in approach to organics collection. Beginning in 2022, all licensed garbage haulers in Plymouth must offer the option for curbside organics collection.

Like sorting for traditional curbside recycling, residents can separate food scraps, food-soaked papers and certified compostable products (not including yard waste) into a separate organics collection bin.

Licensed garbage haulers will pick up organic materials at the curb and compost them.

The city does not regulate how haulers charge for collections of trash, yard waste or organics. Residents are encouraged to reach out to their garbage hauler and inquire about optional organics collection services and pricing beginning in 2022. Visit plymouthmn.gov/garbagehaulers for a list of licensed haulers in Plymouth.

Residents with questions about the program should contact recycling@plymouthmn.gov.

Reducing Household Waste

In Hennepin County, more than 25% of trash by weight is comprised of organic materials – food scraps, food-soiled paper products and certified compostable products – that could be turned into compost.

Organics recycling offers residents the opportunity to reduce trash, manage waste responsibly and conserve resources. When organics are diverted from the landfill and composted, they create an organic-rich soil amendment used to improve soils, prevent soil erosion and runoff, and capture carbon dioxide for climate protection.

Backyard Composting

An alternative to curbside organics recycling, the city’s backyard composting ordinance offers the option to compost materials such as grass clippings, leaves, weeds, wood chips, small twigs, evergreen cones and needles, garden waste, uncooked food and vegetable scraps.

“Composting is nature’s way of recycling, and it’s easy for residents to compost in their backyards,” said Engineering Services Manager Chris McKenzie.



Beginning in 2022, all licensed garbage haulers in Plymouth must provide the option for curbside organics collection, which offers another way for residents to reduce waste.

Backyard compost can be used as a natural mulch, plant nutrient source, potting medium and soil amendment to improve texture and water retention.

Defining Organics

While similar in nature, organic materials differ for backyard composting and curbside collection (backyard composting excludes some items to avoid attracting animals and pests).

Residents should contact their garbage hauler for a list of items accepted at the curb. In general, the following items are typically included in organics recycling:

- **All food:** Fruits and vegetables, meat, fish and bones, dairy products, eggs and eggshells, pasta, bread, beans, rice, nuts and shells.
- **Certified compostable products:** Compostable paper and cups, plates, bowls, utensils and containers; look for the BPI logo or the term “compostable” on certified products.
- **Food-soiled paper:** Pizza delivery boxes, napkins, paper towels and paper egg cartons.
- **Other compostable household items:** Coffee grounds and filters, cotton balls and paper swabs, houseplant trimmings, tea bags, wooden chopsticks, popsicle sticks and toothpicks.

For additional resources to help reduce organic waste, visit plymouthmn.gov/organics.



The Plymouth Public Safety Department offers reminders for pedestrians and motorists sharing the road.

Safety reminders for pedestrians and motorists

With more than 324 miles of city streets and 174 miles of trails in Plymouth, staying safe while driving, walking, biking and using other forms of transportation is paramount – and the Plymouth Public Safety Department offers reminders for pedestrians and motorists.

To stay safe and protect others, follow these tips:

- **Walk on the correct side of the street.** Whenever possible and accessible, pedestrians should walk on the sidewalk. If a sidewalk is not available and walking on the street is necessary, pedestrians should walk on the left side of the road (against the flow of traffic) to be more easily seen by oncoming traffic.
- **Use crosswalks when crossing the street.** Utilize crosswalks to cross the street and obey all pedestrian traffic signs and signals. Be sure to look both ways before crossing, and do not enter the crosswalk if an oncoming vehicle does not have enough room to stop. It is also important to make eye contact with drivers to ensure they will stop – pedestrians should never assume that drivers see them.
- **Be aware of surroundings.** Stay vigilant and aware of surroundings at all times. Avoid the use of electronic distractions, such as cell phones and other devices that keep eyes and ears off the road. Always stay alert to motor vehicles, bicyclists and other pedestrians.

Public Safety Citizens Academy returns

The City of Plymouth is accepting applications for the 2021 Public Safety Citizens Academy – a free, 36-hour, 12-week course that meets 6:30-9:30 p.m. Thursdays beginning Oct. 28.

Each week, a different aspect of policing will be featured through lectures and hands-on demonstrations. One week will be dedicated to Fire Department operations.

The academy is designed to help strengthen the partnership between public safety professionals and the community by sharing information and promoting a better understanding of public safety services.

“This academy is a great way to learn about public safety in our community,” Public Safety Director Erik Fadden said. “If you are interested, curious or have questions about how we operate – we open our doors to give a deeper look into the Police and Fire departments.”

Requirements

Applicants must be 18 years of age or older and live, worship, work or own a business in Plymouth. All participants must pass a background check. A prior criminal conviction will not automatically disqualify an applicant. The deadline to apply is Wednesday, Oct. 20, or until the class is full.

For more information, contact Community Relations Officer Jim Long at 763-509-5135 or visit plymouthmn.gov/citizensacademy.

Plymouth BUSINESS buzz

Here is a rundown of some recent business news.

A new smoothie bar offering tea, coffee, shakes and smoothies with an '80s theme, **Rockin Nutrition** recently opened at 4408 Nathan Lane N. in Plymouth.

Business Programs

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** – To help navigate some of the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Elevate Business HC program connects businesses with free expert one-on-one technical assistance, peer roundtables and topic-driven webinars. The free program, presented by Hennepin County and the Minneapolis Regional Chamber, provides a range of technical assistance services to businesses, including legal, marketing, finance, human resources and more.
- **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 that assists with a range of business needs. Those interested may schedule a free consultation 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.

IN BRIEF AND HAPPENINGS

Music in Plymouth Wine Tasting Postponed – This year's Music in Plymouth wine tasting fundraiser has been postponed. The event, hosted by the Music in Plymouth Endowment Fund, is aimed at raising funds for the annual Music in Plymouth community event. For updates or to view other ways to support Music in Plymouth, visit musicinplymouth.org.

Fall Plant Swap – The City of Plymouth will host a free plant swap 4:30-6:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 13 at the Plymouth Maintenance Facility, 14900 23rd Ave. N. 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 763-509-5944.

Farmers Market – The Plymouth Farmers Market is open 2:30-6:30 p.m. Wednesdays 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, honey, maple syrup, ice cream, meats, flowers and more.

A weekly newsletter is emailed to subscribers to provide information and offer recipes for ingredients available at the market. The personal shopper program is available this year for those who wish to remain in their vehicle while visiting the market. For more information, or to sign up to receive weekly newsletters via email, visit plymouthmn.gov/farmersmarket.

County Road 73 Small Area Study Begins – The City of Plymouth is set to conduct a study of the area surrounding County Road 73 and Highway 55. The small area study will explore future land uses and potential redevelopment, transportation and

utility improvements, as well as potential upgrades to parks and trails in the area. The study will include a community engagement campaign to collect input from area property owners, nearby neighbors, community members and businesses.

For more information about the County Road 73 small area study, visit plymouthmn.gov/cr73.

Plymouth Welcomes New Deputy City Manager – The City of Plymouth is pleased to announce that City Manager Dave Callister has appointed Maria Solano to the new role of deputy city manager.



Maria Solano

In this position, Solano will work in partnership with Callister to provide leadership, vision and strategic direction for the city.

Solano will also oversee the Administrative Services Department, which includes the City Clerk, Communications, Finance and Information Technology divisions.

Solano comes to Plymouth from the City of St. Louis Park, where she served as interim administrative services officer (previously senior management analyst).

She also worked as assistant to the city manager at the City of Coon Rapids and management analyst assistant at the City of Mankato.

Solano has a bachelor's degree in political science, and a master's degree in public administration from Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Goodbye Four Seasons Mall, hello new opportunities

By Mayor Jeff Wosje

If you live in east Plymouth or drive by Rockford Road and Highway 169, you're likely familiar with the Four Seasons Mall – a long-vacant unsightly strip mall at the southwest corner of the interchange.

Over the years, as the property changed hands and development applications were submitted to the city, we were excited by redevelopment proposals that could revitalize the area with new retail stores, restaurants, hotels and housing.

But after two developments fell through due to financing or other issues, we decided it was time for this blighted mall to finally enter a new season.

In June, the city purchased the site with the intent to facilitate a vibrant mix-use redevelopment at this highly visible entrance to Plymouth.

Our vision is to create an active, well-connected area with a variety of amenities, which may include walkable trails, integrated transit facilities, restaurants and retail, quality housing, attractive architecture or lively outdoor gathering spaces. The process to request proposals from potential developers is underway (see page 1).

Because an integrated transit component will be included as an important feature of the development, the city used transit dollars to purchase the site instead of general tax dollars – and will eventually recoup the funds when the land is ultimately sold to the selected developer.

After some big letdowns, we can start getting excited again as we look forward to a rejuvenated property on the east side of town that fits the character of the existing neighborhood and welcomes people to Plymouth.

While it will certainly take more than four seasons to see our vision come to fruition, I strongly believe it will be worth the wait.

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. 14, 28 and Oct. 12, 26

Planning Commission: Sept. 1, 15 and Oct. 6, 20

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