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If you will be unable to get to the poll on election day, you can cast an absentee ballot. Absentee voting for the November general election opens on Sept. 21.

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You can share in the bounty of the fall harvest by shopping at the Plymouth Farmers Market. The market will run through Oct. 10.

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If you have a street light charge on your city utility bill, you will see a change starting Nov. 1. To streamline billing operations, the city will begin charging a uniform rate for neighborhood street lights.

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Kids will enjoy carnival games, inflatables, entertainment, prizes, treats, pizza and more at the annual Halloween at the Creek on Oct. 31. Space is limited. Early registration is encouraged.

## Candidates file for City Council seats

Four Plymouth City Council seats will be on the November ballot – an at-large seat, as well as seats for Wards 1, 2 and 3. The ballot will include the following candidates.

### At-Large (4-Year Term)

Dan Waltenberg  
Jim Willis

### Ward 1 – Northwest Plymouth (4-Year Term)

Judy Johnson

### Ward 2 – Southwest Plymouth (2-Year Term)

Ned Carroll

Jeff Wosje

### Ward 3 – Southeast Plymouth (4-Year Term)

Bob Stein

Area chapters of the League of Women Voters will sponsor several candidate forums for offices that include

Plymouth. The forum featuring Plymouth City Council candidates is set for 7 p.m. on Oct. 2 at Plymouth City Hall, 3400 Plymouth Blvd.

Other forums include:

- Minnesota Senate District 44, Minnesota House Districts 44A and 44B – Oct. 4, 7 p.m., at Plymouth City Hall
- Minnesota Senate District 45 and Minnesota House District 45A – Oct. 24, 7 p.m., at New Hope City Hall, 4401 Xylon Ave. N.
- Minnesota Senate 46 and Minnesota House District 46A – at press time, the date and location had not been announced.

The public is invited to all forums. Forums will be replayed by Northwest Community Television on Channel 12. Check twelve.tv for replay times, or to watch via the Channel 12 website.

## Plymouth on Parade promises family fun

Music, food, fun and marching bands will bring the community together again for the 15th annual Plymouth on Parade on Sat., Sept. 29, 11:30 a.m. Bring a chair or stand along the parade route to enjoy this perennial

favorite. The parade route runs down Plymouth Boulevard from 34th Avenue to 37th Avenue.

New groups will join returning favorites to add to this lively event. The Ha Family Lion Troupe will electrify the crowd with its larger-than-life characters that dance along to the rhythm of drums, reminiscent of a Chinese New Year parade. Marching bands from Armstrong and Wayzata high schools and the Zurah Steel Drum Band will add to the exuberance. The antics of the Aqua Jester clowns will add their light touch to entertain parade-goers.



Clowns will tickle your funny bone at Plymouth on Parade. Post-parade activities include music, swimming, skating and more.

### Free Afternoon Activities

After the parade, stay for an afternoon of free family activities from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Hilde Performance Center and the Plymouth Ice Center/Life Time Fitness area. Come inside for free ice skating, swimming and

*continued page 2*

## Senior development to move from drawing board to construction this fall

After a lull due to the recession, new construction in Plymouth is continuing to hum along. This fall a major senior housing development planned for Northwest Plymouth is expected to move from the drawing board to the construction phase.

The development, Trillium Woods, will be built on 46 acres at the southeast corner of Juneau Lane and County Road 47.

It will provide a campus-like retirement community with a continuum of living options.

The developer, Life Care Services (LCS), will build Trillium Woods in two phases. Phase one will include 195 apartment residences and 14 garden homes for independent living, as well as a health center with 44 private room suites that will provide skilled nursing, assisted living and memory care. Also included in the first phase will be several amenities, including an indoor pool, salon, exercise and weight training areas, library, auditorium and restaurants. Phase two will include a second wing of independent apartments, 12 - 14 additional garden homes and an expansion to the health center.



Trillium Woods will be built in two phases. Construction is slated to start in October.

LCS is designing both phases to achieve LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standards.

“This will bring a broad base of senior housing types to Plymouth. Until now, we have not had skilled nursing care. As the population ages, there will be more demand for an array of senior living options,” said Senior Planner Marie Darling.

Construction on the first phase is expected to start in October and be complete in spring 2014. About 70 percent of the units have already been reserved.

*continued page 2*

## Volunteer!

### Friendly and love to provide good service.

Assist visitors during special events, including Plymouth on Parade, Sept. 29; Halloween at the Creek, Oct. 31; Plymouth Pet Expo, Nov. 3-4; or Paint the Pavement 5K, Nov. 10.

### Committed to giving back to the community.

Help power wash and re-oil the Millennium Garden teak benches at the end of the season. Decorate City Center trees for the holidays.

**Enthusiastic about winter sports.** Take tickets at high school hockey games from November through February. Coach rink rat hockey during January and February.

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

## A closer look...



**Dick Burkhardt,** Plymouth's Got Heart Trail painter

**As a volunteer, my job is to:** Work with city staff to enhance the value of our excellent network of trails by painting hearts at 1/10<sup>th</sup> mile

intervals on select trails.

### My favorite thing about being a city

**volunteer:** We have a wonderful and extensive set of trails in Plymouth that I bike and walk on during most of the year. By volunteering, I have an opportunity to add to the value of the trails and, now being retired, I can give back to our residents with trail heart painting and some other interesting and satisfying volunteer activities. When I am painting the hearts, people ask me what I am doing and are appreciative of the opportunity to run, bike and walk the trails and know easily how far they have gone by counting the hearts. I hope that my heart painting will help to motivate our residents to take steps toward a more active and healthy lifestyle.

**Because Dick volunteers:** Residents have an easy way to track their physical activity.

## Parade...from page 1

open gym. If you prefer to stay outdoors, check out face painting, pony rides, petting zoo, musical entertainment and inflatables. Be sure to cheer on your favorite duck at the Ducky Derby Race, sponsored by Minnetonka-Plymouth Rotary.

### Firefighter 5K: Get a Jump on the Fun

Before the parade, start out the day with a brisk run or leisurely stroll in the 8th annual Plymouth Firefighters 5K Run/Walk, or bring the kids for the Kids Fun Run. The 5K begins at 9 a.m., with registration and check-in from 7:30 to 8:45 a.m. The run begins at Plymouth Fire Station II, 12000 Old Rockford Rd.

The 5K registration fee is \$20 for entries received through Sept. 14, and then \$25 through the morning of the race. All 5K participants receive a long sleeved t-shirt, and awards are given to the top three men and women finishers. Registrations received through Sept. 27 are eligible for door prizes. Register online at [active.com](http://active.com), event # 2024416.

The Kids Fun Run is free. It includes a half and full mile option. It starts at 10 a.m. There will be a gift for all kids who cross the finish line.

# Absentee voting for general election begins in September

With the August primary in the rearview mirror, the Plymouth City Clerk/Elections Division is looking ahead to the Nov. 6 statewide general election, which will have city, county, state and federal offices on the ballot. Absentee voting starts on Sept. 21.

## Absentee Voting

If you are unable to get to the poll on election day, you can vote by absentee ballot. Absentee voting is a two-step process that can be done in-person or by mail.

**By mail:** To request an absentee ballot, download an application from the city website, use the form printed below or call 763-509-5053.

If you are eligible to vote absentee, the city clerk will mail you a ballot. The city must receive all absentee ballots by election day. Please be sure to allow enough time to request the application and mail it back to City Hall.

**In-Person:** You can complete the entire process in just a few minutes by stopping at City Hall, 3400 Plymouth Blvd. Absentee voting may be done through Nov. 5 on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., and Tuesdays, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. City Hall will offer extended hours for absentee voting on Sat., Nov. 3, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., and Mon., Nov. 5, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

## Election Information

If you have questions about voter registration, voter eligibility or poll hours, visit the city website at [plymouthmn.gov](http://plymouthmn.gov). The city site includes a link to the Secretary of State's website, which has a poll location finder. It will also have sample ballots as they become available.

You can also get your questions answered, by calling 763-509-5080.

## Absentee Ballot Application for 2012 November 6 General Election

(Please print)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Reason for Absence

- Absence from precinct
- Illness or disability
- Religious discipline or religious holiday
- Serving as election judge in another precinct

### Mark All That Apply:

- I have a MN-issued drivers license or MN ID number: \_\_\_\_\_
- I have a Social Security number. The last four digits are: X X X - X X - \_\_\_\_\_
- I do not have a MN-issued drivers license, MN-issued ID card or Social Security Number.

Your identification number will be compared to the one on your absentee ballot envelope.

### Mail My Ballot to:

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Legal Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature is required)

**Mail this form to:** Plymouth Elections, 3400 Plymouth Blvd., MN 55447 or fax to 763-509-5060.

## COUNCIL CAPSULE

### An update of recent actions of the City Council

Plymouth City Center is poised to see a new development. The City Council gave the green light to developer Violet-C's request for approval of a **site plan and variances for a proposed medical office building at 15535 34th Ave. N.** The approvals pave the way for the construction of a two story, 18,590-square foot building on a vacant 1.5 acre parcel between TCF Bank and TurnStyle – on

the north side of Highway 55 between Plymouth Boulevard and Vicksburg Lane.

The City Council recently approved **two on-sale and Sunday intoxicating liquor licenses.** One license went to Grizzly's Wood Fired Grill at 220 Carlson Parkway N. The second license was for the Eat Shop. The Eat Shop will be located in Plymouth Station at 16605 Co. Rd. 24.

## Senior development...from page 1

### Community Amenities/Infrastructure

In addition to bringing a senior campus to Plymouth, the Trillium Woods development will include completing an important segment of Cheshire Parkway. The new segment will run north-south from 56th Avenue to County Road 47.

The development will also add the last segment of the Three Rivers Park District's Medicine Lake Regional Trail, an important segment of the City of Plymouth's Northwest

Greenway trail corridor and a trailhead parking lot.

In addition to the trails, Planning Manager Barbara Thomson pointed out that Trillium Woods will include a large conservation easement. "It's a part of the area that has been natural and it will remain natural," she said.

Thomson added that the prairie style architecture of the buildings and the development's graduated density will blend nicely into the rolling hills and wetlands of the area.

# Experiment may lead to water savings

There is something missing from this issue of the Plymouth News. One of the routine stories for September alerts residents to fall water main flushing. This fall that practice is placed on hold, in hopes of saving more than five million gallons of water.

Water main flushing clears iron buildup from the pipes. That's why people are alerted to watch for discoloring in their water when flushing is scheduled in their area. But now more of Plymouth's water is carried through plastic – not metal – pipes. This reduces the amount of iron that accumulates in the pipes, along with the need to clear them out in both the spring and the fall.

There is another reason why fall water main flushing may not be needed. According to Utilities Manager Scott Newberger, the high water use in the summer probably does a pretty good job of “self flushing” the pipes.

Newberger also noted that the city's new water treatment facilities also contribute to better water. The new plants, along with seasoned operators, results in water that contains less iron when it is sent into the system. “The guys in the plants really have the new treatment systems dialed in. They are kind of competitive when it comes to which plant makes the best water,” said Newberger.



The city will not flush water mains this fall. Above, a city worker checks for iron during a past flushing.

He added, “We'll check the iron numbers when we flush next spring. We expect the results to be the same as previous years when we did a fall flush.” If he's right, that will be lots of water – and money – that doesn't go down the drain each fall.

## HAPPENINGS



**Lasagna Dinner Fundraiser** – Fri., Sept. 28, 6:30 p.m., Plymouth Creek Center, 14800 34th Ave. N. Sit down to a delicious lasagna dinner sponsored by the Plymouth

Senior program. The meal includes lasagna, Italian salad with fresh grated cheese, breadsticks, cookie and a beverage. The cost is \$8 for adults and \$5 for children under age 12. Doors will open at 6 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. Registration is required. No ticket sales at the door. Call 763-509-5280 by Sept. 20 to reserve your space or for more information. Proceeds support the Plymouth Senior program.

**Firefighter 5K Run/Walk & Kids Fun Run** – Sat., Sept. 29, 9 and 10 a.m., Plymouth Fire Station II, 12000 Old Rockford Rd. (See article on page 2.)

**Plymouth On Parade** – Sat., Sept. 29, 11:30 a.m., Plymouth Boulevard from 34th to 37th Avenue. (See article on page 1.)

**Wine Tasting Fundraiser** – Thurs. Oct. 4, 6 - 8 p.m., Plymouth Creek Center, 14800 34th Ave. N. Enjoy some excellent wine and support the Music in Plymouth Endowment Fund at the same time. The knowledgeable staff from Haskell's Wine and Spirits will guide guests through a tasting of more than 50 different fine wines. Wines featured in the tasting will be available for purchase at a discount at Haskell's after the event. Attendees will also enjoy hors d'oeuvres, musical entertainment and an opportunity to win gift baskets designed for the event. Tickets are \$30 per person in advance of the event, or \$35 at the door. Tickets can be purchased by contacting John Babcock at 763-553-1900 johnb@SatelliteCo.com.

**History on Parade Tour** – Sun., Oct. 7, 1 - 3:30 p.m. Don't miss out as the Plymouth Historical Society's History on Parade tour celebrates its fifth year. Reserve your seat for this narrated tour, which will take you to select Plymouth historical sites in a classic Twin Cities Transit bus. A pamphlet with historical pictures and notes about the locations of farms, homes, schools and churches will be provided. Cost is \$10 and space is limited to 50 people. Make your reservations by contacting Gary Schiebe at 763-473-4889 or garyschiebe@isp.com. The Plymouth Historical Museum will be open after the tour. The tour starts and ends at the Plymouth Historical Society, 3605 Fernbrook Ln.

**Fire Department Open House** – Sat., Oct. 13, 12 - 3 p.m., Fire Station III, 3300 Dunkirk Ln. Free. Have fun together as a family while experiencing the world of firefighters, police officers and paramedics. See public safety equipment, watch demonstrations and try hands-on activities.

Kids who bring in a drawing of a home fire escape plan or a homemade fire safety poster can trade it for a free pumpkin, harvest permitting. Families may also exchange a non-perishable food item for a free pumpkin.



**Halloween at the Creek** – Wed., Oct. 31, 5:30 - 8 p.m. A spooktacular evening is planned for children at the Plymouth Creek Center, 14800, 34th Ave. N. Kids will

enjoy carnival games, inflatables, entertainment, prizes, treats and more. Costumes are encouraged, but no scary costumes, please. Pizza slice and beverage is included with admission and additional pizza is available for purchase. Everyone must be registered (adults and children). Register early to ensure your family's participation. The cost is \$8 per person for pre-registration by 4:30 p.m. on Oct. 31 and \$10 at the door. Children under three years old are free. To register, call 763-509-5200 or visit plymouthmn.gov. Refer to course # 39923.

## Study yields single rate, efficiencies



If you are a city utility customer who has a street light charge on your bill, you will see a change starting later this year.

As of Nov. 1, the City of Plymouth will charge a uniform rate of \$3.25 per month for neighborhood street lighting. The single

rate will improve the efficiency of utility billing operations.

With the change, some customers will be charged a little more and some a little less than they had been previously. Then, in the future, all residential properties that have neighborhood street lighting will be charged the same fee each month.

Some older areas of Plymouth do not have neighborhood street lights. Consequently, they do not have a street light charge on their utility bills. This change will not affect them.

### Why the Change?

The old structure, which originated in 1982, charged each parcel within a street lighting district the actual cost of the street lights that served the area plus an administrative charge. This has resulted in 90 different street light rates as Plymouth has grown. Without the change to a uniform rate, the number of rates would have continued to increase as new development occurred.

Administrative Services Director Dave Callister said the change to a single rate made sense on two fronts.

- All households throughout the city that have neighborhood street lights receive the same benefit from the lighting so they should not be charged different amounts.
- A more efficient billing system streamlines city operations.

To arrive at the new rate, city staff conducted a comprehensive street light analysis. It included a physical inventory of all lights in the city, as well as a review of the administrative process for utility billing.

## IN BRIEF

**Paint the Pavement 5K:** Sat., Nov. 10, 9 a.m. – noon, Hilde Performance Center, 3450 Plymouth Blvd. Check-in begins at 7:30 a.m. Plymouth Parks and Recreation and the Plymouth Arts Council have joined forces to celebrate fitness, arts and the outdoors with the first Paint the Pavement 5K Fun Run/Walk. Participants will enjoy art activities incorporated along the route.

Registration is \$17 prior to the event and \$20 on the morning of the event. Children nine years old and younger are free. For more information or to register, call 763-509-5200 or visit plymouthmn.gov. Refer to course # 40520. Proceeds go to Plymouth Arts Council programming.



**Water Restrictions:** The noon to 5 p.m. outdoor watering ban and odd-even water restrictions remain in effect through September. For details, visit plymouthmn.gov or call 763-509-5512.

**Financial Award:** For the 29th consecutive year, the City of Plymouth has earned the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of

the United States and Canada (GFOA). The award is the highest form of recognition in governmental financial reporting. It recognizes the city's 2010 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.



**Farmers Market:** Plymouth's Farmers Market will continue to offer fresh, local produce on Wednesdays from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the parking lot of Life Time Fitness, 3600 Plymouth Blvd., through Oct. 10. Make

a point to stop by for fun activities and information on the event's theme nights. Sample a salad while learning how to compost at Go Green Night on Sept. 12. Let the kids paint a pumpkin at Harvest Night on Oct. 3. Check the calendar on the city website for other Farmers Market special events.

**Fieldhouse Turf:** A project to remove and replace the artificial turf at the fieldhouse began the first week of August. Work is expected to be completed by the middle of September – in time for fall sports and the raising of the fieldhouse for winter sports and walking. The inflatable dome fieldhouse is next to the Plymouth Creek Center, 14800 34th St. N. The dome is typically open from November through April.

## Colorful banners showcase work of area artists



Six years into the annual street lamp banner contest, the City of Plymouth has acquired an impressive collection of colorful and artful banners. This year's winner in the adult division was Peter Klose for his banner depicting a trio of butterflies (left). Sam Donner took top honors in the teen division (right).

For a first hand look at the entire banner collection, take a stroll past City Hall. Banners will be up in the City Center area through October.

## Volunteers, donations help stretch city recreation resources

Plymouth's parks and recreation facilities benefit from the generosity of businesses, neighborhood associations and volunteer groups of all kinds. It is this kind of help that makes it possible to stretch city resources to provide the high quality parks we all enjoy.

### Park Improvements

Lots of people love the city's parks, but a slew of people who live and work in Plymouth show their appreciation for the parks by volunteering. From clearing buckthorn to sprucing up graves, Plymouth's parks and public spaces look a lot better thanks to the work of volunteers.

Employees from the Plymouth Home Depot store took on the task of making sure that the Parkers Lake Cemetery is in tip top condition for holidays, when families are likely to visit. They also repaired the fishing pier on Parkers Lake and have plans to restore the stage at Parkers Lake Park. The work is done on their own time, using tools and materials supplied by the store.

United Health Group, Honeywell, General Mills, Cargill and Caribou are some of the other businesses that organize employees for volunteer work. Some take on the task of clearing buckthorn and others adopt a park or open space to clean up litter.

Sometimes groups of residents answer a call for help to spruce up a neighborhood park. That's what happened when the Plymouth Park Maintenance Division put out a request to pull buckthorn, clear trails, replace plantings and mulch at Maple Creek and Schmidt Lake parks. A dozen residents came out to help at one park – and nearly 20 lent a hand at the other.

*Volunteers from the Plymouth Home Depot made sure the Parkers Lake Cemetery was in tip top shape for holidays.*



*Volunteer groups help spruce up parks and open space.*

### Meeting Room Enhancements

A donation by the Wayzata Hockey Association will enhance the Center Ice Meeting Room at the Plymouth Ice Center. The group donated funds to install a permanent projector and screen to make the room an ideal location to conduct presentations and meetings of all kinds.

### Brighter Lights

When the Heritage Neighborhood Homeowners Association dissolved, it had unspent funds to distribute. The organization offered to donate the money to the city to enhance lighting at Bass Lake Playfield. Now new high-efficiency lights will illuminate evening games.



## Fun doesn't stop when school starts

*By Mayor Kelli Slavik*

Just because the kids are back in school, it doesn't mean that the fun has to end. The City of Plymouth still has plenty of family-friendly events planned.

Mark your calendar for Sept. 29. The day starts at 9 a.m. with the Firefighters 5K Run/Walk. At 11:30 a.m., stake out ground along Plymouth Boulevard between 34th Avenue and 37th Avenue to watch bands, floats and clowns in Plymouth on Parade. From 1 to 3 p.m., enjoy free music, ice skating, swimming, inflatables, pony rides and more at the Ice Center, Life Time Fitness and the amphitheater.

Relish the bounty of the season at the Farmers Market every Wednesday, 2:30 - 6:30 p.m., through Oct. 10. Located in the parking lot of the Plymouth Ice Center/ Life Time Fitness, the market offers fresh, local produce, cheese, meat, baked goods, syrup, apples and jams.

On Oct. 13, stop by Fire Station III for the Fire Department Open House. This perennial favorite offers a day of demos, activities and important safety lessons.

In November, you will want to check out two new events. The Pet Expo on Nov. 3 - 4 at the fieldhouse will feature merchandise, competitions and more. The \$3 admission will benefit the Plymouth Dog Park.

All are invited to be part of the Paint the Pavement 5K Fun Run/Walk on Nov. 10. Proceeds benefit the Plymouth Arts Council.

After a hiatus, the Plymouth Arts Fair returns on Nov. 17 - 18. The re-tooled fair, which will be at the Plymouth Creek Center, will give you the chance to shop the work of select artists – just in time for the holidays.

For details on all events, visit [plymouthmn.gov](http://plymouthmn.gov). Click on the calendar link at the top of each page.

*Plymouth News* is published bimonthly by the City of Plymouth to update residents and businesses on city government news. Editor: Helen LaFave. Staff photography by Sheila Langer.

## City Council

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763-509-5007 (voice mail), [kslavik@plymouthmn.gov](mailto:kslavik@plymouthmn.gov)
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- Tim Bildsoe**, At Large  
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- Jim Willis**, At Large  
763-509-5006 (voice mail), [jwillis@plymouthmn.gov](mailto:jwillis@plymouthmn.gov)

## City of Plymouth

Phone..... 763-509-5000  
MN Relay (Hearing/Speech Impaired) ..... 7-1-1  
**Hours:**  
M, W, Th, F, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Tues., 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

## View Meetings

**Live on Channel 16, 7 p.m.**  
**On-Demand Video Link at City Website**  
City Council: Sept. 11, 18 & Oct. 9, 23  
Planning Commission: Sept. 19 & Oct. 3, 17

## City Website

[plymouthmn.gov](http://plymouthmn.gov)

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