



Photo by J.C. Gureghian

Plymouth's population grows

According to the Metropolitan Council regional planning agency, Plymouth's estimated population as of April 1, 2018 is 78,351, compared to the 2017 estimate of 76,882.

Given the same annual growth rate that Plymouth has experienced in the last two years, the city would expect a 2020 population of 81,374.

This population growth can be attributed, in part, to strong residential development in the northwestern part of the city.

Factors that attract residents to Plymouth include a high quality of life, state-leading school districts, a nationally accredited parks and trails system, a low property tax rate and quality city services.



Don't miss the Farmers Market

The Plymouth Farmers Market is open each Wednesday 2:30-6:30 p.m. through Oct. 9 at the Parkers Lake Playfield parking lot, 15500 County Road 6. More than 20 vendors provide fresh, locally grown produce and prepared food. Donations for the local food shelf will also be collected. For more information about the market, visit plymouthmn.gov/farmersmarket.



Water ski show makes waves

Shockwaves Shakopee-Prior Lake Water Ski Association performs jumps, pyramids and more on Parkers Lake, County Road 6 and Niagara Lane, 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 16. The event is free to attend. Get there early to claim a good spot on shore.

Music in Plymouth brings the sights, sounds and celebrations of summer

A sure sign of summer in the city, Music in Plymouth returns Tuesday, July 2 at the Hilde Performance Center, 3500 Plymouth Blvd. The Plymouth Civic League and the City of Plymouth welcome the world-class Minnesota Orchestra to the stage for Plymouth's largest annual celebration.

A Full Schedule

Entertainment begins at 5:30 p.m. with Southside Aces, followed by the Scottie Miller Band. Concessions, entertainment and childrens' activities will be offered throughout the evening, including the In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre, the Medicine Show Music Company, the Minnesota Zoomobile and more.

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Music in Plymouth returns to the Hilde Performance Center Tuesday, July 2, featuring music, food, live entertainment and a fireworks display.

Rockford Road project underway, bridge closure begins mid-July

The Rockford Road (County Road 9)/Interstate 494 interchange project is underway, and the effect on traffic will change as construction moves through phases.

Work began in May, which closed the north ramps to I-494 from Rockford Road (the ramp from Rockford Road to northbound I-494 and the ramp from southbound I-494 to Rockford Road).

Bridge Closure

In mid-July, all four ramps to and from I-494 will be open. At this time, the bridge will be completely closed to traffic for roughly 100 days as it is removed and reconstructed.

Rockford ... continued on page 4



The effect on traffic will change as construction at the Rockford Road/I-494 interchange moves through phases.

Cops and Bobbers



Plymouth police and firefighters spent a couple mornings at the fishing pier with local kids for Cops and Bobbers. The events were held at Three Rivers Park District's French Regional Park in Plymouth. The weather was sunny and the fish were biting both days.

Plymouth Creek Center project open house is set for July 9

As plans for a potential expansion and renovation project at the Plymouth Creek Center begin to take shape, residents are encouraged to take advantage of two upcoming opportunities to offer their feedback.

For the last two years, the city has gathered public input about the project and, in April, the city moved forward by engaging architectural firm HGA to develop design options.

During this phase, the city will collect input from residents to help fine tune the type of activity spaces included in the plans.

Open House

An open house for the Plymouth Creek Center project is set for 5:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 9 at the Plymouth Creek Center, 14800 34th Ave. N. At the event, residents will see draft schematic plans featuring a renovation and expansion design option.

The preliminary project cost estimate is roughly \$50 million, based on the schematic plans. For example, owners of \$300,000-\$500,000 homes would see an average tax impact of about \$78-\$135 per year.

Open house attendees will be invited to provide feedback on the types of space, uses, layout and design of an initial draft. Based on community feedback, the project may include gym space, a walking track, an indoor playground, a wellness space, senior spaces, classrooms, meeting spaces and an arts studio. An extra edition of Plymouth News will be mailed to households with more information and details prior to the July 9 open house.

FlashVote

The city will also use an online survey tool – FlashVote – to gather project feedback. A link to a simple, one-minute



An open house will be held Tuesday, July 9 for residents to provide feedback regarding a potential Plymouth Creek Center expansion and renovation project.

survey will be sent to registered FlashVote users Tuesday, July 9 and residents will have 48 hours to complete the survey. Participants can choose to receive surveys via email, text message, phone call or through internet browser. To learn more and to register, visit plymouthmn.gov/FlashVote.

Serving a Growing Population

The Plymouth Creek Center serves as an important hub for arts, senior and recreation programming, as well as community and regional events. After nearly two decades of use, the center needs maintenance and updates.

A 2016 feasibility study confirmed a shrinking ability to serve the community. Since the building opened, Plymouth's population has increased by more than 13,000 people. That growth has spiked Plymouth Creek Center usage and continues to drive demand for programming.

Next Steps

As the project continues to develop, residents will have additional opportunities to weigh in. For more information and to sign up for eNotify updates about the project, visit plymouthmn.gov/pccproject.

Rebates offered for WaterSense irrigation controllers, sprinklers

The city is offering rebates to residential and commercial property owners who replace old, inefficient irrigation controllers or sprinkler heads. Residents can apply for the rebates, which will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Through the program, the city aims to encourage water conservation and reduce demand on the municipal water supply. All property owners who are customers of the municipal water supply are eligible. When selecting irrigation controllers, look for the WaterSense certification from the Environmental Protection Agency.

WaterSense Irrigation Controllers – Rebates will be awarded for the cost of the item, up to \$200 for residential customers and \$500 for commercial customers.

WaterSense Sprinkler Heads – Rebates will be awarded for the cost of the items, up to \$100 for residential customers and \$200 for commercial customers – minimum of 10 required.

Visit plymouthmn.gov/waterefficiencyrebate for more information or an application.

Night to Unite brings neighbors together

Get to know neighbors, police officers, firefighters and city officials at Night to Unite Tuesday, Aug. 6. The annual statewide crime prevention and community building event is a great way to get out of the house and strengthen community ties.

Block Parties

Many Plymouth neighborhoods hold block parties – featuring potlucks, pizza parties, dessert buffets or cookouts – as a way to bond with neighbors.

Plymouth police officers, firefighters and City Council members may stop by registered block parties to visit with community members and neighbors. 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. 6. To sign up, visit plymouthmn.gov/alertplymouth.



Plymouth police officers, firefighters and City Council members will stop by registered Night to Unite block parties.

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 and Sunday. Only Plymouth, Wayzata, Long Lake and Medicine Lake residents may use the site and identification is required. The site closes for major holidays. For acceptable materials or details, call 763-509-5930 or visit plymouthmn.gov/yardwaste.

Offices Closed – City offices will be closed Thursday, July 4 for Independence Day.

Public Safety Citizens Academy – Applications are being accepted for the 2019 Public Safety Citizens Academy – a free, 36-hour, 12-week course that meets 6:30-9:30 p.m. each Thursday beginning Sept. 5.

The course is open to adults 18 and older who live or work in Plymouth. All applicants are subject to a criminal background check. Topics covered include patrol operations, K9 unit, police tactics, use of force, narcotic enforcement and SWAT. Hands-on activities include the opportunity to go on a police ride along and tours of both police and fire services.

To apply for the academy, contact Community Relations Officer Jim Long at 763-509-5135 or jlong@plymouthmn.gov. Application deadline is Monday, Aug. 26 or until the class is full.



"The Bird of Paradise Alights Only Upon the Hand that Does Not Grasp" by Raghuvveer Rao, a 2018 contest winner.

Picture Plymouth Photo Contest begins Aug. 1

Shutterbugs take note – the Picture Plymouth Photo contest accepts submissions beginning Thursday, Aug. 1.

Photographers of all levels are asked to submit their best shots. 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, 2018 to Aug. 31, 2019. 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.

Projects continue to strengthen Plymouth's leading park system

Plymouth's nationally accredited park system is continuously maintained, updated and refreshed to provide safe, distinctive recreation opportunities for residents.

This year, the Parks and Recreation Department is working on a range of projects to enhance the experience of park users.

All project dates are weather dependent, and some project timelines have been delayed due to an exceptionally wet spring.

Greenway Trailhead

A Northwest Greenway trailhead project will begin this year on the east side of Peony Lane south of 54th Avenue North.

The trailhead will provide access to the Greenway and will feature a large open air shelter, a multi-use plaza, parking, restrooms, a climbing/bouldering course and other amenities.

The two-year project is expected to be complete at the end of the 2020 season. Future plans call for a second Northwest Greenway trailhead in the northwestern part of the city, near County Road 47.

East Medicine Lake Park

Work is wrapping up at East Medicine Lake Park, which has been completely reconstructed.

The park includes a new rentable shelter, restroom facility, patio area, playground and parking lot lights.

The new playground's centerpiece is a high-rise tower with a 16-foot tube slide, netting, a fire pole and more.

Crews also refreshed the beach and improved water drainage to prevent trail flooding.

The park is currently open to the public as Parks and Forestry crews add finishing touches in the area. East Medicine Lake Park's shelter is expected to be available to rent beginning in July.

Zachary Playground

A refresh of Zachary Playground is in full swing. Crews are replacing park equipment and installing multiple slides, climbing challenges, inclusive features and other amenities.

Additionally, the Plymouth Rotary Club donated interactive outdoor musical instruments for the park. The new playground is expected to open by the end of summer.



East Medicine Lake Park has been completely reconstructed and features a rentable shelter, restroom facility, patio area, playground and more.

Harvest Park

A new neighborhood park is in the works on the north side of County Road 47 in the Fields at Meadow Ridge development. Called Harvest Park, crews expect to begin construction this year on the farm-themed play area.

Other Projects

Other park projects in Plymouth this year included updating the Plymouth Dog Park with additional fencing and a new boardwalk. The Plymouth Ice Center will update its interior lighting with LED lights, which will increase energy efficiency. Additional trail connections will also be made throughout the city this year.

Park Rules

Park users are asked to remember a few rules and guidelines this summer when using Plymouth's Parks.

- Pets are allowed if leashed/under restraint by owner and with means to pick up waste. Dogs are allowed unleashed at Plymouth's designated dog parks.
- 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.
- Alcohol and/or 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 and park and trail locations.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Volunteer!

The city is seeking volunteers who are:

Interested in serving as police explorer volunteers. Must be 14-20 years of age and able to meet weekly during the school year to explore law enforcement careers. Applications are due Thursday, Aug. 1. For more information, visit plymouthmn.gov/explorers.

Friendly and love to provide good service. Help with children's activities during Kids Fest, Thursday, Aug. 1, and Plymouth on Parade, Saturday, Sept. 21.

Passionate about the environment and green things. Adopt a storm drain to keep clear of fall leaves and mark it for environmental education. Remove buckthorn Saturdays, Oct. 19, 26 and Nov. 2 – groups welcome.

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

Take a Closer Look



Dave Tourville

Dave Tourville

Police Reserve Volunteer

As a volunteer, my job is to assist the Public Safety Department in any way that will keep sworn officers focused on the job at hand. During a house fire, I will help

with traffic control, allowing firefighters and police officers to take care of the situation. During a car accident, reserve officers direct traffic away from the scene, keeping sworn officers safe while they attend to any injuries or document the incident. Reserve officers also transfer prisoners, help find lost children or people, accept call outs when disaster strikes, help lost dogs and cats, and assist with special events.

My favorite thing about being a city volunteer is giving back to the community. As a retired businessman, I feel very strongly about this. Whether I'm working events such as Plymouth on Parade, Music in Plymouth or Drop-Off Day, or simply patrolling the community, I enjoy assisting police officers and residents. There's nothing better than getting a hug from a child who says, "Thank you for keeping me safe."

Because Dave volunteers, Plymouth residents have an additional presence in the community to support public safety efforts and help keep them safe. Police reserve volunteers must be at least 21 years of age, able to commit to 15 hours a month and pass a background check. Applications for the next class are due Thursday, Aug. 1. To learn more, go to plymouthmn.gov/PoliceReserves.

HAPPENINGS



Entertainment in the Parks – This popular summer series of free events and activities – concerts, parades and water ski shows – kicked off in mid-June. For more information or a calendar of events, call 763-509-5200 or visit plymouthmn.gov/specialevents.

Prairie Fire Children's Theatre – Prairie Fire Children's Theatre will deliver two free performances of Pinocchio 7 p.m. Friday, July 12 and 2 p.m. Saturday, July 13 at the Hilde Performance Center, 3500 Plymouth Blvd.

Kids Fest – Kids Fest is set for 6-9 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 1 at the Hilde Performance Center, 3500 Plymouth Blvd. The event features the Minnesota Zoomobile, Cale the Juggler and the Teddy Bear Band, in addition to inflatables, games, prizes, eco-friendly activities, insects, animals, entertainment, face painting and more. Entertainment is free, though games, food and some activities are an additional fee.

Date Night at the Hilde – A new, free event, Date Night at the Hilde gives grownups a chance to get away for a night of dinner, music and a movie on Thursday, Aug. 8 at the Hilde Performance Center, 3500 Plymouth Blvd. Food trucks will be on site at 6 p.m. At 7 p.m., Kind Country will take the stage. The evening wraps up with a showing of "The Proposal" at 9 p.m.

Movies in the Park – All movies begin at dusk and feature special events at 7 p.m. before the showings.

- **"A League of Their Own"** – Thursday, Aug. 15 at Zachary Playfield, 4355 Zachary Ln.
- **"Secret Life of Pets"** – Thursday, Aug. 22 at the Hilde Performance Center, 3500 Plymouth Blvd.
- **"Mary Poppins Returns"** – Thursday, Aug. 29 at the Hilde Performance Center

In case of inclement weather, movie showings will be cancelled. Call the weather hotline at 763-509-5205.

BoDeans to headline Live at the Hilde – BoDeans will take the stage Saturday, Aug. 17 at Live at the Hilde, 3500 Plymouth Blvd. in Plymouth City Center. Special guests the New Standards and DJ Shannon Blowtorch will also perform. Doors open at 5 p.m. and music begins at 6 p.m. The all-ages concert is presented by independent concert promotions company Sue McLean & Associates. Tickets and more information is available at sueclean.com/hilde.

Plymouth BUSINESS buzz

Medical device company **VentureMed Group, Inc.** recently announced a move from Ohio to Plymouth. The company will occupy a 6,000-square foot office space on Campus Drive with about 25 employees.

VentureMed develops devices that treat vascular conditions, such as the Flex Vessel Prep System for peripheral arterial disease.

Departments get creative with seasonally flexible staffing

The Plymouth Parks and Recreation and Public Works departments created two new full-time positions this year that exemplify cross-department collaboration and creative staffing measures.

In warmer months, the new employees work with the Parks and Forestry Division to maintain the city's park and trail systems, including lawn mowing, park maintenance and other duties.

As the season changes, the staff members will move to the Streets Division, where their jobs will focus on snow removal and other winter weather maintenance tasks.

The 50/50 split of full-time staff allows both Parks and Recreation and Public Works to reduce dependence on seasonal hiring.

"This structure brings a range of benefits to both departments," said Parks and Recreation Director Diane Evans. "Full-time employees develop a greater understanding of our operations. Additionally, staff doesn't have to spend resources recruiting and training seasonal staff as the weather changes."

Evans noted that seasonal employees will continue to be an important piece of the city's staffing model, though having a mix of seasonal and full-time positions enhances operations that change with the weather.

"These shared positions make our work more efficient," Public Works Director Michael Thompson added. "This kind of cooperation makes the city run better, and allows us to work smarter by working together."



Motorists are asked to remain patient and follow detours during the Rockford Road bridge closure.

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Throughout the closure, motorists will be able to access I-494 and businesses in the area from Rockford Road with all ramps open, though will not be able to cross over I-494 on the bridge. Motorists are asked to remain patient and follow detours during the bridge closure.

The new bridge is expected to be completed in October – weather permitting – and will be open to traffic, though lane closures may occur as crews finish details at the interchange.

South Ramp Closure

When the bridge reopens, the next phase of the project will close both southern ramps (the ramp from Rockford Road to southbound I-494 and the ramp from northbound I-494 to Rockford Road). The anticipated completion date of the entire project is late-November, weather permitting.

Once open, the new interchange will be a significant improvement to the former 50-year-old bridge, which posed public safety issues and featured a high crash rate.

Visit plymouthmn.gov/RockfordBridge to learn more and to sign up for project eNotifications.

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Following the opening lineup, the Minnesota Orchestra will take the stage to perform classic and modern scores.

After the orchestra, the Heart & Soul Drum Academy will give a lively performance leading up to the evening's annual grand finale – a spectacular fireworks display.

Roving entertainers will perform throughout the event. A variety of concessions will be sold and attendees can bring picnic suppers.

Participants are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets, though staking or roping off seating areas is prohibited. Residents are not allowed to leave blankets, chairs or tarps on the ground until after 7 a.m. the day of the event.

Transparent tarps are not allowed, as they burn the turf underneath. Attendees should not remove any landscaping

features, such as stones, to weigh down tarps or blankets. The site will be closed for maintenance and event preparation Monday, July 1.

Free Shuttle Service

Plymouth Metrolink will shuttle attendees to the event from 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 begins at 5 p.m. and runs throughout the event.

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 Friends of Music in Plymouth membership.

For more information, visit musicinplymouth.org.

Changes in Plymouth transit reflect trends, new technology

By Mayor Jeff Wosje

As transit evolves, Plymouth has kept a sharp eye on regional happenings to ensure Plymouth Metrolink, our city-operated bus system, reflects current trends and technology – and to help us better advocate for Plymouth as regional resources are allocated.

With 60,000 jobs in Plymouth, Metrolink is vital to our community's economic health and quality of life. It provides more than half-a-million rides annually, and is funded by regional dollars (not local taxes). Metrolink gets workers to jobs, reduces traffic congestion and lessens the environmental impact of single-driver vehicles.

Bus Rapid Transit – The City Council is encouraging the Metropolitan Council to further study Highway 55 as a possible Bus Rapid Transit corridor. Additional data will help ensure Plymouth is considered if regional funds to build additional BRT lines become available.

Dial-A-Ride – Since last fall, the city has been conducting a pilot program that allows Metrolink riders to book and pay for Dial-A-Ride shuttles using the Microtransit app. They no longer need to plan rides days in advance. The 60% of riders who use the app – a rapid adoption of the technology – appreciate the flexible scheduling and ability to monitor shuttle locations. Because of these positive results, we will extend the pilot project.

Fleet Changes – Many Metrolink riders own cars, but choose transit. To ensure Metrolink remains safe, reliable and attractive, we continue to make routine upgrades to our fleet. In balancing repairs with replacement costs, we recently replaced 18 buses.

Five of the new buses are coaches – a first for Metrolink. Like all Metrolink express buses, the coaches feature Wi-Fi, but also include amenities like overhead storage space, reading lights, high back seats and USB outlets.

For more information about Plymouth Metrolink, visit plymouthmn.gov/transit.

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

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Contact the City

- Phone 763-509-5000
- MN Relay (Hearing/Speech Impaired) 7-1-1
- Hours:**
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday
8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday (Community Development only)

View Meetings

- Live on Channel 16, 7 p.m.
- On-demand video link at city website
- City Council:** July 23 and Aug. 13, 27
- Planning Commission:** July 17 and Aug. 7, 21

Connect with Plymouth

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