



Plymouth on Parade 2020 canceled due to pandemic

In accordance with Minnesota Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance to promote social distancing and reduce the frequency of large gatherings, the City of Plymouth has canceled the 2020 Plymouth on Parade, which is typically held every year in September.

For the most recent information on the status of other city events, activities and programs, visit plymouthmn.gov.



Candidates file for City Council spots on general election ballot

The following City Council seats and candidates will be on the Tuesday, Nov. 3 general election ballot:

- **Ward 1 (Northwest) – Four-year term**

Alise McGregor

Milind Sohoni

- **Ward 3 (Southeast) – Four-year term**

Jim Davis

- **At-Large – Four-year term**

Paul Hillen

Jim Willis

Candidate Forum Set for Sept. 9

A League of Women Voters-sponsored candidate forum is set for 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 9 featuring Plymouth City Council candidates. Due to COVID-19, this year's event will be a virtual forum.

Those interested can submit questions in advance by sending them to LWVwpa@lwvmn.org by Tuesday, Sept. 8.

Video of the forum will be available to view on-demand at ccxmedia.org/2020election and lwvwp.org.

The recording of the forum will be replayed on CCX Media's channel 799/12. To find replay times, check ccxmedia.org/ccx-tv-schedule.

Plymouth offers mail, drop-and-go or in-person options for absentee voting

Plymouth Offers Outdoor Options for Early Voting

For the upcoming 2020 general election, the City of Plymouth is offering opportunities for residents to vote with an absentee ballot to help minimize direct contact with others during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Absentee voters have indoor and outdoor options for completing ballots – by mail, drop-and-go or in-person.

Election Day is set for Tuesday, Nov. 3 and early (absentee) voting begins Friday, Sept. 18.

Vote 2020 ... continued on page 4



Election Day 2020 is Tuesday, Nov. 3. The City of Plymouth offers opportunities for residents to vote via absentee ballot to help minimize contact during the pandemic.

Check plymouthmn.gov/coronavirus for pandemic-related city information

For all city information related to the COVID-19 pandemic, visit plymouthmn.gov/coronavirus. The webpage features information about city services, events, facility availability, cancellations, public meetings and more.

Doing Business with the City

At press time, city offices are not fully open to the public. However, all departments continue to provide services and the city closely follows recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Minnesota Department of Health regarding reopening procedures and social distancing guidelines.

The safest, quickest and most convenient ways to do business with the city are online, over the phone or through email. Some services are available by in-person appointment at City Hall – for more information, visit plymouthmn.gov/appointment.

For the most current information regarding the virus, and health and safety guidelines, visit the websites of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (cdc.gov) and the Minnesota Department of Health (mn.gov/covid19).

Other Ways to Stay Connected

Residents can sign up to receive eNotifications about a range of topics at plymouthmn.gov/enotify. Emergency notifications are provided to residents through Alert Plymouth – sign up at plymouthmn.gov/alertplymouth.

The City of Plymouth also publishes information through its social media platforms:

- Facebook (facebook.com/plymouthmn)
- Twitter (@[plymouthmn_gov](https://twitter.com/plymouthmn_gov))
- Nextdoor (City of Plymouth, MN)
- Instagram (instagram.com/plymouthmn_gov)

Recreation during COVID-19



Though COVID-19 forced the cancellation of many city programs and events, the Plymouth Parks and Recreation Department got creative to offer virtual and hybrid events for residents to keep active. This hybrid Zumba class, pictured from August, followed guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Minnesota Department of Health for in-person participants and had a number of participants joining the class online from their homes.



The Northwest Greenway Challenge Course is complete and open for use.

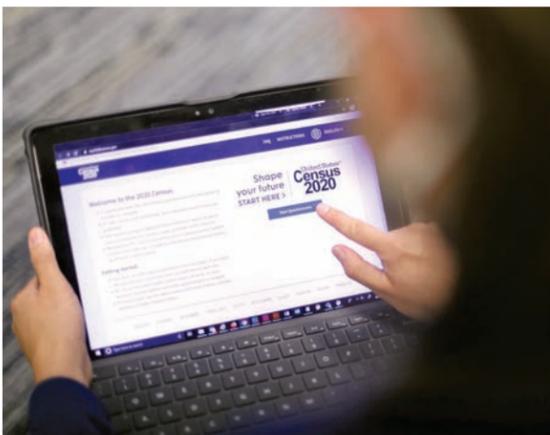
Northwest Greenway trailhead update

Walkers, runners, bicyclists and nature lovers will soon have easier access to the Northwest Greenway. Work on the Greenway trailhead, located on the east side of Peony Lane south of 54th Avenue North, continues with completion anticipated in spring of 2021 – weather depending.

Once completed, the trailhead will include a large open-air shelter, a multi-use plaza, restrooms, water fountains and more.

There will be two parking lots available along Peony Lane for trail users, which will provide greater community-wide access to the Greenway's more than 350-acre reserve of land and looping paved trails. Adjacent to the trailhead is the new Northwest Greenway Challenge Course, which is now available for use. It features a large open play area filled with unique activity challenges involving netting, balancing, boulder structures, agility and more for ages 13 and older.

Visit plymouthmn.gov/nwgreenway for more information.



The deadline to self-respond to the 2020 Census is Wednesday, Sept. 30. It's important that Plymouth is fully represented in the nationwide count.

Complete the 2020 Census before Sept. 30

The self-response period for the 2020 Census is set to end Wednesday, Sept. 30. Census workers are visiting households that have yet to complete their census form, and residents can avoid a knock on their door by self-responding online, by phone or through the mail until the Sept. 30 deadline.

The nationwide count is held every 10 years and census results produce more than just a population number, they have far-reaching public policy effects – examples include funding for infrastructure and local services, planning for public facilities, political representation in U.S. Congress and more. It's important that all residents do their part to ensure that Plymouth is fully represented.

The census is 10 questions long and takes about 10 minutes to complete per household member.

Residents should note that, by law, the U.S. Census Bureau cannot share respondents' answers with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities.

Visit 2020census.gov for more information and to respond to the census today.

Work set to begin on expansion project at Plymouth Creek Center

After years of planning and development, work is about to begin at the Plymouth Creek Center with a major renovation and expansion project.

At the Aug. 25 City Council meeting, contracts for construction were awarded, and the city received competitive bids and quotes – more than 278 were submitted.

According to construction manager RJM Construction, this was the most bids it has ever received for a municipal project. The competitive market resulted in bids estimated to be \$3.2 million lower than expected.

Work Slated to Start

Now that construction contracts have been awarded, work can begin. The project will expand the community center by about 80,000 square feet, adding a host of new amenities and recreation opportunities.

Beginning in early September, construction will be completed in phases (project dates are dependent on a number of factors):

- **September 2020 to September 2021** – Phase 1 construction (gym and fitness addition)
- **September 2021 to September 2022** – Phase 2 construction (existing building renovation and education addition)

Portions of the facility will remain open during all phases of the construction process (adhering to guidelines surrounding COVID-19). During Phase 1, the existing Creek Center will remain open as the gym and fitness additions are built. During Phase 2, Creek Center operations will shift into the new areas of the building while the existing building is renovated and remaining additions are completed.

Throughout all phases of construction, please note that entrances may be moved and that parking availability may be limited.

The New Plymouth Creek Center

Once completed, the community center will be comprised of the Active Wing, the Education Wing and the Event Wing.



The Plymouth Creek Center will undergo major transformation during the expansion project, which begins this September.

“We spent 20 years with a building that served us well, but it's time to modernize and expand what we can offer the community,” said Plymouth Creek Center Manager Jessica Riley. “We have provided education and classroom space, but now we will be able to offer a range of fitness and wellness opportunities for families and community members of all ages – from toddlers to seniors.”

New amenities will include two full-size gymnasiums, a dedicated year-round indoor walking track, an indoor playground, fitness/wellness studios, art rooms, a dance studio, party rooms and more.

The Ballroom and the Black Box Theater will also be renovated for events such as weddings, seminars, theater, meetings and education.

Visit plymouthmn.gov/peccproject for more information and project background.

Social Snapshot.

A look at what you may have missed



The 2020 State of the City video can be viewed online at youtube.com/plymouthmngov.

At the end of July, Plymouth Mayor Jeff Wosje delivered Plymouth's first virtual State of the City address, which was shared to the city's social media platforms and can be viewed online anytime at youtube.com/plymouthmngov.

Traditionally, the mayor delivers an annual State of the City address to update the community on city happenings, including a recap of the past year and a look ahead.

While COVID-19 forced the cancellation of this year's in-person event, the City of Plymouth teamed up with CCX Media to produce an 11-minute video update that features an overview of successfully completed initiatives, a preview of upcoming goals and projects, and a look at how the city has adapted during the pandemic to continue providing services.

Highlights from the address include information about:

- Public safety initiatives
- Expansion/renovation project at the Plymouth Creek Center
- City finances
- Growth and redevelopment
- Parks and Recreation
- City infrastructure

Follow the city on social media to keep up-to-date on news and for other interesting stories and photos.

Facebook.com/plymouthmn @PlymouthMN_gov @plymouthmn_gov

Two Plymouth fire stations are in line for major upgrades in 2021

As the Plymouth Fire Department adjusts staffing to a hybrid model, two Plymouth fire stations will undergo major projects in 2021 to accommodate 24/7 firefighter shifts and to update the aging stations.

Following an in-depth study, it was determined that Fire Station 2 (12000 Old Rockford Road) and Fire Station 3 (3300 Dunkirk Lane) have both developed operational deficiencies and need upgrades.

Virtual informational presentations highlighting each project are set for:

- **Fire Station 2 presentation**
6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 1
- **Fire Station 3 presentation**
6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5

Due to COVID-19, both presentation meetings will be held entirely virtually. During the online meetings, participants will be able to learn more about the projects and ask questions. Details about the meetings will be available at plymouthmn.gov/firestationprojects – both meetings will also be recorded and available to view at that webpage.

Fire Department Changes

In recent years, the Plymouth Fire Department has transitioned to a hybrid staffing model made up of a mix of paid-on-call and full-time firefighters. This change allows Plymouth firefighters to be on staff 24/7 and significantly reduces response times, especially for overnight calls for service. As the department's staffing model changes, facility needs have also changed.

Fire Station 2

Built in 1977, Fire Station 2 in eastern Plymouth will be completely torn down and rebuilt. The 43-year-old station has developed water issues, is insufficiently sized and no



Fire Station 2 was built more than 40 years ago, and the Plymouth Fire Department's needs have since grown beyond what the building can offer.

longer meets the needs of the Fire Department's day-to-day service operations.

To better allow for full-time firefighters working 24-hour shifts, the rebuilt station will include residence space, including a kitchen, dayroom and dorms.

The station will also allow for on-site training facilities, an emergency operations center and improved energy efficiency. Additionally, the project will focus on firefighter health by incorporating toxin reduction, hot-cold contamination zoning and startle response reduction.

"When these stations were built, there was far less understanding of health impacts such as carcinogens found on firefighter gear and the stress induced by high-intensity alarm systems," Plymouth Deputy Fire Chief Dave Dreelan said. "As we build a greater understanding of the risks associated with this profession, we are better able to identify ways to adapt the fire station environment for the health and safety of our staff."

Fire Stations ... continued on page 5

Plymouth Metrolink offers redesigned service routes, while rider safety remains a priority

With winter driving conditions on the horizon, commuters considering alternative transit options are reminded that Plymouth Metrolink remains available – and the bus system is set to operate a redesigned route system along with increased safety measures due to COVID-19.

Operated by the City of Plymouth, Metrolink provides express commuter services to and from downtown Minneapolis and the University of Minnesota as well as an on-demand shuttle service for trips within the city.

Schedule Changes

Since March, Metrolink has operated reduced services due to COVID-19. On Saturday, Sept. 12, Metrolink will implement a service increase to restore services through redesigned routes, including improved access to workforce resources for Plymouth businesses.

The redesigned service plan also includes the addition of Dial-A-Ride weekend service – 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays and 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays.

Dial-A-Ride is available on-demand and operates much like popular ride hailing apps, taking riders anywhere within Plymouth. Learn more at plymouthmn.gov/dial-a-ride.

Some pre-pandemic routes will not immediately return to operation, and Metrolink will monitor demand and rider feedback to adjust service as needed.

New schedules and more information will be published at plymouthmn.gov/transit.

To keep up to date on Metrolink schedules, news and happenings, sign up to receive Rider Alerts at plymouthmn.gov/enotify.

COVID-19 Safety Measures

Throughout the pandemic, Plymouth Metrolink has implemented a range of safety measures across the system to keep rider safety at the forefront.



Plymouth Metrolink continues to offer transit services while keeping rider safety a priority throughout the pandemic.

Metrolink safety measures include:

- Temperature checks and evaluations are given to drivers as they report to work
- Buses are disinfected after each use
- Additional disinfecting measures have been implemented at all facilities
- Driver barriers have been installed on buses
- Cabin air filters have been installed on all buses
- The number of riders allowed on 40-foot buses has been limited to 10
- The number of riders allowed on smaller buses has been limited to three
- Drivers and passengers are required to wear masks
- Masks available for passengers who do not have one

For the most current information about Plymouth Metrolink, visit plymouthmn.gov/transit.

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 careers. Applicants begin in September.

Passionate about the environment and green things. Adopt a storm drain or mark them to educate others about stormwater pollution. Remove buckthorn Saturdays, Oct. 24, Oct. 31 and Nov. 7. Groups are welcome.

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

Fascinated by local history. Assist with an oral history project which will include virtual interviews on themes of living in Plymouth, migration and immigration, and places of worship. This could be a great college internship opportunity.

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

Take a Closer Look

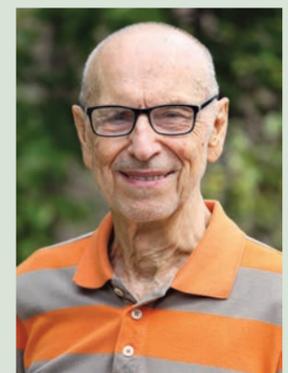
George Mueller

Buckthorn removal volunteer

As a volunteer, my job is to do battle with invasive species, particularly buckthorn and garlic mustard, depending on the season, which means there is a never-ending opportunity to be active and enjoy the outdoors in my senior years.

My favorite thing about being a city volunteer is that, since environmental degradation is a particular concern of mine, it has been satisfying to do something concrete to improve the environment near Medicine Lake over the years. This summer, it has been very gratifying to see native species flourishing – with bees and butterflies, where once there was only buckthorn!

Because George volunteers, the spread of invasive buckthorn is lessened through dedicated and committed service. George has contributed more than 1,000 hours of volunteer service so far in his fight against buckthorn.



George Mueller

Busting Buckthorn



Buckthorn is designated as a restricted noxious weed in Minnesota. The invasive species chokes out native plants, reproduces rapidly and dominates the area. The spread of buckthorn poses a major challenge to the natural environment in Plymouth – and the city has enlisted the help of volunteers and concerned residents to try and keep the invasive species at bay through initiatives like Buckthorn Busts.

The Home Energy Squad offers virtual visits in addition to the traditional in-home service

It can be difficult for residents to determine if their homes are costing them money due to energy inefficiency. As Plymouth heads towards colder months, it's a great time for a visit from the Home Energy Squad to discover opportunities to save energy and money.

The Home Energy Squad is typically available as an in-person home visit. However, to help Minnesotans save energy while also staying safe, Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy are currently offering free Virtual Home Energy Squad visits in addition to traditional in-home service. Visit plymouthmn.gov/homeenergysquad.

Traditional visits cost \$70 for residents, which may include the installation of a combination of energy saving components, including LED light bulbs, door and attic weather stripping, a programmable thermostat, or energy efficient water fixtures.

Virtual Visits

Virtual visits typically last 1-2 hours and include:

- A pre-visit questionnaire – allowing the energy experts to learn about the resident's concerns and interests in advance
- Virtual audio/video home walk-through with two energy experts
- A customized report with recommendations and next steps
- Post-visit consultation with an energy advisor

If a virtual visit team thinks that a home would benefit from an in-person visit, the Home Energy Squad will work with the homeowner to determine best next steps. If there is opportunity for significant savings through larger home improvement projects such as additional insulation, attic air sealing, or replacing old heating equipment – Home Energy Squad advisors make these larger steps easy by connecting homeowners with a vetted list of qualified contractors, specialized financing and utility rebates.

"Home Energy Squad visits help Plymouth residents pinpoint areas in their homes that have strong potential for energy efficiency improvements," Community Development Coordinator Matt Lupini said. "It also helps residents make decisions about home improvements that will benefit them not only in the short term, but also in the preservation of the home for the long term."

About the Home Energy Squad

Plymouth is a partner city in the Home Energy Squad program. The Plymouth Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) subsidizes the cost of the traditional in-home visit, making it available to homeowners at a discounted rate.

Home Energy Squad is provided by CenterPoint Energy and Xcel Energy and are delivered by the non-profit Center for Energy and Environment.

Property owners must be a CenterPoint Energy and/or Xcel Energy customer to participate in the program.

Vote 2020 ... from page 1

COVID-19 Accommodations

City election staff is keeping health at the forefront of the 2020 general election process. In addition to sending through the U.S. Postal Service, Plymouth will offer new options for early voting (absentee):

- **Drop-and-go:** Receive absentee ballot by mail and drop off completed ballot at City Hall
- **Outside in the fresh air:** Vote absentee outside under a large tent in the City Hall parking lot Sept. 21 to Oct. 23
- **Curbside service:** Complete the absentee ballot process and vote from the comfort of a vehicle

How to Vote by Mail/Drop-and-Go

Voting by mail or ballot drop-and-go is simple, secure and takes just a bit of planning ahead to complete.

Step 1, Apply for Ballot – To apply to receive a ballot in the mail, complete the online absentee ballot application under "Other Ways to Vote" at mnvotes.org.

Voters can also fill out an application from mnvotes.org for an absentee ballot and return it by email, mail or in-person to:

Hennepin County Elections
Government Center
300 S. 6th Street, MC 012
Minneapolis, MN 55487-0012
hc.vote@hennepin.us

Voters should apply for a ballot as soon as possible in order to receive the ballot in the mail and still have enough time to mail it back or drop it off at City Hall.

Step 2, Fill out Ballot – Ballots will be mailed to applicants beginning 46 days prior to Election Day.

Once received, follow the directions to fill it out and seal it in the envelope provided.

Step 3, Return Ballot –

By mail:

A postage-paid envelope is provided with absentee ballots to return by U.S. Postal Service

Drop-and-go:

Plymouth City Hall
3400 Plymouth Blvd.
Plymouth, MN 55447
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday
Friday, Sept. 18 to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 3
Extended hours: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 31 and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Nov. 2

Ballot drop-and-go at City Hall is for Plymouth residents only. Ballots may be dropped off by voters or on behalf of voters. For ballots to count, they must be received by 3 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 3. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked on or before Tuesday, Nov. 3 and received at Hennepin County Elections within seven days of Election Day (Nov. 10).

Step 4, Confirm – Voters can track the status of their ballots at mnvotes.org and confirm they were received and counted.

Vote Absentee In-Person

The entire absentee balloting process can be completed in-person at Plymouth City Hall, 3400 Plymouth Blvd. 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, beginning Sept. 18. Voters can apply for, receive and cast absentee ballots at the voting tent outside City Hall Sept. 21 to Oct. 23, or from their vehicles via curbside service.

Early Voting In-Person

Another option is to vote in-person by direct ballot Oct. 27 to Nov. 2. Voters feed their ballots through a tabulator just like on Election Day. Direct balloting is available 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at Plymouth City Hall, 3400 Plymouth Blvd. Extended hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 31 and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Nov. 2.

Election Day: Register in Advance

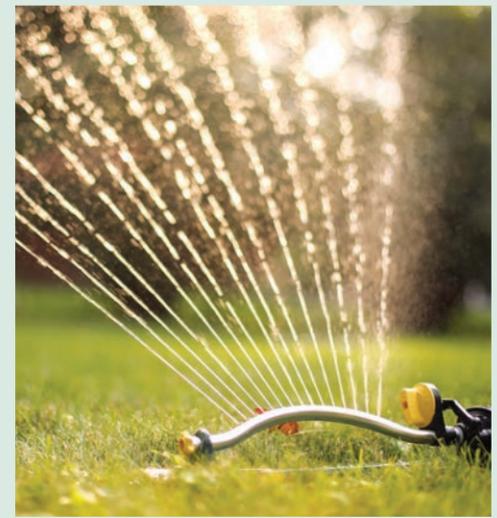
Those voting in-person on Election Day should save time by registering in advance. The deadline to register in advance is Tuesday, Oct. 13 (5 p.m. by paper, 11:59 p.m. online). For details, visit mnvotes.org.

Other Absentee Ballot Services

Military and/or Overseas Voters – Absentee voting procedures are available for members of military service (including spouses and dependents) and voters residing outside the U.S. Voters are advised to allow plenty of time for this process. Contact the Hennepin County Elections Office at hc.vote@hennepin.us or 612-348-5151 for more information. Also see the Minnesota Secretary of State's Military and Overseas Absentee Voting at mnvotes.org.

Delivery of Absentee Ballots by Others – Some voters may authorize an agent to pick up and return their absentee ballots for them (only during the seven days prior to an election), including voters in hospitals, groups homes, domestic violence shelters, assisted living facilities and more. This also includes voters with disabilities or incapacitating health issues. If you are currently living in a residential facility but not sure if it meets the qualifications listed above, please ask the administrator of your facility.

For more guidelines, visit mnvotes.org.



Plymouth has restrictions on outdoor water use from May through September to help manage water consumption in the city during peak months.

Outdoor Water Restrictions – Outdoor water use restrictions remain in effect through Wednesday, Sept. 30. 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 watering restrictions, visit plymouthmn.gov/watering or call the hotline at 763-509-5512.



Residents are encouraged to sign up for the Adopt a Storm Drain program in their neighborhood.

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

With an increase in yard waste and debris, fall is an especially important time to maintain storm drain grates. In wintertime, grates can be cleared of ice and snow – if possible – to improve drainage in the area. While residents can unofficially care for storm drains, registering to adopt a storm drain allows the drain to be properly inventoried and for participants' volunteer time to be recorded.

Interested volunteer qualifications include:

- A desire to keep Plymouth's watersheds free of storm water pollution
- Willingness to follow through on a commitment
- Dependability and responsibility

Adopt a Storm Drain volunteers are not supervised positions, and they can be a great introduction for residents of all ages to begin volunteering and giving back to their communities.

Visit plymouthmn.gov/adoptaspot to adopt a storm drain – those interested can select a drain from a system-wide map of Plymouth.

Plymouth continues to support business throughout pandemic

Throughout the pandemic, the City of Plymouth has offered a number of avenues of support for the diverse and robust business community in Plymouth.

Plymouth Business Grants

The city recently offered \$1 million in emergency assistance grants to businesses in Plymouth that have suffered economic hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Grants of up to \$10,000 were awarded following an application process in August. In early September, the city launched a second round to administer additional grants to Plymouth businesses. For more information about the grants, visit plymouthmn.gov/businessresources.

The goal of the Plymouth Business Assistance Grant Program is to increase the capacity of businesses and promote the long-term vitality of the Plymouth business community. Grants were developed to assist local businesses in covering expenses such as:

- Rent
- Mortgage payments
- Utilities
- Current payroll obligations
- Accounts payable
- Costs associated with reopening, such as cleaning, sanitizing and personal protective equipment

Funding for the Plymouth Business Assistance Grant Program was made possible by the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. To maximize opportunity for Plymouth businesses to receive funding, the city partnered with Hennepin County to administer CARES funds collectively through the county's online application portal.

Mask Giveaway

Following the statewide face mask mandate, the Plymouth Economic Development Division coordinated with the TwinWest Chamber of Commerce/Minneapolis Regional



Following the statewide mask mandate, the Plymouth Economic Development Division teamed up with area chambers of commerce to distribute 60,000 face masks to local businesses at no cost. The masks were provided by the State of Minnesota and a number of city volunteers came to help with distribution.

Chamber and Plymouth volunteers to distribute 60,000 face masks to local businesses at no cost. Up to 500 masks per business – provided by the State of Minnesota – were distributed on a first-come, first-served basis during a daylong event in July.

Connecting to Resources

As COVID-19-related programming and assistance becomes available from a variety of agencies, it can be overwhelming for a business to navigate. To assist, the City of Plymouth website features a comprehensive list of resources available to businesses and employees from a variety of sources. Economic Development Manager Danette Parr continues to work one-on-one with businesses when possible to connect them with the best-fitting resources.

“Most businesses in Plymouth have enough on their plates as it is,” Parr said. “Our goal is to provide whatever help we can to make sure that our business community continues to thrive, even in the face of these unprecedented challenges.”

To learn more about coronavirus business and employee resources, visit plymouthmn.gov/businessresources.



Fire Station 3 in western Plymouth will undergo a renovation and expansion project to allow the facility to better serve the needs of the changing department and community. Construction is expected to begin in spring 2021.

Fire Stations ... from page 3

Construction is slated to begin in spring 2021. Though Station 2 will be demolished, fire service operations are expected to continue from the site throughout the construction process and may include temporary facilities to allow firefighters to continue serving the city from the location.

Fire Station 3

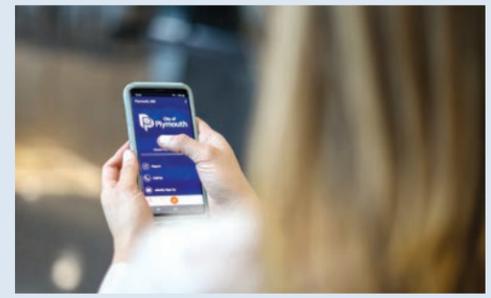
In western Plymouth, Fire Station 3 has served the city since 1989. Unlike Station 2, Fire Station 3 will not be completely torn down and rebuilt – rather, the station will be expanded and renovated. Station 3 has also developed moisture issues and features outdated safety

conditions. An expansion of the station will include additional living space, office space, locker rooms and training areas. As of press time, plans and designs were still being developed for the Station 3 project. Construction is expected to begin in spring 2021. Fire Station 3 is planned to remain operational throughout the project.

Next Steps

Both projects will be reviewed by the Plymouth Planning Commission and Plymouth City Council this fall. If approved, the projects are expected to go to bid in December. Construction would begin spring of 2021 and would last about 16 months. More information is available at plymouthmn.gov/firestationprojects.

IN BRIEF



Residents can use myPlymouth to report a variety of issues or submit inquiries to the City of Plymouth 24/7 online or with the free myPlymouth app.

Use myPlymouth to submit issues/inquires –

The myPlymouth reporting tool allows residents to connect with the city 24/7 to submit inquiries and alert the city to issues such as potholes, code enforcement, snow removal, playground issues and more. To access myPlymouth, visit the city website at plymouthmn.gov/myplymouth or download the free myPlymouth app from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store. Users can create an account or submit issues as a guest. Please note that myPlymouth should not be used in emergency instances. As always, report emergencies by calling 911.

Night to Unite Canceled/Alert Plymouth

Test Oct. 6 – The rescheduled Night to Unite event, which was set for Oct. 6, has been canceled due to continuing concerns related to COVID-19. The City of Plymouth will still conduct the annual test of its emergency notification system, Alert Plymouth, at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 6. To sign up, visit plymouthmn.gov/alertplymouth.

Wine Tasting Fundraiser for Music in

Plymouth – The Music in Plymouth Endowment Fund will host a wine tasting fundraiser Thursday, Oct. 1. The annual event, which raises money to support Music in Plymouth, will take on a new format this year due to COVID-19. Participants can sign up to receive one of five packages of beverages, pairing suggestions and recipes for an at-home tasting experience.

Package options include:

- White wine
- Red wine
- Craft beer
- Craft cocktail – clear
- Craft cocktail – dark

The tasting packages were created by the Plymouth Civic League in partnership with Haskell's. Tickets and more information are available at musicinplymouth.org.

The Yard Waste Site is open through Nov. 29

Fall hours are in effect at the city-operated Yard Waste Site, 14900 23rd Ave. N. The site closes for the season Sunday, Nov. 29, weather permitting.

The site is closed Labor Day (Monday, Sept. 7) and Thanksgiving (Thursday, Nov. 26).

The site is open 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. For acceptable materials or details, call 763-509-5930 or visit plymouthmn.gov/yardwaste.

Visitors to the Plymouth Yard Waste Site should expect delays and wait times – as vehicles will be allowed into the site at a level that allows for safety and social distancing (stay at least 6 feet away from others). The City of Plymouth follows guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Minnesota Department of Health, which recommend reducing the frequency and size of gatherings and promoting social distancing. For the health and safety of all, residents must remain in their vehicles until they reach the brush/leaf piles.

There's still time to shop: The Farmers Market is open through Sept. 30 at Parkers Lake Playfield

There's still time to get out and shop at the Plymouth Farmers Market this season. The market is open 2:30-6:30 p.m. each Wednesday through Sept. 30 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.

COVID-19 Guidelines

This year's market has been modified due to COVID-19. There is a designated entrance and exit, and customers should follow all directional signage.

Other guidelines for market goers include:

- Stay home when sick
- Attendees must wash hands before entering the market (wash stations are available)
- Practice social distancing (stay at least 6 feet from others)
- Masks are highly encouraged
- Only vendors should handle market products and customers should not touch items as they shop
- It is recommended that only one person per household visit the market
- Dogs aren't allowed, with the exception of service dogs
- The Farmers Market begins promptly at 2:30 p.m. and no early purchases are allowed
- Follow all directional arrows on site
- Some vendors offer credit card payments, but please bring cash for those who do not
- Practice patience while waiting to purchase items



There is still time to shop the Plymouth Farmers Market, which is held 2:30-6:30 p.m. each Wednesday through Sept. 30.

Pre-Sale and Personal Shopper Options

New this year, some Plymouth Farmers Market vendors offer pre-sale options for customers to minimize contact at the market.

In addition to the pre-sale option, the new personal shopper program provides those at a higher risk with access to the market from the safety of their vehicle.

City volunteers are available to complete shopping lists and deliver items back to customers' vehicles. Information about these options is posted at plymouthmn.gov/farmersmarket.

The 2020 market does not include food donations, prize drawings, musicians, children's activities or a community table.

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 to receive or view weekly newsletters.

The 2020 Plymouth Farmers Market is sponsored by Kyle Vitense State Farm and TCF Bank.

Coming soon: Another point of pride

By Mayor Jeff Wosje

Over the next couple of years, the Plymouth Creek Center will be transformed from a 20-year-old activity center with limited capacity to a versatile hub for sports, fitness, wellness, recreation, arts and more (see page 2).

Aimed at serving our growing community and expected to open in 2022, the reimagined community center will quickly become a highly valued amenity pulsing with life – and I am confident that it will be a point of community pride.

The Creek Center will serve all ages – from toddlers to seniors and everyone in between. The indoor playground will attract parents and young children while the year-round, indoor walking track will draw those looking to escape winter's coldest and summer's hottest days.

The two gyms will become a staple for those who enjoy a variety of programming, including pickleball, badminton, basketball and more. The wellness and fitness studios will bring much needed space to practice yoga, aerobics and Zumba.

In short, the new and improved community center will reflect priorities residents shared during an 18-month community engagement process.

It also will help meet needs revealed in a 2017 feasibility study and through analysis of recreation participation data and trends.

This project required four years of extensive planning, and it will take two years to build. When finished, it will meet community needs today and tomorrow – and add to the quality of life residents have come to expect and enjoy.

Over time, we will point to the Plymouth Creek Center as another example of investing in our community's future. It will join the ranks of the Northwest Greenway, Hilde Performance Center, Millennium Garden, Plymouth Ice Center and the city's lauded parks and trails system as another reason people choose to live in, play in, and travel to Plymouth.

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

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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. 8, 22 and Oct. 13, 27
Planning Commission: Sept. 16 and Oct. 7, 21

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