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Kittens, babies and bugs – oh my! View the winners of the Picture Plymouth Photo Contest, cosponsored by the City of Plymouth and Plymouth Magazine. Categories include pets, places, people, nature and more.

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Get ready for Primavera April 17-20 at the Plymouth Creek Center, 14800 34th Ave. N. The art exposition is free to attend. An opening reception will be held 5-9 p.m. Friday, April 17.

Significant economic growth a welcomed trend in Plymouth

Plymouth has been making headlines across the metro for impressive growth in economic activity. In fact, Plymouth currently ranks as the fourth largest economy in the state, according to Minnesota Department of Revenue gross business sales numbers – surpassed only by Minneapolis, St. Paul and Bloomington.

“Some may be surprised by that, but our location and business-friendly culture really allow commerce to thrive and grow here,” Plymouth City Manager Dave Callister said.

At the end of 2014, it was estimated that about 50,000 employees go to work in Plymouth. Close to 5,000 new jobs were added in Plymouth from 2010-2014 and growth includes a projected 2,500 new jobs in 2015.

A pillar of growth has been medical-related industries. For example, according to the Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal, Plymouth has the largest cluster of medical technology companies statewide, with a total of 24 companies – and growing. Callister noted that Minnesota is a global leader in med-tech, strengthening Plymouth’s prominence in the industry.

Growth ... continued on page 2



50,000
jobs are already
located here



Plymouth is No. 4 in the State of Minnesota for gross business sales - Minnesota Department of Revenue



24 med-tech companies are located in Plymouth, the highest number in the metro area - Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal

Plymouth Metrolink launches mobile app

Plymouth Metrolink recently launched a free mobile app available for iPhone, Android and Windows Phone. The new app puts helpful services right at bus riders’ fingertips.

The app was launched in January to simplify the planning, navigation and scheduling experience of the Metrolink transit system.

Features of the app include NexTrip – a function that allows riders to track buses in real time at any point along the routes.

Plymouth Metrolink’s route planner is also integrated into the app, which riders can use to view a complete list of available Metrolink routes.

The app offers push notifications of rider alerts, making it easier for users to keep updated on schedule adjustments, route changes and other information.

Metrolink ... continued on page 4



With the NexTrip feature of the Plymouth Metrolink app, users can track buses in real time along the routes. Other features of the free app include push notifications of rider alerts, Metrolink’s route planner and detailed schedule information.

Get to know Plymouth at the City Sampler March 14



The Plymouth City Sampler is set for 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 14 at City Hall.

Residents interested in offering ideas, sharing concerns and learning more about the City of Plymouth are welcome to stop by the ninth-annual City Sampler 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 14 at City Hall, 3400 Plymouth Blvd. The mayor and the Plymouth City Council will be available to answer questions, along with city staff. Coffee and light refreshments will be served.

This year’s event will offer attendees a chance to learn life-saving skills. Representatives from Heart Safe Plymouth and the Plymouth Rotary will teach residents about CPR and how to use an automated external defibrillator (AED).

Sampler ... continued on page 3

MnDOT to host meetings on I-494 project for businesses

The Minnesota Department of Transportation is hosting two identical I-494 construction meetings for businesses located along the I-494 corridor.

The department will provide an overview of the 2.5 year project and answer questions from business owners and managers.



Thursday, March 12
8 a.m. and 3 p.m.
Plymouth Creek Center
14800 34th Ave. N.

Sign up to receive email updates about the project at mndot.gov/metro/projects/i494plymouth.

Growth ... from page 1

Businesses that have recently announced expansions in or relocations to Plymouth include:

- **Polaris Industries** announced in 2014 that it purchased a 120,000-square-foot office building near Highway 169 and Bass Lake Road to house roughly 300 employees – 200 existing jobs and 100 projected new jobs.
- **TCF Financial Corp.** announced in 2014 that it will bring 1,500 employees from a number of locations to relocate at a large office building near County Road 6 and Interstate 494.
- **Proto Labs**, an injection molding and machining service, purchased a facility on Niagara Lane off of Highway 55 and brought 350 jobs to Plymouth.
- **Smiths Medical** will bring its headquarters to Plymouth in 2015 along with 562 jobs, including 162 new jobs. The company will make its home at an 180,000-square-foot facility near Highway 169 and Bass Lake Road. The company will invest \$10 million in the Plymouth location.
- **Cargill** chose Plymouth to expand its Food Innovation Center and announced that it will utilize the \$5.5 million expansion to bring its North American food and ingredient research staff together. Additionally, the city recently learned that Cargill plans to continue its investment in Plymouth. It expects to invest more than \$20 million remodeling an existing building in Plymouth so it can combine four labs – three that operate out of other cities.
- **OneBeacon Insurance Group** will relocate its headquarters to a Plymouth office building at Highway 169 and Highway 55.
- **St. Jude Medical** continues to make improvements to the Highway 169 and Schmidt Lake Road facility the company acquired in 2010.

Health care providers also maintain successful operations in Plymouth. Allina Health continues to expand its Abbott Northwestern - WestHealth campus and has steadily increased services. HealthPartners and Park Nicollet recently opened a clinic and North Memorial, Hazelden/Betty Ford Center and North have all recently expanded in Plymouth.

Callister said the growth is a welcome boon to the city. In a move to encourage consistent growth and redevelopment, the city will add an economic development manager to its staff this year to work with interested developers in identifying opportunities and reach out to existing businesses to gauge interest in expanding Plymouth operations.

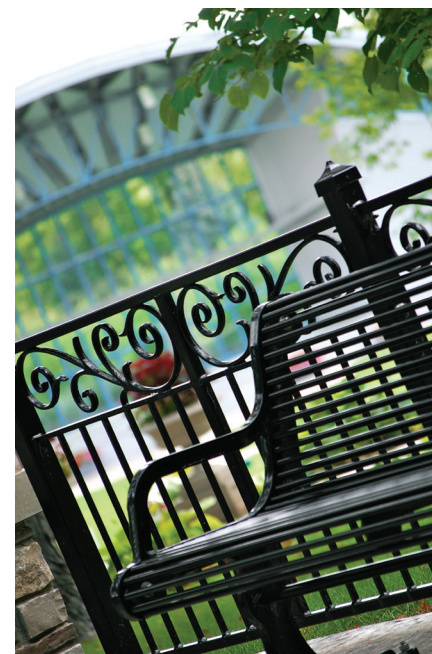
“Growth may not continue to the extent of more than 2,000 new jobs each year,” Callister said. “We don’t have the [land] inventory to sustain that rate. However, we do expect consistent growth and redevelopment to continue in the future.”

A sharp upswing in residential development has complemented the expansion of businesses in Plymouth. The city issued 310 permits for new residential units in 2014, the highest among west metro cities.

Picture Plymouth Photo Contest first place winners



Overall Winner - Anzhela Sira, "Fearless"



City Landmarks - Lisa Keller, "Bench at Hilde Performance Center"



Nature and Wildlife - Heidi Eitrem, "He Makes All Things New"



Readers' Choice - MaryRuth Manthey, "Ready for my Close Up!"



Pets - Gloria Rice, "Gotta Cut Down on the Caffeine"



People and Families - Kristina Eaton, "Little Blue Peepers"



Activities and Events - Heidi Eitrem, "Training Partners"

The Picture Plymouth Photo Contest was sponsored by the City of Plymouth and Plymouth Magazine. More than 300 entries were submitted to the contest depicting city landmarks, people/families, activities/events, pets and nature/wildlife. Keep your cameras handy for the 2015 Picture Plymouth Photo Contest.

New Plymouth Home Expo builds on yard and garden theme

Fans of the former Plymouth Yard & Garden Expo should be pleased to hear that the city is expanding the annual rite of spring to cover every corner of home improvement.

The retooled event, known as the Plymouth Home Expo, will be 6-9 p.m. Friday, April 10 and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 11 at the Plymouth Creek Center Fieldhouse, 14800 34th Ave. N.

In a significant change from the Yard & Garden Expo, the new Plymouth Home Expo is free to attend.

Residents are encouraged to gather remodeling ideas, view vendor displays, compare service providers, shop products and take advantage of expertise from more than 100 vendors. The expanded expo includes landscaping, siding, roofing, windows, masonry, gardening, yard art, cleaning supplies, kitchen gadgets and more.

"We always had some home-related services at the previous Yard & Garden Expos," said Plymouth Recreation Manager Regina Michaud. "This year, we're fully embracing it and adding a number of new vendors to boost the experience of the expo."

The Home Expo will also feature traditional Yard &



The former Yard & Garden Expo has been expanded and improved to become the Plymouth Home Expo – the first of which will be April 10-11 at the Plymouth Creek Center. The free event will feature educational opportunities, door prizes and more than 100 vendors.

Garden Expo staples such as the activity-packed Eco-Footprint Learning Center, a \$15 flower bouquet booth, a garden area, the last-day plant sale, education sessions and a keynote speaker. Attendees can enter hourly door prize drawings at no cost. Prizes are donated by expo vendors and are valued at \$25 and greater.

Children are welcome to attend and participate in activities such as planting at the Eco-Footprint Learning Center and playing on inflatable structures.

Funds raised by the Plymouth Home Expo benefit the Millennium Garden at the Plymouth Creek Center and help keep the city landmark well maintained.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Volunteer!

The city is seeking volunteers who are:

Friendly and love to provide good service. Provide one-on-one assistance to seniors with computer and tablet questions; previous IT experience preferred. Greet and welcome Plymouth Creek Center visitors, answer telephones and provide light clerical work. Assist Millennium Garden bridal couples during evening wedding rehearsals; must have previous customer service experience. Assist Farmers Market manager with setup and tear down, interact with vendors and customers and enforce market rules. Assist with Primavera fine arts event, April 15-20.

Passionate about the environment and green things. Adopt a park, trail, storm drain or disc golf course to keep clean. Collect surface water samples of Parkers Lake every other week April through October; must have a boat. Help maintain gardens around city buildings. Keep playgrounds free of weeds. Weed, water and deadhead the Millennium Garden. Instruct kids in basic gardening techniques and assist with crafts and games. Provide regular watering for the children's garden. Participate in the following events: Plymouth Home Expo, April 10-11; Drop-Off Day, May 2; Tree and Shrub Sale, May 15-16; and Flower Planting Day, May 30.

Teens who want to get involved. Build leadership skills and gain valuable experience while assisting with a variety of summer youth recreation programs. Apply by May 1; application fee is \$15. Mandatory training session on June 10.

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

Take a closer look



Kevin Musliner
As a volunteer, my job is to: Edit a promotional video for the Plymouth Police Department. I am working with Community Relations Officer Jim Long to piece together footage of the everyday

activities of our hardworking police force to showcase their courage and devotion in a short video.

My favorite thing about being a city volunteer is: Being able to collaborate with city employees while using and developing my video editing skills. This opportunity provides great experience, as I am pursuing filmmaking as a career.

Because Kevin volunteers: The Plymouth Police Department will have a high-quality, digital platform to show residents and community members the important work they do each day.

Make the most of your home project

Spring is the time of year when many begin to consider either updating or purchasing a home. The City of Plymouth and the Plymouth Housing and Redevelopment Authority offer a number of programs that can help residents meet their housing goals.

To learn more about any of the programs below, visit plymouthmn.gov/hra or call 763-509-5410.

Architectural Design Service

For homeowners looking to begin a project, taking the first step can be difficult. To help, the HRA offers a two-hour architectural consultation for those interested in an addition or expansion of their living space.

To be eligible, applicants must be owner-occupants of a residential property in Plymouth. Consultations are available for homes 30 years old or older. The HRA offers a list of approved architects from which homeowners may choose. Homeowners will only be reimbursed for one architectural consultation through the program.

"The goal is to help homeowners get over that hump from thinking about renovations to actually doing them," HRA Specialist Spencer Agnew said. "It's a great way to have a conversation and learn the process of making sound, quality home renovations."

First-time Homebuyer Loans

Purchasing a first home can be daunting, but the HRA may be able to help. It offers zero-interest deferred loans to help qualified buyers offset the down payment and closing costs. The program provides assistance on a sliding scale based on family size and income.

Applicants must meet income limits, attend homebuyer education sessions, finance the home through a participating lender and be a first-time homebuyer or have not owned a home in the last three years. For details, visit plymouthmn.gov/firsthome.



The City of Plymouth and the Plymouth Housing and Redevelopment Authority offer programs for homeowners interested in architectural services, home rehabilitation or emergency repairs.

Home Rehabilitation Loans

Zero-interest loans are available for qualifying applicants in moderate- to low-income households. The rehabilitation loan program offers deferred, no-interest loans of up to \$30,000 to help residents make qualifying safety and energy efficiency upgrades. These may include new roofing, siding, windows, electrical, plumbing, heating and insulation. Other repairs may also be eligible.

Emergency Repair Grants

The HRA has grants available for residents ages 55 and older who wish to make emergency repairs to their homes. Those who meet income eligibility guidelines may qualify for a grant of up to \$5,000 to repair or replace water heaters, furnaces, doors, locks, plumbing and other urgent repairs.

Sampler ... from page 1

Space to train up to 35 people will be available in the City Council Chambers at three sessions throughout the morning – 9:15, 10:15 and 11:15 a.m. Participants will learn about emergency treatment of sudden cardiac arrest and practice on training devices. Heart Safe Plymouth recommends that training be limited to those at least 13 years old or who weigh at least 60 pounds.

At the event, residents can also register to win door prizes, buy low-cost bike helmets, order trees and shrubs and meet city staff from all departments. Residents are encouraged to stop by anytime during the morning and stay as long – or short – as they'd like.

SEASONAL SPOTLIGHT

Market Value Notices – Market value notices will hit mailboxes toward the end of March. Valuations are for taxes payable in 2016. For questions, call 763-509-5350. Homeowners who still have concerns after working with staff may appeal at the Board of Equalization meeting, 6 p.m. April 28 at Plymouth City Hall, 3400 Plymouth Blvd.

Water Main Flushing – The city will flush water mains this spring based on the schedule below.

- **April 6-8:** Industrial areas, both sides of I-494, south of Highway 55
- **April 6-24:** Residential areas, west of I-494, except areas along both sides of County Road 47 west of I-494
- **April 27 to May 13:** Residential areas, east of I-494, and areas along both sides of County Road 47 west of I-494

Your water could be discolored throughout this time, but it is more likely on the day your area is flushed. Please avoid doing laundry on that day. If you have discolored water, let your outdoor water faucet run until the water is clear. To find out which day your area will be flushed, check the map on the city website or call 763-509-5950 after March 30.

Yard Waste Site – The Plymouth Yard Waste Site, 14900 23rd Ave. N., opens Wednesday, April 1, weather permitting. The site is open Wednesdays through Sundays. Visit plymouthmn.gov/yardwaste.

Drop-Off Day – 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 2 at the Plymouth Maintenance Facility, 14900 23rd Ave. N. There is a charge for some items. For details, visit plymouthmn.gov/dropoff.

Fieldhouse Walking – The last day for indoor walking at the Plymouth Creek Center is April 9. For available hours, call the hotline at 763-509-5292.

HAPPENINGS

Tree & Shrub Sale – Place orders through May 1 at plymouthmn.gov/treesale.

PlymouthREADS – PlymouthREADS will hold a kickoff event March 22, a book discussion April 11 and a Meet-the-Author literary night April 19. This year's book selection is "Vacationland" by Minnesota author Sarah Stonich. Visit plymouthartscouncil.org for more information.

Northwest Suburban Remodeling Fair – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 28, Crystal Community Center, 4800 Douglas Drive N., Crystal. Free. Learn about home remodeling from the experts. Free workshop topics will include updating bathrooms, remodeling kitchens, refacing kitchen cabinets and gardening. Visitors can bring their building plans and ask questions. Special guest Bobby Jensen from KARE 11 will present "11 Do's and Don'ts of Gardening." For more information, visit nwremodelingfair.com.

Wedding Expo – 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 28, Plymouth Creek Center, 14800 34th Ave. Preregistration: \$2. At the door: \$4. Rather than rows of exhibits in a giant convention center, the Plymouth Creek Center is an elegant venue space that showcases the most exceptional wedding services and suppliers,

including an exclusive list of caterers, party rentals, florists, bakeries and photographers.

Primavera – April 17-20, Plymouth Creek Center, 14800 34th Ave. N. Free. The art exhibition provides an opportunity for the public to view and celebrate fine art and entertainment. An opening reception will be held 5-9 p.m. Friday, April 17. Exhibit will be open 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. April 18, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. April 19 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 20. Live entertainment will be featured throughout the event. For more information, visit plymouthartscouncil.org or plymouthmn.gov.

Fire Department Waffle Breakfast – 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 3, Fire Station III, 3300 Dunkirk Lane N. Join the Plymouth Fire Department for all-you-can-eat waffles, served with sausage, juice, coffee and tea. Gluten-free option available. Cost is \$7 in advance, \$8 at the door or \$20 for a family of four. Proceeds will benefit the Plymouth Crime & Fire Prevention Fund. For advance tickets, call 763-509-5120.

Kids Garage Sale – Noon to 2:30 p.m. May 3, Plymouth Creek Center, 14800 34th Ave. More than 25 families will sell items, including children's toys, clothes and games. There is no cost to browse the merchandise and the sale is open to the public.

Metrolink ... from page 1

"The goal is to give our riders a way to get real-time information, plan their trips and see all the services they can use," Administrative Services Director Luke Fischer said. "With this app, riders can get all that information in one place on their mobile device."

Fischer also noted that Metrolink will continue to explore additional methods of integrating technology into Metrolink services. Metrolink, which is operated by the City of Plymouth, provides express commuter and reverse

commuter service between Plymouth and downtown Minneapolis, as well as shuttle service to major Plymouth business centers. Metrolink offers three park and ride lots in Plymouth and rider transfers apply to other regional transit systems, including Metro Transit.

The free Plymouth Metrolink app is available for download at Google Play, the Apple App Store and the Windows Marketplace. For more information, visit plymouthmn.gov/metrolinkapp.

City works to raise greater awareness of local needs at Capitol

By Mayor Kelli Slavik

With the legislative session underway in St. Paul, Plymouth city officials have already met with state lawmakers to seek their support for several issues and projects.

We shared our recently adopted legislative priorities that cover transportation, public safety, general government and regional assets. Here's a quick overview of a few areas we are highlighting.

We are seeking support to preserve suburban transit, which includes services like our city-operated bus system, Plymouth Metrolink. We are also calling attention to the need for improvements to Highway 169 and replacement of the bridge over Interstate 494 at Rockford Road/County Road 9.

We spoke with the governor's staff about the need for Plymouth Ice Center renovations – and asked that this project be included in the governor's bonding proposal. The Ice Center is a regional asset that welcomes more than 500,000 visitors a year, making it the second-busiest arena in Minnesota. Given that the similarly-sized cities of Rochester, Mankato and St. Cloud collectively received \$61 million for their civic centers/ice centers last session, we believe that our \$2.1 million request, which the city will match dollar-for-dollar, is worthy of state support.

Finally, we are advocating for relief from unfunded mandates on city government and requesting that, if lawmakers consider property tax relief, they apply it to all cities – not just those that receive Local Government Aid. Plymouth does not receive LGA.

Plymouth has consistently maintained the second lowest tax rate in the metro, while sharing much of its tax base with other cities through the metro Fiscal Disparities program. We are hopeful that by working with lawmakers, we might see some state tax dollars return to our community for needed projects.

For a complete list of the legislative priorities, visit plymouthmn.gov.

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, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday

View Meetings

Live on Channel 16, 7 p.m.
On-demand video link at city website
City Council: March 10, 24 and April 14, 28
Planning Commission: March 4, 18 and April 1, 15

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