

# CITY CONTACT



*A Quarterly Publication  
from the City of Mound*

**AUG SEPT OCT  
2015**

*The City of Mound, through teamwork and cooperation, provides, at a reasonable cost, quality services that respond to the needs of all citizens, fostering a safe, attractive, and flourishing community.*

## Mayor's Message .....

Hello Mound Residents!

**Mound Westonka Rotary makes a gift to Mound.** Summer is in full swing and you may be noting some new additions to the Harbor District, located at the edge of downtown Mound. The Mound Westonka Rotary is host of a beautification project and has placed trees and several new amenities that make it an active and vibrant center piece of the community. The formerly underutilized green space is now a comfortable space to walk, sit or play. Large boulders, with their rugged presence, act as seating or are suited to climbing. Interactive musical instruments in colorful shades add a playful touch, be you musical or not! The professionally crafted sculpture is art on a grand scale, with credit going to Minnetrista neighbor and internationally known artist--Bruce Stillman.



You are invited to stroll the Mound Greenway and Pier and wander among this cheerful and creative space, relax and enjoy! Residents are encouraged to extend their thanks to members of the Mound Westonka Rotary for this creative and peaceful spot in the heart of Mound.

(Note: The Harbor District is a designated redevelopment district and is a planned site for a mixed use development. When developed, the area will be recreated to include one or more restaurants that may be approached by boat, bike or car, condo and/or apartment living, and possible retail and office uses. The Rotary space will occupy the Harbor District until that time and components will be relocated to other parks within the Mound Parks System.)

**Drivers and Trail Users - Rules of the Road.** On a more serious note, I would like to offer safety advice to drivers and bicyclists as they pass through Mound. Bicycles are legal vehicles on Minnesota roads and bicyclists have the same rights as motorists. This means they share equally the responsibilities of bicycle safety and reducing bicycle/motor vehicle crashes. The top factor contributing to these crashes is failure of both bicyclists and motorists to yield the right-of-way.

*Trail Crossing Safety Tips for Bicyclists and Other Trail Users:* Comply with posted STOP signs and yield the right-of-way to motorists; wait for a gap in traffic to safely cross.

*Trail Crossing Safety Tips for Motorists:* If you're driving a motor vehicle and reach a trail crossing, do not stop and "wave through" trail users. Your attempt to be courteous is actually contrary to posted trail signs which tell bicyclists and others to stop and yield to traffic. Stopping may also confuse other motorists and reduce visibility for everyone. Specific trail crossings in Mound where these state laws apply are at Shoreline Drive, Commerce Drive, Fairview Lane, and Montclair Lane.

Wishing everyone a fun but safe summer!

*Mark Wegscheid*  
Mound Mayor

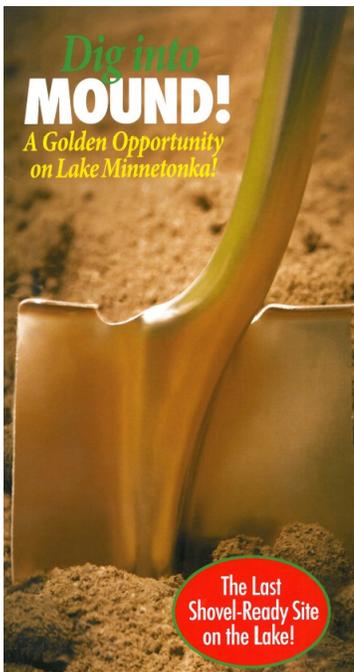
## Message from the City Manager .....

I am excited to announce the City of Mound's recent launch of a professional marketing effort. With the slogan, "Dig into MOUND! A Golden Opportunity on Lake Minnetonka!", it touts Mound as 'Open for Business,' and showcases its prized Harbor District site as "shovel-ready" for a mixed use development project.

Between the years of 1999 and 2015, Mound has made major investments in infrastructure as a show of commitment to the community. What makes it unique is that the multi-modal downtown can be approached by boat from Cooks Bay of Lake Minnetonka. This crown jewel includes the Lost Lake Greenway and Pier and the south-facing premiere site has a charter slip dedicated to a new restaurant or two right off the pier! The build-it-and-they-will-come commitment of the City includes surface and structured parking for restaurant valet parking.



Kandis Hanson



What makes it even more attractive is the site's location next to the Dakota Trail, one of the most popular of the Three Rivers Park District trails, with 471,000 users in 2014 alone! With water recreation, trail activity, festivals and limitless natural beauty, the City of Mound is selling LIFE STYLE!

The Development Team is using a new, distinctive marketing piece as part of their effort to attract developers and retailers. Others, such as real estate professionals, bankers and community supporters are invited to use it as a promotional piece for Mound, with additional copies available at City Hall.

Some attractive features about Mound are: It was named the "Best Place to Raise Kids in Minnesota" in 2012, it attained first place on ZipRealty's "Best Place for Families to Live in the U.S." list in 2013, and this July was designated #6 among the 10 Best Minneapolis Suburbs for Families!

The Mound Development Team, consisting of Community Development Director Sarah Smith, Public Works Director Eric Hoversten and me, are taking developer and retailer proposals at 952-472-0609. Residents and others may view the recent Maxwell Market Study by going to [www.cityofmound.com](http://www.cityofmound.com).

### **Docks and Commons Advisory Commission Vacancy**

Three-year renewable term to fill a vacancy for the non-lakeshore/non-abutting dock site holder representative. The Docks and Commons Commission meets the third Thursday at 7:00 pm, about four times per year (typically January, March, September and November). Call Catherine at 952-472-0633 or email at [CatherinePausche@cityofmound.com](mailto:CatherinePausche@cityofmound.com) for more information. Applications are due November 2, 2015, 4:30 p.m. Mandatory interviews on November 19, 2015, 7:00 p.m. Appointment will be made by the City Council at their December 8th meeting with the term starting in January.



### **Parks and Open Space Commission Vacancy**

Three-year renewable term to fill a vacancy. This commission reviews matters relating to the City's park system and makes recommendations to the City Council. The Parks and Open Space Commission meets the second Thursday at 7:00 pm, as needed. For more information call Eric at 952-472-0636 or email at [EricHoversten@cityofmound.com](mailto:EricHoversten@cityofmound.com). Applications are due November 2, 2015, 4:30 p.m. Mandatory interviews on November 12, 2015, 7:00 p.m. Appointment will be made by the City Council at their December 8th meeting with the term starting in January.



# Commonly Asked Questions of Public Works .....

**Q.** What is the holdup with projects around town? How long must we be subjected to this construction?

**A.** Mound is in year 12 of a 15-year street and utility replacement program. Streets in Mound are now in excess of 30 years old, as are the water and sewer lines under the streets, so most need replacing. The condition of each street was evaluated in the early 2000's and the prioritization for replacement was based on the degree of decay. That priority was also determined by the frequency of water main breaks and the condition of sewer lines, which are studied each year.

Street projects are completed in stages, by subcontractors that do their piece of the project, and their parts must be done in total before the next subcontractor comes in. Much of the work done to repair or replace a road is weather-dependent, which can hold up progress. Final stages of a project may not be completed until soils meet engineering standards for moisture content. Hard surfaces cannot be applied on roadways while moisture remains high. Everyone is asked to be patient, knowing there is no control over the weather.

**Q.** Some cities haul away brush and tree debris for the homeowners following summer storms. Why doesn't the City of Mound provide that service?

**A.** The long-standing policy regarding tree or debris removal at the City of Mound is based on State Statute. What falls on private property is the responsibility of the homeowner and what falls on public property is the responsibility of the City.

A small city such as Mound is unable to commit its few people resources to removing others' trees or debris. When storms blow through and roads are impassable due to downed trees, City Public Works employees are dedicated to clearing the roads and otherwise cleaning up public grounds.

Brush and branches that are placed at the curb will not be collected by the City. The City has made provisions for residents to dispose of their trees and brush at The Mulch Store, east of St Bonifacius off Highway 7, for a nominal fee. If the policy and approach were to change, the service to the 4,000 households could not be provided without additional taxation or a fee on the utility bill.



## NIGHT to UNITE!



**On Tuesday, August 4th from 6 to 8 pm,** communities throughout Mound and across the state are asked to lock their doors, turn on their outside lights, and spend the evening outside with neighbors and public safety officers. Many neighborhoods throughout Mound will be hosting a variety of special events such as parties, cookouts, games, and food drives.

### **NIGHT to UNITE is designed to:**

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness
- Support and participate in local anti-crime efforts
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police/community partnerships
- Send a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back

### **HOST A NIGHT TO UNITE PARTY**

Register your block party and receive a visit from the Orono Police Department and the Mound Fire Department. Please call the Orono Police Department at 952-249-4700 as soon as possible to register.



**One lucky boy and girl** will win a gift card to buy a new bicycle at the Mound True Value Hardware Store. The winner will also receive a new bicycle helmet. Other prizes may be available as well. Call the Orono Police Department at 952-249-4700 for more information.



# Mound Fire Department News



## 2015 Fire Department Fish Fry and Dance

On Saturday, June 6th, the Mound Firefighters and their families hosted the 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Fish Fry and Dance. The weather cooperated with temps in the 70's and rain held out until late evening. Area residents turned out in large numbers and supported the event, as usual. We served 2,827 fish dinners, making the event another huge success.

The Mound firefighters would like to say thank you to all of our friends, neighbors, and Lake Minnetonka area residents who attended. We would also like to thank the many local businesses for their ticket purchases and for the prizes they donated to the silent auction and raffle. Your continued support of the Fire Department is greatly appreciated.

## Mound Fire Department Receives Community Partnership Grant

The Mound Fire Department continually searches out grant opportunities. In the past five years, the department has received \$47,933 in grant dollars, and in the past ten years has received \$93,808. The grant money has been used for a variety of equipment purchases, including radios, pagers, and water rescue gear, to name a few. Grant money has also been used to help with firefighter training expenses.

The Mound Fire Department recently submitted a matching grant application for a Community Partnership Grant from Centerpoint Energy and was awarded \$2,500. The program gave priority to applications focusing on safety equipment or safety related projects. The grant money will be used to purchase three multi-gas detectors and an automated testing system for calibration of the detectors. The gas detectors will be used when the fire department is called out for possible gas leaks and carbon monoxide alarms. The total equipment cost is \$5,000, with the cost being split 50/50 between Centerpoint Energy and the Mound Fire Department.

## Parks in the Spotlight



**Surfside Park & Beach** is centrally located in Mound along Hennepin County Road 110, just south of downtown, and on the

west shore of Cooks Bay of Lake Minnetonka. This 3.7 acre park offers approximately 250 feet of sandy beach shoreline and roped swim area and is adjacent to a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) boat launch with eight boat trailer parking stalls. (There is no lifeguard on duty at this or any of the Mound beaches.) In addition, the park offers a separate automobile parking lot, dock/fishing pier, picnic grounds, play areas, playground equipment, and sand-pit volleyball. Surfside Park also contains The Depot, which can be rented for your special event by contacting the City Offices at (952) 472-0603. Annually, the park hosts The Spirit of the Lakes Festival in mid-July, and is home to "Music in the Park" events held on Thursdays throughout the summer. For generations, Surfside, as the name implies, has remained the perfect blend of the water and the land. Come out and see for yourself!

**Zero Gravity Skate Park** is a terrain/feature area designated for skate board, inline, bicycle, and foot-scooter riders. It is located next to the Wolner Field



complex on Cypress Lane and Maywood Road. The facility consists of a parking area, covered picnic pavilion, the pipe, and the terrain park. In addition to the traditional half-pipe, the terrain park is modeled after a swimming pool basin with ramps, curved banks, benches, and rails to match and challenge any rider's skill. Zero Gravity Skate Park is unsupervised and riders participate at their own risk. Protective gear such as knee/elbow pads, wrist guards, and helmets are recommended. Zero Gravity was the product of the community coming together for a cause for kids, with the majority of work and materials provided in-kind by local businesses and the City providing the land.

## **Fun To Do Around Mound.....save as your resource guide!**

- ◆ Al & Alma's Lake Minnetonka Cruises
- ◆ Antique, Consignment, & Second Hand Stores
- ◆ Big Stone Mini Golf, Minnetrista
- ◆ Burl Oaks Golf Course, Minnetrista
- ◆ Carver Regional Park, Victoria
- ◆ Community Festivals & Events
  - ~ Moonlight Trail Night (winter)
  - ~ Wheels 4 Meals Bike Ride (May)
  - ~ Mound Farmers' Market & More (May-October)
  - ~ Mound Fire Department Annual Fish Fry & Dance (June)
  - ~ Spirit of the Lakes Festival & MN Wake Surf Competition (July)
  - ~ Westonka Dog Days (August)
  - ~ Our Lady of the Lake Incredible Festival (September)
  - ~ Running of the Bays 5K Run & Half Marathon (September)
  - ~ Taste of Tonka (September)
  - ~ Tonka Brewfest (November)
  - ~ Tree Lighting Ceremony (November)
- ◆ Dakota Regional Trail
- ◆ Fishing Piers, Boat Launches, & Bait Shops
- ◆ Gale Woods Farm, Minnetrista
- ◆ Harbor Wine & Spirits
- ◆ Health, Fitness, & Yoga Studios
- ◆ Lake Minnetonka Conservation District Youth Boater Training

## Fun To Do Around Mound - Continued

- ◆ [Lake Minnetonka Regional Park](#)
- ◆ [Lake Minnetonka Sailing School, Spring Park](#)
- ◆ [Luce Line Trail](#)
- ◆ [Minnetonka Sportsmen Club, Minnetrista](#)
- ◆ Music Venues & Dancing
- ◆ [Pioneer Creek Golf Course, Independence](#)
- ◆ Restaurants, Bars, Cafes & Coffee Shops
- ◆ [Snowblazers Snowmobile Club](#)
- ◆ Swimming Beaches
  - ~ *Bluffs Beach - Bay Ridge Road*
  - ~ *Canary Beach - Canary Lane*
  - ~ *Centerview Beach - Centerview Lane*
  - ~ *Sherven Beach - Island View Drive & Aberdeen Road*
  - ~ *Surfside Park & Beach - Bartlett & Commerce Boulevards*
  - ~ *Wychwood Beach - Wilshire & Brighton Boulevards*
- ◆ [The Gillespie Center](#)
- ◆ [Timber Creek Golf Course, Watertown](#)
- ◆ [Voyager Environmental Center, Minnetrista](#)
- ◆ Watercraft Rentals
- ◆ [Westonka Library](#)
- ◆ [Wolner Field Little League Ball Field](#)
- ◆ [WRA Ball Fields, Minnetrista](#)
- ◆ [Zero Gravity Skate Park](#)

See [Westonka Community Education](#) and [Westonka Community and Commerce](#) for more!

## Interesting Facts about Your City Liquor Store

A little known fact is that our community liquor store--Harbor Wine & Spirits--is a municipally owned liquor store.

Before Prohibition, alcohol manufacturers either owned or controlled most liquor retail operations. The end result was irresponsibility and impropriety – many illegal sales practices, monopoly, and easy access to alcoholic beverages. With these practices being the norm, the obvious result was extremely high levels of alcohol abuse and underage sales.



After the repeal of Prohibition in 1933, the Federal government enabled each individual state to control and/or regulate the sale of alcoholic beverages within its individual borders. In Minnesota, municipal liquor stores exist at the discretion of the municipality. Municipal liquor stores exist in order to control the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages, as well as generate revenue for the community. There are currently over 230 cities in Minnesota with municipal liquor operations.

In Mound's case, the City is the owner and operator of Harbor Wine & Spirits. Opened at its current location in 2003, this approach enables the City to use the profits generated to reduce the property tax levy. Property tax levies fund essential city services and public projects, such as street maintenance and repairs. Harbor Wine & Spirits is expected to contribute \$100,000 to the General Fund in 2015!

### Shop in Mound! Shop at Harbor Wine & Spirits!

---



The Westonka Food Shelf (WFS) has been serving the greater community since 1969. Our mission is to reduce hunger by respectfully providing nutritionally balanced food options to those in need. Thanks to our community's generosity, a mission that started with helping just a few families has grown to provide healthy options to many needing assistance in Mound, Minnetrista, Minnetonka Beach, Navarre, Spring Park, St. Bonifacius, Tonka Bay, Independence, and parts of Orono today.

WFS serves approximately 250 local families monthly providing approximately 25,000 pounds of food and basic hygiene and household items. Patrons may visit every 30 days plus may stop in weekly to obtain one to two bags of perishable items, that include produce, breads and specialty foods.

Some clients are struggling with short term financial challenges due to a loss of job or illness, while others have longer term needs. Despite the improving economy, the number of families that need WFS support continues to grow.

WFS utilizes two local food banks for the majority of its food and participates in "food rescue" programs with local grocery stores. Due to the dedication and commitment of many, WFS serves without salary or other overhead costs. This enormous benefit ensures donations go exactly where they are needed most: to feed our patrons!

If you or someone you know is facing a food shortfall, please contact the Westonka Food Shelf at 952-472-5599 for assistance. Our hours are Mon-Thurs, 9:30 - Noon and 1:00 - 3:00, Fri 9:30 - Noon, and Sat 10 - Noon. Additional information is available on our website:

[westonkafoodshelf.wix.com/westonkafoodshelf](http://westonkafoodshelf.wix.com/westonkafoodshelf).

---

## Driving for You!



Are you looking for a meaningful way to volunteer? **WeCAB** (Community Area Busing) drivers provide rides for the elderly (or those who are otherwise unable to drive) to medical appointments, the grocery store, the beauty shop, and church. Volunteer dispatchers are also needed. Please consider this heart warming community contribution. Call **WeCAB** at 844-743-1643 for more information.

For a volunteer application, please check the website - [www.wecab.org](http://www.wecab.org).



**Solicitors** The City of Mound issues licenses to tree trimming companies and door to door solicitors. If someone comes to your door, ask to see their City of Mound license (volunteer fire fighters, students fundraising for local schools, and food delivery companies are excluded). If you do not wish to be solicited, post a "No Solicitors" sign. Also, if you see suspicious activity or people canvassing the neighborhood without a license, call and report it to Hennepin County Dispatch at 952-258-5321.

**Indian Knoll Manor Apartments**, owned by the Mound Housing and Redevelopment Authority and managed by Common Bond Communities, is accepting applications for studio and 1 bedroom apartments. Call 952-472-5078 for an application or to take a tour. The building is located at 2020 Commerce Boulevard, which is convenient to shopping, transit, and other amenities.

**Utility Billing Auto Pay** Stop in at City Hall or visit [www.cityofmound.com](http://www.cityofmound.com) for an application to sign up for the Utility Billing Automatic Payment plan and/or E-bill!

**Buy A Brick** You can be a part of the next phase of Mound history by buying an engraved brick, which will become an addition to the Lost Lake Greenway plaza located in the Harbor District. This beautiful public pier is connected to a waterfront walkway in downtown Mound.

Order deadline for this phase will be August 31, 2015 for Fall 2015 installation. Prices range from \$75 to \$225. See the City website for an order form or call Collette Roberts at 952-472-0606.

**Composting** City of Mound residents can bring grass clippings, milfoil and leaves to the compost site located at 4275 Creekview Circle in Minnetrista, at no charge. This service is funded through the recycling fee collected on the quarterly utility bills along with the single sort curbside recycling service provided by Republic Waste Services. Mound residents need to show a driver's license for proof of residency. Additional services are available for a fee. Hours are Monday through Friday 8 am to 5 pm & Saturday 9 am to 1 pm. Call 952-446-1056 for more info.

## Westonka Historical Society -- Living History Events.....

### August 3, An Evening with "Hercules" aka Kevin Sorbo

\*At 6:00. Food stations by caterer Kevin Bame, with cash bar, at the Gillespie Center.

\*At 7:30. Kevin will talk about growing up in Mound, his career as a model, in commercials, plays, TV shows, episodes he has acted in, written and even produced, as well as movies he has been in all over the world. He will also talk about his illness and how it affected his life. He will answer questions about his career and life as a celebrity.

\*The Westonka Historical Society Store will be open for business and Kevin will have his books and DVDs for sale.

\*Tickets. \$30 per person. Groups of 8 may reserve a table.

### September 26, Remember House of Moy - Mound's Famous Chinese Restaurant

Third annual event - revisit a favorite Lake Minnetonka restaurant - this event always sells out!

\*Dinner based on Mrs. Moy's recipes, with Mrs. Moy as chef!

\*Three seatings--4:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m., or 6:30 p.m., at the Gillespie Center

\*Adults \$15, Children 6-12 \$8, 5 and under with adult Free. Groups of 8 may reserve a table.

Tickets for these Living History Events available at the Westonka History Museum every Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and at the Gillespie Center Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. Make checks payable to "Westonka Historical Society."

Check out our website: [westonkahistoricalsociety.com](http://westonkahistoricalsociety.com). Download a membership form to get on our mailing list and/or make a donation. Operations depend upon your financial support!



The City of Mound is hosting a collection box for the Western Communities Action Network's (WeCAN) Ready to Learn Program. New school supplies most needed for K-12 students are: backpacks, colored pencils, washable markers, pocket folders, dry erase markers and one, one-and-a-half, and two-inch three-ring binders. Collection will go through August 13th.

New Faces!



**Kevin Kelly** was hired as the Administrative Services Coordinator, which supports the clerk and dock functions. He started on March 30, 2015. Kevin worked at the City of Lauderdale as Deputy Clerk for over 3.5 years before being hired at Mound. He

has a B.A from the University of Minnesota and a M.A. in Public Administration from Hamline University. Prior to working for municipalities, Kevin worked in the non-profit social service field doing advocacy and program administration for persons with developmental disabilities. Kevin grew up in White Bear Lake and lives in Minneapolis with his wife and daughter. **Welcome, Kevin!**



**Eric Hoversten** was hired as the Director and Project Coordinator for the Public Works Department. He started work on May 11, 2015. Eric was previously a Lieutenant Colonel and Civil

Engineer for the U.S. Air Force, retiring in 2015 after 22 years of world-wide service. As a Civil Engineer, he performed duties very similar to his current Public Works and Project Coordination roles with the City. Most recently from Panama City Florida, Eric was born and raised in Kenyon, MN. He graduated from the U.S Air Force Academy in 1993 with a BS degree in Civil Engineering and from Troy State University in 2001 with MA in Human Resource Management. Eric, his wife and daughter enjoy being active in the community and doing everything outdoors. **Welcome, Eric!**

**Ron Stanchfield**, the City's Dock Inspector since 2009, is retiring. The City wishes to thank Ron for his friendly, professional demeanor and for serving in this important role to ensure compliance with the Dock Program requirements.



**Fritz Hartman** of Minnetonka will replace Ron as the Dock Inspector and will be seen around the docks and commons during the season.

**Welcome, Fritz!**

**Best Wishes,  
Ron!**

**Gavin Ball** is joining the City of Mound as a Public Works Maintenance Worker in the Parks Division. He comes to Mound from Prescription Landscape out of St. Paul. Bringing with him a wealth of knowledge in the landscape industry, he is very eager to learn his new role with the Parks Division. Gavin lives in Champlin with his wife Amy and two sons Rockton and Ryker. He is an avid outdoorsman and enjoys spending time with family at his cabin. **Welcome Gavin!**



**Welcome!**



City of Mound  
2415 Wilshire Boulevard  
Mound, MN 55364  
(952) 472-0600  
www.cityofmound.com

**PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 87  
MOUND, MN**

## City Council Members

Mark Wegscheid, Mayor (612) 581-6710  
markwegscheid@cityofmound.com  
Heidi Gesch (952) 472-5508  
heidigesch@cityofmound.com  
Kelli Gillispie (507) 382-2191  
kelligillispie@cityofmound.com  
Jennifer Peterson (612) 518-4003  
jenniferpeterson@cityofmound.com  
Ray Salazar (952) 472-7383  
raysalazar@cityofmound.com  
Kandis Hanson, City Mgr (952) 472-0609  
kandishanson@cityofmound.com

**\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*  
POSTAL CUSTOMER**

## City Hall Seasonal Hours

May through October  
Monday-Thursday 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Friday 7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

## Mound Meeting Calendar

- City Council meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month beginning at 7pm
- HRA meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month beginning at 6:30pm
- Planning Commission meets the first Tuesday of each month beginning at 7pm
- Parks and Open Space Commission meets the second Thursday of the month beginning at 7pm on an as-needed basis
- Docks and Commons Commission meets the third Thursday of the month beginning at 7pm on an as-needed basis

## Dates To Remember

Aug 4 Night to Unite  
Aug 22 Westonka Dog Days  
Oct 10 Mound Farmers' Market Last Day  
Oct 31 Halloween  
Oct 31 End of Daylight Savings  
Nov 2 City Hall Regular Hours Begin  
Nov 11 Veterans Day - City Offices Closed



**Sparky's**  
**Safety Spot**<sup>TM</sup>

**Hey, take a break!**

Before refueling the lawn mower, let the mower cool down completely. Then carefully refuel.

**NFFPA**  
NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

The name and the image of Sparky<sup>®</sup> are registered trademarks of the NFFPA