

# CITY CONTACT



*A Quarterly Publication  
from the City of Mound*

**FEB MAR APR  
2016**

*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 .....

Dear Neighbors,

Realizing most of what you are about to read has already been printed in the paper, I felt the need to repeat it for those who may have missed it as this is a very important progression for the City of Mound.

The last newsletter talked about change and progress and the new *Interim* City Manager Bob Derus. Thanks to Council Members Heidi Gesch and Jennifer Peterson for leading the interim search, Mr. Derus fit in well and hit the ground running. Staff and council alike were impressed with his quick and accurate assessments of our fair community and its operation.

Mr. Derus was, first and foremost, charged with conducting a search for the full-time city manager in lieu of hiring a search firm. The council adjusted the search committee to consist of Council Member Peterson and me to assist in the process.

Mr. Derus' previous experience recruiting city managers/administrators gave us a high level of comfort in his ability to navigate the process. Both Council Member Peterson and Mr. Derus conducted outreach as well as advertised the position in multiple venues, and, at the end of the day, created a pool of thirteen candidates. Mr. Derus narrowed down the pool to five finalists.

From there, Mr. Derus, Council Member Peterson, and I interviewed those five candidates, spending roughly an hour with each candidate. While each candidate had their own strong points, we all felt Mr. Hoversten was the best fit for the City of Mound. Mr. Derus made his official recommendation to hire Hoversten and, after review, the city council voted unanimously to offer the position to Mr. Hoversten and he accepted.

Whenever you interview someone, it is always a roll of the dice. You never know what you're going to get until you're in the trenches with them. This process became a perfect storm of sorts. After careful review of both the city manager and public works director duties, it was determined that we could merge the responsibilities creating efficiencies that will be reflected in the bottom line. We also have the benefit of knowing that Mr. Hoversten works well with the existing city staff and council. Hiring Mr. Hoversten as Mound's next city manager also greatly reduces our "up to speed" time or learning curve.

City Manager Eric Hoversten can be reached at (952) 472-0609. Please feel free to introduce yourself and welcome him.



Mayor Wegscheid

The New Year brings with it new hopes and opportunities. The City of Mound will continue on the path of change and progress and we are excited about the future!

Respectfully, *Mayor Mark Wegscheid*



## Community Notification System On-line

Receive emails and/or text messages about these community events:

- Road closures
- Seasonal parking
- Special event news
- Utility emergencies
- Severe weather
- General city information

See the City of Mound website at [cityofmound.com](http://cityofmound.com) for more information.

# Snow Removal FAQ

**How does the city decide which streets are plowed first?** The most heavily traveled roads are first. These roads are the main collector streets and provide access to neighborhoods. The next priority is the connecting streets within neighborhoods. Streets with steep hills are the next priority. All other streets fall into the residential classification. These streets are predominantly flat and easily negotiated during light snow storms. Streets receive de-icing treatment for virtually every snow event on an as needed basis. The residential streets are plowed when snow accumulation on the road exceeds two inches.

**Why do the city snow plows push snow into my driveway and who should clear it?** During normal snow plowing operations, snow may be left in your driveway. Plows are angled to the right for plowing from the centerline of the street to the curb. So, a certain amount of snow will be deposited in driveways. Snow left in driveways by the city while snow plowing is the residents' and owners' responsibility to remove.

**I just shoveled my driveway. Why did the city snow plow push snow on it?** When plowing, the snow may end up on the driveway you just shoveled. We apologize for the inconvenience this causes you. If your schedule permits, you may want to wait and clear your driveway after city plows have passed through your street. If it is a significant snowfall, the snowplows will probably be back. Streets are typically opened with one pass through, so that streets can be made passable for drivers as soon as practical. Snowplows may return to open the street curb-to-curb.

**SNOW REMOVAL TIP...** If your driveway is cleared before the street is completed, clear the area to the right of the driveway as you are facing the house, (the oncoming side). When the plow comes by, the snow will dump in this clear area instead of your driveway approach.



**Can snow from my driveway be blown into the street?** Snow may not be pushed or blown into or across the street from private property. Snow left on the street from pushing or blowing across the street can create hazards. If you hire a private service to clear your driveway or parking lot, let the contractor know this is a misdemeanor under **MN Statutes 160.2715 and 169.42** and is punishable by a fine of up to \$5,000.

**What if landscaping or irrigation in the right-of-way is damaged?** Remember not to landscape with rocks, bricks, timbers, shrubs or other items in the right-of-way. Snow plows and sidewalk plows could cause damage and the City does not repair or replace landscape materials. Some residents have irrigation in the right of way. This is done at the owner's risk and responsibility. Keep any irrigation heads away from the edges of the sidewalk and curb line. Sidewalk snow plow blades are a little wider than the sidewalk in some areas and can catch on irrigation heads.



**Who do I contact if a city snow plow damages my lawn or mailbox?**

If a city snow plow causes lawn or mailbox damage, please contact the City of Mound Public Works Department at 952-472-0603 during regular business hours.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** Parking is not allowed between the hours of 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. from November 15th to April 15th. This restriction is in effect even when there is no snow.

# Remediation of Inflow & Infiltration (I&I) Emerging as Top Priority for City

Recently you may have heard conversations about "I&I" and wondered what is this all about? Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) is when clear water (rain, storm, and ground water) is allowed to enter the sanitary sewer system, thus requiring it to be treated. When this occurs, the system becomes inundated with water volumes it was not designed to handle. We saw firsthand the immediate impact and cost of I&I during the summer of 2014, when many of our community homes experienced backups. These spikes in sewer flow also resulted in close to \$1 million of surcharge fees to the City from Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES).

The Met Council uses a city's average annual flow compared to the total seven-county flow to determine its "fair share" of the total annual system cost for staffing, energy, plant operation, sewer line repairs, sewer line replacement, capital improvement, and debt.

Mound's normal share of the Met Council annual cost is about .3% - remarkably similar to our .3% of the total metro population. During the wet 2014, Mound had an increase in flow of 30% while the seven-county flow increased just 10%, indicating the severity of the problem here in Mound compared to other communities. Further, this three-times normal increase in flow forced an adjustment through the Met Council cost allocation formula that drove Mound's share of total system cost for 2015 to .4%, or an additional \$200,000. Normalized system flow in 2015 returned us to our normal .3% share of total system cost for 2016; but, because of I&I, we paid more in 2015 -- \$200,000 more.

If Mound had no I&I, which is probably not completely achievable, the total sewer flow would be less than the total supplied water. Think of the city the same as your sink... the only water that goes down the drain comes from the tap unless you pour it in from somewhere else. So our total flow would be less than the 200 million gallons of metered water sales. Indirectly, I&I represents about one third of our annual sewer fee, or about \$200,000 of the current billing.

In total, surcharge, direct fee variability, and indirect costs, I&I will represent almost \$2 million in cost to the City from 2015 through 2019. In response to this, City Staff has resumed discussions with the Met Council, surrounding communities, our engineers, and our City Council to determine methods to best attack and solve the problem. I&I can occur in both city sewer lines and the private service lines to each home and business in the community. All of these sources of I&I risk, and possible solutions and the programs to implement them, will be discussed in open forum sessions. After initiating this conversation in December 2014, we resumed the dialog at the November 11, 2016 Council Meeting. A workshop was held on December 15, 2016 and additional follow up is planned for the February 24, 2016 Council Meeting. You can find minutes from the previous sessions and look for agenda items for future meetings on the City website (see Departments/Public Works/Sanitary Sewer). The Staff and Council welcome any and all community participation in these sessions.

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*Welcome! (again)*

Eric Hoversten started at the City of Mound on May 11, 2015, as the Director of Public Works and Engineering Coordinator and assumed concurrent responsibilities as the City Manager January 1, 2016. Before joining the City, Eric was a Civil Engineer with the U.S. Air Force and held a broad range of leadership responsibilities related to public administration, planning and development, facility and infrastructure management, Public Works operations, municipal services, emergency management, and overseeing Fire Department operations.



Eric retired from the Air Force after 22 years of service in 2015. Originally from southern Minnesota, his service in the Air Force brought him and his family all around the world. He earned a Bachelors of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from The U.S. Air Force Academy and a Masters Degree in Human Resources Management from Troy State University. Eric and his family reside in Mound.

From Eric: Mound is an amazing City and has presented my family everything we were looking for in our return to Minnesota. We have been impressed with the great community, amazing schools, the natural beauty of its setting, and its access to the Metro. We love it! I look forward to the new responsibilities of managing the amazing staff that does the great work behind the scenes. There is good work to do so let's get started; and don't forget to let us know how we are doing.

Eric can be reached at 952-472-0609, at [erichoversten@cityofmound.com](mailto:erichoversten@cityofmound.com).



## **Paul Jolicoeur, Mound Firefighter of the Year 2015**

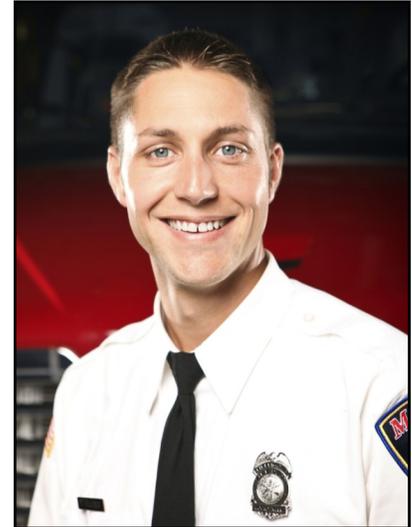
At the end of each year, the Mound Fire Department recognizes one of its firefighters as the department's "Firefighter of the Year". The 2015 Mound Fire Department "Firefighter of the Year" award goes to Paul Jolicoeur.

The sole recipient of this respected award is chosen based on a nomination process that involves all of the current Mound firefighters. All active firefighters are eligible for the award based upon predetermined performance criteria including:

- the number of responses to emergency fire & rescue calls
- leading and attending department training sessions
- the amount of time dedicated to public relations activities
- level of participation, involvement, and contributions
- support of the department's teamwork environment and a positive attitude.

All of these important firefighter attributes typically add up to an individual that is very dedicated to the fire department and public safety response.

Firefighter Paul Jolicoeur has been a volunteer with the Mound Fire Department since joining the ranks in May 2004. Firefighter Jolicoeur is an 11 year veteran of the fire department and is a very versatile and skilled firefighter.



Congratulations to Firefighter Paul Jolicoeur on his past accomplishments and for receiving this very special 2015 Mound Firefighter of the Year Award!

## **Senior Partners Care**

Does the financial burden of the gap left between medical bills and Medicare keep you or a loved one from getting critical medical care needed to stay healthy? Stop worrying; there's a solution! Let Senior Partners Care (SPC) help you. SPC is a statewide program, which began in 1973, that helps low to moderate income Medicare beneficiaries limit their out of pocket medical expenses.

SPC has partnered with many of the major metropolitan area healthcare systems and hundreds of clinics and providers statewide. Some of our key metro providers are Fairview, HCMC, Park Nicollet/Methodist, North Memorial, HealthEast, and Minnesota Oncology. Partners agree to accept Medicare as full payment on Medicare covered services for SPC members.

Senior Partners Care members must be enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B, cannot have a supplemental medical insurance policy (though they can have a Part D Drug only policy), are not on Medical Assistance, and meet the program's financial guidelines: \$1,961.00 in gross income per month for a single person and \$2,655.00 per month for a couple, and liquid assets of under \$48,500 per household regardless of size. This excludes a house you live in and one car.



Just look at the impact SPC has had on Jean's life, "I've been retired for 20 years and have a fixed income. SPC has saved me thousands of dollars." - Jean

For program details and applications visit [www.seniorcommunity.org](http://www.seniorcommunity.org) or call 952-767-0665.

## CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION

The City of Mound wishes to notify its residents of a vacancy on its Parks & Open Space Advisory Commission (POSC) and would like to invite interested persons to apply. Mound Commissions act as recommending bodies to the City Council. Appointments will be made by the Mayor and City Council following the receipt of recommendations from the respective Commission. Prior candidates are encouraged to apply.

There is one seat open for a three year renewable term ending December 31, 2018. The Commission meets the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m., on an as-needed basis. The Commission considers all matters pertaining to parks and open spaces, including plats and trails. For more information, contact Eric at 952-472-0609 or via email at erichoversten@cityofmound.com.

Applications are available at [www.cityofmound.com](http://www.cityofmound.com). Applications close at 12:00 noon, Thursday, March 31, 2016. Applicant must be available to interview on April 14, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. to be considered.

### Help us serve you better!

So far this winter the Minnesota snowfall has been minimal; therefore, our area fire hydrants are very accessible. In a normal snowy winter, the deep snow creates a problem with snow piled high around fire hydrants. The deep snow often makes it very difficult for firefighters to find the buried fire hydrants.

In an emergency, we must have clearly marked and accessible fire hydrants. It normally takes a firefighter less than a minute to connect a large fire hose to a fire hydrant. If a fire hydrant is buried under a pile of snow, the time involved will likely double or even triple.

You can volunteer and help us (and yourself) by clearing the snow from around the fire hydrants in your neighborhood. We anticipate the snowfall will eventually increase, so the Mound Fire Department asks that you please take time to clear snow around the fire hydrants in your neighborhood. Please help us keep them accessible throughout the winter so we can be much more efficient and timely in the event of an emergency!

If you are unable to clear the snow from a fire hydrant in your neighborhood....please call Vicki Weber at the Mound Fire Department administrative office (952-472-3555) and we will help clear the snow from the hydrant.

**Thank you for your assistance!**

## Gillespie Center Blood Drive

Thursday, February 23rd, Noon to 6:30 p.m.  
The Gillespie Center, 2590 Commerce Boulevard

It is that time again for another awesome Mound Westonka Community Blood Drive. Help save a life today! All blood types are needed, especially Type O. Sign up online at [mbc.org](http://mbc.org) or call Memorial Blood Centers at 651-332-7165.



Looking for a meaningful way to volunteer?  
Donate your time to **WeCAB** or **WeCAN!**



**WeCAB** (Community Area Busing) drivers provide rides for persons needing a ride to medical appointments, shopping, and church. Volunteer dispatchers are also needed.

**WeCAN** (Western Communities Action Network) provides multiple individual and family support programs such as emergency assistance, Meals-on-Wheels, and a Mobile Market food shelf. Volunteers are needed for many programs, as a one-time or ongoing commitment.

Call **WeCAB** at 844-743-1643 or **WeCAN** at 952-472-0742 for more information.

[www.wecab.org](http://www.wecab.org) or [www.wecan-help.org](http://www.wecan-help.org)



**Indian Knoll Manor Apartments**, located at 2020 Commerce Boulevard, are subsidized by HUD and rents are based on income for qualified applicants. There are one-bedroom and studio apartments and rent includes heat, water, electric, and trash. Please call the Property Manager at 952-472-5078 for an application or to take a tour.

**Dock Applications** are due by February 29, 2016. Renewal applications were sent out the end of December. Call 952-472-0613 with any questions.

**The City of Mound Public Restrooms**, located on the Dakota Rail Trail by the Mound Transit Center, will be open May 1 through October 31.

**The 2016 Single Sort Recycling Schedule** was sent to all residents by Republic Services in December. Additional copies are available at City Hall or on our website.

**Grass clippings, milfoil, and leaves** may be taken to the compost site located at 4275 Creekview Circle in Minnetrista beginning again on April 1, 2016. This is a free service if you show your driver's license. Additional services are available for a fee. Hours are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. & Saturday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call 952-446-1056 for more information.

**The Annual Spring Clean Up/Recycling Day** for Mound and Minnetrista will be held May 14, 2016, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Look for more information in the May newsletter or on the City of Mound website.

**Utility Billing** customers are strongly encouraged to sign-up for the **Auto Pay Plan**. 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!

## The Culprit:

### Emerald Ash Borer

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an insect pest that has invaded Minnesota. EAB kills ash trees, and it does so in large scale with the loss totaling in the millions. Even though it has not found its way to Mound yet, it is closing in fast, having been found in

New Hope, a short 20 miles away. EAB is a major threat to Minnesota's urban and rural ash tree populations, which number over 900 million. Mound has a large number of ash trees both on public and private properties.

The symptoms an ash tree shows when it is infested with Emerald Ash Borer are similar to symptoms caused by other ash pests or diseases in Minnesota. Therefore, it is important to look for a combination of symptoms or signs when trying to figure out if Emerald Ash Borer is in your ash tree. Signs of infestation can be: woodpeckers feeding on living ash trees, sparse leaves, short 3 to 5 inch vertical cracks in the bark, and S-shaped tunnels just under the bark. If several of these signs are found, make sure to contact the Minnesota Department of Agriculture at 888-545-6684 or by email at [arrest.the.pest@state.mn.us](mailto:arrest.the.pest@state.mn.us). Unfortunately, there are no known treatments so affected trees, and those in close proximity, are removed to slow the spread of the offending bugs.



## Mound's partnership with the Orono Police Department enters its 4th year!

The Orono Police Department is proud to serve the communities of Spring Park, Minnetonka Beach, Mound, and Orono. The police department covers approximately 28 square miles of land and 20,000 citizens.

In recognition of the quality service the City of Mound receives from the Orono police officers and staff, a portion of the quarterly newsletter will be devoted to informing residents of the many initiatives undertaken by the department to improve the safety and quality of life of all citizens.

The Orono Police Department focuses on providing effective community policing services. Representatives from the department meet with community leaders and groups to learn more about crime problems and to jointly develop crime prevention plans. Orono has provided leadership in anti-drug, youth access, and anti-violence programs, through classroom presentations in the schools and working with civic organizations. Members of the community are encouraged to engage in these efforts and share their ideas and areas of concern by calling 952-249-4700.



# Introducing the Mayor's Award for Excellence in Civic Engagement



By Mayor Mark Wegscheid

In an effort to recognize those in our community who are giving of themselves for others, I introduce the Mayor's Award for Excellence in Civic Engagement. It is my intent that the award program will evolve to include recognition of individuals and groups that make this community so special and who personify the notion of "public good." Often the efforts of these unsung heroes are overshadowed by the hectic pace of modern life and the latest news headlines. This is an attempt to remind us that we all have a role to play and can look to the awardees for inspiration.

The very first recipient of the Mayor's Award for Excellence in Civic Engagement is Johnny Range and the Westonka Walleye Program.



Who is Johnny Range? First, Johnny is a very proud husband and father and an accomplished entrepreneur. Johnny is also the founder of the Westonka Walleye Program.

In 2009, Johnny began looking at the fish habitat in Lake Minnetonka in search of improving the walleye breeding environment. The DNR felt natural reproduction of walleye in Lake Minnetonka had all but stopped and began a stocking program which released 2" to 4" fingerlings. Johnny wanted to help. Knowing that fingerlings have a 20% chance of survival, while 8" to 13" fish boast a 90% survival rate, Johnny proposed a plan to stock the larger walleye. The DNR approved the plan on the condition that he raised at least \$5,000 annually to fund the program. In 2013, Johnny brought in \$7,500 to raise and release 3,000 walleye in Lake Minnetonka. Johnny's Westonka Walleye Program was born.

In 2014, the Westonka Walleye Program raised approximately \$20,000 and released 10,000 walleye. In 2015, the numbers continued to grow to approximately \$25,000 and 13,000 walleye!

The Westonka Walleye Program is 100% funded with private donations. They have never received any government assistance and can use all the help we can give.

On Thursday, April 28, 2016, at the Gillespie Center, you can meet Johnny Range and the other volunteers who pull this event together. You will have an opportunity to bid on just about anything that has to do with fishing and fun on the water while knowing your money is going to help raise and release 8" to 13" walleye into Lake Minnetonka.

In addition, consider witnessing or even helping to release the thousands of walleye into the water this fall! Learn more about the Westonka Walleye Program at [www.472fish.org](http://www.472fish.org) and "like" them on Facebook.

Please join me in supporting the Westonka Walleye Program and recognizing Johnny Range as the first recipient of the Mayor's Award for Excellence in Civic Engagement! Thank you, Mr. Range for all you do!

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If there is an individual or group you would like to nominate for the Mayor's Award for Excellence in Civic Engagement, please contact Mayor Wegscheid at [markwegscheid@cityofmound.com](mailto:markwegscheid@cityofmound.com).

<p><b>Save the Date!</b></p> <p>7th Annual</p>  <p><b>Moonlight Trail Night</b></p> <p>Saturday, March 5 5pm - 8pm</p>			<p>Join friends &amp; community members for a dazzling moonlit night of walking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, music, fun &amp; games on the Dakota Trail!</p> <p>Westedge Blvd to the Minnetonka Drive-in</p> <p>Sponsored by</p>  <p><a href="http://www.westonkacc.com">www.westonkacc.com</a></p>
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City of Mound  
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www.cityofmound.com

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## 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

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**WE NEED YOU  
TO BE AN  
ELECTION JUDGE!**

A rewarding opportunity to serve  
your community!

- ★ Perform an important civic function
- ★ Opportunity to meet your neighbors
- ★ Play a vital role in election history
- ★ Earn extra income

Election Dates  
Tuesday, August 9, 2016  
Tuesday, November 8, 2016

To apply: Contact Kevin at  
952-472-0613 or  
asc@cityofmound.com



## Mound Meeting Calendar

- City Council meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m.
- HRA meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month beginning at 6:45 p.m.
- Planning Commission meets the first Tuesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m.
- Parks and Open Space Commission meets the second Thursday of the month beginning at 7 p.m. on an as-needed basis
- Docks and Commons Commission meets the third Thursday of the month beginning at 7 p.m.

## Dates To Remember

Feb 14 Valentines Day  
Feb 15 Presidents' Day - City Offices Closed  
Feb 29 Leap Day  
**Mar 1 Precinct Caucuses**  
Mar 5 Moonlight Trail Night  
Mar 17 St. Patrick's Day  
Mar 27 Easter  
Apr 15 Tax Day

## City Hall Regular Hours

November through April  
Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 a.m.