

CITY CONTACT



*A Quarterly Publication
from the City of Mound*

Feb/March/April 2011

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.

Message from the Mayor.....

Many of you are aware of the work the city did last year to keep the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) from taking away your property rights and also to retain local control of zoning and building decisions locally. Last year, we were successful at keeping the MCWD from adopting the absurd rules that they originally proposed. Still, your property rights and your local city zoning authority has once again been eroded by this group of unelected officials that is responsible to no one.



Mark Hanus

The legislature granted them very loosely defined powers. As a result, they are constantly redefining their authority and simply usurp the defined powers of other public bodies. They have increased their scope beyond what most people could imagine.

With the new year comes another wave of attempts to take more from us. Two more rule changes have been proposed recently that can directly affect both your rights and your hard earned money.

The first rule change proposal is a new unnecessary reporting mandate by the watershed. The only thing this would accomplish is add costs to cities. The city is lean on labor right now. We do not want to start thinking about hiring more staff just to deal with new pointless mandates from other agencies. These mandates by other agencies help to drive up costs for cities. Now is certainly not the time to do this.

The second rule change is with regard to Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). Controlling AIS is a goal that few would argue against. However, new property taxes and fees as they propose are not a good idea right now. The cost of their program is woefully underfunded and has loopholes that you could drive a truck through. It is a very costly ineffective program that we will all have to pay for. Duplicative boat, dock, and trailer licensing is not the answer.

To make it worse, they are proposing that the cost be “shifted” to the people that live by or use Lake Minnetonka (infested waters) and use that money to protect the rest of the watershed that stretches all the way through Minneapolis and St. Paul down to the Mississippi River. The cost would be borne not by the beneficiaries (non-infested waters) but by us, the people who live near the lake.

The shortsightedness and impracticality of this proposal is staggering. Even if they could “lock down” Lake Minnetonka with no AIS passing through a theoretical bubble, the AIS will spread from other areas. This is not a watershed level issue. It is a statewide issue. Please get involved.

Most respectfully,

Mark Hanus

Mark Hanus
Mayor of Mound

The City's 2011 Approved Budget Highlights

On Tuesday, December 14, 2010 the Mound City Council approved the final 2011 City Tax Levy and Budget. The General Fund Levy has not been increased in 2010 or 2011, and a 18% reduction in full-time employees city-wide has been achieved since 2008. General Fund spending nears 2007 levels with a reduction of 5% in 2010 and 1.52% in 2011. Efforts have been made to increase efficiencies and reduce operating expenses, including retrofitting the lighting to save on electric utility expense, automating some of our manual processes, and upgrading technology and equipment. City employees are taking on more responsibility to close the gaps left by vacancies and are constantly challenged to find new and more efficient ways to deliver services. No pay increases were awarded in 2010 and none have been budgeted for in 2011 as we try to respond to revenue pressures that can be associated with a weak economy.

Significant infrastructure improvements in our water, sewer and storm sewer utilities have taken place since 2002, after decades of deferred maintenance. Some of the water pipes were 50 to 60 years old and in a state of deterioration, and some neighborhoods experienced stagnating water where the system “dead-ends.” Mound has replaced water mains and “looped” the dead ends to improve water quality. Mound built a new water tower on Chateau Lane and two new pump houses. Mound has invested in reducing the amount of groundwater infiltration into the sewer to reduce treatment costs, and has upgraded 8 of 31 sanitary sewer lift stations to date in order to reduce the number of sewer back-ups and overflows. Mandates have driven significant investment in our storm water management initiatives and, as a result, neighborhoods experience fewer drainage problems, including washouts and standing water. Storm water management also reduces the amount of phosphorous and sulfur draining into Lake Minnetonka. Utility rates are managed to keep pace with the funding needs that result from making infrastructure improvements and the Council tries to balance the burden of rate increases with the need for improvements.

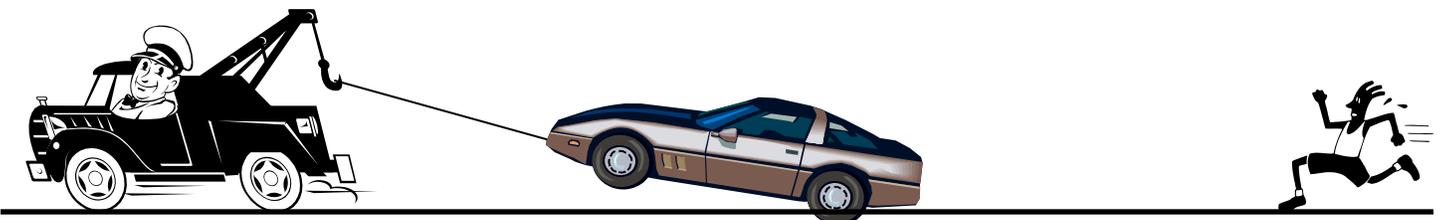
Copies of the 2009 Annual Financial Report and 2011 Final Budget are available on the City's website. If you have comments or concerns, please feel free to contact your City Council or the City Manager at any time.

Indian Knoll Manor Public Housing

The Mound Housing and Redevelopment Authority (Mound HRA) has contracted with HUD to meet the need for affordable housing in our community and to provide a safe, secure place in which the elderly, disabled or handicapped citizens of Mound can reside comfortably. Indian Knoll Manor Apartments, located at 2020 Commerce Boulevard, has one bedroom and studio apartments. Please call (952) 472-5078 for an application or to take a tour.

Police Department Issues Friendly Reminder

The Winter Parking Restrictions are still in effect. From November 15th through April 15th, between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m., parking is prohibited on all city streets (Ordinance 700.45)



Reporting Suspicious Activity

The police cannot function effectively without the assistance of responsible citizens. We need your help in reporting suspicious activity. Some people fail to call because they are not aware of what is considered suspicious. Others notice suspicious activity and assume someone else will call. Still, others fail to call because they feel they are bothering the police. We encourage everyone to call the police **IMMEDIATELY** if they feel a situation or circumstance is suspicious. Do not think you are bothering the police; this is why we are here! Do not be embarrassed if your suspicions prove unfounded.

IF IN DOUBT, CALL! It is better to err on the side of safety. Following is a list of incidents that should be reported to the police by dialing 9-1-1. This list is not intended to be complete. Use your own judgment when calling the police.

- Someone needing police, fire, or medical assistance
- Alarms sounding or glass being broken
- Someone loitering around cars or going car to car peering into them
- Slow moving vehicles (at night without lights) driving aimlessly
- Apparent business transactions being conducted from a vehicle
- Someone seen being forced into a vehicle
- Abandoned vehicle parked on your block
- Someone seen with a weapon
- Someone loitering, entering or leaving a business before or after hours

While some, if not all, of the above situations could have innocent explanations, the police would rather prevent illegal activity than be called to investigate a crime after it is committed.

Police Reserve Officers Wanted

What are Police Reserve Officers? You've probably seen them on patrol or at an emergency scene and didn't notice anything special about them. These brave men and women work alongside professional peace officers, providing essential support to law enforcement agencies, except they do it without compensation. They are ordinary men and women who volunteer their time to do an extraordinary job, serving their country by serving their communities as uniformed officers. Time and again, they put themselves in harm's way doing a job that most people only watch on television. Reserve police officers are on-call 24 hours a day, often leaving home or work on a moment's notice, never knowing what the next emergency call or routine patrol shift will bring. They do it only for a love of community and a calling to serve their fellow citizens. Common duties include:

- Patrolling roads, parks, and schools
- Responding to medical calls, fire calls, and accident scenes
- Answering low priority calls for service such as animal control, nuisance complaints, and vehicle lockouts, keeping career officers free for high priority calls
- Transporting prisoners to jail facilities
- Working as a "second officer" on patrol with career officers
- Providing security and a police presence at school and community events
- Assisting stalled/stranded motorists
- Administering crime prevention and other public safety programs
- Securing crime scenes and protecting evidence
- Providing specialized patrol on ATVs and bicycles
- Directing traffic
- Performing search and rescue operations

For more information on the Mound Police award winning Reserve Unit contact the Mound Police Department at (952) 472-0621 or visit our webpage at www.moundpolice.com.

Spring Road Restrictions

Road restrictions will be in effect for Mound City roads from approximately March 1, 2011 to May 15, 2011. Mound follows the Minnesota Department of Transportation road restriction dates, so when MnDOT notifies the City of its restrictions dates, they will be posted on the City of Mound website. The roads listed below will be marked nine-ton roads. All other City roads are four-ton. No permits will be issued on the roads under restriction.

Nine-ton Roads:

County Rd 15, County Rd 110, and County Rd 125
Cypress Ln - from County Rd 15 to Maywood Rd
Eden Rd - from Wilshire Blvd to Hiddenvale Ln
Fairview Ln - from County Rd 15 to Dakota Trail
Hiddenvale Ln - from Maywood Rd to County Rd 15
Lynwood Blvd - from County Rd 110 to Cardinal Ln
Maywood Rd - from Wiltshire Blvd to Fairview Ln
Three Points Blvd - from County Rd 110 to Resthaven Ln
Tuxedo Blvd - to the City limits
Wilshire Blvd - From County Rd 15 to Bartlett Blvd

If you have any questions please call Joyce at (952) 472-0615.



Please keep those Fire Hydrants accessible! Help us serve you better!

This year's record snowfall creates a problem with high piled snow around fire hydrants. This snow 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 by clearing the snow from around fire hydrants in your neighborhood. This will help firefighters provide you with faster and better service!

The Mound Fire department asks that you please take time to clear fire hydrants in your neighborhood of snow and keep them accessible throughout the winter. This will help us 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!

Greg Pederson, Fire Chief
Mound Fire Department
(952) 472-3555



Did You Know?



Your property taxes can increase even if your assessed value decreases. For taxes payable 2011, residential properties off the lake went down an average of 6%, while lakeshore properties decreased an average of 15%. Lakeshore properties assessed value and taxes have been increasing in recent years while properties off the lake have been going down. This year, with the shift in values and the corresponding

percentage increase or decrease, resulted in more residential properties off the lake experiencing an increase in taxes as compared to those on the lake.

What the City is doing to keep taxes low?

- The General Fund Budget for 2011 is the same level of spending as 2007
- The number of full-time employees has been reduced from 50 to 41, an 18% decrease since 2008
- The City's labor unions settled for a 0% general wage increase for 2010
- The City offers employees a Vacation Purchas Program, resulting in personnel-related savings
- The City has reorganized the departments to absorb positions vacated by retirements and in some cases, reductions in force
- The City refinanced existing debt, resulting in \$460,000 in savings
- The City is streamlining operations and focusing on providing essential services as our resources diminish
- The City has consolidated vendor contracts to take advantage of efficiencies and quantity discounts
- The City has reduced frequencies for janitorial services and limited capital expenditures
- The City has retrofitted the lighting in our buildings to save on energy costs
- The City is seeking opportunities to collaborate with other agencies to achieve economies of scale and further reduce the cost of providing services
- Mound Fire Department serves four neighbor cities with fire and rescue services, providing a revenue source
- Mound Public Works reads meters for the City of St Bonifacius, providing a revenue source
- The City leases space on water towers to cell companies, providing revenue sources
- The City liquidates its obsolete vehicles via Craig's List and eBay, to get the best price
- A "No-Idle Policy" is in place for Public Works vehicles
- The municipally-owned liquor store profits fund street sealcoating
- The City has received over \$5.7 million in grants to aid in redevelopment efforts and reduce the cost of capital projects and operating expenses since 2000
- Service delivery is continually evaluated for new ways of providing the service

City of Mound Dock Program

Current participants and current wait list applicants should have received their 2011 renewal applications in the mail in early January. Applications must be completed and returned to City Hall on or before February 28, 2011. Incomplete applications will not be accepted and will be returned with your payment. First time applicants may apply for the waiting list by completing the Waiting List Application available at City Hall during business hours until Monday, February 28th, 2011. General information about the dock program is available on the City of Mound website: www.cityofmound.com.

Opportunities for Involvement

Celebrate Greater Mound!, the community networking organization, is seeking a paid volunteer as Administrative Assistant to its Board of Directors, to do minutes and other support. Compensation is a \$100/month stipend, free membership in the group, free monthly lunches, and free involvement in any CGM! sponsored events. Requires day-time flexibility. Contact Kandis Hanson, Coordinator, for more information at 472-0609.

Spirit of the Lakes Festival has openings on the Board and opportunities to assist on committees for 2011 Festival. Contact John Beise for more information at 612-889-0340.



News From Hennepin County

You may receive a gift card for recycling a thermostat at a Hennepin County drop-off facility.

Hennepin County and Covanta energy Corporation are encouraging residents to save energy by replacing a traditional thermostat with a programmable thermostat. Homeowners can save about \$80 a year by using a programmable thermostat.

Traditional thermostats containing mercury must be recycled. Keeping older thermostats out of the trash is important because they contain about 4.5 grams of mercury, which is 900 times more mercury than in a compact fluorescent light bulb.

As a thank you for recycling those old thermostats, Covanta Energy is offering a \$5 Menards gift card to residents to help reduce the costs of purchasing a programmable thermostat.

To participate in the program, county residents should bring a mercury-containing thermostat to Hennepin County Drop-off Facility for recycling. Residents will complete a contact information form and Covanta Energy will mail them a gift card.

Hennepin County Drop-off Facilities are located at 1400 W. 96th Street in Bloomington, and 8100 Jefferson Highway in Brooklyn Park. The facilities are open Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., and Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. This offer is available through March 31, 2011, while supplies last. There is a limit of one gift card per household.

For more information on the program, call Hennepin County Environmental Services at (612) 348-3777, or visit www.hennepin.us/dropoffs.

Conserving energy and recycling is making Hennepin County a Cool County. Learn more at www.hennepin.us/coolcounty.

Mound Fire Department Selects Ben Foster, Firefighter of the Year 2010

Every year the Mound Fire Department recognizes one of its own firefighters as the departments "Firefighter of the Year." The Mound Fire Department Firefighter of the Year for 2010 is Lieutenant Ben Foster.



The recipient of this recognition award is chosen by a nomination process among the current Mound firefighters. Firefighters that are nominated for the Firefighter of the Year Award are based upon predetermined criteria including: a firefighter's responses to Fire and Rescue calls, attendance at training sessions, level of participation and involvement, working at public relations activities, and a positive attitude. All of these attributes generally add up to an individual that is very dedicated to the fire department.

Ben Foster has been a volunteer with the Mound Fire Department since joining the ranks in May 2006. Firefighter Foster was promoted to the position of

Lieutenant in 2010 based upon his training and experience, high level of participation in department activities, and dedication to serving others.

Congratulations to Lieutenant Ben Foster on his accomplishments and this special award!

Message from the Manager

In recent months I participated in a grass roots community-centered group to address the transportation needs of Mound. We looked at the transportation gaps and the things at play that discourage the use of the public transportation provided by Met Transit.

One repeated point made by citizens surveyed was their dissatisfaction with limiting commuter use to the top level of the Transit Center. (Level 3 is currently designated as a Park & Ride location in an agreement with Met Transit.) In response to that feedback, changes are being made at the Transit Center that allow for commuter parking on Level 2 and Level 3, effective immediately. This change will provide covered parking to those choosing to park on Level 2, which those who commented stated as their desire. Level 1 must remain available for shoppers and trail users that frequent the Transit District for their parking making Level 1 off limits for commuters.

Recent counts have commuter use at approximately 75 vehicles daily. It is expected that this change will greatly increase the use of the Transit Center. Thank you for your feedback so that I may be of help!

Sincerely,
Kandis Hanson
City Manager



Kandis Hanson

Tidbits.....

- Allied Waste Services sent the 2011 Single Sort Recycling Schedule to all residents in December. Additional copies are available at City Hall or on the City website.
- City of Mound residents can resume bringing grass clippings, milfoil and leaves to the compost site located at 4275 Creekview Circle in Minnetrista, beginning on April 1, 2011. This is a free service if you show your drivers license. Additional services are available for a fee. Hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Call (952)446-1056 for more info.
- The City of Mound and City of Minnetrista have scheduled the next clean-up day for May 14, 2011 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Look for more information in the May 1st newsletter or on our website under "NEWS"
- Also visit the City website for an application for the Utility Billing Automatic Payment Plan and other valuable information!



Harbor Wine & Spirits Wine Sale 2011 Annual Customer Appreciation Sale February 24th through March 12th

Save 15% on all wine

Save 20% by the case - mix and match

Sorry, no other discounts apply during this sale.

STOCK UP NOW !

2135 Commerce Blvd.

(952) 472-0648

Mound Calendar

- City Council meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month beginning at 7:00 p.m.
- HRA meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month beginning at 6:30 p.m.
- Planning Commission meets the first Tuesday of each month beginning at 7:00 p.m.
- Parks and Open Space Commission meets the second Thursday of the month beginning at 7:00 p.m. on an as-needed basis
- Docks and Commons Commission meets the third Thursday of the month beginning at 7:00 p.m. on an as-needed basis.

Dates To Remember

February 14	Valentine's Day
February 19	Moonlight Trail Night 6:00-9:00 p.m.
February 21	Presidents' Day - City Offices Closed
March 13	Daylight Saving Time begins
March 17	St. Patrick's Day
March 20	Spring begins
April 24	Easter Sunday
May 1	Seasonal Hours begin
May 8	Mothers' Day
May 14	Recycling Day at City of Minnetrista 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



City Hall Business Hours

City Hall Regular Business Hours returned on November 1st and will continue through April.

City Hall hours are as follows:

Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

City of Mound
5341 Maywood Road
Mound, MN 55364
(952) 472-0600
www.cityofmound.com

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City of Mound Council Members

Mark Hanus, Mayor	(952) 472-5480
Heidi Gesch	(952) 472-5508
Kelli Gillispie	(507) 382-2191
David Osmek	(952) 472-1238
Ray Salazar	(952) 472-7383

Kandis Hanson City Manager	(952) 472-0609
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