Nov • Dec • Jan 2026-27

MOUND COMPASS

A Quarterly Publication from the City of Mound

A Final Message from Mayor Jason Holt



As I write my final message as the Mayor of Mound, I do so with immense gratitude and pride. After serving two years on the City Council and four years as your Mayor, I have decided not to seek re-election.

While my time in elected office is coming to an end, my belief in our City and its future has never been stronger.

When I first took office, I hoped to make a positive difference for the City I love. Looking back, I am proud of how much we accomplished together. Most notably, we tackled Mound's longstanding water quality challenges and approved construction of Mounds first-ever Water Treatment Plant, a project that will serve residents for generations to come. We secured more than $12 million in state and federal funding to help fund this much needed infrastructure, reducing the overall burden on Mound residents.

Beyond water treatment, we strengthened the City's financial position through responsible budgeting and long-term planning, invested in critical infrastructure improvements, improved parks, trails, sidewalks, and public spaces, continued revitalization efforts around Lost Lake Commons and Surfside Park, enhanced public safety services, modernized City communications through a new website, expanded community outreach, and worked to ensure City Hall operates with greater transparency and accessibility. We also advanced thoughtful development and redevelopment opportunities, supported local businesses, expanded opportunities for resident engagement, and took meaningful steps to preserve the quality of life that makes Mound such a special place to call home.

None of these accomplishments happened because of one person. They happened because dedicated City staff, committed council members, volunteers, community partners, and engaged residents came together with a shared vision for Mound's future. I have always believed that good local government listens, collaborates, and focuses on solving problems, and I am grateful to everyone who helped make that possible.

Of all the things we accomplished, I am most proud that we never shied away from difficult conversations or complex challenges. Whether addressing aging infrastructure, planning for future growth or making investments that will benefit future generations, we focused on doing what was right for Mound's long-term success.

Serving as your Mayor has been one of the greatest honors of my life. Thank you for your trust, your support, your feedback, and your commitment to our City. Mound is a remarkable place, and I am confident its best days are still ahead.

While my role as Mayor is ending, my love for this City is not. I will always be proud to call Mound home. Thank you for allowing me the privilege to serve.

Thank you for your continued support as we ensure that Mound remains a safe and attractive place to live, work, retire and raise a family.

– *Mayor Jason Holt*



City Hall Hours

October - April	**Monday - Friday** 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
May - September	**Monday - Thursday** 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. **Friday** 7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

City Meeting Calendar

City Offices Closed

Veteran's Day - November 11
Thanksgiving November 26
Day after Thanksgiving - November 27
Christmas Eve - December 24
Christmas Day - December 25
New Years' Eve - December 31
New Years' Day - January 1
Martin Luther King Jr. Day - January 18

City Council Calendar

Second & Fourth Tuesdays, 6:00 p.m.

Boards and Commissions Calendar

Planning Commission

First Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.

Parks and Open Space Commission

Second Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

Docks and Commons Commission

Third Thursdays at 6:00 p.m.

Housing and Redevelopment Authority

At the start of City Council Meetings

All City of Mound public meetings are held at the Centennial Office Building, located at 5341 Maywood Road, Mound MN.

Visit www.moundmn.gov to learn more about City meetings and to view Agendas and Minutes.

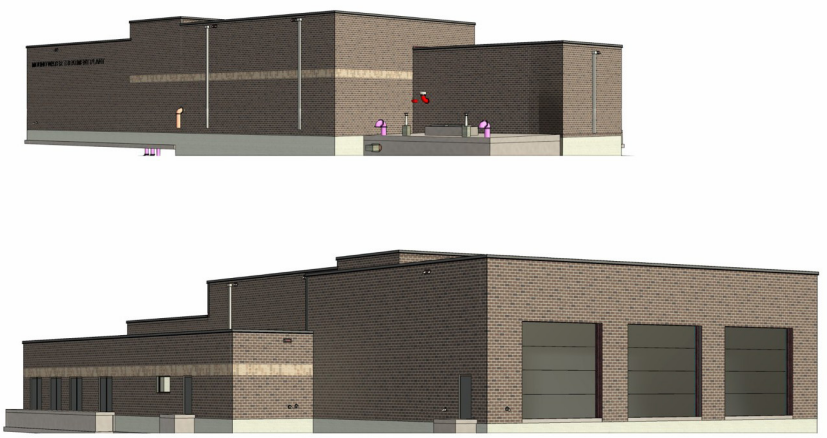
City Council and Planning Commission Meetings are available to watch the following day on YouTube.

Deliquent Utility Bills Due November 16

Do you have a delinquent utility bill or an outstanding abatement invoice? The City would like to remind property owners that delinquent utility bills and unpaid abatement invoices must be paid in full by **Monday, November 16th** at 4:30 p.m. Property owners with outstanding utility balances are encouraged to pay their accounts in full to avoid certification against the associated property. Certified properties will incur interest at 5% annually.

Utility billing checks can be mailed to P.O. Box 251310, St. Paul, MN 55125, and credit card payments can be made via Invoice Cloud. To pay utility billing and abatement accounts in-person at City Hall, please stop by during business hours to pay by cash or check.

Mound Approves Water Treatment Plant



Renderings of the proposed Water Treatment Plant

On October 13, 2026 , the Mound City Council voted to award a contract in the amount of $17,798,930 to Gridor Construction, Inc., for the construction of a water treatment plant. Once complete, this facility will remove manganese and iron from groundwater wells used to supply drinking water to the City.

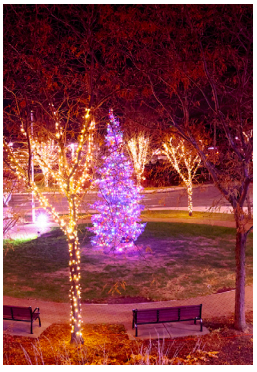
The water treatment plant, which will cost approximately $20.8 million in total, has received approximately $2.05 million toward construction of the plant through federal appropriations. Since 2020, the City reviewed options and advocated for funding at the state and federal levels to address elevated levels of manganese found in the City's water.

"The construction of Mound's first water treatment plant is the product of years of advocacy and hard work by the City Council, staff and consultant engineers to design a project that balances fiscal responsibility and delivering high-quality drinking water for generations to come," shared Mayor Jason Holt.

The City plans to fund the plant construction through a low-interest loan and a expected $5 million dollar grant provided by the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority. After federal and state grants, the treatment plant will cost Mound approximately $13.5 million. Construction will begin in Spring 2027, and the plant is expected to be fully operational by late 2028.

Celebrate our Annual Tree Lighting on November 19

One of the best traditions of the holiday season, the 43rd anniversary of the Tree Lighting will take place on **November 19 at 6 p.m.** in Veterans Memorial Plaza. Hosted by Westonka Connect, the City and local businesses, this event will have Santa and Mrs. Claus, hot cocoa, crafts for kids and holiday music. Experience the newly upgraded Lost Lake Commons Park with fire pits and tons of seating. We'll see you there!



How Will a Water Treatment Plant Impact Water Rates?

Construction of a water treatment plant would be the largest capital project the City of Mound has undertaken, and it stretches across the whole community. Careful and thoughtful design work has been completed to deliver this important project while also taking fiscal impacts into consideration.

A previous City Council decision to freeze water, sewer and storm water rates from 2018 through 2022 created five years of artificially-low rates, which in turn created deficits in each of these funds. The water fund grew to a $5.3 million deficit as of July 31, 2024.

Having cash-on-hand in these funds is important as it allows the City to cover the continuous operation, maintenance, and expansion of the water, sewer, and storm water systems.

In 2023 and 2024, the City Council began to address this problem through a 3% increase to rates. They also underwent a Utility Rate Study and Financial Management Plan to understand how the City could better manage its finances.

The result is small increases to utility bills over the next decade to ensure that these funds are out of a deficit by 2030. **Even if the City did not build a water treatment plant, water rates would need to rise to cover the debt.**

Given a much lower than anticipated construction bid on the plant, preliminary numbers show that if the City Council chooses to raise franchise fees, it could maintain planned water rate increases without increasing further to support the plant.

The Council will hear a presentation on the updated Financial Management Plan on it's regularly scheduled meeting at **6:00 p.m. on November 10**. Using this information, the City Council will set water rates at it's regularly scheduled meeting at **6:00 p.m. on November 24.**

Nominations Now Open for Citizen of the Year



2026 Mound Citizen of the Year, Todd Crandell

Know someone who makes a big difference in the City of Mound? Nominate them for the annual Citizen of the Year Award. This annual award honors a community member who is known for positivity, dedication, and personal efforts to making Mound a better place to live.

Nominations are due November 20th at 5 p.m. and can be submitted on the City's website at www.moundmn.gov/COTY

Employee Spotlight

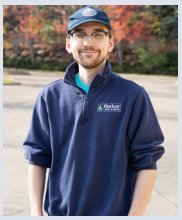
Help us congratulate and welcome City of Mound employees who have either been recently promotoed or are new to the City!





Filling a vacancy, **Matthew Radde (L)** was promoted to Public Works Superintendent after serving Mound residents for more than a decade as the City's Utility Lead. **Larry Pitsenberger (C)** who has been with the City since 2018 and was the Fleet Maintenance Lead Worker has moved to the Utility Lead. **Corey Scharpe (R)**, who joined the City in 2024, was promoted into the Fleet Maintenance Lead Worker.





After more than a decade at Harbor Wine and Spirits, **Sara Peterson (L)** was promoted to Store Manager earlier this year following a vacancy in the role. **Melissa Erstad (C)** joined the City as the Assistant Store Manager the from the private sector where she was a brand rep filling the vacancy left by Peterson's promotion. **Evan Skinner (R)**, who has been a part-time employee at HWS was made full-time with the consolidation of other part-time roles to provide more staffing stability to the store.




Johnny Menhennet (L) began as the City Planner this Spring, filling a vacancy left by the promotion of Andrew Drilling from Field Officer to Fire Chief. **Jacob Nelson (R)** joined the City as the Senior Accountant bringing strong accounting expertise to the City's finance department.

Library Pick-Up Location

After a temporary pause on book drop off and pick-up at City Hall due to the election, this service will return on **November 9th.** Patrons whose books were automatically moved to the Excelsior Library in the interim will have their books moved back to Mound City Hall until the new library opens next spring.



Winter Parking Restrictions

There is no overnight parking allowed between 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. between November 15th and April 15th. In addition, no vehicle can be parked in any one place for a continuous 24-hour period as to allow for thorough and efficient snow plowing. Violators will be towed at the owner's expense.

Orono Police Department House Check Request Program

If you are going out-of-town for a week, or even the entire winter, Orono Police Department offers a service to check your house while you are away. Reserve officers will periodically come to your home to make sure all your windows and doors are secure, as well as call a person you have designated as your "key holder" if you have packages or overflowing mail. Learn more about this program on the OPD website.

Scan the QR Code to sign up!

Take the Mound 2050 Community Survey

The City of Mound is updating its Comprehensive Plan, and we need your help!

The Comprehensive Plan is a long-range plan that will help guide how Mound grows and changes over the next 20 years. The plan includes guiding principles, goals, and priorities that are used by elected officials and staff to make decisions.

The plan shapes many important aspects of Mound, including land use, housing, transportation, water and wastewater systems, parks, climate, and natural resources.

The plan should reflect the ideas and needs of the Mound community. The goals and priorities in the plan are shaped by input from the community.

Take the Survey Here!
Scan this QR code to provide your feedback. By sharing your thoughts and ideas with us, you are directly helping to shape the future of Mound and how decisions are made.

Inaugural 'Name a Snowplow 2026' Contest

Now seeking your best, punniest names for the City's inaugural snowplow naming contest. Winning names will be displayed on the plows and used all season.

Submit your name ideas by **November 11, 2026.** Public Works staff will then choose their top 10 names from the submissions, and online voting will take place for the community to vote for their favorite on **November 13-24, 2026.** We'll announce the winning names on the city's website and social media on **November 25, 2026**.

The winner(s) will get to:

- Take a photo with the plow and crew.
- Tour the Public Works building.
- Ride in the snowplow.

You can choose from a ride in the plow around the City or a ride to school (must be a Mound/Westonka school).

Names must be family-friendly and appropriate for all ages. Names may not include profanity, innuendo, or references to politics, religion, or any individual, business, or organization.

Submit your name online at **www.moundmn.gov/snowplowcontest**



Keeping Mound Clean Through Code Enforcement





Overgrown weeds and grass and trash can be subject to code enforcement actions.

The City of Mound is reinvigorating its efforts at bringing about compliance with City Code from private property owners. Code Enforcement is the duty of the City Planner to make sure that properties are being treated with care and that we foster neighborliness through mutual respect of community norms and standards as held by the City Code. The City does not conduct proactive enforcement, but relies upon complaints from residents to initiate an enforcement case.

Frequently-reported complaints include inadequate maintenance of grass/weed height, accumulations of junk and debris, and violations to the number of vehicles stored on a lot. When a complaint is received, Staff investigates by taking photos and sending mailed notices with a ten-day compliance period to the owners of the property that has a documented violation. Following those ten days, the City (depending on violation type and its location within City Code) may have the authority to send a contractor to remedy the violation through a process called abatement.

The cost for the abatement is billed to the property owners, and if not paid, assessed to their property tax bill. Not every violation can be abated, and litigation is the means by which the City would seek compliance if not done voluntarily.

If you believe that there is a violation of City Code at a Mound property, please feel free to contact the City Planner at (651) 472-0605. The City also maintains an online complaint form on its website. All complainant data is anonymous and protected.

For violations of anything with respect to noise volume or the parking of vehicles in the public right-of-way, the City does not have the means to enforce, but that lies with the Orono Police Department. For complaints of this nature, please contact the non-emergency line for Orono Police Department at (952) 249-4700.

Stay in the know about City events!
Scan this QR code to follow the City's social media accounts or by signing up for updates on the City's website.

Park Spotlight: Lost Lake Commons

This fall the City celebrated the official grand opening of Lost Lake Commons Park. After a community ribbon cutting, Mayor Jason Holt and Council Member Sherrie Pugh shared a few words about the importance of redesigning this space for the community.

The new park features a mix of seating options including Adirondack chairs and picnic tables, and signage about Mound's history line the new walkways.

The park also features fourteen (14) day use docks which are available to the public at the Lost Lake Greenway and Pier, and provide public access to downtown Mound.

Many residents, especially children, take advantage of the park's water access to fish off the public docks. Earlier this summer, the Council officially permitted fishing in this area.

The best time to scope out this park is when you're stopping by the Mound Farmers Market and More, for Music in the Park or for the upcoming tree lighting celebration on **November 19.**







Practice Fire Safety at Home: Check Smoke Alarms and Carbon Monoxide Alarms Annually



Be sure to replace the batteries in smoke alarms and CO monitors at least once per year.

Smoke alarms are critical for life safety as they provide an early warning in the event of a fire.

- Three of every five fire deaths were in homes with non-functional smoke alarms or no smoke alarm at all.
- Dead batteries cause 25% of smoke alarm failures
- Fire code requires homes to have smoke alarms in every bedroom, or directly outside each sleeping area, and on each level of the home, including the basement.
- Smoke alarms should be tested monthly by pushing the test button and be sure to replace the batteries at least once per year.
- Smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms should be replaced every 10 years.

Carbon Monoxide (CO) kills an estimated 400 Americans each year protect your family with the following tips.

- CO Alarms should be installed close to sleeping areas and on every level of the home.
- Make sure vents for clothes dryer, furnace, stove and fireplace are clear of snow build-up.
- Gas and charcoal grills can produce CO, so only use them outside.
- Generators should only be used outside away from windows, doors and vent openings.
- If your CO Alarm is sounding, evacuate the house and call 9-1-1.

Finally, learn more about Carbon Monoxide an and the Mound Fire Department by visiting moundfire.com/carbon-monoxide-co

Mound Welcomes Deputy Chief



Deputy Chief Chris Heitz began his career in the fire service as a Paid-On-Call firefighter for over 13 years before being hired as Deputy Fire Chief. During this time he held the positions of Firefighter, Lieutenant, Captain, and Asst. Chief of Fire Training.

Deputy Chief Heitz also served on the Relief Association Board as well as the MFD Board of Directors.

In his professional life, Deputy Chief Heitz worked for a local landscaping company for the better part of 14 years, and then moved into public service work working for the cities of Wayzata and Shorewood. In Shorewood, after a short stint as a light equipment operator, Deputy Chief Heitz became the Lead Field Supervisor holding that position for 4 years before being hired as the Deputy Fire Chief at Mound Fire. In his free time he coaches his son's youth basketball team and assists with the Westonka Girls JV/V program. He and his wife, Kelly, have an 8th grader as well as a senior at Westonka Public Schools.

In his new role, Deputy Chief Heitz will support daytime department operations, work with local businesses on fire inspections and assist with training of Paid-On-Call Staff.

Dakota Rail Trail Winter Closure



This fall and winter, two sections of the Dakota Rail Regional Trail will be closed due to projects that will be taking place in the trail corridor.

The first project will affect the trail west of downtown Mound and past Gale Woods Farm. That area of the trail will be closed from October 15 through the end of February so that Xcel Energy can replace the high voltage transmission line that runs parallel to the trail. Approximately 2.5 miles of trail will be closed for the Xcel project. The affected trail segment is between Shoreline Drive in Mound and the Westonka Recreation Park in Minnetrista.

The second project will close the trail in Orono from North Shore Drive to Orono Orchard Road so that Metropolitan Council Environmental Services can install a new sewer line. That closure will be in effect from December 1 through March 31. The closed portion in Orono is approximately two miles of trail. Areas of trail that are impacted by the sewer line construction will be repaved as part of the project.

The trail will be open between the closed areas; however, there will not be a posted detour around the closed sections. Use of the trail decreases significantly during the winter months, and these projects were scheduled during fall and winter to minimize disruption to trail use.

CUSTOMER APPRECIATION SALE!

NOVEMBER 6TH & 7TH

SPECIAL 15% OFF ALL ALCOHOLIC PRODUCTS

RAFFLES, PRIZES & TASTINGS

THANKS FOR SHOPPING LOCAL AND SUPPORTING YOUR COMMUNITY!

Harbor Wine & Spirits

2135 Commerce Blvd.

Stop in and shop for wine and beer staples, a large wine selection, mixers, and THC beverages and edibles!

Regular Hours:

Monday - Saturday: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Sundays: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

15% case discounts every day & senior discounts on Friday

Did You Know?

Harbor Wine and Spirits has a discount section? Visit for great deals on select items located near the back of the store.



GILLESPIE CENTER

FALL FASHION SHOW LUNCHEON

Friday, November 6th

$15 per person includes lunch & fashion show

Lunch is served at 12pm, Fashion show begins at 12:45pm

DAY AFTER VETERANS DAY LUNCHEON

Thursday, November 12th

Veterans eat FREE / $10 for Non-Veterans

Honoring Branches of Service
Begins at 11am, Lunch at 12pm
Gillespie Singers Performing
Armed Forces Medley's

TURKEY BINGO

Saturday, November 21st

10-Game Packet: $10

Include 3 bingo cards for each of the 10 games
Prizes: Turkeys and Gift Cards

Sloppy Joes, snacks & refreshments available for purchase

32ND ANNUAL HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

November 23rd-28th

Vendor Registration now available!

For more information, email boutique@gillespiecenter.org

CITY HALL
2415 WILSHIRE BLVD
MOUND, MN 55364

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
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Meet the Council



Mayor Jason Holt
612-703-6738
jholt@moundmn.gov



Sherrie Pugh
612-518-0287
spugh@moundmn.gov



Kathy McEnaney
612-655-2514
kmcenaney@moundmn.gov



Kevin Castellano
612-749-7070
kcastellano@moundmn.gov



Michelle Herrick
612-940-5051
mherrick@moundmn.gov

Contact Us

General Information	952-472-0600
Planning & Building	952-472-0601
Police Department	952-249-4700
After Hours Dispatch	952-548-5321
Emergency	911
Public Works	952-472-0601
After Hours Dispatch	952-258-5321

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