



# MOUND COMPASS

A Quarterly Publication from the City of Mound

Nov/Dec/Jan • 2024/25

## City Calendar

### Important Dates

#### November 4th

City Hall Hours Change to Winter Hours  
Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

#### November 11th

Veteran's Day - City Offices Closed

#### November 19th

Auxiliary Fall Bingo at the Mound Fire  
Station from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

#### November 23rd

Annual Tree Lighting at Veteran's  
Memorial Plaza/Harbor District  
from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

#### November 28th & 29th

Thanksgiving - City Offices Closed

#### December 7th

Repeal of Prohibition Day Sale  
at Harbor Wine & Spirits

#### December 24th & 25th

City Offices Closed (half day)  
City Offices Closed (full day)

#### December 31st & January 1st

City Offices Closed (half day)  
City Offices Closed (full day)

#### January 20th

City Offices Closed for MLK Day

## Meeting Schedule

### City Council

Second & Fourth Tuesday at 6:00 p.m.

### Planning Commission

First Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.

### HRA\*

Meets before City Council meetings

### Parks & Open Space Commission\*

Second Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

### Docks & Commons Commission\*

Third Thursday at 6:00 p.m.

\* = Meets on an as-needed basis

Stay tuned online at [cityofmound.com](http://cityofmound.com)  
for the most accurate dates and for  
agenda packet information.

## A Message from the Mayor

Dear Mound Residents,

I hope this message finds you well as we move into the fall and winter seasons.

I want to remind everyone that our annual Tree Lighting Ceremony is just around the corner! Mark your calendars for a wonderful evening filled with holiday cheer, music, a tree lighting, and a chance to gather as neighbors to kick off the season. The event will be held on Saturday, November 23rd from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at Veteran's Memorial Plaza.

You may have noticed work being started on the Lost Lake Commons Park adjacent to Artesa Co-op in downtown Mound. We kicked off Phase I of this park project and I am excited to see this phase being completed this fall! Phase II is expected to start next spring. You can check out the City of Mound's website for more details regarding the park and the three phases of the project.

I recently had the privilege of attending the Serving Our Troops event in St. Paul, where we honored the brave men and women soldiers serving our country through the Minnesota National Guard. The Serving our Troops organization served lunch to families of soldiers here, while simultaneously serving dinner to those stationed in Kuwait and Jordan. It was a heartfelt reminder of the sacrifices made for our freedoms, and I am proud of our community's ongoing commitment to supporting our military.

*Continue reading on page 2.*

## What's Inside

### Preliminary Budget & Tax Levy

pg. 3

### Winter Reminders

pg. 5

### City Happenings

pg. 4

### Crosswalk Rules & Etiquette

pg. 8

# A Message from the Mayor

Continued from page 1

Additionally, I had the honor of attending the Mound Fire Department’s Retirement Party, where we celebrated the incredible careers of several of our firefighters who recently retired. Their dedication to keeping us safe over the years has been truly remarkable, and I personally thank them for their service.

Lastly, I enjoyed speaking at a recent Gillespie Center lunch event, where I had the chance to discuss important issues facing our City and hear feedback from attendees. Please check out the Gillespie Center’s schedule for upcoming events.

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.

Respectfully,  
*Jason R. Holt*  
Mayor, City of Mound

Follow Us on Social Media!



“

The annual Tree Lighting Ceremony is just around the corner! Mark your calendars for a wonderful evening filled with holiday cheer, music, a tree lighting, and a chance to gather as neighbors to kick off the season. The event will be held on Saturday, November 23rd from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at Veteran’s Memorial Plaza.

”



## Celebrate the Holidays with Harbor Wine & Spirits

Stop by and explore the ever increasing selection of non-alcoholic beer, wine cocktails, and THC beverages, as well as store specials, gift packages, gift cards, and featured wine, beers and spirits of the month.

### Did you know?

Profits from the municipal liquor store help to reduce property taxes and fund essential city services and public projects. Harbor Wine & Spirits contributed a total of \$360,000 to different city funds in 2024, including \$60,000 to the Community Investment Fund. In 2024, the Community Investment Fund supported several City park improvements and the purchase of the new holiday wreath street décor!

### Holiday Hours - Closed

Thanksgiving Day  
Christmas Day  
New Year’s Day

### Holiday Hours - Modified

Thanksgiving Eve: Wednesday, November 27th: 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Christmas Eve: Tuesday, December 24th: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
New Year’s Eve: December 31st, 2024: 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.



### City of Mound Receives a AA+ Bond Rating

At the September 10th, 2024 City Council meeting, Stacie Kvilvang (Ehlers Public Finance Advisors), presented the City Council with a certificate that officially authenticates the City of Mound's recent Credit Rating Upgrade from Standards and Poor's Rating Agency. The City of Mound went from an AA Credit Rating to a AA+ Credit Rating. This is one rating below the highest possible rating of AAA! According to the Standard and Poor's, a credit rating is a forward looking opinion about an issuer's relative creditworthiness, that provides information to investors. Standard and Poor's stated that the City's current financial management, policies, and long-term planning were integral in their decision.

In 2024, The City of Mound completed a ten-year Long-Term Financial Plan and Utility Rate Study. Like all cities, the City of Mound has ongoing capital assets that must be maintained and eventually replaced. This includes City assets like streets, buildings, infrastructure, vehicles, and more. The City takes a proactive approach to capital planning so that property is adequately maintained to extend the useful life of assets as long as possible. This is managed through the City's long-term capital maintenance and replacement plan.

Nonetheless, assets will and do reach end of life, and the City must plan ahead for when replacement will happen and how the cost of the replacement will be financed. Financing often comes in the form of paying with cash reserves (that have been put aside over time in preparation for a specific purpose), and/or by issuing bonds (debt). When bonds are issued, debt is paid back in principal and interest payments over time. Note: A higher credit rating equates to lower interest costs.



### 2025 Preliminary Budget and Levy Approved

Since July, work on the 2025 budget has been underway. The City Council recently finalized a Long-Term Financial Management Plan and a Utility Rate Study plan that projects out the next ten years of City operations and costs. The 2025 budget is based on these plans.

The City Council discussed the preliminary budget and levy at several meetings. At the September 24th, 2024 City Council meeting, the City Council approved a total dollar levy increase of 6%. The dollar increase is due to increased costs associated operational and capital items; as well as a commitment by the City Council to maintain adequate reserve funding to support future capital infrastructure without relying solely on the issuance of debt.

The preliminary levy establishes the maximum levy the City can set for 2025, however this amount can still be lowered. Staff will continue to refine budget projections for 2025 with final budget and levy approval on the docket for the December 10th, 2024 City Council meeting.

The preliminary budget packet is available at [cityofmound.com](http://cityofmound.com). Any questions can be directed to Deputy City Manager Maggie Reisdorf at [maggiereisdorf@cityofmound.com](mailto:maggiereisdorf@cityofmound.com) or 952-472-0633.



### **Serving Our Troops Event**

On Saturday, October 5th, Mayor Jason Holt attended the Serving Our Troops event at the Roy Wilkens Auditorium in St. Paul. This event recognized deployed Minnesota National Guard Members and their families – which included soldiers from nearly 175 Minnesota cities, including Mound. The event included serving up a steak lunch for families of deployed Minnesota Guard Members in Minnesota, while simultaneously serving steaks to Minnesotans and other soldiers currently stationed in Kuwait and Jordan. The event was linked via live video, with Minnesota soldiers and their families dining together thousands of miles apart.



### **WeCAN Open House Event**

On Thursday, October 10th, Mayor Jason Holt and City Manager Jesse Dickson, shown on the left with WeCAN Director Chris Anderson, attended the WeCAN Open House event. Located at 5213 Shoreline Drive in Mound, WeCAN celebrated 35 Years of Service and the 10th Anniversary of their Mobile Market.



### **Mayor Holt Visits Gillespie Center**

On Wednesday, October 2nd, 2024, Mayor, Jason Holt, attended the Gillespie Center's weekly Wednesday lunch event and provided an update and answered questions on what the City Council has been working on this year.



### **Artessa Mound Harbor Opening**

In September, residents of the Artessa Mound Harbor started moving in at 2350 Harbor Place in Mound! Artessa is a co-op for people 62+ located adjacent to Lost Lake in downtown Mound.



### Winter Parking Restriction Reminders

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.

### Snow and Ice Control in the City of Mound



The City's Public Works street department, which consists of 4 dedicated personnel, is responsible for snow and ice removal from the streets in the community. All Public Works personnel, a total of 13 full-time staff, are cross-trained in snow and ice management. The entire team practices salt management and other best practices established by several regional agencies including the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), and the University of Minnesota.

The City's winter management vehicle fleet consists of 4 large trucks (4 x 4 dump truck plows with a wing and salter), 5 smaller trucks (4 x 4 general purpose 1-ton trucks with plow and salter), and other smaller snow removal machines including sidewalk clearing machines, pickup plows and skid loaders.

### When does the City plow?

Snow plowing operations are generally initiated after two or more inches of snowfall. During an average snow event, the Public Works Superintendent calls plow drivers to work depending on street conditions and weather reports. Snow is plowed in a manner that provides access as soon as possible and in a manner to minimize traffic obstructions.

The City prioritizes the opening of main arteries, followed by local streets and cul-de-sacs. In most cases, plowing operations begin between 2:00 a.m. and 4:00 a.m. However, the exact time also depends on factors such as the predicted start of the snowfall event, the intensity of the snowfall, and the expected ending time. Thank you in advance for your patience this winter.

### Snow Storage

Snow storage management includes, but is not limited to, snow removal from the front face of retaining walls, cul-de-sacs, and other locations. The gathered snow is then often moved to various locations throughout the City including the parks that have large open spaces.

**NOTE: During the plowing process, snow may be pushed across driveway aprons. Ultimately, the snow is the responsibility of the property owner to remove.**

### A Reminder for Snow Birds

A reminder to snowbirds and part-time residents to ask a neighbor to check your property regularly throughout the months away! Specifically, checking that heat is maintained at a sufficient level to keep pipes from freezing if you do not winterize your home. Checking on and monitoring properties for pipe bursts, running toilets, and regenerating water softeners (because they ran out of salt) can prevent property damage and high utility bills.

### Did you know that new ice is stronger than old ice? Be safe this season.



- New ice is usually stronger than old ice. Four inches of clear, newly formed ice may support one person on foot, while a foot or more of old, partially thawed ice may not.
- Ice seldom freezes uniformly. It may be a foot thick in one location and only an inch or two just a few feet away. Never assume ice is safe!
- The insulating effect of snow slows down the freezing process. The extra weight also reduces how much weight the ice sheet can support. Also, ice near shore can be weaker than ice that is further out.
- Booming and cracking ice isn't necessarily dangerous. It means that the ice is expanding and contracting as the temperature changes.
- The movement of fish under ice can bring warm water up from the bottom of the lake, which can have a serious impact on ice thickness. Be Safe!

### Sign Up for Rave Mobile Safety

Stay informed! The City of Mound uses RAVE Mobile Safety to send emergency and general notifications to subscribers to keep them informed. Sign up for notifications in the form of a telephone call, email, and/or text message.

Scan the QR code or go to [cityofmound.com](http://cityofmound.com) to sign up.



### Please Clear Snow from Fire Hydrants

It normally takes a firefighter less than a minute to hook a large fire hose to a hydrant. But, if a fire hydrant is buried under a pile of snow, the time involved could easily double or triple. Please take time to clear fire hydrants of snow in your neighborhood and help keep hydrants accessible throughout the winter. In the event of an emergency, your help can be critical to our success. Thank you for your assistance! If you are unable to clear the snow from a fire hydrant in your neighborhood, please contact the Mound Fire administrative office at [moundfire@moundfire.com](mailto:moundfire@moundfire.com) or 952-472-3555.

## Reminder! Change Your Clock, Change Your Batteries™!

When Daylight Savings time ends on Sunday, November 3rd, and you change your clocks back one hour, please remember to change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms!

Some newer smoke alarms have the 10-year lithium batteries, which do not need to be changed. It is essential to check the manufacture date of your alarm devices and replace any that are 10 years old. Smoke alarms and Carbon Monoxide alarms are “end-of-life” at 10 years. The National Fire Protection Association reports that 71% of smoke alarms that failed to operate had either a missing or dead battery. This emphasizes how important it is to take time to test your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. Working alarms save lives! The Mound Fire Department has 9-volt batteries available for residents for free at City Hall. Stop by our offices soon as quantities supplied by Energizer are limited.

## Mound Fire Department Staffing News



Mound Fire is pleased to announce the hiring of four firefighters in 2024. Shane Gardner was hired in January, and Tyler Rempel, Tom Witte and Erik Palmer were hired in July. Firefighters Gardner and Palmer came over to Mound Fire from the Long Lake Fire Department and are experienced firefighters. Tyler Rempel and Tom Witte are rookies who are attending Emergency Medical Responder classes and will start Firefighter Certification Classes in October. New firefighters without previous fire experience have a full year of training to become certified as an Emergency Medical Responder, certified as Firefighter I and II, and in Haz Mat Operations. Training and maintaining our active firefighting crew is critical to our fire department's success.

Six members of our staff retired over the past 18 months. In December of 2023, former Assistant Fire Chief Greg Palm retired after serving the Mound Fire Department for 40 years and Firefighter Jeffery Bryce retired with 12 years of service. In May 2024, four additional firefighters retired, including Shawn Hayes with 14 years of service, Eddie Vanecek with 32 years, Captain Paul Jolicoeur with 20 years, and Lieutenant Mike Foley with 20 years. We thank all of our retirees for their dedicated service to the department and wish them the best in their retirement!

Interested in becoming a Firefighter? Visit [moundfire.com](https://moundfire.com) or call our administrative office or 952-472-3555.

## Follow Us on Social Media

All 2024 City Council and Planning Commission meetings are now on YouTube! The City of Mound YouTube page is City of Mound, Minnesota or @CityofMoundMinnesota. The City is also now on Instagram and Facebook! Follow our page, City of Mound, for updates, news, events and more.



## General Updates

---

### Crosswalk Rules & Etiquette

Two major crosswalk upgrades in town occurred this summer and now is a good time for a refresher on crosswalk rules and etiquette.

**Location 1:** The first major upgrade is a standard crossing (a crosswalk with signs) that was recently installed at the Dakota Trail Crossing on County Road 110/Commerce Boulevard.

**Location 2:** The second upgrade is a new Rectangular Flashing Beacon (RRFB) at the Dakota Trail Crossing on Highway 15/Shoreline Drive. (Note: RRFB to be installed in November/December).

#### Vehicles

- Stay alert and watch for pedestrians when approaching crosswalks
- Vehicles must stop for pedestrians using the crosswalk
- Violations can be charged with a misdemeanor
- Give plenty of space for pedestrians to cross
- Do not pass another vehicle stopped or slowing down at a crosswalk

#### Pedestrians/Bicyclists/Crosswalk Users

- Dismount bicycles and walk it across crosswalk
- Make eye contact with drivers to yield/stop before stepping out
- Verify each lane is clear before proceeding into it
- Stay alert



#### What is a Rectangular Flashing Beacon?

An RRFB is a traffic device that flashes lights to alert drivers that pedestrians are crossing the road. They help increase safety and make it easier to cross the street.

How to use it:

- Press the button to activate the light system
- Repeat above guidance

### Enhancing the Utility Bill Process with Invoice Cloud



Invoice Cloud features will be added to the Utility Billing process starting January 1st, 2025. The City of Mound will be incorporating Invoice Cloud to enhance utility customers' payment options and the ability to create and access personalized online account information.

By integrating Invoice Cloud into the City's current process, customers will have the option to make payments through a simple, safe and secure online billing and payment portal. Customers will also be able to: check their current balance, make payments and securely store payment information, receive notifications and pay via text message, set up automatic payments, enroll in paperless billing, set up email reminders and more. New payment options will include credit card, debit card, and other digital payment methods.





# Become an Orono Police Explorer



**GET YOUR HANDS ON THE CHALLENGING FIELD OF LAW ENFORCEMENT TODAY!**

**Law Enforcement Exploring offers young people, ages 14 (Finished 8th Grade) to 20 years old, the chance to experience Law Enforcement career opportunities!**



Scan Here to Apply



**For more information contact:**

- Officer Jane Szczepanik: [jszczepanik@oronomn.gov](mailto:jszczepanik@oronomn.gov)
- Officer Mike Fournier: [mfournier@oronomn.gov](mailto:mfournier@oronomn.gov)
- Officer Try Wiebusch: [twiebusch@oronomn.gov](mailto:twiebusch@oronomn.gov)

## Gillespie Center Upcoming Events

2590 Commerce Blvd. | 952-472-6501

**November 6th - Medicare Education Seminar at 1:00 p.m. (Free)**

**November 8th - Veteran's Day Celebration from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

(Tickets \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door, Veteran's Free)

**November 24th - Family Turkey Bingo at 3:30 p.m.**

(20 games for \$20!, come win a turkey!)

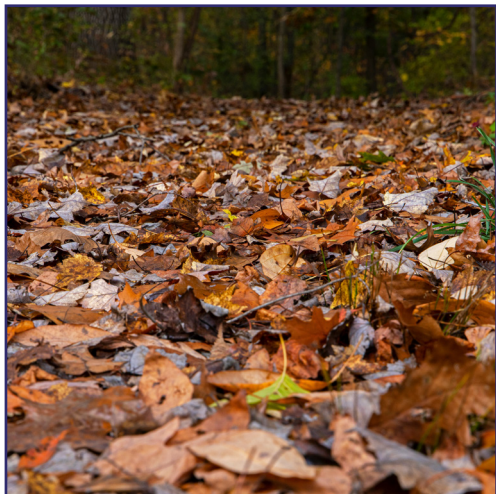
**November 29th - December 8th - Holiday Boutique with over 80 vendors from 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. daily**

**December 14th - Christmas Brunch at 11:30 a.m. (\$20)**

**December 21st - Pancake Breakfast with Santa from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

(\$10 in advance, \$12 at the door, \$5 kids)





### Tips for Fall Yard Care

As you manage your yard this fall season, a reminder that leaves and other yard waste such as grass clippings can contribute to additional and unwanted nutrients in local surface waters. This can result in increased algae blooms and lower oxygen levels for fish and other aquatic life during the spring season.

#### Here are some helpful tips that can help manage a healthy lawn, while keeping neighboring lakes and streams healthy:

- Mulch and reuse leaves around trees and landscaping.
- Compost
- Use a yard waste pick up service and or drop off option
- Mulch your grass clippings and leave them on your lawn
- Only apply the nutrients and amount of fertilizer your lawn needs
- Remember to dispose of pet waste properly and separate from yard waste.

### Yard Waste Pick Up and Drop Off Options

Republic Services offers curb-side yard-waste pick-up during certain times of the year for existing customers.

Another option for City of Mound residents is bringing grass clippings, milfoil, and leaves to the compost site called “The Mulch Store” located at 4275 Creekview Circle in Minnetrista. Drop off is available between the months of April and November. This is a free service if you show your driver's license. Additional services are available for a fee.

For more information, call The Mulch Store at 952-446-1056.

### Did you know? – Street Sweeping in Mound

Street sweeping primarily occurs in the spring and fall when curb lines are exposed, construction projects are active and storm water runoff is frequent. Street sweeping picks up and cleans up trash, debris, sediment, salt and other pollutants that collect on the streets. The accumulation of these items become problematic when they build up enough to create hazards and/or wash into the neighboring lakes, streams, and wetlands. It also serves in an aesthetic capacity, increases vehicle and pedestrian safety, and helps address water quality and environmental concerns.





### A Park for Cooler Weather: Weiland Park

*Adopted by: Currently looking for an adopter!*

Weiland Park is tucked away on Elm Road, behind the Village by the Bay townhomes. It showcases a play structure best suited for school-age kids, a set of swings, a four-person teeter totter, and a bouncy car beloved by toddlers (and older kids, too). A large, sloped grassy area abuts the park, perfect for kids to run around (or perhaps do some sledding, once the snow arrives). Weiland Park is ideal for a non-summer visit due to its lack of shade trees. In winter, it's a pleasure to be able to play in the bright sun, when in summer, Weiland is best used for earlier morning visits, before it heats up too much. Weiland is also accessed by a walking path from Lynwood that connects to Elm Road, and it's a short, two minute walk from the Jubilee shopping center and the library.

Note: The Westonka Library will be closed starting approximately January 2025 for renovations, so plan a combination library-park visit while you're able to.

#### Other parks for cooler weather:

**Highland End Park:** (large, open area abutting Priest Bay)

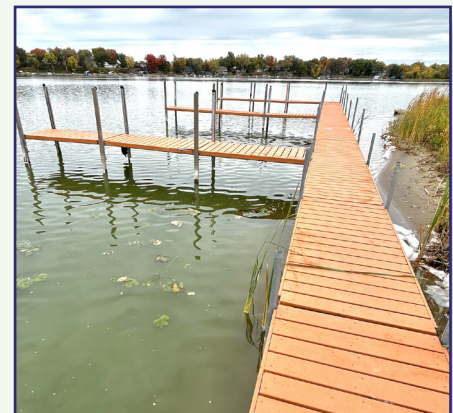
**Three Points Park:** (compact play structure is great for preschoolers)

### Dock Program Application Period: January 1st - February 28th, 2025

The City of Mound dock program is the largest municipally owned dock program in the State of Minnesota, permitting up to 637 boats annually on Lake Minnetonka. Interest in the program has grown significantly over the years and currently has a waitlist of 229 residents.

- Renewal applications will be mailed to current program licensees by January 1, 2025 and are due back to the City by February 28th, 2025.
- Waitlist applications: Applications will be available at [cityofmound.com](https://cityofmound.com) and are due back to the City by February 28th, 2025 to renew your spot or to be added for the first time.
- Canoe/kayak rack spots are available at Twin Park, Carlson Park, Avalon Park and Centerview Park.

Additional information for the dock program is available on the city website at [cityofmound.com](https://cityofmound.com).



Questions? Call Kevin Kelly at 952-472-0613 or email [kevinkelly@cityofmound.com](mailto:kevinkelly@cityofmound.com)





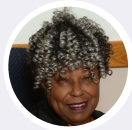
**City of Mound**  
2415 Wilshire Blvd  
Mound, MN 55364

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

## Meet the Council



**Mayor Jason R. Holt**  
☎ 612-703-6738  
✉ jasonholt@cityofmound.com



**Sherrie Pugh**  
☎ 612-518-0287  
✉ sherriepugh@cityofmound.com



**Paula Larson**  
☎ 952-334-7911  
✉ paulalarson@cityofmound.com



**Kathy McEnaney**  
☎ 612-655-2514  
✉ kathymcenaney@cityofmound.com



**Kevin Castellano**  
☎ 612-749-7070  
✉ kevincastellano@cityofmound.com

### Shop Local in Mound

By shopping local at Mound Businesses you are Keeping It Local. Show your support by picking up a free Shop Local vehicle decal at City Hall!

#### Benefits of shopping local include:

- Creation of local jobs
- Encourages prosperity and is an investment in the community



*Show your pride in Mound by shopping local!*

\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*

**POSTAL CUSTOMER**

## City Hall Hours

**November - April**

**Monday - Friday**  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**May - October**

**Monday - Thursday**  
7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Friday**  
7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

## Contact Us

### General Information

☎ 952-472-0600  
🌐 cityofmound.com

### Planning & Building

☎ 952-472-0603

### Police Department

*After Hours Dispatch*  
*Emergency*

☎ 952-249-4700  
☎ 952-258-5321  
☎ 9-1-1

### Public Works

*After Hours Dispatch*

☎ 952-472-0603  
☎ 952-258-5321

### Social Media



## Our Mission

*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.*