

CITY CONTACT



*A Quarterly Publication
from the City of Mound*

Aug Sept Oct 2012

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

Dear Fellow Citizens of Mound,

I need to take a moment to express my sincere thanks to many people who made the Mound Centennial and the Spirit of the Lakes Festival the success it was. I am reluctant to name anyone by name because there is no doubt I will forget someone. I will do my best.

To the many volunteers, including civic organizations, who worked on individual events, sat in booths, volunteered on the parade, or worked in countless other places or events:

To the Public Works and Parks staff who worked so hard, including overtime, to ensure that the parks and other spaces were ready for the events, including the equipment and other items necessary for the events;

To the City office staff who volunteered as well throughout the festival;

To the Mound Police that kept things moving throughout the festival with our safety in mind;

To the Fire Department that added their expertise and fun in more than one event and place;

To everyone else that worked behind the scenes or out in front, I offer my deepest and sincere thanks.

This thank you goes, especially, to the Spirit of the Lakes Festival Board. This is a small group, about 7 people, who offered to be the official Centennial planning organization at the same time as operating as the Spirit of the Lakes Festival Board. (I'll bet they regretted that a couple times this year!) This entire festival that ran over about 10 days, was planned and overseen by this small group who began planning this about 2 months after the 2011 festival. I can't say enough about the time and effort these dedicated people put into this over the entire year. They were used to producing 3 days of events. This year they took on 10 days of events, most of them brand new events. New events take more planning, and all this was done in their "spare" time.

Finally, I want to thank all the sponsors. These individuals and businesses are the reason we have these wonderful festivals. Without sponsor support, they would not exist. Watch for signs that describe who these sponsors are, or go to www.spiritofthelakes.com and see the list of sponsors. Then, I encourage you to patronize these businesses or, at the very least, stop by and thank them for making the festival a reality.

This huge effort is expended each and every year for you, the people of Mound and surrounding areas. This builds community pride and adds to our identity. These great people who volunteer deserve our support. Thank you one and all. You have my deepest respect and gratitude.

Respectfully,

Mark Hanus

Mark Hanus, Mayor



Mark Hanus

MOUND POLICE DEPARTMENT CONSOLIDATION.....Questions & Answers

Q. Why is the City of Mound considering contracting for Police Services?

Mound's costs consistently rise, including the police costs. Everything possible is being done to minimize tax increases while maintaining the service level our residents expect. A city's police unions are subject to binding arbitration and arbitrators dictate what Mound is required to pay by law. Future costs must be controlled without losing services. Contracting for police services is a common and successful way to control costs.

Q. Public safety is the primary 24/7 service provided by a City. How is it not the highest priority to retain our own Police Department?

The City has two choices: Fill all of the vacant sworn officer positions (3-4) and restore support staff (1), increasing costs considerably, or contract for services at a reduced cost and agree to set increases/escalators over the next 10 years, thereby reducing uncertainty. The bottom line is that we can do it more efficiently and at a lower cost with the same level of service to which we are accustomed. If we don't contract for police services, taxes will rise at an unpalatable rate.

Q. Why were Police Services chosen to explore a contract instead of other City services?

- Contracting for police services is common among cities our size, more so than Public Works and other city functions. A larger combined Police Department allows for more scheduling flexibility, supervisory coverage, and better operational, investigative, and administrative capabilities. Achieving economies of scale requires a larger combined department than we are able to obtain on our own.
- The Mound Police Department is currently understaffed and will need to increase expenditures significantly if the department is kept in-house. The City incurs significant amounts of overtime to try to fill shifts and officer safety is a concern since often times there is only one officer on duty.

Q. Why didn't Mound consider being the provider of Police Services to other cities instead of being the customer?

- Police Services is the largest department in the General Fund, comprising 50% of total salary and benefits and 36% of total expenditures overall.
- Salary and benefits are the most difficult expenses to manage for a city, especially in a union environment. By contracting for Police Services, the City can reduce uncertainty associated with growth in salary, benefits, workers compensation, and severance liabilities.

- The timing worked well for Mound as we are very low on officers and our Police Chief and Lieutenant positions are currently vacant. The City, at this point in time, has the flexibility to consider all of our options without having to worry about layoffs or buy-outs.
- Much time is devoted to managing and conducting wage and union negotiations on an ongoing basis. Moving to a contract for services with a neighboring city will eliminate two of the three unions and will simplify operations, allowing administration to focus on other priorities, especially redevelopment. All of the above makes the Police Department the likely candidate.

Q. Why has this study and ultimate decision taken so long?

- The City takes this decision very seriously. In depth study was required to come to the best possible decision and the best possible partner for us. The detailed study was necessary to ensure that the savings are substantial enough to justify giving up control of the Police Department.
- There was much to learn in this process. It took time to determine what the priorities are for the community: 1) the desire to have a police presence maintained at the Mound Public Safety Building; 2) the essential police services and programming; 3) the importance of strong leadership; and 4) the cultural elements that are needed to be preserved in order to ensure there is no drop in service levels or protection.

Q. Are the citizens going to be allowed to vote on the decision to contract for Police Services?

- The City is very interested in the opinion of Mound residents regarding this issue, but it is a challenge to educate the citizens on all of the factors that need to be considered for them to cast an informed vote. The City is approaching this decision as a business decision rather than an emotional one. Everybody's first choice would be to keep the Police Department in-house, but the City is facing significantly higher expenditures and taxes if we do. The objective is for residents not to experience any difference in their service. If that can be attained, then the question is: How much more are you willing to increase your taxes to have the Police Department managed by Mound versus having the same services at a lower cost?
- The City will continue to look for ways to inform the public on the status of this initiative and allow for the public to provide input into this decision. It is the City's objective to control costs with minimal impact on service levels. Sometimes that means some loss of operational control and/or ownership. The public is free to call (952-472-0609) or email (kandishanson@cityofmound.com) the City Manager or Council Members at any time with questions.

Message from the City Manager ... The End of an Era - New Beginnings



Kandis Hanson

Time changes everything.....It's an old adage that is at play in Mound.

For more than 30 years Mound residents knew where they could go for everything from socks to orange ribbon. Yes, John's Variety was the go-to place for pumpkins and Christmas trees, even rent-a-bunny for Easter. Over the years the same block was home to numerous businesses, most recently Mama's Happy and All in 1 Fitness.

The City and greater community wish all the best to each of these business owners as they move on to their respective endeavors. Each of their decisions has been tailored uniquely to their business and life goals. All in 1 Fitness has relocated within the community; Mama's Happy, unable to find a suitable/comparable location in Mound, has relocated out of town; and, John Royer will deservedly retire, making way for Walgreens. Our best wishes go to them!

All of the buildings, with the exception of John's, were rentals. Each of the owners of the buildings waited a long time for what is an exciting opportunity for them. Years of private negotiations with the pharmacy mogul finally resulted in a sale! Their ships had come in! Their years of investment and toiling had paid off!

Walgreens presents a change to the skyline of Mound. Walgreens, being a retail magnet, will attract businesses that would not otherwise consider Mound as a location. The market captured by a Walgreens will be a boon to existing businesses. When local businesses thrive, economic benefits spill in every direction and everybody gains!

Just down the street residents can celebrate another positive change in the business district. Westonka Animal Hospital is reinvesting in Mound, relocating to the vacant building in the Mound MarketPlace Center! The Piepkorn's have shared that they expect to cater to the dog and feline pet owners John's Variety customers will miss. Congratulations go to the Piepkorn's!

These are not the only development proposals being heard by the City of Mound. Increasing development inquiries signal an economic awakening. On the back burner for recent years, Mound Redevelopment is once again underway! I am committed to furthering Mound Redevelopment, my charge as City Manager, and promise to keep you informed on development projects as details may become public. I may be tapping you for your thoughts and ideas! You can expect to hear more from me on Mound Redevelopment in coming months.



**2135 COMMERCE BLVD
MOUND, MN 55364
952-472-0648**

**Stop By & Check
Out the LARGEST
Craft-Brew &
Import Selection
in Westonka
*featuring***

YOUR COMMUNITY WINE & SPIRITS STORE!





Needs Volunteer Drivers

Have you heard someone say that they missed a doctor's appointment because they didn't have a way to get to the doctor's office? As you're in conversation at the coffee shop, at the Gillespie Center, at the Legion, or at church,

do you hear someone say they need to do an errand but they don't have transportation? Do you know that our community is creating a solution for transportation needs? But we need your help.

WeCAB, Westonka Community Area Bussing, has over 100 riders who have registered since the program began in October 2011. Riders register by calling WeCAN to make an appointment with our Rider Registrar for a home visit. Rider data is then entered into our dispatch software called RideScheduler.

WeCAB now has 30 volunteer drivers, barely enough to meet the rider requests. Due to the variety of personal commitments that we all have, on any given day only one-third of these drivers are available. WeCAB needs your help to consider becoming a volunteer driver.

As a WeCAB driver, you get to choose how often you drive. You get to choose your destinations, too, whether to errands around town, to the hospital in Waconia, or to appointments in our neighboring towns. You would be driving your own car, picking riders at their home, taking them to their destination, and then bringing them home again.

Consider this volunteer opportunity as a way for you to give back to your community. Please call the WeCAN office at 952-472-0742 for more information about driving for WeCAB.



No Grass Clippings or Leaves May be Blown into City Streets

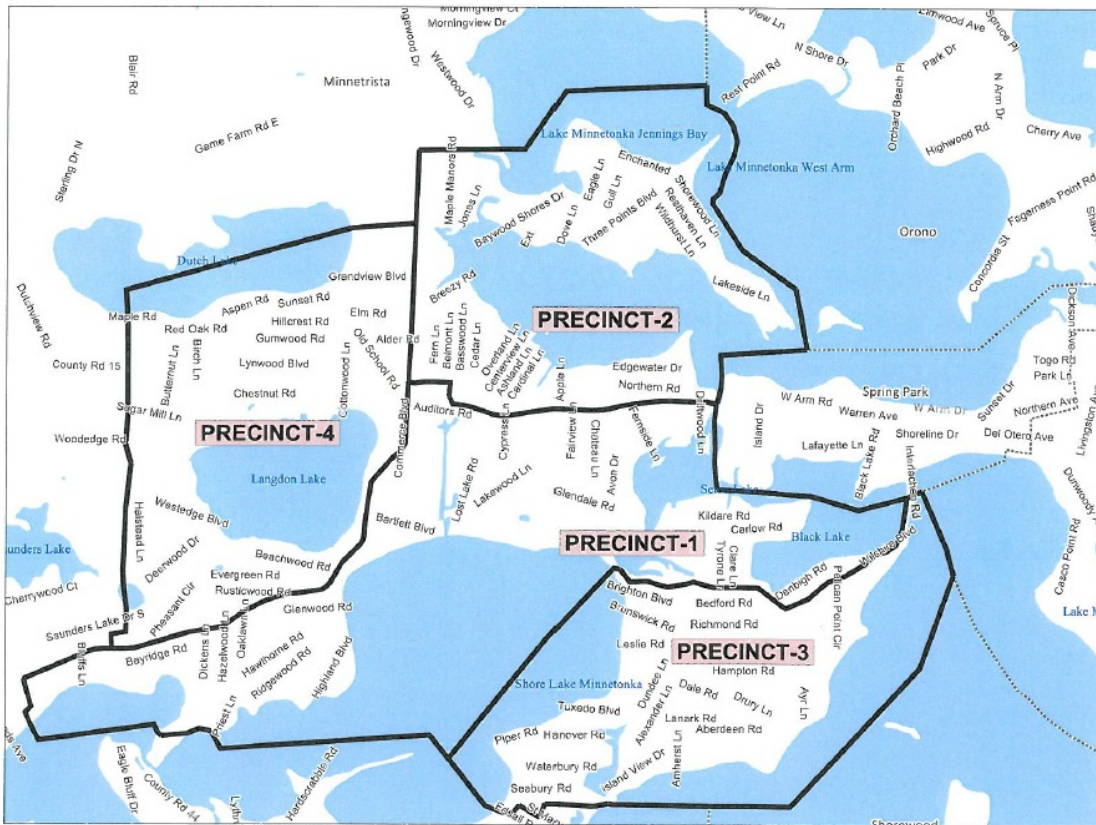
The City needs to remind you that ***no grass clippings or leaves are allowed to be blown onto the streets*** according to City Code Section 42-4 which prohibits "Obstruction to the free flow of water in a natural waterway or a public street drain, gutter, or ditch with trash or other materials". These materials travel to our storm drains, which ultimately drain into our lakes. The leaves and clippings not only clog the storm drains, but the organic material degrades the water quality and can affect fish and other aquatic organisms' survival.

The City of Mound offers residents a location to dump leaves, weeds, garden waste, milfoil, and grass/lawn clippings free of charge at The Mulch Store. The Mulch Store is located on Highway 7, three miles west of County Road 44 at 4275 Creekview Circle in Minnetrista. Their phone number is 952-446-1056. The Mulch Store is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. from April 1 thru November 30. Mound residents must show picture identification to use this service for free. (This location will also accept brush, limbs, logs and stumps for a fee.)

Call Joyce at 952-472-0603 if you have any questions.

Voting Precinct and Polling Place Changes

Following the 2010 census and 2012 redistricting, the City of Mound has changed voting precinct lines and polling place locations. These changes were made to even out our precinct populations, and to have polling places that meet election regulations. The following map shows the new precinct lines.



The polling places are as follows:

- Precinct 1 - Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 5218 Bartlett Boulevard
- Precinct 2 - Bethel United Methodist Church, 2116 Commerce Boulevard
- Precinct 3 - St. John's Lutheran Church, 2451 Fairview Lane
- Precinct 4 - The Gillespie Center, 2590 Commerce Boulevard

Hennepin County mailed postcards to all registered voters, informing them of their correct voting precinct and polling place. You can go to: <http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us> to verify the location of your polling place.



Welcome, Adam!

Adam Flaherty joined the Mound Finance Department on May 21, 2012. He is a 2006 graduate of Minnesota State University, Mankato, with a degree in accounting. He earned his CPA certification in 2009.



He has over five years of experience in accounting, working in public accounting and in the private sector, with the majority of his experience with governmental clients such as cities and schools. The City of Mound welcomes Adam!



2012 Elections

The Primary Election is August 14, 2012. The General Election is November 6, 2012. Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Are you registered to vote? If you are a new Mound resident, or have not voted in the last four years, you can pre-register to vote until July 24 for the Primary Election and until October 16 for the General Election. You can pick up registration applications at City Hall, or online at our city website: www.cityofmound.com. Also visit the website for other information and election forms.

Absentee voting: Absentee voting for the Primary is from June 29 through August 13. Absentee voting for the General is from September 21 through November 5. A voter may cast an absentee ballot in person at City Hall during regular business hours, or have an application and ballot sent by mail. Absentee ballot applications are also found on the City's website. Voters may vote by absentee ballot if they are unable to vote in person on election day for the following reasons: absence from the precinct, illness or disability, religious discipline or observance of religious holiday, service as election judge in another precinct, or eligible emergency declared by the governor or quarantine declared by federal or state government. In-person absentee voting can also be done at City Hall on the Saturday preceding the elections (August 11 and November 3) from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

2012 Municipal Election: City offices that will appear on the November 6th ballot are Mayor (2-year term) and two City Council Members (4-year terms). Filing for these city offices takes place at City Hall during regular business hours from July 31 through August 14. The fee to file for office is \$2.

For more information on elections, please go the Secretary of State's website at www.sos.state.mn.us or the City's website at www.cityofmound.com.

New Name—Same Great Park

Mound Bay Park now has a new name - "Surfside Park & Beach". Mound resident Tom Rockvam requested the change and, with citizen support, the City Council passed a motion at their October 25, 2011 meeting to make it official.

The "Surfside" name has a history clear back to the 1870's, which led to the renaming, and the new sign details a bit of that history.

Dedication of the new sign was held on Saturday, July 21, 2012 at Surfside Park & Beach during the Mound Centennial program.



Indian Knoll Manor Public Housing

Indian Knoll Manor Apartments, located at 2020 Commerce Boulevard, are reserved for low income seniors, age 62 or older, handicapped and/or disabled persons who are able to live independently or with the help of a privately contracted service. Income limits are \$45,500 for a one person household and \$52,000 for a two person household. There are one bedroom and studio apartments. Please call the Housing Coordinator at (952) 472-5078 for an application or to take a tour.

Internet Predators Victimize Mound Girl

by Juvenile Investigator Jami Wittke

In November 2011, the Mound Police Department received a report from a mother regarding her minor daughter having contact with unknown males on the popular social media site, Facebook.

In October of 2011, the victim reported getting a friend request from an unknown male who appeared on Facebook as a legitimate 20 year old male from San Diego, California.

This guy worked the victim for only about 2 weeks and gradually won her trust. He knew all about the victim because of what she had posted on Facebook. This guy wanted to make her a model and said he was a photographer. This predator was going to pay the victim cash if she'd send him pictures of herself.

Over the course of a few days, he talked the victim into "skyping" with him, only his webcam didn't work so it was only one sided. She took off her clothes for him with the promise that money would be sent her way and she'd start her modeling career.

The very next day after skyping with the first male from San Diego, a second unknown male, posing as a 20 year old, sent the victim a message on Facebook, only this guy was from Detroit, Michigan, according to his Facebook profile.

This second male from Detroit wanted to save the victim from being exploited on the internet. The second male told the victim he saw a nude video of her on the net and could take it off if she'd contact him. He told the victim the same male from San Diego exploited his ex-girlfriend.

The victim then gave her phone number to the male from Detroit and he called her. The victim reported this second male started threatening her, telling her the nude video of her would be shown to her parents if she did not comply with him. This second male told the victim she needed to do with him what she did with the first male from San Diego in order for her video to disappear from the internet. She did.

In the course of the investigation, several search warrants were completed on email addresses, phone subscriber information, and Facebook accounts. Through information obtained from the search warrants, we identified the suspect who listed himself as living in San Diego was actually in Arcadia, California and the second one who listed himself as living in Detroit was actually in Michigan City, Indiana.

The police in Arcadia, California and Michigan City, Indiana were contacted and advised of what we had here in Mound. Both agencies ran full force with the investigation and while doing so, they were being contacted by other states' police agencies involving the same two suspects doing the same thing to other young females in their states. It was determined there could be numerous minor victims in several states. As the investigators uncovered the real identity of the suspects, we learned the suspects were not who they said they were. The suspect from Arcadia (San Diego) was not 20 years old, he was 24. He was posting pictures of himself on Facebook as a white male but he is black. The suspect from Michigan City (Detroit) was not 20 years old; he was 45 and had been doing this type of thing since 1996. He had posed himself on Facebook as a black male but is white. These two suspects were working very hard together to find young girls to chat with and ultimately exploit.

Recently search warrants were executed at both residences and arrests were made on both suspects. Computers are being examined for forensic evidence as detectives try to identify as many young females as they can. Right now there are dozens of unknown minor victims. Both parties arrested are facing several counts of Manufacturing Child Pornography, Distributing and Possessing Child Pornography. Their names have not yet been released to the public since the investigation is ongoing.

It is very important for parents to know what their children are doing on Facebook or any other social media site. It is amazing the information people put out there for the public and sexual predators know this. They work really hard when trying to find someone new they can victimize.

If you need internet safety tips for your children, feel free to call the Mound Police Department at 952-472-0621 or visit www.netismartz.org/Parents.



Neighbors Joining Together

NIGHT to UNITE

On Tuesday, August 7th, residents throughout Mound are invited to join the City of Mound for our annual NIGHT to UNITE celebration.

NIGHT to UNITE is sponsored in part by the Mound Police & Fire Departments and includes participants from communities across the entire state.

NIGHT to UNITE is designed to:

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness;
- Generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime efforts;
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and
- Send a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

From 6pm to 9pm on August 7th, communities throughout Mound and across the state are asked to lock their doors, turn on their outside lights, and spend the evening outside with neighbors and public safety officers. Many neighborhoods throughout Mound will be hosting a variety of special events such as parties, cookouts, games, and food drives.



The Mound Crime Prevention Association purchased two Cop Jumpy Houses. When you register your block party, we will put you in a drawing to use the Cop Jumpy House at your block party FREE. Register your block party and receive a visit from McGruff the Crime Dog, Mound Police, Sparky and the Fire Department. Registration forms can be downloaded off the City of Mound web site and faxed to 952-472-0656.

Contact Shirley at
shawks@ci.mound.mn.us
or call 952-472-0621
with questions.



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

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

ECRWSS
POSTAL CUSTOMER

City 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, (952) 472-0609
City Manager

City Hall Seasonal Hours

(April 30 through November 2)

Monday through Thursday 7:30 am to 5:00 pm

Friday 7:30 am to 11:30 am

Water bills can be dropped off 24/7 in the
payment box located in City Hall parking lot
near the flag!

Dates To Remember

Aug 7th Night to Unite
Aug 14th VOTE!! Primary Election
Aug 18th Dog Days
Sept 3rd Labor Day—City Hall closed
Oct 6th Scarecrow Stomp
Oct 8th Columbus Day
Oct 31st Halloween

Mound Meeting Calendar

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

