

CITY CONTACT



***A Quarterly Publication
from the City of Mound***

Feb Mar Apr 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,

A City's Centennial: What does this mean to a community? The hectic lives we live these days leave little time to worry about such trivial things like small town celebrations. We're constantly on the run with little chance to catch our breath, let alone to spend time experiencing something like a centennial celebration. We simply don't have time for this. After all, it's not all that important when measured against the demands of our livelihood and survival in the world today, right?

THINK AGAIN! Identifying with home and community is what we need today more than ever before. When we slow down just a little bit, even for one day, and focus on our family and our community we become healthier, happier, and gain a sense of pride. When we learn more about where we came from and who we are as a community, we strengthen our personal connection to the town that we call home.

People talk about the good old days when life was simpler. But something else existed back then that contributed to that happier and simpler life, like neighbors that knew each other and a sense of community and neighborhoods. When assistance was needed, help was never far away.

According to the Michael Argyle study on the psychology of happiness, volunteering is the second greatest source of joy. The first is dancing. Unfortunately, that seriously limits the options for those of us that hate dancing. There has never been a better time or opportunity for you than now.

This summer between July 13th and 22nd Mound will be celebrating its historic 100 year birthday. There are events planned throughout those ten days. Some are designed to directly help your health both physically and mentally. Others are designed for just plain fun. I can't begin to express the amount of time a small core group of people are spending planning and creating this much enlarged set of events for you, your family, and your neighbors to enjoy.

On a much smaller scale than master planning, people, families, and friends are desperately needed to help work on individual events. Without civic minded volunteers to work these individual events they will not happen. These events vary in demands, some require very little time, while others may require a bit more. But the truth is, there is something that would fit anyone's ability to help.

This celebration needs your help. And it needs it now. Grab a neighbor, friend, or family member and volunteer today. There is no more time to waste. It doesn't matter what skill sets you bring to the table. There is a place for everyone. The fun you will have and sense of accomplishment will be greater than if you simply attended the event. You will smile more while working as a volunteer than you will by simply attending the event.

The call is out. Your help is needed. There are many choices large and small and is an easy way to meet new people and give back while gaining a greater sense of pride and accomplishment. At the same time, you will become an integral part of this historic event as Mound turns 100 years old. Please contact Kandis Hanson at City Hall at 952-472-0609 or kandishanson@cityofmound.com or contact John Beise at john@therightrealtors.com to get a sense of the various volunteer opportunities.

We have to rely on the community to pull off this wonderful celebration. Please join me in volunteering to do your part to bring this year's celebration to reality. Whether it's working a couple of hours or planning and chairing an event, there is something for everyone.

Most respectfully,

Mayor Mark Hanus



Mark Hanus



Message from City Manager Kandis Hanson

It was a proud day for Mound when we dedicated the new home of Toni Khamvongsa and Youa Vang. They are program participants with Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity and EpiscoBuilders, A Program of the Episcopal Community Services, and they moved their little family of four to our community on December 23rd!

A labor of love for many of us, (including me!) this distressed tuck-under rambler was given new life and made a viable home again. It had its troubles, including a wet and unusable basement. Now it is a three bedroom home, livable upstairs and down, renovated inside and out, and is a welcome upgrade to the neighborhood on Bedford Road.

The couple, Toni and Youa, had to qualify and, upon closing, will have a mortgage on the home. Other partners that made the project possible were: AmeriCorps, Hennepin County HOME, Minnesota Housing CRV, US Department of Housing and Urban Development, and Western Communities Action Network (WeCAN). Mound welcomes the new couple to our community!

Kandis Hanson

City Manager

kandishanson@cityofmound.com

952-472-0609



Thirteen Reasons

WHY PROPERTY TAXES VARY FROM YEAR TO YEAR

- 1. The market value of a property may change.**
- 2. The market value of other properties in your taxing district may change, shifting taxes from one property to another.**
- 3. The state general property tax may change.**
- 4. The city budget and levy may change.**
- 5. The county budget and levy may change.**
- 6. The school district's budget and levy may change.**
- 7. A special district's budget and levy may change.**
- 8. Special assessments may be added to your property tax bill.**
- 9. Voters may have approved a school, city, county, or special district referendum.**
- 10. Federal and state mandates may have changed.**
- 11. Aid and revenue from the state and federal governments may have changed.**
- 12. The state legislature may have changed the portion of the tax base paid by different types of properties.**
- 13. Other state law changes may adjust the tax base.**

For more information see the Association of Minnesota County's website at <http://mncounties.org/Publications/fyis.html>

Andy Drilling

Mound Firefighter of the Year 2011

Every year the Mound Fire Department recognizes one of its firefighters as the department "Firefighter of the Year." The Mound Fire Department Firefighter of the Year for 2011 is Andy Drilling.

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



Andy Drilling has been a volunteer with the Mound Fire Department since joining the ranks in May 2006. Firefighter Drilling has consistently ranked in the top five in most of the fire department staff performance criteria. It is clear that Firefighter Drilling is very dedicated to the fire department by his day-to-day job performance and his very high level of participation in department activities.

Congratulations to Andy Drilling on his past accomplishments and for receiving this very special 2011 Firefighter of the Year Award!

TIDBITS

- ❖ City of Mound residents can resume bringing grass clippings, milfoil and leaves to the compost site, The Mulch Store, located at 4275 Creekview Circle in Minnetrista, beginning no later than April 1st. This is a free service if you show your driver's license. Additional services are available for a fee. Call 952-446-1056 for more information.
- ❖ The next clean-up day for Mound and Minnetrista is scheduled for May 12th from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Look for more information in the May newsletter or on the city website.
- ❖ If you had construction or repair work done on your home in the past year and haven't had that final inspection, now is a good time to have that done. Unlike many "service" companies that set an appointment within a 4 hour window, MnSpect will set a definite appointment time. The inspection was included in your permit fee and gives you peace of mind knowing the job was done correctly. Call MnSpect at 952-442-7520.

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 the Housing Coordinator at (952) 472-5078 for an application or to take a tour.



Allied Waste Services will be Recycling some New Plastic items beginning January 1, 2012!

We are adding the collection of HOUSEHOLD/CONSUMER GOODS that are PLASTIC PRODUCTS AND PACKAGING (plastic items coded #3 thru #7) to our curbside recycling program beginning January 1, 2012!



All soft drink/water bottles (leave the bottle caps ON the bottles), beverage and mouthwash bottles, and rinsed plastic food jars/containers



Plastic bottles, plastic milk and water jugs, detergents, cleaners, shampoo bottles



Household cleaning product bottles (must be empty), cooking oil bottles, salad dressing bottles, and some shampoo bottles. (No PVC piping allowed at all!)



Plastic bags (all of the bags must be put inside one of the bags), Small Buckets (8" diameter max.), soap dispenser bottles, food storage containers, squeezable bottles (NO Food Residue Allowed)



Yogurt containers, margarine tubs, some food containers, ketchup bottles (rinsed clean)



Small plastic flower pots (8" max. size and must be clean), plastic cups, some medicine bottles, and some small plastic toys



Some miscellaneous small plastic containers/packaging



Also, we cannot accept any over-sized plastic items—they must all fit inside the new Single Sort Recycling cart. Thanks for Recycling!

The Westonka Library, 2079 Commerce Boulevard is one of 41 libraries in the Hennepin County Library system. Nationally recognized as one of the top libraries in the United States, Hennepin County Library serves a diverse population of 1.1 million residents in Hennepin County and offers more than 5 million books, CDs and DVDs, materials in more than 40 languages and 1,750 public computers. The library's award-winning website, www.hclib.org, receives more than 1 million visits each month. Library cards are free. Hennepin County Library's mission is "to nourish minds, transform lives, and build community together".

The Westonka Library is open seven days a week. There are 30 computer workstations, a copier, color printer and scanner. World Language collections in Russian and Spanish are available for adults and children. The meeting room may be reserved, free, for non-profit groups of 5 to 60 adults during normal library hours.

Free Baby and Family storytimes introduce children to books, early literacy skills, and the love of reading at an early age. For students in grades K-12, there is an online homework assistance program, Homework Rescue, which Includes skills-building exercises, a writing lab, and test prep center. A Brain Fitness station provides mind-building games and puzzles for adults and youth.

There are over 100 free databases available to library card holders from their own computers 24/7, and in the library. These include current product evaluations from Consumer Reports, thousands of full-text magazine and newspaper articles, interactive language learning resources and test preparation tools. For job seekers there is a JobNow database offering live online resume and interview coaching and career advice from job help professionals.

Downloadable eBooks, audio, music and video are available for your mobile devices through the library's web site. You can also "Like" the Library on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.

The Friends of the Westonka Library actively support the library by providing special materials and supplies, sponsoring programs and helping at library events. The Friends' primary fundraiser is a used book sale held twice each year — in April and October.

For complete library information, materials, services and a calendar of free programs, go online to www.hclib.org or call the library at 612-543-6175. We hope to see you soon!

By Marcia Wattson,
Senior Librarian

Go
Wild...
Read!



Join friends & community members for a dazzling moonlit night on the Dakota Trail. Ski, walk, or snowshoe to one of the many crackling trailside fires

to warm up, sip cocoa and chat with new and old friends. Begin your trek at the Mound Transit Center, or hop on between Gale Woods Farm and Minnetonka Drive-In!

See You On The Trail! Saturday, February 4th :: 6-9 pm

Moonlighttrail.com



For more information contact:
info@moonlighttrail.com



Are your neighborhood's Fire Hydrants accessible? Help us serve you better!



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

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

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

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

Thank you for your assistance!

Sanitary Sewer Maintenance (subtitled "A Serious Rag Problem")

During recent maintenance conducted by Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) at a lift station for the sanitary sewer, a blockage was found due to rags being discharged into the sanitary sewer in the City of Mound. MCES requires that any discharge of rags, disposable cloths, or other textile materials to the sanitary sewer stop immediately in order to prevent future sewer blockages from occurring.

MCES administers the Waste Discharge Rules. The Waste Discharge Rules regulate use of the metropolitan area sanitary sewer system, and are adopted under the authority of Minnesota Statue 473.504. Please see the Waste Discharge Rules, specifically WDR 406.05 and 406.06, for specific details at www.metrocouncil.org/environment/IndustrialWaste.

If rags continue to be discharged into the sanitary sewer, it is likely that there will be future sanitary sewer problems in your area. MCES will not hesitate to determine the source of the rags and take enforcement actions if there are future problems with rags at the lift station. Enforcement may include, but would not be limited to, the issuance of a Notice of Violation (NOV) and the recovery of all costs associated with cleaning the lift station and/or property damage incurred.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this article, please feel free to contact Andrew Wiatros at 651-602-4736 or via email at andrew.wiatros@metc.state.mn.us.



Winter Parking Restrictions

Just a friendly reminder that City of Mound winter parking restrictions go into effect on November 15th and run through April 15, 2012. No vehicles are allowed to park on city streets from 2:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. during these dates due to snow removal. This policy is in effect these dates, even when there is no snow.

Under special circumstances, the police department gives permission for people to park on the street if the department is notified in advance. However, residents who are given special permission must move their cars if it begins to snow.



City of Mound Dock Program Renewal Information

Current participants and current wait list applicants should receive their 2012 renewal applications in the mail the first week of January. Applications must be completed and returned to City Hall on or before February 29, 2012. Incomplete applications will not be accepted and will be returned with your payment. First-time applicants may apply to be put on the waiting list by completing the Waiting List Application available at City Hall during business hours from Tuesday, January 3rd through Wednesday, February 29th, 2012. General information about the dock program is available on the City of Mound website at www.cityofmound.com.

Mound Welcomes New Parks and Docks Division Employee

The newest city employee is Mound resident Dustin Koskela. Dustin began work in December in the Park and Dock Division. You may see him on a mower or toting any number of manly power tools in the parks. Be sure to give him a warm Mound welcome!!



Shop the HARBOR WINE & SPIRITS Wine Sale!!



2012 Annual Customer Appreciation Sale
February 23rd through March 10th

***Profits from Harbor Wine & Spirits are used to offset
your tax obligation.***

***Gift certificates from Harbor Wine & Spirits
available for any occasion!!***

Check out the website at www.cityofmound.com.

City Hall Hours

Monday through Friday

8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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

Dates To Remember

Feb 1	National Freedom Day
Feb 2	Groundhog Day
Feb 4	Moonlight Trail Night (see page 5)
Feb 9	Gillespie Center Blood Drive noon-7pm
Feb 14	Valentine's Day
Feb 20	President's Day
Feb 22	Ash Wednesday
Mar 2	Dr Seuss's Birthday (READ!!)
Mar 17	St Patrick's Day
Mar 11	Daylight Savings Time Begins
Mar 20	First Day of Spring
Apr 1	April Fool's Day and Palm Sunday
Apr 6	Good Friday
Apr 7	Passover
Apr 8	Easter
Apr 27	Arbor Day

Mound Meeting 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.



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www.cityofmound.com

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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, City Manager	(952) 472-0609
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