

# CITY CONTACT



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

**Feb Mar Apr 2013**

*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,

As we begin a new year we are once again ready to face both new and lingering challenges. One of the primary challenges is maintaining services people expect and pay for, while constantly reducing the costs. The city is always trying to reinvent itself in order to gain efficiencies and reduce costs. Changes are made when new savings have been identified or it can be a result of the city making changes to meet the shifting demands over time. Revenue increases are always being examined such as expanding the tax base through growth, but cost reductions produce a more immediate return.



**Mark Hanus**

As you have probably heard, in December the city reorganized a couple departments. Management for both the City Clerk and Public Works Departments were reorganized. These duties will continue to be performed, but within a framework that is designed to better meet current demands.

In addition, police services are now being contracted from Orono. This creates more savings due to efficiencies that we couldn't achieve by keeping the department we had. Actually, shifting to the Orono service system was performed in stages including tests and trials that actually began the first of December followed by others throughout December. But the official and total change occurred on the first of the year.

Vacating the main floor of the police side of the Public Safety building creates an opportunity to move city hall in that existing space. Bonding restrictions limit any use of that building to governmental agencies only. There is another potential cost savings tied to this move that has not been discussed very much but has been in the back of my mind throughout this process. The council has been hearing of the need to replace the current city hall for close to 15 years. There are conceptual drawings for this in city hall from several years ago. This move puts that multimillion dollar discussion of building a new city hall to bed.

With this move, we can get new lease revenues on the old building which further helps the city finances and helps to deliver services to the public. This all boils down to lower revenues required from taxpayers. This has been, and continues to be a paramount issue for the city council.

Recent claims that the city is competing to lease space with the private sector is not entirely accurate. At the time this is being written, I am aware of only 2 potential renters of space in the current city hall. Both are pseudo-public ventures that are not able to rent on the open market long term. They tend to move around from location to location without a permanent home and sometimes have to close down for a while. The city has offered space to these quasi-public services that serve a public purpose. Offering space at rates lower than the market is the only long term solution for these services to continue. And ANY lease revenues collected are above the base line from prior years. So it is a win-win for both sides.

WeCab needs a single office to operate from, and the Westonka Historical Society has been a source of, and protector of our local history. In addition, they will now become a resource for Tonka Toy collectors world wide and will play a role in reconnecting Mound once more on a world wide stage to the Tonka Toy trademark.

Respectfully,

*Mark Hanus*

## ***Message from the City Manager ...*** **A “Mound Magic” Update**



Kandis Hanson

On two separate evenings, one in October and one in November, Community Development Director Sarah Smith and I filled the house at Al & Alma's Supper Club. Dubbed 'Mound Magic,' these events that included a cash bar and other refreshments, brought people up to date on what is happening in Mound. Each started with the history of Mound redevelopment and a rundown of projects completed. What followed was an optimistic list of what is in the cue for Mound and what may develop with more time. Those included restaurant, housing, retail and hotel possibilities. With more demand and with changing information, there will be more sessions of "Mound Magic." Should you be interested in attending "Mound Magic," contact me at [kandishanson@cityofmound.com](mailto:kandishanson@cityofmound.com).

More recently the Mound City Council took action commissioning an independent Market Study by a professional firm specializing in analyzing cities. Maxwell Group will take the winter months to study our community and determine the needs and what Mound can support with its population and that of our nearest neighbors. This Market Study will take the lake into special consideration and not view it as a void in the population. As those of us who live here know, the lake is not an impediment to business. A good restaurant, for instance, is a destination and we will boat or drive there. This special consideration will make up a part of the report which should positively influenced developers and business operators considering Mound as a location.

Additionally, in coming months I will be asking the City Council for approval of a professional Community Survey. In the past, Mound has used Decision Resources to systematically inquire with the public by phone as to their desires and what individuals would support. Survey results would then be prioritized and this would act as a work plan for getting things done.

Each of these tools is an essential component to continuing Mound redevelopment and community development. Public input through both formal and informal means will give City of Mound staff the direction they need in the pursuit of businesses and amenities meant to serve its residents and, ultimately, be a draw as Mound becomes a destination for visitors to share in the richness of our community. All of this will help build Mound's economic vitality, which is good for all involved!

Any persons interested in sharing their thoughts and ideas are invited to contact me or Sarah Smith ([sarahsmith@cityofmound.com](mailto:sarahsmith@cityofmound.com)). It is our wish for you that you have a spectacular 2013!



Are you retired and looking for a meaningful way to volunteer? Do you work from home, have lots of flexibility and would like to give back? WeCAB can use your help!

WeCAB, Westonka Community Area Bussing, has over 180 riders who have registered since the program began in October 2011. WeCAB now has barely enough drivers to meet the rider requests. Please 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 church on Sunday. You drive your own car, pick up riders at their home, take them to their destination, and then bring them home again.

Consider this volunteer opportunity as a way for you to give back to your community. Please call WeCAB at 952-472-3222 for more information about being a driver for WeCAB.



## Notes from the Mound Fire Department

### Please "Dig Out" the Fire Hydrants in your Neighborhood!

**H** In a fire emergency, access to a fire hydrant is absolutely essential to assist firefighters upon arrival to a fire scene. A fire hydrant is a valuable water source that is critically important to us when fighting a fire in any structure. **H**

**E** The Mound Fire department has a detailed list of the locations of all fire hydrants in our community. Even though we know the approximate hydrant locations, a snowy Minnesota winter makes it difficult to find and access hydrants in an emergency. **E**

**L** **L**

**P** We need our residents to help us! Please take a few minutes to dig out and improve access to all fire hydrants in your neighborhood. Ask your neighbor to use their snow blower, shovel, or whatever means is available. Help us help you! **P**

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### ***MOUND FIRE DEPARTMENT GRANT AWARD***

Mound Fire Department is pleased to announce the award of \$6,509.23 from the Minnesota Fire Board of Firefighter Training and Education. The Minnesota Fire Board of Firefighter Training and Education has a Training Reimbursement Program available to fire departments. This award enabled many of our volunteer firefighters on the Mound Fire Department to attend various trainings throughout the 2012 year, ensuring our department is staffed with competent and skilled firefighters.

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### ***Ben Gottschalk ~ Mound Firefighter of the Year 2012***



Every year the Mound Fire Department staff selects one of its current firefighters as the department "Firefighter of the Year". The *2012 Mound Fire Department Firefighter of the Year* is Firefighter Ben Gottschalk.

The recipient of this recognition award is chosen based upon a nomination process that involves all of the current Mound firefighters. Individual firefighters are nominated (for the award) based upon predetermined criteria including: each firefighter's responses to Fire and Rescue calls, attendance at training sessions, overall level of participation and involvement, the amount of time dedicated to public relations activities, and a positive hard working attitude. All of these important firefighter attributes typically add up to an individual that is very dedicated to the fire department.

Ben Gottschalk has been a volunteer with the Mound Fire Department since joining the ranks in May 2006. Firefighter Gottschalk is a tireless worker that participates at a very high level in training exercises, public relations events, and is a prompt emergency responder. Firefighter Gottschalk is very dedicated to the fire department and is a quiet leader among the fire department staff. Congratulations to Ben Gottschalk on his past accomplishments, and for receiving this very special 2012 Mound Firefighter of the Year Award!



## ***A Low-Salt Diet for Our Lakes and Streams***

A little salt goes a long way for managing snow and ice. But too much salt – which may be less than you think – can cause irreversible damage to nearby lakes and streams.

Currently, salt use is not regulated, but it poses a real threat to clean water. The chloride contained in one teaspoon of road salt can permanently pollute five gallons of water. Chloride upsets aquatic environments and can kill birds and some plants.

Many people use more salt than they need. But using more salt does not melt more ice, or melt it faster. In reality, salt only works when there is enough snow or ice for it to react with and excess crystals will eventually become a pollutant. It's best to use less than four pounds of salt per 1,000 square feet. One pound of salt fills up a 12-ounce coffee mug.

Want to protect your local lake or stream from chloride pollution? Here are some easy ways you can help:

- Apply salt or other de-icers before snow storms, so you will need less later.
- Shovel regularly to minimize ice buildup.
- Break up ice with an ice scraper before deciding if sand or a de-icer is necessary for traction. You may find that it's not.
- Use sand instead of salt when temps are -15 degrees or below.
- Sweep up any salt that's visible on dry pavement and use it elsewhere or throw it away.

By using salt wisely, you can save money, time and the environment without sacrificing safety. Learn more at [www.minnehahacreek.org/salt](http://www.minnehahacreek.org/salt).

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## ***ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT SEWER BACKUPS!!***

Occasionally a blockage in a sewer line will result in a backup of sanitary sewage into a private home. If you experience a backup, immediately contact Public Works during business hours at 952-472-0603, or after hours call 952-472-0614.

As a resident, you play a key role in preventing sanitary sewer backups. To prevent backups, please dispose of the following items properly, not by dumping in a drain or flushing down the toilet:

- Diapers
- Sanitary napkins, rags, shop towels
- Garbage waste products such as oil, grease, gasoline, antifreeze
- Household waste such as ashes, grease, corrosives, glass, metals, paint, poisons, or solvents
- Yard waste such as sand, soil or mud

The City is not automatically responsible when a sewer backup occurs. Generally the City is responsible only if it was negligent in maintaining the main sewer lines. The sewer line from your home, business or other property to the City sewer main is your responsibility. That means that you as the property owner must schedule service and pay the cost of clearing any blockage located in the individual sewer line on your property. If you have additional questions, call 952-472-0603.

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## **Gillespie Center Hosts 2nd Community Drug Forum February 21 'Chemical Use: Awareness, Prevention, Resources & Support'**

An educational community forum held in Mound last November brought together drug experts and community leaders in an effort to increase awareness about drug abuse and prevention. To further expand on these topics, a second community forum titled "Chemical Use: Awareness, Prevention, Resources & Support" will be held **February 21 from 6:30-8:00 p.m.** at The Gillespie Center in Mound.

Parents, students and community members are invited to attend this free presentation to learn more about drugs and drug prevention resources in the community. Following a short introduction, attendees will be able to attend two of three, 30-minute breakout sessions:

### ***Breakout Session 1: School Resources***

The Westonka School District will host a breakout session that will include administrators, counselors and school resource officers who will give a short introduction and answer questions on how parents and students can work with the schools on issues related to chemical use.

### ***Breakout Session 2: Orono and Minnetrista Police with West Metro Drug Task Force***

Community members will have the opportunity to pose questions to law enforcement professionals from the West Metro Drug Task Force. Task Force representatives will exhibit various illegal drugs and drug paraphernalia to help make them more identifiable in the community.

### ***Breakout Session 3: Community Resources, Support & Treatment Options***

A small panel of professionals, including family therapists and chemical health counselors, will briefly describe their areas of expertise. Collectively, they will offer helpful answers related to the question, "Where do I turn for help?" Financial costs and considerations, continuum of treatment options, case management support and family support issues will be addressed.

For more information on the community drug forum, contact Ray Salazar at 952-472-7383.



### ***Mound Police Join Orono Force January 1st***

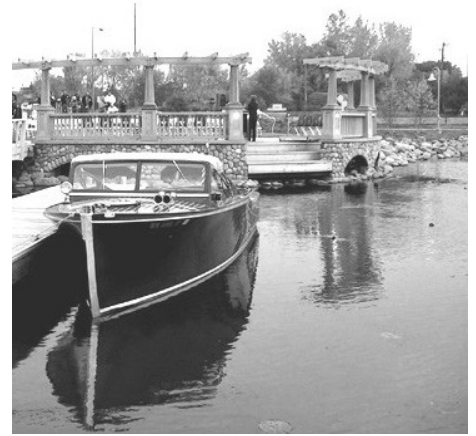
Mound is grateful our police officers will remain in close affiliation with the City and that we will be welcoming more officers to our public safety team. We thank all of the officers for their continued dedication and service to the citizens of Mound and the surrounding communities.

Residents are reminded to call 9-1-1 in an emergency, Hennepin County Dispatch at 763-525-6210 to talk to an officer, or Orono Police Department at 952-249-4700 for general information.

## **Indian Knoll Manor - Affordable Housing in the Heart of Mound...**

Indian Knoll Manor Apartments, located at 2020 Commerce Boulevard, are subsidized by HUD and rents are based on income for qualified applicants. There are one bedroom and studio apartments and rent includes heat, water, electric and trash. Please call the Property Manager at 952-472-5078 for an application or to take a tour.

# Summer is Coming



Current dock program participants should have received their 2013 renewal applications in the mail in early January. Residents wishing to be put on the wait list *or renew their position* on the wait list must complete a Wait List Application which can be obtained via:

- 1) website at [www.cityofmound.com](http://www.cityofmound.com),
- 2) walk-in at City Hall,
- 3) phone at 952-472-0633, or
- 4) email at [dockprogram@cityofmound.com](mailto:dockprogram@cityofmound.com).

All applications must be completed and returned to City Hall on or before February 28, 2013. Incomplete applications will not be accepted and will be returned with your payment.

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## Did someone say summer??

Like to putter outside with plants and things? Like to have some excuse to exercise and perform a community service at the same time? The City of Mound loves it's volunteers. The Adopt-A-Greenspace program would love to add you to the list. Choose a big space or a small one. You decide. See the "**Parks**" page at the city website for program information and application forms. Think ahead. **Think Summer!!**

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- Allied Waste Services sent the 2013 Single Sort Recycling Schedule to all residents in December. Additional copies are available at City Hall or on the city website.
- City of Mound residents can resume bringing grass clippings, milfoil and leaves to the compost site located at 4275 Creekview Circle in Minnetrista, beginning on April 1, 2013. This is a free service if you show your drivers license. Additional services are available for a fee. Hours are Monday through Friday 8 am – 5 pm & Saturday 9 am – 1 pm. Call 952-446-1056 for more info.
- The City of Mound and City of Minnetrista have scheduled the next clean-up day for May 11, 2013 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Look for more information in the May newsletter or on the website.
- Visit the city website for an application to sign up for the Utility Billing Automatic Payment plan and other valuable information!
- The city website can be found at [www.cityofmound.com](http://www.cityofmound.com)

## Did You Know?

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### Winter Parking Restrictions



Just a friendly reminder that City of Mound winter parking restrictions went into effect on November 15<sup>th</sup> and run through April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013. 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**.

# Recycling Guide

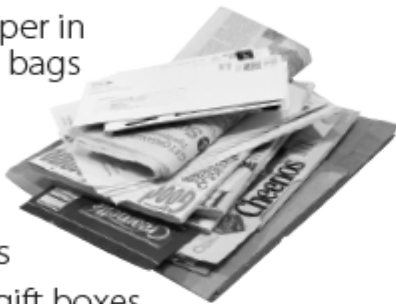


## Paper

- Mail, office and school papers
- Magazines and catalogs
- Newspapers and inserts
- Phone books
- Shredded paper in closed paper bags

### Boxes:

- Cardboard
- Cereal and cracker boxes
- Shoe boxes, gift boxes and electronics boxes
- Toothpaste, medication and other toiletry boxes



## Cartons

- Milk cartons
- Juice boxes
- Soup, broth and wine cartons



## Glass

- Food and beverage bottle and jars



## Plastic

### Bottles & jugs:

- Water, soda and juice bottles
- Milk and juice jugs
- Ketchup and salad dressing bottles
- Dishwashing liquid bottles and detergent jugs
- Shampoo, soap and lotion bottles



### Cups and containers:

- Yogurt, pudding and fruit cups
- Disposable cups and bowls
- Margarine, cottage cheese, and other containers
- Produce, deli and take out containers

### Packaging:

- Clear packaging from toys and electronics

## Metal

- Food and beverage cans



**Don't recycle:** Styrofoam™, plastic wrap, microwaveable food trays, paper soiled with food, paper plates and towels, drinking glasses, dishes, mirrors and containers that held hazardous products.



**Hennepin County**  
Environmental Services  
612-348-3777  
[www.hennepin.us/recycling](http://www.hennepin.us/recycling)



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### City Council Members

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

Kandis Hanson, (952) 472-0609  
City Manager

### City Hall Hours

Monday - Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

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

### Dates To Remember

February 14 - Valentine's Day  
February 18 - Presidents' Day - City Hall Closed  
February 28 - Dock Applications Due Today  
March 17 - St Patrick's Day  
March 29 - Good Friday  
March 31 - Easter Sunday

### 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

