

CITY CONTACT



*A Quarterly Publication
from the City of Mound*

NOV DEC JAN
2014 - 2015

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.

Mayor's Message

Dear Fellow Citizens of Mound,

As most of you are aware, I decided not to seek re-election as Mayor this year. As a result, this will be my last submission to the city newsletter.

I always truly loved serving as Mayor. It is a huge honor and is very rewarding, not to mention how educational it is. Leaving this post is bittersweet for me. I truly enjoyed the job, but I am confident the time is right for new and fresh leadership in this position.



Mark Hanus

I need to say a few words about the people working for the city. Yes, sometimes citizens may have an experience with the city or a city worker that fell short of your expectations. That can happen anywhere. Everyone has a bad day now and then. But I have to say these are dedicated people just trying to do their jobs the best way they can with limited resources. I thank them for their efforts, be it during normal working hours or in the middle of the night, which is often the case.

Regarding the Fire Department, not enough can be said. How proud is this community of this professional and effective organization? That can be answered from time to time when you read the thank you letters in the Laker. It can be seen and felt by the turnout and support at the Fish Fry every year. If you had the opportunity to see the records and statistics I have, you would be amazed at their capabilities, capacity, and effectiveness. Believe me, there is not a better volunteer department anywhere.

Of course my interaction is mostly with the department heads rather than the rank and file workers. To all the department heads, I want to publicly say that my life has been enriched by the experience of knowing you and watching you people work and problem-solve while always remaining pleasant and professional at all times. It has been a pleasure to know you all. My deepest and sincere best wishes go out to each and every one of you. You are the best!

The only employee that the City Council has direct authority over is the City Manager. Kandis has remained as the Mound City Manager for about 14 years now. On average in Minnesota, City Managers or Administrators last 4-5 years until moving on for one reason or another. This has to say something about her ability to perform with the best. A couple years ago she won first place as the top female municipal appointed official statewide. Need I say more? She has been more help to me and the council than I can begin to say. The nature of the job requires ruffling a few feathers now and then. That is not Kandis wanting to do it. It is the position that requires it. The ability to last three times longer than the state average in the same job is a testament unto itself. I will miss her professionalism and drive.

(Continued on Page 2)

Reminder!

New Community Notification System on-line NOW!
Sign up at cityofmound.com.

Finally, to the people of Mound: Public service is something everyone should consider. Be it as an elected official, employee, or volunteer. Experts that study it say that volunteering for anything is the most rewarding experience you can have. And it is so much easier than you may think. In Mound, volunteering to serve on the Planning, Parks, or Docks Commission gives you the ability to influence and shape the city. In civic areas, volunteering to help on the Spirit of the Lakes Festival committees, the Westonka Historical Society, WeCAB as a driver, or many other organizations that rely on volunteer help for their survival, is essential. And in most cases, you can decide how much time you can contribute. If you don't know how or who to contact, I would be glad to help connect you to the right people. They would all love to have your help and resulting friendship. Most people think, "I just don't have any spare time." But everyone has time if you look for it. And the payback is very much worth it. If you ever felt in a rut with the day-in and day-out work schedules and want to make new friends, this is one of the best ways to do it! I ask each of you to branch out and become more involved in your city. And it's not bad on a resume! Employers value this added experience of community oriented employees.

With that, I bid the great citizens of Mound farewell. You too have played a massive role in the successes of Mound over the years. And you are deserving of praise and credit as much as anyone. I ask you to continue to support your city and the leadership that will press on from this point forward. I know I will.

With all due respect and gratitude,

Mayor Mark Hanus



CONCERNED CITIZENS OF MOUND TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The City of Mound wishes to announce vacancies on its advisory commissions and invites interested persons to apply. Mound commissions act as recommending bodies to the City Council. There are openings on the Docks and Commons, Parks and Open Space, and Planning Commissions. See the city website (www.cityofmound.com) or call 952-472-0603 for more information. WE NEED YOU!

Message from the City Manager Operation Clean Sweep

Operation Clean Sweep is a neighborhood cleanup program aimed at cleaning up properties and enhancing the appearance and image of Mound. The program educates residents regarding city requirements, directs the cleanup of affected property, and helps reduce nuisance violations and outdoor storage abuse.

The specific requirements of Operation Clean Sweep come directly from Mound City Ordinances. In addition to a general intent to preserve the "health, safety, and welfare and appearance of the community", specific ordinances address exterior storage, refuse, parking, grass, nuisance abatement, and signs.

Residents are invited to submit property addresses for the attention of the City. (*Callers' identities are required by law to be maintained confidential.*) Efforts will continue to be made up until snow prevents it. See the "Resource List" on the next page to help with getting rid of your clutter.

Contact the Field Officer by calling 952-472-0605 to report a neighborhood hazard or nuisance. Property owners are encouraged not to wait for a cleanup reminder from the City, but are invited to become part of the solution and clean up! Thank you!



Kandis Hanson



2014 Operation Clean Sweep Resource List



Those needing to do some cleanup under **Operation Clean Sweep** are encouraged to make arrangements with some of the following businesses for the removal of their disposables:

Stumpf's Tree Service	320-745-2225
Treecology	612-237-2033
Twin City Tree Authority	612-756-8282
Western Tree Service	763-536-8295

Appliances - For a fee.

Arca	952-930-9000
Henn Cty Transfer Station	612-348-6500
JR Appliance	651-454-9215
Douglas Kugler Eco Site	952-955-1130

Boats

Henn Cty Transfer Station – Free	612-348-3777
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Brush & Tree Removal - For a fee. (Licensed by the City of Mound – check city website to ensure license is current – cityofmound.com)

Affordable Tree Trim & Rem	952-201-2279
Arbor Barber, Inc.	612-522-9700
Bear Tree Care, Inc.	952-472-2100
Collins Tree	952-447-7316
Davey Tree Expert Co.	612-392-2405
Emery's Tree Service	952-955-1848
Kraft Tree Service	952-406-8788
Landberg's Tree Service	612-581-9084
Matt's Tree Service	612-916-1237
Neiberger's Superior Tree Care	952-470-8733
Ostvig Tree, Inc.	763-479-4090
Rainbow Tree Care	952-922-3810
Ray's Tree Service	612-508-9955
S & S Tree & Hort Specialists	651-451-8907
Shorewood Tree Service	952-955-3018
St. Croix SavAtree	952-881-3779

Garbage Haulers - For a fee. (Licensed by the City of Mound – check city website to ensure license is current – cityofmound.com)

Blackowiak Disposal, Inc.	952-472-3398
Randy's Sanitation	763-479-3335
Republic Services (Allied Waste)	952-946-5226
Vintage Waste Systems	952-472-0401
Waste Management, Inc.	320-485-4061

Leaves, Grass Clippings, Garden Waste, Mil Foil - Free to Mound residents.

The Mulch Store	952-446-1056
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Miscellaneous Junk & Appliances - For a fee. (Licensed by the City of Mound.)

Republic Services	952-941-5174
Blackowiak Disposal, Inc.	952-472-3398
Randy's Sanitation	763-479-3335
Waste Management, Inc.	320-485-4061

Scrap Iron & Vehicles

Bob Bosma Recycling	952-446-1841
Goose Lake Auto Parts	952-657-2221
Henn Cty Transfer Station (free)	612-348-6500
Hickman's Auto Parts	763-972-2875
K & K Recycling	763-658-4403
Perry's Towing	952-473-4082



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Budget and Capital Investment Update

The City Council approved a preliminary budget and levy at the September 9, 2014 meeting. A workshop was held on September 3rd which included in-depth discussion on major contracts, staffing and equipment needs, and marketing efforts that are currently underway.

Highlights of the General Fund budget and levy from 2009 through 2015 are summarized below:

<u>Year</u>	(A) Actual Unas- signed Fund Bal- ance as % of Exp	(B) Actual Total Fund Bal- ance as % of Exp	(C) Surplus, Break- even or (Spend Down)	(D) General Fund Levy % Chg	(E) General Fund Exp % Chg	(F) Total Levy % Chg
2009	23.00%	43.00%	\$27,079	3.90%	-1.28%	4.98%
2010	27.00%	43.11%	\$177,454	0.00%	-1.84%	2.48%
2011	17.80%	48.66%	\$146,641	0.00%	1.64%	1.99%
2012	26.00%	44.16%	(\$203,153)	-6.75%	1.63%	-2.24%
2013	34.00%	49.00%	\$136,950	2.00%	-2.28%	4.31%
2014 Bud	20.00%	45.00%	(\$95,174)	-4.23%	1.76%	-1.18%
2015 Prelim	20.00%	41.00%	(\$107,632)	3.00%	2.87%	1.75%
AVERAGE	23.63%	44.85%	11,738	-0.30%	0.36%	1.73%

These healthy statistics have allowed the City to maintain favorable bond ratings. Standard & Poor's (S&P) Ratings Services has assigned its 'AA' long-term rating and stable outlook to Mound. Per the rating report, the ratings reflect S&P's assessment of the City's:

- \$ Proximity and access to ample employment opportunities throughout the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan statistical area (MSA);
- \$ Very strong income indicators and extremely strong market value per capita; and
- \$ Maintenance of very strong reserves, coupled with good management practices.

The Council will hold a special meeting workshop on Tuesday, October 21, 2014 to discuss the final budget, levy, utility rates, and capital projects. The final budget and levy discussions and decisions will take place at the December 9, 2014 regular City Council meeting where the opportunity for public comment will be given. Comments or questions on the 2015 budget and levy can be directed to the Finance Director at (952)472-0633. The entire preliminary budget is available on the City's website.



Mound Fire Department News



MOUND FIRE DEPARTMENT HONORS RETIREES

On Saturday, September 20, 2014, the Mound Fire Department hosted a retirement party to honor seven firefighters, spouses, and their families for their many years of dedicated service. Each of the honored firefighters has retired from the fire department at various times since 2010.

Honored were Assistant Chief Jeff Andersen, retired with 32 years of service; Assistant Chief Rick Williams, retired with

30 years of service; Captain Dennis Woytcke, retired with 22 years of service; Assistant Chief Dan Grady, Lieutenant Chris Pounder, Firefighter Paul Babb, each retired with 20 years of service, and, Captain Matt Hentges, retired with 16 years of service. Cumulatively, they provided 161 years of exemplary service to the department, responded to 49,784 Fire and Rescue Calls, participated in 3,968 training drills, and attended 2,759 meetings and special events.

During the time these individuals served the local communities as firefighters, they dedicated most of their Monday evenings to attend meetings and



Pictured (left to right): Paul Babb, Dan Grady, Rick Williams, Chris Pounder, Dennis Woytcke. Not pictured: Jeff Andersen and Matt Hentges.

drills, performed fire truck and equipment maintenance duties one Saturday a month, and were called away from many family and personal functions to respond to fire and rescue calls. In addition, they selflessly donated their time to attend many public safety events, participated in community activities, and worked diligently at the annual Mound Fire Department Fish Fry and Dance.

These dedicated firefighters provided immeasurable service and expertise to the fire department. All seven of these men continue to reside within our community. If you see any of them in Mound or around our local area, please congratulate them on their retirement and newly found free time. Also, be sure to thank them for their years of professional service.

If you would like more information about this or how to become a Mound firefighter, please contact the Mound Administrative offices at moundfire@moundfire.com or 952-472-3555.



....Driving for You!

Are you looking for a meaningful way to volunteer? **WeCAB** (Community Area Busing) drivers provide rides for the elderly (or those who are otherwise unable to drive) to medical appointments, the grocery store, the beauty shop, and church. Please consider becoming a volunteer driver as a way for you to give back to your community.

Please call **WeCAB** at 952-472-3222, extension 2, for more information about being a **DRIVER** for **WeCAB**. For a volunteer application, please check the website - www.wecab.org.

Snow Removal Tips.....

In preparation for the upcoming winter season, the City of Mound is providing snow removal tips and driver etiquette. The City of Mound plows approximately 41 miles of streets and roads and is asking for everyone's cooperation, so that snow removal takes place in a timely manner to facilitate safe traffic flow for drivers and pedestrians.

The time required to clear snow and ice from roads varies depending on the following conditions:

- Snow Storm Intensity and Duration
- Water Content of Snow
- Temperature
- Traffic Conditions
- Time of Day

Because of these variables, the City may not be able to plow or salt roads at the same time each day or, on occasion, even during the same day of the storm.

Resident, Business Owner, and Snow Plowing Contractor Responsibilities

- REMEMBER it is unlawful to push or throw snow onto or across roadways.
- Your snow must be deposited on your own property; it is unlawful to put snow on any public or private property or public right-of-way.
- Ask permission if you wish to place snow on a neighbor property. Upset property owners usually say, "If only they would have asked, I would have said yes".
- Trash carts should be placed in the driveway, 5 feet behind the front of the snow berm to minimize the possibility of being knocked over. Trash carts knocked over are the resident's responsibility.
- It is the resident's responsibility to remove the snow berm left at the end of their driveway from street plowing.
- If you have an Emergency, CALL "911".

What Can You do to Help?

- Winter parking restrictions are from Nov 15-Apr 15, with no on-street parking 2am-6am.
- Do not attempt to stop a snowplow or obstruct its path. Plows must maintain speed for maximum efficiency.
- When approaching a plow from the rear, travel a safe distance behind the plow, allowing for scattering of salt and abrupt movements.
- Use EXTREME caution when passing snow removal equipment. Before you pass, please honk your horn and flash your lights to alert the operator you intend to pass.
- Equipment operators often work long hours under trying conditions. PLEASE be courteous and friendly as you drive around them. Help them Help YOU.
- Be patient. Be assured that during a snow storm, every reasonable effort will be made to keep roadways open. All available personnel will be on the road during major snow storms.

Decomposing leaves carry nutrients like **phosphorus** to nearby lakes, wetlands, and streams. Keep our **waters** clean! This fall, sweep up and compost your leaves.



Sweep 'em up and keep 'em out of our waters!





Utility Billing customers are strongly encouraged to sign-up for the **Auto Pay Plan**, where amounts can be deducted from your checking or savings account on the due date or on the next business day if the 15th falls on a weekend or holiday. **E-bill** forms are available as well. Please help the City be more efficient by signing up for these services! Find forms at www.cityofmound.com or by calling Customer Service at (651)255-0972.

Dock Program applications will be sent to existing license holders the last week of December. Waiting list applications to renew your spot or to sign up for the first time will be posted on the website. All applications, including those for the Lost Lake Slips, must be returned between January 2, 2015 and February 28, 2015.

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.

Homestead Market Value Exclusion – Residential property that is classified as "HOMESTEAD" may be eligible for a reduction to the taxable market value, thereby reducing the property taxes payable. For a homestead valued at \$76,000 or less, the exclusion is 40 percent of market value, yielding a maximum exclusion of \$30,400 at \$76,000 of market value. For a homestead valued between \$76,000 and \$413,800, the exclusion is \$30,400 minus nine percent of the valuation over \$76,000. For a homestead valued at \$413,800 or more, there is no valuation exclusion. The Proposed Property Tax Statement mailed in November should show the classification and exclusion amount, if applicable. Questions on classification and valuation can be directed to the Hennepin County Assessor's Office at (952)472-0619.

VOTE! Tuesday, November 4th
7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

WHERE DO I VOTE? – Visit the Secretary of State's polling place finder at <http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us> to find your precinct.

WHO'S ON THE BALLOT? – To view the ballot for your precinct, visit the MN Secretary of State website at <http://mnvotesinfo.sos.state.mn.us>. Also, watch The Laker for information on local candidates.

ABSENTEE "EARLY" VOTING – Voters may apply to vote using an absentee ballot in the 45 days prior to Election Day. Please allow at least seven (7) days for the complete process. You can apply in person at City Hall, on-line, or by mail by downloading the application at <http://mnvotesinfo.sos.state.mn.us/voters/>. Please note: Voters may only pick up their own ballot. If you have incapacitating health issues, please contact City Hall for assistance at 952-472-0603.

Thanks to our Public Servants!

We'd like to take a moment to recognize and thank the following people who have completed their service in the past year:

Mark Drahos

Docks & Commons Commissioner

Pete Wiechert

Planning Commissioner

Todd Peterson

Parks & Open Space Commissioner

Mark Hanus

Mayor

Merci
Gracias

THANK YOU

Grazie
Obrigado!

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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
Mark Wegscheid	(612) 581-6710

Kandis Hanson, City Manager	(952) 472-0609
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Dates To Remember

Nov 1	In-person absentee voting 8am-3pm
Nov 4	Election - Polls open 7am-8pm
Nov 11	Veterans' Day - City Offices Closed
Nov 27/28	Thanksgiving - City Offices Closed
Dec 24	Christmas Eve - Offices Close at noon
Dec 25	Christmas Day - City Offices Closed
Dec 31	New Year's Eve - Offices Close at noon
Jan 1	New Year's Day - City Offices Closed
Jan 19	M L King Jr Day - City Offices Closed

**City Hall
Hours**

November through April
M - Fri 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

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

