

CITY CONTACT



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

**FEB MAR APR
2014**

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 winter is well upon us, most of us have a little more time to look within ourselves and reflect on our lives and our surroundings. I've been thinking about Mound's image lately, both as we locals see it and as others might see it from outside our municipal borders.



Mark Hanus

It's true that Mound has had some serious issues as to how it's perceived by outsiders or other neighboring communities over the 80's, 90's, and perhaps into the 2000's. I'm not going to repeat the derogatory names or insinuations that I've heard in years past because most of us have heard these at one time or another. But if you step back and think about comments heard both pro and con, one can realize that perceptions have changed and continue to change.

Changes in perception can be so slow that we don't even see them occurring. I still hear an occasional reference that is not what I would prefer to hear, but in reality, I am hearing more good now than bad. In fact, I hear very few negative comments at all any more.

This is not to imply that we don't have continuing challenges. We do. But as Mound slowly rebuilds itself both in its infrastructure and its housing and business stock, these old harmful perceptions slowly melt away. I've always heard from people who have said they moved here for the ability to get a dock on the lake. But I now hear from more people who move here because of the town itself, the civic activities (festivals and events), and the schools.

I've found through talking with people that many with a lower opinion of the city really are only hanging on to that impression from time gone by. And many have a difficult time expressing why they feel that way today.

This change is due to a widespread effort by many people. You, the citizens of Mound play a large role in this. Of course the people are what make a community what it is. But I also wish to credit the City Council, the city manager, the department heads, and especially the rank and file workers in the city. You all are making this small community better with each day that passes and I thank each and every one of you.

Respectfully,

Mayor Mark Hanus

Message from the City Manager ...



Kandis Hanson

One of the most frequent issues the City hears from residents about is the brown discoloration in the City's water supply. The discoloration is the result of the high iron concentration in the groundwater that is pumped from City wells.

The City's water meets all US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards. The iron concentration in the City's water is approximately 0.98 parts per million (ppm) and the hardness is 22 grains/gallon (376 ppm), both of which are typical for West metro communities that draw their water from the same aquifer as Mound. The iron concentration is not harmful and, in fact, iron is an essential micro-nutrient to human health. However, high iron concentrations cause discoloration of clothing and plumbing fixtures and can also lead to taste and odor complaints.

In recognition of these problems related to high iron concentrations, the EPA has set a recommended standard of 0.30 ppm—less than 1/3 of the iron concentration in the City's water --to prevent any of the aforementioned aesthetic issues.

The solution to address the high iron concentration is to construct iron and manganese removal filtration plants to remove iron from the water before it is pumped into the water system. The filtration plants will remove approximately 90% of the iron, leaving a remaining concentration well below the recommend standard of 0.30 ppm. The filtration plants will NOT soften the water. However by removing the iron, homeowners' water softeners will be more efficient in removing hardness. Where filtration plants have been constructed, homeowners have noticed dramatic improvement in the effectiveness of their water softeners.

The long range plan for the City, after the street and utility reconstruction projects are all completed (2018), is to construct iron-manganese removal plants at the two pump houses which are located adjacent to the Mound water towers. The cost of the plants is estimated at \$1.5 to \$2.0 million each, so planning and budgeting will be an important factor for the City Council in office at that time to seriously consider.



Are you 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 Busing) has over 190 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 as well as your destinations; 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, extension 2, for more information about being a **DRIVER** for **WeCAB**. For a volunteer application please check the website - **www.wecab.org**.

Did You Know?

In 2013, WeCab provided 3,290 rides to your friends and neighbors.



Christopher Pounder, Mound Firefighter of the Year 2013

Every year the Mound Fire Department staff recognizes one of its own firefighters as the department "Firefighter of the Year". The Mound Fire Department Firefighter of the Year for 2013 is Christopher Pounder.

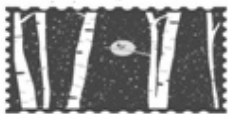
The recipient of this prestigious recognition award is chosen through a nomination process among the current Mound firefighters. Firefighters are nominated based upon predetermined criteria including: a firefighter's responses to emergency calls, attendance at training sessions, a high level of participation and involvement, positive leadership, time dedicated to public relations activities, and a positive attitude.



Christopher Pounder has been a volunteer with the Mound Fire Department since joining the ranks in September 1993. Over his 20 years, firefighter Pounder has set an example as a leader and mentor to other firefighters. Firefighter Pounder has been very dedicated to the fire department as indicated by his 5,130 emergency responses, and his attendance at 501 training drills.

Congratulations to Christopher Pounder on his past accomplishments and for receiving this very special 2013 Firefighter of the Year Award!

5th Annual



Moonlight
TRAIL NIGHT

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

trailside fires. 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! Snowshoes available at the Transit Center provided by Hoigard's.

See You On The Trail! Saturday, February 15th :: 6-9 pm

Moonlighttrail.com

Westonka
Community & Commerce

For more information contact:
info@moonlighttrail.com



Snow Removal FAQ

How does the City decide which streets are plowed first?

The most heavily traveled roads are plowed first. These roads are the main collector streets and provide access to neighborhoods. The next priority is the connecting streets within neighborhoods. Streets with steep hills are the next priority. All other streets fall into the residential classification. These streets are predominantly flat and easily negotiated during light snow storms. Streets receive de-icing treatment for each event, on an as-needed basis. The residential streets are plowed when snow accumulation on the road exceeds two inches.

Why do the City snow plows push snow into my driveway and who is responsible for clearing it?

During normal snow plowing operations, snow will be left in your driveway. Plows are angled to the right for plowing from the centerline of the street to the curb. Due to the design of plows, it should be expected that snow will be deposited in driveways. This is unavoidable if snow is to be cleaned from the street. Snow left in driveways by the city from plowing is the residents' and owners' responsibility to remove.

I just shoveled my driveway. Why did the snow plow push snow back into it?

When plowing, the snow may end up in the driveway you just shoveled. We apologize for the inconvenience this causes you. If your schedule permits, you may want to wait and clear your driveway after city plows have passed through your street. If it is a significant snowfall, the snowplows will probably be back and make a second pass. Streets are typically opened with one pass through, so that streets can be made passable for drivers as soon as practical. Snowplows usually return to open the street curb-to-curb.

SNOW REMOVAL TIP... If your driveway is cleared before the street is completed, clear the area to the right of your driveway (when facing the house). When the plow comes by the snow will dump in this clear area, minimizing the amount left in your driveway.

Can snow from my driveway be blown into the street?

Snow may not be pushed or blown into or across the street from private property. The piles and ridges left behind can create hazards for motorists and plow drivers. If you hire a private service to clear your driveway or parking lot, let the contractor know doing so is a misdemeanor under **MN Statutes 160.2715 and 169.42** and punishable by a fine of up to \$5,000 dollars.

What if landscaping or irrigation in the right-of-way is damaged?

Remember that the first few feet of your front yard is public right-of-way and for the use of the city. In winter, it is intended for use by the city for snow storage. You are advised to not to landscape these first few feet with rocks, bricks, timbers, shrubs and other items. Snow plows and sidewalk plows can cause damage and the city is not liable for the repair or replacement of landscape materials. Some residents have irrigation in the right of way. This is done at the owner's risk and responsibility. Keep any irrigation heads away from the edges of the sidewalk and curb line to avoid damage.

Who do I contact if a city snow plow damages my lawn or mailbox?

If a city snow plow causes lawn or mailbox damage, please contact the City of Mound Public Works Department at (952) 472-0603 on normal business days between 8:00am and 4:30pm.

Carbon Monoxide

- Carbon monoxide (CO) is a poisonous, colorless, odorless, and tasteless gas that is often a result of incomplete burning of natural gas or other organic substances.
- Carbon monoxide can build up to dangerous concentrations indoors and be harmful to your health (refer to chart below).
- Carbon monoxide has no odor, color, or taste and cannot be detected by smell, taste, or sight and is typically measured in parts per million (PPM)
- Carbon monoxide is harmful when breathed because it displaces oxygen in the blood and deprives the heart, brain, and other vital organs of oxygen.
- Carbon monoxide levels can be monitored by installing detection units within the home that are strategically placed near sleeping areas, furnaces, fuel fired water heaters, and other gas appliances.
- If you suspect carbon monoxide levels within your home, call 911 for assistance.

Carbon Monoxide (CO) Information Guidelines

Concentration Level*	Effects of CO Poisoning	Comments
0 - 1 PPM	none, no symptoms	considered to be normal background levels
1 - 9 PPM	none - monitor air closely	maximum indoor air quality - short term
9 - 35 PPM	minimal effects possible over time	OSHA - 8 hour limit
35 - 100 PPM	flu like symptoms, headache	mild exposure, but potentially dangerous
100 - 200 PPM	dizziness, drowsiness, vomiting	OSHA - 15 minute exposure limit
200 - 400 PPM	frontal headache, fatigue	medium exposure, but not safe to occupy
400 - 800 PPM	unconsciousness, brain damage	extreme exposure, life threatening after 3 hrs.
800 - 1600 PPM	nausea, convulsions, death	very dangerous and hazardous - death 1 hr.
12, 000 PPM	death in 1 to 3 minutes	extremely hazardous environment



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The Westonka History Museum (WHM) has welcomed 373 visitors since it opened in its new location in the Centennial Building

in mid-June 2013. Quite an increase for our Saturday-only museum, more than 600% more than last year! One-third of these visitors were from our Westonka area, while two-thirds came from Lake Minnetonka communities, greater Minnesota, many states, and as far away as Brandon, Manitoba. Many were brought by local residents to enjoy our community's history, and I can imagine they visited local businesses while they were here! From January through November 2013, our website hits have increased from 2520 to 5921, and our Facebook "likes" show increased popularity as well.

WHS has hosted several fund-raising events: "Remember Me" in March and a Lake Minnetonka historic tour on Al and Alma's *Bella Vista* in September. The 3rd reunion of former Tonka Toy employees brought 180 visitors, from as far away as Texas and California. Monthly events began in November with book talks by local authors. See our website for dates and times for upcoming topics: Ski Tonka, "Orphan Train," the geology of Lake Minnetonka, and the unique farm soil of Minnetrista. Let us know if you have an idea for a future topic. We're already beginning our calendar of events for 2014-15. www.westonkahistoricalsociety.org.

Interested in volunteering at the museum or with the historical society? We would love to have you share your time and talents. Consider becoming a Saturday museum tour guide, assisting with technology management, grant writing, or historic photo scanning—we have a place for you!

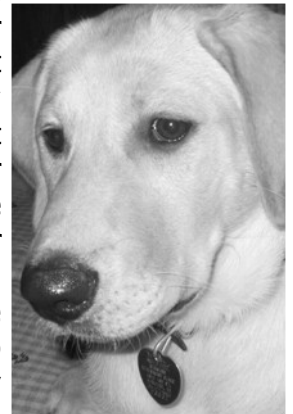
Plan your next visit to the WHS Museum, located in the Centennial Building, 5341 Maywood Road, Mound MN, open Saturdays 10am - 2pm. Admission is free, or \$3 by appointment. Contact us at 952-472-9800. See you soon!

Get to Know Your City Code

by City Clerk Catherine Pausche

Featured Topic: Chapter 14, Article II DOGS AND CATS

The City requires pet owners' cooperation in properly managing their dogs and cats. The Mound City Code states that no dog or cat shall be permitted to run at large within the limits of the city. Any dog/cat is deemed to be at large when it is off the premises owned or rented by the owner or his agent and not under restraint. In addition, the pet owner is required to prevent the dog/cat from committing any act which constitutes a nuisance. It is a nuisance for any dog to habitually or frequently bark or cry, cat to habitually or frequently cry or howl, to frequent school grounds, parks, or public beaches, to chase vehicles, to molest or annoy any reasonable person away from the owner's property, or to damage, defile, or destroy public or private property.

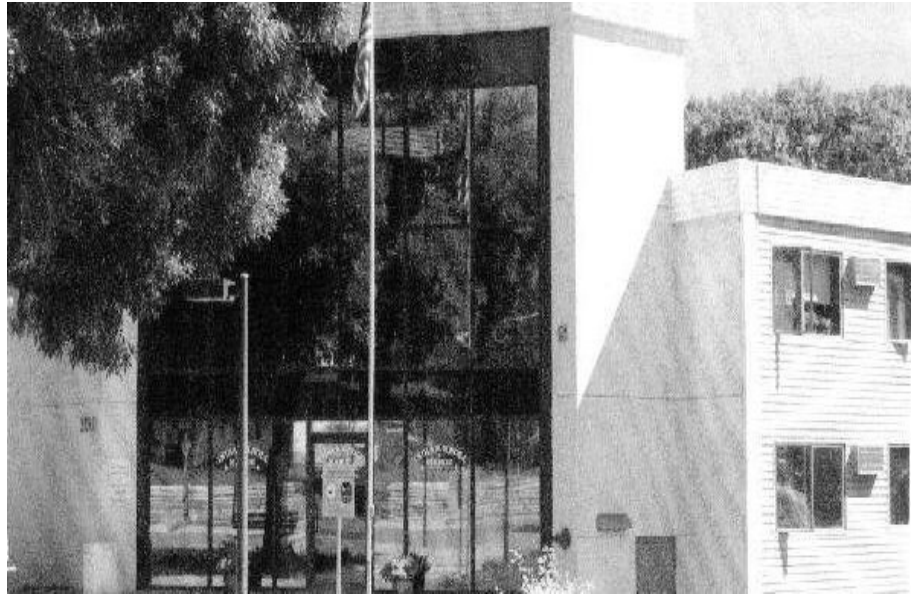


The City requires all dogs and cats three months of age or older be licensed by the City and that the metal tag that serves as evidence of the license be permanently affixed to the collar of the dog/cat and worn at all times. Every license, regardless of the date of issuance, shall expire on April 30 of each even-numbered year. **Therefore, all dog/cat owners must apply for a license renewal by April 30, 2014.**

To apply for a license, please come to City Hall and bring a valid certificate from a qualified veterinarian showing that the dog/cat had been vaccinated for rabies, the type of vaccine used, and the length of time the vaccination is effective. Note: the owner must bring in an updated certificate if the vaccination is not effective for the full term of the license. The fee is \$25 per dog or cat in the even year for a 2-year tag.

Indian Knoll Manor

Indian Knoll Manor Apartments, owned by the Mound Housing and Redevelopment Authority and managed by Common Bond Communities, is accepting applications for studio and one bedroom apartments. Call (952)472-5078 for an application or to take a tour. The building is located at 2020 Commerce Boulevard, which is within walking distance to shopping, transit, library and other amenities.



Affordable Housing In the heart of Mound...



Tidbits



- Allied Waste Services sent the 2014 Single Sort Recycling Schedule to all residents in December. Additional copies are available at City Hall or on our 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, 2014. This is a free service if you show your drivers license. Additional services are available for a fee. Hours are Mon – Fri 8 am – 5 pm & Sat 9 am – 1 pm. Call (952)446-1056 for more info.
- The City of Mound and City of Minnetrista have scheduled the Annual Spring Clean Up/ Recycling Day for May 10, 2014, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Look for more information in the May 1st newsletter or on our website.
- Visit www.cityofmound.com for an application to sign up for the Utility Billing Automatic Payment plan and/or E-bill!
- The City of Mound Public Restrooms located on the Dakota Rail Trail by the Mound Transit Center will reopen May 15th.
- All dock applications are due by February 28, 2014. Applications were sent the first week in January. Please call (952)472-0603 with any questions.
- Lost Lake Slips are currently available. Lost Lake Slips are \$1,950 per season for Mound residents and \$2,050 per season for non-Mound residents. Check out the website for more information and an application. Be sure to tell your friends!

**cleaning up
2013**



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.

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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	(952) 215-3809

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

Feb 14th Valentine's Day
Feb 15th Moonlight Trail Night
Feb 17th Presidents' Day - City Offices Closed
Feb 28th Dock Applications Due TODAY
Mar 9th Daylight Savings Time Begins
Mar 17th St Patrick's Day
Apr 18th Good Friday
Apr 20th Easter

City Hall Hours

Monday - Friday
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

