

# CITY CONTACT



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

**FEB MAR APR  
2017**

***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.***

Dear Neighbors,

There are many things being tackled in 2017 and one of them is our park system. As you may or may not know, there are 31 parks in the 4.96 square miles called Mound. Keep in mind that 2.1 square miles of that is water, leaving only 2.86 square miles of land for those 31 parks.

When you think of it that way, Mound sure has a lot of good stuff crammed into a small area! You might ask yourself, "How'd we get all those parks?" Well, most of the parks were "donated" to the city by developers as the community was built. When a development is made, the developer can pay a "Park dedication fee" and/or they can donate a portion of land to serve as city park or open space.



Mayor Wegscheid

This feels good and does provide parks to enjoy. But, as with any course of direction left unchecked for too long, unintended results may occur. For example, an over accumulation of park land leads to increased maintenance costs and if not maintained, due to any number of reasons including but not limited to weather, budget, equipment failure, they can be unsafe or simply look shabby.

The City Council and the Parks and Open Space Commission (POSC) are not drawing any conclusions at this time but we are asking some questions. How are our parks utilized? Do we have underutilized parks? Do we have parks that have too much traffic? Are there areas that could be improved? So on and so forth.

At the end of 2016, City Manager Eric Hoversten and members of the POSC toured all of the parks in town and have been discussing how the parks function in our community. The goal is to improve the existing parks and open spaces while simultaneously determining if the burden of any outweigh the benefit. Does eliminating the unutilized bring others to a higher quality? The POSC will develop ideas and suggestions regarding improvements for Council review during 2017.

The current Parks and Open Space Commission is made up of several volunteers who live in our community, including Travis Mills, Shawn Seiler, Derek Goddard, Linda Cordie, and Councilmember Jeff Bergquist. Commission meetings are typically held on the second Thursday of the month at 7 pm.

If you have input, attend a POSC meeting and share your ideas on how we can improve our park system in Mound. There is also a vacancy on the commission for which everyone is invited to apply!

Respectfully, *Mark Wegscheid*

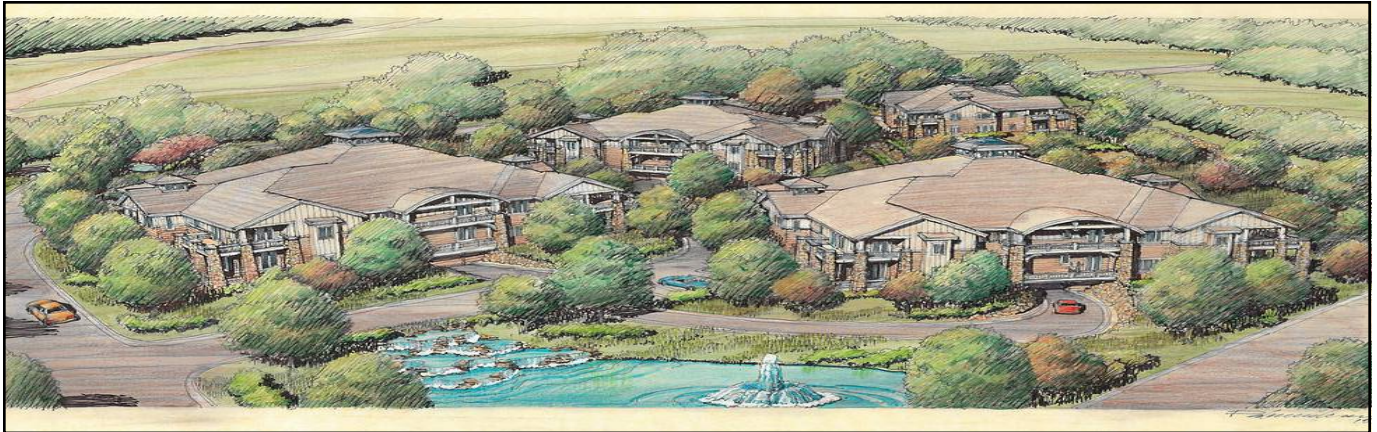
**Save the Date!**  
8th Annual  
**Moonlight  
Trail Night**  
**Saturday, March 4 5pm - 8pm**

Join friends & community members  
for a dazzling moonlit night of walking,  
snowshoeing, cross-country skiing,  
music, fun & games on the Dakota Trail!  
Dakota Junction to the Minnetonka Drive-in  
Sponsored by  
**Westonka  
Community & Commerce**  
[www.westonkacc.com](http://www.westonkacc.com)

Looking for a  
sponsorship  
opportunity?  
Call Karen at  
952-472-0400



In January, the Mound City Council approved the preliminary plat, conditional use permit, and variance applications for the "Serenity Hill on Halsted Bay" project proposed for the property at 6639 Bartlett Boulevard. The project includes construction of a 10-unit senior condominium building in Mound and is part of a larger development project in Minnetrista that includes 5 additional condominium buildings. The applications were submitted by D. J. Andersen Design Group and Windsted Investments LLC. The final plat was recently submitted to the City of Minnetrista and will be coming soon to the City of Mound.



### **Indian Knoll Manor Apartment Remodel/ Addition and New Townhome Construction Project.**

Aeon, a leading non-profit developer, owner and manager of high-quality affordable apartments and townhomes, serves more than 4,500 people in the Twin Cities area. Aeon recently assumed ownership of the Indian Knoll Manor Apartments. For 30 years, Aeon has been committed to helping people create a home in a safe, secure environment and connect to the community around them.



Townhomes along Balsam Lane

Renovation of the existing building and construction start for the 10 new townhomes began in November. Project completion is expected this fall.

## **Mound Comprehensive Plan Update**

What do we want Mound to look like in the year 2040? What goals and policies will help guide us toward this vision? The City's comprehensive plan is the primary tool for establishing the community's vision for the future, as well as the City's long-term goals, policies and implementation strategies.

All cities within the Twin Cities metropolitan area are required by law to review and update their comprehensive plan at least once every ten years, with the next round of updates due to the Metropolitan Council December 31, 2018. This plan update will cover through 2040. The current Comprehensive Plan goes through 2030.

The key elements of the Comprehensive Plan are land use, transportation (roads, transit, bikeways, and sidewalks), housing, parks and recreation facilities, natural environment, and public infrastructure (water, sewer, and stormwater systems). The updated Comprehensive Plan is intended to serve as a "big picture" policy tool to help guide the City's priorities, actions, and investments over the next 10-20 years. **Stay tuned for further information regarding upcoming opportunities for residents, property owners, and business owners to provide input on the plan update process.**



# POWER LINE SAFETY

Most of the power lines in our area are above ground service lines. Many of these service lines support both residential and commercial properties. Most of these power lines have significant voltage and potentially dangerous power. Strong winds, storms, ice, or unintentional contact with equipment may cause trees or tree limbs to fall into power lines. This may cause wires to break and fall to the ground. Should this happen, call 911 immediately.

Objects touched by a fallen wire, fences, vehicles, buildings, or even the surrounding ground must be considered energized and should not be touched. A downed power line wire is often energized and can be very dangerous.

**VERY IMPORTANT!** In most cases, it is impossible to know if a wire is energized by looking at the wire. The fire department and the electric company will respond to the situation and both have the capability to check to see if power lines are energized.

## Remember these tips:

- Avoid touching or approaching a fallen power line, and **always assume the line is energized**.
- Keep everyone away from fallen electric lines, especially children and pets.
- Avoid driving over a fallen power line.
- Call 911 immediately to report a fallen power line.

## Stay safe if a fallen power line touches your car:

- Stay inside your car, as the ground around your car may be energized
- Sound the horn, roll down your window, and call for help
- Warn others to stay away. Anyone who touches the equipment or ground around your car can be injured or electrocuted.
- Use your cell phone to call 911.
- Wait until the fire department, police, or electric company tells you that it is safe to get out of your car before exiting the vehicle.

**Be extra careful ~ it could save your life!**



# 2017

## CUSTOMER APPRECIATION WINE SALE!!

**SAVE 15% ON ALL WINE**  
**SAVE 20% BY THE CASE**  
**MIX & MATCH**  
**STOCK UP NOW!!**  
**FEB. 23RD - MARCH 11TH**  
**\*SORRY, NO OTHER DISCOUNTS APPLY!**  
**2135 COMMERCE BLVD.**  
**MOUND, MN**  
**952-472-0648**

## ***Please Clean Up After Your Pets***

With the spring season and warmer weather soon to be upon us, the City would like to remind you that you must clean up after your pet. Per City Code, any person having the custody or control of a domestic animal shall be responsible for cleaning up and disposing of all animal waste, and must have appropriate equipment to pick up, remove, and dispose of all waste in a sanitary manner when the animal is in a public place.

Additionally, be certain your four-legged friend is **properly** restrained at all times. City Code states the following in Section 14-4:

An animal is considered under restraint when any of the following occurs: 1) The animal is on a leash, 2) The animal is on a leash **no more than six feet in length**, 3) The animal is at heel beside a competent person having custody of it, 4) The animal is under a competent person's custody when in a vehicle being driven or parked on the street, 5) The animal is securely restrained in a vehicle being driven or parked on the street; or 6) The animal is on the property of another with the consent of the property owner.

This friendly reminder is for the health and safety of everyone in our community. Thank you for doing your part!



## ***FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS***

<b>City of Mound General Fund / Levy Key Statistics</b>							
<b>Year</b>	<b>(B) Actual Total Fund Balance as % of Exp</b>	<b>(C) Surplus, Break-even or (Spend Down)</b>	<b>(D) General Fund Levy % Chg</b>	<b>(E) General Fund Exp % Chg</b>	<b>(F) Total Levy % Chg</b>	<b>(G) Change in Tax Capacity %</b>	<b>(H) Tax Rate %</b>
2009	43.00%	\$27,079	3.90%	-1.28%	4.98%	5.96%	34.58%
2010	43.11%	\$177,454	0.00%	-1.84%	2.48%	-4.43%	37.29%
2011	48.66%	\$146,641	0.00%	1.64%	1.99%	-11.25%	42.43%
2012	44.16%	(\$203,153)	-6.75%	1.63%	-2.24%	-13.50%	47.53%
2013	49.00%	\$136,950	2.00%	-2.28%	4.31%	-10.44%	54.71%
2014	53.00%	\$233,263	-4.23%	-0.30%	-1.18%	-3.20%	57.00%
2015	58.00%	\$316,309	3.00%	2.40%	1.75%	10.00%	51.68%
2016 Bud	44.00%	(\$122,312)	3.00%	4.10%	1.89%	2.10%	50.42%
2017 Proposed	49.00%	\$ (151,485)	-3.00%	0.40%	-1.00%	9.86%	47.04%
<b>AVG (09-17)</b>	<b>47.99%</b>	<b>\$ 62,305</b>	<b>-0.23%</b>	<b>0.50%</b>	<b>1.44%</b>	<b>-1.66%</b>	<b>46.96%</b>

The City Council approved the 2017 budget and levy at the December 13, 2016 final meeting of the year. The City continues to benefit from low inflation, fuel prices, and being exempted from sales tax starting in 2014. Capital purchase requests were also down from 2016. The City will continue to monitor the financial indicators above to ensure reasonable, sustainable growth while continuing to provide the quality services our residents depend upon and addressing our ongoing infrastructure needs. The entire budget, capital improvement plan, and annual financial audit report can be found on the City's website by clicking Departments/Finance in the top menu.

## **Green Disposal Guide**

Learn how to get rid of yard waste, mattresses, paint, or fluorescent light bulbs and more - responsibly. The online Green Disposal Guide, available at [hennepin.us/greendisposalguide](http://hennepin.us/greendisposalguide) also has tips for shopping smarter, living greener, and creating less waste. Many of us are familiar with the common materials that can be recycled, including paper, cartons, glass, plastic, and metal cans; but, consumers may be surprised to learn that materials such as Styrofoam (TM), plastic wrap, aluminum foil, and microwaveable food trays can't be recycled and may wish to reduce consumption of such materials.



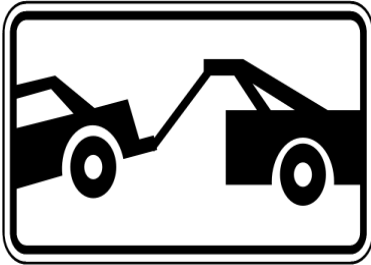
**It's as simple as [hennepin.us/green-disposal-guide](http://hennepin.us/green-disposal-guide)**



# ORONO POLICE DEPARTMENT



## Police Chief's Corner



Although we are in the heart of winter, we wanted to provide a friendly reminder of some parking issues we frequently encounter. Your neighbors, plow drivers, and all emergency personnel appreciate your efforts to follow the City of Mound parking restrictions. Those restrictions are no on-street parking between 2 am and 6 am from November 15 to April 15 of each year. Please contact the police department at 952-249-4700 if the need arises for alternate parking arrangements. The police department will work with other City staff to help accommodate short term needs.

The police department continues to receive theft reports from unlocked cars and garages. Please take the time to secure these items. We have also had several auto thefts in the Lake area in the past several months. The auto thefts were all unlocked vehicles with the keys left inside. Suspects have been developed in many of these cases and criminal charges are pending. Although the police department has recovered a large quantity of stolen items, some family treasures, if not recovered, can never be replaced by the insurance company. Please keep items secured and don't leave anything of value in your vehicle.



**Stay safe!**

Looking for a another way to volunteer?

**Donate your time to**  **or**  **WeCAN !!**

**WeCAB** (Community Area Busing) drivers provide rides to medical appointments, shopping, and church. Volunteer dispatchers are also needed. Call 1-844-743-3932.

**WeCAN** (Western Communities Action Network) provides support programs such as emergency assistance, Meals-on-Wheels, and a Mobile Market food shelf. Call 952-472-0742.



## WESTONKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Are you interested in community history? The Westonka History Museum has opportunities for you to participate in preserving local history. Set your own schedule. Volunteer as much as you'd like, in a variety of ways. Volunteer your time for:

- ★ **a project**, such as scanning newspapers in the museum collection which are becoming incredibly fragile, almost too fragile to handle.
- ★ **welcome visitors** to the museum on a Saturday. The museum is open 10 am to 2 pm on Saturdays, and now has displays on two different floors in the Centennial Building. Visitors welcome a bit of introduction.
- ★ **research local history** and write up your research for our quarterly newsletter.
- ★ **join the board** to set the goals and bring ideas for fundraising activities in support of the museum.

Check out our website. Contact us with your volunteer ideas! Leave your contact information on our voice mail at 952-472-9800 or on our website: [Westonkahistoricalsociety.org](http://Westonkahistoricalsociety.org).





# Did you Know?



**Mound/Minnetrista Recycle Day** - The City of Mound and City of Minnetrista have scheduled the Annual Spring Clean Up/Recycling Day for May 13, 2017, from 8 am to 3 pm. Look for more information in the May 1<sup>st</sup> newsletter or on our website.

**Republic Services** sent the 2017 Single Sort Recycling Schedule to all residents in December. Additional copies are available at City Hall or on our website under Department/Public Works/Recycling.

**Leaf Dumping** - City of Mound residents can resume bringing grass clippings, milfoil, and leaves to the compost site located at 4275 Creekview Circle in Minnetrista, beginning April 1, 2017. This is a free service if you show your driver's license. Additional services are available for a fee. Hours are Monday – Friday 8 am–5 pm & Saturday 9 am–1 pm. Call 952-446-1056 for more information.

**Mound Community Notification System** - Sign up on the City website or call 952-472-0600 to receive text messages and/or emails regarding important community events: road closures, utility emergencies, seasonal parking reminders, severe weather notifications, and special event news.

**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 15<sup>th</sup> falls on a weekend or holiday. **E-bill** forms are available as well. Find forms on our website at [cityofmound.com](http://cityofmound.com) or by calling Customer Service at 651-255-0972.

**Dock Program** - All dock applications are due by February 28, 2017. Applications were sent the first week in January. Please call 952-472-0613 with any questions.

**Public Restrooms** - The City of Mound Public Restrooms located on the Dakota Rail Trail by the Mound Transit Center will be open May 1st through October 31st.

**The Dakota Rail Trail** The Dakota Rail Trail is closed between Westedge and Commerce Boulevards as activities begin for the Met Council sewer project. This spring, an official detour will be set up to direct trail users to Westedge, Lynwood, and Commerce Boulevards to avoid the construction area. This section of the trail will remain closed throughout construction until spring/summer 2018.

*Welcome, Boys!*

Tanner Palm joined the Public Works Street Department on October 25, 2016. Prior to working for the City, he was with Lindstrom Restoration. Tanner is also a volunteer firefighter for the City, continuing the family tradition of Palms serving as firefighters. Tanner recently graduated from Hennepin Technical College with an associate degree in Fire Science Technology. He lives in Minnetrista and enjoys fishing, hunting and playing hockey or softball.



Mike Tessen was hired November 14, 2016, as a Public Works Street Worker. Mike comes to the City of Mound from a design/build landscape company where he worked as the operations supervisor and specialized in building elaborate water features for residential and commercial properties, using heavy equipment such as backhoes and bobcats. Mike loves to fish year-round and can be found on local lakes in his spare time. Originally from Wisconsin, Mike lives in Minnetrista, but is still a Packers fan, much to the chagrin of his girlfriend, who is a staunch Vikings fan - definitely a house divided!





# MOUND FIRE DEPARTMENT HAPPENINGS



## ***Chris Heitz, Mound Firefighter of the Year 2016***

Since 1980, the Mound Fire Department has recognized one firefighter as the department "Firefighter of the Year". The tradition continued in 2016, with the Mound "Firefighter of the Year" award going to Chris Heitz.

The recipient of the firefighter of the year award is determined by and based upon a nomination and evaluation process. The nomination process involves all of the current Mound firefighters. All active firefighters are eligible to win the award.

The award is based upon predetermined performance criteria including:

- A firefighter's level of participation, involvement, and contribution to the department
- The number of responses to emergency fire & rescue calls
- By attending and leading department training sessions
- The amount of time dedicated to public relations activities
- Support of the department's teamwork environment, and a positive attitude



All of these important firefighter attributes typically add up to an individual that is very dedicated to serve the fire department and improve public safety response.

Firefighter Heitz has been a volunteer with the Mound Fire Department since joining the ranks in March 2013. Firefighter Heitz is relatively new as a firefighter with four years with the fire department, which makes his accomplishments even more significant.

Congratulations to Firefighter Chris Heitz on his many accomplishments for being selected as the 2016 Mound Firefighter of the Year!



## **Help us serve you better**

In 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. 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 administrative office at 952-472-3555 and we will gladly help clear the snow from the hydrant.

**Thank you for your assistance!**

City of Mound  
2415 Wilshire Boulevard  
Mound, MN 55364  
952-472-0600  
cityofmound.com

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## City Council Members

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Jennifer Peterson 612-518-4003  
jenniferpeterson@cityofmound.com

Ray Salazar 952-472-7383  
raysalazar@cityofmound.com

\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*

## POSTAL CUSTOMER

## City Hall Hours

November through April  
Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

## Mound Meeting Calendar

- **City Council** meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month beginning at 7 pm
- **HRA** meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month usually beginning at 6:55 pm
- **Planning Commission** meets the first Tuesday of each month beginning at 7 pm
- **Parks and Open Space Commission** meets the second Thursday of the month beginning at 7 pm on an as-needed basis
- **Docks and Commons Commission** meets the third Thursday of the month beginning at 7 pm on an as-needed basis

## Dates To Remember

Feb 2 Groundhog Day  
Feb 12 Lincoln's Birthday  
Feb 14 Valentine's Day  
Feb 20 Presidents' Day  
Feb 22 Washington's Birthday  
Mar 4 Moonlight Trail Night  
Mar 17 St. Patrick's Day  
Apr 16 Easter  
Apr 17 Tax Day  
Apr 26 Administrative Professional's Day

