



# City Contact



A Quarterly Publication from the City of Mound

## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Dear Neighbors;

The Mound City Council discussed the 2020 Preliminary Budget and Levy at the September 10<sup>th</sup> regular meeting. The Council approved a preliminary 3% increase to the total levy, and the final levy can't go over this amount. The final levy and utility rates will be approved at the December 10th regular meeting, which is the final meeting of the year.

The September 10<sup>th</sup> meeting is available for streaming on the LMCC-TV.org website. The discussion included background on the challenge for elected officials to balance property tax and utility rates. Starting in 2003, the City undertook a significant initiative to upgrade our infrastructure, including rebuilding all streets, upgrading storm water drainage systems, water infrastructure and the 30 sanitary sewer lift stations. The City has over \$50M in outstanding bonds related to these improvements, of which the related debt service was 30% of all expenditures in 2018.

Significant analysis of Mound's property tax and utility rates has been performed over the years. Mound is considered fully developed with over 95% of its property value residential, meaning there is no large commercial property tax payer or utility consumer to disproportionately fund the costs of infrastructure upgrades, like a Hormel might do in the City of Austin, MN. Some people question why the City doesn't spread the costs of the utilities – water, sewer, storm, etc. – on the property taxes and eliminate the quarterly utility bill. When it comes to property taxes, 74% of Mound's tax parcels are off-lake or 'inland' making up 45% of the tax capacity and 22% of the tax parcels are lakeshore making up 43% of the tax capacity. Tax capacity is how city (streets, parks, and public safety), school district and county services provided in our community are currently allocated.

Adding \$5M+ to the property tax levy to eliminate utility bills would increase the city property tax rate from 42% to 78.5% in 2020. This compares to Orono's city property tax rate of 16.4%, Minnetrista's 24.9% and Spring Park's 32.1% in 2019. Having a city property tax rate so far outside the norm would diminish property values and investment in Mound, which is why the City is working hard on preserving an acceptable balance. Any household who uses 10K gallons per quarter and has a taxable market value of \$250K (Mound's median price of homes) or more, would pay more in incremental property taxes than they would if there was still a utility bill. This example is meant to show the limits and trade-offs to any policy and how it is impossible to appease everyone.

As always, information on agendas, the 2020 budget and upcoming meetings is available at [www.cityofmound.com](http://www.cityofmound.com) by clicking on the "Government" tab and scrolling to the "Mayor and Council" line for Council/HRA and "Advisory Commissions" for Planning, Parks, and Docks and Commons.

Have a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holiday season, from my family to yours!!

Respectfully,

Ray Salazar

NOV DEC JAN  
2019/20



Mayor  
Ray Salazar

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## **HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING STARTS AT .....**



**Harbor**  
**Wine & Spirits**

Make Harbor Wine & Spirits your holiday entertaining destination! Our knowledgeable staff will help you choose the perfect wine or cocktail pairings whether you are serving hors d'oeuvres or a full gourmet meal. Stop by to see our new everyday specials, gift packages, gift cards, and our featured wine, beer and spirit of the month, in addition to our Friday senior discount for 62+, and our everyday 15% wine and spirits mix-and-match case discounts. Also check out our new "Steals and Deals" closeout section.



A store remodel is planned for mid-January that will reaffirm Harbor Wine & Spirits as a retail destination known for quality and customer service. As part of the store remodel, we have been switching things up, testing new locations for many products, reducing clutter & overall making the store a more favorable shopping experience all while keeping the flavors & variety you have come to enjoy.

Thank you for your continued patronage. We look forward to helping you with all of your upcoming holiday needs!

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### **Water Saving Tips**

**Water Softeners.** Your softener can use 30 -100 gallons of water per regeneration cycle depending on size and efficiency. Keeping the brine tank topped-off with salt reduces the water used each regeneration cycle up to 50%. Over softening increases brine recycle frequency; check the panel control for hardness = 24 - 29 grains. Be sure your outside water is not treated.

**Indoor Conservation Tips.** 1) Check all faucets, pipes and toilets for leaks. For toilets, drop a dye tablet or a teaspoon of food coloring (avoid red) in the tank. If color appears in the bowl after 15 minutes, you probably need to replace the "flapper" valve. 2) Install water saving showerheads and ultra-low-flush toilets. 3) Take shorter showers. 4) Never use your toilet as a wastebasket. 5) Turn off the water while brushing your teeth or shaving. 6) Defrost frozen food in the refrigerator. 7) Rinse vegetables in a full sink or pan of water. 8) Fully load your dishwasher. 9) Rinse dishes in a full sink or pan of water. 10) Wash full loads of clothes.

**Outdoor Conservation Tips.** 1) Don't over-water landscaping or water on rainy or windy days by auditing system settings and turning it OFF if not needed. 2) Adjust sprinklers so they don't water hard surfaces. 3) Use drip irrigation, water potted plants from a can versus the hose - consider a rain barrel. 4) Water your lawn or garden early in the morning or late in the evening. 5) Equip all hoses with shut-off nozzles. 6) Plant drought-tolerant or low water-use plants, shrubs, ground cover, and grasses. 7) Use mulch around plants to reduce evaporation and discourage weeds. 8) Mow grass one setting higher; taller grass sets deeper roots and is more drought tolerant. 9) Use a pool cover to cut down on water evaporation. 10) Use a broom to clean surfaces instead of a hose.



## ***Planning and Development Update***

### **2040 Mound Comprehensive Plan Update**

The City of Mound submitted its 2040 Comprehensive Plan to the Metropolitan Council for formal review and approval, which is expected shortly. Once approved, the City will prepare amendments to the zoning ordinance, subdivision regulations, etc., to ensure consistency with the new plan as required by statute.

The link to the 2040 Mound Comprehensive Plan can be found on the City's website at [www.cityofmound.com](http://www.cityofmound.com). Questions can be directed to Community Development Director Sarah Smith by email at [sarahsmith@cityofmound.com](mailto:sarahsmith@cityofmound.com) or by telephone at (952)472-0604.

### **Replat of City-Owned Properties in Harbor District in Downtown Mound**

The City of Mound is replatting multiple city-owned parcels in the Harbor District in downtown Mound through the Major Subdivision process. Replatting the area will consolidate parcels and extinguish rights-of-way, alley and easements. Although no specific development plans are part of this replat, the proposed lot and outlet arrangement will allow for future development for the purposes as outlined in the Comprehensive Plan. Lot 1 is proposed as the plat needs to have at least one lot and it encompasses a portion of the property where a drainage and utility easement is needed along the Dakota Rail Regional Trail. Outlots A, B, and C are located on the west side of the property. Outlot D is located on the south and includes the public space around the Andrews Sister Trail as well as Lost Lake. No development can occur in any of the outlots without replatting. Completing the replat now allows the City to take advantage of title work that was performed at significant expense in 2018 before it is considered outdated. It also partitions the area in such a way that better defines areas slated for potential development.

The Planning Commission recommended approval of the replat at their October meeting and the City Council will discuss it in November.



It is going to be a busy and important year for elections in 2020. Cities will be responsible for running three elections in 2020; the Presidential Nominating Primary (PNP) on March 3, the State Primary on August 11 and the General Election on November 3. All four City precincts will be operating during normal polling hours (7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.) for all three elections in 2020. Absentee Voting for the PNP begins Friday, January 17th.

Absentee Voting can be done via the County by mail or at City Hall. See [www.hennepin.us/residents/elections/prepare-vote](http://www.hennepin.us/residents/elections/prepare-vote) for more information on absentee voting or the MN Secretary of State website for more information regarding the PNP: <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/how-elections-work/presidential-primary/>

Municipal elections are on the November 3 ballot and will include the Mayor and two City Council Member seats. Candidate filing for municipal offices opens the end of July.

The city is always looking for Election Judges! If you are interested, please contact Kevin Kelly, Administrative Services Coordinator at 952-472-0613 or via email at [asc@cityofmound.com](mailto:asc@cityofmound.com). We encourage friends to apply together to make this important public service more enjoyable!

If you are new to Mound or if you haven't voted in the past four years, you may need to re-register to vote. Registering to vote prior to Election Day makes voting a quicker and easier process. You can register online at <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/register-to-vote> or you can pick up a voter registration application at Mound City Hall.

## Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery™! (It could save your life!)

Day light savings time ends on Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> and marks 32 years that Energizer® has partnered with the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) to keep families safe through the Change Your Clock Change Your Battery™ program. This program was created to encourage people to change batteries in all smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors when setting the clocks back for daylight savings time.

The National Fire Protection Association reports that 71% of smoke alarms which failed to operate had missing batteries, were disconnected, or had dead batteries. Stop by Mound Fire Department for free 9-volt batteries sponsored by Energizer while supplies last!



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## Mound Fire 2019 Budget Bolstered with Grants & Donations

Mound Fire, serving Mound, Minnetrista, Spring Park and Shorewood, added a whopping \$125,121 in grants (\$94.4K) and donations (\$30.7K) in 2019! The grants and donations allowed the fire department to replace outdated and out of compliance equipment. Grants and donations keep fire department budget increases relatively low while improving the quality of operations! Key highlights of our awards and donations include:

- \* A **FEMA AFG Grant** was awarded to purchase a new 6000 PSI High Pressure Breathing Air System, including an air compressor and cascade type bottle fill stations, replacing 25 year old equipment.
- \* A **State Fire Marshal Grant** award to purchase an Extractor Washing Machine and Dryer, a critical component of extracting cancer causing carcinogenic residue from the firefighter's turn-out-gear and complying with the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) guidelines.
- \* **Mound Fire Relief Association and Fire Auxiliary** donated Fish Fry proceeds that were used to purchase equipment, including a new 225 HP Honda Motor for our fire boat and reflective uniform jackets for the firefighters.
- \* **Northwest Tonka Lions** donations were used to purchase new or replacement equipment including several Automatic External Defibrillators (AED) distributed throughout the community, a Thermal Imaging Camera and (4) Multi-Gas Monitors.



## Please Keep Fire Hydrants Accessible All Winter and Help Us Serve You Better!

In winter, highly piled snow around fire hydrants can create accessibility problems for firefighters. In an emergency, firefighters must first locate the fire hydrant and then have unimpeded access to the hydrant.

You can volunteer and help improve the water supply hookup efficiency by clearing the snow from around the hydrants in your neighborhood. Please help keep hydrants accessible throughout the winter so we can be much more efficient and timely. 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 arrange to have staff clear the snow from the hydrant.

Thank you for your assistance!



## Department of Public Works Streets, Parks, Water, Sanitary Sewer and Storm Water Management

**WINTER SNOW AND ICE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES.** The City will initiate ice control activities based on forecast, observed weather and road conditions, or when alerted by the Orono Police Department of any localized, after-hours public safety issues.

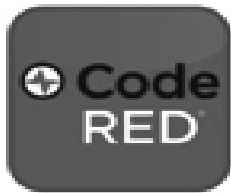
The City initiates plowing activities *after* a 2-inch or greater snowfall in coordination with the School District. Activities focus on restoring travel during the AM/PM school bus and commute periods with full cleanup after the storm. Final clean-up may take hours, or days, depending on the conditions, so patience is requested. City sidewalks are opened and then cleared from the downtown district outward. Limited staff and equipment does not allow us “keep up” during extended snowfalls, so once you arrive home please consider staying in for the night if conditions dictate.

Please observe winter parking restrictions from 2 to 6 AM beginning November 15 and voluntarily remove vehicles from the streets during snow plowing activities. Reduce your speed and drive cautiously; ideally, remain off the streets during storms unless absolutely necessary.

Unfortunately, the plows push snow across the apron of your driveway. This is a limitation of the equipment available. Our priority is restoring travel and circulation throughout the community as quickly and efficiently as possible. You can reduce the frustration of this by delaying your final cleanup until after the street is fully plowed. Limiting how much snow you place in the area to the left of your driveway (looking toward the street) helps, too.

**OTHER SNOW RELATED TIPS.** The City suggests neighbors coordinate snow storage and do not place driveway snow in the streets. Digging out mail boxes is a private responsibility - operators will plow as close to boxes as current and seasonal accumulation will allow. The City will only replace a mailbox directly hit by a plow. Mailboxes knocked over or broken off by the pressure or impact of the plow’s snow-wake are the owner’s responsibility. Call City Hall (472-0603) to report damage resulting from a direct hit by the plow. Checking the condition of your mailbox post before winter may help avoid frustration. Keep them behind the back of curb line and 42" above the shoulder.

**SNOWBIRDS/PART-TIME RESIDENTS.** Ensure you have people checking your property regularly and that the heat is at a sufficient level to keep pipes from freezing if you do not winterize your home.



### CodeRED Community Notification

The CodeRED system serves as the backbone of the city’s emergency planning and communications outreach to both citizens and staff. The system sends telephone calls, text messages, emails and posts to social media channels to inform residents of road closures, watermain breaks, policies under consideration by the City Council, seasonal parking reminders and more!

Registering for CodeRED is quick, easy, and FREE! Your CodeRED subscription is protected data and will not be sold. Sign-up today by visiting the city website and clicking the CodeRED icon or by contacting Field Officer Andy Drilling at [fieldops@cityofmound.com](mailto:fieldops@cityofmound.com) or 952-472-0605.



## Snowmobiles, ATV's and Golf Carts

Snowmobiles are generally able to be ridden on city streets *except* between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. Operators should also note Mound has noise restrictions between 10:00 pm and 7:00 am (see City Code Chapter 46-141(b)). Snowmobile operators between the ages of 14 and 18 must possess a valid snowmobile safety operator's permit issued by the MN DNR to operate on any public street, land or ice-covered public water. No person under the age of 14 shall operate a snowmobile on any public street, land or ice-covered public water.



## Police Chief's Corner



ATV's Class 1, Class 2 or UTV's and golf carts are all prohibited from operating on public streets in the City of Mound.



## Winter Parking Restrictions

No person shall stop, stand, or park any vehicle between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. from November 15th to April 15th and no vehicle shall in any case be parked upon any street in any one place for a continuous period of more than 24 hours.

## Crime Prevention

A reminder that garage burglaries and thefts from motor vehicles are still a common problem. Generally, the victimization can be mitigated through basic proactive measures of locking your vehicles, homes and garages. Don't leave items of value inside your vehicle and certainly not in plain sight. If you see something, say something. But please, call the police at the time it is happening. Frequently people don't want to bother us, but the police are here to serve you and are not bothered by your concern. If you find it concerning, call the police non-emergency dispatch at (952)258-5321 or dial 911 for emergencies.

Our residents are still frequently falling victim to scammers. The moral of the story is, if it seems too good to be true, it is. Most scams involve the victim being promised something in exchange for money. The scammer will want a relatively small sum of money sent to make the bigger transaction happen for the victim. The scammer will then continue the ruse getting more assets, oftentimes gift cards, personal identification and bank/credit information. Please spread the word and keep an eye on any vulnerable adults in your life as this population seems

### City Hall Hours

#### November through April

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

#### May through October

Monday - Thursday 7:30 am - 5 pm

Friday 7:30 am - 11:30 am

### City Contacts

General Information 952-472-0600  
**[www.cityofmound.com](http://www.cityofmound.com)**

Planning & Building 952-472-0607

Police Department 952-249-4700  
After Hours/Non-emergency 952-258-5321  
**911 Emergency**

Public Works 952-472-0603  
After Hours Dispatch 952-258-5321



## ANNOUNCING NEW HIRES & PROMOTIONS

**Dustin Koskela** rejoined the Public Works - Parks Department on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Dustin most recently worked for the City of Chanhassen's Parks Department. He is a resident of Carver county, and enjoys fishing Lake Minnetonka.

**Shaun Pederson** started with the Public Works - Streets Department on June 10<sup>th</sup>. Shaun is originally from Idaho and moved to Minnesota in the late 90's. Shaun worked at Cub Foods and Key Energy Services prior to joining Mound and enjoys camping, hiking, fishing and playing guitar.

**Tanner Sorensen** started with the Public Works – Utilities Department on August 12<sup>th</sup>. Tanner enjoys spending time with family and working with different electronics and looks forward to contributing great service for the betterment of the community!

**Jen Holmquist** started as the City Hall Administrative Assistant on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Jen lives in Buffalo with her husband, 3 kids and 2 dogs and says she is a Minnesota girl, born and raised, and loves spending time outdoors, no matter the season. In her free time, you can find her curled up with a good book or writing her own stories. Jen says she is happy to be a part of the team at City Hall and is looking forward to getting to know the places and faces of Mound!

**Noah Iverson** has been promoted to Assistant Finance Director effective October 1st. Noah started as the Accountant in 2014, and brought a wealth of knowledge from his education and audit experience to this position. This promotion is a reflection of Noah's contributions to date and the promise of his continuing efforts to further the strategic objectives of Mound!

**Harbor Wine & Spirits** said good-bye to long-time manager John Colotti when he accepted a position closer to home in Elk River. This created the opportunity to promote long-time Assistant Manager **Ron Gust** to Manager and Lead Clerk **Kyle Christensen** to Assistant Manager. Note: Applications are still being taken for Part-Time Clerks starting at \$14 per hour!



## PLANNING COMMISSION APPLICANTS WANTED!

The Planning Commission's primary function is to help implement City plans, including the 2040 Comprehensive Plan, and reviewing and recommending land use and subdivision applications as well as other matters pertaining to planning and zoning. Applications are being accepted to fill a vacancy for a three-year term ending 12/31/22. Planning Commission regular meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month, with special meetings as needed.

Serving as a Planning Commissioner is a great introduction to local government! Applications are available at [www.cityofmound.com](http://www.cityofmound.com) or by calling (952)472-0603 and are due by noon, Monday, November 18th with mandatory interviews on Dec. 3rd at 7pm. Thank you for considering serving on the Planning Commission!



City of Mound  
2415 Wilshire Blvd  
Mound, MN 55364

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MOUND, MN

## City Council Members



Mayor Ray Salazar  
612-308-7680  
raysalazar@cityofmound.com



Jeff Bergquist  
612-968-1234  
jeffbergquist@cityofmound.com



Sherrie Pugh  
612-518-0287  
sherriepugh@cityofmound.com



Phil Velsor  
612-812-0600  
philvelsor@cityofmound.com



Paula Larson  
952-334-7911  
paulalarson@cityofmound.com



## ANNUAL END OF PROHIBITION SALE

Thursday, December 5th, 2019

**15% Off Beer, Wine,  
Cider & Spirits ALL DAY**



**Harbor**  
Wine & Spirits  
(952) 472-0648

Samplings from Noon - 8pm



*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.*

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

## POSTAL CUSTOMER

## 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 on an as-needed basis
- **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



Nov 11 Veterans Day - City Offices Closed  
Nov 28-29 Thanksgiving - City Offices Closed  
Dec 10 Final City Council meeting of 2019  
Dec 24-25 Christmas - City Offices Closed  
Dec 31 Jan 1 New Years - City Offices Closed  
Jan 20 MLK Day - City Offices Closed