



# City Contact



A Quarterly Publication from the City of Mound

## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Dear Neighbors,

The City of Mound continues to monitor COVID-19 pandemic response activities directed by the Governor along with guidelines and advice from the CDC and MN Dept of Health. While more and more options for commercial services, retail, faith activities, recreation, dining, and entertainment become available; the pandemic will unfortunately continue to seal the fate of most of our community-wide gatherings, celebrations, and featured events; and many have already announced cancellation. The risk of infection is still very present in Hennepin County.

In tune with Phase III of the Stay Safe MN Plan; beginning with the 14 July Council meeting and through mid-November, we will re-open Council and Commission meetings to in-person attendance for our residents. Meetings will be hosted in the Westonka Schools Performing Arts Center where social distancing requirements can be met. Staff and Council considered several options for hosting the variety of Public Meetings that are the core of how we do business and operate the City. This is extremely challenging and must fairly balance the expectations of a wide variety of residents, and remain compliant with Public Meeting Law.

Council meetings will continue to be held the second and fourth Tuesday each month with agendas and meeting details/locations posted to the City website the Thursday prior under the "Mayor and Council" section of the "Government" tab on the Home Page ([www.cityofmound.com](http://www.cityofmound.com)).

Please note the number of redevelopment activities described in greater detail within this newsletter that we anticipate the Council will consider in meetings throughout summer and fall. While these significant matters have been in discussion and review for quite some time, their culmination marks a significant transition from ideas toward actions; and mark major progress on the decades-long goals we've set for improvement in our core downtown. Commissions and Councils will evaluate these opportunities carefully in our mandate to preserve and enhance the character and sustainability of our amazing community. Your participation is welcomed – the City web page is the best source for keeping informed on redevelopment activity progress and how to provide input.

On a final, more personal note; this has been the most stressful spring and summer many can recall. It remains vital that we continue to look out for each other. We, as neighbors, may be our most important asset as we work through these current challenges. Respect that your neighbors' situations may have changed significantly in past months and they may be impacted more significantly than imagined. Communicate, be patient, and kind. Getting through this together implies that we're all still together when whatever "over" looks like happens.

Respectfully,

Ray Salazar  
Mound Mayor

AUG SEP OCT  
2020



Mayor  
Ray Salazar

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## Mound is participating in Hennepin County Deconstruction Grants

To help divert waste from landfills, Hennepin County has grants available to homeowners and developers to deconstruct buildings to salvage building materials rather than demolish them.

### Big opportunities to reuse and recycle building materials

Many building materials have the potential to be salvaged and reused or recycled. In fact, about 85% of the materials in a typical demolition or remodeling project could be salvaged and kept out of landfills. But currently, only about 30% of building materials are reused or recycled. Deconstruction involves carefully dismantling buildings to salvage materials for reuse. Commonly salvaged building materials include old growth lumber, doors, flooring, cabinets and fixtures. Deconstruction provides numerous environmental and social benefits compared to standard demolition. Deconstruction prevents usable materials from going to the landfill, makes building materials available to the community, provides jobs, and supports local reuse retailers.

### Grants help offset added time and labor costs

In a deconstruction project, a building is taken apart, mostly by hand, and materials are sorted into categories for efficient recycling and reuse. Compared to standard demolition techniques that use mechanical equipment to knock down structures, the additional labor costs and time with deconstruction can be a deterrent. Homeowners and developers of residential properties can receive up to \$5,000 to help offset the additional time and labor costs associated with deconstruction. Grants are available for demolition or renovation projects that are 250 square feet or larger on structures built prior to 1970.

Learn more about the grants including eligibility and requirements at [www.hennepin.us/deconstruction](http://www.hennepin.us/deconstruction).



## 75.5% of Mound Households have responded to the 2020 Census as of July 1st! Have you?

Instructions were mailed to all households in mid-March on how to respond on-line, by phone or by mail. The Census results inform how \$800B in federal funds are allocated, congressional districting, plans for school districts and where businesses will relocate. **August 11 – October 31:** Census takers will interview homes that haven't responded to the 2020 Census to help make sure everyone is counted.

Thank you to those households who have already responded. For those that haven't, please do so online at <https://2020census.gov> or by calling (844) 330-2020 or by mailing back the paper questionnaire that was sent to your home. *Let's Count, Minnesota!!*

### City Hall Hours

**Note: Currently closed to the public, please call (952)472-0603 for assistance.**

#### May through October

Monday - Thursday 7:30 am - 5 pm  
Friday 7:30 am - 11:30 am

#### November through April

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

### 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 Dispatch 952-258-5321  
**911 Emergency**

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

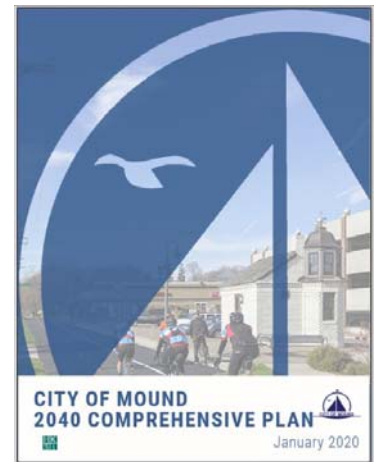


## Redevelopment Can Be a Win-Win for the Community

Redevelopment of old buildings into new, evolved projects is an essential component to maintaining community vitality and investment. Mound has been fortunate to attract investment from a variety of esteemed developers who are bringing new products and services to our area. This new generation of developments started in the early 2000's with Mound Marketplace and Village by the Bay replacing the old high school building, Mound True Value rebuilding in the Transit District, followed by the Villa's on Lost Lake development and creation of the Mound Harbor District. The 2008 recession halted development interest and the City lost 40% of its taxable market value in subsequent years. Fortunately, in 2012, Walgreens and Dakota Junction brought significant renewal to one of downtown's main corners without any taxpayer assistance. In 2015, Aeon made significant investments and used alternative financing sources to supplement the insufficient HUD funding to renew and expand a rapidly deteriorating property, creating the Balsam Hill Community. The addition of Harrison Bay Senior Living in 2017 provided much needed services to residents whom can now live close to their loved ones.

The City will now be considering and acting on two potential projects in downtown, Shafer Richardson's proposed 102-unit market-rate apartments in Commerce Place and Lifestyle Communities' proposed 52-unit cooperative living community in the Harbor District. Both of these projects are amenity-rich and support the City's goal of providing lifecycle housing to accommodate a wide range of incomes, ages, and types of households (single family, multifamily, millennials, seniors, etc.) in the community.

The goal is to manage density and preservation of valuable public spaces while creating opportunities for different housing options and new sources of revenue for the property tax and utility funds as well as for our local businesses. Elected officials are tasked with developing a strategic framework that encourages economic expansion and is complementary to the community and assures long-term financial stability. Many of the details can be found in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan available on the city's website.



### Mound Business News & Other Fast Facts

- The completed projects described above added \$65M to the property tax base as of 2020, will pay \$837K incremental property taxes in 2020 and paid approximately \$245K in utility bills in 2019.
- The projects to be considered (Shafer Richardson & Lifestyle Communities) will add approximately \$35M to the property tax base and will pay an estimated \$504K in property taxes and \$109K in utility bills on an annual basis.
- An approved agreement with Lifestyle Communities would allow the City to repay more than \$750K of the nearly \$2M that has been levied to date for debt service, pay for significant improvements to the remaining public spaces and avoid \$850K in additional tax levies between 2021 and 2031.
- New businesses have opened in Mound including Wake Up Fit, a personal fitness and wellness center located at 2354 Wilshire Boulevard, Miss Kasual women's boutique at 2365 Commerce Boulevard, and Abra Kadabra Environmental Services, an environmentally friendly pest control company, located at 2642 Commerce Boulevard.
- The Orono Westonka Soccer Club has moved their office and inside practice fields into the Balboa Business Center located at 5334 Shoreline Drive.
- Minnesota Lakes Bank, 2290 Commerce Boulevard, recently underwent an interior building remodel project.
- U.S. Bank is renovating space at 2241 Commerce Boulevard in the Mound Marketplace Shopping Center.

## **POLICE TRAINING UPDATE**

The Orono Police Department is committed to serving the community and creating projects and programs that build trust and partnerships.

I have received requests and inquiries regarding Orono police departments training.

The Peace Officers Standards and Training Board (P.O.S.T.) mandates a certain amount and certain types of training for licensed police officers during their three-year licensing cycle. Some new requirements include: Crisis Intervention Training (CIT), Conflict Mediation training, and Implicit Bias training to include cultural diversity.

Here at Orono Police Department, our commitment to CIT/de-escalation training preceded the P.O.S.T. mandates by a couple of years. Our commitment to this type of training includes sending *every* officer who routinely engages in 911 response to CIT course—this includes supervisors and investigators. The CIT training course includes live training scenarios where officers must demonstrate their learned abilities using specially trained role-players. Our officers are also sent to an 8-hour refresher during every licensing cycle and they may also receive additional CIT/de-escalation training along the way.

We also meet and, in most cases, exceed the training requirements in Conflict Mediation and Implicit Bias. These may not specifically include de-escalation techniques but they certainly provide officers with additional tools that help them to be better communicators.

Finally, I will add that police officers generally become very good communicators/de-escalators through sheer repetition and experience. Despite the rare and tragic outcomes that hit the media, police officers are diffusing potential violent situations with those that are mentally ill, emotionally unstable, chemically impaired, or just plain violent on a daily basis. They are diffusing these situations with learned or acquired de-escalation techniques in the real world, every day, with minimal use of force, and zero media attention. With that said, as a police leader I have personally witnessed the effectiveness of CIT training in real-world crisis interventions and I remain committed to this training.

## **APPRECIATION FOR COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

Wow, what a whirlwind the past three months have been. We can assure you that we have the infrastructure, partnerships and support from our city council to continue to provide high level service in these demanding times. We utilize our partner agencies through the Lakes Area Emergency Management Consortium which helps us with planning, equipment procurement and all the resources to ensure we continue to operate at the level you have come to know and trust. We very much appreciate the support and trust we have earned from you and it has helped us to continue to function at a high level. We look forward to new ways of doing business and are always willing to listen to bold new ideas. Thank you for your support.

## **NIGHT TO UNITE UPDATE**

During this time of uncertainty, and not knowing what the future will hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Orono Police Department has decided to follow the Minnesota Crime Prevention Association's recommendation that Night to Unite activities originally scheduled for August 4<sup>th</sup> will be postponed until October 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup>. We value the commitment our community members have made to support this annual crime prevention event and we will make every effort to follow state guidelines regarding public gatherings in the time of a pandemic. Thank you and please stay tuned for more information.....*continued on next page.*

**Police  
Chief's  
Corner**







## ***MOUND FIRE DEPARTMENT STAFFING NEWS***

The Mound Fire Department recently hired three new firefighters and had one firefighter return to service. All new hires are typically trainees and considered probationary firefighters.

**Travis Pounder** was hired on August 31, 2019. Travis is a second generation firefighter. His father Chris Pounder retired in 2013 after 20 years of service with the Mound Fire Department. **Derek Beiningen** was hired on February 3, 2020 and **Ryan Mahoney** was hired on March 2, 2020. Ryan also has a family history in the fire service as his grandfather and great grandfather served on our fire department. **JC Morales** was rehired on November 18, 2019 when he moved back to our community. Welcome Firefighters Pounder, Beiningen, Mahoney and Morales!

The number of Mound Volunteer Fire Fighters is now at 39 and all are ready to respond and serve our community! Firefighter **Darren Poikonen** retired from the Mound Fire Department on June 24, 2020 after 21 years of service. Thank you, Darren, for your dedicated service to our department. We wish you all be best!

Would you like to become a Firefighter? Or do you want more information? You can print an application form by visiting our website at [www.moundfire.com](http://www.moundfire.com), stop by the administrative office in the fire station for a copy and/or call 952-472-3555 with questions.

## ***MOUND FIRE PREVENTION OPEN HOUSE—WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2020***

Mound Fire is planning to host the annual Fire Prevention Open House at the fire station on October 7<sup>th</sup> from 6:00pm-8:00pm. The hosting of the event will be contingent upon our ability to provide a healthy and safe environment with public gathering and social distancing guidelines being a major factor. We are planning hands-on activities, fire safety displays, fire truck rides and more. A family fun event for all!

This year's theme is "*Serve up Fire Safety in the Kitchen!*" According to NFPA, cooking is the leading cause of home fires and fire injuries in the USA. Almost half (44%) of reported home fires have started in the kitchen, most as a result of the ignition of food or other cooking materials. Please join us on October 7th and stay healthy and be safe!



## **ALTERNATIVE VEHICLES**

We frequently are asked about the regulations pertaining to driving other vehicles on public roadways. There are a lot of misperceptions about this issue. Minnesota State Statute 169.045 allows cities the decision to allow certain vehicles to drive on their roadways. The governing body of each particular road can authorize, but it requires formal action by the governing body to authorize. The City of Mound does not permit any recreational motor vehicles to be operated on any municipal property except where allowed by statute to cross municipal roadways. That includes, but is not limited to, ATV's, UTV's, golf carts, snowmobiles, go-carts and small trucks or pocket bikes. Thanks for your cooperation.

**Police  
Chief's  
Corner,  
Cont.**



## 2020 ELECTION – KEY INFO/DATES

May 13  
June 26

**August 11**

July 28-Aug 11

September 18

**November 3**

On-line absentee ballot application available at [MNVOTES.ORG](https://mnvotes.org)  
Vote early by mail begins (State Primary)  
State Primary Election  
Candidate Filing Period for Local Offices (Mayor & Council)  
Vote early by mail begins (General Election)  
General Election

### VOTE EARLY BY MAIL ENCOURAGED

For the safety of our residents and election staff, we highly encourage voting **early** by mail. Early voting by use of an 'Absentee' ballot starts 46 days before an election.

Absentee ballots and voter registration forms can be requested at **MNVOTES.ORG** or by calling **(612) 348-5151**. This website is the best resource for election information and has a special ballot tracking feature to ensure your vote was counted! You can also see what races are on the ballot!

### CHANGE TO POLLING LOCATIONS



Election Staff is working to change our polling locations for the remaining 2020 elections in order to better facilitate social distancing and in anticipation of some of our judges needing to step down because of risks associated with COVID-19. We also anticipate less in-person voting.

**St. John's Lutheran Church will cover Precincts 1 & 3**

**Centennial Building Council Chambers will cover Precincts 2 & 4**

Polls are open 7 am to 8 pm on election day. Please note Gillespie Center, Mount Olive Lutheran and Bethel United churches will not serve as polling locations for either election and we thank them for generously hosting previous elections!

### Candidate Filing Period

**Candidate Filing Period for Local Offices - July 28, 2020 - August 11, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.**

Mayor - 2 year term beginning January 2021 and ending December 2022

Two (2) City Council Member seats - 4 year terms beginning January 2021 and ending December 2024

Candidates can pick up a filing packet which includes an Affidavit of Candidacy from City Hall. Please contact City Hall to make arrangements if you would need City staff to act as the Notary Officer on the Affidavit of Candidacy. Payments can be received at City Hall, in the lock box at City Hall, via the mail or by credit card over the phone. Please contact Kevin at (952)472-0613 or via email at [asc@cityofmound.com](mailto:asc@cityofmound.com).

### Election Judges Needed

We are always looking for new election judges and ask that you consider volunteering so that we can take the pressure off our current judges who may be at risk in the current environment due to age or an underlying health condition. Please call Kevin at (952)472-0613 or see [www.cityofmound.com](http://www.cityofmound.com) for info.

### ***NEW* Community Notification System—Everyone Needs to Re-enroll**

Mound changed the City's emergency planning and communications system from CodeRED to **RAVE** in May. The system sends telephone calls, text messages, emails (based on subscriber preferences) and posts to social media channels to inform residents of road closures, watermain breaks, hydrant flushing, policies under consideration by the City Council, seasonal parking reminders and more!

Registering for **RAVE** is quick, easy, and FREE! Everyone needs to sign-up again by visiting the city website and clicking the **RAVE** icon or by contacting Field Officer Andy Drilling at [fieldops@cityofmound.com](mailto:fieldops@cityofmound.com) or 952-472-0605.





## A Message From Retiring Public Works Superintendent Ray Hanson

When people take a minute to be thankful during the COVID-19 pandemic, they often praise front-line workers who tirelessly keep us healthy, safe and fed. These people are deservedly recognized for their contribution to the greater good and I would like to suggest we shouldn't forget the individuals that serve in municipal public works.

Seldom without praise or recognition, our public works employees keep our streets, water, sewer and open spaces operating without interruption, and at times at personal risk of not only COVID-19, but hepatitis, typhoid, bacillary dysentery, gastroenteritis, and cholera.

As Public Works Superintendent, I have known my operators and crews for over 15 years and have watched them respond in some pretty extreme circumstances. I want to personally thank, from the bottom of my heart, all the public works employees for keeping the residents of the City of Mound healthy and safe. I hope they are remembered alongside the other heroes for their dedication to providing safe drinking water, reliable sewer service, beautiful parks and safe roads --- all essential to the quality of life we enjoy.

[Editor's Note: Ray Hanson will retire December 31, 2020 after over 15 years of dedicated service]



The team at Harbor Wine & Spirits prides itself on providing the best value and customer service in the area! From everyday 15% off case discounts on wine & spirits (mix & match), to

our 10% senior discount on Fridays, to our beer, wine and spirit specials of the month, you are sure to find a wide selection of old favorites and the latest trends. In addition, check out these everyday low prices on some of our favorites:



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Cupcake Wines  
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Ruffino  
Prosecco \$13.99



Jameson Irish  
Whiskey 1L \$26.99



Tanqueray Gin  
1.75L \$34.99



White Claw 12  
cans \$15.99



Even with the temporary closing of the Westonka History Museum's building, you can find COVID-appropriate activities which will help you learn about our community's history, from the pre-history mounds to James J. Hill's railroads to a singing group more popular than Elvis or the Beatles. Find dozens of history videos, and a virtual history bike tour of our community, at [www.westonkahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.westonkahistoricalsociety.org). Please consider becoming a donor or, better yet, a volunteer. Gift shop is open for curbside pick-up: jigsaw puzzles, coloring books, and many books on local history; call for appointment: 952-472-9800.



City of Mound  
2415 Wilshire Blvd  
Mound, MN 55364

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### City Council Members



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raysalazar@cityofmound.com



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



Sherrie Pugh  
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sherriepugh@cityofmound.com



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



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

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

## POSTAL CUSTOMER

### Mound Meeting Calendar (Note: City Council & Planning Commission to be held at Westonka Performing Arts Center thru Nov 10)

- **City Council** meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month beginning at 7 pm
- **HRA** meets before regular Council meetings 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



Jul 28 - Aug 11 Candidate Filing Period (local offices)

Aug 11 Primary Election Day

Sep 7 Labor Day—City Offices Closed

Sep 8 Westonka Schools Resume

Note: The city is pleased to announce that based on new practices, hydrant flushing will only be conducted in the spring, never fall!



**Harbor**  
Wine & Spirits

2135 Commerce Blvd.  
Mound, MN 55364  
952-472-0648



#### Store Hours

**Monday thru Saturday 10 am - 8 pm**  
**Sundays 11 am - 6 pm**

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monthly specials**

*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.*