



City Contact



A Quarterly Publication from the City of Mound

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Dear Neighbors,

As we pass the ½ way mark for 2021, it is important to give thanks for the progress that has been made in fighting the Coronavirus and paving the way for a return to normal. We thank the essential workers who put themselves at risk to continue to provide for the health and safety of the community, for the businesses and non-profits that complied with the Governor's Executive Orders, either having to go virtual, significantly reduce capacity or shut down for a time, and for our teachers and school staff who did so much to provide for our children's health in continuing food services and attending to their emotional well-being while accommodating multiple learning forms and delivery systems. We are fortunate to live in Minnesota, a state that has been successful in managing the virus, but it also comes down to the community pulling together and taking care of one another, and that is where Mound excels! Thank you for being part of it.

In the first 6 months we also have learned much about Manganese, an essential trace element that is naturally present in many foods, available in a dietary supplement, and present in many drinking water sources. This is an emerging issue and much more study is required to understand exactly what the best solution is and what level of response is appropriate.

The Council approved a study of water treatment options to put the City in the best position to qualify for federal or state assistance. The study revealed the complex and resource intensive nature of adding this level of service into our already built-out system architecture; including the need to build a new well and filtration facility and related watermain upgrades.

The more affordable alternative of an iron and manganese filtration facility (vs. water softening and filtration) is \$25M in construction costs and an additional \$236,500 in annual operating costs. To put this in perspective, the City's current capital improvement plan (CIP) for all infrastructure (streets, water, sewer, storm water and retaining walls) is \$25M over 10 years! The 2021 budget for water fund operating costs (less depreciation and interest) is \$680,000. Adding another \$236,500 for operating the filtration facility would increase this budget 35%.

Therefore, the plan is to compete for federal and/or state assistance; and I have met with our County, State and Congressional representatives to lobby on our behalf for funding. I will also seek more answers from the Department of Health (DOH) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA), who does not require food labels to list manganese content unless it was added to the food. Drinking water is only one source, and this issue needs to be looked at from a broader perspective. This is also the first time the DOH required the test and more information and study should be required of them.

Continued on next page...

AUG SEP OCT
2021



Mayor
Ray Salazar

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Mayor's Message, continued....

We will continue our education efforts on what homeowners can do to reduce the manganese levels, which can be as simple as purchasing a water filter pitcher, properly maintaining your water softener and refrigerator water filter, to working with a residential water treatment company to install a point of use water treatment system. The watering restrictions you saw in our neighboring communities are the ones that perform water treatment at the municipal level. Water is a vital resource and ensuring the safety of the drinking water is and will continue to be a top priority; but we must be clear on the risk manganese in drinking water poses considering drinking water is just one source and keep all options on the table to find the most cost effective solution. **I want to stress** that this will be a time-intensive process and not a matter we will resolve overnight.

As always, information on City Council and advisory commission agendas is available at www.cityofmound.com by clicking on the "Government" tab. Also see the City News tab for all the information provided to date on the water issue. Public participation at meetings is always welcome.

Respectfully,

Ray Salazar, Mound Mayor



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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

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



Zoning Ordinance Amendment Project for Consistency with 2040 Mound Comprehensive Plan. The next step to implement the 2040 Comprehensive Plan is to prepare a zoning amendment for Council consideration, a process that includes public hearings for the proposed text and map amendments to the Zoning Ordinance. The public hearings are anticipated to take place in August/September.

Mound Harbor District. The final plat of “Mound Harbor” subdivision has been recorded at Hennepin County. The final plat consolidated 17 city-owned parcels into one lot (Lot 1 Block 1) and 4 outlots (A-D). Lot 1 Block 1 is approximately 2.1 acres and a study is being conducted on how best to utilize this area as a public space. Outlot A is approximately 2.4 acres and is under a purchase and development agreement and is to be sold to Lifestyle Communities, LLC for the Mound Artessa project (formerly known as Mound Zvago). The final plat of “Mound Harbor Second Addition” for the Mound Artessa project, which includes a 52-unit senior cooperative project, was approved by the Council on April 13, 2021.

“Villages of Island Park” – near the intersection of Wilshire & Tuxedo Boulevards. The final plat of “Villages of Island Park” was approved by the Council on June 22nd, paving the way for an 18-unit rental townhouse project in what is now an empty lot located at 4451 Wilshire Boulevard. The site is just west of the intersection of Wilshire and Tuxedo boulevards.

Mound Business News

- *The Commerce Place Shopping Center in downtown Mound was recently sold and the city has been told the new owner intends to invest in improvements, attract new tenants and continue operating it as a shopping center.*
- *The Cave, a personal fitness and wellness center, recently opened at 2354 Wilshire Blvd.*
- *Domino’s Pizza relocated to 5309 Shoreline Drive and will be completing a parking lot/landscaping project this summer.*
- *U.S. Bank will be constructing a remote ATM in the parking lot at Mound Marketplace Shopping Center following a conditional use permit approval in December 2020.*
- *A new restaurant called “Hibachi Daruma”, to be located in the Stonegate Shopping Center, received conditional use permit approval from the City Council at its June 8th meeting.*

Mound’s Community Notification System called ‘RAVE’ sends telephone calls, text messages, and/or emails 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! Your Rave subscription is protected data and will not be sold. Please sign-up by visiting the city website or contact Field Officer Andy Drilling at 952-472-0605.



Mound Fire Department (MFD) will host a **Fire Prevention Open House** at the fire station on **Wednesday, October 6th from 6:00pm-8:00pm**. We're excited to welcome the public back into the fire station! Planned activities will include hands-on activities, fire safety displays, fire truck rides and more. A family fun event for all!

The 2021 Fire Prevention Week is October 3rd-9th and the theme is "*Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety!*" Knowing what to do when an alarm sounds is important to keep you

and your family safe. When an alarm makes noises – a beeping sound or a chirping sound – you must take action.



Stay Healthy and Be Safe! We hope to see you at our Fire Prevention Open House on October 6th!

MFD "Not the Fish Fry" DANCE – Saturday, October 9, 2021. In lieu of our Annual Fish Fry and Dance, Mound firefighters are busy preparing for the MFD "Not the Fish Fry Dance". Live music will be provided by "*The Selmer Effect*" opening for the headliner group "*POP ROCKS*".

Tickets will be sold at the door or in advance at the Mound Fire Station during normal business hours beginning in mid-September. Tickets include entry, dancing, music and fun!! Food and beverages will be available for purchase. Stay tuned to the Mound Fire Facebook page and Twitter account for more details!

MFD received a Community Partnership Grant from CenterPoint Energy in the amount of \$2,400 to help fund the purchase of 8 new pagers. Pagers are essential emergency communications equipment that firefighters rely upon for emergency callout notification 24 hours per day.

Mound firefighters respond to about 600 emergencies per year and proudly serve 15,899 residents in four communities including Mound, Minnetrista, Spring Park and Shorewood.

MFD Staffing News. Congratulations to Jason Rice and Paul Jolicoeur who were promoted from the rank of Lieutenant to Captain! Both have been dedicated firefighters with the fire department since 2004 and have been very instrumental in helping train other firefighters.

Captain Ben Gottschalk retired from the fire department May 19, 2021 after 15 years of service. A BIG thank you to Captain Gottschalk for his dedicated service to our department. We wish you all the best!

Recycling contamination is a concern in our community.

Placing the below items in your recycling container contaminates other recyclables, causing the entire load to end up in the landfill.

Help us keep our recycling stream clean!



#1
No food, liquid or diapers in the container. All containers are to be **Empty. Clean. Dry™** before recycling.



#2
No plastic bags of any kind in the recycling container. **DO NOT BAG RECYCLABLES!**



#3
No hangers in the recycling container. **NO HOSES, WIRES, CHAINS or ELECTRONICS.**



#4
No clothes (or linens) in the recycling container. Use donation programs to get rid of clothing or linens.

Visit [RecyclingSimplified.com](https://www.RecyclingSimplified.com) today to become a better recycler!



The Orono Police Department (OPD) offers numerous programs and services. We are always looking for ways to communicate what we are doing, ask what more we can do to support the community, and accept support from those interested in sponsoring one of our many programs.

Police Chief's Corner



Community engagement programs include National Night Out, Orono Rotary Club membership, involvement with Westonka Community and Commerce, WeCAN, Spirit of the Lakes, Dog Daze, Christmas Tree Lighting, Annual Police Visit With Santa at our assisted living and nursing homes, HeartSafe Communities initiative, Special Olympics Polar Plunge, crime prevention visits to homes, businesses and places of worship, education on active shooter situations and shoplifting, alcohol awareness training for business and non-profits, coffee/donut with a cop, fingerprint program, Active Commercial Vehicle enforcement, Drug Recognition Expert, Unmanned Aerial Vehicle's, Youth Firearms Safety Education, Community Service Dog, Growth Through Opportunity, High School Forensics Day, Ride to School with the Chief Fundraisers, Police Explorers and Reserve Officer programs, DARE education, and School Resource Officer program. The OPD also participates on the West Metro Drug Task Force and Lake Minnetonka SWAT.

The idea of all these initiatives is to provide the best quality and opportunity for service to our communities. If you have questions, interest in utilizing one or more of these resources, or sponsoring a particular program, please contact Police Chief Correy Farniok at cfarniok@ci.orono.mn.us or 952-249-4700.



Community Service Dog Xerxes

Law Enforcement Exploring is a program sponsored by local law enforcement agencies to provide career information to students between the ages of 14 (completed 8th grade) and 20. It also provides the structure and resources needed for these young adults to make ethical choices and to achieve their full potential as individuals.

These students learn first-hand the duties and responsibilities of police officers. By bringing interested youth and police officers together on a regular basis, the explorers are able to apply the information and tactics they learn in mock situations.

On June 26th, the **Orono Police Explorers** attended a conference with several other police explorer programs including New Brighton, Stearns County, State Patrol, Blaine, Maple Grove, Anoka, Woodbury and Brooklyn Center. The Orono Explorers did an outstanding job at this conference. Of the 6 events they competed in, they placed 1st in three and 2nd in two! Great job! We are very proud of our Police Explorer program and the students who did so well.

If you are interested in being part of the Orono Police Explorer program, please contact Officer Jane Szczepanik at jszczepanik@ci.orono.mn.us or 952-249-4700.

The **Tanager Bridge project** is progressing a bit ahead of schedule. It is expected the bridge will be closed again in early September for most of the month. Detours will be posted and we appreciate the community support in safe driving and adjusting driving routes to accommodate the needed improvement. We will continue our active vehicle weight enforcement in restricted zones. If you have businesses or are dealing with a business with vehicles carrying heavy loads, please educate yourself on safe routes of travel to avoid large fines.

Tuesday August 3rd is National Night Out, an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. Please consider organizing a neighborhood block party, have a picnic, ice cream social, or just meet to talk - every party is different, so do what works for you! Please register your party if you would like to have the police and/or fire department stop by your event. Contact Officer Mike Fournier at 952-249-4700 to register. Please call as soon as you can to set up a time to guarantee a visit.



The Westonka Historical Society (WHS) preserves and shares the fascinating history of Minnetonka Beach, Navarre, Spring Park, Mound and Minnetrista. The museum is located in the Centennial Building at 5341 Maywood Road in Mound. Please consider becoming a member and/or participating in these special events:

Saturday, September 11, 10:00 a.m. WHS Annual Membership Meeting to be held in the Lake Minnetonka Shores Community Room, 4515 Shoreline Drive, Spring Park. Tom Skramstad will present "The History of Water Skiing" on Lake Minnetonka followed by the annual meeting.

Saturday, September 11, 12:00 noon – 2:00 p.m. an OPEN HOUSE at the history museum. Come see all the new displays! Gifts will be provided to the first 25 visitors.



**Save the Date: The Gillespie Center Anniversary Events
October 15 & 16, 2021**

Long Term Financial Plan Update

Building on the Past, Preparing for the Future!

Background. Mound was incorporated in 1912. The Three Points area, north of Mound, was annexed to Mound in 1959, both Island Park and Halstead Heights were annexed in 1960, and Shadywood Point was annexed in 1963. In 1948, the City Council bonded \$63,000 in improvement bonds (\$692K in today's dollars) and committed to an ad valorem tax for 1948 – 1962 to help with repayment. In 1954, the citizens voted to explore creating a sanitary sewer system, which was ultimately built. The motivations were not to increase taxes and utility rates, but rather improve the quality of life for the residents and improve the water quality in the surrounding lakes. Due to Mound's topography and proximity to water, the sewer system had to include 31 'lift' stations that help move waste uphill where necessary.

For the 70's 80's and 90's utility rates were just enough to cover operational costs and normal maintenance and repair. In the early 2000's it became apparent that the majority of the 50+ year old infrastructure was well beyond its useful life. Unfortunately, previous Councils had not been planning for that fact and failed to create reserve funds to anticipate the needs and to help offset increases to taxes and utility rates.

Investments since 2003. The City has made significant investments to both repair aging infrastructures but also to improve the performance of these systems, including water main looping, increased pumping and storage capacity, storm water drainage improvements, and reducing groundwater infiltration into sanitary sewers to prevent back-ups and excessive treatment charges.

From 2003 – 2018, the City issued approximately \$37M in utility revenue bonds, \$22M water, \$10M sewer, and \$5M for storm. These are 20 year bonds, with some maturities lasting into the 2030's, with more projects needed. Another \$41M in bonds were issued for streets, city buildings, and equipment, but these are 15 year bonds and the majority of the debt service is paid by the street assessments – something the Council is trying to avoid in the future.

In 2018, the City Council adopted a long-term financial plan that provided some utility rate relief in the short term by reducing the base bill by 15% causing *negative* cash flows for the water, sewer and storm water funds that would be covered by the creation of capital reserve funds that are funded by property taxes. In addition, in 2020, the Council authorized issuance of \$4.24M in bonds for the Sewer fund that will be repaid using a property tax levy in order to avoid additional increases to the utility rates.

Tax and utility rate structure. The City Council monitors its tax and utility rates compared to similar cities closely. It is essential to maintain the proper balance in order to equitably distribute the burden of providing city services. Mound's property tax base is 95%+ residential, meaning there is not a lot of commercial or industrial properties to contribute to property taxes and also meaning that the utility customers are pretty homogeneous in their consumption patterns. This means that we are truly 'all in this together' to fund our schools, infrastructure and area amenities. The challenge is to focus on what is essential and what is valued by our constituents and to create a financial plan that is responsible, predictable and focused on the long term.

Long Term Financial Plan. In 2018, the Council adopted a Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP), or "Strategic Plan", that established a vision for our future, provided clear direction for reaching our goals and established priorities and measurable targets that the City could use to budget and measure performance. The key drivers are the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) that is updated every year and the capital reserve funds that were created to fund infrastructure (street and retaining wall replacement), city buildings and equipment, street maintenance and community investments (parks, trails and open spaces). Mound is a proud community and investments will continue to be made to improve and maintain our public infrastructure. We've come a long way, and have a long way to go, but the Council and Staff are dedicated to improving the lives of our citizens and visitors.

For more info on the LTFP, see www.cityofmound.com.

<p><u>STREET IMPROVEMENT FUND</u></p> <p>Crack Seal & Seal Coating Mill & Overlay</p> 	<p><u>CAPITAL REPLACEMENT FUND</u></p> <p>Vehicles & Equipment Buildings</p> 
<p><u>COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND</u></p> <p>Parks, Open Spaces, Streetscape</p> 	<p><u>CAPITAL RESERVES</u></p> <p>Interfund Loans for Utility Rate Relief</p> 

Harbor

Wine & Spirits

The City of Mound owns and operates Harbor Wine & Spirits municipal liquor store. Harbor Wine & Spirits is a major sponsor of the Spirit of the Lakes Festival as well as helps out with

fundraisers for WeCAN, the Mound Fire Department and other area non-profits. See www.harborwinespirits.com for monthly sales specials and tasting events. Harbor Wine & Spirits is a destination for craft brews and a wide selection of wines and spirits. It is a pleasure to serve our community and we thank you for your patronage!



The City owns and maintains Mound Union Cemetery located at 6410 County Road 110 West. There are four sections: (A) original cemetery with raised monuments, (B) & (C) center sections with flat monuments and (D) open land. All plots in sections A – C have been sold, many before need, so internments continue to take place.

Council Members Paula Larson and Sherrie Pugh were appointed to a subcommittee to work with Staff to determine the most appropriate use of Area D. Staff had recommended the City consider Columbaria for ash niches as opposed to surveying in-ground plots due to the limited amount of space remaining, costs to survey and on-going maintenance costs. Columbaria have several advantages, including lower internment costs, lower long-term maintenance, increased capacity and ability to create permanent landscaping improvements. The sub-committee is looking for community input on whether this newer burial method is desirable over the traditional in-ground plots. Please contact Council Members Larson and Pugh or Catherine Pausche, Administrative Services Director, with your thoughts and suggestions.



Did you catch the cover story of our outstanding city volunteer James and his dog Miko in the Laker? It is stories like this that unite our community and demonstrate how important it is to support local journalism. Please sign up to receive a copy of the Laker in the mail and consider paying a voluntary subscription. After the Lakeshore Weekly News shut down print operations in 2020, it is imperative that we support the Laker Pioneer press. Your voluntary subscription will help the newspaper remain an important part of the community and keep residents informed. See www.lakerpioneer.com or a recent issue for more info.

LAKER PIONEER



City of Mound
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Mound, MN 55364

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ECRWSS

POSTAL CUSTOMER

Mound Meeting Calendar

- **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 7 pm on an as-needed basis



August 3 - National Night Out

September 6 - Labor Day (City offices closed)

September 11 - Westonka Historical Society Open House

October 3-9 - Fire Prevention Week (Open House October 6th, 'Not the Fish Fry' Dance October 9th)

October 15 & 16 - Gillespie Center Anniversary Events



Harbor
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2135 Commerce Blvd.
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952-472-0648



Store Hours

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

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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.