



City Contact



A Quarterly Publication from the City of Mound

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Dear Neighbors,

Happy New Year! A new year means a new chapter and I hope 2022 brings plenty of new material and opportunities for all of us! That being said, there are two outstanding issues I want to touch upon that we hope to make progress on during the coming year.

First, we have all heard of increases in property crimes throughout the Metro, with violence present in some of them. It has also been noted that some involve younger juveniles and repeat offenders. Your elected officials and public servants share in your concerns. I attended and am participating in a multi-agency effort led by a consortium of local Mayors organized to look at the root causes behind the increase in crime and what can be done to remedy them. This group will study law enforcement, judicial, correctional, and diversion programs and processes to find the gaps that prevent efficient and effective response and accountability. We are fortunate that Orono Police Chief Correy Farniok will be a principal contributor in the discussion on law enforcement equities in his role as the Hennepin Police Chiefs' Association President.

In the meantime; make sure you lock your car, garage, and house doors, and remove high-value items from your car. Keep a porch light illuminated at night. Be assured that we have a small group of dedicated public servants working hard every day to keep all of us safe in our local communities; they have earned my trust, confidence and utmost respect!

Secondly, it has been a full year since sending a health advisory to all of our water customers regarding the level of manganese in the municipal water supply. This notice recommended in-house treatment by softening, filtering, or using alternate sources for drinking water, and that continues to be the most cost effective solution. The City funded a study to determine the cost of a city-wide solution which was determined to be a \$24-million water treatment facility. The City has been advocating our local legislators for state and federal assistance to fund the project as the City did nothing to contribute to the issue and can't absorb the additional debt without causing severe financial hardship for our residents. We are thankful for the responsiveness of Congressman Phillips, Senator Osmeck, and Representative Morrison and their assistance in providing visibility and advocacy for our project in the state funding and budgeting processes.

So the story continues to unfold. We will continue to foster burgeoning park improvements and development that adds to our life-cycle housing options and helps to establish Mound as a destination. The volume of activity brings optimism; but also depends on participation in the processes that vet, shape, and approve or disapprove projects and everyone is encouraged to engage. Information on City Council and advisory commission agendas is available at www.cityofmound.com by clicking on the "Government" tab or see the homepage "City News" section for the latest updates.

Respectfully,

Ray Salazar

Mayor, City of Mound

FEB MAR APR
2022



Mayor
Ray Salazar

Inside this issue:

Emerald Ash Borer	2
Police Chief's Corner	3
Budget Summary	4
Mound Fire	5
Recycling	6
Harbor Wine & Spirits	7
Calendars	8

Emerald Ash Borer determined widespread in Mound

After discovery of a suspected cluster of infested trees in Mound in August, the MN Department of Agriculture came to Mound to complete a general survey of our urban forest and look for signs of Emerald Ash Borer activity in December of 2021. This team confirmed EAB activity in all of the geographical areas of the community, including: Three Points, Island Park, The Highlands, Shirley Hills, Tonkawood, and Dutch Lake. The discovery of visible EAB activity means that the bug and its larvae have been present in our community for 3 – 4 years. *If you were holding your breath in hopes of being spared, you can let your breath out, because it's here.* Homeowners should get ready for what is next.

Emerald Ash Borer larvae kill ash trees by tunneling under the bark and feeding on the part of the tree that moves nutrients up and down the trunk. Minnesota is highly susceptible to the destruction caused by this invasive insect. The state has approximately one billion ash trees, the most of any state in the nation. Homeowners who plan now, within the next 2 - 3 years, have a treatment option to preserve the value that these trees bring to their property; those who wait will only have a removal option. Trees you want to save should be treated **BEFORE** showing signs of activity.

Homeowners who wish to preserve an Ash tree should begin working with a tree care professional now in order to succeed.

- **Be sure you've identified an ash tree.** EAB only feeds on ash trees —>

- **Look for woodpecker damage.** Woodpeckers like EAB larvae and woodpecker holes may indicate the presence of EAB.

- **Check for bark cracks.** EAB larvae tunneling under the bark can cause the bark to split open, revealing the larval (S-shaped) tunnels underneath.

- **Contact a professional.** If you feel your ash tree may be infested with EAB, contact a tree care professional (licensed vendors are on the city website), or the MDA at arrest.the.pest@state.mn.us or 888-545-6684 (voicemail).

The City of Mound's vast inventory of public lands is distributed all across the city, including unopened rights of way, commons, public streets, sidewalks and parks. The City has to prioritize what to maintain, and in some cases, an Ash tree with EAB on public lands will be allowed to die in place and become part of the natural habitat. In other instances, trees may be treated in an attempt to preserve them or removed when it is safe to do so. The City has been planting a diverse range of new tree species to help preserve our tree canopy in the long run and in anticipation of these unfortunate trends. Look for more on what we have learned in future issues of the newsletter.

ASH TREE IDENTIFICATION

Across the U.S., ash trees (*fraxinus spp.*) are under attack by the emerald ash borer (EAB), an invasive insect that attacks and kills all native species of ash trees. The information below will help you properly identify ash trees.



Ash trees have an opposite branching pattern, meaning that branches are directly across from each other.



Ash seeds are paddle shaped and occur in clusters. Seeds will typically remain on trees until late fall or early winter.



Ash leaves are compound and typically consist of 5-11 leaflets. The edges of the leaflets may be smooth or toothed.



On mature ash trees, the bark has a distinct pattern of diamond-shaped ridges. Younger ash trees have smoother bark.

Background photo: Keith Kanoff, Maine Forest Service, Bugwood.org. Ash photos: Nebraska Forest Service.

City Hall Hours

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

www.cityofmound.com

City Contacts

General Information 952-472-0600
www.cityofmound.com

Planning & Building 952-472-0603

Police Department 952-249-4700
After Hours Dispatch 952-258-5321

911 Emergency

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



Winter parking restrictions in effect through April 15th. Public Works needs everyone's cooperation so they can keep our roads snow free and fully operational. Overnight parking is prohibited on city streets from 2 am to 6 am November 15th to April 15th, regardless of snow conditions. Violators will be ticketed and/or towed.

Police Chief's Corner



Spring Road Restrictions. From mid-March to early May, the City of Mound restricts vehicle load on all municipal streets to *four tons per axle*. Heavy vehicles on municipal streets cause extensive damage during the period the frost leaves the ground when roads tend to buckle under the weight. The police department works in conjunction with public works to aggressively enforce spring load restrictions and it should be noted State and County authorities also impose axle rate restrictions on their roadways.

Recreational vehicles on public roadways. In the past year, the police department and city officials evaluated current state statutes with regard to snowmobile, ATV/UTV and other recreational vehicles being driven on public roadways. The conclusion was that no changes would be made and Mound will continue to follow state statute. As these regulations can be very complex, we ask that you contact the police department if you have any additional questions.

Homelessness in the community. Instances of homelessness have become more prevalent in our community. The police department has been receiving more calls for service in regard to homelessness and panhandling. We have been working in collaboration with local government, places of worship, WeCAN, Westonka Food Shelf, Mound-Westonka Schools and other concerned parties to explore ways to serve our homeless populations. The police department is frequently asked to take enforcement action for behaviors associated with being homeless, but being homeless isn't a crime and we do our best to provide dignified service that can meet the immediate needs with a focus on long-term solutions. People who may be homeless have a right to spend time in public spaces and we have to respect those rights, but drinking in parks, nudity, and trespassing are all examples of behaviors that we can take action against. For questions about this issue or if you are interested in finding solutions to this issue, feel free to contact the police department or any of the groups in the collaborative mentioned above.

Skate Park update. The City of Mound, in partnership with the Mound Crime Prevention Fund, recently installed new cameras at the skate park to help with safety and security. As spring approaches, we ask that families talk with their kids about appropriate behavior at the skate park and ways to ensure the park will be available well into the future. The police department has made a concerted effort to spend more time at the park connecting with kids and ensuring a healthy place for all to enjoy.

About our department. The Orono Police Department is proud to serve the communities of Spring Park, Minnetonka Beach, Mound and Orono. The police department covers approximately 28 square miles of land and 20,000 citizens. The Orono Police Department prides itself in making the communities feel safe through enforcement and by building strong lasting relationships with citizens and businesses. The department currently has 30 sworn officers, 15 police reserve officers, 6 officers serving on the Lake Minnetonka Swat Team, 3 part-time officers, 1 drug task force officer, 3 full-time investigators, 2 school resource officers/investigators, and one community service officer. Our police reserve officers are volunteers who support community relations, patrol, provide security at football games, traffic control at special events or accidents and criminal transport. New reserve officers attend 10 evening training sessions sponsored by the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office that provides a solid foundation for the skills needed. Contact the department if you are interested in exploring this program. Also, follow us on Facebook or on Twitter @POLICEORONO.



CITY OF MOUND 2022 SUMMARY BUDGET

The purpose of this Report is to provide summary 2022 budget information concerning the City of Mound to interested citizens. The budget is published in accordance with Minn. Stat. 471.6965. This budget is a summary document only; the complete budget may be examined on the city website cityofmound.com or at Mound City Hall, 2415 Wilshire Boulevard, Mound, MN. The City Council approved this budget on December 14, 2021.

All Governmental Funds	2022 Budget	Expenditures	
Revenues		Current Expenditures	
Property Taxes	\$ 6,765,139	General Government	\$ 1,285,852
Tax Increments	881,801	Public Safety	3,524,224
All Other Taxes	417,000	Streets and Highways	868,567
Special Assessments	522,835	Culture and Recreation	<u>628,786</u>
Licenses and Permits	305,450	Total Current Expenditures	\$ 6,307,429
State Categorical Aid	463,146	Debt Service – Principal	\$ 2,823,633
Charges for Services	1,008,900	Interest and Fiscal Charges	440,721
Fines and Forfeits	28,000	Capital Outlay	169,952
Interest on Investments	21,000	Transfers to Other Funds	<u>1,040,886</u>
Miscellaneous Revenue	<u>50,000</u>	Total Expenditures and	
Total Revenues	\$ 10,463,271	Other Financing Uses	<u>\$ 10,782,621</u>
Transfers from Other Funds	<u>1,165,636</u>	Increase (Decrease) in Fund Balance	<u>\$ 846,286</u>
Total Revenues and		Net Unrealized Gain from	
Other Financing Sources	<u>\$ 11,628,907</u>	Investments for 2021	<u>\$ 0</u>

Property taxes 101. Cities approve a budget and property tax levy each year. The Hennepin County Assessor's Office is responsible for determining the taxable market value of all properties in the cities they serve and then apply the property classification type rates (residential, commercial, apartment, etc.) to come up with the City's total tax capacity. Mound's tax capacity for 2022 is approximately \$16M and the City's net levy (after fiscal disparities) is \$6.16M, making the City Tax Rate approximately 38.5%. But the City is only one of the three major property tax jurisdictions assessing taxes for services, the others being Hennepin County and the Westonka School District.

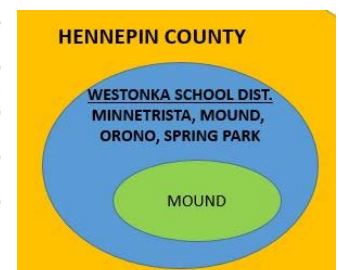
The amount an individual's property taxes change is relative to how all the other properties in that taxing jurisdiction change. For instance, the Westonka School District's tax capacity continues to grow with the expansion of new subdivisions like Woodland Cove and the numbers of households served, so the amount of the School District Levy assessed to Mound properties may grow at a slower rate than the amount of City taxes assessed as Mound is considered fully built and rarely experiences *material* changes due to new development. The example below illustrates how the percentage increase in taxable market value does not necessarily correlate to the percentage change in each of the types of taxes.

Value & classification

TAX YEAR PAYABLE	2021	2022
CLASS:	HOMESTEAD	HOMESTEAD
Estimate Market Value:	\$250,000.00	\$261,000.00
Homestead Exclusion:	\$14,740.00	\$13,750.00
Other Exclusion/Deferral:		
Taxable Market Value:	\$235,260.00	\$247,250.00

	Pay 2021	Pay 2022	Increase
County	930	982	5.5%
City	902	957	6.1%
School District	738	745	1.0%

→ + 5.10% increase in TMV





Congratulations to Assistant Chief Andy Drilling, recipient of the Mound Fire Department Firefighter of the Year for 2021!

The recipient of the award is determined by a nomination and evaluation process, which involves the entire group of current Mound firefighters who vote for staff members who have had an outstanding and consistent job performance. Criteria includes: Level of participation, involvement, and contribution to the department, number of responses to emergency fire & rescue call-outs, participation in/ leading of department training sessions and public relations activities.



Assistant Chief Andy Drilling has been a volunteer with the department since joining the ranks in May 2006 and comes from a family that served for several generations on the San Diego CA Fire Department. His dedication and outstanding performance is exemplary and very much appreciated! Congratulations!

Calls for Service High in 2021. Mound Fire Crews responded to 659 emergency calls for service, including 19 mutual aid calls, the highest since 1999! Our volunteers logged 11,626 Staff Hours, or 284 hours on average for each of our 41 well-trained, dedicated responders! The 5-year call average from 2017-2021 was 604 calls per year. The number of emergency callouts for Mound Fire ranks in the top 8-9% of all fire departments in Minnesota for the past 20 years, meaning that of the approximately 785 fire departments in Minnesota, 700 of them have less call-outs than Mound Fire in a typical year.

COVID-19 Impact on Fire Department. The Covid-19 Pandemic continues to affect our department, not only in change of protocols, but with lost staff time. In 2021, due to Covid-19 exposures or positive Covid-19 cases, we had firefighters quarantined for a total of 96 days.

Additions to fire and rescue fleet/Duty Officer Program.

A Polaris Ranger UTV replaced an obsolete 1986 Chevy 1-ton Grass Fire Rig, bringing much needed versatility with 4 passenger seating, firefighting pump and medical equipment storage. The off-road functionality supports responses to fires or medical incidents on the Dakota Regional Trail, open fields or frozen lakes.



A 2021 Chevy Tahoe replaced a 2010 model and serves as the Duty Officer Vehicle. Duty Officers cover 88-hour shifts and remain in town from 10pm-6am Sunday through Friday, and 6pm – 6pm on Fridays and Saturdays, responding to certain call types that are typically handled by one person. Examples include carbon monoxide alarms and recreational fire complaints, but the Duty Officer is also typically the first person to arrive on scene and is able to provide critical updates to other responding fire crews. This fast response program is critically important for life safety at serious medical emergencies, structure fires or vehicle crashes.

Community Notification System



This 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! Your Rave subscription is protected data and will not be sold. Please sign-up by visiting the city website and clicking the **RAVE** icon or by contacting Field Officer Andy Drilling at 952-472-0605.

Recycling Updates

Republic Services is offering residents an option to pay a \$35 one-time fee to change out a single sort cart for cleaning and residents can contact Republic via email to customerfirst@republicservices.com or by calling (952)941-5174 for more information on the Cart Replacement Program. A credit card payment from the resident will be taken at the time of request.

Staff is working with Republic Services on an organics recycling drop-off pilot program. To do this well, additional education is needed, including backyard composting options, as well as increasing the capacity for processing the material, so the plan is to implement this program in the spring. Hennepin County recommends focusing on food scraps as that is the most common material in the trash and the most nutrient-rich material in the composting process, so now is the time to be researching counter top composting pails that filter odor. The City will be working on the placement of the 2-yard dumpster drop-off and how to secure it from illegal dumping. In addition, the city will be making sure compostable bags and educational materials are available for residents wishing to participate in the program. **Watch the website beginning in April for more info!**

Organics Recycling Guide



All food

- Fruits and vegetables
- Meat, fish and bones
- Dairy products
- Eggs and egg shells
- Pasta, beans and rice
- Bread and cereal
- Nuts and shells



Food-soiled paper

- Pizza boxes from delivery
- Napkins and paper towels
- Paper egg cartons



Certified compostable products

- Compostable paper and plastic cups, plates, bowls, utensils and containers

Look for the term "compostable" or the BPI logo on certified products.



Other compostable household items

- Coffee grounds and filters
- Facial tissues
- Hair and nail clippings
- Cotton balls and swabs with paper stems
- Houseplants and flowers



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 today to become a better recycler!





Happy New Year from *YOUR* liquor store!

Your patronage helps to lower property taxes in that HWS profits go back into community projects. 2021 was another record year, with sales surpassing 2020 numbers. In 2020, the HWS net profit margin ranked third highest among Minnesota munis, just behind Apple Valley & Savage!

The Harbor Wine & Spirits' team loves to serve you! Please join us for the following special events:

Annual Anniversary Sale & Rare Bottle Release (not just whiskey anymore!)

Friday, February 18, 2022

15% off all Beer, Wine, Cider & Sprits all day (excluding rare release selections)

Rare Release Sale Details:

Donating \$5 to the Westonka Rotary puts your registration in the buyer's drawing with no limit on the number of \$5 donations an individual can make.

Donate at the store from 10:00 AM to 6:45 PM

The drawing of registrations will be held at 7:00 PM at the Gillespie Center in Mound. Buyers whose registrations are drawn will be allowed to select which item they want to purchase (based on the order their registration was drawn) and all purchases must be made at Harbor Wine & Spirits by 10:00 PM that evening.

Watch for full details including bottle list & prices on our website at www.harborwinespirits.com!

Our Lady of the Lake Annual Keg & Cork Fundraiser

Stop by the Harbor Wine & Spirits table for a sampling of your favorite libations!

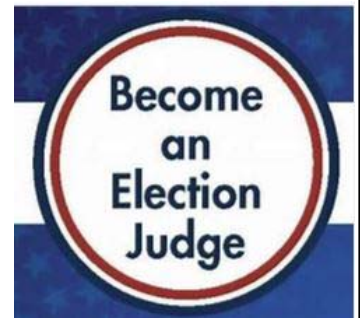
Saturday, March 5th, 2022 from 6:00-9:30pm

Follow us on Untappd, Instagram, Facebook, & Twitter to keep up on all events & promotions.

Consider serving as an election judge for the 2022 midterm elections!

Election judges administer voting procedures to ensure a fair and accessible election for all eligible voters. The City of Mound is always looking for qualified voters to act as election judges. Requirements include: must be eligible to vote in Minnesota, must be able to read, write, and speak English, cannot be a spouse, parent, child, or sibling of any election judge serving in the same precinct, and cannot be a candidate or the spouse, parent, child, or sibling of any candidate on the ballot in that precinct.

Election judges go through a two-hour training and are compensated for their service. The City is seeking judges able to help with early voting and all judges must be able to work on the Aug. 9 primary election day and November 8 general election day — full-day shifts are from 6 am to approx. 9 pm, with 1/2 day shifts available. Contact City Clerk Kevin Kelly at asc@cityofmound.com or via phone at (952)472-0613 for more information.



If you love history, there's a place in our community to put that interest to use. Westonka Historical Society preserves and shares the fascinating history of Minnetonka Beach, Navarre, Spring Park, Mound and Minnetrista. The Museum is currently seeking volunteers to schedule museum tours (can be done remotely) and visit local retailers selling

museum puzzles and books quarterly to see if more product is needed. The museum is open every Saturday from 10am to 2pm and by appointment. See the WHS website at www.westonkahistoricalsociety.org or follow them on Facebook for the latest history program to be held at Lake Minnetonka Shores and Back Channel Brewery.



City of Mound
2415 Wilshire Blvd
Mound, MN 55364

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MOUND, MN

City Council Members



Mayor Ray Salazar
612-308-7680
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Sherrie Pugh
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Phil Velsor
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Paula Larson
952-334-7911
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Jason Holt
952-472-4341
jasonholt@cityofmound.com

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



Harbor
Wine & Spirits

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



Store Hours

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

Curbside Pick-up now available!

**See harborwinespirits.com for
monthly specials & promotional events**



February 14th—Valentine's Day

February 21st—Presidents' Day (City Offices Closed)

February 28th—Dock applications & Waitlist renewals due

March 17th—St. Patrick's Day

March 25 - 31—Westonka Public Schools Spring Break

May 14—Mound/Minnetrista Annual Spring Clean-up Day

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.