



CITYCONTACT

A Quarterly Publication from the City of Mound

Aug/Sept/Oct • 2023

City Calendar

Important Dates

August 1

Night to Unite

August 5

Tour de Tonka

August 12

WCC Dog Days Surfside Park

August 26

Harrison Bay Assoc. CarpFest Fundraiser

September 4

Labor Day - City Offices Closed

September 5

Westonka Public Schools Start

October 4

Mound Fire Open House

October 31

Halloween

Meeting Schedule

City Council

Meets the second & fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Planning Commission

Meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

HRA*

Meets before regular City Council meetings

Parks & Open Space Commission*

Meets the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Docks & Commons Commission*

Meets the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

* = Meets on an as-needed basis

Stay tuned online at cityofmound.com for the most accurate dates and for agenda packet information.

A Message from the Mayor

I hope this message finds you well as we continue to navigate through the year. As your mayor, it is my privilege to provide you with a quarterly update on the progress we have made in our city.

I am thrilled to share some exciting news regarding the water treatment plant project. We have successfully secured \$10.3M, which will greatly contribute to the start on our water treatment plant. We have submitted a request to the State Legislature for another \$26M for next year's (2024) Capital Investment Budget and are working on securing another \$4M from Congressionally Directed Spending (Federal) to be used in 2024. We will not know the outcome of the \$4M until later this year. We will decrease the amount that we are requesting from the State by any federal funds received.

Continue reading on page 2.

Council Embarks on a Strategic Planning Process to Determine Future Direction of the City

The City Council has contracted with Ehlers Financial Advisors to facilitate a strategic planning process that will result in a roadmap and long term financial plan to guide infrastructure investments and changes to the levels of service for the coming decade.

Mound has to overcome many challenges our neighbors do not (fully built, aging infrastructure and housing stock, economic diversity), but the level of expectations don't tend to reflect that as things like municipal water treatment and enhanced communication efforts have become the norm among smaller and larger cities alike.

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What's Inside

State Legalizes Adult Use Cannabis

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Fire Prevention Open House on October 4

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A Message from the Mayor

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We have a new business in town! Please join me in welcoming Josiah Coleman of “Colemans Barber Shop” to Mound. Josiah recently moved his clientele from Wayzata and took over Cal’s Barber Shop. Cal retired after many years serving our community and we wish him well! We are excited to have Josiah as part of our business community.

On June 28, Artessa Mound broke ground on their new 52-unit cooperative living community in downtown Mound. The plans are for construction to be done by the fall of 2024. I want to extend a warm welcome to our soon-to-be residents of Mound.



Pictured above: Artessa Mound Ground Breaking & Soil-Melding Ceremony

The Eli Hart Foundation has been raising funds to complete an upgrade to the playground equipment at Surfside Park. In a partnership with the city, this project is scheduled to take place in the end of September or October 2023.

Our City Manager Eric Hoversten has announced his retirement. Eric will be working through year end, providing the Council with ample time to find his replacement. This process will take some time as we want to ensure that we find the right City Manager for Mound going forward. We wish Eric well in his retirement and thank him for his years of service to our city!

Thank you for your continued support as we ensure that Mound remains a safe and attractive place to live, work, retire and raise a family.

Respectfully,
Jason R. Holt
Mayor, City of Mound

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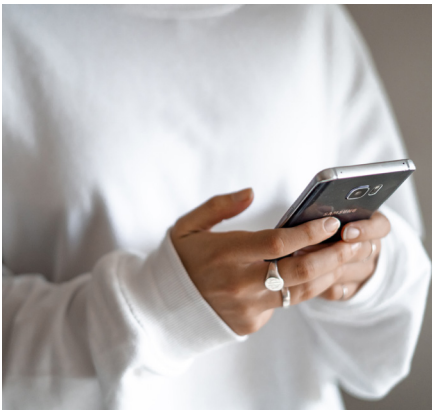


Bike Safety Rodeo

The Orono Police Department partnered with Our Lady of the Lake Catholic School and Mound Fire Department to hold the first-annual Bike Safety Rodeo. A bike rodeo is a fun way to introduce bicycle safety to kids and gives them a chance to practice these skills. There were four stations including an obstacle course, maintenance bike checks, helmet fitting and hand signals. It was a fun time to help the kids become better bicyclists and the volunteers appreciated the great turnout!

Now Seeking Next Class of Police Explorers

The Orono Police Explorer Program runs annually from September through April, and meets once a week with a couple of weekend conferences. The Explorer program is a great way to introduce young people to a potential career in the criminal justice field. If you know someone in high school who may be interested, please reach out to Officer Jane Szczepanik for more info at 952-249-4700.



Sign Up for Emergency Alerts

The City of Mound uses RAVE Mobile Safety to send city-wide or neighborhood specific emails, texts, or phone calls (depending on user preference) to alert residents and businesses of emergency alerts, watermain breaks, and changes to the city code under consideration. Users are encouraged to sign-up on cityofmound.com. The OPD has their own notification system that residents and businesses are also encouraged to sign-up for called "Notify Me". See ci.orono.mn.us to register.

Welcome New Officers

The department welcomed two new officers so far this year. Officer Jennifer Lyrek started with the Orono police department on February 27, 2023. She was previously employed by the Hennepin County Sheriff Office assigned to water patrol. Officer Melissa Klukas started with the Orono police department on January 11, 2023. She was previously employed with Brooklyn Park and Mounds View police department. Please help us in giving our new officers a warm welcome to the area!

Night to Unite on Tuesday August 1

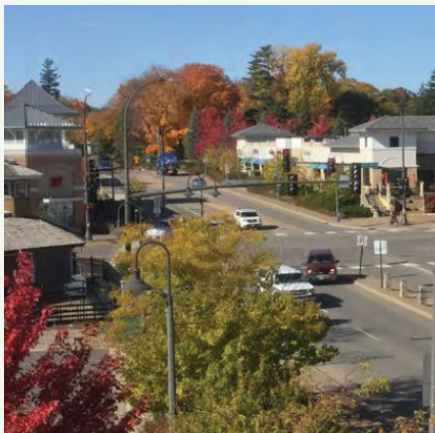
Night to Unite is a time to celebrate and strengthen neighborhoods and communities. On Night to Unite, residents across Minnesota are asked spend the evening outside with neighbors. Many neighborhoods host block parties and cookouts, and our Police and Fire Departments are available to join in these events. Night to Unite is Minnesota's largest crime prevention event. It's a great opportunity for residents to band together, enjoy a summer evening, and strengthen relationships.

Continued from page 1.

The current long-term capital improvement plan (CIP) calls for the next phase of street improvements (mill & overlay) to begin in 2025 and ways to avoid the use of special assessments for these projects will be studied. The water and storm water funds have been running intentional deficits in order to allow for a 5 year freeze on water and storm water rates from 2018 - 2022, but that is not sustainable and scenarios for funding any city portion of a water treatment plant project and for the ongoing operations and maintenance of a new plant will also need to be studied, in addition to funding the existing infrastructure improvements identified in the current CIP.

The City spent the previous decade focused on cost containment while continuing investments in infrastructure. Cost containment was primarily achieved by an over 25% reduction in full-time staff (not including the Orono Police Contract) in addition to being helped by little to no inflation. The strategic planning process will enable the Council to evaluate priorities for changes in service levels in light of growing inflation and loss of our State Local Government Aid (LGA). While the number of challenges only seems to grow, so do the number of opportunities, and the Council is excited for the opportunity to develop their own plan in response to what they are hearing the community wants.

Council Initiates Comprehensive Plan Health Check



The City Council approved a 1-year moratorium on any new multi-family housing project proposals to allow time to evaluate high density, multi-dwelling housing project development proposals impact on the City's infrastructure, services and capacity to accommodate additional larger scale multi-family housing. This project is in response to the community concerns raised during recent proposals and the plan is to propose changes to the 2040 Comprehensive Plan approved in 2018 and route through the Met Council's required approval process prior to adopting any permanent changes to the City Code.

The draft amendments under consideration reinforce the “fully developed” status of the community, deemphasize “re-development” to meet the Met Council growth targets, and instead rely on smaller scale infill development of more limited vacant parcels in order to preserve the prevailing character of the community.

Look for updates in the next edition of the newsletter!

Organics Recycling Drop-Off Site Now Available

About 30 percent of what we throw away is organic waste, which includes food scraps and food-soiled paper products. Mound residents can now take advantage of a free residential organics drop-off site located in the parking lot of the Centennial Building at 5341 Maywood Road. Residents must register for program in person at City Hall to receive a key to the dumpster lock, starter materials, and the option to purchase a countertop pail at a reduced price of \$5 (limit one per household).

Yard Waste Recycling

Republic Services' offers curb-side yard-waste pick-up during certain times of the year for their existing customers. In addition, City of Mound residents can bring grass clippings, milfoil and leaves to the compost site called “The Mulch Store” located at 4275 Creekview Circle in Minnetrista April through November. This is a free service if you show your driver's license. Additional services are available for a fee. Hours are Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. & Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Call 952-446-1056 for more information.

2023 Construction Projects



Hennepin County Bridges

Hennepin County has begun maintenance on multiple bridges in the Lake Minnetonka area, that is focused on safety and increasing the lifespan of the bridges. Repairs will be staggered throughout the summer and depending on the project, residents can expect narrow lanes, lane shifts, major delays, and, in some cases, full closures and detours.

Dakota Rail Crossing & Harbor District Improvements

The planned improvements to the Dakota Trail Crossing on Shoreline Drive has been delayed by Hennepin County until 2025 in order to allow the Met Council to complete sewer infrastructure

improvements in the area beforehand. The closure of Auditor's Road could not be delayed in order to allow for the Artessa Mound development to commence. Improvements to the new City public gathering spaces in the Harbor District will be completed in coordination with the Artessa development, both of which are slated to be finished by summer 2024.

Sidewalk & Lift Station Replacements

The City is coordinating with Hennepin County and area businesses to continue work on the downtown sidewalk replacements. Residents should expect to see progress/activity continue through 2024. Mound will be replacing the 25th of 30 lift stations owned and operated by the City in 2023. Lift stations are essential to the proper functioning of our sanitary sewer system and are necessitated by the area's topography and the need to push (or 'lift') flows uphill. A three-year phased watermain replacement project on Lynwood Boulevard was completed in spring of 2023, a portion of which was funded by federal stimulus funds. A three-year phased project for Bartlett Boulevard from Westedge to Beachwood will begin in 2024. New mains ensure reliable service and water pressure and help prevent costly and inconvenient watermain breaks.

State Legalizes Adult-Use Cannabis & Creates Statewide Regulatory Framework

The City of Mound adopted an ordinance in March that allows for the licensure of retail establishments including, but not limited to, grocery stores, convenience stores, breweries, CBD (Cannabidiol) stores, restaurants, chiropractic medical clinics, health/nutrition/supplement stores, and veterinary clinics to sell THC products per the requirements of Minnesota State Statute 151.72. The ordinance prohibits sales within 500 feet of a school, in mobile businesses, to operators previously convicted of illicit drug activity, home occupancy businesses, mail order, internet, third-party-delivery, and to persons less than 21 years of age.

Retailers will be subject to an initial background check and periodic compliance checks and will apply annually to renew the license with the City and pay the \$500 fee. The legislature also provided that 20% of the gross receipts tax revenue from cannabis products will be dedicated to local governments, to be shared equally between cities and counties.

The legislature delayed the effective dates of legalization of adult-use Cannabis (less potent THC products are already legal) in order to allow time to set up the necessary regulatory agencies. Legalization of personal possession and home growth, subject to limited quantities, is effective August 1, 2024. Retail sales are expected to be legalized by January 2025.

Mound Fire Celebrates 100 Years of Serving the Westonka Community

- The Mound Volunteer Fire Department (MFD) was established in December 1923, and has been proudly serving for 100 years. The year 2023 marks our 100th year of dedicated public service.
- In 2023, the department will protect and serve over 16,116 residents in the communities of Mound, Minnetrista, Spring Park, and Enchanted Island in Shorewood.
- MFD has a staff of 41, including 40 well-trained experienced firefighters that are prepared and ready to answer the call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
- The fire department fleet consists of 16 specialized emergency vehicles that are ready and available to respond to serve the citizens of our four local communities and often neighboring communities when the department is called upon for Mutual-Aid.



*Centennial Logo Designed
by Nick Drilling*

Fire Prevention Open House on October 4

Join us on October 4 at the fire station from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. for this family fun event that will include hands-on activities, fire safety displays, fire truck rides and more. Beverages and snacks will be provided and we'll have a special display for our Centennial Celebration!

Each year the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) develops a fire prevention campaign. The 2023 campaign is "Cooking safety starts with YOU. Pay attention to fire prevention". Cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires in the United States.



Here are a few fire safety tips:

Stay in the kitchen when cooking, but if you have to leave the kitchen, set a timer to remind you that you're cooking.

Keep anything that can catch fire away from your stove top and keep your stove top, oven and burners clean.

If you have a cooking fire, when in doubt, just get out and call 9-1-1; if you have a small grease fire, smother the flames by carefully sliding a lid over the pan. To prevent cooking fires, you have to be alert and don't cook when you're drowsy.

Mound Fire Department Staffing News

Mound Fire Administration is proud to announce the hiring of Mik Kocikowski. Mik was hired as a probationary firefighter on May 1, 2023, and will attend the required classes to become certified in Firefighter I & II later this year. Training and maintaining our active firefighting crew is critical to our success. Welcome Firefighter Mik Kocikowski!

Interested in becoming a Firefighter?

Print an application form by visiting our website at moundfire.com or call our administrative office at 952-472-3555 with questions or for information about becoming a Mound firefighter.



Did You Know that Harbor Wine & Spirit's Profits Reduce Your Property Taxes?

Store profits help to reduce your property taxes and fund essential city services and public projects, such as improvements to our streets and parks. Stop in and our knowledgeable staff will help you choose the perfect wine or cocktail pairings for hors d'oeuvres, a full gourmet meal or a bonfire! Harbor Wine & Spirits is also proud to be the official Mixology Store for the Pickle Ball Chix Podcast, pairing festive drinks to complement the theme of the show.

Regular Specials

Stop by to see our new everyday specials, gift cards, and featured wine, beer and spirit of the month. Take advantage of our Friday senior discount for 62+, and our everyday 15% wine and spirits mix-and-match case discounts. On a budget? Check out our "Deals and Steals" section in the rear of the store.

Oktoberfest Bier Sale

Join us for our annual Oktoberfest Bier Sale on Saturday, October 7 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. featuring accordion music, brats and lots of samplings!

Become a Member of the Team

We are always looking for new team members who share our dedication to providing the best customer service and selection around! Candidates must be able to work weekends and holidays (excluding Easter Sunday, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day) for an average of 20 to 24 hours a week. Wage range is \$16.00 - \$18.00 per hour DOQ. See cityofmound.com for an application or stop by the store to pick one up.

The Homestead Market Value Exclusion (HMVE) Program

The legislature increased the homesteaded property value maximum from \$413,800 to \$517,000 beginning in 2024. The HMVE program reduces the taxable market value of homesteaded properties on a sliding scale and reduces property taxes payable as a result. Since Mounds total taxable market value increased 30% last year, many properties saw reductions in the amount excluded for property taxes and the legislature responded by increasing the eligible amount, which had not been updated since 2012. The scale starts at a 40% market value exclusion for homes valued at \$76,000 or less. For a \$76,000 home, that means \$30,400 of value is not taxable and property taxes are applied only to the remaining \$45,600 of market value. As home value increases, the portion of market value eligible for exclusion phases out and is at zero percent for homes valued at more than \$517,000. Questions on your property valuation can be directed to the Hennepin County Assessor's office at 952-472-0619.



City of Mound
2415 Wilshire Blvd
Mound, MN 55364

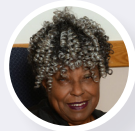
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Meet the Council



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Paula Larson

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✉ paulalarson@cityofmound.com



Kevin Castellano

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✉ kevincastellano@cityofmound.com



Harbor
Wine & Spirits

Now Hiring!

Seeking energetic and positive candidates.

Wages starting at \$16/hr

Promotional opportunities for those 20 years of age and older with demonstrated organizational and communication skills.

Stop by the store or see our website at harborwinespirits.com for details!

City Hall Hours

November - April

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

May - October

Monday - Thursday
7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Friday
7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Contact Us

General Information

📞 952 472 0600
🌐 cityofmound.com

Planning & Building

📞 952 472 0603

Police Department

After Hours Dispatch
Emergency

📞 952 249 4700
📞 952 258 5321
📞 9 -1-1

Public Works

After Hours Dispatch

📞 952 472 0603
📞 952 258 5321

Our Mission

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.