A Quarterly Publication from the City of Mound

May/June/July • 2023

City Calendar

Important Dates

May 1

City Seasonal Hours Begin M-Th 7:30 – 5, Friday 7:30 – 11:30

May 6

Minnetrista/Mound Spring Clean Up

May 20

Eli Hart Memorial Fundraiser Mound American Legion

> May 29 & July 4 City Offices Closed

> > June 2

Westonka Schools Last Day

June 3

Rain Barrel Pick-up/Demonstration
Parking Ramp by Mound True Value

Mound Fire Relief Fish Fry

June 10

Gillespie Center's Rockin' the Block Fundraiser

July 14 & 15

Spirit of the Lakes Festival

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 am pleased to report that I testified on behalf of the City of Mound at the MN House and MN Senate in March regarding state funding for our city's proposed new water treatment plant to help with our manganese and water quality issue. Thank you to our City Council, city staff and engineers for their hard work. I also want to recognize Representative Andrew Myers and Senator Kelly Morrison for arranging the opportunity for me to testify in the committee hearings. We will not know the outcome until the end of May, so please keep reaching out to express support and emphasize the need for financial assistance in Mound.

We have a new business in town! Please join me in welcoming Dr. James Chapman of Healthsource Chiropractic to the community. The clinic recently opened and Dr. Chapman is eager to serve Mound with his expertise in chiropractic care. We are excited to have him as part of our business community.

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70th Fish Fry and Dance Kicks Off Mound Fire's Centennial Celebration

2023 marks the 100th year the Mound Fire Department (MFD) has been serving the Westonka Community. MFD was formed in 1923 after the Ed Koehler Store, which also housed the Mound Post Office, burned to the ground. Since inception, Mound firefighters have a long-standing tradition of dedication to community service. MFD is known for an innovative and progressive approach to fire fighting and public safety. Several families have dedicated their service to our fire department for generations; making us one of the most successful volunteer fire departments in Minnesota. Our firefighters are very proud to serve the cities of Minnetrista, Spring Park, Shorewood, and Mound.

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What's Inside

New Hires in Public Works

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Spring Clean Up Information

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The City Council toured the Westonka Historical Society museum in March, where we learned more about the rich history of the Mound Westonka area. We are grateful to the Historical Society for their ongoing efforts to preserve and share our community's heritage. I encourage everyone to visit the museum on any Saturday from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. or by appointment.

Students from the Student Council Senate have been invited to give the City Council monthly updates on Mound Westonka High School happenings. Representatives presented at meetings in February, March, and April, and will again in May and then start back up in the fall.

In order to increase transparency in our city government, similar to our City Council meetings, we are now recording all Planning Commission meetings and making them available for streaming and viewing on your local government channels. Meeting minutes will remain available online. Go to *cityofmound.com/mayor-council* and click on the "LMCC-TV Video Stream" on the left-hand menu to view all Planning and Council Meetings. Additional communication initiatives being considered are improvements to e-mail/texting tools for E-news between quarterly newsletters with links to enhanced resources on the city website. The goal is to ensure residents are well informed and have easy access to information. Stay tuned for more details on these advancements.

We will soon see an increase of construction activity in our community. We have a few holdover projects from 2022 to complete such as the pavement improvements at Surfside and the downtown sidewalk repairs. The watermain replacement on Lynwood Blvd/County 15 should be complete by mid-May and the second phase of downtown sidewalk improvements will start this summer. We are excited to see the Artessa 52-unit Co-op starting; which brings the permanent closing of Auditors Road. The Met Council and Hennepin County also have projects in the area. For a full list of 2023 projects, please visit *cityofmound.com/engineering-construction-projects*. We thank you in advance for your patience as these and other projects may cause temporary disruptions.

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

Respectfully,

Jason R. Holt. Mayor, City of Mound



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Crimes of Opportunity

Crimes of opportunity tend to increase in the warmer months, including thefts from auto, burglaries and smash and grabs from cars. We ask that you be vigilant in not leaving items of value in your vehicle, lock your cars at night, shut and lock garage doors, garage access doors and out-buildings. A recent trend is using the garage door opener from unlocked vehicles to open the attached overhead garage door and entering the home through the interior service door.

Speeding Enforcement

A frequent concern, particularly in the summer, is unsafe vehicle traffic in residential neighborhoods. Orono Police Department uses education as our first tool, but citations may also be issued and often go to residents who live in that very neighborhood. It all starts with you and creating a culture of safety. Talk with neighbors about safe driving and if warranted, you may request a "speed sign or speed trailer" in your neighborhood by calling our administrative office at 952-249-4700 to assist the OPD in data gathering in order to create an appropriate action plan.

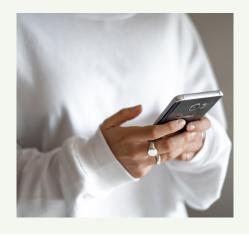


Additional Services

The Orono Police Department offers a youth (12+) firearms safety course which is DNR approved (register by June 30 for August course), child car seat practitioners who offer clinics or individual consultations to ensure proper child car seat installation, and fingerprinting. We perform the mandatory criminal fingerprints for individuals under arrest, but we also offer civil fingerprints for residents and businesses which can be required for some jobs, licensing or other matters.

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.

New Cemetery Plots Available Soon

The City of Mound maintains the Mound Union Cemetery located at 6410 Country Road 110 West near the Minnetrista boarder. The remaining area referred to as Section D has been surveyed and a waitlist has been started. Residents interested in purchasing a plot should contact Kevin Kelly at 952-472-0613 or via email at asc@cityofmound.com.



Maintenance Permits Close-Out Initiative

MNSPECT, Mound's contracted Department of Building Safety, has begun placing door hangers on properties with outstanding maintenance permits. Often re-roofing/siding or furnace/water heater replacement projects get completed but the final inspection is never ordered and the permit closed out. The inspections typically last less than 10 minutes and are meant to ensure the job was completed according to code, which protects the property owner during the warranty period. Owners and contractors are encouraged to call MNSPECT at (952) 442-7520 to schedule their final inspection. See *cityofmound.com/home/news* for more info.

Online Permitting Now Available

MNSPECT has implemented a new on-line building permit system to increase efficiency and transparency for city staff, property owners, contractors and subcontractors. Since Mound is considered fully developed, there has always been steady interest in improving our existing housing stock and building permits are meant to ensure additions and alterations to properties are done according to code. See *cityofmound.com* for more information.

Harbor Wine & Spirits Voted Best of the West Lakes

Harbor Wine & Spirits has been voted Best of the West Lakes every year since 2014 and was recognized as having the #1 highest net profit margin of Minnesota municipal liquor stores in 2021, up from #3 in 2020 – all of which results in property tax savings for our residents! Seniors save 10% every Friday and there is a 15% mix and match case discount on wine or spirits every day! Join us at the Spirit of the Lakes Festival on July 14 for the annual Meet Your Maker tasting event at Surfside Park & Beach! Follow us on Twitter & Instagram or see *harborwinespirits.com* for the latest specials and employment opportunities. Thank you for your patronage!

Harbor District Development Kicks Off



Mound Artessa, the 52-unit cooperative living community will begin construction in May and is scheduled to be completed by fall of 2024. Check out *artessaliving.com* for a virtual video walk through or stop by their sales gallery in RPG Commerce Place to learn more about this exciting lifestyle opportunity for people 62+! The Council approved a concept plan for the remainder of the area that is to become Mound's central downtown community gathering space. Auditor's Road will be closed early in the process to make way for the critical infrastructure improvements needed to accommodate the new residence and expansion of public gathering spaces, but the farmers market will not be interrupted at any phase of construction.

Welcome New Hires

The City of Mound's Public Works Department manages our streets, parks, water, sewer and storm sewer infrastructure. Their mission is to provide safe, professional services while enhancing the quality of life for all who live, work and visit our community. We are excited to welcome five new team members to our full-time crew!



Jake Stuhr – Streets. Jake grew up in Mound and still lives here today. He is a Mound Westonka grad and is currently serving on the Mound Fire Department. Jake loves to hunt and fish in his free time.



Trevor Hentges – Utilities. Trevor grew up in Jordan and lives in New Prague with his wife and son. Trevor's hobbies include hunting, fishing and playing paintball.



Dave Vorpahl – Parks. Dave grew up in Bloomington and currently lives in Saint Louis Park with his wife and two children. Dave went to Bloomington Jefferson High School and attended MSU-Mankato. Dave loves coaching his kids in hockey and Lacrosse.



Brian Leesch – Streets. Brian grew up in Wells, MN, attended United South Central High School and MSU-Mankato, joined the MN Air National Guard in 2008, and is currently serving on the Chaska Fire Department. Brian lives in Chaska with his wife and two daughters and enjoys spending time with family, going fishing and playing video games.



Ezra Strickland – Parks. Ezra grew up in Cumberland, WI, and attended Hennepin Technical College where he earned his AAS in Marine, Power Sport, and Outdoor Maintenance. Ezra lives in Waverly with his wife where he enjoys side by siding, mechanics, Twins games and spending time with friends and family.

Spring Clean Up Day is Saturday May 6 from 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Mound and Minnetrista co-sponsor a very popular annual drop-off event where residents can purge hard to dispose of items like appliances, old carpet and concrete, electronics, furniture, tires, scrap metal, etc. The event is held at City of Minnetrista, 7701 County Road 110 W. See *cityofmound.com* for full list of accepted items and corresponding fees.

Hydrant Flushing Now Through May 26

Public Works completes hydrant flushing once a year in the spring for two critical reasons: to verify system flow levels are adequate to support critical fire protection activities and to purge the system of rust sediments that form from the natural iron content in our source water aquifers. Flushing may temporarily cause discoloration in the household water supply and it is important to note that trying to run the faucet for an extended time will not "flush out" the sediment. The sediment must settle in the pipes, prior to delivering clear water into your home. This just takes time and we appreciate your patience!

Fire Update/General Update

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The fire department has several events and activities planned for 2023 for the community to enjoy.

70th Annual Fish Fry & Dance on June 3

As always, this will be a family event, with children's activities from 3:00 - 7:00 p.m., followed by a dance starting at 7:30 p.m. Music will be provided by the Selmer Effect followed by our ever-popular headliner POP Rocks. Our famous fish dinner will be served from 3:00 – 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15.00 in advance and \$20.00 at the door. Firefighters will be walking the neighborhoods offering tickets, or you can stop by the Mound Fire Station (2415 Wilshire Boulevard) to purchase tickets or call 952-472-3555.



Special Logo Created

A special commemoration logo designed by Nick Drilling, son of Assistant Chief Andy Drilling, will be featured on Centennial promotional items, including clothing and mugs available for sale to the public.



Looking Out for #1

As part of the 1923 -2023 100-year Centennial Celebration, firefighters are working hard to restore the 1930's vintage Diamond-T Pumper truck, the department's first authentic fire truck, affectionately referred to as Engine # 1.

Donations, large or small, for the restoration are appreciated and checks can be mailed to the department or made online at *moundfire.com*.

Stay tuned for more fun events and activities to celebrate the Centennial, including the Fire Prevention Open House during fire prevention week in October. MFD plans to hold a special apparatus "Housing Ceremony" for the new Pierce Enforcer Pumper Truck, or Engine #48. The Pierce Enforcer HD Pumper was featured in our last quarterly newsletter, and is expected to be delivered in late September 2023.

Responsible Yard Management Protects Water Quality

Best management practices to improve the health of your lawn and protect water quality include: taking a soil test to know what fertilizers your lawn needs, setting your mower to a high setting (3-4" tall) to promote deep roots and aid water and nutrient retention, applying fertilizers and herbicides according to the label and when they will be most effective, and sweeping up clippings and other materials from hard surfaces to keep out of storm sewers. While native grasses and flowers are acceptable to some, others prefer a manicured lawn and landscaping; either way, healthy lawns - in all their forms - promote healthy water.

Clean Water Education & Rain Barrel Distribution Event on June 3

A dedicated group of community volunteers wanting to raise awareness of how households can contribute to keeping our lakes and public waterways clean through landscaping and water conservation techniques coordinated a rain barrel sale with RecycleMinnesota.org. The supply quickly sold out and lucky participants who completed their order in time can pick them up at a special event being held at the parking ramp next to Mound True Value on Saturday, June 3 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to stop by to learn more about the program. Visit *harrisonsbay.org* for more info.

Improper Disposal of Pet Waste Effects Water Quality & Public Health

Picking up after your pets on public and private property keeps our city clean and beautiful, prevents harmful nutrients from entering waterways, and keep pets and people healthy. Dispose of pet waste in a designated pet container or trash; never in storm drains, waterways, or the composting drop-off site, as contamination and environmental damage can occur. See *cityofmound.com* for additional info.

The Mulch Store is Now Open!

Mound residents may dump leaves, weeds, garden waste, milfoil, and grass/lawn clippings for free at the compost site located on Hwy. 7, just 3 miles west of County Road 44 at 4275 Creekview Circle in Minnetrista. Mound residents MUST show a valid Driver's License or pay for dumping. The site is open April 1 through November 30, Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 1 pm. Call 952 - 446-1056 for prices on brush and other items accepted for a fee.

MN Department of Health (MDH) 2022 Consumer Confidence Report

MN Department of Health (MDH) 2022 Consumer Confidence Report for the City of Mound Water System has been released and posted to the city website at *cityofmound.com/water-quality-reports*. You may also review or obtain a copy from City Hall. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sets safe drinking water standards. These standards limit the amounts of specific contaminants allowed in drinking water to ensure tap water is safe to drink.

Residential Organics Recycling Drop-Off Site Update

Over 80 households have registered to participate in this free program but we are looking for more! Organics recycling has the potential of reducing an estimated 30% of trash that goes into landfills and incinerators. Keeping organic material out of landfills reduces greenhouse gas emissions and converts 'useless' food waste into valuable, nutrient-rich soil. The drop off is located in the parking lot of the Centennial Building at 5341 Maywood Road. Please register at City Hall to receive a starter kit and educational information. Countertop kitchen pails with vented lids are \$5.

General Reminders

- **Free RV dump station** is located at the Public Works Facility (5468 Lynwood Blvd.) on the west side of the building on Belmont Lane, directly across from the Post Office driveway. A tee handle key is needed to turn on the water and is available at hardware stores.
- **Mound Dock Program:** 2023 official waitlist has been published on the website. Watercraft must be moored at City non-abutting dock and slip sites by June 15.
- **City canoe/kayak racks** located around the lake have spots available for rent (\$65/season for Mound residents, \$90 for non-residents). Call Kevin at 952-472-0613 for more info or see website.



Meet the Council



Mayor Jason R. Holt

- 612 703 6738
- jasonholt@cityofmound.com



Sherrie Pugh

- **6**12 518 0287
- sherriepugh@cityofmound.com



Kathy McEnaney

- **6**12 655 2514
- kathymcenaney@cityofmound.com



Paula Larson

- 952 334 7911
- paulalarson@cityofmound.com



Kevin Castellano

- 612 749 7070
- kevincastellano@cityofmound.com

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.

7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.



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!

Contact Us

General Information

952 472 0600

cityofmound.com

Planning & Building

952 472 0603

Police Department

952 249 4700

After Hours Dispatch

952 258 5321

Emergency

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.