



City Contact



A Quarterly Publication from the City of Mound

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Dear Neighbors,

I hope you are all enjoying this wonderful Minnesota summer in spite of the high gas prices! Our nation's leaders continue to navigate the constantly changing terrain and with that the City of Mound is no exception. While we were successful in achieving concurrent Senate and House filings in the state bonding legislation to fund the \$24-million *needed* to pay for the water treatment facility, the Legislature finished its regular 2022 session without passing a bonding bill among many other important priorities and a special session is unlikely.

Therefore, we have re-submitted the Water Treatment project for the 2023 Intended Use Plan and Project Priority List (IUP/PPL) with the Public Facilities Authority and will need similar special legislation for full funding of the project filed on our behalf by our state representatives in the House and Senate. A friendly reminder that in-house treatment by softening, filtering, or using alternate sources for drinking water continues to be the most cost effective solution, particularly in the event the state funding does not materialize.

With great sadness and trepidation, we continue to mourn the tragic loss of one of our youngest, Eli Hart, on May 20, 2022. Many in our community participated in a memorial ceremony held at the gardens of the Westonka Public Library on May 27th. My heartfelt thanks to our entire community, first responders, schools, and local clergy for your compassionate response to this unthinkable event. In an effort to prevent future tragedies, our City continues to engage with Hennepin County to ensure access to mental health and social services across the west Lake Minnetonka area remains a priority.

On a lighter note, on June 18th, a small group of Mound residents met at the end of Overland Lane to learn about the benefits of rain gardens and assist in constructing one at the site. The rain garden is designed to filter storm water run-off from Overland Lane and its adjacent properties before it makes its way to Harrisons Bay. Team leaders Sheri Wallace and Julie Moore spoke about the process of creating the garden beds, and the benefits of native plants for filtering out pollutants and providing habitat for birds and pollinators. The volunteers planted over 140 native plants. Stop by and check out the beautiful garden with views of the bay. Special thanks to the volunteers for rolling up their sleeves and taking action to improve our community, and Hennepin County for their support and financial participation! What a great example of the strength of our community and partnerships!

As always, information on agendas and upcoming meetings is available at www.cityofmound.com by clicking on the "Government" tab and scrolling to the "Mayor and Council" line for Council/HRA and "Advisory Commissions" for Planning, Parks, and Docks and Commons.

Respectfully,

Ray Salazar

Mayor, City of Mound

AUG SEP OCT
2022



Mayor
Ray Salazar

Inside this issue:

Financial Updates	2
Elections	3
Mound Fire	4
Harbor District	5
Police/Docks	6
Harbor Wine & Spirits/ Organics	7
Calendars	8

CITY FINANCIAL UPDATES

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 ease pressure on the utility rates.

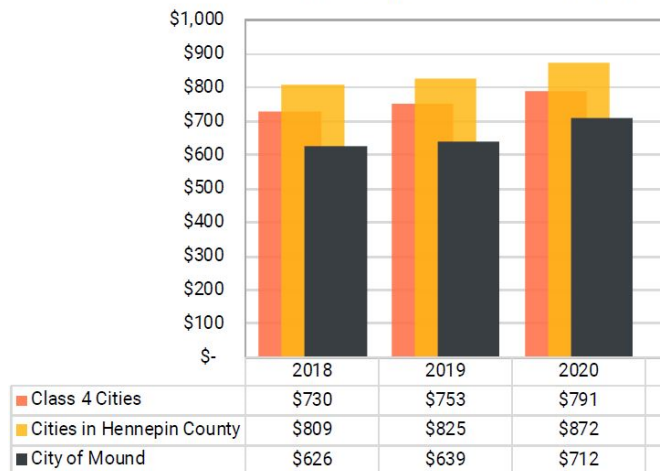
The City Council also authorized the \$1,040,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) stimulus funds be used for the Lynwood Boulevard watermain improvements. The economic stimulus plans are a significant help to cities like Mound in managing the tax and utility rates, but the challenges continue.

At the end of 2021, the Water Fund had a \$3.7M deficit and the Storm Water Fund had a \$1.3M deficit. The current Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) calls for an average of \$850K in water infrastructure investments over the next 5 years and 70% of the water revenues collected goes to existing debt service. That is why a water treatment facility is not feasible without state assistance. Debt service on \$24M would cost \$1.6M a year, which is more than double the debt service we are currently paying in the Water Fund.

The City will continue to aggressively pursue outside funding assistance in order to manage increases to property tax and utility rates. Historically, the City received many grants for the Harbor District redevelopment to clean-up Lost Lake and build the parking deck, and the Fire Department has been very successful in securing competitive FEMA grants. Property owners will continue to benefit by new development increasing the City's tax capacity and therefore spreading the burden over a larger pool and adding more utility rate payers.

The 2021 audited financial statements are available on the city website. The Council will act on the 2023 preliminary budget and levy at the September 13th regular meeting and the final budget and levy at the December 13th regular meeting.

Current Expenditures Per Capita



On-Line Permitting Coming this Fall! The City of Mound in partnership with MNSPECT will be launching an on-line site for building and zoning permits. This will help to expedite the process and give the applicant more insight into the status of their permits. Watch cityofmound.com for details starting in September.

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

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

The 2022 Election Season is Here!

The Primary Election will be held on August 9 and the General Election on November 8. The Primary Election on August 9 has the following offices on the ballot: Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, State Attorney General, Hennepin County Sheriff, and the Hennepin County Attorney.

The General Election on November 8 will have the Municipal offices for Mayor and two City Council seats in addition to Federal, State and County offices. The Mayor's office is a two-year term and City Council Member is a four-year term. If you are interested in running for a municipal office, the candidate filing period begins on August 2nd, and ends at 5:00 p.m. on August 16th. The cost to file is \$2.00, with application materials available at City Hall.

Absentee Voting/Register to Vote

Residents who wish to vote absentee are encouraged to do so via mail by contacting Hennepin County Elections directly at 612-348-5151 for an application or you can fill out your absentee ballot application on line at <http://www.hennepin.us/residents/elections/absentee-voting>. In-person absentee voting is also available at City Hall during normal business hours and the Saturday before the election from 10 am to 3 pm.

If you are new to Mound or if you haven't voted in over four years, you may need to re-register to vote. Registering to vote prior to Election Day makes voting a quicker and easier process. You can register online at <https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/VoterRegistration> or you can pick up a voter registration application at Mound City Hall.

Election Day Voting

Polls are open 7 am to 8 pm on election day. New polling place locations have been established and post cards will be mailed to all registered voters identifying their polling place prior to the primary election (this information is also available <https://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/>).

Precinct 1 - The Gillespie Center
2590 Commerce Boulevard

Precinct 2 - Bethel United Methodist Church
2116 Commerce Boulevard

Precinct 3 - The Mound Centennial Building/Council Chambers
5341 Maywood Rd

Precinct 4 - St. John's Lutheran Church
2415 Fairview Lane



The League of Women Voters host candidate forums that are available for viewing at lmcc-tv.org. Other resources are available at <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/> and www.hennepin.us/elections.



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.



MOUND FIRE PREVENTION OPEN HOUSE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2022 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

This family fun event will include hands-on activities, fire safety displays, fire truck rides and more. Beverages and snacks will be provided.

2022 marks the 100th Anniversary of National Fire Prevention Week. This is the longest running public health and safety observance on record. Fire Prevention Week is October 9th-15th and this year's campaign theme is *"Fire won't wait. Plan your escape!"* Fire in a home can spread quickly, and developing a home escape plan can mean the difference between life and death in a fire. The home escape plan should be discussed and practiced regularly to ensure everyone knows what to do when the smoke alarm sounds and how to use that time wisely. Stay Healthy and Be Safe!



THANK YOU FOR MAKING MOUND FIRE'S 69th FISH FRY AND DANCE A HUGE SUCCESS!

After a 2-year hiatus due to the COVID 19 Pandemic, the Mound Fire Fish Fry and Dance returned on Saturday June 4, 2022. Our community supported the event with a crowd of over 3,000 people enjoying the dinner and the dance. Fish Fry Fun Facts include:

- The Mound Fire Department has hosted the fundraising event for over 70 years!
- In the early years, the Mound firefighters caught all of the fish for the fish fry
- Nowadays we purchase over 2,000 lbs. of *Certified Alaskan Pollack*
- Since 1986, Mound firefighters have served 131,995 fish dinners...WOW!
- Talk about frying fish... the MFD Kitchen Crew can fry about 700 lbs. of fish per hour
- The event is staffed by Mound firefighters and family, about 1,660 hours worked!
- From 2015-2021, a hefty sum of \$72,825 has been raised to purchase equipment

The Mound firefighters greatly appreciate the tremendous support from our residents, community members, and local businesses! We hope to see you in 2023, the department's Centennial!

HARBOR DISTRICT PARK IMPROVEMENTS PLAN APPROVED!

The City has wrapped up gathering feedback on the various combinations of amenities and layouts included in the several concepts presented in its on-line, Social Pinpoint survey tool and shown during several live feedback events held throughout the community last fall. Our consultants gained a rich data set of feedback from the on-line tool and the several public engagement events to work with in formulating the intentional improvements for this central feature in our community. This proposed concept was reviewed by the Parks Commission in February. Feedback from their discussion was incorporated into the final draft of the plan that was approved by the City Council at its July 12 meeting.

INITIAL PHASE

This scope of work includes improvements to create the promenade path connecting between the regional trail and the harbor, as well as landscape features to develop the open community lawn, seating area at the harbor, plaza space with fire ring, raingarden and art walk. The current instrument display will be relocated within the area. Additional site amenities such as pedestrian-scaled lighting, seating, trash receptacles, interpretation and wayfinding may be incorporated.

FUTURE PHASES

Future phases include upgrades at the Farmers Market lot, including overhead lighting and electrical upgrades (although these may be included in the initial phase as part of the plaza design). Considerations for future upgrades for the Farmers Market could be decorative or upgraded hardscape surfacing that would be cooler during the summer months, or provide infiltration (such as permeable pavers). Other items to be considered in future phases include renovation of the harbor area to accommodate for performances. The enclosed shelter within the plaza area has also been identified for future phases. These improvements are likely dependent on evolution of programs and use of the park space once the initial phase improvements are completed.



The initial phase of park improvements will be coordinated with the construction of the 52-unit Artessa Mound Harbor Cooperative which is scheduled to begin construction in the fall of 2022 and completed in 2024. See <https://artessaliving.com/artessa-mound-harbor> or visit the Mound Harbor Sales Gallery at 2206 Commerce Blvd. in Mound next to Anytime Fitness for more details on this exciting new development!

National Night Out (NNO) Tuesday, August 2nd

NNO is a national campaign that promotes police-community partnerships. We enjoy making visits to each party in our community and the relationships that are formed are critical to our success in serving you. We normally are invited to 30-35 parties so we ask for advance notice to be able to coordinate them all. If you'd like more information on how to host a party please contact Officer Mike Fournier at 952-249-4700.

Police Chief's Corner



MN DNR Approved Annual Youth Firearm Safety Course.

Kids ages 11-18 can participate in this course which then helps the child receive their firearm safety certificate. The course will run Aug 1-4 from 5:00-8:00 pm and then a Field Day on Friday Aug 5 from 8:30-11:30 am. The training offered by the OPD is full, but other courses can be found at <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/firearms/>

High School Student Cadet Program for Kids Interested in Law Enforcement

This program is in its infancy, but we are using it as a tool to recruit the next generation of police officers and to get students excited about a career in public safety. We anticipate volunteer and paid opportunities as the cadet transitions from high school to college and beyond. We also hope to offer some scholarships to help students pay for post-secondary education. For more information about this new opportunity, please contact Sgt. Tim Sonnek at 952-249-4700.

Now Seeking Applicants to Serve on Advisory Commissions

The City of Mound has three advisory commissions, including the Planning Commission, the Parks and Open Spaces Commission and the Docks and Commons Commission. Mound's advisory commissions are comprised of citizens appointed by the City Council who meet on relevant topics within their purview and make recommendations to the City Council based on their findings. Serving on a commission is a great introduction to local government! Typical appointments are for three year terms. The City is currently seeking applications for at least one Planning Commissioner due to a recent resignation. See cityofmound.com for more information.

DOCK PROGRAM UPDATE

Canoe/Kayak Storage Racks Available! The City has installed storage racks at the following locations: Avalon Park, Carlson Park, Centerview Beach (full), and the latest at Twin Park on Priest's Bay. The seasonal fee is \$65 for residents and \$90 for non-residents. The City will prorate the fee if a spot is rented after August 1.

All watercraft at *multiple-slip* sites must be removed by October 15th of each year.

Applications to renew dock and slip licenses are sent by January 1st and due February 28th. Waitlist applicants must renew each year and residents can print an application from the cityofmound.com website also during the January/February renewal period.





The City of Mound owns and operates Harbor Wine & Spirits liquor store. HWS opened at its current location in 2003, and this approach enables the City to use the profits generated to reduce the property tax levy and help fund essential city services like our many park amenities and major equipment. Harbor Wine & Spirits contributed \$200,000 to tax relief in 2021 and \$250,000 in 2022!

We are always seeking friendly, motivated Part-Time Liquor Sales Clerks for two to four shifts averaging 20 - 24 hours per week paying \$16 - \$18 per hour depending on qualifications. Come join our team and gain valuable experience in retail management and providing best in class service! See cityofmound.com for an application or pick one up at the store.

Thank you for your continued patronage! It is our pleasure to serve you!

HOUSEHOLD ORGANICS RECYCLING DROP OFF SITE LAUNCHED!

Mound residents can now take advantage of a free residential organics drop-off site located in the parking lot in front of the main entrance to the Centennial Building at 5341 Maywood Road. The organics drop-off is free of charge, but residents must register in person at City Hall to receive their starter kit and key for the dumpster lock.

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. Many residents find they can decrease the size of their trash container if they pull organics out, saving them money!

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. **Other tips:**

- **Countertop kitchen pails** with vented lids lined with a compostable bag is most ideal. Vented containers allow moisture to evaporate which will reduce odors and help compostable bags hold up longer. The City is selling vented pails at a discount for \$5 (limit one per household).
- **Drain excess liquids** before placing food scraps in collection container. Keep 'wet' organics in the refrigerator or freezer, or place paper towels or newspaper at the bottom of the container. This all helps to slow the decomposition of food, reduce odors, prevent flies, and help the compostable bags last longer.
- **Study the Organics Recycling Guide** and know what is acceptable for organics recycling. Contamination is the #1 reason recycling fails.



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.

See the WHS website at www.westonkahistoricalsociety.org or follow them on Facebook. You will be amazed at the vast collection of artifacts being maintained and you will learn the ways in which you may contribute and capture your family's history!



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Jason Holt
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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



Aug 2 - Aug 16 Candidate Filing Period—Local
Aug 2 National Night Out
Aug 9 Primary Election Day
Aug 13 Dog Days - Surfside Park & Beach
Sep 5 Labor Day - City Offices Closed
Sep 6 Westonka Public Schools Start
Nov 8 General Election Day



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**

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.