

CITY CONTACT



*A Quarterly Publication
from the City of Mound*

MAY JUNE JULY
2014

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.

Mayor's Medallion Hunt

Dear Fellow Citizens of Mound,

I am pleased to report that the Spirit of the Lakes Board has agreed to hold another "Mayor's Medallion Hunt" for the 2014 Spirit of the Lakes Festival. The last one was at the Mound Centennial in 2012 and was very well received...even though the hunt only lasted for 2 days. The clues this year promise to be more difficult and challenging. So sharpen your minds for a little cerebral exercise!



Mark Hanus

The prize has now been determined and approved by the Spirit Board. I am excited to announce that this year a cash prize of \$300 will be awarded to the successful sleuth. That's not monopoly money, funny money, or discount certificates. It is \$300 hard, cold cash! Who will the lucky detective be? Only time will tell.

One of the best things about a medallion hunt is seeing families out together on a mission as they hunt for the medallion. I encourage everyone to get out and have some fun deciphering the clues and looking for the medallion.

At this time I am expecting that there will be 2 clues revealed per week, one on Saturdays and one on Sundays beginning on Saturday, June 21st. The reason for Saturday and Sunday releases is to give as many people as possible the opportunity to work with the newly released clues as they come out on the weekends. Another clue will be released each following Saturday and Sunday until the medallion is either found or when the last clue is revealed on Saturday, July 19th. These dates are tentative so watch for any changes to be announced.

Announcements and clues will be posted on both the Spirit of the Lakes and City of Mound websites: www.spiritofthelakes.com & www.cityofmound.com.

Happy hunting!

Respectfully,

Mayor Mark Hanus

REMINDER!!

**Spring Clean Up Day
May 10th
at Minnetrista City Hall**

Details at www.cityofmound.com or 952-472-0603

Message from the City Manager - The Spirit of the Lakes Festival



Kandis Hanson

Ten years in the making, the Spirit of the Lakes has evolved into a summer Festival that serves all residents of the Westlake region. Involvement turns over and continually changes, creating openings for Board members, including Secretary/Treasurer. There are also openings on Committees in the following areas: Accounting, Insurance, Marketing, Fundraising, Web Site, Social Media, Constant Contact, Flyers & Posters, and Assets Management.

What can a Board or Committee position do for you?? As a member of the Spirit of the Lakes Festival Board or one of its Committees, you will meet people and make friends. A business owner will gain exposure and, potentially, attract business. If you are affiliated with a civic organization or church, you can potentially attract members through your involvement. These are just a few of the ways in which you can benefit as a participant serving the Spirit of the Lakes.

Disclaimer: Whereas, as City Manager for Mound, I hold a position on the Spirit Board, the Spirit of the Lakes Festival is not a function of the City of Mound. The involvement of the City Manager is to retain oversight of the City staff that are traditionally involved by way of in-kind support from the departments of the City.

If YOU would like to get involved in the Spirit of the Lakes, **applications are being taken from individuals living in Mound and all our neighbor cities.** If you have questions or wish to receive an application, contact Bob Koepler at 952-472-1710.



.....Driving for You!

Are you looking for a meaningful way to volunteer? Do you work from home, have lots of flexibility and would like to give back to your community? WeCAB can use your help!

WeCAB (Community Area Busing) has over 250 riders who have registered since the program began in October 2011. WeCAB volunteer drivers provide rides for the elderly, or those who are otherwise unable to drive, to medical appointments, the grocery store, the beauty shop and to church. Please consider becoming a volunteer driver. As a **WeCAB DRIVER**, you get to choose how often you drive as well as your destinations; errands around town, to the hospital in Waconia, or to church on Sunday. You drive your own car, pick up riders at their home, take them to their destination, and then bring them home again.

Consider this volunteer opportunity as a way for you to give back to your community. Please call **WeCAB** at 952-472-3222, extension 2, for more information about being a **DRIVER** for **WeCAB**. For a volunteer application please check the website - **www.wecab.org**.

Looking Back on the Decision to Contract for Police Services

By Mayor Mark Hanus

Someone asked recently for the final costs that resulted from the move of the Mound City Hall to the Public Safety Building. Thinking that others may be interested in this we thought we would publish the numbers for anyone else who is interested. This helps to illustrate the sound decisions that were made in deciding to make this move.

Keep in mind that one move allows for another. Contracting for police services vacated most of the police side of the Public Safety building and saves significant dollars annually with the lower contracted price versus internal costs. This in turn allowed for City Hall operations to move into the former vacated police space. This vacated most of the old City Hall building (Centennial Building) which allowed for it to be leased out gaining new revenues never before possible.

There are more efficient operations for city staff in the new location but those are intangible savings and are not included in this analysis. Keep in mind that we also have more police patrolling Mound than ever before at a lower cost. Better service at a lower cost is something we are always trying to achieve.

		City Hall Move to Former Police Space with Minor Building Alterations	Centennial Building Modifications (Old City Hall) to Allow for Leasing
Total One-Time Expenses		\$67,133	\$5,814
Old Vacated City Hall Rental Revenue (Every year on-going)	Centennial Building Rent Receipts 2013 Actual	-	\$17,500 1 st year (\$35,000 second year)
Cost Savings from Police Contract (Every year on-going)	Police Dept/Emergency Preparedness 2012 Budget vs. 2013 Budget	\$66,529	-
Total time to fully pay back expenditures with savings.		1 Year	4 Months

It should be noted that the original decision to contract for police services showed savings that assumed Mound would need to hire two additional officers if the department stayed in-house. Two entry level patrol positions would have cost Mound an additional \$130K in 2013, and even more in future years. This \$130K savings more than funded the \$80K in transition costs paid to Orono. And this savings of not having to hire these two police officers is not even included in the analysis above. Most people would agree that a 4 month or one year payback on investment is a fantastic return.

The City only leases the Centennial Building to governmental or quasi-public operations. We do not compete with commercial rental space in Mound.

As with any major decision, there are always unknowns, but when I see the efficiencies created at the new City Hall with staff on one level, and I see the Westonka Historical Society enjoying record attendance at its events, and I see more services for our citizens like WeCAB and the LMCD located right here in Mound, I am very confident of the decision we made. I believe our officers and our community are better off and we have ensured Mound will remain on a sound fiscal path for years to come.

Mound Fire Department 2014 Fish Fry and Dance

The Mound firefighters are busy preparing for the 63rd Annual Fish Fry and Dance, scheduled for Saturday, June 7, 2014. Tickets for the event will include dinner featuring the traditional fish meal and an evening dance with live music provided by a fun band called '**Big Toe and the Jam**'.

Tickets will be sold in advance for \$10 by firefighters canvassing neighborhoods and they will be available at the door for \$12. You may also call Vicki at the Mound Fire Station at 952-472-3555 for tickets.

The event time and information is as follows:

- What:** MFD Fish Fry and Dance
Fish Dinner and Refreshments
Music: **Big Toe and the Jam**
- When:** Saturday June 7, 2014
Dinner: 3:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Dance: 9:00 p.m. – Midnight
- Where:** Mound Fire Station
2415 Wilshire Blvd.



Bring the family and join us for a fun event at the Fire Station!



MOUND FIRE DEPARTMENT Receives Lake Minnetonka Conservation District-2014 "Save the Lake" Funds



In a press release dated January 2014, Chief Greg Pederson stated, "The Mound Fire Department is pleased to announce we are a recipient of the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District – 2014 'Save the Lake' Funds".

We recently submitted a grant application to the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District – "Save the Lake" Fund and were awarded \$4,600.00. Save the Lake is a non-profit fund that invests in programs that benefit the environmental and recreational needs of Lake Minnetonka. To qualify, projects needed to fit into one of three categories: public safety, environmental, or public service/education.

The submitted grant application was for the purchase of life safety equipment that included two ice rescue suits, a floatable water pump, and a portable radio with headset. The total equipment cost was \$9,200 and it was split between the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District and the Mound Fire Department. This award enables the Mound Fire Department to continue its tradition of excellence in service on Lake Minnetonka.



Be Predictable

Travel in a consistent and predictable manner. Always look behind before changing position on the trail.



Don't Block the Trail

When in a group, avoid using more than half the trail.



Dog Walkers

Keep dogs under control and on a 6' non-retractable leash.



Keep Right

Stay to the right side of the trail as is safe, except when passing another user.



Pass on the Left

Pass others, going in your direction, on their left. Faster traffic must yield to slower and oncoming traffic.



Give Audible Signal

When passing a frequently used warning is... "PASSING ON YOUR LEFT." A clear warning signal may be given by voice, bell or horn.



Helmets

Bicyclists, skaters and skateboarders should always wear a properly fitted helmet.



Stop Means Stop

Trail Safety - A Top Priority

It's hard to imagine a peaceful ride along the Dakota Trail turning into conflict, or worse, an accident. But it can happen. That is exactly the reason Three Rivers Parks trail managers are focusing attention on safety, intersection enforcement, and trail etiquette.

"People don't think of regional trails this way, but the truth is they're a lot like our road system in that you have a great variety of users all counting on each other for their safety," says Tom McDowell, Associate Superintendent at Three Rivers Park District. "It's really basic stuff like defensive driving for bikers and walkers being aware of others using the trail and not walking 2 or 3 abreast. It's sharing the trail, staying to the right, being courteous, wearing a helmet and stopping at stop signs. Part of our challenge is that many trail users just want to tune out the world and relax and enjoy a walk or a ride in nature. We want people to be able to do that, just not at the expense of others' safety or experience on the trail." McDowell adds that young trail riders should be given some extra room, and dogs must always be on a 6 foot leash and not block the trail.

According to Metro Council statistics, Three Rivers Parks had more than eight million visitors last year. Roughly a third of those park visits were on regional trails. One of the most popular trails is the Dakota Trail which traverses Mound and numerous other Lake Minnetonka communities.

(David Verhasselt, Communications Dir,
Three Rivers Park District)



Mound Fire Department News

Six Firefighters Complete Grueling Probation

Over its long history, the Mound Fire Department has been very successful in maintaining a full complement of volunteer firefighters. On March 15, 2014, six new Mound firefighters completed all of the training and attendance requirements necessary to become permanent members of Mound FD.

The time and effort required to meet the essentials of the one year probationary period is very demanding. Congratulations go to new firefighters Nick Farley, Danny Grady, Chris Heitz, Jed Kobernusz, Aaron Morrison and Dan Patterson!

The hiring of these six firefighters helps support the immediate department staffing needs and addresses succession as firefighters retire. Hiring the six firefighters ensures a trained staff to continue to provide excellent fire and emergency response now and in the future.

If you are interested in becoming a firefighter, the Mound Fire Department is always accepting applications. You can print an application form by visiting our website, www.moundfire.com, or stop by our office to meet Chief Greg Pederson.

Adopt-A-Green Space

The City of Mound would like to thank the following individuals, groups and businesses who enthusiastically volunteered their time and talents in the City's Adopt-A-Green Space program in 2013. These dedicated volunteers adopted a planter box, park or beach. The plantings in the planter boxes were donated by the volunteer and cared for by them throughout the growing season. Volunteers who adopted a park or beach may have helped with spring and/or fall clean-up, weekly, monthly clean-up and/or litter pick-up. The generous donation of their time, energy and plantings is greatly appreciated. Below is a list of our volunteers. Thank you for your service to the City.

Thank You, Volunteers

Sharon Collings
 Marion Finegan
 Green T Accounting
 Debby Heitz
 Michelle Herrick & Westedge neighbors
 Karen & Brad Hibbs
 Donnie Hules
 Johnny's Garden Center
 Teresa Lee

Mound True Value
 Dave & Cyndi Olson
 David Osmek
 Vicki Pederson
 Germaine Persing
 Press Perfect
 MaryLou Vanderhoef
 Betty Jane Weiland
 Westonka Jaycees

If you would like to "Adopt-A-Green Space" for 2014 please call Jill at 952-472-0607 or email jillnorlander@cityofmound.com.

SPRINKLER RESTRICTIONS IN EFFECT

Just a reminder that, per Mound City Code 610.50, Subd 12, sprinkling restrictions are in effect May 15 to September 1 each year. Properties with even numbered addresses may sprinkle only on days with even numbered dates. Properties with odd numbered addresses may sprinkle only on days with odd numbered dates. A one (1) month exception from the odd/even sprinkling restriction may be granted for newly planted sod, grass or landscaping upon registering for exemption and approval by the Public Works Superintendent. Other exemptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Questions? Call Amy at 952-472-0603.



**2135 COMMERCE BLVD
 MOUND, MN 55364
 952-472-0648**

**Stop By & Check
 Out the LARGEST
 Craft-Brew &
 Import Selection
 in Westonka
 featuring**

YOUR COMMUNITY WINE & SPIRITS STORE!





☞ **Recycling** - Republic Services (formerly Allied Waste) sent the 2014 Biweekly Single Sort Recycling Schedule to all residents in December. Additional copies are available at City Hall or at www.cityofmound.com.

☞ **Spring Cleanup** - Residents can bring grass clippings, milfoil and leaves to the compost site called "The Mulch Store" located at 4275 Creekview Circle in Minnetrista, now through November 30th. This service is free if you show your drivers license. Additional services are available for a fee. Hours are Monday - Friday 8am-5pm & Saturday 9am -1pm. Call 952-446-1056 for more info.

☞ **IMPORTANT: Hydrant flushing** is scheduled for May 5th through May 23rd. This means there may be times that you will experience discolored water or a drop in water pressure. For water and washing tips see the Public Works Water page at www.cityofmound.com.

☞ **Dog & Cat owners** must apply for a pet license renewal by April 30, 2014. To apply for a license, come to City Hall and bring a valid certificate from a qualified veterinarian showing that the dog/cat has been vaccinated for rabies, the type of vaccine used, and the length of time the vaccination is effective. The license fee is \$25 per spayed/neutered dog or cat and \$35 if non-spayed/neutered in the even year for a 2-year tag.

☞ **Dock Program** participants are reminded to comply with all requirements as listed in the Dock Ordinance section of the City Code (see website). The most common violations include: failure to declare watercraft, not having a valid DNR registration on file, or leaving debris on the commons or dock site. Dock program participants may not have any past due property taxes or municipal utility bills as of April 15th of each year.

☞ **Utility Billing** Automatic Payment plan, E-bill and other valuable information available on the Finance Utility Billing page at www.cityofmound.com.

☞ **"Clean Up Day"** - The cities of Mound and Minnetrista are holding the annual "Clean Up Day" on Saturday May 10th from 8 am to 3 pm at Minnetrista City Hall. To see a listing of acceptable items and charges go to the Mound website at www.cityofmound.com or call 952-472-0603.

☞ **Indian Knoll Manor Apartments**, owned by the Mound Housing and Redevelopment Authority and managed by Common Bond Communities, is accepting applications for studio and one bedroom apartments. Call 952-472-5078 for an application or to take a tour.

☞ **Need to register to vote or interested in being an election judge?** The Primary Election is August 12 and the General Election is November 4. If you are a new Mound resident or have not voted in the last four years, you can pre-register to vote until July 22 for the Primary and October 14 for the General Election. Voter registration and/or election judge applications are available at City Hall or on the City website.

*Welcome,
Noah!*



Noah Iverson started in his position as full-time accountant in the Finance Department on March 19, 2014. He most recently worked for seven years as an auditor for Conway, Deuth & Schmiesing, PLLP, where he specialized in auditing cities and school districts. Noah graduated from Minnesota State University, Mankato, with a degree in accounting and finance. He is eligible to sit for the CPA exam and plans on sitting for his first section this spring. In his free time, Noah enjoys staying active by hiking, biking, and playing softball and racquetball.

City of Mound
2415 Wilshire Boulevard
Mound, MN 55364
(952) 472-0600
www.cityofmound.com

**PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 87
MOUND, MN**

*****ECRWSS***
POSTAL CUSTOMER**

City Council Members

Mark Hanus, Mayor (952) 472-5480
Heidi Gesch (952) 472-5508
Kelli Gillispie (507) 382-2191
Ray Salazar (952) 472-7383
Mark Wegscheid (612) 581-6710

Kandis Hanson, (952) 472-0609
City Manager

Dates To Remember

May 5-23 **Hydrant Flushing**
May 5 City Hall Seasonal Hours Begin
May 10 Clean Up Day at Minnetrista
May 11 Mother's Day
May 17 Our Lady of the Lake "BLAST"
May 26 Memorial Day
June 7 Mound Fire Fish Fry
July 17-19 Spirit of the Lakes

City Hall

Seasonal Hours

May through October
M - Th 7:30 am to 5:00 pm
Fri 7:30 am to 11:30 am

Mound Meeting Calendar

- City Council meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month beginning at 7pm
- HRA meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month beginning at 6:30pm
- Planning Commission meets the first Tuesday of each month beginning at 7pm
- Parks and Open Space Commission meets the second Thursday of the month beginning at 7pm on an as-needed basis
- Docks and Commons Commission meets the third Thursday of the month beginning at 7pm on an as-needed basis

