

# CITY CONTACT



*A Quarterly Publication  
from the City of Mound*

NOV DEC JAN  
2015 - 2016

*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 Message .....

Dear Neighbors,

As the leaves fall, the phrase "where did summer go?" is spoken like clockwork. The school buses are back on the road and anticipation for the approaching winter is upon us. Seasonal change is just one of many great qualities that our state possesses; it keeps us fresh and new. Change is good.

While it is easy to become comfortable with the way our lives follow their day to day course, we all need change. Without change, we cannot improve, we cannot have new experiences, new opportunities, new challenges or new results. We become destined to stagnate.

The City of Mound is no different. Just as our days and seasons are changing, so is our city. We have had several staff adjustments over the last 12 months, adding fresh life experiences to the team while providing new perspectives to the collective vision and decision making process.

The latest change being the separation of Ms. Hanson from the Mound City Manager position. We recognize Ms. Hanson for her many years of service and hope only the best for her future.

There has been some misunderstanding that Finance Director Catherine Pausche was assigned the city manager job. To clarify, Ms. Pausche will remain the finance director and has always been "acting" city manager, which means she *temporarily* covers the city manager responsibilities during any city manager absence.

The City Council contracted with Bob Derus to serve as the part-time interim city manager to assist with day to day operations until a full-time person can be identified. This gives the city time to perform a responsible search and to consider all reasonable options. Bob will be playing a key role in the search for a city manager and will be working with the city council to solicit input from key stakeholders. I welcome Bob and look forward to benefiting from his extensive experience in public service.

Please join me in supporting the city during these times of change. Our tomorrows are greatly a result of today, so let's make today the best day we can!

*Mayor Mark Wegscheid*

## Community Notification System On-line

Receive emails and/or text messages about these community events:

- Road closures
- Seasonal parking reminders
- Special event news
- Utility emergencies
- Severe weather notifications
- General city information



**In preparation for this coming winter season,** the City of Mound is providing snow removal tips and driver etiquette. The City of Mound plows approximately 41 miles of streets and roads and is asking for everyone's cooperation, so that snow removal takes place in a timely manner to facilitate safe traffic flow for drivers and pedestrians.



Mound Public Works crews are dispatched to plow snow if there is more than two inches of snow. The city makes a determination whether to apply salt and/or sand to the streets. Sand assists in traction, and salt assists in ice and snow melt, however, salt is only effective in certain temperatures, and doesn't work well in sub-zero conditions. The time required to clear snow and ice from roads varies depending on the storm intensity and duration, water content of snow, temperature, traffic conditions, and time of day.

### **Resident, Business Owner, and Snow Plowing Contractor Reminders**

- It is unlawful to push or throw snow onto or across roadways. Your snow must be deposited on your own property. It is your responsibility to remove the snow left at the end of your driveway after plowing.
- Trash carts should be placed in the driveway, 5 feet behind the front of the snow berm to minimize the possibility of being knocked over.
- Winter parking restrictions are from November 15 to April 15, with no on-street parking 2am-6am.

### **What Can You do to Help?**

- Do not attempt to stop a snowplow or obstruct its path. Travel a safe distance behind the plow, allowing for scattering of salt and abrupt movements.
- Use EXTREME caution when passing snowplows. Before you pass, please honk your horn and flash your lights to alert the operator you intend to pass.
- Equipment operators often work long hours under trying conditions. PLEASE be courteous and friendly as you drive around them. Help them help YOU.
- Be patient. Be assured that during a snow storm, every reasonable effort will be made to keep roadways open.

**Please drive to the current conditions of the road.**

---

### **Docks and Commons Advisory Commission**

Three-year renewable term to fill a vacancy for the non-lakeshore/non-abutting dock site holder representative. The Docks and Commons Commission meets the third Thursday at 7:00 pm, about four times per year (typically January, March, September and November). For more information, call or email Catherine at 952-472-0633 or [CatherinePausche@cityofmound.com](mailto:CatherinePausche@cityofmound.com).

Applications are due November 12, 2015, 4:30 p.m. Mandatory interviews on November 19, 2015, 7:00 p.m. Appointment will be made by the City Council at their December 8th meeting with the term starting in January.



### **Parks and Open Space Commission**

Three-year renewable term to fill a vacancy. This commission reviews matters relating to the City's park system and makes recommendations to the City Council. The Parks and Open Space Commission meets the second Thursday at 7:00 pm, as needed. For more information, call or email Eric at 952-472-0636 or [EricHoversten@cityofmound.com](mailto:EricHoversten@cityofmound.com).

Applications are due November 5, 2015, 4:30 p.m. Mandatory interviews on November 12, 2015, 7:00 p.m. Appointment will be made by the City Council at their December 8th meeting with the term starting in January.

## Budget and Capital Investment Update

The City Council approved the preliminary budget and levy at the August 25, 2015 regular meeting. Highlights of the General Fund budget and levy from 2009 through 2016 are summarized below:

<b>City of Mound General Fund / Levy Key Statistics</b>					
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
<u>Year</u>	Actual Unassigned Fund Balance as % of Exp	Actual Total Fund Balance as % of Exp	Surplus, Break-even or (Spend Down)	General Fund Levy % Chg	General Fund Exp % Chg
2009	23.00%	43.00%	\$27,079	3.90%	-1.28%
2010	27.00%	43.11%	\$177,454	0.00%	-1.84%
2011	17.80%	48.66%	\$146,641	0.00%	1.64%
2012	26.00%	44.16%	(\$203,153)	-6.75%	1.63%
2013	34.00%	49.00%	\$136,950	2.00%	-2.28%
2014	40.00%	53.00%	\$233,263	-4.23%	-0.30%
2015 Bud	21.00%	42.00%	(\$106,175)	3.00%	2.84%
2016 Prelim	20.00%	44.00%	(\$114,562)	3.00%	4.50%
<b>AVERAGE</b>	26.11%	45.87%	\$ 37,187	0.11%	0.61%

These healthy statistics have allowed the City to maintain favorable bond ratings. Standard & Poor's (S&P) Ratings Services has assigned its 'AA' long-term rating and stable outlook to Mound. Per the rating report, the ratings reflect S&P's assessment of the City's:

- Proximity and access to ample employment opportunities throughout the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan statistical area (MSA);
- Very strong income indicators and extremely strong market value per capita; and
- Maintenance of very strong reserves, coupled with good management practices.

The Council will hold a special meeting workshop on Wednesday, October 21, 2015 to discuss the final budget, levy, utility rates, and capital projects. The final budget and levy discussions and decisions will take place at the December 8, 2015, regular City Council meeting where the opportunity for public comment will be given. Comments or questions on the 2016 budget and levy can be directed to the Finance Director at (952)472-0633. The entire preliminary budget is available on the city's website.

---

### **Are you a caregiver for a loved one? Let Senior Community Services help!**

A program of Senior Community Services – Senior Outreach & Caregiver Services – provides support to friends, spouses, and other family members who help an older adult remain at home. The staff not only assists these caregivers in connecting with needed services and resources for their loved one, but gives support to them as well. The licensed social workers can provide consultation, caregiver support groups, family meeting facilitation, and coaching to the caregiver. For computer-savvy caregivers, the program also offers an online care team tool – CareNextion – to provide an efficient method of enlisting other family and friends in sharing the care.



For more information or to request service, call 612-770-7005.



# Mound Fire Department News



## **FIREFIGHTERS JEFF OTTENBREIT & TANNER PALM COMPLETE ONE YEAR PROBATIONARY PERIOD**

Mound firefighters Jeff Ottenbreit and Tanner Palm have completed the training and attendance requirements necessary to become State Certified Firefighter I & II, Hazmat and First Responders. The State Certification is a requirement of all firefighters employed by the Mound Fire Department.

Congratulations to Jeff and Tanner on all of their hard work! With the successful completion of the State Certification Testing, both men have now completed their one year probationary period with the Mound Fire Department. Both Jeff and Tanner have done a great job and are proficiently trained employees, and a welcome addition to our fire department staff.

## **FIREFIGHTER TIM PALM RETURNS TO SERVICE**

Mound Fire Captain Tim Palm retired from the Mound Fire Department on May 1, 2015, after 26 years of dedicated service. The State of Minnesota laws and Mound Fire Department Relief Association bylaws now allow a retired firefighter to return to service after a 60-day separation from active service. Tim recently applied to return to service after a three-month absence. In order to return to service a retired firefighter has to reapply to the department, interview with the board, and pass a required physical exam and background check. We're happy to announce Tim was rehired as a Mound Firefighter on October 3, 2015. Welcome back Firefighter Tim Palm!

## **MOUND FIRE DEPARTMENT HIRES FOUR NEW FIREFIGHTERS AS PROBIES**

The Mound Fire Department recently hired four new probationary firefighters who started on October 3, 2015. The four new firefighters are Dan Berent, Joseph Brown, Michael Catton and Carter Palm. The hiring was in response to firefighter retirements over the past couple of years, along with implementation of the department staffing goals. Hiring now will allow us to continue to have a fully trained staff to continue to provide excellent protection now and in the future.

Are you interested in becoming a firefighter with the Mound Fire Department? We are always accepting applications. You can print an application form by visiting our website at

[www.moundfire.com](http://www.moundfire.com) or stopping by our office. Call 952-472-3555 with questions.

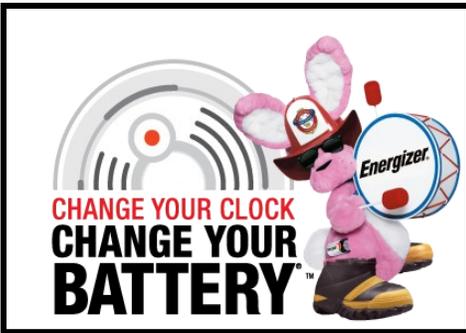


Happy Holidays  
From  
Harbor Wine & Spirits!!

Remember:  
We Sell  
Gift Certificates!!

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



Daylight-saving time ends Sunday, November 1st, and marks the 28th year of the Change Your Clock Change Your Battery® program, sponsored by Energizer and the International Association of Fire Chiefs. They remind us to change and test the batteries in our smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. Home fires take the lives of more than 2,500 people each year in the United States alone. According to the National Fire Protection Association, three out of five fatal fire injuries take place in homes without working smoke alarms. Seventy-one percent (71%) of smoke alarms that failed to operate had missing, disconnected, or dead batteries. The Mound Fire Department reminds our residents that one easy step can help save their lives and the lives of those around them. Everyone is encouraged to use the extra hour they “gain” from daylight-saving time to change the batteries in their own smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors, test the alarms and remind friends, family, neighbors and fellow community members to do the same. The Mound Fire Department has free 9-volt batteries available. Quantities are limited. Beginning Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 9-volt batteries can be picked up Monday through Thursday between 8:00am and 4:30pm, and Fridays between 8:00am and 11:30am at the fire station located at 2415 Wilshire Blvd.

---

## School Board Election is November 3rd

Four candidates will be on the ballot for the November 3 School Board election. Up for election this year are four seats, each for a four-year term. Seeking re-election are School Board Chair David Botts, Vice Chair Ann Bremer, and Treasurer Ralph Harrison. Kelle Downey Bowe is a first-time candidate.

The polls will be open from 7am to 8pm Tuesday, November 3. Polling places are the school district Educational Services Center (ESC) in Minnetrista and Mount Olive Church in Mound. In-person absentee voting is available at the ESC, 5901 Sunnyfield Road East, Minnetrista, through 5 p.m. Monday, November 2. To request an application for a mailed absentee ballot, email Carol Shukle, shuklec@westonka.k12.mn.us.

---

## Recycling Matters!



Today, recycling is easier than ever for Mound residents with our single-sort system of co-mingling in one container. Mound residents recycled 459 pounds per household with our bi-weekly pickups in 2013! That’s an impressive amount of material that we’ve kept from incinerators and landfills. In fact, many residents have now added a 2nd cart to recycle even more waste. Call Republic Services directly at (952)941-5174 to arrange for delivery of a free larger size or second container.

Fall clean-up can be frustrating, especially when you find yourself with a pile of stuff that needs to go. But where? With a click on your computer or smart phone, find ways to recycle, reuse or dispose of items from your home with the new online resource for Hennepin County residents. Learn how to get rid of yard waste, mattresses, paint or fluorescent light bulbs and more—responsibly. The online Green Disposal Guide also has tips for shopping smarter, living greener, and creating less waste.

Check it out: [www.hennepin.us/greendisposalguide](http://www.hennepin.us/greendisposalguide).

---

## Driving for You!



Are you looking for a meaningful way to volunteer? **WeCAB** (Community Area Busing) drivers provide rides for the elderly (or those who are otherwise unable to drive) to medical appointments, the grocery store, the beauty shop, and church. Volunteer dispatchers are also needed. Please consider this heart warming community contribution. Call **WeCAB** at 844-743-1643 for more information.

For a volunteer application, please check the website - [www.wecab.org](http://www.wecab.org).



**Utility Billing** customers are strongly encouraged to sign-up for the **Auto Pay Plan**, where amounts can be deducted from your checking or savings account on the due date or on the next business day if the 15<sup>th</sup> falls on a weekend or holiday. **E-bill** forms are available as well. Please help the City be more efficient by signing up for these services! Find forms on our website at [www.cityofmound.com](http://www.cityofmound.com) or by calling Customer Service at (651)255-0972.

**The City of Mound Public Restrooms** located on the Dakota Rail Trail by the Mound Transit Center will be closed for the winter beginning October 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Dock Program** applications will be sent to existing license holders the last week of December. Wait list applications to renew your spot or to sign up for the first time will be posted on the website. All applications, including those for the Lost Lake Slips, must be returned between January 2, 2016 and February 29, 2016.

**Indian Knoll Manor Apartments**, located at 2020 Commerce Boulevard, are subsidized by HUD and rents are based on income for qualified applicants. There are one bedroom and studio apartments and rent includes heat, water, electric, and trash. Please call the Property Manager at (952) 472-5078 for an application or to take a tour.

**Composting** City of Mound residents can bring grass clippings, milfoil and leaves for composting to "The Mulch Store" located at 4275 Creekview Circle in Minnetrista, at no charge. This service is funded through the recycling fee collected on your utility bill. Mound residents need to show a driver's license for proof of residency. Additional services are available for a fee. Hours are Monday through Friday 8am to 5pm & Saturday 9am to 1pm through November 30th. Call 952-446-1056 or visit [www.mulchstoremn.com](http://www.mulchstoremn.com) for more information. *Reminder: No grass or leaves may be put in the street or gutter.*

**Homestead Market Value Exclusion** – Residential property that is classified as "HOMESTEAD" may be eligible for a reduction to the taxable market value, thereby reducing the property taxes payable. For a homestead valued at \$76,000 or less, the exclusion is 40 percent of market value, yielding a maximum exclusion of \$30,400 at \$76,000 of market value. For a homestead valued between \$76,000 and \$413,800, the exclusion is \$30,400 minus nine percent of the valuation over \$76,000. For a homestead valued at \$413,800 or more, there is no valuation exclusion. The Proposed Property Tax Statement mailed in November should show the classification and exclusion amount, if applicable. Questions can be directed to the Hennepin County Assessor's Office at (952)472-0619.



## 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual

# Tree Lighting Ceremony



Thursday, November 19, 2015  
6:00 – 8:00 pm  
Auditors Road / Mound Greenway



- A long-standing community tradition that draws hundreds of people to the Mound Greenway on Auditors Road
- Greetings from our Mayors
- Music provided by local singing groups
- Cookies, coffee & hot chocolate provided
- Santa & Mrs. Claus arrive on the fire engine
- Free hayrides
- Bonfire maintained by the Mound Fire Department

The City of Mound has contracted with Derus Governmental Consulting, LLC and its Chief Manager Bob Derus to perform the duties of Interim City Manager, beginning the week of



October 26, 2015. Bob has over 39 years of experience as a City Administrator. Bob retired from the City of St. Michael in 2012 after 15 years of service. For the past three years, Bob has served as Interim City Administrator for the cities of Hanover, Clearwater, and Dayton. He earned a Masters of Arts degree in Public

Administration from Hamline University and Bachelor of Arts degrees in Urban Affairs and Geography from St. Cloud State University.

Bob will lead the process for hiring a new full-time city manager, provide leadership and direction on city operations, as well as manage council and community relations. Bob will be working on a part-time basis approximately 15 hours per week. He can be reached at (952)472-0609 or via email at [citymgr@cityofmound.com](mailto:citymgr@cityofmound.com).

**Welcome, Bob!**

**New Faces!**



Jim Chidester is a graduate of Wayzata High School and St. Cloud Technical & Community College, with a degree in Water Environment Technologies. He is excited to begin his career in the water department and to help provide clean safe water for the citizens of Mound.

**Welcome, Jim!**

Ryan Prich is a Minnetonka native, born and raised. He currently resides in Chanhassen with his wife



Brenda, newborn Madison, and two dogs. He's a big camper and his ideal vacation is a week in the BWCA. His winter free time is spent on the ice finding fish. He's happy to be working at Mound in the sewer department.

**Welcome, Ryan!**

## Parks in the Spotlight

the corner of Sumach Lane and Sparrow Road. It is about two acres in total land area with most of the park hidden south and west of the street access at Sparrow/Sumach. Much of this park is covered with natural waterfront, wetland, and wild land features. There are no improvements or amenities at this park, but it is a great place to go if you want to view the natural waterfront of the lake, look for wildlife, drop your kayak or canoe into Lake Minnetonka, or just enjoy some open space.

For the past two summers, the park has been closed while it was used to support the road and utilities construction on Three Points and is presently pretty uninventing. The City and the Parks and Open Spaces Commission are committed to restoring the park to its previous condition. Funds

**Crescent Park** is located on the south waterfront of Three Points peninsula at

were included in each of the construction projects to pay for this restoration. The Commission will be considering the options for this area and will provide recommendations to the city staff, engineers, and city council on necessary actions or any improvements. This work will be started in the fall of 2015 as we wrap-up and clean-up from the last of the improvement projects. Work will be completed early in the 2016 construction season. We anticipate re-opening Crescent Park before the end of next summer.



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**

## City Council Members

Mark Wegscheid, Mayor (612) 581-6710  
markwegscheid@cityofmound.com  
Heidi Gesch (952) 472-5508  
heidigesch@cityofmound.com  
Kelli Gillispie (507) 382-2191  
kelligillispie@cityofmound.com  
Jennifer Peterson (612) 518-4003  
jenniferpeterson@cityofmound.com  
Ray Salazar (952) 472-7383  
raysalazar@cityofmound.com

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

## City Hall Regular Hours

November through April  
Monday - Friday 8:00am - 4:30 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

## Dates To Remember

Nov 2 City Hall Regular Hours Begin  
Nov 11 Veterans Day - City Offices Closed  
Nov 19 Downtown Mound Tree Lighting  
Nov 26/27 Thanksgiving - City Offices Closed  
Dec 24 Christmas Eve-City Offices Close @ Noon  
Dec 25 Christmas Day - City Offices Closed  
Dec 31 New Years Eve - City Offices Close @ Noon  
Jan 1 New Years Day - City Offices Closed  
Jan 18 M L King Day - City Offices Closed

