

# CITY CONTACT



*A Quarterly Publication  
from the City of Mound*

Nov Dec Jan 2011-2012

*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.*

## Message from the Mayor .....

Dear Fellow Citizens,

If you haven't heard yet, 2012 is a very big year for the City of Mound. 2012 marks our 100th birthday and everyone is invited to the Centennial Party being planned! It promises to be the best of all birthday parties!

The Spirit of the Lakes Festival, a separate non-profit organization, stepped up and volunteered to be the official host of the Mound Centennial. Not wanting to take that kind of offer for granted, the City Council of Mound passed a resolution designating the Spirit of the Lakes Festival *the Official Celebration for the City of Mound Centennial*. As a result, they're pulling double duty this year by planning and operating BOTH celebrations—the Mound Centennial and the Spirit of the Lakes Festival *Combined Together in One Extraordinary Event!*—and they need your help in so many ways.

This cover story of the City Contact is the official kick-off announcement of this special upcoming year. **Please circulate this page** in your church, in your school to your alums, among your civic group members, and among your extended family, so everyone becomes aware of this Mound Homecoming Event. At a minimum, activities are expected July 13 and run through Sunday, July 22, showcasing the best fireworks on Lake Minnetonka on Saturday, July 21. A commemorative program is expected to be set for the same day in combination with the beach party at Mound Bay Park. The Program will spotlight Mound history and accomplishments over the years. Additionally, other dates may be set throughout the year to hold tribute to Mound's 100 years. This is an opportunity for churches and civic organizations to plan their events and get the word out by marketing it as a sanctioned Spirit of the Lakes Festival event. (Requires Festival Board approval.)

Committees are forming to take on various planning functions and your help is requested. The Spirit of the Lakes being a 'festival by the community, for the community,' depends upon you to lend a hand on what will be a short-term commitment. Areas needing your help include: Button Committee, Sponsorship Committee, Marketing Committee, Transportation Committee, Graphics Committee, Social Media Committee, and the Visitor Booth Committee. There are also quick and easy ways to help out by simply doing a two-hour shift during the weekend of the event.

Serving your community this way is not hard to do, and it can be both fun and rewarding planning and carrying out these events. You don't need to have any particular skill or experience. Regardless of what you bring to the table, your help is needed and you will be able to say, "I helped with the Mound Centennial!"

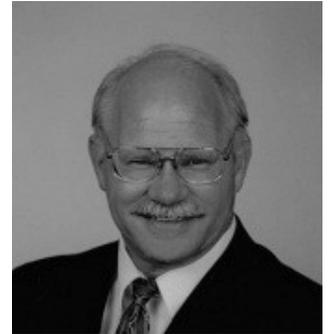
Planning meetings are already taking place to chart the course for this historic event. There are many more things being planned for next year than ever before. There are multitudes of ideas for new things to do that may include events at different times during the summer that will commemorate Mound's 100 Year Birthday. These are being evaluated now to see what the committee feasibly can, or cannot do. By volunteering to work on a committee, you can share in those decisions, making the 2012 Festival/Centennial both historically meaningful and personally memorable.

Please contact Kandis Hanson at: 952-472-0609 or [kandishanson@cityofmound.com](mailto:kandishanson@cityofmound.com) with questions or to volunteer. Please express your interest to serve on a committee or to help in any way. You may see the official Spirit of the Lakes Festival website at [www.SpiritoftheLakes.com](http://www.SpiritoftheLakes.com).

Most respectfully,

*Mark Hanus*

Mark Hanus  
Mayor of Mound



Mark Hanus

# Message from City Manager Kandis Hanson



My roots stem from Harmony, MN, a once sleepy little town surrounded by farm fields. My parents were farmers first and entrepreneurs second, and they can be credited, along with others, with the beginnings of tourism there.

Harmony is a neighbor to the more-familiar Lanesboro, MN. When I was growing up, Lanesboro was referred to by its rivals in terms that did not project a flattering image for a community. Early in the century, Lanesboro had been the busy little home to many successful businesses that eventually saw the end of an era, and when they closed, the life was sucked out of what was a previously thriving downtown.

This little biography of a town is no different from Mound. When Tonka Toys and Toro left Mound, a big vacuum affected the 60-some businesses left standing. Without the influx of daily workers, one-by one, many of the businesses folded. Plagued with vacant and unmaintained store fronts, the image and nicknames still afflict our little city and, I can personally attest, affect businesses' decisions to locate here--this, in spite of the natural beauty that surrounds us, which includes the spectacular Lake Minnetonka and the magnetic Dakota Rail Trail. These are being taken for granted and overlooked as economic opportunities.

Circling back: In each instance, Lanesboro and Mound, there is a common thread--a trail replaced the rail! The DNR trail at Lanesboro was the first biking/walking trail in the State. Economic visionaries knew that the natural scenic beauty would be the attraction for outdoor enthusiasts from far and wide and that they would come to just use the trail. The water complement to the trail in Lanesboro is the Root River and visitors enjoy the canoeing, kayaking and tubing it offers. There are not too many people who have not at least heard of Lanesboro; it is a destination that is a prominent place on the Minnesota map today!

A new sense of pride began emerging for residents and more visionaries made their plans for other attractions: a theater, outfitter businesses, antique and artisan stores, and restaurants. What is most amazing is that Lanesboro, today, is the 'Bed and Breakfast Capital of Minnesota,' and has 40 total lodging properties.\*

Many want more for Mound too, as in the Lanesboro success story. Tourism and becoming a destination takes a first step—on the part of many. Recognizing how Mound's natural resources can be the draw that infuse economic vitality into our community is the role of the private sector. It is my role as City Manager to encourage you to think wildly out of the box about all that Mound has to offer and open your eyes to the undisputable fact that opportunity abounds; the trail and the water—an outfitter. The trail—a stopping-off place like the St Boni Bistro, etc. Considering an astounding 371,000 Dakota trail users annually, and the Transit Center as a trail head to support it, overnight stays could already be in demand!

Go to [www.lanesboro.com](http://www.lanesboro.com) for inspiration. A visit to the site, or better yet a visit to their town, will stir your thoughts in ways you won't believe! I'm inviting you to imagine your part in making Mound a destination! You are invited to see me with your ideas and for my insights.

Kandis Hanson

City Manager

[kandishanson@cityofmound.com](mailto:kandishanson@cityofmound.com)

952-472-0609

\*15 B&B's, 19 motel / resorts / whole house rentals, and 6 nearby lodging properties in the Lanesboro Chamber membership.

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**Indian Knoll Manor Public Housing** - The Mound Housing and Redevelopment Authority (Mound HRA) has contracted with HUD to meet the need for affordable housing in our community and to provide a safe, secure place in which the elderly, disabled or handicapped citizens of Mound can reside comfortably. Indian Knoll Manor Apartments, located at 2020 Commerce Boulevard, has one bedroom and studio apartments. Please call the Housing Coordinator at (952) 472-5078 for an application or to take a tour.



## Thanks go to Boy Scouts for Duty at 911 Ceremony



The City of Mound would like to extend a special "Thank You!" to the members of our local Boy Scout Troup and their leaders for participating in the City's 911 Remembrance Ceremony. Our Boy Scouts perform a wide range of civic volunteer work, including activities surrounding Memorial Day each year. Scouting provides a program for young people that builds character and trains them in the responsibilities of participating citizenship. Thanks again for helping the City! For more information on Scouting, go to [www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org) or [www.lakeminnetonkadistrict.org](http://www.lakeminnetonkadistrict.org) for information on our local Boy Scouts.

### City of Mound Dock Program Renewal Information

Current participants and current wait list applicants should receive their 2012 renewal applications in the mail the first week of January. Applications must be completed and returned to City Hall on or before February 29, 2012. Incomplete applications will not be accepted and will be returned with your payment. First-time applicants may apply to be put on the waiting list by completing the Waiting List Application available at City Hall during business hours from Tuesday, January 3rd through Wednesday, February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012. General information about the dock program is available on the City of Mound website at [www.cityofmound.com](http://www.cityofmound.com).



### Shop at Harbor Wine & Spirits

*Profits from Harbor Wine & Spirits are used to offset your tax obligation.*

*Gift certificates from Harbor Wine & Spirits are sure to please!!*

*Check out the website at [www.cityofmound.com](http://www.cityofmound.com).*

### Police Chief Kurtz Moves on to Other Endeavors

Starting October 29, 2011, Police Chief Jim Kurtz will move on to other endeavors. The City of Mound has been under his watchful care for the last eight and a half years. According to City Manager Kandis Hanson, "The greater community has benefited from his professional expertise and involvement during that time." His career accomplishments include:



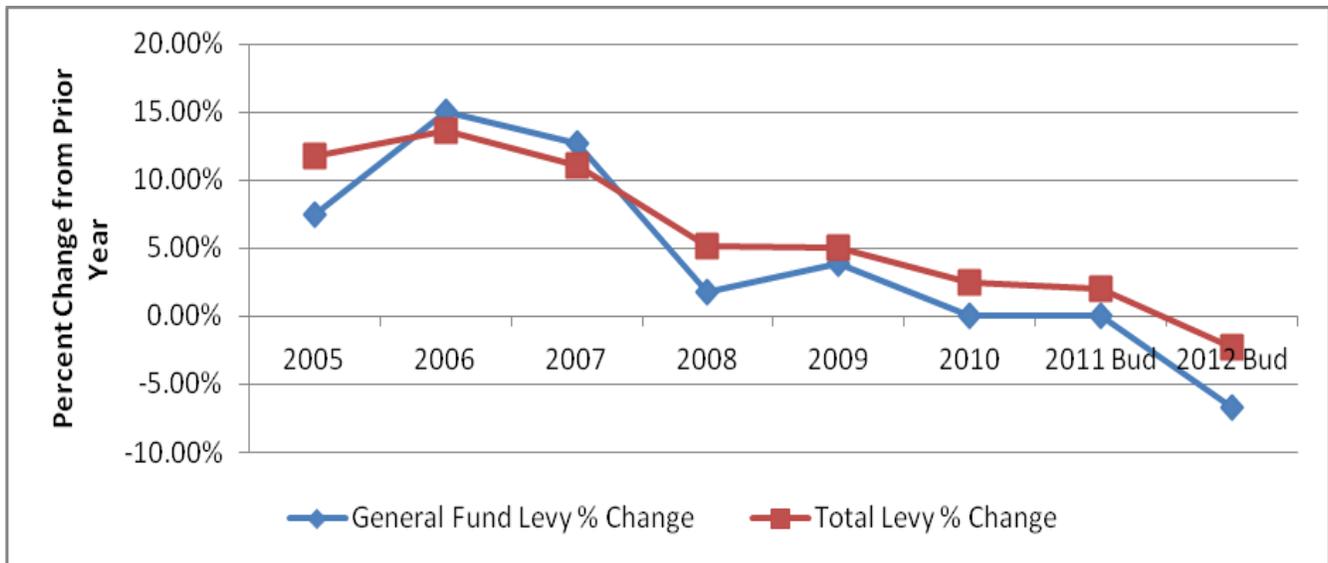
- firefighter, police officer, detective, narcotics investigator, school liaison officer, sergeant, and lieutenant
- Director of the Office of Professional Standards, which is the Internal Affairs Unit for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- Bachelors degree in Police and Fire Administration; Masters degree in Police Administration; graduate of the 229<sup>th</sup> session of the FBI National Academy; state certified Emergency Manager
- Girl's high school hockey coach for over fifteen years (Mound for six); youth baseball and football coach in Mound
- Served on the Board of Directors for Sojourner Project, Inc.; served on advisory boards for the Juvenile Justice Coalition of Minnesota, Westonka Healthy Human Collaborative, Mound Domestic Abuse Project, and the Mound Crime Prevention Association.

Our warmest wishes are with Jim as he moves on from the City of Mound. A private reception was held on Oct 27.

## Budget and Capital Investment Update

The City and Council often field questions on why an individual's taxes and/or utility rates are going up. How should we frame the debate on whether our City is doing a good job managing expenses and maintaining our infrastructure? These concepts are not mutually exclusive, and both have to be incorporated when comparing Mound's levy and utility rates to other cities.

**Taxes.** The amount of property taxes an individual pays is a function of their property's taxable market value and the amount levied by the taxing districts (the municipality, school district, county, watershed, etc.) and the formula created by the State to allocate the levies to the individual property types. It is all rather complex but in the end, the City is responsible for the amount that we levy and how that changes from year to year. The City's levy consists of the **General Fund Levy** and the special levies and debt service levies that pay for the City's portion of street projects, the fire relief contribution, and other capital projects and equipment, all of which make up our **Total Levy**. The Council approved the 2012 preliminary **General Fund Levy** and **Total Levy** on September 13, 2011, which **decreased** 6.75% and 2.24%, respectively, from the prior year. Below is a graph of changes in the levy since 2005:



The decreases in the **General Fund Levy** are a result of staffing reductions and other efforts to control expenditures. Decreases for 2012 are possible due to changes in the Market Value Homestead Credit program dictated by the State.

Mound has been proactive in upgrading its infrastructure in recent years. The changes are evident all around the city and benefit all of our residents. Those infrastructure upgrades account for the variance in the **General Fund Levy** and the **Total Levy** throughout the years.

When the 2011 street project is complete, 26 miles, or 70% of Mound city streets will have been completely replaced, including underground utilities and retaining walls, where justified. Only a portion of the island and some of the major feeder streets remain. These new streets and infrastructure are expected to last over 30 years and will be maintained with a seal coat project approximately every 7 years. Mound will celebrate 100 years in 2012 and the City is preparing for the century with quality infrastructure and services to our residents.

**Utility Bills.** The City recognizes the increasing rates on our water, sewer and storm sewer utility bills and is trying to manage them accordingly. Mound is unique in the area because of the age of our city and the fact that we provide water and sanitary sewer to 100% of our residents and have for some time. This infrastructure has long outlived its useful life and the City really has no choice but to upgrade this infrastructure as quickly as possible to keep up with the mandates, avoid breakdowns (watermain breaks and sewer back-ups), and increase the quality of domestic water and lake water in our area. Some interesting facts:

- The City has 31 sanitary sewer lift stations, 11 of which will have been upgraded, at a cost of \$300,000 to \$400,000 per station. In comparison, Waconia has two lift stations for the whole city! This is due to the topography of our city and proximity to the lakes.
- The City has worked to reduce the amount of groundwater infiltration into sanitary sewers which reduces the amount of flow into treatment plants and the amount paid to the Met Council for treatment. Even so, our Met Council treatment fees are projected to increase \$100,000, or 15% in 2012.
- The City has 63 miles of watermain, 60% of which has been replaced. Whereas some lines used to dead end and residents experienced residue, the City has looped strategic areas of the main, resulting in increased water quality for residents. The Harrison Bay watermain crossing also created a loop and improved the water quality.
- The Chateau Lane water tower and two pump houses have been constructed, ensuring adequate water supplies and water quality.
- Mandates on storm water management have increased significantly in recent years. Mound has 97 storm water outfalls running into Lake Minnetonka, that have to be redirected by 2012, and we have 27 storm water ponds that have to be built and/or maintained to standards set by the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District and other agencies. Neighborhood storm water drainage problems have been mitigated, which have significantly reduced the amount of phosphorous and sediments flowing into Lake Minnetonka.

How much does all of this cost? Over \$15 million dollars has been bonded for or otherwise expended since 2004 to repair and replace sewer, water, and storm water infrastructure.

Similar to the street replacement projects, these upgrades should take us well into the next century in Mound's history, but the work is not done yet. Watermains continue to be upgraded in conjunction with the annual street projects, the remaining 20 lift stations need to be replaced, and the storm water outfalls and ponds redirected and maintained. The Council and City Staff are prioritizing these demands to manage the corresponding impact on our rates. Unfortunately, the needs remain urgent.

When comparing Mound levies and utility rates to other cities, we ask that you keep all of these factors in mind and understand what is involved in keeping our City competitive and our infrastructure reliable. This is everyone's responsibility and the City looks forward to continuing its role in fostering development and investment in Mound!

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**You May Qualify for Energy Assistance**

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For those who struggle to pay their heat and/or electric bills, or meet other basic needs, Energy Assistance may be able to help. The Energy Assistance Program provides grants to help individuals and families pay their energy bills. Grants are paid directly to energy providers to reduce energy costs for eligible households. Applications for the upcoming heating season are now available at Mound City Hall or on line at [www.capsh.org](http://www.capsh.org). To apply for help, call Community Action Partnership of Suburban Hennepin at 952-930-3541 or visit the web site.



## WeCAB—New Transport Program Filling Area Transportation Gaps

Here is your chance to get on board as a volunteer driver for WeCAB! With financial support from Ridgeview Medical Center to fund a pilot program, the formation committee is pleased to announce the launch of a volunteer driver program-- WeCAB (Western Communities Area Busing). Service will be supplemental to existing transportation and will provide access to medical appointments, shopping, community events, and worship services. WeCAB will be funded through suggested donations.

Initial service dates are: Tuesdays, 10 am-2 pm, Fridays 2 pm-6 pm, Saturdays 9am-6 pm with trips to Wayzata to meet the Met Transit bus to Ridgedale, and Sundays 8 am-Noon. The service area includes the Westonka communities of Navarre, Spring Park, Mound, Minnetrista, St. Boni, Maple Plain and Independence.

There are no employees and the entire program is being run on a volunteer basis. This is truly a grass-roots initiative which can succeed with individuals offering a few hours a week to drive. Call WeCAN 952-472-0742 with any questions and to register as a driver.

### Update on City’s Website Redesign

The City received nine responses to its Request for Proposals to redesign and update its website. A decision was made to secure the services of GovOffice to perform the update. This decision was largely based on their extensive experience with municipalities, along with their competitive pricing. GovOffice will design the template pages and City staff will be trained to import the data. This process is expected to take six to eight weeks.

The new site will feature ease of navigation, plus online forms for various permits and licenses, along with the capability of accepting online payments in the future.

We are looking forward to this “new look”, and appreciate residents’ patience while we proceed with this project.

### New Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Rules Prompt Transfer of Permitting Authority



**MINNEHAHA CREEK  
WATERSHED DISTRICT**  
QUALITY OF WATER, QUALITY OF LIFE

On September 1, 2011, new Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) regulations went into effect that prompted the City of Mound to transfer its regulatory and permitting authority for Rule B (Erosion Control), Rule C (Floodplain Control), Rule D (Wetland Protection) and Rule N (Stormwater Management) back to the MCWD. Under the new rules, a building permit and certain other projects may now require a MCWD permit. ***Property owners considering a future project are strongly encouraged to contact the MCWD prior to the submittal of a building or other related permit application for a determination whether MCWD permits are required.***



### Mound Fire Department Asks for your Help! Please “Dig Out” the Fire Hydrants in your neighborhood!

In a fire emergency, access to a fire hydrant is absolutely essential to assist firefighters upon arrival to a fire scene. A fire hydrant is a valuable water source that is critically important to us when fighting a fire in any structure.

The Mound Fire department has a detailed list of the locations of all fire hydrants in our community. Even though we know the approximate locations, a snowy Minnesota winter makes it difficult to find hydrants in an emergency.

We need our residents to help us! Please take a few minutes to dig out and improve access to all fire hydrants in your neighborhood. Ask your neighbor to use their snow blower, shovel, or whatever means is available. Help us help you!

## Planning Commissioner Candidates Sought to Fill Vacancy

The Mound Planning Commission has one opening with term expiring at the end of December 2014. The Commission acts as a recommending body to the City Council, meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm, and considers all matters pertaining to planning and zoning, including Mound redevelopment land use considerations. Call Sarah at 952-472-0604 for more info or email [jillnorlander@cityofmound.com](mailto:jillnorlander@cityofmound.com) for an application. Submittal deadline is Wednesday, November 30th, at 11:00 am. Interviews are Tuesday, December 6th, at 7:00 pm. You must be available for the interview to be considered. Appointments will be made by the City Council at the December 13th Council Meeting. Prior candidates and participants are encouraged to apply. Candidates must be a resident of Mound.

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## Reminders From the Mound Police Department

### Winter Parking Restrictions

Just a friendly reminder that City of Mound winter parking restrictions go into effect on November 15<sup>th</sup> and run through April 15, 2012. No vehicles are allowed to park on city streets from 2:00 am to 6:00 am during these dates due to snow removal.

The Police Department periodically gives permission for people to park on the street, under special circumstances, if the Department is notified in advance. However, residents who are given special permission, must move their cars if it begins to snow.

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### Keeping your pets warm and safe

With the cold season soon upon us please remember to provide your pets with proper shelter, if they are housed outside. If you would like information on the proper house and bedding for your dog please go to MN Statute 343.40. Also, remember your pets when you let them out of the house to take care of their business; let them back inside as soon as they are ready. This will ensure that their exposure to the cold is minimal and they won't be running at large, which will create a concern for their health and safety.

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### Other important winter precautions...

The Mound Police Department offers a "House Check" program for residents who are on extended vacation. An Officer will periodically and randomly check your home to make sure it's secure. This program is ideal for Snowbirds!

Mound city ordinance prohibits persons from leaving their motor vehicles running with the keys in the ignition while the vehicle is unattended.

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### Domestic Violence during the Holiday Season

During November and December, stress runs high in most families. Finances, family obligations and expectations, extra demands, depression, and increase usage of alcohol and drugs are just some of the factors that contribute to "holiday stress" and an increase in domestic violence.

Domestic violence and abuse can happen to anyone, regardless of size, gender, or strength. Signs of domestic violence may include: threats, unexplained marks and bruises, isolation, intimidation, humiliation, or sexual assault.

If you or someone you know is involved in an abusive relationship help is available. Sojourner Project is the primary domestic abuse advocacy service for the Mound Police Department. Sojourner advocates can help you with shelter, legal matters, and counseling. If you find yourself in an abusive situation, it is critical that you stand up and get help. Sojourner' advocates can be reached 24/7 at 952-933-7422.

## Mound Calendar

- City Council meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month beginning at 7:00 p.m.
- HRA meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month beginning at 6:30 p.m.
- Planning Commission meets the first Tuesday of each month beginning at 7:00 p.m.
- Parks and Open Space Commission meets the second Thursday of the month beginning at 7:00 p.m. on an as-needed basis
- Docks and Commons Commission meets the third Thursday of the month beginning at 7:00 p.m. on an as-needed basis.

## Dates To Remember

Nov 11 Veteran's Day - City Offices Closed  
Nov 17 Tree Lighting Ceremony @ 6 pm  
Nov 18 Gillespie Center Festival of Trees Gala  
Nov 19 Gillespie Center Festival of Trees Tea  
Nov 21 Gillespie Center Festival of Trees Brunch  
Nov 24-25 Thanksgiving - City Offices Closed  
Dec 23 City Offices Closed at noon  
Dec 26 City Offices Closed  
Dec 30 City Offices Closed at noon  
Jan 2 City Offices Closed  
Jan 16 Martin Luther King Day - City Offices Closed



## City Hall Hours

Beginning October 31st, City Hall will resume regular business hours as follows:

Monday through Friday  
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

City of Mound  
5341 Maywood Road  
Mound, MN 55364  
(952) 472-0600  
[www.cityofmound.com](http://www.cityofmound.com)

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## City Council Members

Mark Hanus, Mayor	(952) 472-5480
Heidi Gesch	(952) 472-5508
Kelli Gillispie	(507) 382-2191
David Osmek	(952) 472-1238
Ray Salazar	(952) 472-7383

Kandis Hanson, City Manager (952) 472-0609

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