



Feb • March • April 2026

# MOUND COMPASS

*A Quarterly Publication from the City of Mound*

## A Message from the Mayor



As we begin a new year in Mound, I am energized by the momentum we have built together over the past few years. In recent months, we have celebrated meaningful accomplishments, welcomed new faces, and stayed firmly on course with our long-term financial plan.

One of the highlights of last year was recognizing Todd Crandall as our second annual Mound Citizen of the Year. Todd's kindness, reliability, and genuine commitment to helping others in Mound embody the very spirit of this award. Congrats again Todd!

I would also like to congratulate Lt. Shane Gardner in earning the title of Mound Firefighter of the Year. This is a special award as he is nominated by his peers. Thank you for serving our city and community Shane!

We also excited to welcome Deputy City Manager Laila Imihy, who brings valuable experience and leadership to our city.

We also celebrated the 2025 D.A.R.E. graduates at Westonka Middle School. These are young people who are learning early what it means to make responsible choices and contribute to a safe community. Westonka Middle School students once again showed their generosity by collecting more than 1,900 items for WeCAN during the annual Stuff the Squads event.

The City Council had the opportunity to hear from three winners of the Mayor for the Day Essay Award this January. This was a great opportunity to hear from our younger residents and hear about what they would do if they were Mayor for the Day!

Our 42nd Annual Tree Lighting brought neighbors together along the newly renovated Lost Lake Commons. Santa and Mrs. Clause showed up with a police escort and posed for pictures all night. Thank you to all that volunteered to make this year's tree lighting a success such as Mound Public Works, Mound Fire, Mound city staff, Connect Westonka, Orono Police, and many more.

Looking ahead, the City Council has adopted the 2026 budget, continuing our commitment to stable operations, responsible planning, and staying on our long-term financial plan.

The levy that was set was among the lowest of our neighboring cities. I am working with our Representative, Senator, and other Lake Minnetonka Area Mayors to protect cities local control, local Infrastructure projects (like our water treatment plant) and building a coalition to advocate for property tax reform.

As we go into another session at the state, please reach out to Representative Myers and Senator Johnson Stewart to help us advocate for our need for a water treatment plant. They are supportive, but if each of us reached out, that would send a strong signal that this is important to Mound.

This issue of the Compass also highlights several important updates for residents, from dock program applications to winter parking reminders, to progress on the Water Treatment Plant Project, and upcoming improvements at Avon Park. As always, we encourage you to stay connected through our website, social media, and public meetings.

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

– Mayor Jason Holt



## City Hall Hours

**October - April**

**Monday - Friday**  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**May - September**

**Monday - Thursday**  
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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

# Todd Crandall Named Citizen of the Year!



In November, the City Council recognized Todd Crandall as the 2025 Mound Citizen of the Year.

Mr. Crandall, who many know from his day job at Mound Jubilee, had several nominations which touched on the following:

- His welcome, kind and friendly attitude and the way he, "wears his pride of Mound on his sleeve"
- The way you can count on a "Hi, how ya doing today" when he greets you at Jubilee
- And finally, Todd's willingness to be the trusted safe driver and sober cab for residents as they go for drinks or even out to lunch.

Thank you Todd for all you do for this community!

## 2025 D.A.R.E Graduation

This past December, Westonka Middle School sixth graders graduated from the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E) program, led by Orono Police Officer Susie Schultz. Four students who were recognized for their outstanding D.A.R.E report project submissions and were presented with a special certificate by Mayor Holt.



# 42nd Annual Tree Lighting



Residents enjoyed perfect weather for the City's 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Tree Lighting, which was held in partnership with Connect Westonka. Santa and Mrs. Claus received a police escort, and residents enjoyed hot cocoa, fire pits and photo opportunities along the newly renovated Lost Lake Commons park. Our biggest thanks to the City's public works team and community partners for making this a great event.

## Stuff the Squads for WeCAN



Westonka Middle Schoolers got into the holiday spirit by collecting over 1900 items to donate to local non-profit, WeCAN. At the start of the school day on the Friday before winter break, students poured out of the school and stuffed squad cars full of toys, non-perishables and household goods.

WeCAN serves individuals and families in need in Western Hennepin County. You can learn more about WeCAN at [www.wecanmn.org](http://www.wecanmn.org).

# 2026 Budget

On December 9, 2025 the City Council held the 2025 Truth in Taxation meeting and passed the final levy at 6.0%. The budget was developed in conjunction with the City's long-term financial plan and Utility Rate Study which aims to keep the City on a path towards stability in Water and Sewer Rates. The City continues its efforts to reconstruct, repair and maintain City streets without assessing residents or issuing debt by maintaining Capital Reserve Funds. Major highlights of the budget include adding a full-time Assistant Fire Chief in 2026, adding support for code enforcement and planning with an additional administrative assistant and keeping overall operating costs stable.

City	Preliminary Levy (\$)	Levy Change (\$)	Levy Change (%)
Corcoran	11,917,264	2,758,097	30.1
Tonka Bay	2,136,927	289,197	15.7
Greenfield	3,040,139	344,477	12.8
Excelsior	2,991,580	311,422	11.6
Spring Park	1,888,231	178,384	10.4
Victoria	9,879,558	895,231	10.0
Deephaven	4,680,451	423,565	10.0
Minnetrista	7,838,365	707,498	9.9
Long Lake	1,910,402	164,741	9.4
Watertown	3,700,632	269,319	8.7
Shorewood	8,246,983	653,413	8.6
Wayzata	7,421,212	517,759	7.5
Waconia	13,964,617	951,923	7.3
Chanhassen	16,473,000	1,103,000	7.2
Orono	10,278,500	647,500	6.7
Minnetonka Beach	1,546,030	88,362	6.1
Mound	8,701,467	492,773	6.0
Maple Plain	1,997,220	110,786	5.9
St. Bonifacius	1,083,696	46,843	4.5

2026 Preliminary Levy: Comparison to Neighbors

## Mayor For A Day

Three sixth-grade students from Westonka Middle School: Gwenivere White, Weston Weierke (absent) and Talia Marlin were selected to share their "Mayor for A Day" essays at the January 13th City Council Meeting, and receive a certificate from the Mayor. The essays which were written as part of a school assignment shared what they would do if given the chance to be Mayor for a Day.



## City Welcomes New Deputy City Manager



In November, the City welcomed new Deputy City Manager, Laila Imihy, AICP. Laila joins the Mound team after spending nearly 5 years with the City of Hopkins as the Special Projects and Initiatives Manager. Deputy City Manager Imihy oversees Finance, Administrative Services, and Liquor operations.

Contact Laila at [lailaimihy@cityofmound.com](mailto:lailaimihy@cityofmound.com) or at 952-472-0607

## City Meeting Calendar

### City Offices Closed

Monday, February 16  
Presidents' Day

### City Council Calendar

Second & Fourth Tuesdays, 6 p.m.

### Boards and Commissions Calendar

#### Planning Commission

First Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.

#### Parks and Open Space Commission

Second Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

#### Docks and Commons Commission

Third Thursdays at 6 p.m.

#### Housing and Redevelopment Authority

At the start of City Council Meetings

All City of Mound public meetings are held at the Centennial Office Building, located at 5341 Maywood Road, Mound MN.

Visit [www.cityofmound.com](http://www.cityofmound.com) to learn more about City meetings and to view Agendas and Minutes.

City Council and Planning Commission Meetings are available to watch the following day on YouTube.

## New Commissioner Appointments

The City Council made appointments of two new commissioners at their December 9, 2025 meeting. Paula Larson was appointed to a one-year term on the Parks and Open Spaces Commission. Kristin Young was reappointed to a three-year term on the Planning Commission.

## Dock Program Applications due February 28, 2026

The City of Mound has the largest municipally owned dock program in the state of Minnesota, allowing for almost 650 boats to dock on Lake Minnetonka each year.

As a reminder, current dock program participants and those wishing to be on the wait list must submit their application by February 28, 2026.

Canoe/Kayak Storage Racks Canoe/kayak storage rack spots are also available at select parks. Fees per season are \$65 for residents and \$90 for non-residents.

Learn more about these programs at [www.cityofmound.com/dockapplications](http://www.cityofmound.com/dockapplications)

## Library Pick-Up Location

Looking to read more this year? Check out books and other items from Hennepin County and pick them up at City Hall while the Westonka Library is under construction. A self-serve kiosk allows you to check out and return any borrowed items.



## Water Treatment Plant Project

The City continues to explore funding opportunities to resolve the elevated manganese issues identified in the water supply with the development of Mound's first water treatment facility. This upcoming legislative session, the City of Mound has asked for \$15 million to support the cost of a facility, which is estimated at \$36 million.

To date, the City has received approximately \$11.3 million from the State and Federal government to support project design for the facility, and construction of a well which will be under construction this summer.

**Learn more about this project at the State of the Water presentation at the City Council Meeting on March 10, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.**

## Summer Water Projects

This summer the City will undertake several projects which will support a potential future water treatment plant and update water infrastructure. The majority of work will take place at Sorbo Park (6100 Evergreen Rd.) limiting access to the park. Residents should be made aware that:

- Much of Sorbo Park will be closed to the public, however the playground and basketball court will remain open
- The water tower will be resurfaced and repainted and designs for the tower will be brought to the City Council in early spring
- A new well will be drilled adjacent to the water tower and the lawn area in the park will temporarily be used for construction staging
- A new water main will also be laid as part of this project, which will have some road impacts along streets in this area.

Residents in the project area will receive direct communication about construction impacts, water service interruptions and other information. All residents can learn more about the project on the City's website at [www.cityofmound.com/construction](http://www.cityofmound.com/construction).

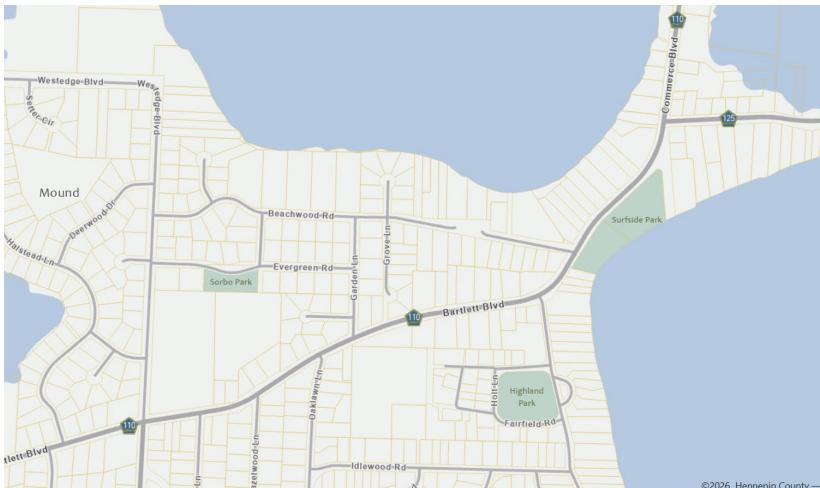


*The dashed green line indicated what will remain open during construction in Sorbo Park.*

# Commerce Blvd Open House

As part of a water main project which will be under construction north of Bartlett Blvd/Commerce Blvd there will be some closures and detours along this road throughout the summer.

Residents and business owners are invited to an open house on February 26 from 3-7 p.m. at the Gillespie Center to learn more about this project and impacts they may experience.



## Looking Ahead: Summer Construction

The City of Mound works to keep residents aware of upcoming and on-going construction projects. Residents can stay aware of closures, project timelines and other information by following the City's social media page or checking the Construction and Projects page on the City's website at [www.cityofmound.com/construction](http://www.cityofmound.com/construction).

## Plows at Work

Keep a safe distance from plows as they work to keep Mound streets clear. Trucks often back-up or turn around often and need extra space when making these movements. If you cannot see their side mirrors, they may not be able to see you. Thank you to Public Works for keeping Mound safe.



## Avon Park Update

The playground at Avon Park (2950 Island Dr.) is set to be updated this year. Residents living adjacent to the park will receive a short survey to provide feedback on the project in early spring with the goal of selecting a playground design by May. The new playground will be installed later this fall. Learn more about this project and other projects at [www.cityofmound.com/construction](http://www.cityofmound.com/construction).



## Winter Parking Restrictions

There is no overnight parking allowed between 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. between November 15th and April 15th. In addition, no vehicle can be parked in any one place for a continuous 24-hour period as to allow for thorough and efficient snow plowing. Violators will be towed at the owner's expense.

## Trash and Recycling Carts

A reminder to please place garbage and recycling receptacles off the street and behind the curbline on your own property. This helps with snow plowing and avoiding hitting the receptacles.



## MFD 2025 Call Activity

The trend over the past several years in Minnesota and nationally has been increased use of the fire department for traditional emergency response and less critical service calls. The fire and rescue callout activity for the Mound Fire Department continued to increase throughout 2025.

While house fires and other fire related callouts have somewhat decreased, other emergency responses such as emergency medical calls and basic service calls have increased.

In 2025, the Mound firefighters responded to 315 fire related calls and 492 medical related calls for a total of 807 callouts. The 807 callouts are the highest volume of responses for the department over the past 20 years. The callout volume for Mound Fire ranks the Mound Fire Department in the top 10% in terms of responses in the State of Minnesota. In many ways, the higher call activity keeps the firefighting staff active and their vast array of skills sharp.

MFD staff is well trained and always ready to respond when needed.

## Orono Police Department House Check Request Program

If you are going out-of-town for a week, or even the entire winter, Orono Police Department offers a service to check your house while you are away. Reserve officers will periodically come to your home to make sure all your windows and doors are secure, as well as call a person you have designated as your "key holder" if you have packages or overflowing mail. Learn more about this program on the OPD website.



Scan the QR Code to sign up!

## Firefighter of the Year: Shane Gardner



After just two years on the Mound Fire Department, Lt. Shane Gardner was honored by his peers as the Fire Fighter of the year.

Lt. Gardner is dedicated to the fire department's mission as shown by his outstanding day-to-day job performance and his high level of participation in department training and activities.

## Fire Department Staffing News

Firefighter Dan Patterson (right) retired from the Mound Fire Department this past June with over 12 years of service.



Over the past 12 months, six new firefighter trainees joined the department. These probationary firefighters are the future of the fire department and are critical to our ongoing success. Properly training of new firefighters with various job skills such as firefighting, emergency medical care, hazardous conditions, and special rescue is essential to achieving the best possible outcome for our friends and neighbors during emergency response.

This winter, firefighters performed their annual Ice and Cold-Water Rescue Training (right) and other specialized skills by setting up firefighter rehab equipment.



## Keep Hydrants Clear!



Help our firefighters in times of emergency by keeping fire hydrants clear.

Remove all snow and ice from hydrant, ensuring it is visible and completely accessible. Clear at least 3 feet of snow around the hydrant and a clear path to the hydrant, giving firefighters full access to all parts.

**Join us for our**

# 89th Anniversary Sale

15% off all products that contain alcohol

Win prizes and stop in for samples from popular vendors!

Plus - register for the opportunity to purchase a 10 or 12 year Pappy Van Winkle bottle for \$5.00 donation which supports WeCAN and Westonka Community Food Shelf.

See full Pappy Van Winkle details at [www.harborwinespirits.com](http://www.harborwinespirits.com)

Saturday, February 21 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.



**2135 Commerce Blvd.**

**Regular Hours:**

Monday - Saturday: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
Sundays: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**15% case discounts  
everyday & senior  
discounts on Friday**

**Did You Know?**



Shopping at Harbor Wine and Spirits helps support projects within the City and reduces resident taxes!

## STOP BY AND SEE US AT THE GILLESPIE CENTER!

A great place for the community to gather

- Health & Wellness Programs
- Exercise & Fitness Programs
- Services: Tax Assistance, Foot Care, Hearing, Eyeglasses, Wednesday Lunches
- Activities & Groups: Art, Photo, Choir, Ukelele, Card clubs, Coffee, Men's Shed & more!
- Free Seminars
- Excursions
- Social Gatherings
- Special Events & Rental Space
- Community Events
- And More!



### Upcoming EVENTS

#### PAINT & SIP

THURSDAY, MARCH 12  
AT 6:00 PM

COST \$45

MUST PURCHASE BY MARCH 6

INCLUDES ALL  
PAINTING  
SUPPLIES GLASS  
OF WINE



#### SPRING FASHION SHOW & LUNCHEON

FRIDAY MAY 8  
12:00 PM

JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON OF  
LUNCH, FASHION, SHOPPING & FUN!

COST \$15

 Taylor Marie's  
Your Fashion. Your Style. Your Place.

#### SPRING FLING

APRIL 16 - 19

##### BINGO

THUR, APRIL 16 AT 3 PM  
SUN, APRIL 19 AT 2 PM



##### SPAGHETTI DINNER & JEREMY BERG BAND

SATURDAY, APRIL 18  
DINNER: 5:00 - 6:30 PM  
CONCERT 7:00 PM



**OUR MISSION:** We are dedicated to providing a supportive environment, culture, and space to enrich the lives of our community members of all ages.



2590 Commerce Blvd, Mound



952-472-6501



[www.GillespieCenter.org](http://www.GillespieCenter.org)



CITY HALL  
2415 WILSHIRE BLVD  
MOUND, MN 55364

## Meet the Council



### **Mayor Jason Holt**

612-703-6738

jasonholt@cityofmound.com



### **Sherrie Pugh**

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### **Kathy McEnaney**

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### **Kevin Castellano**

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### **Michelle Herrick**

612-940-5051

michelleherrick@cityofmound.com

## Contact Us

### **General Information**

952-472-0600

### **Planning & Building**

952-472-0603

### **Police Department**

*After Hours Dispatch  
Emergency*

952-249-4700

952-548-5321

911

### **Public Works**

*After Hours Dispatch*

952-472-0603

952-258-5321

## Find Us on Social Media and Online



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