60th Anniversary Celebration

The City of Mound View will be celebrating its 60th Anniversary in 2018. The City is looking for volunteers to be on the planning committee for this celebration. For further information, please contact City Hall at 763-717-4000.

Notice of Special Election
Tuesday, November 7, 2017

The City will be holding a Special Election on Tuesday, November 7, 2017, for the purpose of seeking levy authority to hire an additional police officer. Section 7.03 of the City Charter imposes levy limits which the City cannot exceed except through the referendum process—an affirmative vote by residents—at a regular municipal election or special election. If approved, hiring an additional officer would allow the City flexibility to assign a veteran officer to the County-wide Drug Task Force. All four (4) precincts will vote in the Event Center located at the Mounds View Community Center. Poll hours will be from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. For further information, refer to the Mounds View website at www.ci.mounds-view.mn.us.

CITY QUESTION #1

PROPERTY TAX LEVY FOR ADDITION OF ONE POLICE OFFICER

Shall the Mounds View City Council authorize an additional property tax levy for the purpose of providing funds to add one additional patrol officer to the Mounds View Police Department?

BY VOTING “YES” ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.

The maximum amount of the increased levy is .012% of the taxable market value of property in the city. The amount of taxes that would be raised in the first year of the increased property tax levy is approximately $85,200.00.

Fall Clean Up Day: Saturday, October 14

The Fall Clean Up Day will be Saturday, October 14, 2017, from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Due to the construction of the new Public Works facility, the event will be held at the Mounds View Community Center, 5394 Edgewood Drive.

For more details, please refer to the City’s website at www.ci.mounds-view.mn.us or contact Mounds View City Hall at 763-717-4000.

Festival in the Park—Craft Fair Fundraiser

November 11, 2017, is the date for the Festival in the Park of Mounds View’s 2nd indoor Craft Fair. It will be held at the Mounds View Community Center. For more information or to reserve a space please contact Maryann Graba, 763-780-3646, or mograba@gmail.com.
Dear neighbors and friends,

As you can see, the Mounds View Matters has been redesigned to better serve our community. Our city website is being updated and improved as well. I hope the changes we have made are more convenient for everyone.

We certainly shared a very challenging spring and summer with all the rains and storms. Thank goodness for good neighbors, family, and friends who helped us through our difficulties. Hopefully we have been able to get our repairs done and fall will be a kinder season to all of us.

When I think of fall, I think of starting fresh, probably because I was one of those kids who looked forward to the start of a new school year. It’s also a good time for a furnace ‘check-up’ and replacing our aged carbon monoxide and smoke detectors. (And I suppose I can soon put the lawn mower away and bring out the snowblower……)

As you travel Mounds View Boulevard or Bronson Drive, you can see the rapid construction progress of the new Public Works facility. After the walls and roof are completed, the tradespeople will be busy completing the interior of the building. We hope to have a grand opening for it in the summer of 2018.

Speaking of 2018, that is the year Mounds View turns 60 years old. We are seeking volunteers to help plan and organize our community celebrations. Please contact City Hall at 763-717-4000 if you would like to help.

Our Community Development team continues to work with developers for proposals on the Crossroad Pointe site at the corner of Mounds View Boulevard and County Road H2.

Since passing the Bee Keeping Ordinance in the spring of 2015, the City has issued six bee keeping permits and has no complaints on file. In July 2017, we adopted best practices to become a Pollinator Friendly community.

As always, more information is available on the City’s website, www.ci.mounds-view.mn.us.

Personnel Update:

Like many Minnesota cities, Mounds View continues to see an annual turnover of 10-15% of our city staff. Each time we have an opening, it has been a long-standing practice to re-evaluate the position description and update it based on the needs of our changing community. Postings are advertised on the Mounds View and League of Minnesota Cities websites, as well as published in the newspaper.

We thank the following individuals for their dedicated and excellent service to Mounds View:

Public Works Specialist Jeff Wienke retired in June after 28 years with our city. He is looking forward to spending more time with family and friends, probably with a fishing pole in hand.

Public Works Director Brian Erickson left Mounds View in June to be the Public Works Director for the City of Rosemount. While he was sad to leave us, this change will reduce Brian’s commute time by a minimum of 90 minutes daily.

Public Works Engineering Technician Jim Hess retired in July after serving Mounds View for 25 years. Jim and his wife, who also retired in July, are looking forward to more family and cabin time, playing with grand-children, and all the other joys that retirement brings.

Assistant City Administrator Desaree Crane left Mounds View in August after 16 years of exemplary service. Des intends to finish her Master’s Degree and plans to pursue a career in veteran services.

City Administrator Jim Ericson, who has shaped and supported Mounds View’s vision and goals for over 21 years, resigned effective in September to move to his home north of Grand Marais. His wife Lori had accepted a position with Cook County and, regretfully, the commute was just a little too long to convince him to stay. An avid photographer, we know Jim will stay busy with his company, Superior Imagery. (And hopefully he won’t be jumping any more waterfalls!)

Like any family, it’s hard to say ‘goodbye for now’, but please join me in wishing each of them all the best as they continue their life journeys.

Next steps:

We have contracted with the Springsted|Waters consultant firm to do the executive search, screening, and scoring for a new City Administrator. Finalists will be interviewed by the City Council. We expect this process to take several months, so an Interim City Administrator will be brought on staff to help us run the city until we hire Jim’s replacement.

Public Works Superintendent Don Peterson is serving as Interim Public Works Director until the Director position is filled. I am delighted to report that many of our Public Works employees have stepped up to assist Don with his regular workload so he can take on the Interim Director role.

We will move forward with the other open positions as we complete our reviews.

The Council joins me in welcoming questions or concerns throughout this process. As always, your support is greatly appreciated as we continue building community together.

With warmest regards,

Carol

**Year 2018 Levy and Budget Information**

The City Council has to approve a preliminary property tax levy for 2018 by September 30, 2017. This preliminary levy will be used by Ramsey County to produce the individual proposed property tax notices that will be mailed to property owners in mid-November. A Truth-in-Taxation public hearing will be held on Monday, December 4, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. in the Mounds View City Council Chambers to take public input regarding the budget and property tax levy. A continuation hearing will be held on December 11, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. if needed. Final adoption of the levy and budget will probably occur at the City Council meeting on December 11, 2017, subject to public input at these meetings. The actual levy can be less than the preliminary property tax levy, but not greater.

**City Property Tax Levy**

The City is considering a General Fund levy increase of 3% to 3.5% for 2018 and a 9.08% debt service levy increase to pay for the new Public Works facility. The City will discontinue the Street Improvement levy of $300,000 or 6.57% this will help reduce the effect of the new debt service levy. The total levy would increase between 5.51% and 6.01% over 2017. The General Fund has seen total levy increases of only 8.71% over the last twelve years.

The City is working on a draft General Fund budget that includes Local Government Aid. The General Fund budget has seen modest increases over the last nine years and a modest increase in 2018 will be proposed. The City has completed all of the streets in the Street Improvement Program and will now begin to focus on streets that were not included in the program. The City Council will be developing a financial plan to fund these future street improvements and maintenance of the newly reconstructed streets. This may involve a new tax levy of approximately $150,000 starting in 2019.

**Effect on the Average Home**

The numbers in the table are only an estimate and are based on estimated 2018 market values. The County has not released preliminary 2018 property market values so amounts in the table will change. Market values are determined by Ramsey County. The City of Mounds View’s tax levy accounts for approximately 27% of a homeowner’s property tax bill. The majority, 73% is from other taxing authorities such as Ramsey County, Independent School District 621, and other smaller taxing authorities. Again, the table attempts to estimate the tax effect on a sample home in Mounds View but does not include possible changes from other taxing authorities. The impact will vary from property to property based on the change in the value of the property. The County will provide the complete impact for all taxing authorities in the Truth in Taxation notices that will be mailed in mid-November.

One variable that will affect the level of taxes paid by homeowners is how home property values increase or decrease relative to commercial and industrial (C/I) properties. If home property values are increasing faster than C/I property values then the tax burden will be shifted toward homes. If home property values are decreasing faster than C/I property values then the tax burden will be shifted toward C/I. To see a short video on “14 Reasons Property Taxes Can Go Up or Down” please visit the Finance Department web page at [www.ci.mounds-view.mn.us/finance](http://www.ci.mounds-view.mn.us/finance).

**Sample Estimated Home Tax Impact**

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If you have any questions about the City’s finances please contact the Finance Director, Mark Beer, at 763-717-4011 or mark.beer@ci.mounds-view.mn.us. Preliminary budget information is located on the City’s website at [www.ci.mounds-view.mn.us/finance](http://www.ci.mounds-view.mn.us/finance).

**Waste Oil and Oil Filter Disposal**

Mounds View property owners can dispose of used motor oil and oil filters at the Ramsey County disposal site located at 1352 Ben Franklin Drive, Arden Hills, MN 55112, north of Highway 96 and west of Hamline Avenue.

**Ramsey County Disposal Site**

- Open 24/7
  - All day
  - All night
  - Any day
Smile, You’re on Camera!

Last December, the City Council voted to approve the “Use of Body-Worn Cameras Policy.” Since then, the Mounds View Police Department has completed their purchase of body-worn cameras, storage equipment and redaction software.

Officers trained on how to wear and operate the cameras, how to transfer videos to the storage server, and most importantly, department policy regarding deployment and use of body-worn cameras. Officers spent the summer in the preparation stages for the camera system and by fall, body-worn cameras will be on all of our officers.

While many incidents will be recorded with body-worn cameras, residents need not worry about their interaction with officers becoming public as Minnesota law has deemed body-worn camera data “predominantly private.” Specific guidelines are in place for when officers will and will not be recording. Look for more details posted on the Police Department’s website this fall. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please contact the Mounds View Police Department.

Driving Safely in a School Zone

Those yellow flashing lights on the speed limit signs on County Road I? They mean the speed limit of 20 mph is in place because children are present.

Please be aware of crossing guards in the area of all of our schools during the start and end of the school day.

Pedestrians within the crosswalk have the right of way over vehicles. Cross traffic must stop and allow the pedestrian to cross.

The fine for violating the stop arm on a school bus was recently increased. The Mounds View Police Department regularly cites violators for this offense.

Please keep in mind our goal is to have a safe area for children where they can focus on their school day. Be alert and understanding during these times.

Graffiti

The City continues to be plagued with graffiti and vandalism; removal and/or repairs are costly and time consuming. The Police Department and the Public Works Department are asking for your help. If you see anyone vandalizing any of the parks equipment, buildings, street signs, etc., please contact the Mounds View Police Department immediately at 9-1-1.

Safe Adult Validation and Education (S.A.V.E.) Program

Independent living senior citizens are invited to join our S.A.V.E. program. We offer daily check-in and quarterly educational presentations. If we do not hear from a participant by midday, we call and check in on them ourselves. If we still cannot make contact, a representative of the Police Department checks on the participant in person.

Our goal is to ensure the comfort and safety of our community members while they are in their own homes. The program is open on a permanent or temporary basis!

On October 10th at 11:00 a.m., the Mounds View Police Department will host the SBM Fire Department for a presentation called “Remember When” at the Mounds View City Hall Council Chambers. Becky Booker will talk about fire safety situations relevant to members of our program. Please call Officer Kirsten Heineman with any questions or for more information! 763-717-4064.

A drug take back bin will also be in place during the meeting on October 10th. Please bring your unused, expired, or unwanted prescription medications for disposal.

Mail Theft

Have you or someone you know been affected by mail theft? Follow these tips from the U.S. Postal Inspection Service for preventing this crime from happening to you!

• Use the letter slots at your post office to mail letters, or give them to a letter carrier.
• Pick up your mail promptly after delivery. Don’t leave it in your mailbox overnight.
• Don’t send cash in the mail.
• Ask your bank for “secure” checks that can’t be altered.
• Tell your post office when you’ll be out of town, so they can hold your mail until you return.

Additionally, the Mounds View Police Department recommends purchasing secure mailboxes. Mail can be put into the box but not removed without a key. Anyone who sees a vehicle go mailbox to mailbox and remove mail should call 9-1-1 immediately! Then call the Postal Inspectors at 877-876-2455 (press 3).
Know the Signs of Domestic Abuse

Do you think someone you care about is being abused by an intimate partner or family member?

The tactics of domestic abuse may be different for each person, but here are some common signs of an abusive relationship.

A person may be abused if she or he:

- Is punched, hit, choked, kicked or otherwise physically assaulted.
- Is often criticized, insulted or threatened verbally by their partner.
- Is afraid of their partner’s anger or jealousy.
- Has no voice in decisions made in the relationship or household.
- Has limited or no access to money.
- Has limited or no privacy, including on the phone, online or during time spent away from their partner.
- Is unable to talk to or visit with friends or family members.
- Has frequent absences from work or school, or is forced to quit their job or leave school.
- Has had belongings or property damaged by their partner.
- Has had their children or pets threatened by their partner.
- Has had their partner threaten suicide if they leave the relationship.

You can help someone you care about by listening to them, telling them that the violence is not their fault, and letting them know you will support them.

Additional information about domestic violence can be found online at www.tubman.org. If you have an emergency, call 9-1-1. To speak to an advocate about safety planning, shelter or other resources, call the Tubman crisis line at 612-825-0000.

Spring Lake Park—Blaine—Mounds View Fire Department 2017 Open Houses

Station 1: 9/30, 1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.  Station 2: 9/25, 5:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.  763-767-4003
Station 3: 10/7, 1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.  Station 4: 9/23, 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.  www.sbmfire.com

Housing/Code Enforcement Inspector Jacob Martin

In July, Jacob Martin began working as the Housing/Code Enforcement Inspector in the Community Development Department. The City has been without a Code Enforcement officer for a year and those duties were partly being administered by City Administrator Jim Ericson and the City of New Brighton.

Prior to being hired by the City of Mounds View, Jacob spent over 10 years as the Operations Manager for Asbestos Abatement Associates running multiple crews, performing inspections and estimating jobs. The last two years he worked for the City of Minneapolis as a Housing Inspector II. He helped test and write standard operating procedures for the Enterprise Land Management System (ELMS) that was implemented in the city while performing rental licensing inspections, responding to complaints and nuisance conditions in the neighborhoods he monitored.

Day to day, Jacob will be administering the City’s code enforcement program by investigating complaints of code violations, preparing letters, notices and reports, maintaining files, advising property owners of code requirements and enforcement procedures, obtaining compliance and conducting annual rental license inspections.
Where Can I Bring Grass Clippings, Leaves, Trees, and Other Yard Waste?

Mounds View residents can dispose of yard waste at designated Ramsey County compost collection sites. These sites are free and open to Ramsey County residents only.

Locations

Ramsey County has a compost site in Mounds View located at 8307 Long Lake Road (located in Ardan Park). The Mounds View site only accepts leaves, grass, pumpkins, garden wastes, and other non-woody plant materials.

Brush is accepted at the Ramsey County site in Arden Hills (located at 3530 Hudson Avenue). No stumps are accepted. Questions? Call 651-633-EASY (3279).

Did You Know

Raking leaves into the street or piling onto the Right-of-Way is illegal? While some neighboring cities pick up leaves piled in the street, Mounds View does not. Leaves raked into the street can be displaced and washed into storm sewers, causing flooding from plugged pipes or resulting in degraded water quality in our streams and water bodies. In addition, piled leaves can kill lawn grass if left alone for several days. This applies to lawn clippings as well. When mowing your lawn please keep the clippings on your property. Do not discharge lawn clippings into the gutter or on the street. Do not blow or pile leaves or grass clippings in the streets, boulevards, or stormwater infiltration basins (if you have one).

Emerald Ash Borer

Due to the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) quarantine, Ramsey County residents cannot transport ash trees, including ash limbs, branches, logs and untreated ash lumber with the bark attached, outside of Ramsey and Hennepin counties. This quarantine also applies to firewood of any hardwood species. To remain in compliance with the quarantine, some trash haulers no longer offer tree waste collection as part of their service to residents. However, residents have other options such as hiring a commercial tree or yard cleanup service to collect their tree waste. Ramsey County residents can also bring tree waste to a Ramsey County yard waste site.

Sewer Backup? Call the City First

The Mounds View Public Works Department suggests that any resident experiencing a sewer backup call the Public Works Department immediately so that the sewer main can be checked for blockages. Public Works can be reached at 763-717-4050, Monday through Friday, from 7:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. After hours assistance can be obtained by calling Ramsey County Dispatch at 651-484-9155.

Who Do I Call?

Mounds View Public Works: 763-717-4050
(Monday-Friday, 7:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.)
Email: publicworks@ci.mounds-view.mn.us

Ramsey County Dispatch: 651-484-9155
(for City urgencies outside normal business hours)

Ramsey County Public Works: 651-266-7100
(for all concerns with the following roadways)

● Mounds View Boulevard (County Road 10)
● County Road H
● County Road I (Silver Lake Road to I-35W)
● Silver Lake Road
● Long Lake Road
● Old Highway 8

Xcel Energy:
1-800-960-6235 (to report a street light outage)
1-800-895-1999 (to report a power outage)
1-800-895-2999 (to report a gas leak)
www.xcelenergy.com

Water/Sewer Utility Billing: 763-717-4014
Closed Captioning Feasibility Study

The North Suburban Cable Commission, of which Mounds View is a member, approved a proposal for a closed captioning feasibility study at their June 1st meeting. Closed captions were created for deaf or hard of hearing persons, but they are also used by English as a second language learners (ESL), people learning to read, and in noisy environments or where the audio must be muted. Captioning live television has been an expensive process, requiring dedicated hardware and services of a person transcribing the audio to text.

Public, education, and government access channels have been generally exempt from Federal Communications Commission requirements for closed captioning. The Department of Justice enforces the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), under which local governments must comply with the Commission’s requirements for closed captioning. The feasibility study will consider how the needs of the disabled community can be met to the maximum extent possible and determine the financial and administrative burden.

MOUNDS VIEW MEETING CALENDAR

**SEPTEMBER**

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**OCTOBER**

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<td>27</td>
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What’s Happening at the Library

Did you know? Mounds View Library has a 36-person room available for nonprofit meetings. Call 651-724-6004 to book the room up to 60 days in advance.

**Memory Minder Kits**

Memory Minder Kits are filled with books, CDs, and activities for anyone who is caring for a loved one experiencing memory loss. Kits are available at the Ramsey County libraries in Roseville and Shoreview or by request. Ask a librarian for more information or go to www.rclreads.org.

**Family Storytime**

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. Start your day with stories, songs and fingerplays designed to enhance your child’s early literacy skills. Ages 2–5 with caregiver.

**Read It Down**

Saturdays, September 2nd, October 7th, November 4th

Got fines or fees? Read them away. Visit any Ramsey County Library on the first Saturday of every month to participate. Earn $1 for every 15 minutes you spend reading in the library. Kids and teens 17 and under.

**Saturday Family Storytime**

Saturdays, September 23rd, October 21st, and November 18th, 10:30 a.m.

Stories, songs and fingerplays designed to enhance your child’s early literacy skills. Ages 2–5 with caregiver.

**Pinecone Owls**

Friday, October 13th, 2:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

Discover how much fun it can be to create an adorable owl craft using a pinecone. All supplies provided. No registration required. Ages 7–12.

**Fire Safety Storytime**

Wednesday, October 18th, 10:30 a.m.

The SBM Fire Department will be at storytime this morning! Come hear stories about how to stay safe in an emergency. Meet the firefighters who work in our community and visit the fire truck, too.

**Lego Club**

Thursday, October 19th and Wednesday, November 22nd, 2:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

Build your own creation out of LEGO®s and show it off! LEGO®s available for in-library use. No registration required. Ages 7-12.

**Shadow Suncatchers**

Friday, October 20th, 2:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

Create a suncatcher using a coffee filter and a silhouette. All supplies provided. No registration required. Ages 7-12.

**Card Making**

Friday, November 3rd, 2:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

Join us to make cards for Veteran’s Day, Thanksgiving, or just to brighten someone’s day. All supplies provided. No registration required. Ages 7–12.
Crossroad Pointe

The City Council will be discussing and deciding which of the latest three developers to contract with for development of the Crossroad Pointe site at its August 21, 2017, Council Work Session meeting.

One of the developers is Dominium who is proposing a 100% affordable independent living senior care facility. Krause Anderson is proposing 165 to 223 apartment units at 80% market rate and 20% affordable with a mixed-use specialty retail component. INH is proposing a 136 apartment unit market rate product. As an alternative concept, INH could build a high-class gun club and range as a stand-alone building near Mounds View Boulevard.

The Council will also be discussing the price of the land. The next steps will be to complete a development agreement between the City and the developer.

MWF Developers

The 60 apartment unit affordable housing project continues to move forward. The development review including the traffic study and TIF district will be the next steps in the process, assuming the developers are awarded Housing Tax Credits (HTC) through the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency.

Mounds View Website in Development

The City of Mounds View is working through the process of launching a new website. The design phase has been completed. The home page, shown at right, is an example of the new look. The site mapping is currently being constructed. This phase will take approximately eight weeks before entering the content migration phase. Stay posted for upcoming Mounds View Matters articles on website updates.