Tidbits & Takeaways from the Comprehensive Plan Feedback Process

As part of this Comprehensive Plan, Council authorized funds to conduct a substantive Community Survey that included both written and online avenues of feedback. The response has been, to say the least; overwhelming! A total of 846 responses were received, the vast majority resplendent with written comments along with the simple act of checking a box. This is great in the sense of tremendous input; not so great (but more than worth it!) in the time needed to tabulate and collate the data. In conjunction with the overall planning and strategic planning process it represents the optimal situation as more data provides greater perspective and understanding resulting in better decision making.

One of the tenants of planning is a short truism that goes, “We can do just about anything you want, but we cannot do everything you want.” The initial questions emphatically drove this home; “Top three factors you like most about Mounds View?” resulted in 11 “themes” where at least 30 or more respondents identify a characteristic and an additional 61 singular comments. Thus, we had 72 areas identified that our residents liked. Herein lies the challenge, does the community focus on these 72 as it represents nearly 7% of the community which could be argued as statistically representative.

However, the next question, “What do you like the least?” resulted in 11 themes again but an additional 360 singular items! These ranged from a variation of the 11 common themes to humorous to the near impossible. Examples of the humorous would be “City Administrator” (which would be me) to the nearly impossible—“high water table, sandy soil.”

Returning to the truism, nearly one-quarter of the answers were level of property taxes but nearly all of the singular responses were specific to issues that would in fact increase property taxes: speeding/crime, more sidewalks, community center, junk or junky yards/more code enforcement, rough roads, etc.

The Comprehensive Plan Taskforce, which is comprised of citizens and business owners, will be digesting this feedback and undertaking the gargantuan task of sorting out what we can and cannot do and develop the 2040 plan using their combined wisdom. Their draft plan will then go to Council who will add their input but more importantly, incorporate the treasure of information obtained via the resident survey into the strategic plan as it represents direct input into what our priorities should be.

In combination, the Strategic Plan and 2040 Comprehensive Plan will provide a clear framework for us to focus on what we can afford to do within the framework of tax revenue our property owners value.
Dear neighbors and friends,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve another term as your mayor! I appreciate working for you with our excellent City Council and staff, and remain dedicated to fostering an environment where every voice is valued and respected. I depend on your input and support to continue the community progress we have made. I promise to do my best to continue to make ethical and logical decisions for the greater good and future of Mounds View, focused on established goals, the vision and values we share, and our 5 and 20 year plans.

Thank you for participating in the Comprehensive Plan survey to help shape the long range future of our city. Thank you to all the volunteers, committee members, commissioners, and community leaders for contributing time, ideas, skills, abilities, experiences, talents, innovation, partnerships and friendships that strengthen and build up our city.

We have much to accomplish in 2019. We especially need volunteers to join the Festival in the Park Committee and Mounds View Police Foundation. I expect that our annual Festival in the Park celebration will move to Silver View Park in 2019, and we need many volunteers to help us work out the logistics and expansion that this opportunity presents. Please call me for more information.

Our 2018 construction season came to an abrupt halt with the below average temperatures and early snows in October. The painting of the Groveland and Greenfield tennis and basketball courts will have to wait until temperatures are favorable in late spring. The new City Hall Park playground, picnic area, and splash pad will also be completed in the spring.

Throughout the upcoming Holiday Season, I wish you good health, happiness, and all the love your heart can share. Thank you for those who work in and attend our schools and faith organizations. Thank you for your generous support of the Ralph Reeder Food Shelf. Thank you for remembering there are resources in the city for you if you need them. Most of all, thanks for being great neighbors and friends.

God bless,
Carol

Planning, Tactical Planning, Strategic Planning and Comprehensive Planning

For the past year, the City Council and community members have engaged in significant planning processes addressing the multitude of challenges before us. For the Council the process started just over a year ago with a series of “tactical” planning sessions.

These tactical sessions differ from strategic in that they provide a greater breadth of background and knowledge to ensure in-depth knowledge of the issues and challenges. They included sessions on operations, human resources, and fiscal resources. Taken together, they provided the Council, and staff, with a broad overall picture enabling a more efficient and effective strategic planning process.

Going forward we have one “tactical” session left which will be completed by the time this article is published and that is public safety. We have begun the strategic planning process with each Council member investing several hours of time in one-on-one interviews exploring, answering, and discussing a multitude of questions. This input is in turn consolidated and shared in a draft format that Council and staff review, discuss, and modify as needed.

The plan covers a three year period, 2020 through 2022, and will be finalized by the end of January. With adoption, staff will then engage in developing very specific “Action Plans” to each of the goals that detail action, timeline, and cost and will be reported on in a regular basis.

Simultaneously, our Community Development Director has been engaged in our 2040 Comprehensive Plan that is statutorily required, regulated by the Metropolitan Council, updated every 10 years, and covers a twenty year period. Our current plan covered 2010 to 2030 and this plan will cover 2020 to 2040. In short, a Comprehensive Plan is a very detailed Land Use Plan. It covers everything from your trails to housing stock to vacant land to transportation and the list goes on. The first draft of this plan will be completed by January with the final draft due by June 2019. See more on this process on the cover of this newsletter.

Dispose of Your Unwanted Medicine Safely

If you have unwanted, expired or unused medicines, safely dispose of them for free at a medicine collection site in Ramsey County. Safe disposal of unwanted medicine helps prevent crime, drug abuse, and accidental poisoning. In addition, not flushing medicines down the drain or disposing of them in the trash helps protect our environment.

The nearest collection site for Mounds View residents is located at New Brighton Public Safety, 785 Old Highway 8 NW, New Brighton, MN 55112. This drop box is located inside the lobby and is available year-round, 24/7. No ID is required.

Only medicines from households are accepted. Items accepted include: blister packs, capsules, creams, gels, inhalers, IV bags, liquids, patches, pills, powders, sprays, syringes (capped or sealed), and vials. Medicines from businesses, healthcare facilities, long-term facilities, doctors' offices, pharmacies, or veterinary clinics are not accepted.

Follow these four easy steps for dropping off your medicines:
1. Keep medicines in their original container for legal transport.
2. Put loose medicines in a clear plastic bag and label the bag with the medicine name.
3. Seal all containers in a clear plastic bag.
4. Place the bag with medicines into the secure drop box.

Visit RamseyRecycles.com/medicine or call 651-633-EASY (3279) for more information and a complete list of locations.
Year 2019 Tax Supported Draft Budget Summary

The City Council approved a preliminary property tax levy for 2019 on September 10, 2018. The preliminary levy was used by Ramsey County to produce the individual proposed property tax notices that were mailed to property owners in mid-November. A Truth-in-Taxation public hearing will be held on Monday, December 3, 2018, 6:00 p.m., at 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 10, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. if needed. Final adoption of the levy and budget will probably occur at the City Council meeting on December 10, 2018, 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 Council adopted a preliminary General Fund levy increase of 4.4% ($218,856) for 2019. The voter approved police officer levies will add 0.3% ($14,800) to $219,100. This is up from $197,300 in 2018. Market values are determined by Ramsey County. The City of Mounds View's tax levy accounts for approximately 26% of a homeowner's property tax. The majority, 74%, is from other taxing authorities such as Ramsey County, Independent School District 621, and other smaller taxing authorities. The table above 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 value of the property. The table above reflects an increase in property taxes for residential properties, individual properties can show different results depending on the change in property value for the specific property. The County provided the complete impact for all taxing authorities in the Truth-in-Taxation notice that was mailed in mid-November.

Information presented in this article is for the City's General Fund, GO CIP Bonds Debt Service Fund, Street Improvement Capital Projects Fund, and EDA Fund. The City’s budget includes many other funds, but only these funds have a property tax levy, which is the focus of the Truth-in-Taxation process. A more detailed City budget can be found on the City’s website www.moundsviewmn.org under the Finance department page.

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Sample Estimated Home Tax Impact City of Mounds View Only

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</table>

General Fund—The General Fund accounts for all activity not accounted for in another fund. Activities such as police, fire, street maintenance, snow plowing, parks, recreation, and administration are most commonly associated with cities and are included in the General Fund.

GO CIP Bonds of 2017 Debt Service Fund—Accounts for all debt service payments related to the public works facility construction bonds.

Street Improvement Capital Projects Fund—Accounts for all street improvement activity.

EDA Special Revenue Fund—Accounts for the activity of Economic Development Authority.
The Holidays—Made for Scammers

The scam industry pillages billions of dollars each year from unsuspecting people. The Federal Trade Commission, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Social Security Administration, Minnesota Attorney General, Internal Revenue Services as well as the Mounds View Police Department have devoted entire pages on their websites to scam information. Visit their webpages for complete information on common scams.

The Holiday Season is prime opportunity for generosity to be taken advantage of. Reputable charity organizations can be vetted through CharityNagivator.org, Consumer Reports, and the Minnesota Attorney General’s Office.

If ever in doubt, please call the Mounds View Police Department at 763-717-4070 or after hours through Ramsey County Dispatch at 651-484-9155. Please report any loss to the Mounds View Police Department and contact financial institutions immediately.

Winter Driving: Back on the Snowy Roads...Again

Each year, hundreds of crashes are attributed to winter driving conditions. The Police Department would like each driver to consider some precautionary measures such as stay at home if conditions are too bad, reduce speeds if travel is necessary, and plan extra time for commuting.

Vehicle conditions to consider include inspecting tire tread, proper brake maintenance, and keeping all lights in working order—to include keeping them free of snow. Please remember, the driver may need to manually turn on lights, even those that are automatic, during snow falls. All vehicles must be completely dusted off and frost-free before they hit the roadway.

Gift Cards: What to Know Before a Purchase

Planning on purchasing a gift card this holiday season? Follow these tips for a safer purchase:

1. Purchase gift cards directly from the store issuing the gift card.
2. Carefully examine both front and back of a gift card to ensure protective stickers are still in place. Report damaged cards to the retailer.
3. Keep the receipt with the gift card.
4. Be clear about the terms and conditions for gift cards.
5. Use the card as soon as you can in order to get the full value.
6. Treat the gift card like cash. Report a card lost or stolen to the issuer immediately.
7. NEVER pay a debt or fee with a gift card. THIS IS DEFINITELY A SCAM!

CoAg Medical is located at 2276 Woodale Drive. The company manufactures a product called BleedStop which, when applied, quickly stops bleeding and helps to seal wounds fast.

Akway’s Sports Barbershop is now open in Mounds View. Check out the basketball court theme and get a professional haircut. The new business is located next to New Vision Mounds View 15 theater on the opposite end of Subway just off of Mounds View Boulevard.
Is Your Home Prepared for Winter?

The leaves have fallen from their summer perches, assisted by gusting winds which bring with them gentle but callous previews of the months to come. You may curse like an inebriated sailor about the impending winter months, but your home can only creak and groan so loudly. Have you considered how these temperature changes affect your home’s well-being? The Building Inspectors would like to offer the following home winterization tips to help keep you (and your home) more comfortable, more efficient, and perhaps save a bit of money in the process.

1. Change furnace filter(s) once a month.
2. Run ceiling fans in reverse to circulate heat trapped at the ceiling.
3. Winterize your A/C and water lines by draining any hoses and air conditioner pipes.
4. Turn down your water heater if it is set above 120 degrees F.
5. Dodge draft(s) by placing draftstops under drafty doors and use foam gaskets to fill any window/door gaps.
6. Use caulking and weather-stripping anywhere you may have air sneaking in, and heating/cooling sneaking out.
7. Boost insulation. It can make a big difference to add more insulation where needed.
8. Install storm doors and windows.
9. Give your heating system a tune-up. Keeping your furnace clean, lubricated, and properly adjusted will reduce energy use.

10. Mind the thermostat. For every degree you lower the thermostat during heating season, you’ll save between 1-3% of your heating bill.
11. Install plastic window insulation to add a buffer against drafts. The extra still air space can give a nice boost to your home’s ability to hold heat and can also help prevent potentially damaging condensation and moisture build up.
12. Put on a sweater! Roughly speaking, a light long-sleeved sweater is worth about 2 degrees in added warmth, while a heavy sweater (even the ugliest of ugly sweaters) adds about 4 degrees. So cozy up and start saving.

Visit the City’s website www.moundsviewmn.org or call 763-717-4020 for more information. You can also e-mail us at Permits@moundsviewmn.org.

New Businesses

InnerActive is an indoor playground located at 2240 Woodale Drive. The climate-controlled building is open 365 days a year from 7:30 a.m.–9:00 p.m. Day passes or membership options are available month to month or annually and can be purchased online. Once a pass has been purchased, a 6-digit code is entered in the keypad at the front door. The code will be sent to an email after purchase.

The new business features a basketball court, turf field, jumping pillow, large playground, climbing wall, building blocks, and a toddler space. People may bring their own snack or meal. A sitting area is provided as well as vending machines. InnerActive is available to host events or birthday parties. For more information, visit www.inneractiveplayground.com.

Ralph Reeder Food Shelf is located at 2544 Mounds View Boulevard in the former MN Muscle Gym space in the Silver View Plaza strip mall. The food shelf is a program of Mounds View Public Schools whose mission is to provide emergency and supplemental food assistance to individuals and families in need and to connect them to other helpful resources in a manner that preserves their dignity and empowers them to take steps towards self-sufficiency. Donations are accepted at the back entrance from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. or by appointment by calling 651-621-6280.
Tree Pruning Tips

The late dormant season is best for most pruning. Pruning in late winter allows the fresh wounds to be exposed for only a short length of time. Pruning decisions are easier to make when there are no leaves obscuring the plant branch structure and trimming at the proper time can avoid certain disease and physical problems.

You can trim dead or diseased branches on all trees at any time of the year. This will not harm the tree but will help the tree give nutrients to its growing branches. It is not necessary to spray the cuts of the dead branches with wound dressing.

Trim just outside the “collar” of the tree as it will heal and close the wound faster.

OAK: To prevent the spread of oak wilt do not prune oak trees during the months of April, May, or June. If you need to prune during these times, apply a wound dressing to mask the scent of fresh cut wood that attracts the disease-carrying beetles.

ELM: Avoid trimming elm trees during early April to late July.

ASH: Avoid trimming ash trees from May 1 to August 31.

MAPLE: Maple trees can be cut anytime. Be sure to remember maple trees will “bleed” but this is not a harmful effect to the tree. They can bleed onto parked cars and be cosmetically unpleasant to look at. To avoid bleeding, trim during mid-summer or late fall.

Proper Pruning Principles

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in Mounds View

At the April 26, 2018, Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission meeting, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture presented a report that Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was discovered and verified to be present in the City.

An EAB injection program has been established with Rainbow Treecare. With this program, high valued ash trees in City parks and on City grounds would be injected with the goal to help slow the emerald ash borer down while planting a new tree to replace the current ash tree.

The approved program will also provide services to the businesses and homeowners of Mounds View to inject their private ash trees. Rainbow Treecare will be sending postcards in late fall/early winter and at various times throughout the year regarding the program. If interested, please contact Rainbow Treecare at 952-922-3810 and ask them about the Mounds View program!

Will you be treating your tree for disease?

Due to EAB, Dutch Elm, Oak Wilt, etc. the City is compiling information to determine future Forestry planning decisions. A NO COST permit is required whenever a tree has been treated for disease. All contractors and DIYers are required to submit a permit for each treated tree. It’s easy! Fill out and submit the permit on-line at www.moundsviewmn.org. (Public Works Department/Forestry)
Winter Driving Safety Tips

- Yield to snowplows. They travel slower than posted speeds.
- Give snowplow drivers plenty of room to do their jobs.
- Never drive into a snow cloud.
- Slow down! Never use cruise control on wet or icy roads.
- Stay alert. A snowplow weighs 17 times more than a car. In a crash, occupants of a car are much more likely to be seriously injured.
- Be patient. Follow at a safe distance.

Source: MnDOT Winter Automobile Safety

For everyone’s safety, DO NOT pass the unit unless instructed by the driver. Please respect the snowplow operators and the difficult work that they are performing on your behalf.

Remember, while traveling behind the snow removal equipment, if you can’t see the side mirrors, the operator can’t see you!

(Special Note: Please remind your children to keep snow forts and the like located away from the streets. Children should also slide in safe locations away from the boulevard.

They are likely to be seriously injured.

When driving during major inclement weather such as snow, ice, heavy rain, etc., you should increase your safe following distance to a minimum of 6 seconds. During extreme icing events, as much as 10 seconds is recommended.

Source: MnDOT Winter Automobile Safety

Breaking Distance Safety – Did you know?

When driving during major inclement weather such as snow, ice, heavy rain, etc., you should increase your safe following distance to a minimum of 6 seconds. During extreme icing events, as much as 10 seconds is recommended.

Garbage and Recycling Containers

Residents are reminded to keep their garbage and recycling container at the end of their driveway instead of on the street or on the sidewalks. This allows the plow to move the snow to the curb line and reduces the possibility that the container is knocked over because of snow.

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.

One-to-One MNsure Help

Need help applying for health insurance? Have questions about MNsure? Certified Navigators are available at Ramsey County libraries to provide free one-on-one assistance to enroll in health coverage. Call Health Access MN at 651-645-0215 to ask a question or make an appointment.

One-to-One Computer and Tech Help by Appointment

Mondays between 5:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m. Call Mounds View Library at 651-724-6004 to schedule your ½ hour help session! Individual basic computer and tech help is now available in ½ hour sessions by appointment on Mondays (Mounds View Library 5:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.) with an AmeriCorps CTEP member. They are happy to help with job searching, working on resumes or documents, email, tablet, and other basic technology questions. *Reservation Required

Saturday Family Storytime

Sat., January 12th, 11:00 a.m. Stories, songs, and fingerplays designed to enhance your child’s early literacy skills. Appropriate for ages 2–5.

Scratch Lab

Thursday, December 27th, 2:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m. Learn to use Scratch, a program that makes it easy to create your own interactive stories, games and art. As you create Scratch projects, you’ll learn important mathematical ideas, while also learning to think creatively, reason systematically and work collaboratively. No registration required. Ages 9–14.

Shrinky Dinks

Friday, December 28th, 2:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m. Drop-by for an afternoon craft with Shrinky Dinks. Supplies provided. Limited to 25 participants on a first-come, first-served basis. Ages 5–12.

LEGO Club

Saturdays, January 12th, February 9th, 11:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Build your own creation out of LEGO bricks and show it off! LEGO bricks available for in-library use. No registration required. Ages 7–12.

Book Bingo

Friday, January 26th, 2:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m. Join us for an afternoon of good, old fashioned bingo! We’ll play several rounds and the winners will get to take home brand new books from the librarian’s secret stash. Play one round or stay the whole time. Space is limited to 25 participants per game. Ages 7–12.

MOUNDS VIEW 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.

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Sat., January 12th, 11:00 a.m. Stories, songs, and fingerplays designed to enhance your child’s early literacy skills. Appropriate for ages 2–5.

Scratch Lab

Thursday, December 27th, 2:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m. Learn to use Scratch, a program that makes it easy to create your own interactive stories, games and art. As you create Scratch projects, you’ll learn important mathematical ideas, while also learning to think creatively, reason systematically and work collaboratively. No registration required. Ages 9–14.

Shrinky Dinks

Friday, December 28th, 2:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m. Drop-by for an afternoon craft with Shrinky Dinks. Supplies provided. Limited to 25 participants on a first-come, first-served basis. Ages 5–12.

LEGO Club

Saturdays, January 12th, February 9th, 11:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Build your own creation out of LEGO bricks and show it off! LEGO bricks available for in-library use. No registration required. Ages 7–12.

Book Bingo

Friday, January 26th, 2:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m. Join us for an afternoon of good, old fashioned bingo! We’ll play several rounds and the winners will get to take home brand new books from the librarian’s secret stash. Play one round or stay the whole time. Space is limited to 25 participants per game. Ages 7–12.
Mounds View Police Foundation Presents

3rd ANNUAL Daddy Daughter Dance

{GRANDPAS, UNCLEs, ETC.}

Saturday, February 9, 2019 | 5:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.
Mounds View Community Center/YMCA Gym
Tickets available at:
www.eventbrite.com/e/3rd-annual-daddy-daughter-dance-tickets-51719429205

Can't afford tickets?
The Mounds View Police Foundation may be able to help. Contact
moundsviewpolicefoundation@gmail.com
or Pinewood Elementary at 763-784-4006

DJ | Dinner | Dancing | Photos

Ice Skating Rink Hours

Ice hockey and skating rinks typically open in mid to late December depending on weather and ice conditions. Mounds View has two parks with free ice skating opportunities: Lambert, 5324 Jackson Drive, and Hillview, 7901 Greenwood Drive. The parks have separate skating and hockey rinks and are open each day of the week (weather permitting). For rink updates please refer to www.moundsviewmn.org/residents/mounds_view_community_center/index.php or www.facebook.com/moundsviewcc/.

Warming House Hours:
Weekdays (Monday–Friday): 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Weekends and School Breaks: 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.