



## STAFF REPORT

DATE: June 6, 2023

### **CONSENT**

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council

**AGENDA ITEM:** Approve Summer Newsletter

**SUBMITTED BY:** Julie Johnson, City Clerk

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#### **BACKGROUND:**

A draft of the bi-annual City newsletter has been put together for distribution. If Council approves the draft and authorizes the printing and distribution of *The Source*, it will be mailed as soon as possible once it is printed and prepared for mailing.

#### **ISSUE BEFORE COUNCIL:**

Should the City approve and distribute a new edition of *The Source* for Summer 2023?

#### **PROPOSAL DETAILS/ANALYSIS:**

Staff recommends that the attached draft is approved, and it is authorized to be printed and distributed.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The estimated cost of the printing, preparation, and mailing of each edition of *The Source* is approximately \$2,700.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

If removed from the consent agenda:

***“Move to approve the attached draft and to authorize the printing and distribution of *The Source* newsletter for the summer of 2023.”***

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

- Draft of *The Source* for summer 2023

*Summer 2023*



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

# THE SOURCE

Your source for City news and information

## Water, Water Read All About It!

The City of Lake Elmo has been working on a number of water related issues over the past year. Efforts have been focused on improving both water quality and water quantity.

**Water Quality.** Lake Elmo has been dealing with issues related to PFAS contamination for nearly two decades now. The City continues to play an active role in the 3M State Settlement Work Groups. The plan adopted by the state in 2021 provides for flexibility in allowing Lake Elmo to explore pursuing clean groundwater sources, implement a treatment plant or connecting to surface water as our water supply. With the EPA's pending rules lowering the safe level of PFAS in drinking water expected to be out this fall, the city has been proactively exploring all of these options again. The city's well #2 is expected to exceed regulatory new levels so the city has decided to take it out of the rotation while we explore temporary treatment options. Because of this and our continued focus on water conservation (quantity), we also implemented a number of new local ordinances to reduce water usage.

**Water Quantity.** The City has had two requests to increase our water appropriations amount to 540 million gallons a year denied by the DNR. Our current permit allows for 260 million gallons a year while in 2022 we actually pumped 400 million gallons. Our system is capable of producing more than we are authorized for but this regulatory restriction has led to further changes in our local water policies.

During the past year, the city reviewed best practices and approved a number of ordinance changes aimed at reducing water use. These included an update to the irrigation standards, promotion of storm water reuse and improved topsoil requirements for new developments. In April, when the year was up on the moratorium on development in the southeast portion of the city, the City Council was still concerned about operating in violation of their water appropriation permit from the DNR and took another pause in approving new developments while waiting for a legislative solution. Thankfully, our state legislators passed language in the final week of session that allows the DNR to increase Lake Elmo's water appropriation to be consistent with our water supply plan in the comprehensive plan. The new law is effective for four years to provide time for Lake Elmo and other municipalities in the east metro to work with our state agency partners to develop a comprehensive plan to ensure communities in the White Bear Lake area have access to sufficient, safe drinking water to allow for municipal growth while simultaneously ensuring the sustainability of surface water and groundwater resources to supply the needs of future generations.

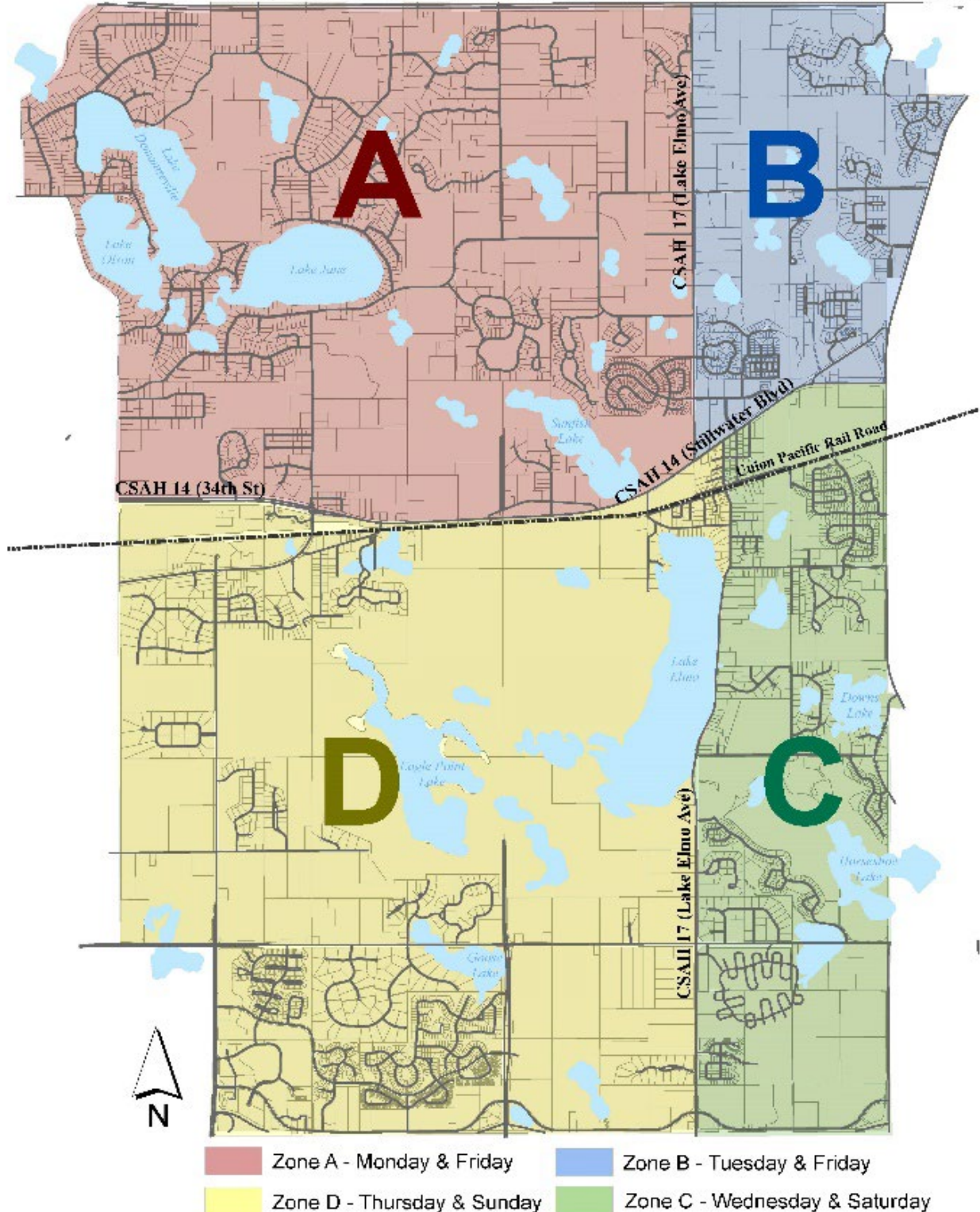
Over the past year, we have seen our daily water usage go from 560,000 gallons a day in the winter to over 3 million a day in the summer. This has resulted in the city's per capita usage exceeding the state goals of 90 gallons per capita per day for all uses.

*(Water Issues Continued to Page 2)*

3880 Laverne Avenue North - Lake Elmo, MN 55042 (651) 747-3900

**Permanent Watering Restrictions.** Knowing we must continue to take efforts to reduce our water usage since we are well above state goals and see our water usage increase nearly 600% in the summer, in May the City Council also adopted a new permanent water use restriction for irrigation use. New code, effective May 19, 2023, limits irrigation to two days per week. No watering is allowed any day of the week between 5 am and 5pm. Attended hand-watering of plants, shrubs, trees, and gardens is not required to follow this schedule. You can find out which two days you are allowed to water by visiting the city's website at [www.lakeelmo.org](http://www.lakeelmo.org) . The city has been divided into four zones split north south along CSAH 14 (34<sup>th</sup> St./Stillwater Blvd) and east west along CSAH 17(Lake Elmo Ave).

## City of Lake Elmo Irrigation Zones







## Thank you to our 2023 Lions Park Sign Sponsors

The vintage style signs posted on the outfield fencing at Lions Park help support projects at Lions Park such as backstop improvements and a 45<sup>th</sup> parallel marker. This year we have 19 new and renewing sponsors:

Aaron Runk – State Farm Insurance  
Anita White – Coldwell Banker  
Apex Construction, Inc.  
Bolton & Menk  
Capra's Utilities, Inc.  
Dan Stoudt, State Farm Insurance  
Hagberg's Country Market  
Krinkie Heating & Air Conditioning  
Krueger Tree Farm

Lake Elmo Bank  
Lake Elmo Loves Reading  
Lake Elmo Rotary Club  
Nutrition Cave  
Jay Pernue  
ShaneCon, Inc.  
Stilly Spirits, LLC  
Stoudt Law, Ltd.  
Tiffhanie Zheng – Guardians Real Estate Group  
Zignego Agency

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## Court Improvement Projects

Both Tablyn Park and Pebble Park will receive upgrades to the existing tennis court areas. At Tablyn Park, the two tennis court surfaces will be completely removed and replaced with new playing surfaces. The courts will be striped to accommodate one tennis court and four pickle ball courts.



At Pebble Park, the tennis courts will also be completely renovated and the new surface will be striped to accommodate one tennis court and six pickle ball courts.

Both locations will also see additional updated amenities to include paved trail access, benches and new lighting.

Work is expected to begin by early July and be complete in October 2023.

# Lake Elmo Public Safety

## Recreational Fires and Open Burning Permits

Recreational fires continue to be a great way to gather and enjoy the summer weather in Lake Elmo. Hosting a recreational fire on your property comes with a certain level of responsibility. Be a good neighbor and consider the wind speed and direction of smoke before starting the fire. Consider knocking on your neighbor's door to let them know ahead of time that you will be burning. This drastically reduces the number of nuisance calls made to 911 regarding smoke.



Keep the size of the fire to a limited 3x3x3. Three feet wide, three feet tall, and nothing larger than three inches in diameter is to be burned. Remember, recreational fires do not include burning leaves or yard waste! If the fire gets out of hand don't wait or hesitate, call 911 immediately.

Open burning permits are required for large scale burning. Permits are issued only after an inspection is performed on site to ensure safe practices are being followed. City Ordinance only permits the burning of dead/disease vegetation, bee hives, ground thawing, and prairie restoration. A variance can be issued for special burning, such as storm debris. More information can be found on the City of Lake Elmo website, under Public Safety > Fire Department > Open Burning.

## Fire Department Staffing and Operations Changes

Your Lake Elmo Fire Department is excited to continue down the transition path towards a staffed combination fire department of career and paid-on-call staff.

Four new shift firefighters will start late summer 2023 and join the two existing career firefighters. With the addition of four new staff, the six total will work in pairs of two, and spend 24 hours on duty per shift. Additionally, a paid-on-call firefighter will be eligible to work alongside the career staff to complement our response as part of the duty crew.

This will allow your fire department the opportunity to have a predictable initial response of three, on duty and ready to respond, firefighters. In instances of large scale incidents the remaining paid-on-call staff will be called back to duty from work or home.

With the anticipated operational switch to the new central Fire Station / City Center this summer, the fire department will be adjusting its response operations to a single station. The central station will signify the closure of the City's original 1957 downtown fire station (Station 1) and Fire Station 2 on Jamaca Avenue North. Residents will not be impacted by response times to either location. Keeping in mind that for its entire operation, Fire Station 2 has been served by paid-on-call firefighters. Response times were dependent on an unpredictable number of responders. With the addition of a primarily career based staffing model, and having responders available in the new station 24/7, the response time to the former Fire Station 2 area will decrease. This is based on the amount of time saved by firefighters not having to report to the fire station from home for an emergency.

## Paid-On-Call (POC) Firefighter Hiring

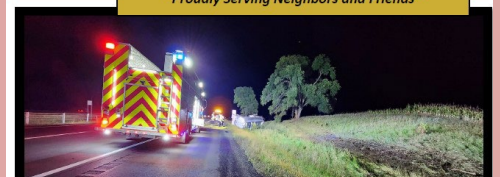
The Lake Elmo Fire Department will continue to support our organizational structure of a combination fire department with paid-on-call (POC) firefighters working with career staff. POC firefighters are everyday people who most often have other full time jobs, and are looking to give back to their community. POC firefighters are provided with education and maintain all the necessary certifications to support our agency. They are paid per hour for their time and all training, uniforms, and equipment is provided. POC firefighters will work alongside our career staff to complete the standard response company of three on duty personnel. Day, evening, and overnight shift options will be available. We anticipate kicking off our recruitment process in July of 2023. Check back on the City's website, Facebook, and other job information sites for more details. Interested persons may contact Chief Kalis to be placed on a job interest email list.

The Lake Elmo Fire Department 2022 Annual Report is available for download on the fire department tab on the City's website: [www.lakeelmo.org](http://www.lakeelmo.org)

### LAKE ELMO FIRE DEPARTMENT

2022 Annual Report

"Proudly Serving Neighbors and Friends"





## Water Rebate Program



The City of Lake Elmo, in partnership with the Metropolitan Council, is offering rebates for new installations of water saving devices. With numerous water supply issues, there has never been a better time to improve our water conservation efforts.

Water utility customers in Lake Elmo are eligible for up to \$200 for installing Smart Irrigation Controllers and up to \$500 for an irrigation audit. Rebates are also available for the replacement of washing machines up to \$150 and \$100 per EPA WaterSense toilet. Purchase and install a qualifying device and complete a rebate form with a copy of your receipt. Upon approval, a credit will be applied to your water account. Applications and additional information are available on the City's website.



## New City Staff

The City has welcomed three new staff members in the past few months. Please join us in welcoming them to Lake Elmo!

**Ryan Ness** – Utility Billing Clerk. Ryan is a Lake Elmo resident who joined the City of Lake Elmo in February of this year. He has a degree in business management and a long history of work in retail management, real estate, and customer service.

**Clarissa Hadler** – Finance Director. Clarissa brings 10 years of municipal experience and 15 years of small business ownership to the lead role in the city's Finance Department. She is excited to put her love of spreadsheets and process improvement to work in Lake Elmo.

**Karissa Goers** – Administrative Services Director. Karissa joined the City of Lake Elmo as the Administrative Services Director in April. She has over 15 years of experience in Human Resources, specifically in employee relations, benefits, and developing HR procedures for smaller organizations.



Left to right: Ryan Ness, Clarissa Hadler and Karissa Goers



### 2022 Consumer Confidence Report Now Available

The 2022 Lake Elmo Consumer Confidence Report is now available. The full 2022 report along with the reports from past year can be found by visiting the **Water and Sewer Utility** page under the **Public Works & Engineering** tab on the City's website at [www.lakeelmo.org](http://www.lakeelmo.org). Hard copies of the report can be requested at City Hall, 3880 Laverne Avenue N.

## Drop It Off

At the Environmental Center

Washington  
County

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS | ELECTRONICS | RECYCLABLES | FOOD SCRAPS (ORGANICS)



4039 Cottage Grove Drive • Woodbury, MN 55129

#### Environmental Center Hours:

Tuesdays 11am – 7pm  
Thursdays 8am – 4:30pm  
Fridays 8am – 4:30pm  
Saturdays 8am – 2pm

Closed on all major holidays.

Open to residents of Washington, Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Hennepin, and Ramsey counties. Proof of county residency, such as a driver's license, is required.

Stop by the  
FREE Product  
Room

Look for items such as latex and oil paints, household cleaners, automotive supplies, and much more. Products are available for eligible residents only.

More info: [www.co.washington.mn.us/envirocenter](http://www.co.washington.mn.us/envirocenter) | 651-275-7475

# Development Updates



Kokoro Volleyball

## Kokoro Volleyball

Early this spring, Kokoro Volleyball broke ground on a 27,540 square foot building on 2.7 acres on Lake Elmo Avenue and 39<sup>th</sup> Street. The facility will be home to a year round volleyball training facility.



## Enterprise Holdings

Enterprise Holdings has started construction of a new facility on 4.29 acres on Jade Trail, just north of Hudson Boulevard and east of Inwood Avenue. The site will be home to an Enterprise Rent A Car facility that would include the sale and rental of vehicles.



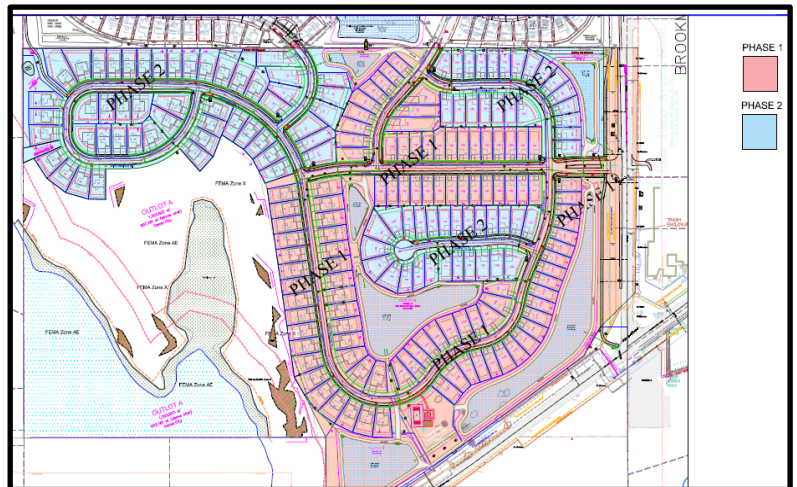
## Drake Motor Partners

Approval has been granted to Drake Motor Partners for development of a four lot subdivision to facilitate the construction of an auto dealership (Tesla) and a fast food restaurant (Dairy Queen). This development is located on Hudson Boulevard just west of Keats Avenue.



## GWSA Land Development

GWSA has started work on a new housing development on 98.76 acres at the northwest corner of Lake Elmo Avenue and Stillwater Boulevard. The development will consist of 200 single family homes with open space and community amenities. Construction will take place in several phases with the first phase being located in the northern section of the property.





## National Night Out 2023

National Night Out will be held once again Tuesday, August 1<sup>st</sup> from 6-8 PM at Lion's Park downtown. This is a great opportunity for everyone including residents, businesses, and public services to join together as one city. Last year nearly 50 businesses and organizations participated in the event. We had an incredible turnout last year and hope to do so again.

Look for updates on the City website, social media, and the FRESH E-newsletter for how you can get involved.



National Night Out 2021



The City of Lake Elmo is seeking volunteers for the Adopt-A-Park Program. The program is intended to make parks more appealing through general spring, summer and fall clean-up to remove debris, flower planting, and weeding. All materials are provided by the City and coordinated through Public Works.

Adopt-A-Park is a program for volunteers who are interested in cleaning up Lake Elmo's parks, and is an excellent way for residents and organizations to make a personal contribution to the community. The program is open to individuals, families, groups, religious organizations, service organizations, schools, businesses, and other community organizations, adoption terms are for 2 years.



**Minnesotans  
have adopted  
17,499  
storm drains**

**[Adopt-A-Drain.org](http://Adopt-A-Drain.org)**

We LOVE our  
Minnesota water &  
work to keep it clean!

### Adopt a Storm Drain

Volunteer fifteen minutes, twice a month, for cleaner waterways and a healthier community. Storm drains flow directly to our lakes, rivers, and wetlands and act as conduits for trash and pollutants. Adopt a Drain asks residents to adopt a storm drain in their neighborhood and keep it clear of leaves, trash, and other debris to reduce water pollution.

Sign up, keep your drain clear, track your impact, and lead by example.





3880 Laverne Ave. N.  
Lake Elmo, MN 55042

PRSTD STD  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT NO. 19  
LAKE ELMO, MN

**POSTAL PATRON  
LAKE ELMO MN 55042**

### **Public Works Contact Info:**

**Public Works:** 651-747-3940

#### **Emergency:**

Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**City Hall:** 651-747-3900

All other hours and weekends,

**Washington County Dispatch:** 651-439-9381

### **The City is on Nextdoor!**

In an effort to reach as much of the community as possible we've joined Nextdoor to post important updates for residents.

**nextdoor**

### **The City Wants Your Input!**

The City has been using the Polco platform to collect the opinions of residents to better improve City services. Questions have been related to the City of Lake Elmo's streets, parks, public safety, and more.

New questions are posted regularly. If you are interested in sharing your opinions, please visit [www.polco.us/lakeelmo](http://www.polco.us/lakeelmo) and create an account!

**POLCO.us**

### **THE SOURCE**

A publication of the City of Lake Elmo  
3800 Laverne Ave. N., Lake Elmo MN 55042 • 651-747-3900

#### **Mayor**

Charles Cadenhead

#### **Council**

Lisa McGinn

Matt Hirn

Katrina Beckstrom

Jeff Holtz

#### **City Administrator**

Kristina Handt

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**POLICE-FIRE Emergency:** 9-1-1

**Non-emergency:** (651) 439-9381



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**THE SOURCE** *Summer 2023*