



fresh

Your Weekly Source for City News and Information

Public Meetings Next Week

- No Scheduled Public Meetings Next Week



[City Agendas and Minutes](#)

Visit our website



The City of Lake Elmo is Accepting Applications for Multiple Commissions and Committees

The City of Lake Elmo is currently accepting applications to serve on the Planning Commission, Parks Commission, Economic Development Authority and Capital Improvement Committee beginning in 2022. Commissioners typically serve a three year term.

The **Planning Commission** advises the City Council regarding matters relevant to city planning and zoning practices, initiatives, applications, city code and the comprehensive plan.

The **Parks Commission** advises the City Council on matters relevant to the city's parks and trail systems.

The **Economic Development Authority (EDA)** advises the Council on economic development matters including business retention, expansion and recruitment.

The **Capital Improvement Committee** serves to aid the City Council and staff in the development of the annual Capital Improvement Plan; a plan for the City's infrastructure (such as streets, parks and utility systems), vehicles, equipment and public buildings. The plan includes estimated cost, the need for each improvement, funding source and the financial impact that the improvement will have on the City. Terms will be staggered for the inaugural year. Opportunities to commit to 1, 2 or 3 year terms are available.

For information and application materials click [here](#).

Offer Your Input on Highway 36, Lake Elmo Avenue Improvements

Washington County is seeking public input on the Highway 36 and Lake Elmo Avenue improvement project through November 28. Information, opportunities to comment, and a questionnaire are available at the link below.

[Project Website](#)



Winter parking ordinance prohibits parking on Lake Elmo Streets from Nov. 1 through March 31 between 2:00 AM and 7:00 AM.

Public Works can't clear the roadways with cars blocking their paths!

REMINDER: Winter Parking Ordinance In Effect



The City of Lake Elmo is Accepting Applications for the City Planner Position

[Visit our website for information and application materials.](#)

We Want Your Input!

The City of Lake Elmo is using Polco to gather feedback from Lake Elmo residents to make decisions with the community in mind. We post short surveys to better understand our residents.

[Sign Up Here](#)



Be SALT SMART!



WATER SOFTENERS

Water softeners account for up to 65% of the chloride that is discharged from municipal wastewater treatment plants statewide.

Hard water is pervasive in our state; thus, water softeners are a common fixture in many Minnesota homes. Conventional water softeners treat hard water by exchanging the hard minerals with sodium and potassium ions. When the system is 'full,' it resets or regenerates by sending a pulse of salt water through the system. Municipal wastewater treatment plants do NOT treat for chloride, meaning that salty water is then discharged to our waterways.

How do I reduce my chloride footprint?

Do you need to soften your water? If you live in a city, check to see whether your water utility softens the water before distribution. This eliminates or decreases the need for a water softener.

Optimize your water softener settings: If you have an older water softener, regeneration generally happens on a timer versus by water use – extending the timing between regeneration cycles will reduce the amount of wastewater produced.

Replace your water softener: Newer water softener models regenerate based on water use versus a timer, using less salt and water.

Don't soften ALL your water: Only soften the water from your hot water taps versus cold water drinking taps.

Reduce your overall water use: Cutting back lessens demand for softened water and conserves our water resources!

Using more than 1
40-lb bag of salt a
month?

Check with a water
professional to
optimize softener
efficiency!

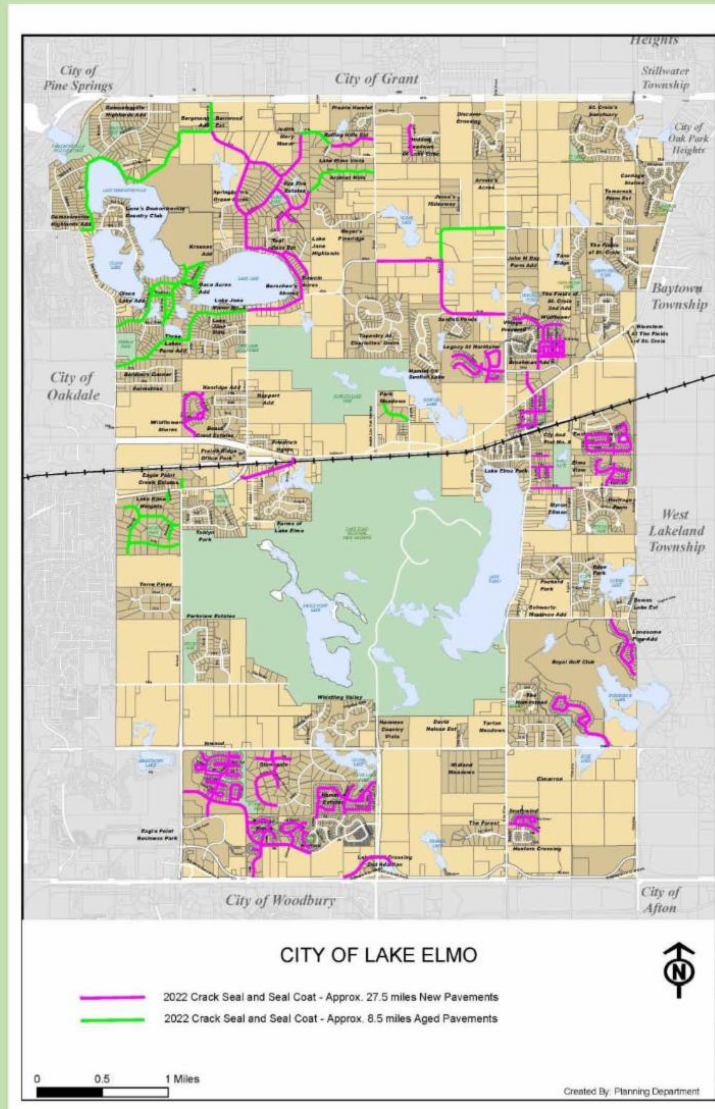
DO YOU HAVE A
**LEAKY
TOILET?**



FIND OUT:

1. Add a drop of food coloring to the tank.
2. Wait 10 minutes.
3. If you see the color in your toilet bowl, you have a leak!

As tax statements are arriving in mailboxes, the City is receiving a lot of questions about the 2022 budget. The 2022 budget increase is attributable to three major factors; the New City Center and Public Works addition, staffing increases, and the 2022 crack seal and seal coating project. The map below shows approximately 36 miles of roads that will receive maintenance next year.



Water Conservation Rebate Program

The City of Lake Elmo, in partnership with the Metropolitan Council, is offering a rebate program for purchases of eligible WaterSense toilets and Smart Irrigation Controllers. Qualifying purchases are eligible for up to a \$200 credit on your water bill.



[Program Details Available Here](#)



Lake Elmo Library: Upcoming Events **Write-In for National Novel Writing Month**

November is National Novel Writing Month! During NaNoWriMo, participants are challenged to write 50,000 words of a novel in 30 days. Each Tuesday in November from 6-7:45 p.m., join other local writers at Lake Elmo Library to work on your novel-in-progress. We'll start each session with a little time for visiting, cheering each other on, or commiserating about writer's block as needed. Then you'll have focused writing time until we close. The library will also provide writing prompts for nights when you are really feeling stuck. All ages are welcome.

Family Storytime

Fridays at 10:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Encourage early literacy skills while enjoying stories, songs, fingerplays and more at Lake Elmo Library! This is an in-person, indoor program for children of all ages and their caregivers. Please

register online at WashCoLib.org/events. Each registration covers space for one family group of up to four people.

Lake Elmo Library

Stop by Lake Elmo library to check out books, use a computer, reserve a meeting room, and participate in a variety of programs.

Library Hours:

Monday and Friday: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday: 12-8 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Sunday: Closed

Learn more about current library services at WashCoLib.org/Covid19

Washington County Library Events



What Would Our City Look Like if Kids Were in Charge?

The Mayor for a Day Essay Contest is back to find out! To enter, fourth, fifth, and sixth graders can answer the prompt, "What would you do if you were mayor for a day?" for a chance to win \$100 and recognition in Minnesota Cities magazine.

The deadline for submissions is Monday, Dec. 6, 2021. Students and parents/caregivers can submit essays via an online form, a PDF email attachment, or through the mail. Winners only will be notified in early January.

[More Information Available Here](#)



Crisis Assistance Relief for Homeownership Program (CARH)

Homeowners in Washington County who have experienced a reduction in income because of the COVID-19 pandemic may apply for a one-time grant of up to six months of delinquent eligible housing payments, provided by the federal CARES Act through an allocation of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-CV) funding to Washington County and the City of Woodbury.

For full eligibility criteria and to begin the application process, contact a CDA Homeownership Specialist at:
homeownership@washingtoncountycda.org or 651-202-2822
<https://washingtoncountycda.org/covid-19-assistance-for-homeowners/>

- Property must be located in Washington County and be the primary residence of household (homesteaded)
- Due to funding requirements, properties located in Marine on St. Croix and manufactured homes are not eligible for assistance
- Delinquency or financial hardship must be due to a documented COVID-19-related financial impact on the household
- Gross annual household income must be 80% AMI or below (see chart)
- Eligible housing payments include:
 - Home mortgage/loan
 - Homeowners' insurance
 - Homeowners' association dues

80% of Area Median Income (AMI)	
HH Size	Annual Max.
1	\$55,950
2	\$63,950
3	\$71,950
4	\$79,900
5	\$86,300
6	\$92,700
7	\$99,100
8	\$105,500



Sally Manzara Interpretive Nature Center (SMINC)

Free Family Nature Exploration Saturdays

10-11am



Most events are held outdoors, please dress appropriately for the weather.

The Sally Manzara Interpretive Nature Center is located in Sunfish Lake Park in Lake Elmo, MN

<https://sminc-lake-elmo.org/>

www.facebook.com/sunfishlakepark



November 6 Honey Bees in Winter

Learn about the three types of honey bees, what honey bees do in the winter and visit the active apiary with beekeeper Paul Liedl.



November 13 Story Stroll Hike

Drop in for a self guided outdoor storybook stroll with the book Bear Snores On.



November 20 Winter Sleepers

Learn from local behavioral biologist Mary Frick about what changes animals must make in the fall. Discover some surprising facts about animals from frogs to bears and how they survive our cold winter months.



November 27 Turkeys

Go on a hike to search for and learn about turkeys in Sunfish Lake Park with expert Audubon Society birder Chase Davies. Bring your binoculars or check them out here.

The City of Lake Elmo encourages residents to look for signs of EAB

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) confirmed emerald ash borer (EAB) in the City of Lake Elmo. A local business reported an ash tree with bark cracks and woodpecker damage in the tree canopy, a tell-tale sign of possible EAB infestation, to the MDA for confirmation.

There are several things residents should look for when checking for emerald ash borer.

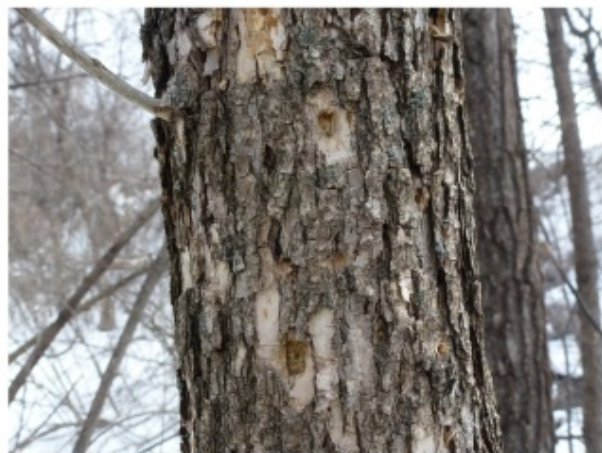
- **Be sure you've identified an ash tree.** This is an important first step since EAB only feeds on ash trees. Ash have opposite branching – meaning branches come off the trunk directly across from each other. On older trees, the bark is in a tight, diamond-shaped pattern. Younger trees have a relatively smooth bark.
- **Look for woodpecker damage.** Woodpeckers like EAB larvae and woodpecker holes may indicate the presence of EAB.
- **Check for bark cracks.** EAB larvae tunneling under the bark can cause the bark to split open, revealing the larval (S-shaped) tunnels underneath.
- **Contact a professional.** If you feel your ash tree may be infested with EAB, contact a tree care professional or the MDA at arrest.the.pest@state.mn.us or 888-545-6684 (voicemail).

Emerald ash borer larvae kill ash trees by tunneling under the bark and feeding on the part of the tree that moves nutrients up and down the trunk. Minnesota is highly susceptible to the destruction caused by this invasive insect. The state has approximately one billion ash trees, the most of any state in the nation.

The biggest risk of spreading EAB comes from people unknowingly moving firewood or other ash products harboring larvae. There are three easy steps residents can take to keep EAB from spreading:

- Don't transport firewood. Buy firewood locally from approved vendors, and burn it where you buy it;
- Be aware of the quarantine restrictions. If you live in a quarantined county, be aware of the restrictions on movement of products such as ash trees, wood chips, and firewood; and,
- Watch your ash trees for infestation. If you think your ash tree is infested, go to <https://www.mda.state.mn.us/eab-info-homeowners> for resources on identifying EAB, how to hire tree care professionals, and insecticide options for protecting your ash tree.

For more information on emerald ash borer, go to www.mda.state.mn.us/eab.





Neighborhood Watch

Making communities safer - One neighbor at a time



Neighborhood Watch works because it is designed to:

- Teach simple techniques to reduce the risk of being victimized at home or in public
- Train how to recognize and report suspicious activities
- Help neighborhoods to make their homes more secure
- Show people how to easily make records of their property so that it can be identified if lost or stolen
- Encourage neighbors to get to know each other so that any out of place activity can be recognized, reported, and investigated
- Develop a cohesive body of concerned citizens addressing issues involving the entire community
- Improve public safety by fostering cooperation between the Sheriff's Office and the residents of our communities

What is required of members?

Sign Up

Sign up online at www.nnw.org
 You will be asked for your name, postal address, phone number, and email addresses.
 These items are not shared with the public and are used for official contact purposes only.

Participate

Members attend two meetings per year.

1. Social Meeting: Groups are highly encouraged to participate in Night to Unite for the social meeting requirement.
2. Business meeting to discuss prevention tips, trends, and other concerns. Groups usually invite a Sheriff's Office representative to this meeting so that questions can be asked and answered.

Neighborhood Watch Block Captains are asked to maintain a current listing of their Neighborhood Watch members and share concerns of their neighborhood with the Sheriff's Office.

How to start a Neighborhood Watch

1. **Talk to your neighbors.** See who in your neighborhood is interested in forming or participating in a Neighborhood Watch.
2. **Contact the Sheriff's Office** to schedule an informational meeting.
3. **Invite neighbors** and community members to attend the meeting.
4. **Elect a Block Captain.** This person is the contact person between your neighborhood and the Sheriff's Office.
5. **Ask your neighbors to sign up** for the neighborhood watch program.

Stay active.

Talk with your neighbors.

Stay alert and report suspicious activity.



History

Neighborhood Watch was launched in 1972 by the National Sheriff's Association as a vehicle for citizens to organize themselves and work with law enforcement. The concept traces its roots back to the days of colonial settlements when night watchmen patrolled the streets.

The Washington County Sheriff's Office manages the Neighborhood Watch program for the cities and townships that are serviced by the Sheriff's Office for law enforcement services. These communities include:

Afton, Baytown Township, Birchwood, Dellwood, Denmark Township, Grant, Hugo, Lake Elmo, Lake St. Croix Beach, Lakeland, Lakeland Shores, Landfall, Mahtomedi, Marine on St. Croix, May Township, Newport, Pine Springs, Scandia, St. Mary's Point, Stillwater Township, West Lakeland Township, Willernie

What it IS...

Neighborhood Watch is an association of neighbors who contribute to the safety and security of their neighborhood by working in partnership with the Washington County Sheriff's Office. Together, the Sheriff's Office and neighborhood volunteers work to implement the principles of crime deterrence and detection, while encouraging the active reporting of crimes and suspicious activity.

What it is NOT...

Neighborhood Watch is not a vigilante force working outside the normal procedures of law enforcement. It is not designed for participants to take personal risks to prevent crime. Participation in the program is not a guarantee that crime will not occur in your neighborhood.

Contact Information

Washington County Sheriff's Office
 Community Engagement Unit
 15015 62nd Street North
 Stillwater, Minnesota 55082

Emergency.....911
 Non-Emergency Dispatch.....651-439-9381
 Records/Reports.....651-430-7600
 Tip-Line.....651-430-7850

www.co.washington.mn.us
www.facebook.com/WCSOMN

Neighborhood Watch



Neighbors and Deputies
 working together
 for safer communities

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Washington County Sheriff's Office
 Sheriff Dan Starry



Washington County Sheriff Department

If you are planning on being away from home or on vacation please follow some of the tips below to increase the safety and security of your property.

1. Lock all of the doors and windows.
2. Clear out the mailbox and notify the post office to hold your mail until you return. If you are having packages delivered be sure to use the package tracking options and arrange for the package to be picked up by a friend or family member.
3. Keep the yard and/or driveway maintained. Removal of snow from the driveway and walking paths is important.
4. Hide or secure your valuables from view of windows. Using safes is helpful in securing important items.
5. Don't broadcast your plans of being gone on social media. Only notify those who will be helping you in keeping an eye on your residence like a neighbor, family or friends.
6. Get your security system updated, tested and notified of your vacancy. Posting security signage in your yard on residence can help with deterrence of theft and burglary. Many door camera systems can be purchased at a reasonable price with instant notification of activity at your residence while you are away.
7. Adjust your heating settings especially as temperatures can drop significantly this time of year to avoid frozen water lines.
8. Security lighting and timers. The proper lighting on your residence can help to deter theft.
9. Request vacation checks through the Sheriff's Office while you are out of town.

These are just a few quick steps you can take to increase the security of your home while you are away. If you are interested in receiving information on vacation checks call our non-emergency number 651-439-9381

Public Facilities Project Update

At the November 3 City Council Meeting the City Council awarded bids for the new City Center and Public Works Addition.

Regular updates and documents are available [here](#).



- 1 New City Hall Entrance
- 2 New Fire Station Expansion
- 3 Council Chambers/Community room addition
- 4 Parking
- 5 Fire Department Parking
- 6 City Hall/Sheriff
- 7 Laverne Avenue

LEO A DALY

CITY OF LAKE ELMO COMBINED CITY HALL & PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY

The new Lake Elmo City Hall / Public Safety Facility combines City Hall staff and functions, the entire Fire Department, and a satellite office for the Washington County Sheriff's department. This co-location involves renovating and expanding the City-owned Brookfield Office building to concentrate civic resources into a single structure at the historic core of the city. In addition, the Public Works facility will also be expanded to accommodate City growth and expanded service needs.



TOTAL ANTICIPATED PROJECT COST: \$14,600,000
DESIGN COMPLETION: Late summer 2021
CONSTRUCTION COMPLETION: Fall of 2022





MEETING THE DEMANDS OF AN EVOLVING FIRE SERVICE

Lake Elmo currently has two fire stations, Fire Station #1 at 3510 Laverne Ave. N. and Fire Station #2 at 4259 Jamaica Ave. N. This project will consolidate these two stations into a single, state-of-the-art station that will meet the needs of our community and firefighters today and into the future. The building is designed to accommodate increasing call volumes, meet the demands for training and to support our evolving role as all hazard responders.

Due to the changing environment of fire department staffing needs and the impacts of that in relation to incident response times and budget responsibility, the fire department is consolidating to a single station which will allow the department the ability to transition to a staffing model that provides 24/7 coverage from the single station. This change requires the updated facilities like staff dorm rooms, day room and kitchen area, fitness room, staff workspaces and offices.

Educational materials provided by the City of Lake Elmo
 For more information, visit our website: www.lakeelmo.org or contact Kristina Handt, Administrator at KHandt@lakeelmo.org



The current fire stations are too small to accommodate modern apparatus and equipment and cannot provide adequate health protections for our firefighters.

A FUNCTIONAL FIRE STATION

A new, single, state-of-the-art station will meet the needs of our community and firefighters today and into the future. Designed to accommodate our evolving role as all-hazard responders it will:

- Modernize our facilities following best practices in station design.
- Enhance firefighter training with training features incorporated into the building.
- The addition of living quarters will allow the department to transition to a staffing model that provides 24/7 coverage from the single station.
- Improve response times and overall department operations.

DESIGNED FOR FIREFIGHTER HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Distinct spaces to properly decontaminate gear and equipment. Focus to reduce staff exposure to firefighting carcinogens and other toxic materials.
- Properly ventilate the apparatus bay to reduce staff exposure to diesel exhaust and other harmful fumes.
- Space that supports the physical and mental health of staff.
- Clear separation between public and private spaces.



Lake Elmo City Hall, built in 1986, is a very small 2,806 SF. There are insufficient offices for all staff members and the restrooms are not accessible. The council chambers are small, do not provide sufficient space for department heads or members of the public, and lack modern technological updates. City staff have long outgrown this building and have since moved into the Brookfield Building located across the parking lot.

The Brookfield Building was purchased by the City in 2018 as a method of maintaining city functions next to the outgrown City Hall at a lower cost alternative to new construction. It was constructed in 1980 and will require a major overhaul to increase its useful life.

AN EXPANDED AND IMPROVED CITY HALL

- Improved service accessibility
- Community room available for public use
- New council chambers with updated technology
- Additional conference rooms
- Co-locate Washington County Sheriff staff
- Office space for growth of city staff
- Accessible restrooms.

