



fresh

Your Weekly Source for City News and Information

Public Meetings Next Week

- Planning Commission Meeting Monday, May 24th - Canceled



[City Agendas and Minutes](#)

Visit our website



City Offices are once again be open to the public. City Council, Commission, and Board Meetings are held in the Council Chambers.

Monday, May 24 Planning Commission Cancellation Notice



*Our Mission is to Provide Quality Public
Services in a Fiscally Responsible Manner
While Preserving the City's Open Space
Character*

NOTICE OF MEETING CANCELATION

**City of Lake Elmo Planning Commission
3800 Laverne Avenue North**

**Monday May 24, 2021
Meeting has been cancelled**

Tuesday, May 18 City Council Meeting Summary

At their regular meeting on Tuesday, May 18th the Lake Elmo City Council:

- Approved Design Development Plans for New City Center and Public Works Addition
- Approved the 2021-2022 City Work Plan
- Selected Raftelis/The Novak Consulting Group to Perform an Operational Audit of the Planning and Building Departments

On the consent agenda the Council:

- Approved Payment of Disbursements
- Accepted the April 2021 Building Department Report
- Accepted the April 2021 Public Works Department Report
- Accepted the April 2021 Fire Department Report
- Approved Pay Request No. 1 for Old Village Phase 5 and 6 Improvements
- Approved Pay Request No. 1 for Heritage Farms Street and Utility Improvements
- Approved Pay Request No. 1 for Hamlet on Sunfish Lake Street and Utility Improvements
- Approved Pay Request No. 2 for 31st Street/Stillwater Blvd Watermain Extension
- Approved Pay Request No. 6 for Stonegate Addition Street and Utility Improvements
- Approved Pay Request No. 7 for Well No. 5 Pumphouse Improvements
- Approved Union Park West Final Plat
- Approved Union Park West DA
- Approved Easton Village 7th Addition Final Plat
- Approved Professional Services Agreement with Evergreen Land Services
- Approved Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement

Public Facilities Project Update



- 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

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.



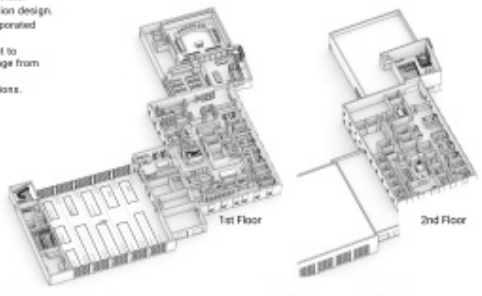
Lake Elmo City Hall, built in 1986, is a very small 2,806 SF. There are insufficient offices for all staff members and the restrooms are not accessible. The council chambers are small, do not provide sufficient space for department heads or members of the public, and lack modern technological updates. 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.



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



FOOD TRUCK FRIDAY!

COMMUNITY EVENT
Fridays from 4:30 - 7:00 pm



Mahtomedi District Education Center
1520 Mahtomedi Ave, Mahtomedi

April 16	iPierogi + Xssant
May 21	El Pariente + D and D Goodies Asian flair + KP Concessions Mini Donuts
June 18	Up in Smoke + KEO's Shave Ice
July 23	Pig Approved BBQ + Maui Wowie
August 13	The Big Cheese + Cookies & Cream Scoop Shop

*Yard Games! Outdoor seating only.
Bring a lawn chair or blanket.
Rain or Shine.*

White Bear Area Senior Center
2484 E County Rd F, WBL

April 23	iPierogi + Droolin' Moose
May 14	Pig Approved BBQ + Cookies & Cream Scoop Shop
June 25	KCM Egg Rolls
July 16	Up in Smoke + KEO's Shave Ice
August 20	The Big Cheese + Maui Wowie

*Indoor/Outdoor seating.
Or bring a lawn chair.
Rain or Shine*



Grab & Go or Stay & Eat!

A portion of proceeds are donated back to:
White Bear Lake / Support Senior Programs
Mahtomedi / Support Community Ed Scholarships

Spring has sprung!

Advice for eco-friendly landscaping, native gardens, & shoreline buffers

☐ "Leaf" some for the bees

In the early days of spring, many pollinators and beneficial insects are still in hibernation. Wait until the daytime temps are consistently above 50°F to cut down stems and rake leaves out of garden beds.

☐ Wait to rake or fertilize your lawn

In the early spring, most lawns are still soft. Raking injures the grass and creates bare patches for weeds to grow. Fertilizing too early encourages the grass to grow tall instead of building healthy roots.

☐ Don't trim oak branches or dig near oaks

April, May and June are high risk months for oak wilt, a fungal disease that kills thousands of oak trees every year.

☐ Plan a native garden

Native plants provide food and habitat for birds and pollinators and don't need irrigation, fertilizer, or lawn chemicals.

Use the "Plant Finder" tool at www.BlueThumb.org to learn which native plants are best suited for your yard - whether it is sunny or shady, wet or dry. The website also has links to native plant retailers.

☐ Attend a free workshop

Native shoreline buffers: April 29, 6-7:15pm
Register online: tinyurl.com/shorelines21

All Things Raingarden: May 11, 6-7:15pm
Register online: tinyurl.com/raingarden21

Blue Thumb - Planting for Clean Water:
• Resilient Yards
• Bee Lawns
• Planting for Clean Water
More dates at bluethumb.org/events

☐ Schedule a free site visit

www.mnwcd.org/site-visit-signup-form

A typical site visit lasts 30-60min:
• Begin planning native garden, raingarden, and shoreline planting projects
• Get advice on ways to manage erosion and invasive species
• Learn about available grants

East Metro Water Resource Education Programs

- [Raingarden Workshop](#) – May 11, 6-7:15pm
- [2021 Workshops for the Public](#)

Public Works Crews will begin filling potholes on Lake Elmo streets Monday, March 1st. Feel free to report potholes by calling Public Works at 651-747-3940 or City Hall at 651-747-3900. Please slow down when approaching street crews. Thank you for your cooperation.





The City of Lake Elmo is Accepting Applications for the Following Positions:

- Building Official
- Paid on Call Firefighters

[Visit our website](#)

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



Hosted by MPCA

REDUCE YOUR WASTED FOOD CHALLENGE!

Washington County
begins April 19th

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Reduce Your Wasted Food Challenge launches Monday, April 19th. Sign up to get tools to track your wasted food at home, prevent waste (by repurposing leftovers and food scraps), and save money. [Sign-up](#) to receive follow-up information and join the Washington County team.



Lake Elmo businesses are invited to sign up to attend National Night Out on Tuesday, August 3rd. This event will bring together old and new residents of Lake Elmo in a community building campaign to promote partnerships with law enforcement and local businesses. If you are interested in participating please fill out the linked form below.

[Sign Up Here](#)



April 7, 2021

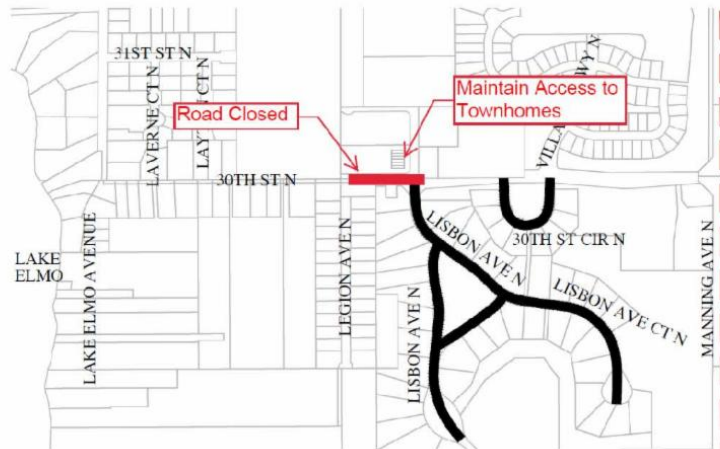
CONSTRUCTION NOTICE HERITAGE FARMS STREET AND UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS

The City of Lake Elmo is proceeding with the extension of sanitary sewer and reconstruction of public roadways in the Heritage Farms Neighborhood (Lisbon Avenue, Lisbon Avenue Court, and 30th Street Circle south of 30th Street North). **The 30th Street work will begin the week of April 12th and requires the complete closure of 30th Street North from EAST of Legion Avenue North to EAST of Lisbon Avenue North.** The work is anticipated to take four weeks to complete. A detour route will be posted in advance of construction beginning.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation during this construction project. Please direct questions and concerns during the project to Chad Isakson:

chad.isakson@FOCUSengineeringinc.com

651.300.4283



3880 Laverne Avenue North Suite 100 * Lake Elmo * Minnesota * 55042 * 651.747.3900



HIGHWAY 36 AND MANNING AVENUE INTERCHANGE PROJECT

Washington
County

New Construction Update Available

Follow the link below to see the latest Construction Update:

[Construction Update: March 2, 2021](#)

To learn more about the project, visit the project website at:

www.co.washington.mn.us/Manning36Interchange

County Highway 13 (Ideal Avenue) Phase II

Washington County in partnership with the City of Lake Elmo are providing an online project update on the proposed improvements to Ideal Avenue between County Highway 14 and 44th Street. The project website provides program information and updates.

[Project Website](#)



**ADOPT
A STORM
DRAIN**



Storm drains in our city help to protect neighborhoods from flooding, but they also carry litter and polluted runoff from streets and parking lots into nearby lakes and streams.

You can make a difference by volunteering just 15-minutes, twice a month, to keep their nearest storm drain clear of litter, leaves, grass clippings and dirt. To sign up: go to www.Adopt-a-Drain.org and use the map to find your neighborhood storm drains – then click and sign-up to adopt.

Xcel Energy providing \$17.5 million to help residential customers behind on electric bills

Xcel Energy will soon begin delivering \$17.5 million in assistance to residential customers who have fallen significantly behind on the electric bills during the COVID-19 recession, which has caused economic hardship for many in our communities. The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission approved the plan this week, which will help customers who may have the most trouble catching up on their bills.

Temporary Rate Discount for Small and Mid Sized Businesses from Xcel Energy

If your business has experienced a material impact from the pandemic, along with an electric load decrease of 25% or more in electric demand as a direct result of the



COVID-19 pandemic or civil unrest, you may be eligible for a temporary 25% discount on base energy and demand charges.

[Information Available Here](#)

Sally Manzara Interpretive Nature Center Update

Calling All Volunteers... The Sally Manzara Interpretive Nature Center Is Opening June 1!

We are happy to announce the opening of the Nature Center on June 1 **BUT** we need your help as a greeter/receptionist for a 4-hour shift either morning or afternoon Monday-Sunday.

We will provide a training session in June. There will be additional sessions once a month or an individual session if needed. We request that you are vaccinated.

Can't commit to a regular shift? Would you help as a substitute and/or volunteer for events?

Volunteer with a friend! Know of someone who might like to help?

Thanks to a donation by the Lake Elmo Jaycees to buy a Defibrillator, we will have summer Training Classes for our volunteers.

Please respond to sharon.simpson@sminc-lake-elmo.org with your requested time slot(s), as a substitute, or a volunteer for events.

For Questions see our website www.sminc-lake-elmo.org or Contact Connie Kirk at 651-491-3853.

Help us open the doors!





Well sampling in the east metro area

If you live in the area that is a priority for testing, you can request that your private well water be tested.

- To see if you live in the priority sampling area, use the [interactive map](#).
- If you live in the priority sampling area, you can request to have your well tested by filling out and [submitting this online form](#).

More information about the priority testing area is available on the Well sampling in the [East Metro Area webpage](#).

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 FARMER'S MARKET

A 501/C/3 NON-PROFIT

We will open June 19 Saturday 9am to 1pm to Sept 4th

We are located at LE Elementary School

**Please note Date was wrong on last week's issues of
Fresh.**

**Please note our last day of the Market. Please accept
our apologies.**

Thank you

Our Market is Full and we have a great selection.

Visit us at our "Lake Elmo Farmer's Market" Facebook site.

Like us on Facebook "Lake Elmo Farmers Market" and watch for updates!

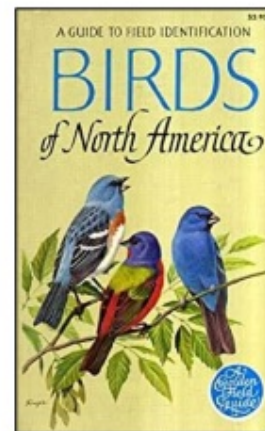
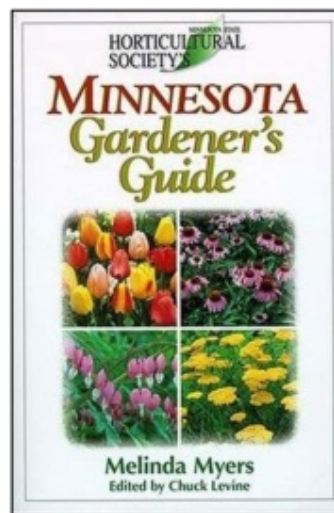
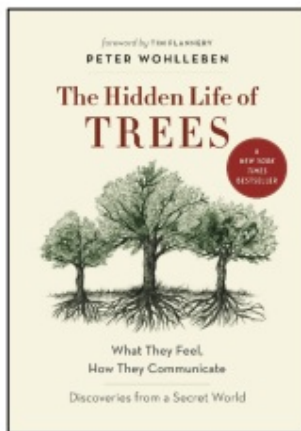


MAY BOOK SALE LAKE ELMO LIBRARY

Branch of WASHINGTON COUNTY LIBRARY
3537 Lake Elmo Ave.

FEATURING BOOKS ON
GARDENING,
NATURE AND BIRDS

HARDCOVER BOOKS \$2 / PAPERBACKS \$1



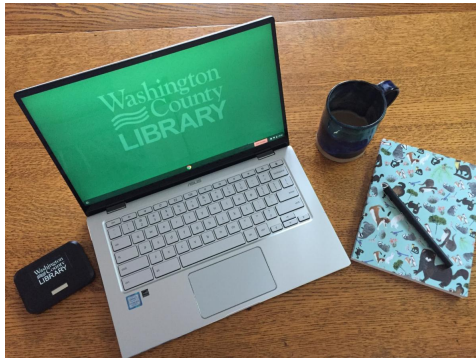
Washington County Library branches
are open for express service.

Washington
County
LIBRARY

- Pick up holds • Browse materials
- Use computers for 1 hour or less
- Schedule curbside pickup



Washington County Library branches are currently open for Express Service. Visit the library during reduced hours to browse materials, pick up holds, and use a computer for up to one hour. Curbside service is also available for community members who cannot enter our buildings. Learn how we're keeping the library safe for everyone at WashCoLib.org/COVID19.



Washington County Library now has mobile hotspots and Chromebooks available to check out. Get internet at home or on the go (for free!). Devices can be checked out for one month at a time, and can be renewed three times if there are no other holds. You only need a library card registered in Washington County to borrow a device. More information is available at WashCoLib.org/devices.

Washington County Library Events