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Your Weekly Source for City News and Information

Public Meetings Next Week

- Planning Commission Meeting Monday, January 25 2021 - 7:00PM

[City Agendas and Minutes](#)

*Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic and the State of Emergency the City will be conducting the City Council meeting and public hearings telephonically or by other means. The City Council Chambers will not be open to the public. The City will be broadcasting the meeting via our normal link on the City website.



Visit our website



Stormwater and 4th Quarter Utility Bills are Out



We are receiving a high volume of calls pertaining to the Stormwater Utility Fee that was mailed out early January. These bills are sent to every parcel in the city, regardless of whether or not you have city water and sewer utilities. The revenue received from your stormwater utility fee is used for preparation of a Surface Water Management Plan, maintenance of existing ditches, culverts, ponds and storm sewers, capital improvements in developed areas, equipment, planning, inventories and water quality improvements including weed control. Please note that the stormwater utility fee is a different account from your water and sewer account, so it will not get paid automatically if you are enrolled in auto-pay.

Tuesday, January 19th City Council Meeting Summary

At their regular meeting on Tuesday, December 19th the Lake Elmo City Council:

- Reconsidered Council Representative Appointments to the EDA and Appointed Mayor Cadenhead and Councilmember Jeff Holtz to the EDA
- Ordered the Improvements and Preparation of Plans and Specifications for the Tamarack Farms Estates Street Improvements
- Ordered the Improvement and Adopted the Final Assessment Roll for the Heritage Farms Street and Utility Improvements and Directed Staff to Reexamine the Agreement with the Kruegers for Access to their Property for the Heritage Farms Street and Utility Improvements Project
- Accepted Bids and Awarded the Contract for Heritage Farms Street and Utility Improvements to S.R. Weidema
- Approved a Conditional Use Permit for the Stillwater School District School Bus Terminal
- Approved the Concept Planned Unit Development Review for the Schiltgen Farm Property (10880 Stillwater Blvd)
- Approved Municipal Consent for the Trunk Highway 36 and Manning Avenue Interchange Project
- Granted a Waiver to the Noise Ordinance for the Trunk Highway 36 and Manning Avenue Interchange Construction Project
- Appointed Jordan Graen and Jim Aldinger to the Planning Commission
- Appointed Juan Luis Rivera-Reyes, Peter Kastler, and Hank Hoelscher to the Parks Commission

On the consent agenda the Council:

- Approved Payment of Disbursements and Payroll
- Accepted the December 2020 Building Department Report
- Accepted the December 2020 Public Works Department Report
- Accepted the December 2020 Fire Department Report
- Approved Pay Request No. 4 for Pumphouse No. 5
- Approved a Security Reduction for Lake Elmo Senior Living
- Approved Plans and Specifications for the Hamlet on Sunfish Lake Street and Utility Improvements
- Approved Water Meter Purchase
- Approved Final Plat Recording Time Extension (Wyndham Village)
- Accepted Resignation of Paid on Call Firefighter
- Approved Advertising Utility Billing Clerk

[Meeting materials can be accessed here.](#)

Monday, January 25th Planning Commission Meeting Agenda



3800 Laverne Avenue North
Lake Elmo, MN 55042

(651) 747-3900
www.lakeelmo.org

NOTICE OF MEETING

The City of Lake Elmo
Planning Commission will conduct a meeting on
Monday January 25, 2021
at 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA

Please note:

Due to the Corona Virus pandemic and the State of Emergency, the City will be conducting Planning Commission meeting and public hearings telephonically or by other electronic means. The City Council Chambers will not be open to the public. The City will be broadcasting the meeting via our normal link on the City website - www.lakeelmo.org.

To access the meeting via GoToWebinar:
Use www.gotomeeting.com and select "join". Enter webinar ID 561-308-235

To access the meeting via telephone:
Call 1-562-247-8422, when prompted enter access code 774-540-418

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Election of Officers – Chairperson and Vice Chairperson
3. Approve Agenda
4. Approve Minutes
 - a. December 14, 2020
5. Public Hearings
 - a. **ZONING CODE TEXT AMENDMENT:** The Planning Commission will be reviewing a proposed change to the allowed residential density range in V-LDR (Village Low Density Residential) zoning district. The proposed change would change the allowed residential density range from 1.5 – 2.49 units an acre to 1.5 to 3.00 units an acre.
 - b. **ZONING CODE TEXT AMENDMENTS:** Zoning Code Clean Up: The Planning Commission will be reviewing several proposed minor zoning code amendments to clean-up, correct and clarify several sections of the Zoning Code. The proposed changes include corrections to several parts of the text of the zoning code that will not drastically change the intent or purpose of the zoning code. The Sections of the Zoning Code proposed for changes are 154.080 E (Lake and Stream Frontage), Section 154.080 I (Minimum Area requirements for Lots without Public Sanitary Sewer), Section 154.081 A (permitted encroachments in any yards), Section 154.081 (permitted encroachments in side and rear yards) and Section 154.551, reference standards listed in Table 12-1: Permitted, Conditional and Interim Uses, Commercial Districts.

[Register For Virtual Meeting](#)

[Meeting Materials Can Be Accessed Here](#)



Lake Elmo Public Works is continuing to upgrade water meters in 2021. Should you receive a meter replacement letter or door tag please call Public Works to schedule an appointment. The process takes approximately 15 minutes and is at no cost to the homeowner. If you received a letter or door tag and do not want work performed in your home at this time please contact Public Works.



Lake Elmo Public Works
651-747-3940



Washington County Opens Next Round of COVID-19 Relief Funding

At the County Board Meeting on Tuesday the Board approved a second round of COVID-19 Relief Funding for businesses. Eligibility requirements, funding information, and applications are available [here](#).

**The City of Lake Elmo is
Accepting Applications for**



Multiple Commissions and Boards

The City of Lake Elmo is experiencing an exciting time of community growth. The City is fortunate to have active and involved residents on its commissions providing valuable input for future projects and growth. The City is currently seeking applications for:

- Planning Commission
- Economic Development Authority
- Citizen Representative to the Ramsey Washington Suburban Cable Commission

If you are interested in serving the community in this capacity, please contact City Hall at 651-747-3900 for an application form. The application form is also available [here](#).



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

- Building Official
- Full Time Utility Billing Clerk
- Paid on Call Firefighters

[Visit our website](#)

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](#)



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](#)



Winter Parking Ordinance Now In Effect

The Winter parking ordinance prohibits parking on Lake Elmo Streets from November 1 through March 31 between 2:00AM and 7:00AM. Public Works cannot clear roadways with cars blocking the path.



Lions Park Ice Rink Open

The Lions Park Ice Rink and pleasure rink are open to the public. The warming house is not open, and there are no staffed attendants. Due to the Governor's orders rink capacity is limited to 15 persons.

Ice condition is currently: FAIR

Sally Manzara Interpretive Nature Center Update

In mid-October, four volunteers from the Sally Manzara Interpretive Nature Center in Lake Elmo's Sunfish Lake Park, were doing a socially-distant brainstorming session looking for ways that the Nature Center could reach out and help the community during the COVID 19 pandemic. One of the volunteers suggested a nature coloring calendar. This fit perfectly with the Nature Center's mission to teach and provide activities relating to nature which would be suitable for all ages.

Now, how to do this while socially distancing? All they had to do was email the idea to other creative and dedicated volunteers and the project immediately was tackled full force. Working from home, one volunteer provided beautiful pictures of the birds she had taken in Sunfish Lake Park. Another likes to sketch and so he converted these images into line drawings that could be colored. Yet another had given the Nature Center a sketch that he had done of the building and grounds. No surprise, another volunteer stepped forward as he had a background in graphic design and offered to do the layout of the calendar, which he did from his winter home in Florida.

They had designed a calendar. But that wasn't enough. An angel donor had given the Nature Center a donation to incorporate Spanish into the programs, exhibits and curriculum. Our graphic designer translated the calendar into Spanish and another edited it for accuracy. So now the calendar is in Spanish and well as English.

Bayport Printing House got on board and supported this project with wonderful friendly service as well as community-service pricing.

Each month shows a color picture of a seasonally appropriate bird, and next to it is the line drawing to be colored. It was decided to omit the standard holiday designations in favor of letting the calendar users such as seniors, families, schools, or individuals, fill in their own significant days. The calendar could also be used as a journal or as a birdwatcher's diary. It was suggested that one could send a copy of the calendar to distant family members and use Zoom or Facetime to discuss which events to write in. Spanish Immersion classes would benefit from this calendar too.

Packets of the calendars were distributed to the Senior Residences that have been partnering with the nature center, and to the staff at the Lake Elmo School where Spanish Immersion is gaining traction. While delivering these to the care centers one volunteer said she felt like it really was Christmas, delivering gifts to those who needed something special right now. These calendars are available for order at www.sminc-lake-elmo.org/Order a Calendar.



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](#)



Washington County Library branches are open for express service.

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

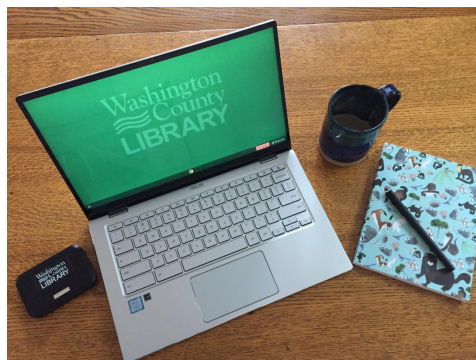


Washington County Library branches are currently open for Express Service. Visit the library during reduced hours to browse materials, pick up holds, and use a computer for up to one hour.

Curbside service is also available for community members who cannot enter our buildings.

To limit personal contact and follow social distancing guidelines, meeting rooms are currently closed and seating within the library has been removed. 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

Practice Smart Salting This Winter to Protect our Water

1. Shovel first
2. Use less - 12oz of salt melts 10 sidewalk squares, or a 20ft driveway
3. Don't use salt when it's below 15 degrees
4. Sweep up and reuse leftovers
5. Drive slow and wear boots!

PROTECT OUR WATER FROM SALT POLLUTION

WEAR BOOTS

When it is snowy and icy, wear boots or shoes with good traction to avoid falling.

Consider buying Yaktrax or winter cleats.





Full Moon Wolf Hike at Lake Elmo Park Reserve

Join us for a guided hike under the first full moon of the year. This 3-mile “Wolf” moon hike will take place at Lake Elmo Park Reserve around Eagle Point Lake

[More Information Available Here](#)



Public Facilities Project Update

At the December 15th meeting the City Council approved agreements with Leo A Daly and H+U Construction for the design and construction of a colocated City Hall and Fire Station, as well as an addition to the Public Works facility. As progress is made we will be sending out frequent updates to residents using our website, social media, and newsletters.

