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Your Weekly Source for City News and Information

Public Meetings Next Week

- City Council Meeting Tuesday, February 2 - 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.

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

Tuesday, February 2 City Council Meeting Agenda



NOTICE OF MEETING
City Council Meeting
Tuesday, February 2, 2021 7:00 P.M.
City of Lake Elmo | 3800 Laverne Avenue North

Due to the Corona Virus pandemic and the State of Emergency, the City will be conducting the City Council 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 297-445-091
- To access the meeting via telephone: Call +1 (631) 992-3221, when prompted, enter audio access code 863-594-373

Agenda

- A. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance**
- B. Approval of Agenda**
- C. Approval of Minutes**
 - 1. January 12, 2021, January 19, 2021
- D. Public Comments/Inquiries**
- E. Presentations**
- F. Consent Agenda**
 - 2. Approve Payment of Disbursements
 - 3. Approve Keene Farm Lease for 2021
 - 4. Approve Security Reduction for Lake Elmo Senior Living (Independent Living)
 - 5. Approve Cooperative Agreement Payment No. 3 for Inwood-5th Street Traffic Signal Improvements
 - 6. Approve Resolution Establishing Municipal State Aid Streets – Resolution 2021-016
 - 7. Approve Capital Improvement Committee - Resolution 2021-018
 - 8. Approve Special Assessment Abatement - Resolution 2021-017
- G. Regular Agenda**
 - 9. Targeted Residential Picketing Ordinance Proposal - Ordinance 08-242
 - 10. Goal Setting Session
 - 11. Approve F550 Dump/Chipper Box Purchase
 - 12. Hunting Ordinance - Ordinance 08-244
- H. Council Reports**
- I. Staff Reports and Announcements**
- J. Adjourn**

[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: GOOD

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.





Help Name the Sanctuary Neighborhood Park!

The City of Lake Elmo is seeking naming suggestions for the St. Croix's Sanctuary Neighborhood Park.

[More Information and Naming Suggestions Here](#)

Public Facilities Project Update

The City of Lake Elmo, along with Leo A Daly Architects and H+U Construction, are currently in the Schematic Design phase of the new City Hall and Fire Station construction and Public Works addition. Most recently a survey and soil borings were performed at the City offices site.

