



fresh

Your Weekly Source for City News and Information

Public Meetings Next Week:

- City Council Meeting, Tuesday, January 16th, 7:00 p.m.
- Parks Commission Meeting, Wednesday, January 17th, 6:30 p.m.



City offices will be closed on Monday, January 15th in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day



Visit our website

Join us on Nextdoor



NOTICE OF MEETING

City Council Meeting

Tuesday, January 16, 2024 7:00 P.M.

City of Lake Elmo | 3880 Laverne Avenue North

AGENDA

A. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

B. Approval of Agenda

C. Approval of Minutes

1. January 2, 2024

D. Public Comments/Inquiries

E. Presentations

F. Consent Agenda

2. Approve Payments and Disbursements
3. Approve Planning Commission Reappointments
4. Accept Improvements and Approve Security Reductions for the Northport 3rd Addition
5. Approve Upper 33rd St Townhome Conditional Use Permit Extension; *Resolution 2024-010*
6. Approve Final Plat Extension Prairie Skies; *Resolution 2024-011*
7. Approve Final Plat Extension Northstar 1st Addition; *Resolution 2024-012*
8. Approve Pay Request No. 5 (FINAL) for 2023 Trail Improvements
9. Approve Tractor Purchase
10. Approve Bulk Water Meter Purchase
11. Approve Purchase of Public Works Backup Generator
12. Approve Purchase of Fire Department Brush 2 Replacement Truck
13. Approve Purchase of Permitting Software
14. Approve Outdoor Warning Siren JPA Update
15. Approve Job Description for City Administrator

G. Regular Agenda

16. MYP Agriculture Zoning Text Amendment; *Ordinance 2024-02; Resolution 2024-014*
17. Carmelite Nun Conditional Use Permit; *Resolution 2024-013*
18. Search Firm for City Administrator

H. Council Reports

I. Staff Reports

- 4th Quarter 2023 Dashboards

J. Closed Session

The City Council will hold a closed meeting pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 13D.05, Subdivision 3(b) to discuss matters protected by the attorney-client privilege relating to the pending contested case hearing before the Office of Administrative Hearings entitled "In the Matter of Amendments to Various Water Appropriation Permits."

K. Adjourn

NOTICE OF MEETING

City of Lake Elmo Parks Commission
3880 Laverne Avenue North
January 17, 2024
6:30 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approve Agenda
4. Approve Minutes
 - a) December 18th, 2023
5. Public Comment
6. Appoint Chair and Vice-Chair
7. January 9, 2024 City Council Workshop review
8. Pebble & Demontreville Playground Replacement
9. Dog Park Name
10. Dog Park Construction
11. Communications
12. Adjourn

Full meeting packets and meeting can be accessed here:
[Agendas and Minutes](#)

2024 Presidential Primary Election Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Early & absentee voting begins next week

In-person absentee voting will begin
January 19 and run through March 4.
at Vote Centers:



- Cottage Grove Service Center: 13000 Ravine Parkway, Cottage Grove.
- Forest Lake Headwaters Service Center: 19955 Forest Road N, Forest Lake.
- Washington County Government Center: 14949 62nd Street. N., Stillwater.
- Woodbury City Hall: 8301 Valley Creek Road, Woodbury.

Starting February 16, in-person absentee voting will also be available at
Oakdale City Hall, 1584 Hadley Ave. N., Oakdale.

Hours:

Monday - Friday: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 2: 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Monday, March 4: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.



Highway 36 & Lake Elmo Avenue Improvement Project Online Engagement is now live!

Washington County, in partnership with MnDOT and the Cities of Grant and Lake Elmo, has hosted a series of open houses to plan for future improvements to the Highway 36 and County Highway 17 (Lake Elmo Avenue) Intersection.

Click the link below to view proposed design alternatives, and to learn about the schedule and next steps for the project.

An online engagement is available for viewing with all of the information that was shared at the most recent in-person open house on Wednesday, January 10. Visit the online engagement anytime on the project website January 10 — January 24 to provide your feedback. Project website link: [Lake Elmo Ave.](#)

Winter Parking

Please remember that the City of Lake Elmo has a winter parking ordinance that **prohibits parking on city streets from November 1st through March 31st between 2:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m.** This gives crews a window of time for clearing streets curb to curb more efficiently. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation!



The City of Lake Elmo has been working with Washington County and their environmental specialist to incorporate recycling efforts in our downtown area and at the new City Center. A grant provided by Washington County offered the city an opportunity to place bins throughout downtown, Lions Park and VFW Field, and at City Hall. These bins will help promote recycling throughout the area and can help reduce waste up to 60% in common areas.

Drop Box Available

The new City Center building has a convenient drop box located on the front of the building.



Utility payments, permit applications and other documents may be dropped in the box during or after office hours.



**View the winter constellations 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 19,
at Lake Elmo Park Reserve**

Make the stars your old friends while watching the great celestial show in the skies. Following a short orientation, get to know constellations such as The Big Bear, Orion the Hunter, Gemini the Twins, and Taurus the Bull, and hear the stories behind them. The event will be hosted by retired WCCO meteorologist Mike Lynch, who has been hosting star watch events and teaching astronomy for more than 50 years.

The group will use large telescopes, among the largest mobile telescopes in Minnesota, for close-up views of the moon, Jupiter, star clusters, nebulae, galaxies, and other wonders in the winter skies. Participants will receive a handout package with user-friendly star maps and constellation charts, apps, websites, a telescope-buying guide, and more. Dress to be outdoors for the majority of the program. Bring a lawn chair or anything else needed for comfort.

Cost is \$5 per person. Children ages 6 years old and younger are free. Register online at the Washington County website. See www.co.washington.mn.us and search "Parks programs and events." Lake Elmo Park Reserve is at 1515 Keats Ave. N. in Lake Elmo.



Parks Master Plan Survey

Lake Elmo Residents are invited to participate in a survey to help the City gather information for creation of a master parks plan. Please take a few minutes to share your feedback with us! The QR code to the left will take you directly to the survey, or you can also access the survey here: [Parks Master Plan Survey](#)



Emerald Ash Borer

Washington County will remove ash trees from Lake Elmo Park Reserve

Washington County is continuing ash tree removal within Lake Elmo Park Reserve in response to the emerald ash borer. Starting Nov. 15 through March 31, 2024, ash trees will be removed near trails and in natural areas of the park. These removals will help minimize risk to the public from falling trees and will also reduce fuel loads that can increase fire risk within the park.

To complete the work, a contractor will be using equipment to cut and haul the trees to staging areas, before chipping and removing debris from the site. Once work commences, ski trails on the south side of Lake Elmo and the snowmobile trail will be closed. Only ash trees will be removed, and new bareroot trees will be planted in suitable areas in the spring of 2024.

See the county website at to view a map of ash trees. Green dots are trees to be removed, and purple dots are ash trees surveyed in summer of 2023. If time and weather conditions allow, staff will also remove dead or dying ash trees along the property boundaries.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture website has more information about the emerald ash borer at www.mda.state.mn.us/eab

The Sally Manzara Interpretive Nature Center is open every day
Visit <https://sminc-lake-elmo.org/> for details.



The Sally Manzara Interpretive Nature Center in Lake Elmo's Sunfish Lake Park is operated by a non-profit organization for the benefit of the entire community. We offer programs and events for people of all ages and have "adopted" the Park in the City's program. This work is all funded by donations. Thank you for your support!

Here are some things happening at the SMINC:

- Summer Camps for 2024 are coming together! We had almost full attendance in the camps for 2023, some campers from the early sessions signed up for the later sessions because they enjoyed them so much. Options for 2024 are four-day Sunfish Explorer camps (Monday through Thursday) and Wonder Wednesdays for ages 6 -10. Also, back by popular demand, our Little Explorers program (pre-K families), which will be hosted on Monday mornings. If you have a specific question, please email camps@sminc-lake-elmo.org.



- We got a dusting of snow this week. It feels a little more like winter around here. Plenty of folks have been coming by, enjoying the respite from the freezing cold, but we think winter at the SMINC (and Sunfish Lake Park) has its charms too. As the snow begins to accumulate, make sure you save time for a winter hike. We'll be here!

- This month we will be welcoming back Julie Schroeder for another painting workshop. On Friday, January 26 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Julie will be walking students through mixed-media painting. The cost is \$75, and that includes supplies.

- Volunteers needed! We couldn't keep our doors open without the help of our

amazing volunteers. Do you think you'd like to be part of our team? We have all kinds of opportunities, from cleaning to snow removal to handling reception at the front desk. Currently we REALLY need volunteers to come in Saturday mornings and afternoons. If you're interested, reach out to our Volunteer Coordinator, Amanda. You can email her at amanda.vosberg@sminc-lake-elmo.org



Get your kids outdoors exploring nature this summer!

2024 Camp Schedule

Sunfish Explorers

Monday - Thursday from 9am-12 noon
Our weeklong camps will encourage and educate the youth of tomorrow about the beauty and importance of a healthy outdoors. Activities include hikes, crafts, games and of course a little education about the outdoors!

- Outdoor Adventures - June 17-20
- Bees & Butterflies – July 8-11
- Birds! - July 22-25
- Bugs! – August 5-8
- **Nature's Kaleidoscope**– August 19-22

Wonder Wednesdays

Wednesdays from 9am-2pm
Our one-day, fun-filled, Wonder Wednesday's let kids explore the beautiful outdoor setting and learn about their surrounding environment. It is run by experienced instructors and the days include interpretive education, games, crafts to bring home, free play and hikes.

- Earth Elements – June 26
- Nature Appreciation – July 17
- Prairie Explorers – August 14

Little Explorers

Mondays from 9:30am-11:00am (Newborns to 5-year-olds)

Little Explorer sessions are set up for families to come together and give the little ones their first experiences exploring nature. The first hour will be a structured activity based on the day's theme. The last 30 minutes we encourage open play, to give families an opportunity to explore on their own. Adults must stay with their children at all times.

- Camp Out – June 10
- Flower Power – June 24
- Into the Woods – July 1
- Pollinators – July 15
- Bird Mania – July 29
- Bugs! – August 12



Sally Marzara Interpretive Nature Center is operated by Friends of Lake Elmo's Sunfish Lake Park, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

651-408-2838 | e-mail: info@smlnc-lake-elmo.org | smlnc-lake-elmo.org



Be a part of making regional transportation investment decisions

How would you invest in regional transportation? As part of this round of the Regional Solicitation, the Metropolitan Council and the Transportation Advisory Board would like to know how you would distribute funding for transportation projects across multiple funding categories. Your responses will help inform the Transportation Advisory Board as it considers project selection this spring.

[Use this tool to build your budget and learn more about the funding categories.](#) The budget exercise will be open through Jan. 31.

Washington County is a registered



**NALOXONE
ACCESS
POINT**



**Free naloxone kits and fentanyl test strips may be found at the
Public Health & Environment offices in:**

- Cottage Grove Service Center, 13000 Ravine Parkway, Cottage Grove.
- Forest Lake Service Center, 19955 Forest Road N., Forest Lake.
- Government Center, 14949 N. 62nd St., Stillwater.



Find more information on the program
on the county's website at
www.co.washington.mn.us/NAP



The City of Lake Elmo has begun participation in the State of Minnesota's Performance Measurement Program. This program began in 2010 for cities and counties to report on at least 10 performance measures annually as a way to aid residents, taxpayers, and state and local elected officials in determining the efficacy of counties and cities in providing services and measure residents' opinions of those services.

Click
here to
access
reporting
results

The Valley Branch Watershed District
(VBWD) is a public organization tasked



with protecting and managing local water resources within an area spanning 14 cities and townships in Washington and Ramsey Counties. The VBWD is seeking input from you as it begins updating its Watershed Management Plan which will guide VBWD actions for the next 10 years. Please take a brief (5-10 minute) survey to help the VBWD better understand your concerns and priorities regarding our local water resources.

Link to survey: [Survey](#)

City of Lake Elmo | 3880 Laverne Avenue North, Lake Elmo, MN 55042

[Unsubscribe jjohnson@lakeelmo.org](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent byjjohnson@lakeelmo.orgpowered by



Try email marketing for free today!