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Your Weekly Source for City News and Information

Public Meetings Next Week:

- Planning Commission Meeting, Monday, January 22nd, 7:00 p.m.

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NOTICE OF MEETING

The City of Lake Elmo

Planning Commission will conduct a meeting on
Monday January 22ND 2024
at 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Select a Chair and Vice Chair
3. Approve Agenda
4. Approve Minutes of December 12th, 2023
5. Public Hearing
 - a) **Kramer Lake Comprehensive Plan Amendment.** Tamarack Land Development has submitted a comprehensive plan amendment to revise the MUSA Growth and Phasing Plan (Map 3-7) for PID 35.029.21.44.0012 and 35.029.21.43.0001 from the 2030-2040 (blue) phase to the 2020-2030 (pink) phase.
 - b) **8012 Hill Trail Variance.** Anne and Daniel Stoudt have submitted a variance request to increase impervious surface to 19% on their lot for a home addition where 15% is required in the Shoreland Overlay District. The property had an impervious surface variance approved in 2022 which has since expired due to delays with the contractor. The variance request is generally the same as the prior approval. The property located at 8012 Hill Trl N (PID 04.029.21.33.0044)
 - c) **2023 Zoning Housekeeping Amendments.** The City of Lake Elmo has initiated a housekeeping zoning text amendment. These are typically done annually to clean up and clarify code. This amendment includes section: 105.12.110(b)(1), 105.12.1050(6)(b), 105.12.790, 1.08.010, 105.12.480, and 105.12.260.
6. New/Unfinished Business
 - a) **At Home Apartments Preliminary Plat and PUD.** The Planning Commission held the public hearing and reviewed the application at their meeting December 11th 2023. The Commission voted to table the item.
7. Communications/Updates
 - a) Educational Brochure of Lake Elmo Developments and Pattern on City Website
 - b) City Council Updates – 1/2/24
 - i. Bridgewater Village Preliminary Plat, CUP, CPA, Rezoning
 - c) City Council Updates – 1/16/24
 - i. Carmelite Nun Conditional Use Permit
 - ii. Upper 33rd St Townhome CUP Extension
 - iii. MYP Zoning Text Amendment - Ag District
 - d) Upcoming Meetings
 - i. PC February 12th 2024
 - ii. Joint PC/CC Workshop February 13th, 2024, at 6:30PM
 - iii. PC February 26th, 2024
8. Adjourn

***Note: Every effort will be made to accommodate person or persons that need special considerations to attend this meeting due to a health condition or disability. Please contact the Lake Elmo City Clerk if you are in need of special accommodations.

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.

A few words Carbon Monoxide

Carbon Monoxide:

- is a deadly gas created by incomplete combustion and is found in vehicle exhaust.
- Has no color, odor, or taste which makes it impossible to recognize without detection equipment.
- Is often found in homes with faulty gas fired appliances.



We recommend that:

- You never run a vehicle inside a garage, even with the garage door open.
- Have Carbon Monoxide detectors on every level of your home, within ten feet of sleeping areas.
- You purchase a stand alone Carbon Monoxide / Combustible Gas detector that plugs into the wall, has a digital display, and battery backup for installation in mechanical rooms.

Carbon Monoxide poisoning is dangerous. Symptoms include:

- Weakness.
- Drowsiness.
- Headaches.
- Confusion.
- Shortness of Breath.

If you experience these symptoms or your Carbon Monoxide alarm sounds, call 911 immediately.



**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.

See more information at www.co.washington.mn.us/parks. Follow Washington County Parks on social media at @WashCountyParks.



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 [www.washingtoncountymn.gov](#) 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:

- It's that time of year, the temps are barely getting above zero so of course you're signing kiddos up for summer camp! Here at the SMINC we've finalized our camp offerings, but we still have some tweaks to make to our website's registration page to ensure a more user-friendly experience. We hope to be ready to take reservations by February. Keep an eye on our website and check out the flyer (after this page) for dates and camp themes.



- We're counting birds! Join us at the Center from Friday, February 16 through Monday, February 19 for the Great Backyard Bird Count! We will be counting and identifying birds from inside and outside the nature center. We encourage families to join us and no experience is necessary!! If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Verity Davis at verity.davis@sminc-lake-elmo.org by February 1, 2024.

- Our artist friend, Julie Schroeder, will be back in the new year with another painting workshop. On Friday, January 26, Julie will be giving a mixed media workshop from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The cost is \$75, which includes supplies. To register, you can contact Julie directly at: brushcolour@yahoo.com



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](#)

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