



fresh

Your Weekly Source for City News and Information

Public Meetings Next Week:

- Planning Commission Monday, March 25th, 7:00 p.m.



[Visit our website](#)

[Join us on Nextdoor](#)

[Visit our Website](#)





NOTICE OF MEETING

The City of Lake Elmo

Planning Commission will conduct a meeting on

Monday March 25th 2024

at 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approve Agenda
3. Approve Minutes of March 11th, 2024
4. Public Hearing
 - a) **Chavez Comprehensive Plan Amendment and Zoning Map Amendment.** Joe and Joan Chavez have submitted a comprehensive plan amendment application and zoning map amendment application for the property located at PID 14.029.21.24.0004. The Comprehensive plan amendment would reguide the property from Rural Area Development (RAD) to Village Low Density Residential (V-LDR) and amend the MUSA boundary to include this parcel. The zoning map amendment would rezone the property from Rural Residential (RR) to Village Low Density Residential (V-LDR).
 - b) **Animal Inn Conditional Use Permit Amendment and Variance.** Animal Inn LLC has submitted a conditional use permit amendment application and variance application for the property located at 8611 34th St N. The request is to expand the capacity of their facility capacity with building additions. Variances are requested for flexibility from the limited commercial (LC) zoning district setbacks and off-street parking requirements.
5. New/Unfinished Business
6. Communications/Updates
 - a) City Council Updates
 - i. N/A
 - b) Upcoming Meetings
 - i. April 8th 2024
 - ii. April 22nd, 2024
7. 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 minutes can be accessed here:
[Agendas and Minutes](#)



NEW Online Utility Payment System

The City has implemented a new and exciting online utility account management and payment system, called PAYA. It offers a more user-friendly, intuitive way to manage your accounts, schedule payments, and reach out to your favorite city utility employee.

Sign up today at
www.LakeElmo.org/UB!



Public Works crews are preparing for the forecasted snowy weather that will arrive this weekend. It's been a while since we've seen snow so here are some friendly reminders:

- **Winter parking restrictions are in place until March 31st, so that means NO PARKING on city streets from 2:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. daily and any time snow accumulation meets or exceeds 2 inches, until the streets are cleared of snow.**
 - **To help our crews clear the snow as efficiently as possible, please keep trash containers out of the street, preferably 3-5 feet from the curb.**
 - **Please give plows extras space, stay home if possible, and be safe!**
-



Lake Elmo Fire Department Annual Report

The Lake Elmo Fire Department Annual Report is available online! The report has great information and statistics on the Fire Department's performance and programs. Check it out here: [Annual Report](#) or follow the QR code on the right.



Summer Opportunity: Join our Public Works Team!

We are looking for enthusiastic individuals to join our seasonal team and become an integral part of our city's Public Works crew. This position will complete maintenance and

repair of our city streets and parks.

Position Title: Public Works Seasonal, Part-Time

Hours: Up to 40 hours per week

Shift: Mon-Thu 7:00am – 4:30pm; Fridays 7:00am – 11:00am

Pay: \$17.50 per hour

Duration: May to August

Why choose the City of Lake Elmo?

Hands-On Learning: Receive training in various aspects of parks and street maintenance. From green spaces to bustling streets, you'll gain hands-on experience in the heart of Lake Elmo.

Team Spirit: Work alongside our dedicated full-time Public Works staff who are passionate about making our city shine. You'll be part of a supportive team where your efforts directly contribute to the community's well-being.

Summer Vibes: Enjoy the great outdoors as you soak up the summer sun while making a positive impact on the city's infrastructure.

Ready to embark on a summer journey filled with learning, growth, and new experiences? Don't miss out on this opportunity! Apply now to be part of our dynamic Public Works team. Your adventure awaits!

To apply, please visit <https://www.lakeelmo.org>



**LAKE
ELMO
LOVES
READING**

and trivia!

Join us for a family-friendly night of literary trivia at the Library!
Play for a chance to win a prize. Book donations are welcome.

Thursday, March 28th

Lake Elmo Library, Meeting Room

Trivia starts at 7:00PM!

Arrive by 6:45PM through the back entrance

Limited space, get here early! No more than 4 per team

Book lovers of all ages welcome!

(We ask that 13 and under are accompanied by an adult)

Early sign-up appreciated. Walk-ins allowed until full.

Register at LELR.org/trivia or scan QR code



TRIVIA



Sponsored by your friends at Lake Elmo Loves Reading



Free and Open To All
Rain or Shine

**Landscape Revival:
Lake Elmo**

ONE EVENT & NEW LOCATION

Saturday, June 1, 2024
9 AM to 1 PM + Food truck!

Rockpoint Church
5825 Kelvin Ave N, Lake Elmo, MN 55042
See reverse for map; for more info go online to
tiny.cc/LR24

Photo by Karen Eckman
American Goldfinch on Meadow Blazingstar

**Join Us For Our 13th Annual
More-Than-A-Plant Sale!**

Expo: Visit with local conservation and restoration groups to learn how to select and grow native plants to benefit pollinators, other wildlife, and water quality.

Market: Purchase Minnesota native plants from a variety of local growers. No cultivars or systemic insecticides.

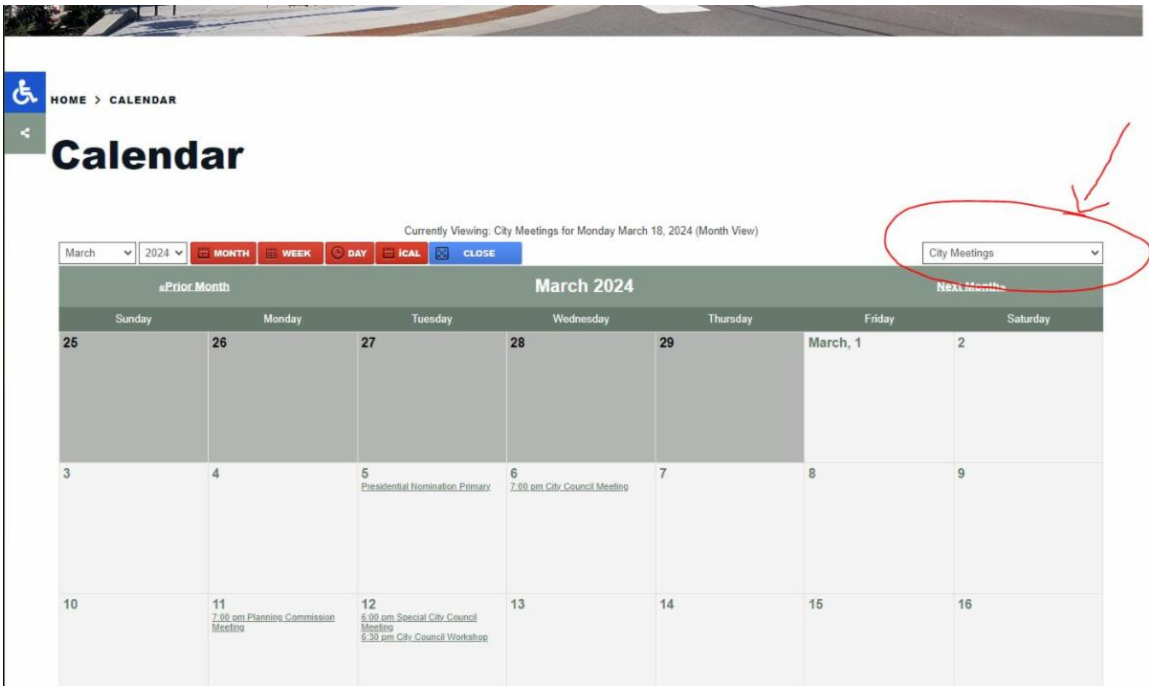
Cash or Check Preferred



City park reservations are now listed on our website

Please visit <https://www.lakeelmo.org>. City Parks that hold rentals for amenities may be found on the home page of the website. Once on the home page, click on VIEW ALL EVENTS above the calendar. City Meetings is the default calendar listed. Toggle between parks with the drop down box on the top right corner of the calendar. Please see screenshot below for details.

Lake Elmo Park Reserve is a County Park. Please contact the county at 651.430.8370 for reservation information.



Paper Shredding Events

Washington County offers free paper

shredding events for confidential papers at the Environmental Center. Documents will be shredded on-site by Shred Right and recycled.



These events are free and open to residents and businesses. Limit: 6 boxes (weighing no more than 30lbs each) per person.

2024 Dates:

Events are on Wednesdays at the Washington County Environmental Center from 8am-4:30pm

- April 17
- May 22
- June 26
- August 14
- September 25
- November 13

Exterior storage, parking and maintenance

As part of our ongoing efforts to maintain the appeal and safety of the City of Lake Elmo, city staff would like to remind residents about regulations pertaining to exterior storage, parking, and upkeep of properties. The way we manage our spaces is important for maintaining our city's quintessential character.



Exterior Storage: All refuse, rubbish, or garbage (as defined in LEC 1.08) shall be kept in an enclosed building or properly contained in a closed container designed for the purposes. The accumulation, storing, or keeping of old machinery, wrecked or inoperable vehicles or household appliances, and unlicensed vehicles and other junk or debris is prohibited.

Parking: Unlicensed passenger vehicles and trucks shall not be parked in residential districts for a period exceeding seven days.

Parking Design and Maintenance: Surfacing and drainage. All off-street parking areas shall be surfaced as follows: Single-family and two-family dwellings shall provide a durable surface with suitable drainage. In all residential, commercial, and mixed-use districts, all areas intended to be utilized for parking space for five or more vehicles and associated driveways shall be paved with a durable surface, including, but not limited to, hot asphalt, bituminous or concrete.



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.

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.

Recycling at Home

Empty and rinse all containers

Glass

Bottles & Jars



Metal

Food & Beverage Cans



Plastic

Bottles & Containers



Cartons



Paper & Cardboard



When in doubt, keep it out. Putting these items in your recycling cart does more harm than good.

NO!

Do Not Bag
Recyclables



No Plastic
Bags or Wrap



No Tangles
(No hoses, wires,
or string lights)



No Shredded
Paper



www.co.washington.mn.us/publichealth | 651-430-6655

Washington
County

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

With Emerald Ash Borer moving heavily into the Lake Elmo area, Public Works is starting to remove dead and dying ash trees from public properties and road right of ways.



Public Works will be prioritizing the removal of trees that are determined to be higher hazards on city property. Pink paint will mark dead and dying Ash trees that will be removed by Public Works Staff. With the number of infected ash trees in the city, we are not able to give a schedule of when we may be in your neighborhood to remove ash trees in the road right of way. Public Works staff will return to grind the stumps below grade, black dirt and seed the areas of the removed ash trees. The city will not be replacing trees that are removed. Property owners are welcome to replace trees but should follow the landscape plan for their development and choose trees that are approved. New planted trees should stay out of the road right of way (15 feet from the curb) as not to obstruct traffic lanes and create road way damage. Staff will start removing ash trees around public buildings, well houses, pavilions, near park amenities and trails. Next they will then start removing ash trees along the road ways and neighborhood streets. Typically the city's road right of way extends roughly 15 feet behind the curb or road edge. Ash trees in this area will be investigated and measured before marked for removal.

Ash tree removal on public property will likely extend over the next couple of years. The City is not responsible for removing trees on private property.

Two links below are good sources to learn more about EAB:

<https://mntca.umn.edu/resources>

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/.../terrestria.../eab/index.html>



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:



- We will be closed on Easter Sunday (3/31). We will keep our regular hours Friday, Saturday and Monday (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.) Happy Easter!

- Speaking of Easter, this upcoming weekend, March 23rd-24th, we will be making miniature Easter baskets for residents of local senior centers. Please bring your family to participate on Saturday 3/23 from 10 AM to Noon or Sunday 3/24 from Noon to 3 PM. This is a FREE opportunity for students or groups to make washcloth rabbits, contribute service hours, brighten someone's day, and have some fun. Questions? call Connie at 651-491-3853.
 - We are extremely happy to announce that tickets are now available for our spring fundraiser! This year's event will be at the Lake Elmo Inn Event Center on May 7th at 6 p.m., and will feature New York Times Bestselling author, and Minnesota favorite, William Kent Krueger. The event will also feature a live and silent auction. Individual tickets are \$125, or you can purchase tickets for a table of 8 for \$1,200, which includes two bottles of wine and a special gift from the SMINC. To purchase tickets, you can visit our website, or go directly to <https://square.link/u/z1jdpkoC>
 - A big thank you to everyone who showed up to see our live stream of Robin Wall Kimmerer's event on Tuesday. It was a really insightful and educational talk, and everyone got some delicious soup! Check out our website for upcoming events!
-

MAKING EASTER BASKETS

FOR A LOCAL CARE CENTER

Saturday, March 23 10 am – 12 pm

Sunday, March 24 1pm – 3 pm



EVERYONE welcome to come help

Sally Manzana Interpretive Nature Center



SALLY MANZARA INTERPRETIVE NATURE CENTER 2024 FUNDRAISER

KEEP US GROWING

A PLACE IN NATURE FOR ALL

TUESDAY, MAY 7 AT 6:00 P.M.

LAKE ELMO INN EVENT CENTER

Special guest
WILLIAM KENT KRUEGER
AWARD WINNING MINNESOTA AUTHOR

\$125 per plate or a table of eight includes two bottles of wine, and a special gift from the SMINC for **\$1,200**.

Evening includes dinner from the **Lake Elmo Inn** and **Silent & Live Auctions**.

Purchase tickets online using Square at sminc-lake-elmo.org or call 651-408-2838



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](mailto:unsubscribe_jjohnson@lakeelmo.org)

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