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Your Weekly Source for City News and Information

Public Meetings Next Week:

- City Council Meeting Tuesday, April 2nd, 7:00 p.m.



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NOTICE OF MEETING

City Council Meeting

Tuesday, April 2, 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. March 19, 2024
- D. Public Comments/Inquiries**
- E. Presentations**
- F. Consent Agenda**
 - 2. Approve Payment of Disbursements
 - 3. Adopt Arbor Day Proclamation
 - 4. Approve AMI Antenna Installation
 - 5. Approve Sunfish Lake Park Stargazing Event
 - 6. Approve Tablyn Park Parking Lot Expansion
 - 7. Approve Revision to Sally Manzara Nature Center Agreement – *Resolution 2024-037*
 - 8. Accept Improvements and Approve Pay Request No. 12 (FINAL) for the Parkview-Cardinal Neighborhood Street and Utility Improvements
 - 9. Approve Pay Request No. 7 for Old Village Phase 7 Street and Utility Improvements
 - 10. Approve 2024 Recycling Grant Agreement with Washington County
 - 11. Approve Change to .gov Website Domain
- G. Regular Agenda**
 - 12. Accept Bids and Award Contract for CSAH 14 Trunk Watermain Improvements – *Resolution 2024-040*
 - 13. Royal Golf 6th Addition Final Plat; *Resolution 2024-038*
 - 14. Peanut Poppy Ranch Minor Subdivision and Easement Vacation; *Resolution 2024-039*
 - 15. Pebble Park Playground Replacement
 - 16. Resolution Supporting Retention of City Zoning Authority – *Resolution 2024-041*
 - 17. City Administrator Search
- H. Council Reports**
- I. Staff Reports**
- J. Adjourn**

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!



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.



I-94 Hwy 120/Century Avenue to the St. Croix River

Oakdale, Woodbury, Landfall, Lake Elmo, Afton and Lakeland

MnDOT will be resurfacing the pavement and making other improvements to I-94 between Hwy 120/Century Avenue and the St. Croix River through fall 2024. In the final year of construction, crews will be repaving I-94 between Century Avenue and Woodbury Drive. However, motorists can expect delays and impacts to roads, ramps and interchanges throughout the project area.

Schedule

Fall 2022 – late fall 2024

Summary of Work

- Resurface pavement and ramps
- Construct new eastbound lane from I-494 to Woodbury Drive
- Install median barrier, replace signage, upgrade lighting and improve drainage
- Resurface south frontage road (Hudson Road) between Manning Avenue and St. Croix Trail N. and add a bikeable shoulder
- Build two noise walls

Estimated Cost

\$120 million

Spring through Mid July Traffic Impacts

Hwy 120/Century Avenue to Woodbury Drive:

- I-94 is reduced to at least two lanes in each direction.
- The ramps from Radio Drive/Inwood Avenue to WB I-94 are closed for up to one month.
- The EB I-94 ramps to/from Woodbury Drive/Keats Avenue N. are closed for up to one month.
- The WB I-94 ramps to/from Woodbury Drive/Keats Avenue N. are closed for up to one month.
- The ramp from Hwy 120/Century Avenue to EB I-94 is closed spring through fall 2024.

At the I-94/I-494/I-694 Interchange:

- The ramp from NB I-494 to WB I-94 is closed from spring through mid-July.
- The ramp from WB I-94 to SB I-494 is closed from spring through mid-July.
- The ramp from 10th Street to NB I-694 is closed from spring through fall 2024.
- The ramp from WB I-94 to NB I-694 is closed for up to six weeks.
- The ramp from SB I-694 to WB I-94 is closed for up to six weeks.

At the I-94/Hwy 95/St. Croix Trail N. Interchange:

- I-94 is reduced to two lanes in each direction from Hwy 95/St. Croix Trail N. to the River Bridge.
- Hwy 95 is closed under the I-94 bridges for up to 30 days.
- The ramp from WB I-94 to St. Croix Trail N. is closed for up to 30 days.
- The ramp from St. Croix Trail N. to EB I-94 is closed for up to 30 days.



Benefits

Improve safety

Improve traffic flow

Reduce congestion

Extend pavement life



Contact

For more information and to sign up for email updates visit:
www.mndot.gov/metro/projects/i94oakdale-stcroix

Email us at: Connect@94toStCroix.com
Call us at: 651-374-9099

Updated Spring 2024



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>



Photo by Karen Eckman
American Goldfinch on Meadow Blazingstar

**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

**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

Landscape Revival
Native Plant Expo & Market

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.

HOME > CALENDAR

Calendar

Currently Viewing: City Meetings for Monday March 18, 2024 (Month View)

March 2024

«Prior Month Next Month»

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	March, 1	2
3	4	5 Presidential Nomination Primary	6 7:00 am City Council Meeting	7	8	9
10	11 7:00 am Planning Commission Meeting	12 6:00 am Special City Council Meeting 8:30 am City Council Workshop	13	14	15	16

Garden Tool Swap

at the Environmental Center



Wednesday, May 1 • 4 – 7 p.m.



Scan to learn more!
WashCoRecycles.com/Reuse

- Donations accepted at the Environmental Center: March 19 - May 1. (Drop off items at front desk or drive-thru lane.)
- The swap is free and open to everyone!
- Donations are not required to get items during the event.
- Limit of 3 items can be taken per person.
- Items remaining after the event will be donated locally.

Examples of items to donate:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| ✓ Hand tools | ✗ No powered tools (electric, gasoline, or battery) |
| ✓ Shovels | |
| ✓ Rakes | ✗ No broken items |
| ✓ Birdfeeders | ✗ No plastic planters |
| ✓ Ceramic pots | ✗ No potting soil/dirt |
| ✓ Clean gloves and more! | ✗ No oversized items |

Environmental Center
4039 Cottage Grove Drive, Woodbury
651-275-7475

Washington
County

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.

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



2024 Dates:

- 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.

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

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!
- **On Saturday, April 20,** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. we will be having our John Neitge Earth Day Celebration at the center. This is a free event. The theme for this year's Earth Day is "Planet vs. Plastics." This is an opportunity to learn about ways that plastics affect our ecosystem, how they affect our health and what we can do about it. We'll have information about products and services, including textile recycling, that can help individuals reduce their reliance on plastics!



- Ever wonder where those **beautiful walking sticks** in Sunfish Lake Park come from? On April 27, from 1-3 pm, come and meet Tim Hugley, a local resident who will chat about why and how he creates those beautiful walking sticks that he provides for our park. Best of all, you get to paint your own walking stick and take it home with you! The cost of this event is \$30, which includes supplies.

- **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>

John Neitge
Earth Day
Celebration

Saturday, April 20th
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Sally Manzara Interpretive Nature
Center, located at Lake Elmo's
Sunfish Lake Park**

**The theme of this year's Earth Day is
"Planet vs. Plastics". Come learn all about how
you can play a part in reducing plastics
pollution in our community!**

Every day we are learning more about the negative effects of plastics use. The plastics in our everyday products contain a range of chemicals, many of which we are just learning about, and many of which go unregulated. Unlike natural

products and fibers, plastics do not break down, they only get smaller and smaller. Microplastics have been found everywhere, including here at Sunfish Lake. Come in and get some useful information about recycling and reusing plastics, and

learn about programs and products that will help you break away from your reliance on plastics-based products. We will have information about textile recycling, natural cleaning products, plastics-free storage solutions, and more!



Sally Manzara 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@sminc-lake-elmo.org | sminc-lake-elmo.org



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



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

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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