



# fresh

Your Weekly Source for City News and Information

## Public Meetings Next Week:

- Planning Commission Monday, March 13th, 7:00 p.m.
- City Council Workshop Tuesday, March 14th, 6:30 p.m.



*Don't forget to change your clocks this Saturday night before you go to bed! When changing the clocks it's also a good time to replace the batteries in your **smoke and carbon monoxide detectors** and test them if they are plugged in or hard wired.*

Visit our website

Join us on Nextdoor





### NOTICE OF MEETING

The City of Lake Elmo  
Planning Commission will conduct a meeting on  
**Monday March 13<sup>th</sup> 2023**  
at 7:00 p.m.

### AGENDA

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approve Agenda
3. Approve Minutes N/A
4. Public Hearing
  - a) **Variance - 2621 Innsdale Ave.** Bryant Olson has submitted a variance request for a home addition to encroach on required setbacks in the Residential Estate zoning district.
  - b) **Preliminary Plat and PUD. PID # 34.029.21.44.0006 and 34.029.21.44.0004.** Drake Motor Partners LE LLC has submitted an application for a four lot subdivision with one lot proposed as an auto dealership, one lot as a fast food restaurant, and two vacant lots.
  - c) **Text Amendment – Article VIII.** The City of Lake Elmo has initiated a text amendment to Article VIII Environmental Performance Standards for topsoil requirements.
5. New/Unfinished Business
  - a) N/A
6. Communications/Updates
  - a) City Council Updates
    - i. Crossroads PUD Amendment 3-7-2023
  - b) Upcoming PC Meetings
    - i. March 27<sup>th</sup>
    - ii. April 10<sup>th</sup>
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.

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**NOTICE OF MEETING**

City Council Workshop  
3800 Laverne Avenue North  
March 14, 2023  
6:30 PM

**AGENDA**

I. Call to Order	6:30 PM
II. Presentation from Community Thread	6:30 PM
III. EDA Business Retention and Expansion Survey Update	6:45 PM
IV. 2023-2024 Strategic Goals	7:00PM
V. Items for Future Work Session Agenda	7:30 PM
VI. Adjourn	7:30 PM

**March 7, 2023 City Council Meeting Summary**

**At the City Council meeting on March 7th, the City Council:**

- Accepted a Donation for Tablyn Park – *Resolution 2023-015*
- Approved Crossroads PUD Amendment – *Resolution 2023-016*
- Authorized Advertisement for Bids for Pebble Park and Tablyn Park Courts – *Resolution 2023-018*
- Approved Plans and Specs and Ad for Bids for 2023 Street Improvements – *Resolution 2023-020*
- Held a Closed Session to Discuss Litigation with CEF Lake Elmo Community Solar

**On the Consent Agenda, the City Council:**

- Approved Payment Disbursements
- Approved Abatement for 3806 Kindred Way and 3756 Kindred Ct.-*Resolution 2023-017*
- Approved Updated Job Description for Building Official and Approve *Ordinance 2023-05*
- Authorized Issuance of Request for Proposals for Purchase of City Land
- Planning Commission 2023 Work Plan
- Accepted Sanitary Sewer and Watermain Improvements and Approve Security Reduction for Royal Golf Club 3rd Addition
- Called for Final Assessment Hearing for Old Village Phase 7 Street and Utility Improvements -*Resolution 2023-019*
- Approved Purchase of Rescue Boat Replacement
- Approved Request for Cost Analysis of Statewide Volunteer Firefighter Plan

**Senate Hearings**

This week Mayor Cadenhead testified at a hearing in the MN Senate regarding SF 2047, a Bill that includes the City's request for a permit to



construct and operate a new well. The full video can be viewed by clicking the link here: [Video](#)



## **Summary of programs conducted in the City of Lake Elmo in 2022:**

### **Support for MS4 Stormwater education** **Volunteer engagement**

**Adopt a Drain:** 53 drains adopted in Lake Elmo. 165.3 pounds of debris collected by volunteers. 6.4 volunteer hours.

**Certified Water Steward volunteers in Lake Elmo:** John Hodler, Deb Wall.

- John Hodler previously converted about ½ acre of turf to prairie at his Lake Elmo home. He has since moved to Stillwater so the property is in new ownership.
- Deb Wall also converted a portion of her yard to prairie and continues to care for that planting project.

○ May 21 – helped to recruit volunteers for a planting project at Lake Elmo Park Reserve with Pollinator Friendly Alliance and Washington County Parks.

### **Other education activities in Lake Elmo**

- Developed narratives for case studies in the Washington County irrigation reuse [StoryMap](#) and shared the story map with EMWREP partners and Washington County cities
- April 23 (Earth Day weekend) - Attended Earth Day clean-up event at Sally Manzara Nature Center in Lake Elmo
- July 20 - Sally Manzara Nature Center: Water Play Summer Day Camp (Lake Elmo). Angie Hong led a hands-on learning activity
- Twelve site visits with landowners in Lake Elmo for conservation projects

### **Media**

- [Is it safe to eat the fish?](#) Feb. 10, 2022  
“The short answer is, it depends.”
  - [Plant-a-palooza coming up!](#) May 19, 2022  
“The next few weeks will offer numerous opportunities to enjoy all things plant-related, including two volunteer planting events, a bison release, two native plant sales, and two family nature events.”
  - [Local lakes at risk of too much love](#)– Aug. 25, 2022  
“As shorelines become increasingly more developed, we start to see shoreline erosion, fewer fish and wildlife, more algae in the water, and diminished water clarity.”
  - [New technology coming from Australia to fight PFAS “forever foam”](#) - Nov. 12, 2022  
“Funds from the \$850 million settlement between 3M and the State of Minnesota will be used to purchase, import, and operate the two systems.”
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## Help Support Lions Park for the 2023 Season!

We hope you will consider supporting the Lions Park ball field by purchasing a sign for the season that will hang on the outfield fencing. Advertising your business and/or cause with a vintage style sign helps create a vintage feel at the ball field and shows your support for this amenity that has benefitted our youth and community for decades. Your advertising funds are used solely for improvements to the Lions Park ball field area; none of the funds are used for general city expenses.

To participate, all you need to do is send your contact information and a \$500 check payable to the City of Lake Elmo-Lions Park Sign 2023, 3880 Laverne Ave N, Lake Elmo, MN 55042 by April 30, 2023. We are not able to take payment by credit card at this time. After it is received, staff will contact you and support you through the process of producing the sign and getting it placed for the season. The cost of designing and producing the sign is included in the \$500 fee.

We hope that you will consider a sign subscription at Lions Park for the 2023 season! Again, thank you for your support of this community asset.

### Disposal Directory

### Reduce-Reuse-Recycle!

It is that time of year again when we start thinking about spring cleaning. Are you sure about what is trash and what can be recycled, and where to take it? Washington County has a new interactive disposal directory located here: [Disposal Directory](#). Try it out! It is a great tool for identifying what and where you can donate, recycle, or dispose of unwanted items.

### Get involved!

The City of Lake Elmo is seeking interested residents to serve on the Parks Commission and Economic Development Authority (EDA). The Parks Commission meets 1 time per month and the EDA meets quarterly. No experience is necessary! Application and more information is available on the City's website:

[click here](#) , or contact City Administrator Kristina Handt for more information: [khandt@lakeelmo.org](mailto:khandt@lakeelmo.org).



## 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!



## Report Streetlight Outage

Xcel Energy maintains streetlights on public streets in Lake Elmo. If you notice a streetlight that is burned out or malfunctioning, please use the link below to report the issue. It's helpful to note the location with nearest cross streets and the pole number if you are on foot and able to make note of it.

**[Click Here to Report Streetlight Outage](#)**

## MPCA Utilizing New Technology to Clean Water in Lake Elmo

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has placed equipment at Tablyn Park that utilizes a new technology to remove contamination from groundwater. Click below to view a KSTP news story featuring an interview with Councilmember Jeff Holtz.

[KSTP Story](#)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 31, 2022

[Hannah Sabroski](#), 651-757-2178

## MPCA brings cutting-edge technology to Minnesota to remove PFAS from water

*Minnesota is the first state government in U.S. to use this combination of innovative technologies to address "forever chemicals"*

(St. Paul, MN) – The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) today announced the purchase of new state-of-the-art emerging technology to remove and destroy bulk concentrations of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) from contaminated water in the environment. This fall, the state will deploy the technology in the East Metro as part of the ongoing work to address PFAS contamination affecting the drinking water for roughly 174,000 residents. The system is paid for with funds from the 3M settlement.

The process works in two parts. The first technology, surface activated foam fractionation (SAFF), injects outdoor air into contaminated water, turning PFAS into foam that can be separated from the water. The foam is then removed, PFAS levels are significantly reduced, and the water is returned to the environment — both cleaner and safer. The PFAS concentrate then goes to the DEFLUORO unit, a second technology where the carbon-fluorine bonds (the backbone of PFAS chemicals) are broken through electrochemical oxidation. Both technologies are mobile and work without adding any chemicals back into the surface or groundwater.

"This pilot project marks the beginning of a new era for PFAS clean-up in Minnesota," said MPCA Commissioner Katrina Kessler. "This study will help us address PFAS contamination at the source and develop long-term solutions for cleaner water — ensuring safe drinking water for Minnesotans. We hope to eventually employ this technology around the state including in Greater Minnesota, where PFAS is a growing concern."

With fewer than 20 systems in existence, the SAFF technology is in high demand across the globe for its innovative ability to separate PFAS from water safely and quickly. Minnesota is the first state government in the country to purchase and implement it. The SAFF unit will deploy at Tablyn Park in Lake Elmo for the first round of testing on groundwater and surface water. It will likely move to other testing locations over the next one to two years. The DEFLUORO unit will be staged at the former Washington County landfill location.

Australian-based OPEC Systems, Ltd. designed the SAFF technology. U.S.-based AECOM designed the DEFLUORO unit. The SAFF unit is in route to Minnesota from Australia and is scheduled to arrive next month.

State agencies are working with city and county representatives to ensure safe handling practices under applicable regulations. None of the water used in this temporary test is connected to the city's drinking water, which remains safe and well within Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) drinking water guidelines for PFAS impacts.

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## The City of Lake Elmo is on Nextdoor!

In an effort to reach as much of the community as possible we've joined Nextdoor. We will use our public agency page to post news and important updates for residents.

[Find us here!](#)





is closed and under construction. All City Services are available at City Hall, 3800 Laverne Avenue

Please drive slowly and watch for construction activity



Running a company of any size can be a challenge. For a small business owner, it can be a lonely one too. Wouldn't it be helpful to have a group of peers where you have a forum for exchange of information, ideas, insights, and perspectives?

That's what our WHAT'S NEXT CEO Roundtable is all about - a place where you can work through your specific business issues with fellow small business owners. This is not a networking event. It is a peer-to-peer group that provides a secure environment for open, confidential discussions about concerns, problems, and opportunities a member may be facing.

Our What's Next CEO Roundtable is a professional business meeting consisting of small business Presidents, Owners, and CEOs from Washington County. The group will consist of 10 to 12 members from non-competing companies.

The purpose of the group is to provide a gathering for the exchange of information, ideas, insights, and perspectives. All meetings are completely confidential which provides a secure environment for open discussions about concerns, problems, and opportunities a member may be facing. On occasion, guest speakers will present ideas and solutions to roundtable members.

The value of joining and attending our monthly CEO Roundtable is to learn from peer-to-peer experiences through a facilitated roundtable conversation. You benefit by learning from each other's achievements and mistakes.

For more information click here: [What's Next CEO](#)



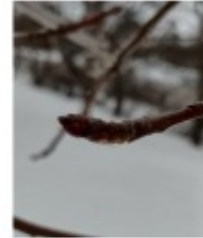
The Sally Manzara Interpretive Nature Center is open every day  
Visit <https://sminc-lake-elmo.org/> for details.



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!

Are you looking for something to do this week? Come check us out.

- Saturday 3/11, 10am to Noon and Sunday 3/12, Noon to 2pm – Interpretive Drop-In: Tree Buds. For the Sally Manzara's Interpretive Nature Center's first March Drop-In event, we'll have nature educators on hand to teach us all about tree buds. Spring is in the air (seriously, it is!) and it won't be long before those bare branches are fully leafed out. This weekend's two events offer an opportunity to look a little closer at these familiar, and amazing, signs of spring. This is a free event. For more information, visit the event page on the SMINC website at <https://sminc-lake-elmo.org/event-descriptions/> , or call the center at 651-408-2838.
- We are so excited for our upcoming Summer Camps! It is not too early to register, sign up now before spots are full. <https://sminc-lake-elmo.org/summer-camp-registration/>
- Pardon our Progress! We are making real headway in our big buckthorn removal project, but it's going to cause a bit of disruption in March as we move some big equipment into the park. See the next page about temporary trail closures.



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

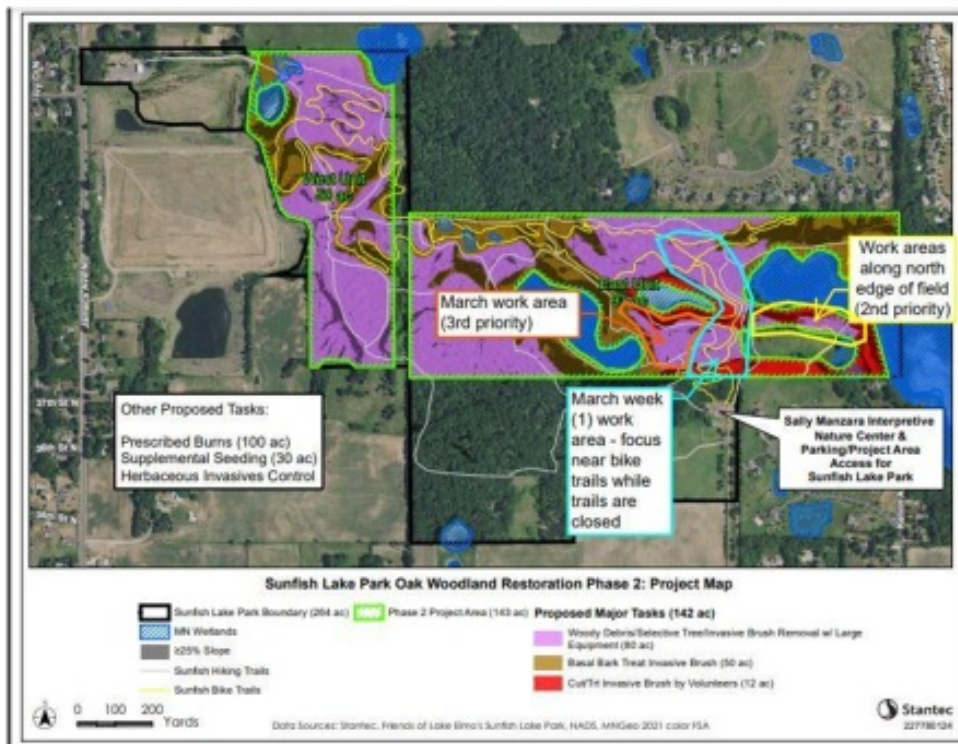


Trails disruption, Sunfish Lake Park, March 6 to 24

Dear Sunfish Lake Park Trail Users -

The DNR has provided a grant for a half-million dollar follow-on program to complete the removal of Buckthorn from 140 acres of the northern part of Sunfish Lake Park. In order to limit damage to the trails, it will be necessary to move some heavy equipment (feller-buncher) while the ground is frozen. That work is slated to begin between March 6th and March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023, in the blue-line-enclosed area north of the parking lot as shown in the map insert. We ask that trail users avoid the multipurpose trails between signs 10-11-12 and 14-21-20-19 and the southern portion of the "Green" single track mountain bike trail during that time. Bikers may access the Black and Blue single-track trails from the Fire Station entry on the northwest corner of the Park.

We apologize for any inconvenience and appreciate your cooperation during this important parks improvement project. As the work progresses we will be posting a more detailed schedule on the [www.sminc-lake-elmo.org](http://www.sminc-lake-elmo.org) front page.



# SALLY MANZARA INTERPRETIVE NATURE CENTER SUMMER CAMPS 2023



The Sally Manzara Interpretive Nature Center is located next to Sunfish Lake Park in Lake Elmo, Minnesota. The park offers 284 acres of natural area and over 8 miles of trails through forest, wetlands, and prairie.

## GET YOUR KIDS OUTDOORS EXPLORING NATURE THIS SUMMER!

### SUMMER CAMPS

**Monday - Thursday**  
**9:00 a.m. - noon**

Small group, outdoor camps in nature run by experienced instructors and include interpretive education, games, crafts, free play and hikes.

#### **Wildflower Painting Camp**

Ages 7-10, June 13, 15, 20, 22

#### **Critter Camp #1**

Ages 5-7, June 26-29

#### **Outdoor Adventures Camp**

Ages 6-8, July 10-13

#### **Nature Drama Camp**

Ages 9-12, July 24-27

#### **Bees & Butterflies Camp**

Ages 6-8, July 31-August 3

#### **Critter Camp #2**

Ages 5-7, August 14-17

### WONDER WEDNESDAYS

**Wednesdays**

**9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

**Ages 5-8**

Our one day Wonder Wednesdays Camps are small group, outdoor camps in nature run by experienced instructors and will offer interpretive education, crafts, hikes and free play.

**June 7** - All About Birds

**June 21** - Animal Superheroes

**July 5** - Water Play

**July 19** - Raptors

**August 9** - Nature Art

**August 23** - Honeybees



### LITTLE EXPLORERS

**Mondays**

**9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**

**Ages Birth-5**

Adults and their child/ren will be guided by a Pre-K Educator in an outdoor welcome circle focused on rotating themes and followed with open-ended play materials allowing children to explore their own interests in nature.

**June 5** - All About Birds

**June 19** - Animal Superheroes

**July 3** - Water Play

**July 17** - Raptors

**August 7** - Nature Art

**August 21** - Honeybees

Camp information and registration: [sminc-lake-elmo.org/summer-camp-registration/](https://sminc-lake-elmo.org/summer-camp-registration/)

For more information email [camps@sminc-lake-elmo.org](mailto:camps@sminc-lake-elmo.org) or email Programs Coordinator Ami Voeltz at [ami.voeltz@sminc-lake-elmo.org](mailto:ami.voeltz@sminc-lake-elmo.org).



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](mailto:info@sminc-lake-elmo.org) | [sminc-lake-elmo.org](https://sminc-lake-elmo.org)**





**Lake Elmo Library**

3537 Lake Elmo Avenue N  
Lake Elmo MN 55042  
651-275-8515  
WashCoLib.org

**Hours:**

Monday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Tues., Wed., Thurs.: 12-8 p.m.  
Friday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Saturday: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.



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**Public Facilities Project Update**





In spite of the snowy weather, crews were able to make progress on the exterior of the building this week.



Xcel Energy installed the electric transformer this week that will power the new facility.

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Additional information is available on the City's [City Center](#)





- 1 New City Hall Entrance
- 2 New Fire Station Expansion
- 3 Council Chambers/Community room addition
- 4 Parking
- 5 Fire Department Parking
- 6 City Hall/Sheriff
- 7 Laverne Avenue

LEO A DALY

## CITY OF LAKE ELMO COMBINED CITY HALL & PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY

The new Lake Elmo City Hall / Public Safety Facility combines City Hall staff and functions, the entire Fire Department, and a satellite office for the Washington County Sheriff's department. This co-location involves renovating and expanding the City-owned Brookfield Office building to concentrate civic resources into a single structure at the historic core of the city. In addition, the Public Works facility will also be expanded to accommodate City growth and expanded service needs.



**TOTAL ANTICIPATED PROJECT COST:** \$14,600,000  
**DESIGN COMPLETION:** Late summer 2021  
**CONSTRUCTION COMPLETION:** Fall of 2022



City of Lake Elmo | 3800 Laverne Avenue North, Lake Elmo, MN 55042

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