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Your Weekly Source for City News and Information

Public Meetings Next Week:

- Planning Commission Monday, March 27th, 7:00 p.m.



Join us on Nextdoor



Visit our website



NOTICE OF MEETING

The City of Lake Elmo
Planning Commission will conduct a meeting on
Monday March 27th, 2023
at 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approve Agenda
3. Approve Minutes of February 27th 2023 and March 13th 2023
4. Public Hearing
 - a) **Minor Subdivision.** Frisbie Properties LLC has submitted an application for a 2-lot minor subdivision located at PID 13.029.21.22.0014. The sites are to be developed at a later date.
 - b) **PUD Ordinance Text Amendment.** The City of Lake Elmo has initiated a zoning text amendment to require adoption the PUD ordinance at the time of Preliminary PUD outlined in Article XVIII Planned Unit Development Regulations.
 - c) **SAC Determination Text Amendment.** The City of Lake Elmo has initiated a text amendment to the City Code Section 105.04.620 to clarify how SAC units are calculated and to be in line with Met Council's determinations.
5. New/Unfinished Business
 - a) N/A
6. Communications/Updates
 - a) City Council Updates
 - i. Top Soil Text Amendment 3-21-2023
 - ii. New Energy Equity Solar Farm Conditional Use Permit 3-21-2023
 - b) Upcoming PC Meetings
 - i. April 10th 2023
 - ii. April 24th 2023
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.

March 21, 2023 City Council Meeting Summary

At the City Council meeting on March 21st, the City Council:

- Held a public hearing for 10755 50th St CEF Solar Farm and denied approval
- Approved Drake Motors Partners Preliminary PUD and Preliminary Plat
- Approved Landucci Construction Preliminary PUD and Preliminary Plat with revised conditions
- Approved Landscaping Requirements Top Soil Text Amendment
- Appointed Michelle Bohlig and Dennis Geffre to the Planning Commission

On the Consent Agenda, the City Council:

- Approved Payment Disbursements
- Approved Hire of Administrative Services Director
- Approved Sale of Excess and Retired Equipment
- Approved 9450 Hudson Development Agreement
- Approved City Center/Public Works Pay Request #14
- Accepted Sanitary Sewer and Watermain Improvements and Approve Security Reduction for Union Park 2nd Addition
- Accepted Sanitary Sewer and Watermain Improvements and Approve Security Reduction for Union Park West Addition
- Approved Pay Request No. 8 for Water Tower No. 3



Charles Cadenhead
Lake Elmo

House Hearings

Mayor Cadenhead was at the Capitol again this week, testifying at a hearing in the MN House regarding HF 2304, 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](#)



Public invited to open house on Highway 36/Lake Elmo Avenue improvements April 19

The public is invited to an open house to review and provide feedback on design alternatives that will improve the intersection of Highway 36 and Lake Elmo Avenue, or County Highway 17.

The open house will be 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 19, at River Valley Church. The church is at 5900 Lake Ave. N., Lake Elmo.

The project will seek to overcome the current deficiencies at the intersection, and improve its safety and capacity. Design alternatives will also improve bicycle, pedestrian, and ADA facilities in this area.

This is the second open house in the planning process for intersection improvements. Information from the previous open house and past newsletters may be found on the Washington County website at www.co.washington.mn/LakeElmoAvenue.



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

Disposal Directory English Share

Directory Need help?

Type the name of a waste item and we'll tell you how to recycle or dispose of it.

Popular Searches

-  Mattresses & box springs
-  Furniture
-  Carpet & padding
-  Small household electronics

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.

EPA Announces new PFAS Standards

Councilmember Jeff Holtz spoke with WCCO regarding the EPA announcement of new PFAS standards. A link to the video of the story that aired on WCCO can be accessed below.



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.



Pothole Patching

Pothole season is here! Lake Elmo Public Works Crews are out improving the roadways. Please use caution when approaching crews and feel free to report potholes to Public Works at 651-747-3940. This week crews concentrated on the north east corner of the city - Tana Ridge, Carriage Station, Tapestry, Fields of St Croix and others.



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](#)



This week Washington County staff and the City of Lake Elmo staff received a tour of the experimental SAFF unit located at Tablyn Park. The MPCA indicated they are currently successful in removing 95% of the PFOS from the 30,000 gallons of water they pumped each day from the Jordan aquifer. Preparations have begun to start filtering surface water in Raleigh Creek.



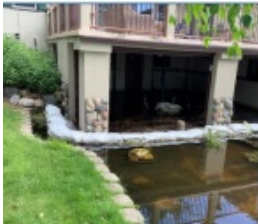
Come learn about the Valley Branch Watershed District Landlocked Basin Flood Mitigation Comprehensive Planning Study related to flooding in your neighborhood!

Community Open House

April 5, 2023, 5–7 p.m.

**Baytown Township Community Center
4020 McDonald Dr N, Stillwater, MN 55802**

Stop by the Open House, click on [this link](#), or use the QR code below to find out more about the study and provide input online. Also, watch for a second public engagement opportunity later this summer!



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: March 8, 2023
Contact: Josh Phillips
Barr Engineering Co.
4300 MarketPointe Drive, Ste 200
Minneapolis, MN 55435
P: 952-832-2723
E: JPhillips@barr.com

**WASHINGTON COUNTY, MN
LAKE LEVEL DRAWDOWNS**

Beginning the week of March 13, 2023, the Valley Branch Watershed District will lower lake water levels along its watershed outlet system. This outlet system connects lakes in the northwest part of the watershed district to the St. Croix River. The great amounts of snow and rain this winter have resulted in high water content in the snowpack. The lowering of water levels will help prevent flooding during and after the spring snowmelt.

Those who use the lakes for fishing, snowmobiling, and other activities are cautioned that lowering the lakes could result in new open water areas, thin ice, and areas of weakened ice, especially at lake inlets and outlets.

All of the lake drawdown activities are in accordance with permits and lake level management plans approved by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. The spring snowmelt will return the lakes to their normal levels.

Water levels will be lowered at **Horseshoe Lake, Lake Elmo, Lake DeMontreville, Lake Olson, Lake Jane, Crombie Pond, Hedges Pond, Hedges Bog, and Long Lake**. These lakes and ponds are located in the West Lakeland Township, the City of Lake Elmo, the City of Pine Springs, and the City of Mahtomedi.

The Brookfield building at 3880 Laverne Avenue 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!

What's happening at the SMINC?

- Trails are Open! Work with the heavy machinery is done for now. We removed and burned a lot of buckthorn from the park. All the bike trails are open now, with plenty of snowpack. Happy riding!



- Adult Education Classes: We have some great programming for the spring focused around bees and beekeeping. On Thursday, April 20, Beekeeper Karen Voy will share the basics of beekeeping and teach us how to get started. Upon completion of this presentation, attendees will have opportunities to sign up for more formal beekeeping workshops and will learn about opportunities for getting hands-on experience with the SMINC hives. Bring your calendars! Cost: \$10 per person, pre-registration is required. To sign up for this event go to: <https://sminc-lake-elmo.org/adult-education-presentation-series/>



- Summer Camp Spotlight: Wildflower Painting! June 13, 15, 20 & 22. See the poster on the next page for more details. It is not too early to register, sign up now before spots are full. <https://sminc-lake-elmo.org/summer-camp-registration/>

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/

For more information email camps@sminc-lake-elmo.org or email Programs Coordinator Ami Voeltz at 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 | sminc-lake-elmo.org



Lake Elmo Library

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

Hours:

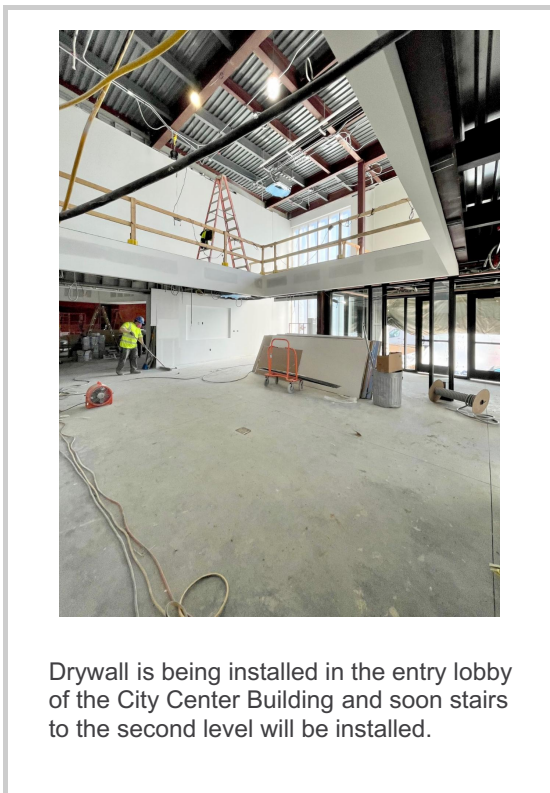
Monday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Tues., Wed., Thurs.: 12-8 p.m.
Friday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.



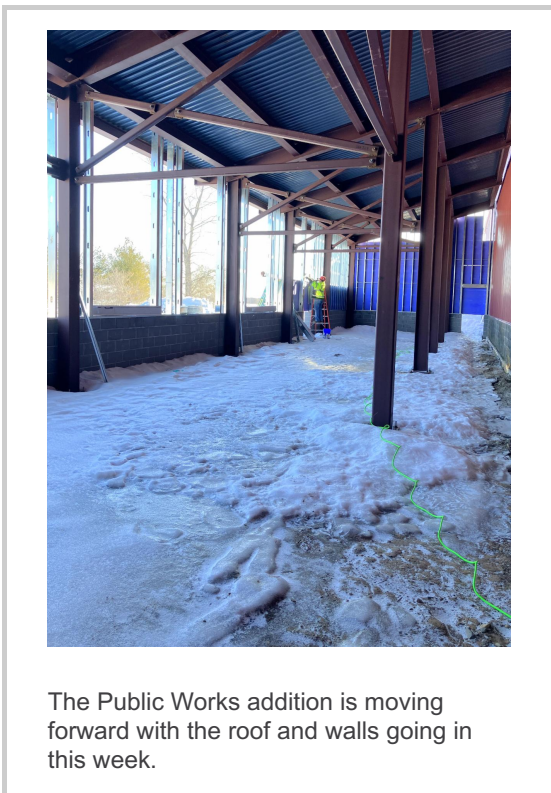
Public Facilities Project Update



Drywall installation is in full swing in the future council chambers.



Drywall is being installed in the entry lobby of the City Center Building and soon stairs to the second level will be installed.



The Public Works addition is moving forward with the roof and walls going in this week.

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



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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