



fresh

Your Weekly Source for City News and Information

Public Meetings Next Week:

- None



City Offices will be closed Monday, December 25th and Tuesday, December 26th in observance of the Christmas holiday. We wish you all a very happy holiday season!



Visit our website

Join us on Nextdoor



Full meeting packets and meeting can be accessed here:

[Agendas and Minutes](#)



PAST DUE UTILITY BILLS NOTICE

City utility bills (water, sewer and storm water) that are unpaid as of **12/28/23** will be certified to property taxes and be subject to additional fees. Please contact our utility billing department with any questions: 651-747-3906 or email mess@lakeelmo.org.



Help us name Lake Elmo's new Dog Park !

The City of Lake Elmo is asking the community for help in naming the new Dog Park. The new 10 acre park located at 4059 Jamaca Ave can also be accessed through Sunfish Lake Park, is expected to open in 2024. The dog park will feature walking paths, parking lot, a separate small dog area, animal water station and open greenspace.

Scan QR code to complete Survey



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.



**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.



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](#)



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:



- The nature center's new winter hours began December 1. Until spring we will be open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. We will be closing at noon on Saturday, December 23. The Center will be closed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. We will also be closed New Years Day (regular hours on New Years Eve). Happy Holidays from the SMINC staff!
- This winter, work will be proceeding on the "Restoration of Sunfish Lake Park" buckthorn removal and native habitat restoration project. There will be heavy forestry equipment in use in the north part of the park. Mike's Tree Service has been contracted to do major removal of large buckthorn trees, and excess dead wood (to allow for safe controlled burns in future years). This month Mike and Larissa and George will be marking the trail sections where work will be taking place. The Sunfish Lake Park Trail User Group participated in discussions on how to minimize trail disruptions for trail users. Please visit our website www.sminc-lake-elmo.org/buckthorn for the latest updates and status of the work.
- This Holiday Season we are incredibly grateful to all of the volunteers who come in and help out at the SMINC! To all the people who work the front desk, answer phones, keep the walkway clear and tend to our bees while they overwinter, thank you!

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](#)

City of Lake Elmo | 3880 Laverne Avenue North, Lake Elmo, MN 55042

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