



THE SOURCE

Your source for City news and information

2021 Budget Update

On September 15, 2020, the City Council adopted a 2021 Preliminary Property Tax Levy of \$5,263,268 which is an increase of \$313,445 or 6.3% over 2020. The City's Preliminary Tax Rate was set at 23.3959% which is the same tax rate as 2020.

2021 Preliminary General Fund Budget

The operating budget for expenditures for 2021 has an overall increase of \$287,562. A large portion of the increase comes from three factors; An increase in the cost of the Sheriff's Department coverage contract comes from the addition of a Sheriff's deputy assigned to Lake Elmo, who started on October 1. The Fire Department is seeing an increase to allow for the creation of an additional full time position. The Building Department budget is increased to provide contracted inspection services as well as an operational audit of the department. Additionally there are transfers to the Economic Development Authority to provide City office space as well as transfers to the vehicle replacement fund. These funds help reduce the need to bond for equipment in the future.

The operating budget has decreased revenues of \$80,394 over the 2020 budget. This is due to anticipated decrease in licenses ad permits, charges for services, and investments given the current economic state.

2021 Preliminary City Property Tax Rate

The tax rate is calculated using the City's Taxable Value on property divided by the levy. The levy is made up of the General Fund property tax levy needed to balance the budget and the City's required debt levies on its outstanding bonds. This table below shows the impact on this to various home values in the City.

Market Value Before Exclusion	Homestead Market Value Exclusion	Taxable Market Value	Tax Capacity	Taxing District Portion of Tax
Proposed Pay 2021				
Pay 2021 MV X 0.995	76,000 @40% - rem @ 9%	(D) - (E)	500,000@1.0% rem @ 1.25%	(B7 x G) + (B12 x D)
430,200	0	430,200	4,302	\$1,009.98
17,500	7,000	10,500	105	\$24.65
150,000	23,700	126,300	1,263	\$296.51
250,000	14,700	235,300	2,353	\$552.41
400,000	1,200	398,800	3,988	\$936.26

This table shows the impact on the median home value of \$432,400. The home will see a .5% decrease in market value. As a result of keeping the tax rate flat combined with the lower home value, this homeowner will pay \$1,009.98 in city taxes, or \$5.16 less in 2021 than in 2020.

Public Hearing on the 2021 Budget and 2021 Tax Levy

A public hearing is scheduled on December 1, 2020 at the Regular City Council meeting at 7:00PM. After the hearing the City Council will consider adopting the Final Budget and Tax Levy for 2021.

Washington County Tax Rates		
Rank	Taxing Authority	2020
1	Hastings	57,391
2	Marine	56,338
3	Newport	54,337
4	Stillwater	53,814
5	Landfall	51,212
6	Oak Park Heights	50,176
7	Villermie	46,042
8	Lake St. Croix Beach	41,083
9	Forest Lake	40,333
10	Hugo	39,279
11	Cottage Grove	39,182
12	St. Paul Park	38,689
13	Oakdale	37,617
14	Mahtomedi	36,473
15	Lakeland	36,149
16	Woodbury	32,489
17	Bayport	31,644
18	Scandia	31,466
19	Alton	30,749
20	Birchwood	28,068
21	St. Mary's Point	23,833
22	Grey Cloud Island	23,494
23	Lake Elmo	23,477
24	Lakeland Shores	23,060
25	Dellwood	21,005
26	White Bear Lake	20,629
27	Stillwater Township	18,454
28	Denmark Township	15,919
29	Baytown Township	14,635
30	Grant	13,096
31	May Township	10,541
32	West Lakeland Township	10,500
33	Pine Springs	9,193

Storm water Utility Fee

The City receives several questions on the stormwater utility fee that will be distributed in January. The revenue received from your stormwater utility fee is used for preparation of a Surface Water Management Plan, maintenance of existing ditches, culverts, ponds and storm sewers, capital improvements in developing areas, equipment, planning, inventories and water quality improvements including weed control

The utility charge is reviewed and determined by the City Council each year, the stormwater utility fee will be raised to \$65 this year from \$60 last year



Snow Plowing In Lake Elmo

Winter weather is never a popular subject, especially for plow operators who are trying to keep roads clear and safe for traffic. The following are a few tips and information that will hope-fully make winter a little easier for everyone.

- Do not deposit or push snow across any
- Please keep garbage and recycling
- Make sure your mailbox is at its legal height
- Priority will be given to roads with higher
- Depending on snowfall timing, crews will be-

- Please leave plenty of room when following plows. These units do frequent turning and backing. Remember, "If you cannot see their mirrors, they cannot see you!"



Find The FIREFIGHTER in YOU!

LAKE ELMO FIRE DEPARTMENT

2021 RECRUITMENT INFORMATION

The Lake Elmo Fire Department is recruiting! We're currently hiring paid-on-call firefighters. We offer great benefits including: paid training, pension, state-of-the-art equipment, and the opportunity to serve your community. Individuals with Fire and EMT certifications are encouraged to apply. Training is provided for those willing to learn. No previous experience necessary.

Applications can be found at www.lakeelmo.org/fire

Please submit completed applications to Dkalis@lakeelmo.org or mail/deliver documents to 3510 Laverne Ave N, Lake Elmo, MN 55042.

We want to provide you with all of the information to make this important decision. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Fire Chief Dustin Kalis at 651-747-3933 or dkalis@lakeelmo.org.

New Fire Department Staff

Dustin Kalis, Fire Chief



Dustin joined the City in September, he brings over 15 years of experience in the fire and emergency medical service. Most recently he served as the Fire Technician for Vadnais Heights and the Deputy Fire Chief in North Saint Paul. If you think he looks familiar, you may have seen a news story of his heroic rescue in 2018 when he caught a baby on a fire call! Chief Kalis is very grateful for the opportunity to lead a dedicated group of firefighters and serve the residents of Lake Elmo as their Fire Chief.

Ryan joined the City in August, he left a long career as a USPS mail carrier to become a Firefighter for the City of Saint Paul. Ryan has a history of dedicated service, including providing emergency medical service during Vikings and Twins games.

Ryan Hillman, Firefighter



Station #1 3510 Laverne Avenue N - Station #2 4259 Jamaca Avenue N
Contact us for an application: 651-770-5006 - www.lakeelmo.org

New City Staff

Michael Kuehn, Accountant

Mike has a Business degree from Minnesota State Mankato and an Accounting degree from St Paul Community College. Mike is moving from private sector accounting to government accounting, which he says "Should be an exciting experience."



Chris Chandler, Building Inspector

Chris joined the City in October as a building inspector. Chris has nearly a decade of inspection experience and has worked with multiple metro area cities.



Rebecca McGuire, Deputy Clerk

Rebecca previously was a clerk for a small town outside of Rochester. She joined the City of Lake Elmo as Deputy Clerk in early October.



Diane Wendt, Permit Technician

Diane joined the City of Lake Elmo in early October. Diane previously worked at a Fire Sprinkler Company for 26 years.

Juan Rivera-Reyes, Administrative Intern

Juan joined the City of Lake Elmo in early October. Juan is beginning his career in local government and excited about the opportunity to kick off his career in the City of Lake Elmo. Juan is a recent graduate from the University of Minnesota Duluth with Bachelor's Degrees in Political Science, International Studies and Hispanic Studies.



Water Rebate Program

The City of Lake Elmo, in partnership with the Metropolitan Council, is offering a rebate program for the purchases of eligible WaterSense Toilets and Smart Irrigation Controllers. Qualifying toilet purchases are eligible for a \$100 rebate on your water bill, and purchases of a Smart Controller device are eligible for a rebate of up to 90% of the cost of the device (up to \$200).

The EPA estimates that replacing an older toilet with a WaterSense toilet can save nearly 13,000 gallon of water per year, saving a family of four an average of \$90 per year.

To participate in either rebate program, purchase and install a qualifying device, complete a rebate form and turn in your form to City Hall. Upon approval, the rebate will be applied to your utility account. Rebate program information is available at www.lakeelmo.org/water.



Commission and Committee vacancies

The Lake Elmo City Council is accepting applications for commissioners on the following Commissions/Committees:

Planning commission, parks commission, EDA, finance committee, Human Resources committee, public safety committee, and Maintenance Advisory Committee.

The City is seeking volunteers who have an interest in providing service and representing the community.

For more information about the commissions and committees visit our website. If you are interested in serving the community in this capacity, **please call City Hall at 651-747-3900.**

All positions are open until filled, with first review of applications taking place on December 18, 2020.





Fire Department Update



Put a **FREEZE** on Winter & Holiday Fires

Home fires occur more in winter than in any other season. As you stay cozy and warm and celebrate this winter, be fire smart

- Cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and home injuries.
- The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.
- Heating equipment is involved in 1 in every 7 home fires and 1 in every 5 home fire deaths.
- Install and test smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms at least once a month. Working alarms save lives!
- Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet from any heat source like fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators or space heaters.
- More than half of the home decoration fires in December are started by candles.
- Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are dangerous. On average, 1 of every 52 reported home Christmas tree fires resulted in death.
- A heat source too close to the Christmas tree causes 1 in every 4 winter fires.
- Make sure your tree is at least 3 feet away from heat sources like fireplaces, radiators, space heaters, candles or heat vents. Also, make sure your tree does not block exits.
- Get rid of your tree after Christmas or when it is dry.

Adopt a **Fire Hydrant** - Help Us Help You or Your Neighbors!

Chances are, it's going to snow this winter in Lake Elmo! If there was an emergency in your neighborhood, could firefighters locate the closest fire hydrant? We ask residents to help your firefighters by clearing snow and ice a minimum of 3 feet around fire hydrants and clear a pathway to the street. This will allow firefighters to focus on fire department operations during emergencies when every second is critical.



Smoke Alarms at Home

Smoke alarms are a key part of a home fire escape plan. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly.

- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.
- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom. They should also be outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. Install alarms in the basement. Large homes may need extra smoke alarms.
- A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
- It is best to use interconnected smoke alarms. When one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound.
- Test all smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
- Current alarms on the market employ different types of technology including multi-sensing, which could include smoke and carbon monoxide combined.
- Today's smoke alarms will be more technologically advanced to respond to a multitude of fire conditions, yet mitigate false alarms.
- A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet (3 meters) from the stove.
- People who are hard-of-hearing or deaf can use special alarms. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers. For the most up-to-date information and activities of your fire department, follow us on Facebook

Winter Parking Ordinance Now in Effect

Winter parking ordinance prohibits parking on Lake Elmo Streets from Nov. 1 through March 31 between 2:00 AM and 7:00 AM.

Public Works can't clear the roadways with cars blocking their paths.



The City of Lake Elmo wants your input!

The City is using Polco, a community engagement tool, to gather feedback from residents on topics like parks, budgeting, amenities, and everything in between. Visit www.polco.us/lakeelmo and create an account!



National Flood Insurance Program

The National Flood Insurance Program aims to reduce the impact of flooding on private and public structures. It does so by providing affordable insurance to property owners, renters and businesses and by encouraging communities to adopt and enforce floodplain management regulations. These efforts help mitigate the effects of flooding on new and improved structures.

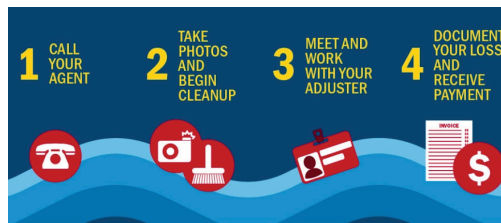
Do You Need Flood Insurance?

Here are some important facts to keep in mind:

- Homeowners and renters insurance does not typically cover flood damage.
- Approximately 50% of flood damage occurs outside mapped flood zones, often due to stormwater flooding.
- Anyone who lives in a community that participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) can buy flood insurance. More than 95% of all Minnesotans live in a community enrolled in NFIP

Flood insurance plans typically have a 30-day waiting period before they pay, so residents are urged to buy a flood insurance policy before the Springtime.

For more information visit www.Floodsmart.gov



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Lake Elmo, MN 55042

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LAKE ELMO MN 55042**

Public Works Contact Info:

Public Works: 651-747-3940

Emergency:

Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

City Hall: 651-747-3900

All other hours and weekends,

Washington County Dispatch: 651-439-9381

Winter activities in Lake Elmo Parks

Are you looking for something to do outdoors this winter? Below are a few activities you can enjoy doing in Lake Elmo City Parks.

- Ice Skating – Lion’s Park has a Hockey and Pleasure Rink. **The Warming House will be closed for the Winter due to COVID-19. There also will not be any attendees present during daytime operations.** Public Works however will maintain the park and Ice rink.
- Cross Country Skiing/Hiking/Sledding – Sunfish Lake Park has groomed trails for those that enjoy skiing, snow shoeing and hiking. You can also enjoy the sledding hill located in the park.
- Sledding – Tablyn Park boasts a sledding hill that is a popular spot for many to come and test their skills at downhill sledding

THE SOURCE

A publication of the City of Lake Elmo
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Christine Nelson
Lisa McGinn

City Administrator
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