



# fresh

Your Weekly Source for City News and Information

## Public Meetings Next Week:

- None

Join us on Nextdoor

Visit our website



Full meeting packets and meeting minutes can be accessed here:  
[Agendas and Minutes](#)

## Make a difference in your community!

The Lake Elmo Fire Department will hold an informational session on Monday, July 29th, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. for anyone interested in learning more about our Paid on Call Firefighter positions. Hope to see you there!




## **LAKE ELMO FIRE DEPARTMENT**

- Paid training (no experience needed to apply).
- Hourly rate with promotion opportunities.
- Competitive retirement package.
- Weekly department training events and activities.
- Duty Crew (at Station) staffing availability.
- Exceptional apparatus and equipment.
- New fire station / City Center opened in 2023!

3880 Laverne Avenue N., Lake Elmo, MN 55042

Contact for Application Material: 651-747-3930 or [www.lakeelmo.gov](http://www.lakeelmo.gov)

---



**City of Lake Elmo candidate  
filing will be open July 30 -  
August 13, 2024 for the  
following offices:**

Mayor - 4 year term  
Councilmember (2 seats) - 4 year term  
Councilmember - 2 year term

**More information on candidate filings, including links to filing forms, is available on the City's website: [Elections](#)**



**IRRIGATION REMINDERS**

As we head into the irrigation season, please remember the city ordinance allows properties connected to the city water system to irrigate 2 days per week (according to the city irrigation zone map). Irrigation is restricted from the hours of 5am-5pm. Hand watering

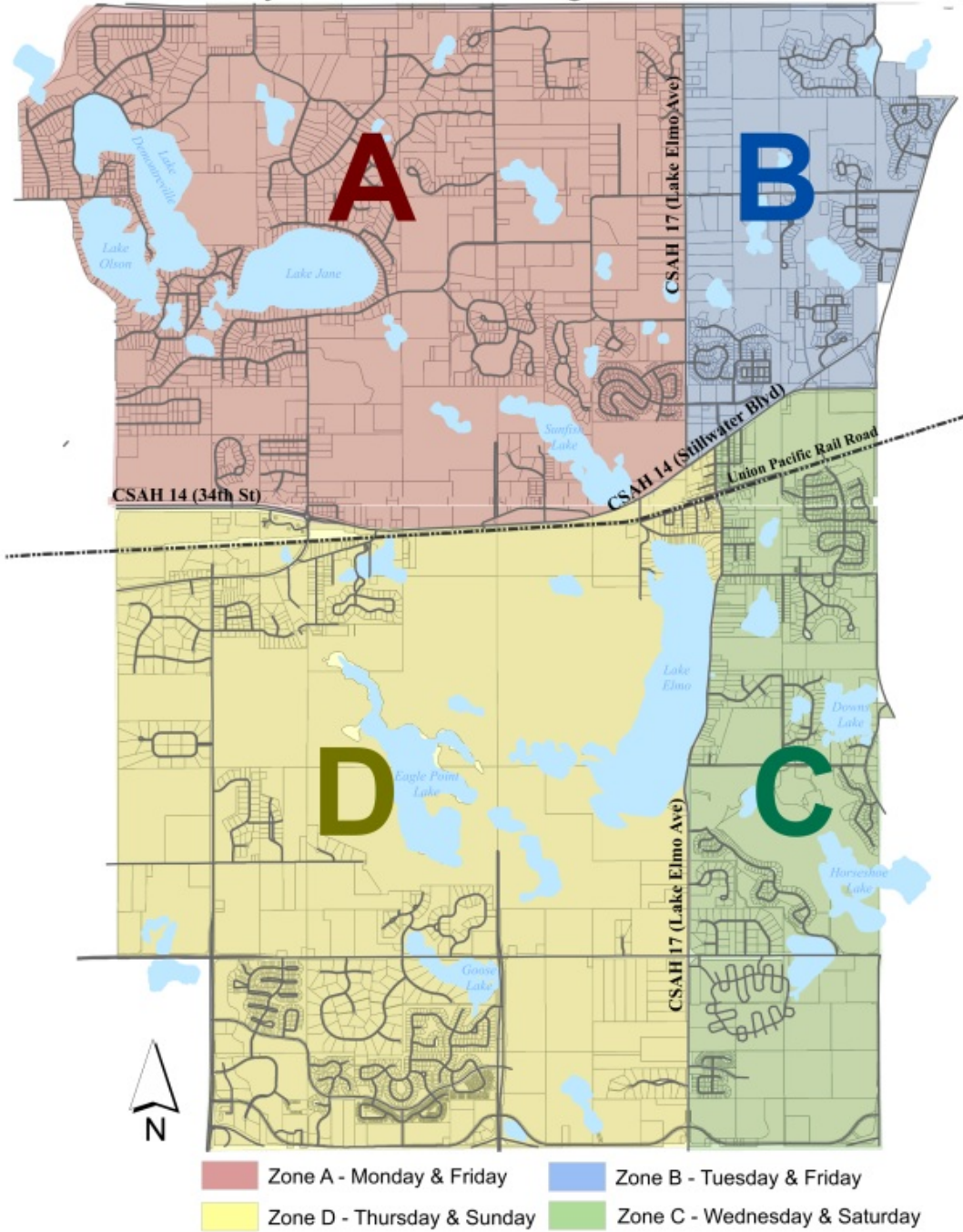
is allowed at any time and new sod waivers are available if needed.

You can further reduce your water usage by using a smart irrigation controller device. For more information on how to obtain a smart controller or more information on watering restrictions, please visit the city website. [Irrigation](#).

Irrigation enforcement has begun.

Thank you for doing your part to insure we all have sufficient drinking water and fire protection!

## City of Lake Elmo Irrigation Zones





## HUDSON BLVD CONSTRUCTION

A portion of Hudson Boulevard (east of Eagle Point Boulevard) will be reduced to one total lane of traffic starting early the week of July 8, 2024. The work is being done to improve this section of Hudson Boulevard and install a bituminous trail as a part of the Amira development adjacent to the site which is under construction. Please refer to the map above.

Traffic will remain open in both directions but will be controlled by a portable traffic signal system. The signal system will operate 24 hours a day and will alternate traffic moving east or west on a timer. The work is expected to last 45-days (weather dependent). It is recommended you consider alternative routes to avoid potential delays associated with this work if you are able.

## Private Wells and PFAS



If you have questions about your private well water quality, please reach out to the MPCA.

- You can request your well be tested here: <https://webapp.pca.state.mn.us/gw-sampling-req/>

- PFAS well sampling FAQs: [PFAS Well Sampling Frequently Asked Questions \(state.mn.us\)](#)
- Water filtration FAQs: [PFAS Water Filtration Frequently Asked Questions \(state.mn.us\)](#)
- MDH website about PFAS filtration [PFAS and Home Treatment of Water - MN Dept. of Health \(state.mn.us\)](#)
- Private well sampling interactive map: [Private Well Sampling in the East Metro Area \(arcgis.com\)](#)
- If you have questions about private well testing in the East Metro, call 651-757-2903, or email [east\\_metro\\_pfas\\_private\\_well\\_sampling\\_inquiries.mpca@state.mn.us](mailto:east_metro_pfas_private_well_sampling_inquiries.mpca@state.mn.us)
- Information about PFAS from the department of health can be found [Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances \(PFAS\) - MN Dept. of Health \(state.mn.us\)](#)
- MPCA blueprint for Minnesota and PFAS. [Minnesota's PFAS Blueprint | Minnesota Pollution Control Agency \(state.mn.us\)](#)
- Good information to reduce your exposure to PFAS can be found Reducing Exposures: [Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances \(PFAS\)-MN Dept. of Health](#) and [PFAS - SixClasses.org](#)

Please visit the City of Lake Elmo's water resources webpage to learn more at [lakeelmo.gov/residents/index.php](http://lakeelmo.gov/residents/index.php)

If you know someone who has concerns about their water, please forward this newsletter to them and encourage them to sign up for the FRESH [HERE](#)

---



## LAKE ELMO FARMER'S MARKET

Market runs 9am to 1 pm on Saturdays.

- Market will be open rain or shine unless inclement weather of high winds or lightning.
- Staff will be present on all Market days at 7:30 to 1pm. Any concerns or questions please seek staff out. We will be in center of Market.
- We will be selling our Lake Elmo Farmer's Market Cook Book that has Hand written recipes from vendors and visitors.

We would like to thank the community for your support of the first ten years of our Market. As a reminder the Market is an entirely volunteer 501 C3 organization and we are presently seeking a Facebook/media board member to keep communications ongoing.

We are also looking for additional volunteers, to ensure the continual success of the Market well into the future. Thank you for your consideration.

For the Market to continue into the future we need volunteers.

Please give us a call at 651-261-4493.

*Business and Community Working Together/ Lake Elmo Farmer's Market is a 501c3*



**Metro - I-94 Oakdale to St. Croix: 2022-2024  
construction**

## Traffic impacts

I-94 Oakdale to Lakeland project area map: [View full-size map](#)

All traffic impacts are tentative and weather-dependent.

## Current

### Lane closures

Through October

- I-94 is reduced to two lanes in both directions between Century Ave. and Woodbury Dr.

### Ramp closures

Through October

- The ramp from Tamarack Rd. to SB I-494 is closed
  - Detour: [Tamarack Rd., Weir Dr., Valley Creek Rd. and SB I-494 \(PNG\)](#)
- The ramp from NB I-494 to Tamarack Rd. is closed
  - Detour: [Valley Creek Rd., Bielenberg Dr. and Tamarack Rd. \(PNG\)](#)
- The ramp from 10th St. N. to NB I-694 is closed
  - Detour: [10th St. N., Inwood Ave. N., Stillwater Blvd., Ideal Ave. N., 34th St. N. and NB I-694 \(PNG\)](#)
- The ramp from Century Ave. to EB I-94 is closed
  - Detour: [Century Ave., Hudson Rd., McKnight Rd., Burns Ave. and EB I-94 \(PNG\)](#)

### Traffic stops

Mon, July 15 through Wed, July 31; 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily, Monday through Saturday

- N. Hudson Blvd. traffic will be stopped intermittently for 5-10 minutes at a time between Midwest Ave. N. and the east end of the frontage road

Thu, June 27 through Tue, July 30; 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily, Monday through Saturday

- Hudson Rd. S. traffic will be stopped intermittently for 5-10 minutes at a time between Manning Ave./Hwy 95 South and St. Croix Trail

### Upcoming



Information about upcoming traffic impacts will be posted as details become available.

## More about this project

We will be resurfacing the pavement and making other improvements to I-94 between Hwy 120/Century Ave. and the St. Croix River through fall 2024. The work will improve safety, traffic flow and ride smoothness.

For more information, including construction schedule and upcoming traffic impacts, visit the [I-94 Oakdale to St. Croix project webpage](#). If you have questions, please [contact the project team](#).

---

 <p><b>Payment Portal</b> Make a Payment, enroll in Auto-Pay &amp; e-Billing, view your payment and bill history, and more!</p> <p><a href="#">Go to Payment Portal</a></p>	 <p><b>One-Time Payment</b> No time to login? Make a quick, one-time payment here.</p> <p><a href="#">One-Time Payment</a></p>
--	---

**Attention – NEW Utility Billing Payment Portal**



We have moved to an intuitive new Utility Billing Portal called Paya. Grab your City of Lake Elmo utility account number and proceed to Paya at the link below to register, manage your account, set up autopay, or make payments.

<https://lakeelmo.payacp.com/home>

If you need assistance, reach out to us at [RNess@LakeElmo.org](mailto:RNess@LakeElmo.org) or call 651-747-3906.

**A huge thank you to all the Volunteers from River Valley Church (Woodbury) who helped spread mulch in Firefly Park last weekend. Thank you for your help and support of our parks!**



## **Pebble Park Upgrades are Underway!**

**Out with the old! The Public works department had began removal of the old playground set at Pebble Park. Construction of a new playground set will begin in September, which will consist of a new tower structure and slides. Over the next several weeks PW staff will be preparing the site for construction. Please stay clear of the site during construction.**



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:

- Our next buckthorn removal day is coming up on Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup>! Work starts at 9:30 and goes till noon. We have loppers and gloves, bring your energy. Free fresh air and exercise. Thanks to a generous grant from the DNR we've been able to partner with Stantec to clear out big areas where the invasive has been taking over, but we need individuals to help us get where the big machinery can't go. For more details <https://sminc-lake-elmo.org/buckthorn/>

- Ever found a skull outside and wondered what species it belonged to? Master Naturalist Beth Girard will be here on Thursday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 7 p.m. to give a talk about animal skull identification. Get some tips for figuring out what you've found out in nature, and learn to see those skulls in a brand-new light!



- July has been a great month for camps! We have a few more lined up for August, including a four-day Sunfish Explorers camp (August 5-8, 9 a.m. to noon) focused on bugs and insects, and a one-day Nature Theater and Puppetry camp (Thursday, August 1, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.), where kids will write, produce and perform their own play, based on what they see out in nature! Check out our summer camp offerings here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/sminc-summer-camps-3007279?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=creatorshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=odclsxcollection&utm-source=cp&aff=escb>

- Our bees have been very active! They're doing what bees do, and we will be getting ready to harvest their honey sometime in the next couple of months—it's really up to them, but keep an eye out for the announcement. When we do our honey extraction, we invite everyone to come help out. In the meantime, come check out our indoor apiary. We have a new queen, she has a green spot on her back.



# Sally Manzara Interpretive Nature Center

# SUMMER CAMPS 2024



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!

### Little Explorers

**Mondays from 9:30am-11:00am (Newborns to 5-year-olds)**  
Where families can come together and give the little ones their first experiences in nature. The first hour is structured activity based on the day's theme. The last 30 minutes we encourage open play, to give families an opportunity to explore on their own. **Adults must stay with their children at all times.**

**Camp Out** – June 10  
**Flower Power** – June 24  
**Into the Woods** – July 1  
**Pollinators** – July 15  
**Bird Mania** – July 29  
**Bugs!** – August 12

### Sunfish Explorers

**Monday - Thursday from 9am-12 noon**  
Our four-day camps will encourage and educate the youth of tomorrow about the beauty and importance of a healthy outdoors. Activities include hikes, crafts, games and of course a little education about the outdoors!

**Outdoor Adventures** - June 17-20  
**Bees & Butterflies** – July 8-11  
**Birds!** - July 22-25  
**Bugs!** – August 5-8  
**Nature's Kaleidoscope**– Aug. 19-22

### Wonder Wednesdays

**Wednesdays from 9am-2pm**  
Our one-day, fun-filled, Wonder Wednesdays let kids explore the beautiful outdoor setting and learn about their surrounding environment. It is run by experienced instructors and the days include interpretive education, games, crafts to bring home, free play and hikes.

**Earth Elements** – June 26  
**Nature Appreciation** – July 17  
**Nature Theater & Puppetry**– Aug. 1  
**Prairie Explorers** – August 14

Camp information and registration: <https://sminc-lake-elmo.org/summer-camp-registration/>  
For more information email [camps@sminc-lake-elmo.org](mailto:camps@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](http://sminc-lake-elmo.org)**



Do you love fresh, organic veggies? Do you want to support your local food system? [Cimarron Community Farm's](#) 2024 Summer CSA program is open now and a perfect way for your family to eat fresh

all season long!

- 16 weeks of fresh, local, organic produce (mid-June to September)
- \$530 for a summer share with flexible payment options
- On-farm pick-up, Wednesdays 4pm-7pm
- A typical box may include fresh herbs, tomatoes, zucchini, carrots, broccoli, lettuce, kale, eggplant, onions, and more

Sign up now to access the best produce in town!

[cimarroncommunityfarm.com](http://cimarroncommunityfarm.com) |

[cimarroncommunityfarmMN@gmail.com](mailto:cimarroncommunityfarmMN@gmail.com) | 952-607-0157



### What are Stormwater Ponds?

Is there a pond in your HOA community? Chances are it was built to help manage stormwater instead of being naturally occurring. **Stormwater ponds are large constructed basins designed collect, store, and treat large amounts of stormwater runoff.** They help to reduce downstream flooding and remove pollutants by capturing and slowly releasing water. **There are two types: wet and dry.**

### Function of Wet Ponds

**Wet ponds** have a permanent pool of water and are typically surrounded by vegetative buffers to help collect pollutants. There is often a visible outflow structure in the pond, called a riser. In most wet ponds:

- Runoff flows into the pond through an inlet.
- A smaller pool, called a forebay, slows the runoff and lets sediment and other pollutants to settle to the bottom.
- Water then flows to a second pool, the primary pool, for additional settling.
- If the water level exceeds the outlet elevation, like after heavy rainfall, the outlet structure slowly releases it.
- During extreme rain events, water may flow over the highest part of the pond, called the emergency spillway or overflow.



### Function of Dry Ponds

**Dry ponds** are a large grassy basin, sometimes with rock, other vegetation, and an outflow structure that are dry except for after storms. In most dry ponds:

- Runoff flows into the pond.
- The basin slows the incoming water and allows sediment and other pollutants to settle out.
- The water infiltrates into the ground to replenish groundwater or is released slowly through an underdrain or outlet structure to nearby waterways within a few days.

# SCHOOL SUPPLY SWAP

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7  
4 - 6 P.M.

ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER  
WOODBURY



## DONATIONS NEEDED!

Washington County is collecting gently used school supplies for a school supply swap in August. Donate gently used items at the Environmental Center, Washington County Libraries, and Public Health & Environment office locations through August 2.



Scan to find a donation site!  
[WashCoRecycles.com/Reuse](https://WashCoRecycles.com/Reuse)

## ACCEPTED ITEMS

*Donations should be gently used items that students would normally discard at the end of the school year.*

- Pencils/pens/markers/crayons
- Notebooks
- Lined or graphing paper
- Calculators (working)
- Rulers/protractors/compasses
- Scissors
- Erasers
- Glue sticks
- Watercolor paints
- Pencil cases
- Pencil sharpeners
- Backpacks (working zippers, no rips/tears/stains)
- 3-ring binders (1-inch only)
- Pocket folders

[WashCoRecycles.com/Reuse](https://WashCoRecycles.com/Reuse)  
651-275-7475

Washington  
County

# 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](http://www.co.washington.mn.us/publichealth) | 651-430-6655

Washington  
County

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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!