



fresh

Your Weekly Source for City News and Information

Public Meetings Next Week:

- Planning Commission Monday, August 12th, 6:30 p.m.
- City Council Workshop Wednesday, August 14th, 6:30 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 August 12th 2024
at 6:30 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Pledge of Allegiance
 2. Approve Agenda
 3. Approve Minutes of July 22nd, 2024
 4. Public Hearing
 - a) **Zoning Text Amendment.** The City of Lake Elmo has initiated a zoning text amendment to Article XVII Open Space Planned Unit Development and Article XVIII Planned Unit Development (PUD) Regulations to update district standards, remove outdated and conflicting references, and clarify regulations.
 5. New/Unfinished Business
 - a) N/A
 6. Communications/Updates
 - a) City Council Updates 8/7/24
 - i. Sign Ordinance
 - ii. Highpointe Crossing OP PUD – Moved to 8/20/24
 - b) Upcoming Meetings
 - i. August 26th, 2024 – Canceled
 - ii. September 9th, 2024
 7. Adjourn
-



NOTICE OF MEETING

City Council Workshop
3880 Laverne Avenue North
August 14, 2024
6:30 PM

AGENDA

- | | |
|--|---------|
| I. Call to Order | 6:30 PM |
| II. Village Area Study | 6:30 PM |
| III. Limerick Village Concept Plan | 7:30 PM |
| IV. Items for Future Work Session Agenda | 8:00 PM |
| A. City Support for Community Events | |
| B. Lake Elmo Avenue Gardens Discussion | |
| C. Right of Way Management | |
| V. Adjourn | 8:00 PM |

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

**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](#)



Help us name Lake Elmo's New Park Land

29.9 Acres adjacent to Sunfish Lake Park and new Northstar Development

The City of Lake Elmo is seeking the public's input on naming a new city

park. Nearly 30 acres of new park land was acquired by the city in connection with the Legacy development. The park will contain nature walking trails throughout the area. Opening of the park is expected in 2025. Suggestions for the new park and the city's naming policy can be found here: [policy](#).

Healthy LAWN-CARE

YOU WANT: a beautiful, healthy lawn and yard that is safe for your kids and pets, but you don't want to spend a lot of money and you don't have a lot of time.

WE ALL WANT: healthy yards that support pollinators, birds and wildlife; clean water in wetlands, lakes, rivers and groundwater drinking sources; enough for future generations.

5 CHEAP TRICKS

1 Smart ::] 1" SPRINKLING

LAWNS ONLY NEED 1in OF WATER *About 20mins*
PER WEEK INCLUDING RAIN = *2x per week*

Turn off your automatic sprinkler system and only turn it on when you need it OR install a rain sensor THAT WORKS!

USE Free 2 FERTILIZER

LEAVE GRASS CLIPPINGS ON THE LAWN.



Fertilization 1x per year around labor day. Sweep up any grass clippings or fertilizer that fall on streets and sidewalks to keep them out of the storm drain.

3 MOW Less



Lawn doesn't need to be mown as often during dry spells.

Mow BETTER!

MOW HIGH - AT LEAST 3"

Taller grass has deeper roots, needs less water, and is more resistant to weeds.



5 LEARN TO Love THE WEEDS

DANDELIONS, CLOVER AND CREEPING CHARLIE PROVIDE EARLY SEASON NECTAR FOR BEES AND POLLINATORS

Historically, lawns have had a mix of species, including clover and creeping thyme.

If you use herbicide, spot treat only instead of spraying your whole lawn.



GO Beyond THE LAWN! EXTRA CREDIT

CHALLENGE YOURSELF TO REPLACE PARTS OF YOUR LAWN YOU DON'T USE WITH NATIVE PLANTS, SHRUBS, AND GARDENS.

More beauty, more pollinator and wildlife habitat, less stormwater runoff pollution.

Learn more at: www.mnwcd.org



IRRIGATION REMINDERS

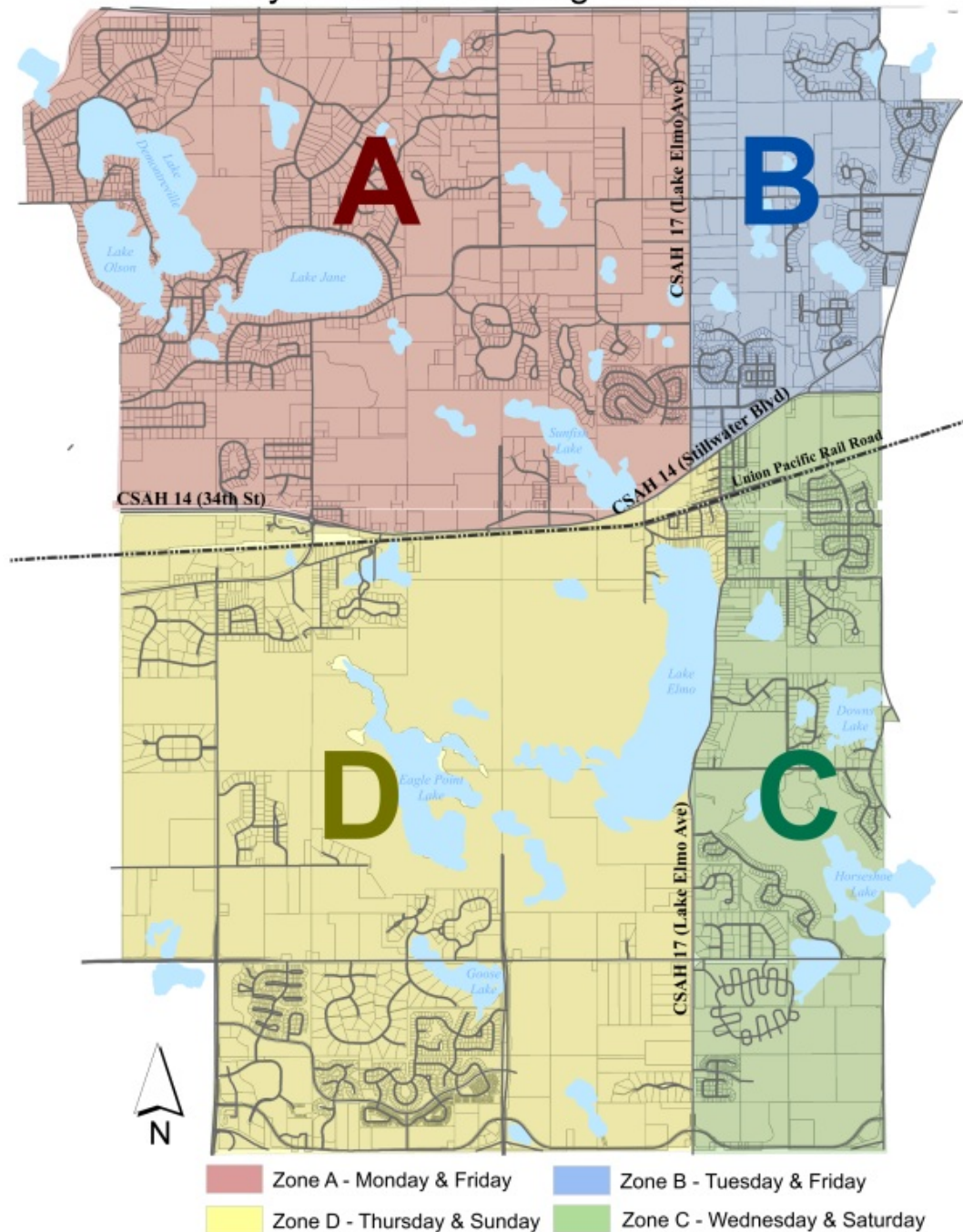
During irrigation season, please remember the city ordinance allows properties connected to the city water system to irrigate 2 days per week (according to the city irrigation zone map). Irrigation is restricted from the hours of 5am-5pm. Hand watering is allowed at any time and new sod waivers are available 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.

July 25th Safe Drinking Water Meeting Replay is Available

The City of Lake Elmo, along with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) hosted an informational meeting regarding PFAS, safe drinking water and private wells on July 25, 2024, where presentations were given by MPCA,



MDH and Lake Elmo's City Engineer as well as a question and answer period for the participants. The presentation slides are available [here](#) as well as printed copies are available at City Hall. A recording of the meeting is available [here](#).

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
- 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

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 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.

There has been a recent uptick in pop up attachments on our Facebook page for folks to register on line and make payments on-line.

We have no such format. We feel this has been AI generated since of the frequency and of the language. Speak directly to Manager at Market or

give us a call at 651-261-4493.

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



Voters in Lake Elmo will have partisan and non partisan offices on the ballot for the Primary Election next week. A sample ballot for Lake Elmo Precinct 1 is shown below. The Minnesota Secretary of State's Office offers a link to locate your polling location and view sample ballots on their website: [MN SOS](https://www.sos.state.mn.us).

Official Ballot State Partisan Primary Ballot Washington County, Minnesota August 13, 2024																																		
Judge _____ Judge _____																																		
Instructions to Voters: To vote, completely fill in the oval(s) next to your choice(s) like this: ● This ballot card contains a partisan ballot and a nonpartisan ballot. On the partisan ballot you are permitted to vote for candidates of one political party only.																																		
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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 Sat, Sept. 14

- WB I-94 is reduced to two lanes between Woodbury Dr. and Century Ave.
- EB I-94 is reduced to three lanes between Century Ave. and Woodbury Dr.
 - Traffic going east past the Woodbury Dr./Keats Ave. N. exit should use the left two lanes
 - Traffic exiting onto I-494, I-694, Radio Dr./Inwood Ave. N. or Woodbury Dr./Keats Ave. N. should use the right lane

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 \(PNG\)](#)
 -

4 a.m. Mon, Aug. 12 through Sat, Sept. 14

- The ramp from EB I-94 to NB I-694 is closed
 - Detour: [SB I-494, Tamarack Rd. and NB I-494/I-694 \(PNG\)](#)
- The ramp from SB I-494 to EB I-94 is closed
 - Detour: [SB I-494, Tamarack Rd., NB I-494 and EB I-94 \(PNG\)](#)

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>Payment Portal Make a Payment, enroll in Auto-Pay & e-Billing, view your payment and bill history, and more!</p> <p>Go to Payment Portal</p>	 <p>One-Time Payment No time to login? Make a quick, one-time payment here.</p> <p>One-Time Payment</p>
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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 or call 651-747-3906.

Construction of a new sand volleyball court has begun at Pilot Park, with an additional court being added in Carriage Station Park. Users may notice construction equipment in the area. Users are asked to stay outside the posted work area and way from any equipment during the construction of the new courts.



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 Public Works Department has begun preparing Demontreville Park for a new playground set. Removal of the 34 year old playset is complete. Visitors can expect some construction of the area over the next few weeks to prepare the new location. The new playground is expected to arrive in October 2024.



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 this Saturday, August 10th! 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 22nd, 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!



- Our bees have been very active! We have a new queen, she has a green spot on her back. See if you can find her the next time you're in!



- This has been a great summer for camps! We have a few more lined up for August, including next week's Little Explorers: Bugs! Camp (Monday, 9:30-11, for campers aged 0-5 and their families) and Wonder Wednesday, Prairie Explorers (ages 5-10). 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>

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



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



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 |

cimarroncommunityfarmMN@gmail.com | 952-607-0157

STORMWATER SMART LAWN CARE



When water from rain, snow, or sleet flows over the ground, it's called "stormwater." Stormwater can pick up debris, litter, fertilizer, and pesticides used for lawn care. And when that stormwater flows into street gutters, storm drains, and downstream, it can pollute rivers, lakes, and streams. Follow these simple pollution solutions to help keep local waterways clean and healthy!



DON'T MOW TOO LOW

Only remove 1/3 of the grass blade height and leave clippings on lawn to allow nutrients to return to the soil—they act as a natural fertilizer!



CAREFUL WITH CHEMICALS

Read the label when applying pesticides and fertilizers, use them sparingly, and avoid applying them to pavement. When there is rain in the forecast, any chemicals you apply can wash downstream.



ONLY RAIN IN THE DRAIN

Don't rake, sweep, or hose debris down the storm drains. Leaves, yard clippings, and trash can clog storm pipes, causing floods and polluted waterways.



CURB YOUR WATER WASTE

Direct sprinklers toward the lawn and away from pavement to save water and keep chemicals and debris out of storm drains. Check out www.epa.gov/watersense for more tips to save water!

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 | 651-430-6655

Washington
County

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

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