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Your Weekly Source for City News and Information

Public Meetings Next Week:

- City Council Meeting Tuesday, October 15th, 7:00 p.m.
- Planning Commission Meeting Wednesday, October 16th, 6:30 p.m.



City offices will be closed on Monday, October 14th in recognition of Indigenous Peoples' Day.

Visit our website

Join us on Nextdoor





NOTICE OF MEETING

City Council Meeting

Tuesday, October 15, 2024 7:00 P.M.

City of Lake Elmo | 3880 Laverne Avenue North

AGENDA

A. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

B. Approval of Agenda

C. Approval of Minutes

1. October 1, 2024, October 8, 2024

D. Public Comments/Inquiries

E. Presentations

F. Consent Agenda

2. Approve Payment of Disbursements
3. Approve 2025 Medical Insurance Renewals – *Resolution 2024-109*
4. Approve Pay Request No. 1 for Hudson Blvd. Segment A Improvements
5. Approve Pay Request No. 5 for the 2024 Street and Utility Improvements
6. Approve Pay Request No. 4 for Stillwater Blvd. Trunk Watermain Improvements
7. Approve Pay Request No. 9 (FINAL) for Old Village Phase 7 Street and Utility Improvements
8. Approve Pay Request No. 2 (FINAL) for the 2024 Seal Coat Project
9. Approve Release of Warranty Security for Boulder Ponds 2nd and 3rd Addition
10. Approve City Comments on the Washington County DRAFT 2025-2029 Capital Improvement Plan
11. Approve Well 2 Generator Equipment Plans and Specifications and Authorize Ad for Bids
12. Approve Zoning Text Amendment – OP PUD

G. Regular Agenda

13. Final Assessment Hearing: Adopt Final Assessment Roll for 2024 Street and Utility Improvements
14. Accept Feasibility Report and Assessment Waiver Agreement for Stillwater Area School District Improvements – *Resolution 2024-110*
15. Award Contract for Well 2 PFAS Removal Equipment Procurement – *Resolution 2024-108*
16. LMCIT 2025 Statutory Tort Limits
17. Tender 2 Replacement Purchase

H. Council Reports

I. Staff Reports

- 3rd Quarter Dashboards

J. Adjourn



NOTICE OF MEETING

The City of Lake Elmo
Planning Commission will conduct a meeting on
Wednesday October 16th 2024
at 6:30 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approve Agenda
3. Approve Minutes of September 9th, 2024
4. Public Hearing
 - a) **Lake Elmo Elementary - Stillwater** Area School District (ISD 834) has submitted subdivision, variance, and conditional use permit requests for the unaddressed parcel northwest of Lake Elmo Avenue North, and 10th Street North, with a PID 2602921440001. The applications are requested to allow establishment of a new public elementary school facility consistent with a bond passed in 2023.
5. New/Unfinished Business
 - a) N/A
6. Communications/Updates
 - a) City Council Updates –
 - i. Old Village Text Amendment and Design Standards – 9/3/24
 - ii. Old Village Moratorium – 9/3/24
 - iii. Open Space Planned Unit Development – 10/1/2024
 - iv. Oak Land Middle School CUP, Variance, Minor Subdivision – 10/1/2024
 - b) Upcoming Meetings
 - i. October 28th - Canceled
 - ii. November 13th - Wednesday
7. Adjourn

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

Early/Absentee Voting for the General Election Available Now

Voters may request a ballot be mailed to them at [SOS](#) or vote in person at four vote centers Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. See the county's website for more information: WashingtonCountyMN.gov/elections.

The Early Vote Center locations are:

- Cottage Grove Service Center: 13000 Ravine Parkway, Cottage Grove.
- Forest Lake Headwaters Service Center: 19955 Forest Road N., Forest Lake.
- Washington County Government Center: 14949 62nd Street. N., Stillwater.
- Woodbury City Hall: 8301 Valley Creek Road, Woodbury.

[Starting October 18, in-person absentee voting will also be available at Oakdale City Hall, 1584 Hadley Avenue N., Oakdale.]

General Election Early Voting September 20 through November 4



Washington
County
ELECTION
ADMINISTRATION

What do my property taxes pay for?

Property Tax Calculator

The City Council adopted the 2025 Preliminary Levy on September 17. City Finance Dept. staff has developed a downloadable tool that estimates 2025 city taxes (not other jurisdictions) on your home and shows approximately how much of your taxes go toward each service area. Check it out at

https://www.lakeelmo.gov/departments/finance_utility/property_tax_calculator.php

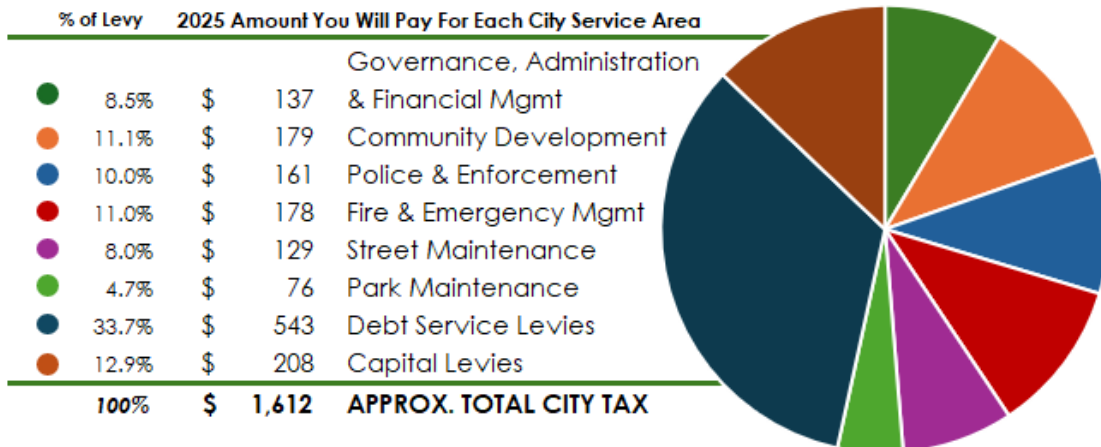
Enter Your Home's
Taxable Market Value

\$ 581,700

Approx. City Tax

\$ 1,612

just start typing and this will fill in.



City Seeking Commission and Economic Development Authority Applicants

The City of Lake Elmo is currently accepting applications to serve on the Parks and Planning Commissions and the EDA. For more information and application form, please visit the city's website: [City Website](#)

We're Hiring

Communications Coordinator

We are looking for an experienced individual who can share the story of our community!

www.lakeelmo.gov

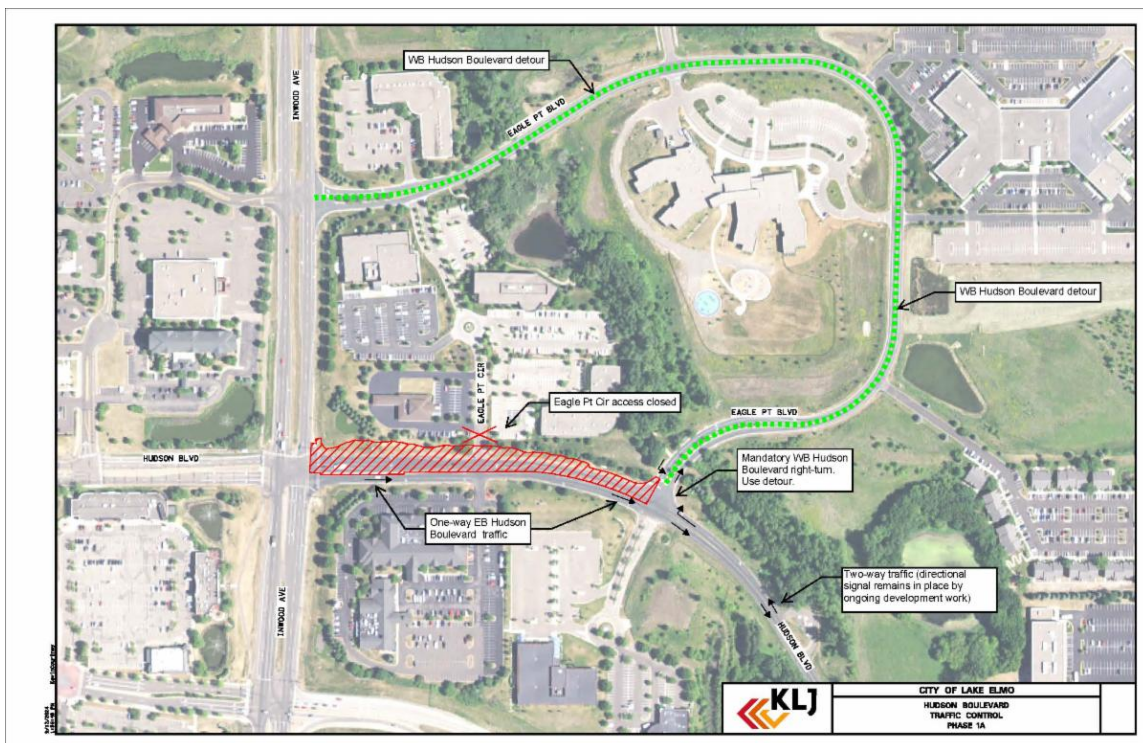
THE CITY OF
LAKE ELMO



Photo credit: Leo A Daly, Tom Grady Photography

HUDSON BOULEVARD - TRAFFIC CHANGE

Starting Monday, September 16th Hudson Boulevard will be open to traffic eastbound only between Inwood Avenue and Eagle Point Boulevard. Please see the detour in the exhibit below.



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 late October

- 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
- WB I-94 is reduced to two lanes between Woodbury Dr. and Century Ave.

Ramp closures

5 a.m. Thu, Sept. 26 through 7 p.m. Mon, Oct. 14

- The ramps to/from EB I-94 and Woodbury Dr./Keats Ave. N. are closed
 - EB I-94 and Woodbury Dr./Keats Ave. N. detour: EB I-94, Manning Ave., WB I-94 and Woodbury Dr./Keats Ave. N.
 - Woodbury Dr./Keats Ave. N. to EB I-94 detour: Woodbury Dr./Keats Ave. N., WB I-94, Radio Dr./Inwood Ave. N. and EB I-94

7 p.m. Wed, Sept. 18 through Sat, Oct. 19

- The ramp from NB I-494 to EB I-94 is closed
 - Detour: [NB I-494/I-694, 10th St. N., SB I-694 and EB I-94 \(PNG\)](#)
- The ramp from EB I-94 to SB I-494 is closed
 - Detour: [EB I-94, NB I-694, 10th St. N. and SB I-694/I-494 \(PNG\)](#)

Through October

- The ramp from Century Ave. to EB I-94 is closed
 - Detour: [Century Ave., Hudson Rd., McKnight Rd., Burns Ave. and EB I-94 \(PNG\)](#)

Through November

- 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 \(PNG\)](#)

Upcoming

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

Ramp closures

5 a.m. Tue, Oct. 15 through mid-November

- The ramps to/from EB I-94 and Radio Dr./Inwood Ave. N. are closed
 - EB I-94 to Radio Dr./Inwood Ave. N. detour: EB I-94, Woodbury Dr., WB I-94 and Radio Dr./Inwood Ave. N.
 - Radio Dr./Inwood Ave. N. to EB I-94 detour: Radio Dr., Hudson Rd., Woodbury Dr. and EB I-94

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.

LakeElmo.PayaCP.com

If Autopay isn't for you, try out the new Text-and-Pay option.

If you need assistance, reach out to us at RNess@LakeElmo.gov or call 651-747-3906.

 <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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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](#)



Community Thread Offers Yard-Raking Assistance to Older Adults, Seeks Volunteers

Community Thread will host its annual Rake a Difference Days on Saturday, October 26, Friday, November 1, and Saturday, November 2. Through this service event, volunteer groups are matched to adults age 55+ and adults with disabilities who need yard raking assistance in Washington County.

Last year, Community Thread organized 225 volunteers to rake yards for 39 older adults and adults with disabilities throughout Washington County. Volunteer groups typically include families, scout troops, service clubs, school groups, and businesses. A total of 298 bags of leaves were raked.

“This was our first-year volunteering with Rake a Difference Day,” shared one volunteer. “We had so much fun, and the kids really felt like they were making a difference. What a cool experience!”

If you are interested in volunteering for Rake a Difference Day, visit our website at www.CommunityThreadMN.org or call 651-439-7434 to learn more.

For 57 years, Community Thread has been connecting people, neighborhoods, and lives together to strengthen the community. The nonprofit's mission is to maximize resources and engage volunteers to improve the quality of life for adults and families in our community.

Gardening classes



Got Buckthorn?

Oct. 14, 6:30-7:30 pm, online

Native Plant Seeds: Harvest, clean & store

Oct. 19, 10:30-11:30 am, Wildwood Library, Mahtomedi

Oct. 22, 6:30-7:30 pm, Stillwater Public Library

Water bath canning 101

Oct. 28, 6-7:30 pm, Bayport Library

Home Landscape Design

Nov. 14 & 21, 6:30-8pm, East Ridge High School

Registration details: washingtoncountymg.org

More classes on our website. Hosted by UM Extension Washington County Master Gardener Volunteer Program. Some classes may have a small fee.



WASHINGTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER PROGRAM



RAMSEY COUNTY

Washington
County

FoodScrapsPickup.com
651-661-9393

Food Scraps Pickup Program now available in Lake Elmo

Ramsey and Washington counties' Food Scraps Pickup Program, a new way for residents to recycle food scraps from home, is now available in 19 new communities in Washington County, including Lake Elmo.

Twenty percent of trash in Ramsey and Washington counties is food scraps, such as fruit and vegetable peels, eggshells and bones.

This program offers an easy, accessible and environmentally friendly way for residents to manage food scraps at home. The program will roll out over multiple years and eventually be available to all residents of Ramsey and Washington counties.

Residents interested in participating in the program can sign up and place a bag order at no cost on the [Food Scraps Pickup Program website](http://FoodScrapsPickup.com) or by calling 651-661-9393. An annual supply of 6-gallon or 13-gallon food scrap bags will ship directly to participants' homes with an instruction guide on how to start collecting food scraps. Each week, or when a food scrap bag is full, residents will tie a knot at the top and then place the bag inside their trash cart or dumpster to be collected by their trash hauler. The program-provided food scrap bags are designed to be extra durable, so they don't tear open during the trip in the garbage truck.

After collection, food scrap bags and trash are hauled to the Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy Center (R&E Center), where the food scrap bags are sorted from the trash using robotic sorting technology and sent to an industrial compost facility to become compost. This program is making progress toward Minnesota's 75% recycling goal for metro counties and is a significant step forward in helping the counties reduce their climate impact.



Construction of the New Pebble Park Playground is underway. Installation of the new playground set will continue for another week before it is open to users.



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!

We have a busy Saturday this weekend at the SMINC:



- Our Monthly Buckthorn removal is at 9:30 on Saturday, October 12. Every second Saturday we welcome volunteers to help us reach our goal of completely clearing Sunfish Lake Park of invasive buckthorn. We'll also be clearing buckthorn on the 26th at our Buckthorn Festival.
- Also on Saturday, October 12, at 9:30, our incredibly talented volunteer, Christa Rittberg, will be leading a Fall Family

Nature Exploration and Photo Hike. For nature lovers of all ages, Christa will have some great tips for taking nature photos that really pop. How many times has something beautiful outside caught your attention, but when you looked at the picture it was just...blah? Well, there are a few things you do to make sure that those pictures really pop next time. Christa has led this hike before, and the results from our hikers were breathtaking. This is a free event, all you need to bring is a phone or tablet—or camera if you have it, but no fancy equipment is necessary!

- In the afternoon, again, on October 12th, we will be presenting our Fall Colors on the Sunfish Lake Park Tree Trek program, starting at 1 p.m. Meet at the Sally Manzara Interpretive Nature Center and come walk along the Tree Trek with Master Gardener Peter as your guide. This path is wheelchair accessible, and you can see about 40 different kinds of trees. We will then have a talk on how and why the leaves change colors, and coffee and dessert. The level of presentation is from Grade-school to Grandparent. You may also collect pretty leaves and use our laminator to make a placemat or window decoration. Please register at <https://sminc-lake-elmo.org/n/> and tell how many are in your group, so we can prepare enough dessert. No charge, but a free-will donation is requested.

Sally Manzara Interpretive Nature Center
Nature for Life Series

Fall Colors at the SMINC Tree Trek



Fall Colors on the Sunfish Lake Park Tree Trek - Saturday October 12 starts at 1 PM. Meet at the **Sally Manzara Interpretive Nature Center** and come walk along the Tree Trek with Master Gardener Peter as your guide. This path is **wheelchair accessible**, and you can see about 40 different kinds of trees. We will then have a talk on **how and why the leaves change colors**, and **coffee and dessert**. The level of presentation is from **Grade-school to Grandparent**. You may also collect pretty leaves and **use our laminator** to make a placemat or window decoration. Please register at <https://sminc-lake-elmo.org/n/> and tell how many are in your group, so we can prepare enough dessert. **No charge, but a free-will donation is requested.**



Saturday, October 12, 1 PM
10,000 Stillwater Lane Lake Elmo, MN 55042



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

Sally Manzara Interpretive Nature Center
Nature for Life Series

Family Nature Exploration and Photo Hike

On Saturday, October 12, at 9:30, our incredibly talented volunteer, Christa Rittberg, will be leading a **Family Photo Nature Hike**. For nature lovers of all ages, Christa will have some great tips for taking nature photos that really pop. How many times has something beautiful outside caught your attention, but when you looked at the picture it was just...blah? Well, there are a few things you do to make sure that those pictures really pop next time. Christa has led this hike before, and the results from our hikers were breathtaking. This is a **free event**, all you need to bring is a phone or tablet—or camera if you have it, but no fancy equipment is necessary!

Saturday, October 12, 9:30 AM

10,000 Stillwater Lane Lake Elmo, MN 55042



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

THE CITY OF
LAKE ELMO

2024|2025

Sign Guide

CODE SECTION 105.12.430

The Lake Elmo Community Development Department is happy to share our new Sign Guide, created to help local businesses and residents understand the sign regulations in our community. This guide offers information on the types of signs allowed, size requirements, placement, and more. Whether you are a business owner looking to advertise or a resident curious about neighborhood guidelines, this is a good resource for you. Check out the Lake Elmo Sign Guide ([linked here: Sign Guide](#)) to learn more.

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!

Chemicals and other household hazardous waste don't belong in the recycling bin!



Bring these items to your local household hazardous waste facility.



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

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