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Your Weekly Source for City News and Information

Public Meetings Next Week

- Planning Commission Meeting Monday, April 12th 7:00PM
- City Council Work Session Tuesday, April 13th 6:30PM
- The Local Board of Appeal of Equalization Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 21st at 5:00PM



Visit our website



[City Agendas and Minutes](#)

City Offices will once again be open to the public beginning Monday, April 12th. City Council, Commission, and Board Meetings will return to the Council Chambers Monday, April 12th.

Tuesday April 6 City Council Meeting Summary

At their regular meeting on Tuesday, April 6th the Lake Elmo City Council:

- Recognized City Administrator Kristina Handt for 5 Years of Service to the City of Lake Elmo
- Approved a Grading Permit to Remove Sediment and Repair Rapid Infiltration Basins with the Cimarron Manufactured Home Park
- Approved a Cable Franchise Agreement with Comcast of Minnesota, Inc.
- Approved a Special Event Permit and Street Closure for National Night Out Tuesday, August 3rd.
- Approved Plans and Specifications and Ordered Advertisement for Bids for 38th-39th Street Neighborhood Street and Utility Improvements.
- Approved Legacy at North Star 4th Addition Final Plat & Final PUD Approval
- Approved Development Agreement – Legacy at North Star 4th Addition
- Approved MPCA Water Grant for Whistling Valley
- Approved MPCA Water Grant for Torre Pines
- Approved MPCA Water Grant for Parkview Estates, Cardinal Ridge and Cardinal View

On the consent agenda the Council:

- Approved Payment of Disbursements
- Approved the Release of Warranty Security for the Royal Golf Club 2nd Addition
- Approved Maintenance Agreement with City of Stillwater for the TH36 and Manning Avenue Local Improvements
- Approve Abatements for 1127 3rd St. N. and City of Lake Elmo
- Approved a Step Increase for Permit Technician
- Approved a Step Increase for Deputy Clerk
- Approved a Cost of Living Increase for Building Inspector
- Approved Amendment to MPCA Water Grant for Hamlet on Sunfish Lake Elmo
- Approved Southwind LOC Security Reduction
- Approved Union Park Second Addition Final Plat
- Approved Development Agreement – Union Park Second Addition

At the April 6th City Council Meeting Mayor Cadenhead Recognized City Administrator Kristina Handt for 5 Years of Service to the City of Lake Elmo



Monday, April 12th Planning Commission Meeting Agenda



3800 Laverne Avenue North
Lake Elmo, MN 55042

(651) 747-3900
www.lakeelmo.org

NOTICE OF MEETING

The City of Lake Elmo
Planning Commission will conduct a meeting on
Monday April 12, 2021
at 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA

Please note:

Note: Social Distancing protocols will be in place in the City Council Chambers due to the Corona Virus pandemic.

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approve Agenda
3. Approve Minutes
 - a. March 8, 2021
4. Public Hearings
 - a. **Sunflower Meadows** - Preliminary Plat and Preliminary OP- PUD Plans (2500 Manning Ave. N.)
 - b. **Zoning Code Text Amendment** – Lake Elmo Airport Zoning Ordinance
5. New/Unfinished Business
 - a. None
6. Communications/Updates
 - a. City Council Update
 - 03-16-2021 Meeting – No Planning/Land Use Items
 - 04-06-2021 Meeting – Legacy at North Star 4th Addition Final Plat
 - b. Staff Updates
 - c. Upcoming PC Meetings:
 1. April 26, 2021
 2. May 10, 2021
7. Adjourn

***Note: Every effort will be made to accommodate person or persons that need special considerations to attend this meeting due to a health condition or disability. Please contact the Lake Elmo City Clerk if you are in need of special accommodations.

Meeting Materials Can Be Accessed [Here](#)

Tuesday, April 13th City Council Work Session Agenda

*Our Mission is to Provide Quality Public
Services in a Fiscally Responsible Manner
While Preserving the City's Open Space
Character*



NOTICE OF MEETING

**City Council Work Session
Holiday Inn & Suites
8511 Hudson Blvd.
April 13, 2021
6:30 PM**

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Discussion Related to 2021-2022 Strategic Work Plan**
- III. Adjourn**



Welcome Home, Mullen Family!

Lake Elmo welcomed home US Army Specialist John Mullen and his family. John lost his legs while serving the country in Kandahar, Afghanistan. The Tunnel to Towers Foundation presented John and his family with a mortgage free smart-home. The ceremony received a tremendous turnout, attended by many residents, City officials, First Responders, and sponsors who made the home possible.



Public Facilities Project Update



- 1 New City Hall Entrance
- 2 New Fire Station Expansion
- 3 Council Chambers/Community room addition
- 4 Parking
- 5 Fire Department Parking
- 6 City Hall/Sheriff
- 7 Laverne Avenue

LEO A DALY

CITY OF LAKE ELMO COMBINED CITY HALL & PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY

The new Lake Elmo City Hall / Public Safety Facility combines City Hall staff and functions, the entire Fire Department, and a satellite office for the Washington County Sheriff's department. This co-location involves renovating and expanding the City-owned Brookfield Office building to concentrate civic resources into a single structure at the historic core of the city. In addition, the Public Works facility will also be expanded to accommodate City growth and expanded service needs.



TOTAL ANTICIPATED PROJECT COST: \$14,600,000
DESIGN COMPLETION: Late summer 2021
CONSTRUCTION COMPLETION: Fall of 2022





MEETING THE DEMANDS OF AN EVOLVING FIRE SERVICE

Lake Elmo currently has two fire stations, Fire Station #1 at 3510 Laverne Ave. N. and Fire Station #2 at 4259 Jamaica Ave. N. This project will consolidate these two stations into a single, state-of-the-art station that will meet the needs of our community and firefighters today and into the future. The building is designed to accommodate increasing call volumes, meet the demands for training and to support our evolving role as all hazard responders.

Due to the changing environment of fire department staffing needs and the impacts of that in relation to incident response times and budget responsibility, the fire department is consolidating to a single station which will allow the department the ability to transition to a staffing model that provides 24/7 coverage from the single station. This change requires the updated facilities like staff dorm rooms, day room and kitchen area, fitness room, staff workspaces and offices.

Educational materials provided by the City of Lake Elmo

For more information, visit our website: www.lakeelmo.org or contact Kristina Handt, Administrator at KHandt@lakeelmo.org



The current fire stations are too small to accommodate modern apparatus and equipment and cannot provide adequate health protections for our firefighters.

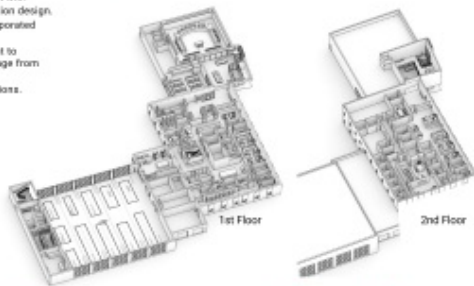
A FUNCTIONAL FIRE STATION

A new, single, state-of-the-art station will meet the needs of our community and firefighters today and into the future. Designed to accommodate our evolving role as all-hazard responders it will:

- Modernize our facilities following best practices in station design.
- Enhance firefighter training with training features incorporated into the building.
- The addition of living quarters will allow the department to transition to a staffing model that provides 24/7 coverage from the single station.
- Improve response times and overall department operations.

DESIGNED FOR FIREFIGHTER HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Distinct spaces to properly decontaminate gear and equipment. Focus to reduce staff exposure to firefighting carcinogens and other toxic materials.
- Properly ventilate the apparatus bay to reduce staff exposure to diesel exhaust and other harmful fumes.
- Space that supports the physical and mental health of staff.
- Clear separation between public and private spaces.



Lake Elmo City Hall, built in 1986, is a very small 2,806 SF. There are insufficient offices for all staff members and the restrooms are not accessible. The council chambers are small, do not provide sufficient space for department heads or members of the public, and lack modern technological updates. City staff have long outgrown this building and have since moved into the Brookfield Building located across the parking lot.



The Brookfield Building was purchased by the City in 2018 as a method of maintaining city functions next to the outgrown City Hall at a lower cost alternative to new construction. It was constructed in 1980 and will require a major overhaul to increase its useful life.

AN EXPANDED AND IMPROVED CITY HALL

- Improved service accessibility
- Community room available for public use
- New council chambers with updated technology
- Additional conference rooms
- Co-locate Washington County Sheriff staff
- Office space for growth of city staff
- Accessible restrooms.



[Click here to vote on a name for new Public Facilities](#)

Regular updates and documents are available [here](#).



Northern Yard Waste Site

Bring leaves, grass clippings, brush, and other plant materials to the Northern Yard Waste Collection Site. The site is free and open to Washington County residents. State law prohibits the disposal of yard waste in the trash.

Search the Disposal Directory to find more drop-off locations: recyclesearch.com/wcdd

LOCATION: 5527 170th St. N. Hugo



HOURS:

Summer Hours: April – November

- Wednesday**..... 11 a.m. – 7 p.m (or until dusk)
- Friday & Saturday**..... 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- Sunday** Noon – 4:30 p.m.

Winter Hours: December - March

- Saturday** 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- Sunday – Friday** Closed

Closed: Thanksgiving Day and day after, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year’s Day & other major holidays.

www.co.washington.mn.us/yardwaste | 651-275-7475



Accepted Items

Items accepted from households only.
No business waste.



Yard Waste

- Grass clippings
- Leaves
- Lake weeds
- Garden waste



Brush

- Branches and twigs
- No stumps
- Tree waste and shrubs



Organics

- Food scraps
- Paper towels and tissues

Keep organics separate from yard waste.

Sign up online & pick up a free organics starter kit!

www.co.washington.mn.us/organics



Capital Improvement Committee

At the February 2 meeting the City Council created a new committee to aid the City in development of the annual Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Members of this committee will help guide the City's plan for infrastructure, vehicles, equipment and public facilities.

Members of this committee will meet regularly May through August to make recommendations for the CIP including estimated costs, the need for improvements, funding sources, and financial impacts of improvements.

Interested residents are encouraged to apply!

[More Information Available Here](#)

Spring has sprung!

Advice for eco-friendly landscaping, native gardens, & shoreline buffers

☐ "Leaf" some for the bees

In the early days of spring, many pollinators and beneficial insects are still in hibernation. Wait until the daytime temps are consistently above 50°F to cut down stems and rake leaves out of garden beds.

☐ Wait to rake or fertilize your lawn

In the early spring, most lawns are still soft. Raking injures the grass and creates bare patches for weeds to grow. Fertilizing too early encourages the grass to grow tall instead of building healthy roots.

☐ Don't trim oak branches or dig near oaks

April, May and June are high risk months for oak wilt, a fungal disease that kills thousands of oak trees every year.

☐ Plan a native garden

Native plants provide food and habitat for birds and pollinators and don't need irrigation, fertilizer, or lawn chemicals.

Use the "Plant Finder" tool at www.BlueThumb.org to learn which native plants are best suited for your yard - whether it is sunny or shady, wet or dry. The website also has links to native plant retailers.

☐ Attend a free workshop

Native shoreline buffers: April 29, 6-7:15pm
Register online: tinyurl.com/shorelines21

All Things Raingarden: May 11, 6-7:15pm
Register online: tinyurl.com/raingarden21

Blue Thumb - Planting for Clean Water:
● Resilient Yards
● Bee Lawns
● Planting for Clean Water
More dates at bluethumb.org/events

☐ Schedule a free site visit

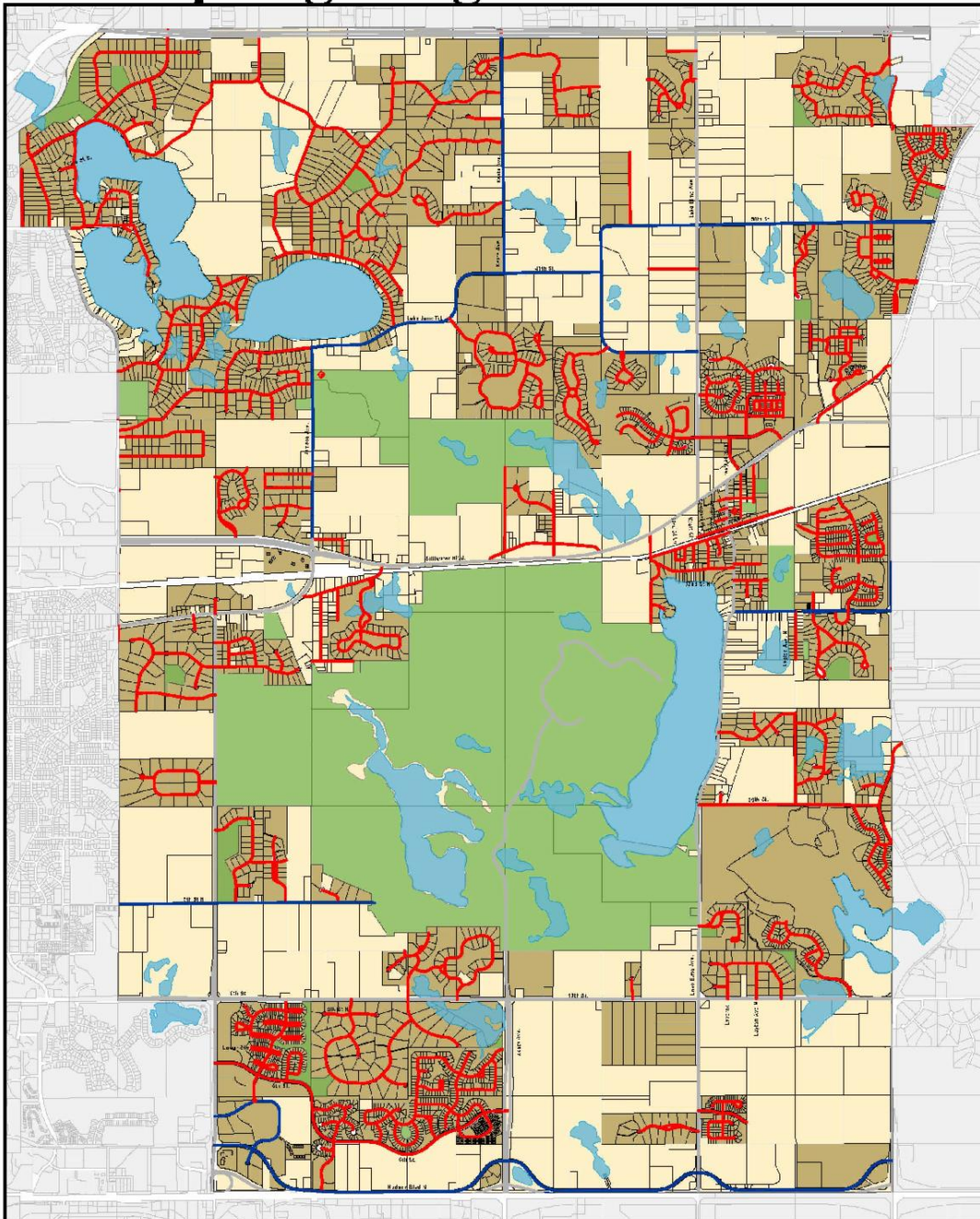
www.mnwcdd.org/site-visit-signup-form

A typical site visit lasts 30-60min:
● Begin planning native garden, raingarden, and shoreline planting projects
● Get advice on ways to manage erosion and invasive species
● Learn about available grants

East Metro Water Resource Education Programs

- [Shoreline Realtor Workshop](#) – April 19
- [Raingarden Workshop](#) – May 11, 6-7:15pm
- [2021 Workshops for the Public](#)

Spring Weight Restrictions



- Other non City Roads
- 7 Ton City Roads
- 9 Ton City Roads

0.5 0.25 0 0.5 Miles



Map Date: 2019



City Hall
3800 Lovett Avenue N
(651) 747-3900
www.lakeelmo.org



Fire Department
Station No. 1
2536 Lovett Ave N
(651) 770-6600
Station No. 2
4320 James Ave N
(651) 779-6692

Instances where there appears to be one name covering multiple streets it may follow up with Court, Ave, Boulevard, upper or lower, or other.

Such as
4th St N, Upper 4th St N,
4th Court N, 4th Ave N.

With questions contact Public Works at 651-747-3940

Public Works Crews will begin filling potholes on Lake Elmo streets Monday, March 1st. Feel free to report potholes by calling Public Works at 651-747-3940 or City Hall at 651-747-3900. Please slow down when approaching street crews. Thank you for your cooperation.



Spring has sprung and nets are up at courts in City parks!



The City of Lake Elmo is Accepting Applications for Multiple Commissions and Boards

The City of Lake Elmo is experiencing an exciting time of community growth. The City is fortunate to have active and involved residents on its commissions providing valuable input for future projects and growth. The City is currently seeking applications for:

- Planning Commission
- Capital Improvement Committee
- Economic Development Authority
- Citizen Representative to the Ramsey Washington Suburban Cable Commission

If you are interested in serving the community in this capacity, please contact City Hall at 651-747-3900 for an application form. The application form is also available [here](#).



The City of Lake Elmo is Accepting Applications for the Following Positions:

- Building Official
- Part Time Firefighter
- Public Works Seasonal Employees
- Paid on Call Firefighters

[Visit our website](#)

Washington County Sheriff Department

If you are planning on being away from home or on vacation please follow some of the tips below to increase the safety and security of your property.

1. Lock all of the doors and windows.
2. Clear out the mailbox and notify the post office to hold your mail until you return. If you are having packages delivered be sure to use the package tracking options and arrange for the package to be picked up by a friend or family member.
3. Keep the yard and/or driveway maintained. Removal of snow from the driveway and walking paths is important.
4. Hide or secure your valuables from view of windows. Using safes is helpful in securing important items.
5. Don't broadcast your plans of being gone on social media. Only notify those who will be helping you in keeping an eye on your residence like a neighbor, family or friends.
6. Get your security system updated, tested and notified of your vacancy. Posting security signage in your yard on residence can help with deterrence of theft and burglary. Many door camera systems can be purchased at a reasonable price with instant notification of activity at your residence while you are away.
7. Adjust your heating settings especially as temperatures can drop significantly this time of year to avoid frozen water lines.
8. Security lighting and timers. The proper lighting on your residence can help to deter theft.
9. Request vacation checks through the Sheriff's Office while you are out of town.

These are just a few quick steps you can take to increase the security of your home while you are away. If you are interested in receiving information on vacation checks call our non-emergency number 651-439-9381



April 7, 2021

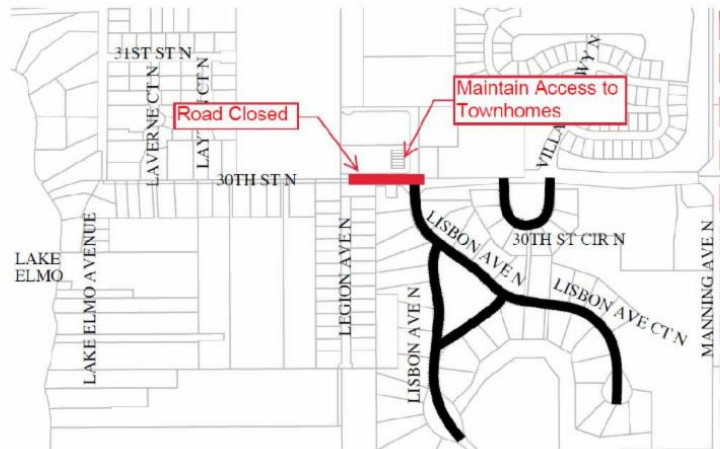
CONSTRUCTION NOTICE HERITAGE FARMS STREET AND UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS

The City of Lake Elmo is proceeding with the extension of sanitary sewer and reconstruction of public roadways in the Heritage Farms Neighborhood (Lisbon Avenue, Lisbon Avenue Court, and 30th Street Circle south of 30th Street North). The 30th Street work will begin the week of April 12th and requires the complete closure of 30th Street North from EAST of Legion Avenue North to EAST of Lisbon Avenue North. The work is anticipated to take four weeks to complete. A detour route will be posted in advance of construction beginning.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation during this construction project. Please direct questions and concerns during the project to Chad Isakson:

chad.isakson@FOCUSengineeringinc.com

651.300.4283



3880 Laverne Avenue North Suite 100 * Lake Elmo * Minnesota * 55042 * 651.747.3900



HIGHWAY 36 AND MANNING AVENUE INTERCHANGE PROJECT

Washington
County

New Construction Update Available

Follow the link below to see the latest Construction Update:

[Construction Update: March 2, 2021](#)

To learn more about the project, visit the project website at:

www.co.washington.mn.us/Manning36Interchange

County Highway 13 (Ideal Avenue) Phase II

Washington County in partnership with the City of Lake Elmo are providing an online project update on the proposed improvements to Ideal Avenue between County Highway 14 and 44th Street. The project website provides program information and updates.

[Project Website](#)



**ADOPT
A STORM
DRAIN**



Storm drains in our city help to protect neighborhoods from flooding, but they also carry litter and polluted runoff from streets and parking lots into nearby lakes and streams.

You can make a difference by volunteering just 15-minutes, twice a month, to keep their nearest storm drain clear of litter, leaves, grass clippings and dirt. To sign up: go to www.Adopt-a-Drain.org and use the map to find your neighborhood storm drains – then click and sign-up to adopt.

Temporary Rate Discount for Small and Mid Sized Businesses from Xcel Energy

If your business has experienced a material impact from the pandemic, along with an electric load decrease of 25% or more in electric demand as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic or civil unrest, you may be eligible for a temporary 25% discount on base energy and demand charges.

[Information Available Here](#)



Sally Manzara Interpretive Nature Center Update

What Happened to All the Trees in the Park?

Friends of Lake Elmo's Sunfish Lake Park won a grant called "Restoration of Sunfish Lake Park" From the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Conservation Partners Legacy program to remove buckthorn

from 40 acres of Sunfish Lake Park. Work continues on the project on which the City of Lake Elmo, the Minnesota DNR and the Friends are the "Partners".

For background, please visit <https://www.legacy.mn.gov/outdoor-heritage-fund> and <https://www.leg.state.mn.us/lrl/agencies/detail?AgencyID=957>

Buckthorn is a very invasive plant that is detrimental to the park. Over time it takes over large areas and outcompetes native plants that are needed for a healthy ecosystem. Late this Winter, subcontractor Stantec completed "forest mulching" with heavy equipment in the southwest portion of the park. In this process, a track-mounted device ground up whole buckthorn trees (some were 40 years old!) and deadfall tree trunks to make a suitable cover for planting native species that had been displaced by the buckthorn. Click on the buckthorn tab on our website www.sminc-lake-elmo.org to see it on a map. Much of the buckthorn has been mowed down and mulched. If you take a walk in this part of the park, you will notice that the air is permeated with the unforgettable and invigorating aroma of freshly ground buckthorn. There are a few more areas that will require some hand work. We are looking for volunteers to help with this project in the coming year. Please visit www.sminc-lake-elmo.org for up-to-date information or call George at 651-757-5610.

Now that the old-growth buckthorn has mostly been removed from the 40-acre restoration area, buckthorn stump sprouts will be sprayed next fall to kill off any new growth. This Spring about 15 acres of the area will be seeded with native woodland grasses. In addition to improving wildlife habitat, the grasses will help provide fuel for a prescribed burn (probably Fall 2022 or Spring 2023). Spot applications of broad-leaf herbicide are also planned for late Spring to help control other broad-leaf weeds (like burdock). A Stantec ecologist will be walking the woodland during the 2021 growing season to monitor recovery of the native ground layer plants and guide weed control efforts. Of course these dates are estimates and the actual times depend on weather and growing conditions.

The Friends recently received a beekeeping license from the City of Lake Elmo for an educational beehive project at the Sally Manzara Interpretive Nature Center. It includes an apiary area surrounded by a fence (electrified at night to keep out hungry bears), and one hive will be set up so you will be able to see the bees at work making honey and more bees.

The Friends are working with the Lake Elmo branch of the Washington County Library to set up a story walk around the nature center, and to have outdoor readings for kids on Friday mornings at 10 AM this Summer. Please check the website for details.



Xcel Energy providing \$17.5 million to help residential customers behind on electric bills

Xcel Energy will soon begin delivering \$17.5 million in assistance to residential customers who have fallen significantly behind on the electric bills during the COVID-19 recession, which has caused economic hardship for many in our communities. The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission approved the plan this week, which will help customers who may have the most trouble catching up on their bills.



3M East Metro Settlement Updates



Well sampling in the east metro area

If you live in the area that is a priority for testing, you can request that your private well water be tested.

- To see if you live in the priority sampling area, use the [interactive map](#).
- If you live in the priority sampling area, you can request to have your well tested by filling out and [submitting this online form](#).

More information about the priority testing area is available on the [Well sampling in the East Metro Area webpage](#).

Water Conservation Rebate Program

The City of Lake Elmo, in partnership with the Metropolitan Council, is offering a rebate program for purchases of eligible WaterSense toilets and Smart Irrigation Controllers. Qualifying purchases are eligible for up to a \$200 credit on your water bill.



[Program Details Available Here](#)

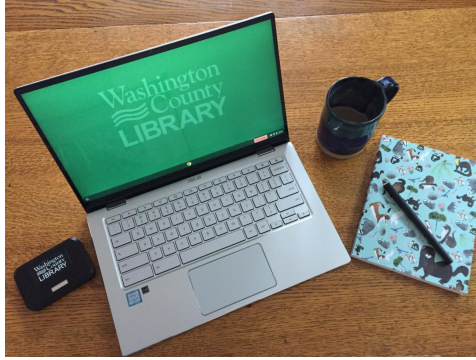
Washington County Library branches are open for express service.



- Pick up holds • Browse materials
- Use computers for 1 hour or less
- Schedule curbside pickup



Washington County Library branches are currently open for Express Service. Visit the library during reduced hours to browse materials, pick up holds, and use a computer for up to one hour. Curbside service is also available for community members who cannot enter our buildings. Learn how we're keeping the library safe for everyone at WashCoLib.org/COVID19.



Washington County Library now has mobile hotspots and Chromebooks available to check out. Get internet at home or on the go (for free!). Devices can be checked out for one month at a time, and can be renewed three times if there are no other holds. You only need a library card registered in Washington County to borrow a device. More information is available at WashCoLib.org/devices.

Washington County Library Events