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Your Weekly Source for City News and Information

Public Meetings Next Week:

- Planning Commission Monday, February 12th, 7:00 p.m.
- City Council Workshop Tuesday, February 13th, 6:30 p.m.



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NOTICE OF MEETING

The City of Lake Elmo

Planning Commission will conduct a meeting on

Monday February 12th 2024

at 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Pledge of Allegiance
 2. Approve Agenda
 3. Approve Minutes of January 22nd, 2024
 4. Public Hearing
 - a) **Stillwater Schools Comprehensive Plan Amendment and Rezoning.** The Stillwater Area School District (ISD 834) has submitted a comprehensive plan amendment and rezoning application for the property located at PID 26.029.21.44.0001. The comprehensive plan amendment application is amend the City's adopted 2040 comprehensive plan to reguide the property from rural area development to institutional and include the parcel within the City's MUSA boundary for development between 2020 and 2030. The zoning map amendment application is to rezone the property from Agriculture to Public Facilities.
 - b) **Zoning Text Amendment.** The City has initiated a zoning text amendment to Lake Elmo City Code sections 105.08.100 Security Escrow for Construction, and 105.12.260 Permits, Certificates And Licenses, to update language and clarify requirements.
 5. New/Unfinished Business
 - a) N/A
 6. Communications/Updates
 - a) City Council Updates – 2/6/24
 - i. Old Village Moratorium
 - ii. 8012 Hill Trl Variance
 - iii. 2023 Housekeeping Zoning Text Amendments
 - iv. Bridgewater Village Preliminary Plat
 - b) Upcoming Meetings
 - i. February 13th, 2024 - Joint PC and CC Workshop @6:30PM
 - ii. February 26th, 2024
 - iii. March 11th, 2024
 7. Adjourn
-



NOTICE OF MEETING

City Council Workshop
3880 Laverne Avenue North
February 13, 2024
6:30 PM

AGENDA

- | | |
|---|---------|
| I. Call to Order | 6:30 PM |
| II. Planning Commission Joint Session Work Plan Review | 6:30 PM |
| III. Items for Future Work Session Agenda | 7:30 PM |
| A. Conduit Bonding Discussion | |
| B. Washington County Review of TH36/CSAH17 Intersection | |
| C. Legends of Lake Elmo Concept Plan | |
| D. Limerick Village Concept Plan | |
| IV. Adjourn | 7:30 PM |

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

2024 Presidential Primary Election
Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Early & absentee voting begins next week

In-person absentee voting will begin
January 19 and run through March 4.
at Vote Centers:



- 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 February 16, in-person absentee voting will also be available at
Oakdale City Hall, 1584 Hadley Ave. N., Oakdale.

Hours:

Monday - Friday: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 2: 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Monday, March 4: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

POLLING LOCATION CHANGE

PLEASE NOTE: Lake Elmo residents in Precinct 1 who have voted at the fire station in the past will now vote at the new Lake Elmo City Center located at 3880 Laverne Avenue North.

Service Recognition

Firefighter Nate Wagner was recognized at the February 6th City Council meeting for his 5 years of service with the Lake Elmo Fire Department.

Thank you, Nate!



Winter Parking

Please remember that the City of Lake Elmo has a winter parking ordinance that **prohibits parking on city streets from November 1st through March 31st between 2:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m.** This gives crews a window of time for clearing streets curb to curb more efficiently. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation!



Exterior storage, parking and maintenance

As part of our ongoing efforts to maintain the appeal and safety of the City of Lake Elmo, city staff would like to remind residents about regulations pertaining to exterior storage, parking, and upkeep of properties. The way we manage our spaces is important for maintaining our city's quintessential character.



Exterior Storage: All refuse, rubbish, or garbage (as defined in LEC 1.08) shall be kept in an enclosed building or properly contained in a closed container designed for the purposes. The accumulation, storing, or keeping of old machinery, wrecked or inoperable vehicles or household appliances, and unlicensed vehicles and other junk or debris is prohibited.

Parking: Unlicensed passenger vehicles and trucks shall not be parked in residential districts for a period exceeding seven days.

Parking Design and Maintenance: Surfacing and drainage. All off-street parking areas shall be surfaced as follows: Single-family and two-family dwellings shall provide a durable surface with suitable drainage. In all residential, commercial, and mixed-use districts, all areas intended to be

utilized for parking space for five or more vehicles and associated driveways shall be paved with a durable surface, including, but not limited to, hot asphalt, bituminous or concrete.



The City of Lake Elmo has been working with Washington County and their environmental specialist to incorporate recycling efforts in our downtown area and at the new City Center. A grant provided by Washington County offered the city an opportunity to place bins throughout downtown, Lions Park and VFW Field, and at City Hall. These bins will help promote recycling throughout the area and can help reduce waste up to 60% in common areas.

Drop Box Available

The new City Center building has a convenient drop box located on the front of the building.



Utility payments, permit applications and other documents may be dropped in the box during or after office hours.

A few words Carbon Monoxide

Carbon Monoxide:

- is a deadly gas created by incomplete combustion and is found in vehicle exhaust.
- Has no color, odor, or taste which makes it impossible to recognize without detection equipment.
- Is often found in homes with faulty gas fired appliances.



We recommend that:

- You never run a vehicle inside a garage, even with the garage door open.
- Have Carbon Monoxide detectors on every level of your home, within ten feet of sleeping areas.
- You purchase a stand alone Carbon Monoxide / Combustible Gas detector that plugs into the wall, has a digital display, and battery backup for installation in mechanical rooms.

Carbon Monoxide poisoning is dangerous. Symptoms include:

- Weakness.
- Drowsiness.
- Headaches.
- Confusion.
- Shortness of Breath.



Washington
County

County Highway 15 (Manning Avenue) Phase 3 Improvement Project

In-Person Open House Information

Washington County, in partnership with the City of Lake Elmo, West Lakeland Township and Baytown Township, is hosting an open house to plan for future improvements to County Highway 15 (Manning Avenue) between County Highway 10 (10th Street North) and 30th Street.

Join us in-person or online to talk with the project team, share comments on proposed improvements, and to learn about the schedule and next steps for the project.

[Open House #2 Postcard \(PDF\)](#)

- When: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 from 4 – 6 p.m. (no formal presentation)
- Where: West Lakeland Township | 959 Paris Ave Cir N, West Lakeland, MN

Online Engagement Information

If you are unable to attend the in-person open house on February 13, an online engagement will also be available on the project website with all of the information provided at the in-person open house. Visit the project website anytime between February 13 - March 5 to view the online engagement and provide your feedback.

<https://www.co.washington.mn.us/ManningAvePhase3>

There will be no formal presentation or discussion during the online engagement. The project manager, Eden Rogers, is available to answer any questions concerning the project at 651-430-4352 or eden.rogers@co.washington.mn.us.

More information on this project can also be found on the project website: www.co.washington.mn.us/ManningAvePhase3.

Parks Master Plan Survey

Lake Elmo Residents are invited to participate in a survey to help the City gather information for creation of a master parks plan. Please take a few



minutes to share your feedback with us! The QR code to the left will take you directly to the survey, or you can also access the survey here: [Parks Master Plan Survey](#)



Emerald Ash Borer

Washington County will remove ash trees from Lake Elmo Park Reserve

Washington County is continuing ash tree removal within Lake Elmo Park Reserve in response to the emerald ash borer. Starting Nov. 15 through March 31, 2024, ash trees will be removed near trails and in natural areas of the park. These removals will help minimize risk to the public from falling trees and will also reduce fuel loads that can increase fire risk within the park.

To complete the work, a contractor will be using equipment to cut and haul the trees to staging areas, before chipping and removing debris from the site. Once work commences, ski trails on the south side of Lake Elmo and the snowmobile trail will be closed. Only ash trees will be removed, and new bareroot trees will be planted in suitable areas in the spring of 2024.

See the county website at to view a map of ash trees. Green dots are trees to be removed, and purple dots are ash trees surveyed in summer of 2023. If time and weather conditions allow, staff will also remove dead or dying ash trees along the property boundaries.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture website has more information about the emerald ash borer at www.mda.state.mn.us/eab

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 summer camp offerings are open! We have lots to pick from this year. We're offering our camps in three categories: Little Explorers, for campers aged 0 to 5, and a family member, which meets Monday mornings from 9:30 to 11. Wonder Wednesdays are for campers aged 5 to 10, and meet from 9 to 2. Our four-day (Mon-Thurs) camps, Sunfish Explorers, meet from 9 to noon. Each camp is set up around a specific nature-related topic, depending on which you choose. For a full list of dates, and topics for each camp, check our website!

- **We're counting birds!** Join us at the Center from Friday, February 16 through Monday, February 19 for the Great Backyard Bird Count! We will be counting and identifying birds from inside and outside the nature center. We encourage families to join us and no experience is necessary!!



We're also offering a beginning birding session on Saturday, February 10 at 10 a.m. so you can hone your bird IDing skills beforehand. This event is free and open to all!

- Our artist friend, Julie Schroeder, will be back in February with another painting workshop. On Friday, February 23, Julie will be giving a mixed media workshop from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The cost is \$75, which includes supplies. To register, you can contact Julie directly at: brushcolour@yahoo.com



Are you interested in birds and participating in science? Or maybe looking for something to do with your family or group?

Join us at **Sally Manzara Interpretive Center**, in Lake Elmo for:

The GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Sponsored by The Cornell Lab, Audubon and Birds Canada.

February 10th at 10 a.m. for a little birding education (optional)

February 16 - 19 for the International Great Backyard Bird Count!

We will be counting and identifying birds from inside and outside the nature center. *This is an accessible and inclusive event.* For those who would like to sit comfortably indoors, we will have positions in the upper and lower level of the nature center for observations. If you would like to be out in the fresh air, we will have a couple of spots in the quiet woods to identify from. We encourage families to join and no experience is necessary!



Get your kids outdoors exploring nature this summer!

2024 Camp Schedule

Sunfish Explorers

Monday - Thursday from 9am-12 noon
Our weeklong 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**– August 19-22

Wonder Wednesdays

Wednesdays from 9am-2pm
Our one-day, fun-filled, Wonder Wednesday's 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
- Prairie Explorers – August 14

Little Explorers

Mondays from 9:30am-11:00am (Newborns to 5-year-olds)

Little Explorer sessions are set up for families to come together and give the little ones their first experiences exploring nature. The first hour will be a 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



Sally Marzara 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@smlnc-lake-elmo.org | smlnc-lake-elmo.org

Washington County is a registered



**NALOXONE
ACCESS
POINT**



**Free naloxone kits and fentanyl test strips may be found at the
Public Health & Environment offices in:**

- Cottage Grove Service Center, 13000 Ravine Parkway, Cottage Grove.
- Forest Lake Service Center, 19955 Forest Road N., Forest Lake.
- Government Center, 14949 N. 62nd St., Stillwater.



Find more information on the program
on the county's website at
www.co.washington.mn.us/NAP



The City of Lake Elmo has begun participation in the State of Minnesota's Performance Measurement Program. This program began in 2010 for cities and counties to report on at least 10 performance measures annually as a way to aid residents, taxpayers, and state and local elected officials in determining the efficacy of counties and cities in providing services and measure residents' opinions of those services.

Click
here to
access
reporting
results

The Valley Branch Watershed District
(VBWD) is a public organization tasked



with protecting and managing local water resources within an area spanning 14 cities and townships in Washington and Ramsey Counties. The VBWD is seeking input from you as it begins updating its Watershed Management Plan which will guide VBWD actions for the next 10 years. Please take a brief (5-10 minute) survey to help the VBWD better understand your concerns and priorities regarding our local water resources.

Link to survey: [Survey](#)

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

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