



# fresh

Your Weekly Source for City News and Information

## Public Meetings Next Week:

- City Council Special Meeting, Tuesday, January 9th, 5:45 p.m.
- City Council/Parks Commission Joint Workshop, Tuesday, January 9th, 6:30 p.m.



Visit our website

Join us on Nextdoor



*Our Mission is to Provide Quality Public Services in a Fiscally Responsible Manner in Partnership with our Community*

**NOTICE OF MEETING**  
City Council Special Meeting  
Tuesday, January 9, 2024 5:45 P.M.  
City of Lake Elmo | 3880 Laverne Avenue North  
AGENDA

- A. CALL TO ORDER
- B. CITY COUNCIL INTERVIEW
- C. CITY COUNCIL MEMBER APPOINTMENT
- D. ADJOURN



## **NOTICE OF MEETING**

City Council Workshop  
3880 Laverne Avenue North  
January 9, 2024  
6:30 PM

## **AGENDA**

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| I. Call to Order                                    | 6:30 PM |
| II. Parks Commission Joint Session Work Plan Review | 6:30 PM |
| III. Items for Future Work Session Agenda           | 7:30 PM |
| A. Joint Work Session with Planning Commission      |         |
| IV. Adjourn   | 7:30 PM |

---

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

---

## **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!



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.



**View the winter constellations 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 19,  
at Lake Elmo Park Reserve**

Make the stars your old friends while watching the great celestial show in the skies. Following a short orientation, get to know constellations such as The Big Bear, Orion the Hunter, Gemini the Twins, and Taurus the Bull, and hear the stories behind them. The event will be hosted by retired WCCO meteorologist Mike Lynch, who has been hosting star watch events and teaching astronomy for more than 50 years.

The group will use large telescopes, among the largest mobile telescopes in Minnesota, for close-up views of the moon, Jupiter, star clusters, nebulae, galaxies, and other wonders in the winter skies. Participants will receive a handout package with user-friendly star maps and constellation charts, apps, websites, a telescope-buying guide, and more. Dress to be outdoors for the majority of the program. Bring a lawn chair or anything else needed for comfort.

Cost is \$5 per person. Children ages 6 years old and younger are free. Register online at the Washington County website. See [www.co.washington.mn.us](http://www.co.washington.mn.us) and search "Parks programs and events." Lake Elmo Park Reserve is at 1515 Keats Ave. N. in Lake Elmo.



## 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](http://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:

- Volunteers needed! We couldn't keep our doors open without the help of our amazing volunteers. Do you think you'd like to be part of our team? We have all kinds of opportunities, from groundskeeping to handling reception at the front desk. Currently we REALLY need volunteers to come in Saturday mornings and afternoons. If you're interested, reach out to our Volunteer Coordinator, Amanda. You can email her at [amanda.vosberg@sminc-lake-elmo.org](mailto:amanda.vosberg@sminc-lake-elmo.org)



- We have a new display upstairs in the center. It's all about beavers (there's a little bit about otters too!) and the vital role they play in shaping and maintaining healthy aquatic ecosystems, like the ones here at Sunfish Lake Park. Their dams form ponds which can help filter out pollutants, capture carbon, and even help safeguard against drought. Amazing, right?
- The warm weather seems to be hanging around for another week at least. May as well take advantage of it while you can. Come on down to Lake Elmo's Sunfish Lake Park and hike one of our trails. Check out the prairie restoration project, the Tree Trek, or take a stroll down by the lake!
- This month we will be welcoming back Julie Schroeder for another painting workshop. On Friday, January 26 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Julie will be walking students through mixed-media painting. The cost is \$75, and that includes supplies.



# VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

We are always looking for dedicated volunteers to work on the grounds, or at reception. Weekday and weekend shifts available.

Interested in becoming a volunteer  
at the SMINC?  
Contact our Volunteer Coordinator at  
[amanda.vosberg@sminc-lake-elmo.org](mailto:amanda.vosberg@sminc-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](http://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

[Unsubscribe jjohnson@lakeelmo.org](#)

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

Sent byjjohnson@lakeelmo.orgpowered by



Try email marketing for free today!