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Your Weekly Source for City News and Information

Public Meetings Next Week

- Planning Commission Meeting Monday, March 28 - 7:00PM

[City Agendas and Minutes](#)



Visit our website



The Brookfield building at 3880 Laverne Ave is closed and under construction. All City Services are available at City Hall, 3800 Laverne

Please drive slowly and watch for construction activity

[March 28 Planning Commission Meeting Agenda](#)

NOTICE OF MEETING

The City of Lake Elmo
Planning Commission will conduct a meeting on
Monday March 28, 2022
at 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approve Agenda
3. Approve Minutes
 - a. March 14, 2022
4. Public Hearings
 - a. 9404 Lake Jane Trail N. Variance to the side yard setback. The property owner has requested a 6-foot side yard setback variance. The applicant proposes to expand their living space by converting the current garage into living space and building a new garage addition directly in front of the existing garage. To build the addition along the existing driveway line, a 6-foot variance on the southwest side of the property is necessary. RS Zoning District, Shoreland Overlay Zone and Valley Branch Watershed District. PID: 1002921240014
 - b. 8930 Jane Road N. Variance for a second driveway. The property owner has requested a variance to allow a second driveway on a residential lot. Only one driveway is allowed. RS Zoning District, Shoreland Overlay Zone and Valley Branch Watershed District. PID: 0902921110016
 - c. 114441 20th Street North Conditional Use Permit for a Pool and Fitness Center. The property owner has requested approval of a Conditional Use Permit to construct a pool and fitness center on the property which is located in the Royal Golf Club 1st Addition. The use requires approval of a Conditional Use Permit. GCC Zoning District/PUD, Shoreland Overlay Zone and Valley Branch Watershed District. PID: 2502921120002
 - d. Comprehensive Plan Amendment. The City of Lake Elmo is proposing an amendment to the City's 2040 Comprehensive Plan to expand the MUSA (Metropolitan Urban Service Area). This proposal is to change the existing MUSA boundary to include the existing homes in the Tapestry at Charlottes' Grove subdivision located north of Sunfish Lake Park and off of 45th Street North. The City is proposing this amendment to accommodate a sewer improvement project the City Council approved to provide city sanitary sewer to the 65 existing homes. The amendment also includes changes to the text of the Plan and to maps and tables in the City's Sanitary Sewer Plan to accommodate the expanded sanitary sewer area. This proposal does not include new development.
5. New/Unfinished Business: N/A
6. Communications/Updates
 - a. City Council Update
3-15-2022 – Tabled decision on One Energy Solar Farm CUP to April 5th, 2022
7. Adjourn
 - b. Staff Updates – City Planner starts April 4th, 2022
 - c. Upcoming PC Meetings:
 1. April 11, 2022
 2. April 25, 2022

*FOR PUBLICATION ONE TIME – Stillwater Gazette – March 18, 2022
Planning Commission Public Hearing Notice for Monday March 28, 2022*

LAKE ELMO NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

DATE: Monday, March 28, 2022
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: Lake Elmo City Hall
3800 Laverne Avenue North
Lake Elmo MN 55042
Phone: 651-747-3900

PURPOSE: The Lake Elmo Planning Commission will be holding a public hearing to consider the following item:

VARIANCE REVIEW: Applicant Cassandra Banna, owner of the property located at 9404 Lake Jane Trail N, is seeking a 6-foot side yard setback variance. The applicant proposes to expand their living space by converting the current garage into living space and building a new garage addition directly in front of the existing garage. To build the addition along the existing driveway line, a 6-foot variance on the southwest side of the property is necessary.

All persons wishing to be heard on the above item should attend the meeting or submit their comments before the meeting to city staff. Written comments may be submitted to the city by mail no later than 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 23, 2022; or emailed to Molly Just at mjust@lakeelmo.org no later than noon on the day of the meeting. Materials about the above items are available for review by request – please contact Molly Just, Planning Director (651-747-3912) for more information.

Molly Just, Lake Elmo Planning Director

The City of Lake Elmo is accepting artifacts from Lake Elmo History to display in the new City Center. If you have something you'd like displayed, contact Jake Dickson, Assistant City Administrator at 651-747-3908 jdickson@lakeelmo.org



2022 Spring Road Restrictions



Spring Load Restrictions begin March 16th

Weight Restrictions (Seasonal)

Weight Restrictions

Axle weight limits are restricted on certain streets within the City of Lake Elmo to protect the streets from damage when road and weather conditions warrant in accordance with State & City regulations.

All City streets are limited to **SEVEN TON AXLE** per axle weight limit unless otherwise posted. Residents are encouraged to plan ahead for moving or construction projects during the spring thaw season since weight restrictions will be enforced & large trucks will not be allowed on restricted streets.

Dates

Weight restrictions take effect during the spring thaw season, which is usually around March 1st to May 15th, dependent upon the weather. City of Lake Elmo follows the Seasonal Load Limits established by the State of Minnesota. Check the MN DOT website for dates.
http://dotapp7.dot.state.mn.us/research/seasonal_load_limits/sllindex.asp

Exemptions

No exemptions or permits are given during this time period, except for vehicles responding for emergency situation.

Streets Regulated

The City of Lake Elmo only regulates the city streets.

All County roads are regulated by Washington County and all Highways are regulated by the State of Minnesota. Private roads are not regulated by the City, but by the homeowners associations or designated responsible party. The City does not maintain any information on contracts for private roads.

The City of Lake Elmo is on Nextdoor!

In an effort to reach as much of the community as possible we've joined Nextdoor. We will use our public agency page to post news and important updates for residents.

[Find us here!](#)





The City of Lake Elmo is hiring Public Works Seasonals. We are accepting applications for seasonal workers to assist the Public Works department with general maintenance of City streets, parks, and properties. This is a great opportunity for graduating seniors as well as students home from college. Information and applications are available [here](#).



Business Retention and Expansion Program

The Lake Elmo Economic Development Authority (LEEDA) will be kicking off a Business Retention and Expansion Program in March. LEEDA members will be reaching out to schedule visits with members of our business community to learn more about their business, what's going well, what could be done differently and how LEEDA can help them continue to grow and prosper in Lake Elmo.

With around 300 businesses in Lake Elmo and only 6 LEEDA commissioners, this campaign will take many months and likely continue into 2023. Commissioners will be focusing on businesses in the Old Village area first and then moving towards the I-94 corridor later this

year. If you have any questions or would like to schedule a visit contact
Kristina Handt at 651.747.3905 or khandt@lakeelmo.org



Need a Trusted **Business Advisor?**

This program provides free and confidential one-on-one assistance from MCCD's experienced staff, customized to meet the specific needs of each entrepreneur in the creation, growth, and success of their business.

Technical Assistance & Lending

- Business & strategic planning
- Marketing & communications planning
- Regulatory, tax, licensing, & accounting training
- Financial assessment
- Referrals to critical professional services
- Access to capital



We want to help you succeed!

To learn more about a free personalized plan for your business contact:



info@mccdmn.org
(612) 789-7337

www.mccdmn.org/open-to-business





Water Rebate Programs In Lake Elmo

It is not too early to think about how you irrigate this summer. The City of Lake Elmo offers rebates for smart irrigation controllers up to \$200, and rebates for efficient toilets up to \$100. Find out more [here](#).

REMINDER: Winter Parking Ordinance In Effect

Winter parking ordinance prohibits parking on Lake Elmo Streets from Nov. 1 through March 31 between 2:00 AM and 7:00 AM.

Public Works can't clear the roadways with cars blocking their paths!



Public Works Crews have begun filling potholes on City Streets. Feel free to report potholes by calling Public Works at 651-747-3940. Please slow down when approaching street crews. Thank you for your cooperation.



The City of Lake Elmo is Seeking Applicants for Multiple Committees



The City of Lake Elmo is seeking interested residents to serve on two committees:

- EDA
- Planning Commission

[More Information Available Here](#)

Where & How to Place Your Garbage Can

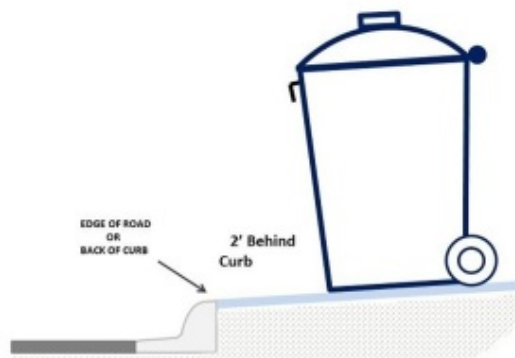
Garbage and recycling containers need to be placed off the street per MN State Statute 160.2715 (A)(2)

Please Do not place garbage cans in the street. We realize this area is an enticing location to place garbage cans, but it creates a hazard as it narrows the travel lanes creating safety concerns. The cans could get hit by vehicles or create visibility issues. Most garbage trucks are equipped with a hydraulic extending arm that grasps garbage cans. It is recommended that garbage cans be placed at least 3 to 5 feet off the edge of pavement, into your driveway, so they are out of the way of traffic and maintenance vehicles.



Retrieve your garbage cans soon after collection. Garbage cans often sit at the roadside on collection day until the evening. Empty cans are vulnerable to winds and road maintenance operations and could cause a hazard if knocked into the roadway. Prompt removal of empty containers is recommended.

These tips can make garbage collection day safer and easier for all of us. The City of Lake Elmo thanks you for taking time to read this message!





The City of Lake Elmo is Accepting Applications for the following positions:

- Public Works Seasonal
- Building Inspector

[Visit our website for information and application materials.](#)



LAKE ELMO FARMER'S MARKET

Seeking YOUTH Vendors for the 2022 Season

Market runs weekly beginning Saturday June 18th – September 3rd from 9-1pm

The market is offering an amazing opportunity for Youth in the community this summer, a booth dedicated to Youth Vendors/ Entrepreneurs!

Youth vendors may include: youth organizations (ie: Scouts), fundraising efforts (ie: PTO), youth farmers, young entrepreneurs looking for an opportunity within the community to sell their amazing creations/inventions, etc.

If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Jill (Market Manager) for more information about specific guidelines for youth vendors, application process and to answer any additional questions.

651-261-4493 or pottingshedpottery@gmail.com

See YOU at the market!
(in less than 5 months)

Like us on Facebook @Lake Elmo Farmers Market and watch for updates!

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



Sally Manzara Interpretive Nature Center (SMINC)

Family Nature Exploration Saturdays 2022

10-11am



Suggested \$5 donation/family at the door will help support our programming.

Most events are held outdoors, please dress appropriately for the weather.

The Sally Manzara Interpretive Nature Center is located in Sunfish Lake Park in Lake Elmo, MN

<https://sminc-lake-elmo.org/>

www.facebook.com/sunfishlakepark



March 26 Nature Painting

Hike to find inspiration in nature and then create a painting with artist Brianna Seipel.

Wear outdoor gear and clothing to paint. All ages.
\$5/child for supplies



April 2 Seed Planting & Garden Planning

Plant vegetable seeds and start planning your vegetable garden with a Master Gardener. All Ages.



April 9 Mini Easter Bunny Craft

Make a mini Easter bunny craft for a senior and one to take home. All ages.
\$5/child for supplies.



April 23 Earth Day Clean Up

Learn about Earth Day and help clean up Sunfish Lake Park. Bring gloves. All ages.



April 30 City Nature Challenge

Learn how to use the iNaturalist app and join in the CityNatureChallenge.org by collectively capturing images for the Sunfish Lake Park Project. Bring a device to load app and take photos. All ages.



SALLY MANZARA INTERPRETIVE NATURE CENTER
2022 FUNDRAISER

KEEP US GROWING



WEDNESDAY MAY 11, 6:00 P.M.

LAKE ELMO INN EVENT CENTER



Special guest
WILLIAM KENT KRUEGER
AWARD WINNING MINNESOTA AUTHOR



**\$100 per plate, \$1,000 for table for 8,
\$1,200 for table for 8 + wine experience**

- dinner from the Lake Elmo Inn
- live auction of some amazing experiences
- silent auction
- camaraderie



**Purchase tickets online
at sminc-lake-elmo.org
or call 651-408-2838**

SALLY MANZARA INTERPRETIVE NATURE CENTER

SUMMER CAMPS

FOR KIDS!



where kids of all ages experience the unique natural history and ongoing ecology of Sunfish Lake Park



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 5 miles of trails through forest, wetlands, and prairie.

SUMMER DAY CAMPS



Summer Day Camps are for kids **ages 4-14** and run **Monday - Thursday mornings, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

Camps are run by instructors based out of the SMINC Nature Center and include hikes and activities in Sunfish Lake Park in Lake Elmo. Camps are **\$175 per session**. Participants bring their own backpack with a mask, snack, water bottle, hat, sunscreen, bug spray and change of clothes if needed. Maximum of 10 campers per camp.

CRITTER CAMP

June 13 - 16
for 4-6 year olds

NATURE MURAL ART CAMP

June 20-23
for 9-14 year olds

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

July 11-14
for 9-12 year olds

BEEES & BUTTERFLIES

August 8-11
for 6-8 year olds

WONDER WEDNESDAYS

Kids ages 5-10 can enjoy a full day of outdoor adventures on select **Wednesdays** from **9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.** and are **\$70 per date**. Participants bring their own backpack with a mask, snack, lunch, water bottle, hat, sunscreen, bug spray and change of clothes if needed. Maximum of 10 campers per camp. Campers will explore the outdoors with different themes including nature art, fishing, bees, birds, hikes and many more adventures enriched with Spanish language. Groups will be organized by age.

June 22
ALL ABOUT BIRDS

June 29
FISHING

July 20
WATER PLAY

July 27
RAPTORS

August 3
NATURE ART

August 17
POLLINATORS



Sally Manzara Interpretive Nature Center is operated by Friends of Lake Elmo's Sunfish Lake Park, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

Contact us: 651-408-2838 | camps@sminc-lake-elmo.org

Find us online: sminc-lake-elmo.org/summer-camp-registration-2022/

Be SALT SMART!



WATER SOFTENERS

Water softeners account for up to 65% of the chloride that is discharged from municipal wastewater treatment plants statewide.

Hard water is pervasive in our state; thus, water softeners are a common fixture in many Minnesota homes. Conventional water softeners treat hard water by exchanging the hard minerals with sodium and potassium ions. When the system is 'full,' it resets or regenerates by sending a pulse of salt water through the system. Municipal wastewater treatment plants do NOT treat for chloride, meaning that salty water is then discharged to our waterways.

How do I reduce my chloride footprint?

Do you need to soften your water? If you live in a city, check to see whether your water utility softens the water before distribution. This eliminates or decreases the need for a water softener.

Optimize your water softener settings: If you have an older water softener, regeneration generally happens on a timer versus by water use – extending the timing between regeneration cycles will reduce the amount of wastewater produced.

Replace your water softener: Newer water softener models regenerate based on water use versus a timer, using less salt and water.

Don't soften ALL your water: Only soften the water from your hot water taps versus cold water drinking taps.

Reduce your overall water use: Cutting back lessens demand for softened water and conserves our water resources!

Using more than 1
40-lb bag of salt a
month?

Check with a water
professional to
optimize softener
efficiency!



March and April 2022 at Lake Elmo Library

Please visit Lake Elmo Library as new books and opportunities arrive daily! For example, a new "Career Corner" is now available in the public computer room. Here you will find current job listings and other career development resources available in our area.

We welcome community families to visit the library for in-person Storytime on most Fridays at 10:30 a.m. Visit washcolib.org/storytime for the online calendar and for links to virtual storytimes and other resources. Kids can find fun activities in the children's area on their library visits.

Lake Elmo Area adults are invited to peruse our "Let's Make Stuff" crafting class offerings. Details about what we will be creating, event dates and times can be found at washcolib.org under "Events calendar." Classes are held monthly and require registration by phone or online.

Hours:

Monday 10-4

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 12-8

Friday 10-4

Saturday 10-2

Lake Elmo Library

3537 Lake Elmo Avenue N

Lake Elmo MN 55042

651-275-8515

washcolib.org

Washington County Library Events

Public Facilities Project Update

- At the November 3 City Council Meeting the City Council awarded bids for the new City Center and Public Works Addition.
- At the January 4, 2022 City Council Meeting the City Council awarded bids for painting at the new City Center
- A groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for April 30. More details to come.



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.

