

Summer 2013



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THE SOURCE

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Building A Stronger Community

Lake Elmo Speak Your Peace campaign strengthens community in a civil way

Community is most frequently defined as a group of people sharing common characteristics or interests. The key to building stronger communities is the ability to find a common ground that honors a wide variety of viewpoints and beliefs. It is fairly safe to proclaim that citizens of Lake Elmo share a collective vision of living and working in an environment that is vibrant, offers a high quality of life, and enhances the natural, open space environment. It is also fair to say that not every citizen has the same ideas on how to achieve this vision; especially when addressing change.



In an effort to respect diverse attitudes and opinions, a group of community leaders have partnered with City officials and staff to launch an initiative called 'Speak Your Peace'. This effort provides the tools necessary for reaching agreements in a respectful and efficient manner. The campaign is centered on the Nine Tools of Civility, they are: Pay Attention, Listen, Be Inclusive, Don't Gossip, Show Respect, Seek Common Good, Repair Damaged Relationships, Give Constructive Criticism, and Take Responsibility.

"The City of Lake Elmo is embarking on a period of inevitable growth, which will affect every citizen of Lake Elmo in some capacity," said Mike Reeves, campaign representative. "It is more important now for citizens to get engaged in our community. Speak Your Peace will equip us to address upcoming changes collaboratively, proactively, and respectfully."

The Nine Tools of Civility don't only apply to efficient local government. Every group including church bodies, service organizations, school groups, and the workplace, can benefit from the principles of Speak Your Peace. The campaign offers the tools necessary to communicate

more effectively, and become more productive as a result.

The campaign was officially launched with City Council passing a resolution on April 16, 2013 to incorporate the Nine Tools of Civility as the foundation for conducting business of the council. The resolution was affirmed by city commissioners and introduced to the public with a community Speak Your Peace pledge signing event on May 22, 2013. Residents are welcomed and encouraged to sign the pledge, which is on display at City Hall. The next phase includes bringing customized presentations to groups and organizations in the community, introducing the tools and providing skills training. For more information or to schedule a presentation, visit www.SpeakYourPeaceLakeElmo.org.



Above, City Administer Dean Zuleger speaks to a room full of Lake Elmo residents and community leaders that gathered at City Hall on May 22 to sign the Speak Your Peace pledge and to support the vision of a stronger community.



Left, the Speak Your Peace pledge is on display in the lobby of City Hall, awaiting new signatures.

Filling Holes in 2013 and Beyond



By Dean Zuleger, City Administrator

Every community has their special set of issues that need attention. Lake Elmo is no exception. In my role as Administrator, I have identified four areas that I will concentrate on for the balance of 2013. They are clean water, balanced growth, a commitment to rebuilding our streets, and remodeling our parks.

Nothing is more important than the provision of clean water. Whether it is expanding our water utility or managing the groundwater aquifer, we need to make sure you have potable drinking water. Unfortunately, there is a persistent chemical in a good portion of our groundwater, so we have been working hard to design a system that gives you water that is safe for you to drink. Our 2014 plan is to run utility lines down Inwood Avenue and Lake Elmo Avenue that provide a clean, unfiltered source of water to the community. My work in this area also means obtaining the funding for our projects (which will lower your water bill). This will include ensuring those that put the chemical in our groundwater pay their fair share of the new water system, and working with the federal government to obtain possible assistance through the Clean Water Act. I won't rest until everyone has good, clean water.

Now that both of our fine citizen-led planning groups have finished their work on the I-94 corridor and the Old Village – and the City Council has approved critical sewer projects – we will focus on making sure our Met Council mandated growth has a sense of balance; balance that equalizes growth across the entire landscape and protects our open space character. We have met with no

less than eight developers who wish to build homes in Lake Elmo, and utilize our transportation system, desirable school district and ability to take a deep breath of fresh air. We want to keep it this way, and so far, none of the developers are balking. Included in this balance is my commitment to a vibrant downtown and support of our business community.

For you folks in the Old Village, it is 90% certain you will get sewer in 2015. Contact the city if you need help with a failing septic system or may be thinking about replacing an old system.

Our streets need work. While we have been busy planning, responding to the Met Council, and dealing with adulterated groundwater, our road system suffered. We have made equipment purchases and re-purposed our operational budget to go after some of our more needy streets. Watch for our street crew in your neighborhood with their new Durapatcher machine.

Finally, our parks need some TLC. Currently, our Parks Commission is tabulating a community survey that details your thoughts on our current and future needs. My goal is to have every one of our parks be a destination spot for you and your family. We have \$900,000 (that we have been sitting on for a while) to make this a reality, so I hope you took time to fill out the survey. If not give me a call at 651-233-5401 and dream a little bit about our park system.

We will always be ever vigilant on the day to day issues like traffic enforcement, nuisance properties, building permits, and maintaining property values. But I believe that if we can effectively succeed in the four issues listed above – we can build a stronger Lake Elmo.

Wanted: New Ideas for the Next Generation

Next Gen Group Forming to Conceptualize the Future of Lake Elmo

The City of Lake Elmo is launching a new group composed of citizens ages 25 to 40 to provide a fresh perspective on the future development of Lake Elmo.

Young professionals represent a rapidly growing segment of Lake Elmo's population. Many, advancing into the next phases of their lives, are coming to Lake Elmo to escape the hustle and bustle of the busy city life, and to take advantage of the open space character and high quality of living that the city exemplifies.

"As Lake Elmo embarks on a period of growth and development, we need



to ensure that we are considering ideals and needs of all demographics that make up our community," said Mayor, Mike Pearson. "Our history is well-established. It's now time gain insight into our future through the eyes

of those who will be living it."

We are seeking 10 to 15 passionate individuals who are interested in living in a balanced and enriching community. The group will evaluate the City on several areas including parks and recreation, business climate, educational opportunities, community engagement, affordability, entertainment and activities, and accessibility to determine how best to meet the needs of the younger generation.

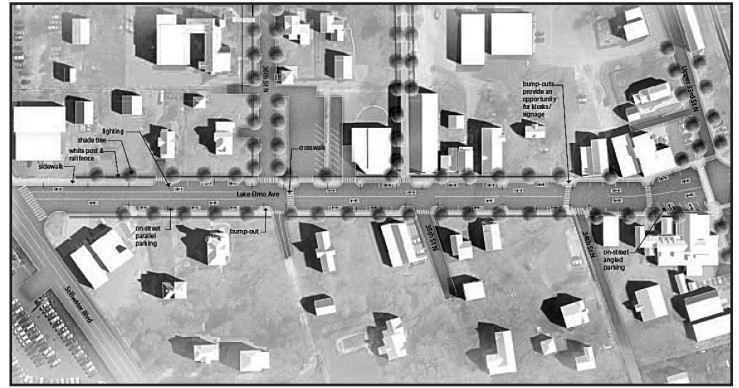
If interested in joining this group or for more information, contact Alyssa MacLeod at 651-747-3908 or amacleod@lakeelmo.org.

Envisioning the Future Look of Lake Elmo

What do you envision your community to look like in the future? That is the fundamental question that a group of Lake Elmo officials, residents and business owners sought to answer as they participated in the Lake Elmo Branding and Theming Study. The goal of the Branding and Theming Study was to establish a kit of design elements and amenities that can be utilized within public rights-of-way and other community spaces to establish a unique brand or aesthetic that reflects Lake Elmo's character. These design elements and amenities include lighting, signage, fencing, landscaping, and other elements that contribute to an attractive streetscape. With the incorporation of these design elements, it is the ultimate goal that the Lake Elmo community will look and feel different than other surrounding communities.

The Study was led by Damon Farber and Associates, a locally renowned landscape architecture firm. The five month effort included a visual listening exercise and visual preference exercise to determine what the desired design aesthetic was for the public spaces. Damon Farber and Associates used the information collected from these exercises to draft multiple concepts related to Lake Elmo's brand or theme. The various concepts were discussed at multiple meetings where members of the public could provide feedback and input about the designs.

Given the upcoming growth that the City is planning for, it is important to have these design elements in place before new development occurs. As the amenities and design elements are established, it is the City's goal that private growth and development match or incorporate similar themes and styles. In other words, if the City gets the design of the public spaces right, the private spaces will follow. In terms of public spaces, these designs can



An aerial view of what downtown Lake Elmo could look like, based on feedback received from a City Branding and Theming Study.

be especially important in the construction of new collector roads or other transportation corridors. In addition, the City has been working with Washington County on a future reconstruction of Lake Elmo Avenue (CSAH-17). As part of this project, the City intends to incorporate these design elements and amenities into the streetscape of Lake Elmo Avenue. Within the Branding and Theming Study, there are multiple renderings of how these design elements could be incorporated into downtown, among other areas. However, it is important to note that the final design will be determined by Washington County with input and collaboration from the City of Lake Elmo. Nevertheless, it is critical to have a document like this in place to ensure that no opportunities are missed in terms of implementing the established vision for the community. It also helps communicating the City's vision to both private and public parties who are engaged in Lake Elmo's future.

The Study is available online for viewing at www.lakeelmo.org/theming.

Changes Made to City's Zoning Code

Sign and Fence Ordinances Evaluated to Become More Straightforward

In advance of future growth in the community, the City has been working on a project to update and reorganize the City's Zoning Code. In addition to reorganizing the structure of the Code to make it more intuitive, the City has been evaluating several ordinances for effectiveness. This evaluation revealed that several ordinances in the Zoning Code should be updated to either reflect best practices, or make them easier to administer. Two of the ordinances that have recently been reviewed as part of the Zoning Code Update Project are the Fence Ordinance and the Sign Ordinance.

Regarding the Fence Ordinance, the recent changes include more straightforward standards for commercial fencing. In addition, residential fences are allowed to be solid up to six feet in height, with the exception of front and side (corner) yard setback areas. This change is a departure from the previous fence ordinance that required that any portion of a residential fence above 42" to be 75% open to air and light.

Regarding the Sign Ordinance, the City's evaluation revealed that it was poorly organized, challenging to administer, and restrictive in

some areas of the community. The City adopted a new sign ordinance that is better organized, more comprehensive and less restrictive than the previous ordinance. Staff felt that evaluating this ordinance for best practices was important in advance of future commercial or mixed-use growth in the community. The new ordinance is designed with helping local businesses in mind, by updating it to reflect the use of current sign technology.

To view copies of the new ordinances, visit www.lakeelmo.org/government/municipal-code.

State Highway 5 to be Converted to Three-Lane Roadway

Highway 5 through downtown Lake Elmo will undergo some changes this September which will improve the roadway surface, reduce vehicle speeds, and improve safety. The improvements are being implemented from recommendations outlined in a State Highway 5 Road Safety Audit completed earlier this year by an independent panel of transportation and traffic engineers. The improvements will include:

- A thin surface overlay to restore the pavement and provide a skid resistant wearing surface;
- Convert Highway 5 to a 3-lane roadway with center left turn lanes;
- Install a raised center median refuge for safe pedestrian crossing at the Elementary School, and;
- Adding center and edge rumble strips along the rural segments to improve safety.

With construction set to begin this September, MnDOT will be placing a thin overlay along Highway 5 from the Jamaca Avenue Roundabout, through Downtown, to the four-lane



Road safety improvements that will begin in September include converting Highway 5 into a 3-lane roadway, like the one pictured above.

transition at 58th Street North. The overlay will help to restore and protect the pavement and provide a skid resistant wearing surface. This work will be completed under traffic with no significant lane closures. The “micro surfacing” project will cover up the existing pavement markings.

Given the opportunity to re-stripe the roadway, MnDOT has been working with the City of Lake Elmo to place the new pavement markings in a manner that converts Highway 5 to a 3-lane roadway through the downtown area, from CSAH 17 (north leg) to 39th Street North. A 3-lane roadway that includes one lane for each direction,

plus the introduction of center left turn lanes, is considered a mitigation strategy for rear end crashes; the type of safety concerns experienced along this segment of road. The lane configuration will also provide a traffic calming affect resulting in reduced travel speeds.

Outside of the downtown segment, between the Jamaca Avenue Roundabout and the north leg of CSAH 17, and between 39th Street North and 58th Street North, MnDOT will be adding center rumble strips and replacing the edge rumble strips to alert inattentive drivers when they drift from their lanes. Rumble strips are an effective safety measure and cost effective improvement for reducing accidents due to driver carelessness.

LEARN MORE

What: Hwy. 5 Safety Improvement Public Information Meeting
Date: Wednesday, August 21
Time: 4 to 6 p.m.
Location: Lake Elmo Elementary

Lake Elmo and Metropolitan Council Ratify Revised MOU

The City of Lake Elmo and the Metropolitan Council have recently agreed to amend the 2005 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two parties, which will ultimately give the City additional flexibility to meet the household and population targets that serve as the basis for the agreement. Under the original agreement, the City would have been required to have a significant number of new housing units connected to the regional sanitary sewer system by 2015. Due to a number of factors, including a major downturn in the economy, the City successfully negotiated revisions to the MOU document in 2010 that pushed back the dates for compliance with the population and household forecasts. With the recent approval of an updated land use plan for the I-94 Corridor planning area, the City proposed a revised developing staging schedule that moves the timing for new housing and commercial development further into the future. The chart to the right identifies the City's new household and population forecasts in the Comprehensive Plan and as part of a revised MOU.

At this time, the revised projections do not extend the development time frame out beyond 2030, which

<i>Lake Elmo Housing & Population Projections 2010-2030</i>					
Year	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
Total Households	2,779	3,519	5,114	6,524	8,727
Total Population	8,069	9,677	14,064	17,941	24,000

means the same amount of population growth has been compressed into a narrower range of dates. The Met Council has acknowledged the City's concerns that the proposed timing for new growth and development may not be attainable within this compressed time frame, and the revised MOU contains language that will allow the City and Met Council to continue to negotiate a revised development schedule. The City Council has ultimately established a goal to achieve a reduced overall population number and to move the target date back to 2040. Negotiations between the City and Met Council will continue as the Met Council develops revised household and population forecasts for the Twin Cities region later this year.

For additional information about the City's household and population forecasts, please contact the Planning Department, at 651-747-3900.

Lake Elmo Wine Shop a Dream Come True for New Owners

Meet Cal and Nola Wilkens, the new friendly faces at the Lake Elmo Wine Company. The couple took ownership of the business after previous owner, Kim Ommerborn, moved out of the area. Always desiring to own and run a business of their own, they learned about the sale of the wine shop in an ad in the St. Paul newspaper.

“Owning a wine shop was the farthest thing from our minds but the listing just popped out at us,” said Cal. “Nola and I discussed the idea for only a moment before knowing that this was an opportunity that we had to pursue.”

Cal, a former executive in the food manufacturing industry, and Nola, a school speech pathologist realized that the wine shop would provide the perfect opportunity to mix their shared love of wine with their individual skill sets: food and education.

“I love to meet the people that come into the store and chat with them about wine,” said Nola. “There are so many factors involved that affect the characteristics of each wine from the geographical region and type of grape, to the type of soil in which the grapes were planted. I have learned and continue to learn so much since



Cal and Nola Wilkens say taking over ownership of the Lake Elmo Wine Company was meant to be. opening the store and I enjoy sharing that knowledge with our customers.”

Though it felt like an innate calling to purchase the shop, it was the store’s unique charm and the delightful small town location that sold them. They were also pleased to find that the purchase of the shop was accompanied by loyal customers.

“In order to offer consistent service that the customers are used to we are following the previous business plan

COMING UP
What: Explore the world of Pinot Noir! Featured Pinots: Riveria, Alpa-bets, Bluffs, and Huntington. Also includes Charm Acres Chardonnay.
Date: Wednesday, July 17
Time: 7 to 9 p.m.
Cost: \$20 (includes \$5 off coupon)
Registration Required: 651-621-1520

and offering special events,” said Cal. “We still keep in touch with Kim, which has been great for all parties involved during this transition.”

In addition to special events, Lake Elmo Wine Company offers daily wine tastings and lives up to its reputation for offering unique wines that are high in both quality and value. The Wilkens also hope to offer patio seating this summer. Lake Elmo Wine Company is located at 3511 Lake Elmo Avenue North. Business hours are Monday, 12 p.m. to 8 p.m., and Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. To stay informed on upcoming events and special offers, call 651-621-1520, visit www.lakeelmowineco.com or follow Lake Elmo Wine Company on Facebook.

Bob Mitchell’s Fly Shop: New Look, New Space, New Opportunities

Bob Mitchell’s Fly Shop is looking a little different these days. That’s thanks to a new (larger) space, remodel and rebranding.

The change took place when Robert Hawkins took ownership on May 1, 2013, the day that previous owner Mike Alwin retired. Hawkins moved the store into a larger space located a few doors down from the original location to allow for a wider selection of the high quality products that customers are used to seeing. Finished off with cozy furnishings and updated branding (designed by Hawkins’ wife Rhea, a graphic designer), the shop emits a comfortable, relaxed vibe.

Hawkins, born and raised in Montana,

has spent a large part of his career as a fly fishing guide. When a friend called and told him the shop was for sale, he jumped at the chance to make the move to Minnesota to explore and teach in new waters.

“This store has a rich history, which I love,” said Hawkins. “But it was the opportunity to continue the tradition of teaching and guiding that sold me.”

The store, which has been a core trout shop, now includes warm water fishing training focused on bass, pike and muskie.

Bob Mitchell’s Fly Shop is located at 3459 Lake Elmo Avenue North. Store hours are Wednesdays and Fridays 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesdays



Newly owned and remodeled Bob Mitchell’s Fly Shop is a great place to sit down and tell a fish tale or two.

and Thursdays 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturdays 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Sundays 8 a.m. to noon. For more information about the store and educational offerings visit www.bobmitchellsflyshop.com or call 651-770-5854.

Battle of the Bands, Talent Showcase New Additions to 2013 Lake Elmo Days

In most cities, the summer is considered over after Labor Day weekend. In Lake Elmo, the summer fun doesn't end until after Lake Elmo Days, the annual community celebration!

Lake Elmo Days, previously coined Fall Festival, began in 2007, as a 50th Anniversary celebration for the Lake Elmo Fire Department. The event has since grown into a two-day festival featuring a parade, local business expo, food vendors, live music, pig roast, silent auction, Jaycees cupcake walk, Cedar Pet Clinic's Everybody Wins Children's Pet Show, and more!

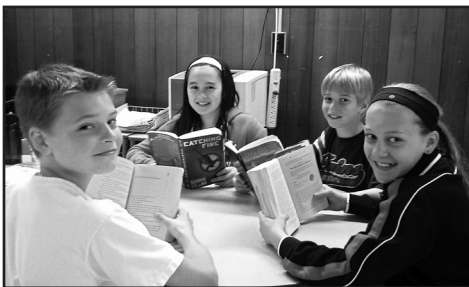
This year's event features new activities, adding extra entertainment value and involvement for youth. Battle of the Bands will be the main event on Friday night. The competition will bring up to eight local amateur bands head-to-head to vie for the grand prize, awarded by a panel of judges. Added to the lineup of Saturday's festivities will be a community talent showcase, providing our local performers an

LAKE ELMO Days

opportunity to strut their stuff. Also added this year is the revival of the float competition. Neighborhoods and businesses will compete for the honor of displaying the traveling "best float" trophy. Lake Elmo Bank also holds their annual Community Day event during this weekend, which serves as a great kick-off to the event.

Lake Elmo Days will take place on September 6 and 7, 2013, in Lions Park Lake Elmo. Applications are currently being accepted for parade participants, expo vendors, battle of the bands contestants, and talent showcase performers. For more information, including a detailed schedule of events visit www.lakeelmo.org/elmo-days, or contact Alyssa at 651-747-3908 or amacleod@lakeelmo.org.

Lake Elmo Library Offers Summer Reading Program, Special Programs for Kids



Local students are "fired up" to read in the Lake Elmo Library's summer reading program!

Get into reading this summer! It's not too late to get involved in Lake Elmo Public Library's summer program, which will run through August 17. The program is filled with games, programs, prizes, and author visits. The program is geared for elementary through junior high aged students, who can register throughout the summer for tracking reading time and be

eligible to win prizes. Every Saturday a name will be drawn to win a Target gift card. The more visits to the library the more chances to win. Story time for preschoolers will expand to every Friday at 10:30 am.

Children will be rewarded for time invested in reading, including an ice cream cone from Gorman's at five hours and rewards from PINZ at 10 and 20 hours. Lake Elmo Bank and Joe Park Golf @ Country Air Wedge Course have also donated special gifts.

Special programs will take place every Wednesday including PowerUp 4 Kids and Kendama Tricks with Mayor Mike Pearson on July 24. Please visit <http://lakeelmo publiclibrary.org> for a full list of events.

Upcoming Summer Events in Lake Elmo

July 4, 2013 - Lake Elmo Kid's Parade and Ice Cream Social

All are welcome to join in the Fourth of July Kid's parade down through downtown Lake Elmo. Participants should be available to line up by 11:50 a.m. on Lake Elmo Avenue, south of 32nd Street. The parade is followed by an ice cream in Lions Park, hosted by the Lake Elmo Rotary Club. For more information contact event coordinator, Steve Johnson at 612-670-4243.

July 13, 2013 - Go Comman- do Adventure Race at Green Acres Recreation Area

In it's fourth year, this military themed adventure race is the only of its kind in the East Metro. In addition to the race, the event includes live music and concessions. Spectator passes are available for \$20, which includes a complimentary backpack, and lunch voucher. Parking is off site; shuttles will be available from the Washington County Fairgrounds. For more information visit www.gocommando.us.

August 3-4, 2013 - NW Inter- national Regatta Champion- ship on Lake Elmo

The Minneapolis Rowing Club will host their 110th NW International Regatta Championship, which will include 52 events and approximately 400 rowers from the United States and Canada. The event will be held from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on both days. Spectators are encouraged to watch the competitions from the fishing line at the north end of Lake Elmo.

August 8-11, 2013 - Huff 'n Puff Days in Lions Park

More than just a four-day softball tournament, the Lake Elmo Jaycees make this truly a fun family weekend event for the St. Croix Valley area. In addition to the 96-team softball tournament, there will be kids games/activities, beanbag and volleyball tournaments, free prize drawing, concessions, and more. All proceeds from this event go back into the community. For more information visit www.lakeelmojaycees.org.

Lake Elmo Firefighters Recognized for Years of Service

Members of the Lake Elmo Fire Department were recognized at their annual awards banquet held on Sunday, May 5, 2013, at the Machine Shed Restaurant.

Captain Bernard Sachs and Firefighter Mark VanDemmeltraadt were awarded with plaques to thank them for their service as they retired from the team. Captain Sachs was with the department for 12 years, and followed in the tradition of the Sachs family as a member of the LEFD. As the Training Captain, he was instrumental in improving the department's training process. Vandemmeltraadt, giving 18 years of service, was very involved in the development of the department's surface water rescue program and ongoing water rescue training.

Other members received pins to commemorate milestones in their service careers. Captain Mike Cornell was

acknowledged for 5 years of service. Members receiving pins for 10 years of service included Firefighter Lee Olson, Safety Officer Brian Hauser, and Firefighter John Laatsch. Firefighter and Engineer Brian Johnson was honored with a pin and ring for 20 years of service.

The Fire Department also presents an "Outstanding Service Award" each year to recognize a member of the community that has gone above and beyond within the department, the fire service, or the community at large. This year's recipient was Al Bever, whose primary contributions included building maintenance and organization of office space.

**MARCH, APRIL, MAY
EMERGENCY
CALL RESPONSE
Fire: 27, Rescue: 13, Medical: 53**

Please Don't Feed the Deer

Throughout the spring and early summer the City has received several concerns from residents whose gardens have been damaged by the over population of deer roaming through City neighborhoods.

City officials have been working with the DNR to discuss options for reducing the deer population.

Until a course of action is decided, residents are being urged to stop feeding the deer.

Feeding deer not only leads to bringing a surplus of deer into the community, but it is harmful to the deers' health and diminishes their ability to survive in their natural habitats. Refraining from feeding deer will also help stop the spreading of diseases and keep our wildlife healthy.

From the County Sheriff Department: Bike Safely this Summer



Summer is here and for many residents in Lake Elmo that means bicycles will be coming out of storage and hitting the streets. Before you venture out, there are safety checks that should be addressed. First, check the pressure on your bicycle's tires. It is not uncommon for tires to lose air over the winter or obtain a crack. Second, check your brakes and cables to make sure they are operating properly. Cracks in the cables are one of the leading causes in bicycle related accidents. Third, check your chain and make sure it is set at the correct tension and it is lubricated. If your chain is rusted, make sure to change it before you venture out on your bicycle. Finally, check all of your reflectors on the bicycle to make sure that none of them are broken. If you observe a broken reflector, make sure to replace

it immediately for your safety. Most importantly, WEAR YOUR HELMET. There have been several accidents every year with serious injuries that could have been avoided if the rider had been wearing a helmet.

It is important to keep in mind that there are state laws that apply to bicycles. The following is a summarized list of some of the laws most commonly overlooked:

- Persons riding on a bicycle shall not attach themselves to any vehicle on a roadway;
- Every person operating a bicycle on



a roadway shall ride as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway. Children under the age of 10 may use the sidewalk, but be aware and careful of walkers;

- If a bicycle is traveling on a shoulder of a roadway, the bicycle shall travel in the same direction as adjacent vehicular traffic;
- A continuous arm signal is required during the last 100 feet prior to a turn or lane change (unless the arm is needed to control the bike) and while stopped, waiting to turn;
- No person shall operate a bicycle at nighttime unless the bicycle or its operator is equipped with a lamp which shall emit a white light visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the front and with a red reflector visible from all distances from 100 feet to 600 feet to the rear.

Please see Minnesota statute 169.22 for a complete list. Have a safe summer!



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Lake Elmo Recognized for Environmental Sustainability Efforts

The City of Lake Elmo has the honor of being recognized as a Minnesota GreenStep City and will receive an award for advancing to become a Step 2 City by completing seven best practices. The award will be recognized at the upcoming League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) 2013 Annual Conference on June 20th. This award shows community members and other cities across Minnesota that Lake Elmo is taking great steps in the direction of energy and resource conservation and innovation.



Minnesota GreenStep Cities is a challenge, assistance, and recognition program. As one of 56 participating cities, Lake Elmo is helping to lead the way in sustainability across the state of Minnesota. Lake Elmo has worked hard to implement best practices in order to fulfill their sustainability goals. Actions that are taken within the program focus on cost savings, energy use reduction, and the encouragement of civic innovation.

Details on the best practices the City has completed can

be seen by visiting www.MnGreenStep.org, clicking on "See all cities" next to the map, and then clicking on the City's name. This award is a great achievement for Lake Elmo. By being part of a sustainability program, the 56 GreenStep cities are helping to secure Minnesota's natural beauty for the future while also helping the cities and regions thrive economically and socially.

About GreenStep Cities: Minnesota GreenStep Cities is a voluntary challenge, assistance and recognition program to help cities achieve their sustainability and quality-of-life goals. This free continuous improvement program, managed by a public-private partnership, is based upon 28 best practices. Each best practice can be implemented by completing one or more actions at a 1, 2 or 3-star level, from a list of four to eight actions. These actions are tailored to all Minnesota cities, focus on cost savings and energy use reduction, and encourage civic innovation. More at www.MnGreenStep.org.



THE SOURCE
A publication of the City of Lake Elmo
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www.facebook.com/LakeElmoMN 

Celebrating Arbor Day and 11 Years as Tree City USA



Sixth-grade students from Lake Elmo Elementary participated in a tree-planting ceremony at City Hall to celebrate Arbor Day and the City of Lake Elmo's 11th year (students are holding last year's banner) as being designated a Tree City USA.