

Fall 2014



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THE SOURCE

Your source for City news and information

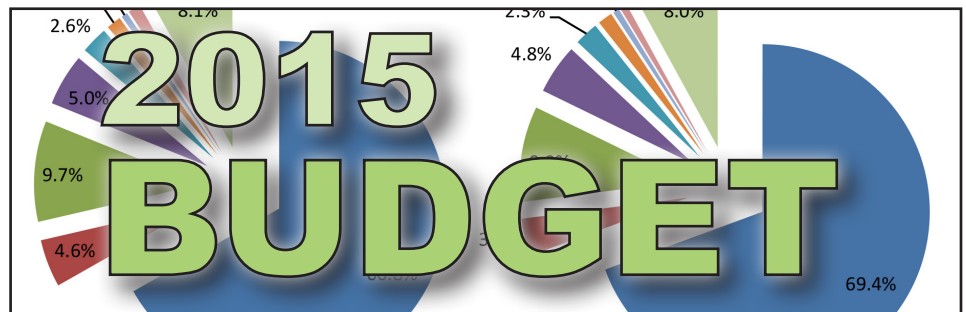
City Council Cuts Local Property Tax Levy

At its September 2nd, 2014 meeting, the Lake Elmo City Council voted 4-0 to reduce the property tax levy which may result in a lower tax rate for Lake Elmo residents for 2015. The 2015 tax levy will be approximately \$3,137,000 or approximately \$25,600 lower than in 2014.

"In light of the recent passage of the school referendum and the upcoming growth the City faces, the Council thought it was important to keep the local portion of property taxes as low as possible," said Council Member Wally Nelson, who is also Chairman of the Finance Committee.

A base assumption to the 2015 budgeting process was that if at all possible there was to be no municipality tax increase. The debt service component of the levy was scheduled to increase by approximately \$250,000 in 2015. Due to the projected increase in revenue as a result of new construction projects, this scheduled debt service increase was able to be absorbed within the General Fund budget rather than being passed along to the taxpayer through a tax levy increase. The Council voted to lower the levy by keeping the ad valorem tax levy the same as 2014, maintain the debt service levy at the 2014 level and dropping the library portion of the levy by \$25,600. (Note: A recent survey of Minnesota Cities note an average tax levy increase of 3.68%.)

2015 is also the first time that the City has used a performance based pro-



cess as a means of fully understanding the cost of local government. Department heads tore down their budgets to "zero" and built them back up using performance metrics, trend analysis, and growth forecasting. Personnel costs were held in the 40% range of the overall budget as opposed to the Minnesota average of 55-60%. The Washington County Sheriff's contract increased by \$12,000 but still remains at \$61 / per capita – one of the lowest in the east metro.

"With the establishment of our new Finance Committee, which has a make-up of both elected officials and appointed experts in accounting, we took this opportunity to review our budget with a fine tooth comb. In addition, we have built comprehensive financial models to understand the impact each new component of growth has on our bottom line," said Nelson.

The 2015 General Fund budget also contains a new permanent line item for street maintenance (seal coating, crack filling) that insures proper care of the city's road infrastructure will take place each year.

"Traditionally, street maintenance is one of the areas that municipalities cut when trying to balance their budget. This Council has made a commitment to a structured street maintenance program that will extend the life of our infrastructure. By adding the permanent line item we hope to guaranty that those front door issues that are important to our residents are always taking care of," said Mayor Mike Pearson.

The overall 2015 General Fund operating budget will increase from \$3,303,000 to \$3,798,000 with all of the increased revenue and expense being paid for by new development via permit fees, escrow agreements, and developer agreements.

"This Council has said all along that "growth will pay for growth" and not the current taxpayers of Lake Elmo. This budget is a practical application of that policy," said Nelson.

The City of Lake Elmo will host their annual Truth in Taxation Budget Hearing on December 2, 2014 at 7 p.m.

Two City Council Seats Up for Re-election on November Ballot

November 4 Voter Information and Candidate Profiles

The 2014 local races will include two City Council seats. Voters may vote for up to two candidates on the November ballot. City Council elections are nonpartisan and candidates run for their seats at large. Terms for these Council positions

are four years beginning in January of 2015 and ending January 4, 2019.

The general election will be held Tuesday, November 4, 2014. Polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m.

Polling sites are as follows: Precinct 1 – Lake Elmo Fire Hall, 3510 Laverne Avenue North, for voters residing south of Highway 5 and Precinct 2 – Lake Elmo City Hall, 3800 Laverne Avenue North, for voters residing north of Highway 5.

MEET THE CANDIDATES



Julie Fliflet

Family: Married 18 years to husband, Todd. One daughter Chloe who is 8 years old, and one yellow lab Duke who is 3 (yes, he is part of the family)

Occupation: Director of Finance/CPA for local nonprofit organizations for 20+ years

Education: B.S. in Accounting and CPA

Years as a City Official: 8 years on Lake Elmo Planning Commission

Other Activities: member of the Village Area Planning Workgroup, Member of the city's Finance Committee, Selected Participant in the Citizens League national

study of citizen involvement in local development decisions, SCVAA volunteer softball coach, Girl Scout volunteer cookie mom

What is one thing that describes your reason for running for elected office? I will work to keep Lake Elmo special. I truly care about our city, our residents, and our quality of life, and have been encouraged to run by members of the community that I have worked with over the past years. Lake Elmo really is a special city, and there aren't many like it left. I am dedicated to working hard to keep it that way. I will bring experience and balance to the council, and will listen intently to the residents to be a strong advocate and representative of the citizens of our special city of Lake Elmo.



Jill Lundgren

Family: Married with four children and four grandchildren

Occupation: Registered Nurse for Pulmonary and Sleep Doctors. Work at Abbott Northwestern Hospital and Clinic

Education: Nursing degree from the University of Arkansas

Years as a City Official: Current Lake Elmo Planning Commission Member.

Other Activities: Recording Secretary of the Minnesota Mineral Club. Member of Civil Defense Corps and Minnesota Medical Reserve Corps. Certified National Weather Spotter. Member of Tri-Lakes and Lake DeMontreville/Olson. Consociate with the Sisters of St. Joseph.

What is one thing that describes your reason for running for elected office? As a member of the planning commission I have seen the rapid influx of development requests that have been coming to our community. I believe that growth should happen. However, with the current Met Council mandate lifted we need to stay focused on how we are choosing to grow. We need open spaces, parks, and trails for connectivity; areas that will build community with one another. Now is the time to ensure growth is well thought out and sustainable for all. We must guard against reckless development. We cannot allow the prospective developers to define OUR community. We need to ask ourselves. Whom is the development going to benefit? Our open space feel and attractive park system are the legacy we can leave for future generations. Join me in "Preserving what is best, while preparing for the future."



Wally Nelson (Incumbent)

Family: Married to my beautiful wife Karen for Twenty years. We have two daughters - Sarah, a Stillwater Area High School Graduate and current Kansas State University student and Grace, a sophomore at Hill Murray High School.

Occupation: Small Business Owner

Education: Graduate of UW-River Falls with a degree in accounting.

Years as a City Official: Two

Other Activities (civic, church etc.): Prior St. Croix Catholic School board member and fundraiser; Prior Board member of the Fields of St. Croix Home Own-

ers Association; Current Lake Elmo Finance Committee Chairman; Current Lake Elmo EDA member, Current Lake Elmo Fire Relief Association Board member, and Current Lake Elmo Public Safety member. Hobbies include golf, hockey, and boating.

What is one thing that describes your reason for running for elected office? Lake Elmo is a jewel in Minnesota, it is indeed a very special city. However, we know growth is coming to our town. Managing this growth is crucial in order to maintain what we love about Lake Elmo. With my business background and my role as Lake Elmo's Finance Chairman, I believe I am uniquely qualified in offering the necessary leadership to both manage the growth and protect the charm of Lake Elmo. I am your tax payer guardian.



Mike Reeves (Incumbent)

Family: I've been married to my wife, Kathy, for 44 years. Our son Patrick and his wife own and operate their own business and currently reside in Apple Valley.

Occupation: Retired Business Executive (Deluxe Corporation and Minnesota Sports and Entertainment/Minnesota Wild) and Community Volunteer

Education: Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from University of Missouri at St. Louis

Years as a City Official: 2+: appointed to the Lake Elmo Planning Commission in 2012 and the Lake Elmo City Council in 2013

Other Activities: Like many members of our baby boomer generation, we've been transitioning to what comes after your work career is over. For me, it's "Pursuing Meaningful Engagement"

- General Board (and past Board Chair): YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities
- Advisory Board: Minnesota chapter of Positive Coaching Alliance
- Volunteer: Special Olympics of Minnesota

- Organizational Advisor to mission driven organizations in the Twin Cities
- Enjoy outdoor activities and traveling with family and friends

What is one thing that describes why you're running for elected office:

I currently serve on the city council and am proud of what our council, commissions, committees, and staff have accomplished in the past few years. We're building a foundation where Lake Elmo can be known for: effective and responsive government, fiscal responsibility, building community partnerships, balancing economic development with rural character and open space, respectful civil discourse, and ultimately getting things done for the benefit of its residents and business community. My leadership and experience in facilitating organizational change and transition can make a difference in helping Lake Elmo achieve that future.

More information can be found at: www.mfreeves.org



The 2014 General Election is November 4
Get informed at www.lakeelmo.org/voting-information

Tune into the candidate forum live on channel 16 at 7 p.m., on October 22

The Mayor's Corner



Hello Neighbors!

As fall begins, our season of budget discussion wanes. The good news on the budget is that your City Council, continuing the tenant of "let growth pay for growth," has been able to lower the tax levy rate slightly and with that our non-growth operating budget as well.

Despite an expected increase in property values, the city portion of most property tax bills could stay flat.

We have made our final payment on the existing planning debt, and with the soon-to-arrive development fees this debt will likely be retired over the next couple of years. As Mayor I am proud of the Council and staff for keeping the pocketbook burden of our government as light as possible.

In related news, as you may have heard, our Comprehensive Plan is being well received by the market. We have several residential developments in the queue for both the village and the freeway corridor. It's worth noting that of 9 proposed residential developments; 8 have come in near, at, or even BELOW, the minimum allowable densities. It seems we find ourselves in a market that is calling for quality design with unique and attractive features. The legitimate 2015 threat of painful fines from our previous (but since canceled) agreement with the Met Council, already seems a lifetime ago.

Other news:

- Lake Elmo and the County are nearing an agreement which promises to make the library card reimbursement process much less cumbersome.
- A "welcome new neighbor" to Noran Neurological and their 25 employees situated in the Eagle Point Business Park
- Congratulations to FamilyMeans and the families they support for the ground breaking of their expanded facility in Cimarron - more room in which to do more good work!
- It appears we are at the threshold of solving our 40 year old downtown flooding problem. This will be a huge achievement when this solution is applied and I am sure will be a welcome relief for many village homeowners.
- Finally, as the election nears, I'd encourage all residents to take an interest in those running for Council seats. I believe they are all quality individuals. The council debate will be must-see cable TV, and will be held at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 22 at City Hall. The forum will air live on channel 16, and be replayed online. Please tune in.

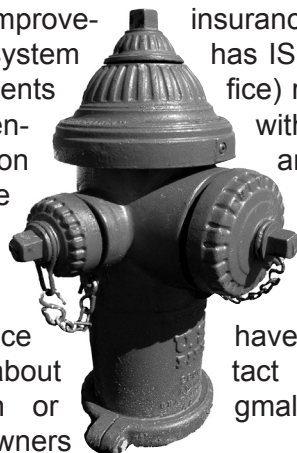
In closing, it was a pleasure meeting so many of you at our summer neighborhood park meetings. Thanks for your input and taking the time. Perhaps we will see you on Oct. 11 at the first annual Lake Elmo Volksmarch!

Mayor Mike Pearson

Public Safety

Hydrants May Offer Insurance Savings

With the ongoing improvements to our water system in Lake Elmo, residents may see a financial benefit from the installation of fire hydrant. Those whose homes are within 1000 feet of a fire hydrant should contact their insurance carrier and inquire about a possible reduction or credit on their homeowners



insurance. Citywide, Lake Elmo has ISO (Insurance Services Office) ratings of 6 and 9, 6 being within 1000 feet of a hydrant and 9 being beyond the 1000 feet. While not all insurance companies acknowledge this system, it is worth looking into. If you have further questions, contact Chief Greg Malmquist at galmquist@lakeelmo.org.

City Hall Adds Office Space

Effective October 1, 2014, Lake Elmo City Hall acquired more space. Administrative offices have moved to the Brookfield II office building at 3880 Laverne Ave. N., located directly across the street from current City Hall.

Planning and Community Development staff will be housed out of the existing City Hall building at 3800 Laverne Ave. N.

City Council and commission meetings will continue to be held in the existing council chambers.

JUNE, JULY, AUGUST EMERGENCY CALL RESPONSE

Fire: 29, Rescue: 9, Medical: 52

FamilyMeans Cimarron Youth Program Anticipates Arrival of New Youth Center

Groundbreaking Ceremony Held on September 8, 2014

Youth in Lake Elmo's Cimarron Manufactured Home Park are looking forward to a new space to call their own. FamilyMeans, a non-profit organization that runs after-school and summer programming for Cimarron youth ages 6-18.

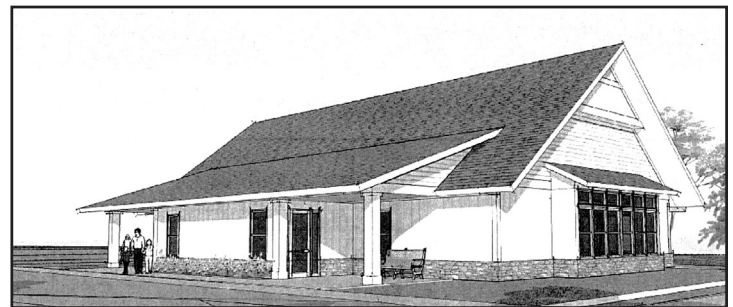
The program is currently operated out of a 900-square-foot space in an existing facility. The new 4,000 youth center will feature separate areas for teens and children, a central large multi-use space, separate quiet rooms for study space and small groups, and a centrally located commercial-grade kitchen used for preparing food and teaching purposes.

The larger building will support and allow for the growth of Cimarron's youth programming. Youth currently have the opportunity to explore art, science, music, sports, cooking and computer skill-building in an open free-choice environment. Expanded summer programming offers a soccer club, bike program and entrepreneurial garden project. Activities also include field trips and community service efforts. Help with school work is available daily, and teens explore post-secondary education options.

Construction for the facility began this fall, and the building is expected to be complete early in 2015.



Above, Mayor Mike Pearson speaks at the September 8 ground breaking ceremony for the new FamilyMeans Cimarron Youth Program Facility. Below, a concept drawing of the new facility



First Annual Lake Elmo Volksmarch to Benefit FamilyMeans

Looking for a new and refreshing way to welcome autumn in the St. Croix Valley? The City of Lake Elmo will be hosting a community Volksmarch from 10 am to 3 p.m., Saturday, October 11, in Sunfish Lake Park (one of the most picturesque and least known nature parks in the East Metro).



Registration is \$5/adult (children 12 and younger are free), and includes access to all event activities, commemorative medal, and raffle prize drawings. Best of all – event proceeds will be donated to FamilyMeans, a nonprofit offering many programs to help families and individuals in need, including counseling, debt management, financial planning, and money management, caregiver support, youth programs, and more.

Volksmarching, "people's march" in German, is a form of non-competitive fitness walking that developed in Europe. Participants typically walk 10 kilometers (6.2 mi) on

an outdoor path.

The Lake Elmo Volksmarch will include several routes to accommodate all fitness levels that will weave through Sunfish Lake Park. Along the way, participants will enjoy interpretive stations, activities, and a few surprises! German fare and drink will be available at the end of the route, prepared and served by the Lake Elmo Inn. Music and a mobile zoo for the children will also add to the festivities.

The following organizations have contributed to this event: Abrahamson Nurseries, C.A. Gerbitz Co., Focus Engineering, Gorman's Restaurant, J Colemer and Sons, Lake Elmo Baseball, Lake Elmo Inn, Lake Elmo Jaycees, Lake Elmo Lions Club, Lake Elmo Oil, Inc., Lake Elmo Rotary Club, Monster Tree Service, Myron's Service Center, Rockpoint Church, Weeks-End Signs & Graphics, and Zignego Insurance.

Visit www.lakeelmo.org/volksmarch for more information.

Community Thread: Strengthening Our Neighborhoods One Volunteer at a Time

Community Thread is a community supported nonprofit that has been serving the St. Croix Valley since 1967. They strengthen neighborhoods by connecting volunteers to community needs.

Community Thread's primary service demographic is those of the senior population. The organization serves seniors by offering resources that can help people stay independent and connected, and also promotes active and healthy aging by offering opportunities for social, nutritional and physical wellbeing. Last year 1,386 older adults participated in Senior Center activities, and the organization provided 1,885 hours of programming.

Community Thread's outreach goes beyond the senior population. They believe that each act of service connects people, neighborhoods, and lives together for the betterment of the community. Working with more

than 2,000 volunteers annually, they offer a searchable volunteer database that links volunteers to meaningful experiences for all ages and abilities, including groups. Their database receives about 1,500 visits each month from people looking for volunteer opportunities.

Want to get involved? Community Thread is seeking volunteers to participate in Rake-A-Difference Day on Saturday, Oct. 25, 2014. Participants will help seniors throughout Washington County rake their yards. This family-friendly volunteer activity engages approximately 700 volunteers to rake approximately 80 yards each year. To participate contact Sara Pennebecker at 651-439-7434 or sara@communitythreadmn.org. Registration forms and applications are due by Friday, October 10, 2014.

For more information visit www.communitythreadmn.org.

**Volunteer to
Rake a Difference**



What: Community Thread Rake a Difference Day
Date: Saturday, Oct. 25, 2014
Time: Raking usually takes place between 9 am and Noon.
Information and Registration:
www.communitythreadmn.org

Lake Elmo Public Library Welcomes New Director



Nate Deprey joined the City of Lake Elmo in September, as the new Library Director. If you head to the Lake Elmo Public Library, be prepared to see a new face. The City of Lake Elmo welcomed Nate Deprey as the new Library Director in September 2014. Deprey comes to Lake Elmo equipped with more than 9 years of experience in similar roles in several communities in Wisconsin.

Deprey's primary draw to work in the library industry is community building. "Libraries are all about creating a place where everyone feels comfortable and safe," said Deprey. He plans to focus on technology and youth services in order to build on the sense of community in Lake Elmo.

The very first thing Deprey tackled was increasing the Library's social media presence. Within his first week of coming to Lake Elmo, a Lake Elmo Library Facebook page was created, and a Lake Elmo YouTube Channel is in the works. Deprey also intends to increase program offerings for youth.

Deprey lives in Dresser, Wisconsin with his wife, Cole, a youth librarian at St. Croix Falls Public Library.

Connect with the Lake Elmo Public Library on Facebook at www.facebook.com/lakeelmopubliclibrary, or visit <http://lakeelmopubliclibrary.org>.

Council Approves Water System Plan That Will Save \$1.7 Million

The Lake Elmo City Council voted 5-0 to install a 16" water main along 39th Street from Lake Elmo Avenue to Laverne Avenue at a cost of \$118,000 that will provide enough water pressure and volume to eliminate a planned water tower, saving the community \$1.7 million. The installation will take place in concert with new roads and sewer installation that will serve four new developments around the Old Village.

City staff has been working with its water consultant AE2S to identify and configure the water system needed to support growth while servicing existing utility customers. During this process a detailed reconfiguration of pipe sizing, water storage requirements and other hydraulic needs were examined to create as efficient a water distribution system as possible. The water system modeling identified an opportunity to increase the size of the Village trunk water main, together with redefining pressure zone boundaries in and around the Village area that will eliminate the need for a new water tower downtown.

"One thing this City Council has worked on is stabilizing and properly cash flowing our water utility. In the past year we have obtained \$3.5 million in state fund-

ing, secured \$1.2 million in future water availability fees, and now we have saved \$1.7 million in expenses by reexamining our distribution system. If you couple this work with the \$435,000 of interest savings achieved through refinancing the \$4 million in debt we inherited from previous councils – that is almost \$7 million dollars of positive cash flow management to our water utility," said Mayor Mike Pearson.

By adding the 16" water main on Lake Elmo Avenue that would connect to the City's new well on 50th Street, it was found that there was the proper hydraulics to serve the Old Village and the low pressure system along the I-94 corridor east of Lake Elmo Avenue. The City is served by two major pressure zones due to community elevation. The high pressure zone is north and west of Keats Avenue and I-94.

"While growth in the Old Village has come a little faster than normal, the savings in sewer and water costs to current taxpayers due to these projects will be approximately \$2.5 - \$2.7 million. In addition, the work in the north and east of the Old Village looks like it will substantially reduce, if not eliminate localized flooding that has plague the area for generations," concluded Pearson.

City Encourages Residents to be Proactive toward Protecting Drinking Water Supplies

The City is working cooperatively with homeowners to implement stormwater Best Management Practices to help protect drinking water supplies.

There are several steps you can take with routine tasks in your garage or yard:

- Properly dispose of household products such as insecticides, pesticides, paint, etc... Don't pour them onto the ground or into storm drains.
- Don't over water your lawn.
- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. When necessary, use these chemicals in the recommended amounts and always sweep off sidewalks and driveways.
- Compost or mulch yard waste.



Don't leave it in the street or sweep it into storm drains.

- Remember to pick up all pet waste and dispose of it properly.
- Use a commercial car wash that treats or recycles its wastewater, or wash your car on your yard so

the water infiltrates into the ground.

- Dispose of used auto fluids and batteries at designated drop-off or recycling locations.

You can further make an impact on the quality and supply of drinking water in the home by:

- Save water by fixing leaky faucets, running full loads of laundry or dishes, and taking shorter showers.
- Use soaps, lotions, and detergents that are biodegradable and less toxic.
- Use water-saving appliances. Look for the WaterSense label.

For additional information visit www.pca.state.mn.us/water/stormwater/index.html or <http://www.mrwa.com>.



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LAKE ELMO DOWNTOWN SUMMIT

OCTOBER 14th, 2014
6:30-9:00 PM

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH ATRIUM

Come join the City Council, Planning Commission
& Economic Development Authority to Discuss:

Lake Elmo Avenue Street Reconstruction

Sewer Installation & Costs

Anti-Flooding Drainage Plan

Sidewalks & Tree Preservation

Downtown Market Analysis/Surrounding Densities

Park & Village Green Discussion

Getting Out in the Community!



Lake Elmo City staff and elected officials got out in the community this summer to meet with residents at a series of neighborhood meetings. Meetings were held at Pebble Park, Carriage Station Park, Stonegate Park, and Reid Park.



THE SOURCE

A publication of the City of Lake Elmo
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Mayor

Mike Pearson

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Non-emergency: (651) 439-9381

Council

Justin Bloyer

Wally Nelson

Mike Reeves

Anne Smith

City Administrator

Dean Zuleger



www.facebook.com/LakeElmoMN