

Summer 2019



www.lakeelmo.org

THE SOURCE

Your source for City news and information

City Drinking Water Update

Lots has been happening over the last few months related to the City's water system. After shutting down a well due to per- and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) contamination in 2018, the City received news in February that they would receive about \$2 million from the State of Minnesota 3M Settlement Grant Funds for a new well and the sealing of the contaminated well. The City has begun the preliminary surveying work in Tana Ridge Park to identify a location for the new well and pump house. In addition, the project will include watermain looping along 50th St between Lily Ave and Lake Elmo Ave. The Tana Ridge Park location was selected based upon it being outside of the 5 mile radius impacted by the White Bear Lake lawsuit, outside of the plume areas related to PFAS and TCE and because it was property owned by the city. The test well is expected to be completed by the end of this summer and if all goes well the water system improvements will be online by the end of summer 2020.

According to a 2018 water efficiency study commissioned by the Washington County Municipal Water Coalition, Lake Elmo uses five times more water in the summer than in the winter months. Most of the increase is due to irrigation. As a result, the city approved a pilot project in the Fields of St. Croix II to install smart controllers on irrigation systems. The impact will be reviewed, measured and reported to the City by a Master Water Steward. In addition, the City has been approving new developments with the condition that they inform builders and homeowners that an emergency watering ban may be put in place in order to ensure adequate fire protection is available in the city's water system. This could result in them not being able to water new sod. City staff is closely monitoring our water system and an emergency ban will largely depend upon the amount of precipitation we receive this summer as well as usage patterns. Remember to follow our odd/even watering restrictions in City code, and that all watering is prohibited between the hours of 10:00AM and 5:00PM.



3880 Laverne Avenue North Suite 100 - Lake Elmo, MN 55042 (651) 747-3900

In May, the City of Lake Elmo and 3M announced a settlement in their lawsuit in U.S. District Court. The settlement includes 3M paying the City \$2.7 million and conveying about 180 acres near the public works facility on Ideal Ave. The \$2.7 million will be credited to the city's water fund since the lawsuit was filed to recover costs the city incurred in building out the water system after PFAS was detected in well #3 in the southwest area of the city. The city will be evaluating the best use of the land in the near future.

Lastly, the city has been an active participant in the 3M settlement work groups with the state. A long range drinking water supply plan for the east metro communities impacted by PFAS is expected to be completed by the end of 2019. In the meantime, the city has applied for grants for a number of expedited projects to bring municipal water to contaminated neighborhoods over the next couple of years. While it's not feasible to extend municipal water service to all properties given Lake Elmo's rural, open space character, the city will look at options for water as road work is planned in impacted neighborhoods. More information about the 3M settlement work groups, areas of PFAS contamination and well testing in the east metro is available at 3msettlement.state.mn.us.

To stay up to date on the city's water issues, sign up for our weekly e-newsletter, the FRESH, or follow us on Facebook.

2019 Mill and Overlay Project

The City Council has awarded a contract to TA Schifsky to complete maintenance on the roadways in the Wildflower Shores neighborhood, along Lake Jane Trail between Ideal Ave and 42nd St, also along Lake Jane Trail between Jamaca Ave and Jane Rd, and on 47th St between Keats Ave and 43rd St. Work to be completed as part of this project includes removal of the top pavement layer of the street and placing a new layer of bituminous pavement over top.

Prior to this mill and overlay, localized areas with significant pavement distress and potential subgrade failure will be corrected by completing a full depth patch (removal and replacement of the entire aggregate base and pavement layers) and in some cases installation of draitile. The mill and overlay will remove the surface distresses, improve ride quality, and will preserve the lower portion of the pavement. Cracks that extend the full depth of the pavement are likely to reflect into the new pavement within a short period of time.

Construction is anticipated to begin around late June, with a completion date of September 13, 2019.



Lake Elmo Fire Department Update

The Fire Department is now on Facebook

Our goal is to share with the community, department news and information. Topics such as safety tips, department training, emergency calls for service information, links to other resources, department information and answers to your questions. We also want to use this venue to help educate on safe practices as well as why we do some of the things we do.



Fire Hydrants

You might see our personnel out and about this spring and summer working on fire hydrants. We are currently working on a joint project with Lake Elmo Public Works to ID, GPS and label all of the hydrants so that they are easier to identify and in a special mapping software that our personnel use. We may also be out flushing hydrants which helps ensure proper operation of the hydrant as well as reduces the sediment build up in the water that can cause issues with our pumps. It is always better to find out about problems before an emergency rather than during one.

We would also like to thank everyone that helped this past winter by keeping your hydrants clear of what seemed like never ending snow.

Also be advised that MN State Fire Code requires a clearance of 3 ft. minimum around fire hydrants to allow proper access for the fire department. This includes plants and shrubs. We must be able to access fire hydrants day and night in all conditions in a timely manner. Please let us know if you become aware of any obstructed hydrants to allow us to better serve you. Thank you.

Safe Haven

While the Safe Haven program had its challenges this past year, please know that we are still here and offer services from basic 1st Aid and CPR training to an inspection of your home. We simply come in and offer basic advice for fire prevention as needed. In many cases, we can even offer free products that can help keep you and your family safe if you ever have that bad day. Our hope is that the only time you see a fire truck is during a parade or when you visit the station, but if you ever need to call us, we want to make sure you and your family are as safe as possible prior to and during that event. We can do that best through education, prevention, and an ongoing partnership. That is exactly what Safe Haven is about.

Firefighters

Your Lake Elmo Fire Department is comprised primarily by Paid on Call Firefighters that respond to the Station when the pager they wear is activated from our Dispatch Center. These residents respond from their homes and places of work to answer emergency calls. **We are in need of additional Firefighters to serve the community!** We offer competitive pay and a retirement package. If you are interested and would like additional information, call or stop by Fire Station #1, 3510 Laverne Ave. N.

Please call us with any questions or comments. 651-770-5006, 651-775-1137 Thank You!

New City Staff

Marty Powers, Public Works Director

Marty Powers joined the City of Lake Elmo as Public Works Director in early May. Marty has over 20 years of experience working in utilities. Most recently he was the Public Works Director for the City of Wyoming, MN. He loves the variety of challenges working in public works!



Kevin Murphy, Building Official

Kevin Murphy became the City's Building Official at the end of May. He has nearly 25 years of experience working in local government building departments. Kevin came from Rice County where he was working as their Building Official and Planning Supervisor.

Jason Monroe, Public Works

Jason Monroe started as a Public Works Operator shortly after the first of the year. Jason has extensive experience maintaining and operating heavy equipment. Most recently, he was employed as a Cemetery Operations & Grave Digger Foreman at Parker & Son Inc. in White Bear Lake.





2018 Consumer Confidence Report Now Available

The 2018 Lake Elmo Consumer Confidence Report is now available. The full 2018 report along with the reports from past years can be found by visiting the **Water and Sewer Utility** page under the **Public Works & Engineering** tab on the City's website at www.lakeelmo.org. Hard copies of the report can be requested in the Administration Offices in Suite 100 of the Brookfield II building at 3880 Laverne Ave. N.

Adopt a Storm Drain in Lake Elmo to Help Protect City Lakes and Wetlands

This spring, a new Adopt-a-Drain program debuted across the Twin Cities metro area, with a goal of engaging local residents to help prevent water pollution. Storm drains in Lake Elmo help to protect neighborhoods against flooding, but they also flow to our city lakes and wetlands, carrying debris off the streets and into our water.

You can make a difference by volunteering just 15-minutes, twice a month, to keep your nearest storm drain clear of litter, leaves, grass clippings and dirt. Go to Adopt-a-Drain.org and use the map to find your neighborhood storm drains – then click and sign-up to adopt. Spend a few minutes each month picking up the garbage and debris near your drain and then go online to report your work so that we can measure our collective impact.

To dispose of the waste you collect, separate it into three categories and place it in the appropriate receptacle: trash, recyclables (glass and plastic bottles, cans) and compostables (leaves and grass clippings). Sediment collected in the spring contains winter road salt and should be put in the trash.

Adopt a storm drain today to help protect our water and keep our neighborhoods clean: www.Adopt-a-Drain.org.



Summer Fire Safety Tips



Grilling

- July is the peak month for U.S. home fires.
- Most grill fires start because something that could burn was too close to the grill.
- Most home fires involving grills are started by gas grills, not charcoal grills.
- Never use a grill indoors and don't leave it unattended.
- When lighting a grill, keep the top open. If it does not light in the first several attempts, wait five minutes before trying again.
- Check the grill's tubes and hoses before using a grill that has not been used in a while.
- Keep your grill clean.
- When grilling, place the grill away from your home, deck railings and out from under eaves.
- Try to maintain a 3 foot "kid free" zone around the BBQ grill.
- Never discard coals into a paper or "burnable" container. They may seem cool, but could re-ignite and start a fire.

Recreational Fires

- Per MN State Fire code, open fire pits are required to be 25 ft. from combustibles. Portable outdoor fireplaces are required to be 10 ft away.
- Your recreational fires should always be monitored and no more than 3 feet by 3 feet. It is also a good idea to have some means of extinguishment nearby in case something jumps out of the controlled fire area.
- Fires should always be clean, natural wood, brush. You are not allowed to burn wood that is painted or treated, demolition debris, leaves and other yard waste.
- Burn permits are required for anything larger than a recreational fire and may be obtained at City Hall.

Carbon Monoxide

While less likely, poisoning can still occur in your home in the summer time. Make sure and check those CO detectors and have one in your RV or camper. They have a general shelf life of 5 years. Of course check with the manufacturer for your specific model.

Some of the above information is from the Mn State Fire Marshals website, <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/sfm/for-families/Pages/fire-facts-tips-what-you-need-to-know.aspx>

Burning Restrictions/Bans

Burning restrictions and/or bans are typically put in place every spring by the DNR. During Restrictions you are allowed to have a recreational fire, but we can't issue Burn Permits.

During a Ban NO FIRES ARE ALLOWED.

Updates are provided daily by the DNR. https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/fire/firerating_restrictions.html



Help Name Lake Elmo's Newest Park!

The City is currently looking for name suggestions for the newly approved park that will be located between the Wildflower and Village Preserve developments. Park names deemed derogatory or offensive in nature will not be considered. Park names shall not be duplicated or named after a specific development. For more information, the full park naming policy and procedure, and a submission form, visit www.lakeelmo.org.

Submissions will be accepted until July 19th at 4:30PM



Recycling at Home

Empty and rinse all containers

Glass
Bottles & Jars



Metal
Food & Beverage Cans



Plastic
Bottles & Containers




Cartons



Paper & Cardboard



When in doubt, keep it out. Putting these items in your recycling cart does more harm than good.

NO!

**Do Not Bag
Recyclables**



**No Plastic
Bags or Wrap**



No Tangles
(No hoses, wires,
or string lights)



**No Shredded
Paper**



www.co.washington.mn.us/publichealth | 651-430-6655

Washington
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3880 Laverne Ave. N.
Lake Elmo, MN 55042

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**POSTAL PATRON
LAKE ELMO MN 55042**

Public Works Contact Info:

Public Works: 651-747-3940

Emergency:

Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

City Hall: 651-747-3900

All other hours and weekends,

Washington County Dispatch: 651-439-9381

The City Wants Your Input!

The City has been using the Polco platform to collect the opinions of residents to better improve City services. Questions have been related to the City of Lake Elmo's streets, parks, public safety, and more.

New questions are posted regularly. If you are interested in sharing your opinions, visit www.polco.us/lakeelmo and create an account!



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A publication of the City of Lake Elmo
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