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Edmonds City Bulletin



Welcome to the first Edmonds City Bulletin, a bi-weekly update of news from the City of Edmonds. If you are receiving this, you are already subscribed to our Quarterly Newsletter and we hope you will find this bulletin just as useful and informational.

COVID-19 News

From Mayor Mike:

This continues to be a tough road for all of us. So much uncertainty and unpredictability. As your mayor, I am doing my best to connect with people - by Zoom, by phone, by email and even at six feet. When I was elected six months ago, I certainly couldn't imagine this would be my conversation style.

This crisis has opened all our eyes to the diverse needs of our residents and business owners. Again, I didn't think my job description would include getting protective gear for staff at Rosewood or doing a deep dive on a declining city budget that was - until a month ago - on track to be one of the best in our history.

Please know that the city, the council and our community leaders are doing their best to #kepedmondsstrong and we will get through this. We hope this City Bulletin will encourage you to stay involved. We will do our best to provide clear and transparent information.

Thanks, Mike



Stay Safe, Stay Healthy: Sunset Avenue North closed to cars

To keep pedestrians safe and healthy, the City closed Sunset Avenue North between Edmonds Street and Casper Street to thru vehicle traffic on Friday, April 17. Walkers now have more space to walk and maintain social distance. Due to social distancing, we noticed more walkers in the street and felt it was only a matter of time before someone was hurt. This is a temporary plan to support the social distancing order.

Edmonds COVID financial strategy

Like many city governments across the United States, we are feeling the economic pinch of the COVID-19. Fortunately, due to sound fiscal management, we are in a stronger position than many. But that doesn't mean we aren't planning. [Learn more about what we are doing now and what may happen in the future.](#)

Garden Market opens May 9

A slimmed down Edmonds Museum Garden Market on 5th Avenue between Bell and Main will open May 9. It will host 10 farmers and 10 producers and strict social distancing rules will be in place. The City hopes residents will find comfort in some of our best traditions. [Learn more about how it will work.](#)

Community questions

The Governor's Stay Home, Stay Healthy order has led to a lot of questions for our Community Liaison. [We put together a Q and A on our COVID-19 page.](#) We will update this as we get more questions so visit often.

Mayor Nelson announced \$200,000 in relief funds

Our non-profits, local businesses, seniors and vulnerable residents are hurting. This week, Mayor Nelson, with the help of City of Edmonds departments, announced that three local non-profits, the Food Bank, the Senior Center and the Edmonds Chamber of Commerce WISH fund will receive up to \$200,000 to help deliver services during these unprecedented times. The Edmonds WISH fund provide grants to local business so they can tap local professional services. The services could include web designers to take businesses online or professional accountants or financial advisors to help file paperwork. This is a local project not a state or

federal government program. [Learn more about the donation and the organizations.](#)

Help local businesses stay in business

The COVID-19 closures have hit small local businesses exceptionally hard. True to Edmonds form, dedicated residents, business leaders, city leaders, and MyEdmondsNews.com put their heads and resources together to brainstorm solutions. In addition to connecting business leaders to federal and state loans and grants, the group created several websites to make information more accessible and make supporting local businesses easier.



- The [LoveEdmonds.com](#) site lists restaurants, stores and services that are either open for take-out, delivery or selling gift cards to be used at a later date. Any Edmonds business can submit a request to be on this site.
- The [keepingedmondsstrong.com](#) website includes local businesses and links to other resources for business owners and the community.
- The [Edmonds Chamber of Commerce](#) links to detailed information about federal loans and grants.
- [EdmondsLocalvore](#) is boxing up survival kits from your favorite local stores.

Popular Beach Ranger Programs go online

Due to COVID-19, our extremely popular Parks Department K-6 Beach Ranger Program had to cancel the 150 in-person classes at our local schools and parks that happen every spring. No problem! Our dedicated program team is moving programs online. They are free to all schools, all teachers, and all families. What's more? They are so accessible that you don't need to go to a park or a beach to learn. Just walk outside! [This week, it's Backyard Nature Bingo and Build Your Own Nest!](#)

City teams are hard at work!



Three cheers for our Parks team!

Like many of you, we were so disappointed that taggers hit our beloved Fishing Pier a few weeks back. But our fantastic **Parks Department** made sure it didn't last long. Within 24 hours, teams cleaned up the shelter, the benches, the concrete and railings.

Our **Public Works Department** gets the innovation award this month for creating homemade hand-sanitizer in the Wastewater Lab to distribute to City sites, saving the City hundreds of dollars. Now homemade sanitizer is being distributed to City works and at City sites!

A hat tip to our Public Works team too!



Edmonds keeps moving forward

Flower Baskets are ready to go!

This Edmonds tradition is the highlight of Spring! The famous flower baskets and corner plantings will appear as scheduled, [though it will be a little different this year](#). Due to social distancing, City workers will do the work to get flowers planted and baskets hung. But it doesn't mean you can't be involved! We still need Basket and Planting sponsors. Basket sponsorship start at \$100 [Learn more about how it will work this year and buy a basket!](#)



Tourism-Promotion Grants

If you're the type to plan ahead, here's your chance. The City is accepting applications for the 2021 Tourism Promotion Grants for arts, culture or other events that draw visitors to Edmonds. For arts-related programs, apply by contacting eac@edmondswa.gov. For other tourism-promoting events, please contact Cindi Cruz at cindi.cruz@edmondswa.gov. We are taking applications until May 29, 2020.



Construction projects

The Dayton Avenue (3rd to 9th Avenues) Utility Improvement project is winding down and should be complete by late May. The project replaces aging and undersized utility pipes. When complete, it will reduce flooding in Downtown during heavy rainstorms and new sewer and potable water pipes will be up and running.

Crews also upgraded curb ramps to make them ADA accessible and added a sidewalk along the south side of Dayton between 7th and 8th Avenues.

City staff changes

The City has put most hiring on hold due to the COVID-19 health emergency and concern about future budget. Prior to the emergency, we hired our new Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Director, Angie Feser. She came to work the first week of April, complete with her own rubber gloves.

Angie comes to us from the City of Sammamish and has a long history in the public and private sectors. Angie is excited to get out in the community and start meeting all of you. In the meantime, you can contact her at angie.feser@edmondswa.gov



Mayor Mike taps Acting Police Chief Lawless for permanent spot

Acting Police Chief Jim Lawless is [Mayor Nelson's choice for the permanent role](#). Mayor Nelson said this week that you measure someone best by how they respond in a crisis. "Given what we've been dealing with and how Acting Chief Lawless and his team have performed, I can't imagine anyone I'd like to see more in the position of Chief than Jim." The City Council must now confirm Assistant Chief Lawless for this position.

This bulletin

If you liked this bulletin, please feel free to share it with friends and neighbors. If you want to unsubscribe, you can do that below. If you want to see something in this bulletin or have a questions or comment, email [Jamie Holter, the Public Information Officer](#).
