

Our Edmonds



EDMONDS CITY & COMMUNITY UPDATES | FALL/EARLY WINTER 2023



WELCOME TO EDMONDS!

If you notice a group of Japanese visitors in town in late October, you'll be seeing a visiting delegation from our sister city, Hekinan in Japan.

Celebrating our two cities' 35th year of sister-cityhood, Mayor Negita will lead a 12-person delegation from October 30th till November 4th. After an official reception at the Waterfront Center, the group will visit the Fairhaven neighborhood of Bellingham and nearby La Conner, visit Maplewood School, enjoy the Pike Place Market and Seattle Art Museum, visit the regional Firefighter Training Center, and shop and enjoy the public art in Downtown Edmonds.

But if past delegations' experiences are to be repeated, the highlight of their visit will surely be participating in Downtown Edmonds' Trick-or-Treat festivities on Halloween, when our visitors will hand out candy to delighted local youngsters. Be sure to join in the festivities 5pm – 7pm on Halloween in Downtown Edmonds where you can greet our Japanese visitors and wish them "YO-ko-so" or "Welcome"! ■

EDMONDS' HUMAN SERVICES ROCKS!

Program Manager Mindy Woods Awarded Employee of the Year

The Human Services Division goes above and beyond every day, providing assistance and support to people in need throughout Edmonds.

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A WORD FROM MAYOR MIKE

After what seemed like an endlessly warm and sunny summer, fall has now arrived with cooler weather and long-awaited rainfall and, with it, all the fun and joy of this new season. Halloween is just around the corner and this year we're thrilled to be hosting friends from our Japanese sister city Hekinan to join us in the festivities. The Holiday Markets will start up again in November, leading to Thanksgiving and the Holiday Tree lighting, followed by all the events, activities and atmosphere that make Edmonds such a special place during the holidays. Take a ride on the Holiday Trolley, attend a holiday show at the Edmonds Center for the Arts, stroll and shop among the locally owned stores, or just enjoy the lights and decorations that brighten the darkest days of the year.



But I also want to share a thought about making sure that we look out for our friends and neighbors for whom the holiday season may not be all fun and joy. For some, this season can be emotionally difficult – for many reasons that need no explanation or excuse. Let's do our best to include those who may have no family close by, or simply take that extra few minutes to check on neighbors who live alone. Give to a charity. Share a smile or "good morning" to a stranger on your stroll through town. And, as always, make sure to follow the fall-winter safe driving tips that we've included in this issue of *Our Edmonds*.

As we come together during the darker, colder days of the year, what warms and brightens this time is knowing we live in a uniquely warm and giving community, steeped in tradition. From my family to yours, I wish you all a warm and gratifying holiday season and offer my most heartfelt wishes for a bright, healthy, prosperous and fun-filled 2024. ■



City Debuts *Fix It Edmonds* App

Ever wonder what to do when you see a pothole, find a park restroom that needs attention, or come across a malfunctioning traffic light? Well, there's now an easy way to let the City know. With the ***Fix It Edmonds*** mobile app, you can submit service requests with just a few taps on your phone.

Since its debut this past summer Parks and Recreation has received 53 reports, while Public Works has received 124 – and counting!

Scan this QR code and simply download the *Fix It Edmonds* app from the Apple App Store or Google Play. When you open the app, select "Submit a Service Request." From there, you can choose the type of request you want to submit, whether it's a pothole, a broken streetlight, or a missed trash pickup, etc.

You'll then be prompted to submit a photo and provide a brief description. You can also track the status of your request and receive updates.

So why wait?

Download the *Fix It Edmonds* app today and start reporting issues with ease. ■



EDMONDS' HUMAN SERVICES ROCKS! *continued*



Supported by an array of local agencies, the City's wide range of services are provided by just three staff members: **Dave Bartels via the City Hall Neighborhood Office, Compass Health care coordinator Erin Nathan, and this year's biggest rock star: Human Services Program Manager Mindy Woods, who was named Employee of the Year!** Nominated by her peers, Mindy received high accolades from both fellow employees and community members. Coordinating services to over 150 people just in the past year, Mindy's work includes a litany of services. Here are some highlights: **She secured State funding for motel vouchers for those experiencing homelessness, set up regular presence by DSHS and 211 at the City Hall Neighborhood Office for streamlined, direct, local services, partnered with**

Community Court to ensure access to services, developed urgent care kits for police officers, facilities and parks employees, worked with the County and local entities to establish extreme weather shelters, and assisted residents with household support grants.

Mindy's work extends well beyond Edmonds. She was appointed by Governor Inslee to the State Advisory Council on Homelessness. She was invited to Washington, DC to work with White House and HUD staff on tenant issues and rental assistance, as well as to participate in the White House Anti-Hunger conference with the Washington State Anti-Hunger Coalition. Mindy also serves on numerous regional boards and committees, doing Edmonds proud across the region.

A key portal for addressing residents' needs is the City Hall Neighborhood Office on Highway 99, where Dave Bartels welcomes folks daily and offers information, referrals and a friendly smile. From passers-by who simply want to "stick their head in the door and say hi" to a number of people in need of services, Dave says he has "lots of traffic" at the City's satellite office, where Police officers also regularly drop in and work remotely. The City's Community Court is a main tenant there also, with regular court proceedings offered to the local community. **And embedded in the Police Department, Compass Health care coordinator Erin Nathan works in tandem with Police personnel responding to individuals to connect them to non-emergency services that best support their health and well-being.**

South County Fire, the Edmonds Senior Center and other local and regional agencies round out the full spectrum of social services available to Edmonds residents. These agencies and their staff also deserve our ongoing thanks and praise!

As always, if you or someone you know is in need of service or assistance, the City offers links to a wide array of resources on our website via this QR code or by calling Mindy Woods at 425.563.8348. ■



FALL-WINTER SAFE DRIVING TIPS

Data show that vehicle accidents spike during the darker, wetter weather typical of our Fall-Winter period.

And, of course, of particular concern are collisions between vehicles and pedestrians. Here are some general tips to help avoid accidents during the upcoming months:

- Stay alert, don't assume
- Be aware of hydroplaning
- Brake cautiously
- Turn on headlights, even during daylight hours
- Slow down, keep distance from other vehicles



Additional tips related to pedestrian safety include:

For Drivers:

- Always look out for pedestrians.
- Be extra careful driving at night or in bad weather.
- Slow down and prepare to stop when turning or entering a crosswalk.
- Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks and stop well back to give other motorists a chance to see the crossing pedestrians.
- Never drive under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.
- Don't speed – especially with people and children present, or in school zones.
- Be extra cautious when backing up and look for pedestrians.

For Pedestrians:

- Follow the rules of the road, obey signs and signals.
- Walk on sidewalks wherever available.
- If there's no sidewalk, walk facing, and as far as possible from, oncoming traffic.
- Cross streets at crosswalks or intersections. Look for cars in all directions, including those turning.
- If there's no crosswalk or intersection, find a well-lit area with the best view of traffic to cross.
- Avoid alcohol and drugs when walking; they impair your abilities and your judgment.
- Watch for cars entering or exiting drive-ways, or backing up in parking lots. ■

Additional safety tips can be found by clicking on this QR code.



PorchFest in the Edmonds Creative District

WASHINGTON'S FIRST CREATIVE DISTRICT SEEKS RECERTIFICATION

Governor Inslee announced in November 2018 that Downtown Edmonds was selected as Washington's first designated **Creative District**, recognizing the vitality of Edmonds' vibrant arts, cultural and creative sectors, as well as its commitment to ongoing enhancements, capital investments, and growth. Recent events like **PorchFest**, the "**Mika's Song**" live performance at our new Mika's Playground, and other innovative cultural offerings are further cementing our Creative District's identity as a unique and truly creative place.

As required by the State program, Edmonds must apply for recertification after its first five years. Remarking about the City's impending recertification bid, Mayor Nelson said:

"Over the past five years, this program has fostered increased coordination of the arts community, and has served as a catalyst to improve our marketing and promotion efforts. A testament to this is that over the course of the pandemic, we did not lose a single major arts organization in the city."

With an ambitious five-year plan through 2028, the City intends to pursue: continued development of the Fourth Avenue Cultural Corridor, arts and culture activation of key public spaces, increased engagement of the creative business sector, outreach to schools and diverse communities, collaboration with other designated Creative Districts, and further promotion of existing branding and marketing efforts. ■

Scan this QR code for more information on the Edmonds Creative District and how to be involved.





City staff will be in your neighborhood soon!

EVERYONE'S EDMONDS

Everyone's Edmonds is a Comprehensive Plan that will guide the City's growth and policy decisions over the next 20 years, as required by State law. We'll revise population and employment forecasts and ensure existing and new policies make sense for the community, all while meeting statutory requirements, with adoption expected by the end of 2024.

We started a visioning process in summer 2022, receiving 8,500 comments that will help us identify key themes to focus on in the Plan. We went back out to the public this past August and September – this time to inform the environmental analysis. Comments covered land use, housing, transportation, parks and recreation, natural resources, shoreline management, economic development, environmental protection, climate change, utilities, and capital facilities. City staff will work with Highway 99 area stakeholders to identify topics directly related to growth expected there. The Environmental Impact Statement will study growth alternatives and help us identify the most sustainable ways to grow while addressing community needs. ■

Haven't gotten involved yet? Don't worry! We will be in your neighborhood soon, holding conversations across Edmonds to discuss growth alternatives. Scan this QR code for more information and sign up for project updates and upcoming events.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Halloween Trick or Treat Night

October 31, 5-7pm



Holiday Markets

November 4, 11 & 18
December 2, 9 & 16
10am-3pm

Holiday Tree Lighting

November 25

Art Walk Edmonds

Third Thursdays

Wreath Walk Edmonds

November 16 through
December 21

Holiday Happenings

For all things
Holiday, scan
this QR code.



Edmonds Events

Scan this QR
code for up-to-
date informa-
tion year-round.



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