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## Edmonds City Bulletin



Welcome to the 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. Feel free to share this Bulletin with others.

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## COVID-19 News

### Community questions

Edmonds residents and businesses want to know how the Governor's Stay Home, Stay Healthy affects them. [We put together a Q and A on our COVID-19 page.](#) We update this several times a week.

### Phase 1: Parks and open space

On May 5, Edmonds reopened the Fishing Pier, Brackett's Landing North parking lot, and the Marina Beach Park and parking lot. We will keep the pedestrian bridge from the Marina to the park closed due to social distancing. The beach is accessible via Admiral Way.

The Dog Park remains closed for now in accordance with CDC requirements. Yost Pool will not open this summer. [More details on the parks and pool situation can be found on the Parks & Rec webpage.](#)

Social distancing works. It is important that visitors maintain a safe six-foot distance from each other all parks and park facilities.

## WA: Phase 1 - May 5

**High risk populations:** Stay home, stay healthy

**Recreation:** Walking in local parks, hiking, boating, fishing, and golf

**Travel:** Only essential travel

**Business:** Essential businesses like grocery stores, existing construction, landscaping, automobile sales, car washes, pet walkers, retail can do curbside pick-up

**Edmonds:** Marina Beach Park, Brackett's Landing North, Fishing Pier (with limitations)

Dog park remains closed

#SlowTheSpread



## Construction News

The Governor's Office gave the green light for most pre-existing construction projects to move forward provided that crews adhere to new safety standards which include protective gear, social distancing and access to water. The Edmonds Development Services Department is working [with builders on existing permits and will manage any group meetings via online conferences.](#)

The Waterfront Center project is back to work with crews dressed for the occasion. We caught this worker wrapping up his shift.



## City Financial Situation

### Budget Impacts and the Financial Forecast

We have been closely monitoring the City's revenues as well as regional and national economic indicators. We are currently projecting a 9.2 % decline in operating revenue in the General Fund. This decline amounts to a \$4.0 million loss in revenue out of a revenue budget of \$43.8 million. It is a difficult task to make up for a loss in revenue of this magnitude in the remaining seven months of the budget year; however, we are moving forward with a two-phased approach:

1. Suspending new hires and non-essential expenditures (operational and capital) to preserve essential city services (public safety, maintaining basic transportation and city building infrastructure, etc.).
2. Continue to monitor our budget situation in conjunction with incoming revenues and economic indicators; then respond accordingly.

The City entered this crisis in a strong financial position, allowing the Administration time to chart a careful course of action to minimize service impacts to our community. We examined our budgets and identified \$1.3 million of non-essential expenditures that can be delayed and an additional \$271,000 in savings from suspending new hires. While the reductions in non-essential expenditures and savings from the hiring freezes help us balance the budget, we may need to access our reserves to help make up the difference.

We have also cut the budget in other areas, including training, supplies, and holding several projects from moving forward until we better understand the financial impacts COVID-19 will have on the city.

# What else is going on



## Garden Market

An Edmonds tradition returns this Saturday, May 9, looking a little different. The Garden Market will have 20 vendors and visitors will be carefully managed inside the market space for maximum safety. We hope you will stop in and make a purchase or two. Vendors are developing ideas that include buying in advance and picking up nearby.

## Cemetery Event

The Cemetery will have flags and crosses up on May 22 recognizing the grave sites of military personnel and the columbarium fountain will be running. There will be no formal event. The cemetery is open to visitors.

## What's canceled

- Edmonds Spring Fest
- Edmonds Cemetery Memorial Day Celebration
- The Edmonds Art Festival
- An Edmonds Kind of Fourth

## Economic support for residents

The City Council passed a measure to earmark \$100,000 from the \$225,000 Homelessness Relief Fund to provide housing and food assistance to Edmonds families who earn 60 percent or less of the Snohomish County median household income. The funds will be distributed and tracked through local non-profits. Program details will be available soon.

## Community and business support

The City dug deep and was able to come up with a \$200,000 Community & Economic Relief Program, paid for by program, project, and personnel savings. The program will support the valuable community services provided by three Edmonds organizations: The Senior Center, the Edmonds Foodbank and the Chamber of

Commerce Foundation's WISH Fund. Up to \$50,000 each was allocated for the Food Bank and Senior Center.

The remaining up to \$100,000 was earmarked to help pay for grants for local businesses who use the services of other local businesses to get their shops, restaurants, or company back on track. We are excited to share that 40 businesses have already taken advantage of these \$1,000 grants. The added donation doubles the number of businesses we can help. [If you would like to apply, check out the information.](#)

We want to get this information to as many Edmonds businesses as possible, so please share this link and this information with any local business owner you know.

### **City teams are working on a reopening plan.**

The City plans to host a virtual Town Hall to share what the Phase 2 of the Governor's reopening plan looks like for Edmonds residents and businesses. Watch for that announcement in this news bulletin, via My Edmonds News, the Edmonds Beacon, our website and on the City's Facebook page.

### **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, curbside pick-up or selling gift cards to be used at a later date. Any Edmonds business can submit a request to be on this site.
- The [keepEdmondsstrong.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.

## Other news

The Dayton Avenue construction will wrap up mid-June, but not before a couple significant closures. [Find the construction updates here.](#)

News on the Highway 99 safety improvement project to share this week. Our Public Works Director Phil Williams provided an update to Council. [MyEdmondsNews has a detailed summary here.](#)

## Flower Baskets for Mom! It's not too late!

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 the plants planted and baskets hung. But it doesn't mean you can't be involved! We still need Basket and Planting sponsors. And your Mom would be so pleased to have a basket in her honor! Baskets start at \$100 [Learn more about how it will work this year and adopt a basket!](#)



