

‘A cast of fools’: Sanction falls short

New councilmember Will Chen casts decisive vote, calling for ‘friendship’

BY BRIAN SOERGER
EDMONDSEditor@YOURBEACON.NET

In the final analysis, Councilmember Adrienne Fraley-Monillas – in her penultimate appearance as an Edmonds City Council member – may have said it best. “We are being looked at as a cast of fools,” she said toward the end of a marathon, five-hour council meeting Tuesday that included heated public comment on the streateries – both for and against – but ended on an attempt to sanction Council President Susan Paine.

It was later in the afternoon Tuesday that an addition was added to the agenda: Two councilmembers, Diane Buckshnis and Kristiana Johnson, had filed a complaint against Paine.

Their complaint stated Paine violated the City’s code of ethics while scheduling and managing the 2022 budget process. That is,

see **SANCTION FAILS** page 18 ▶



Susan Paine



Elfin’s
her joy

Santa’s helper, Emily Scott,
dishes on her doppelganger

BY BRIAN SOERGER
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It’s time to unlock the mystery of Emily the Elf, although it’s not so much a secret as a kind of nod to Santa Claus’ cloak of anonymity. We don’t dig into Santa’s past. He lives at the North Pole, and that’s it.

Emily the Elf is real, too, but she’s assumed a second life as a mom and an important member of the Edmonds Historical Museum.

So ... First name: Emily. Last name: Scott.

Emily’s the one with the disarming smile, the cute curtsy, candy canes for the kids. She doesn’t drive the Edmonds holiday trolley, but she’s definitely in charge.

Emily’s holiday saga began in 2017. “I was glancing through our local social media and news sources and saw a delightful advertisement for a

see **EMILY SCOTT** page 18 ▶

Emily Scott, aka Emily the Elf, at the trolley stop near the Edmonds fountain.

Beacon photo by Brian Soerger

Mayor: Extend streateries 6 more months

Recent online survey supports his conclusion, he says

BY BRIAN SOERGER
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In advance of public comment Tuesday, Dec. – where the comments were both positive and negative – and an expected vote by councilmembers Dec. 14, Mayor Mike Nelson made his feeling on extending the streateries ordinance clear.

He supports it. In a news release Monday, Nelson reported that over 4,100 people responded to a brief City survey on the outdoor dining structures seen in downtown Edmonds, otherwise known as “streateries.” One of the most important takeaways is the large portion of people who may no longer dine at downtown restaurants if the streateries are removed, the release said.

“I believe the best way to support the economic vitality of our entire downtown is to continue streateries during the pandemic,” said Nelson.

“The reason why I believe this is because we see

from new survey results that a majority of the public will likely patronize downtown restaurants less if the streateries are removed. And from the sales tax data we know the vast majority of downtown retail businesses have profited while streateries have been here. I would hate to see our downtown businesses suffer and the public be less well served because the streateries are taken away.”

Survey says

The survey results show that 52% said that they will be more likely to visit downtown less or dine elsewhere if the ordinance sunsets at the end of the year, which it is scheduled to do so.

From the survey responses from the following two questions were most informative, the release said:

If outdoor dining in streateries is no longer available, which of the following options most closely describes your expected eating/drinking habits in downtown Edmonds during the first six months of 2022?

- I will likely continue to visit downtown restaurants and cafés just as frequently, choosing to eat in

see **STREATERIES** page 13 ▶

Bridging the divide? Restaurateur hopes to do so

Edmonds’ Feedme Hospitality creates Restaurants for Retail gift card program

BY BRIAN SOERGER
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With City Council now debating whether to extend the city’s streateries program – a decision is expected Dec. 14 – there’s no doubt that some downtown retailers remain frustrated by a perceived lack of fairness.

The argument: Providing restaurants real estate on city streets takes away parking that could be used for all businesses.

Restaurateur Shubert Ho has certainly benefited. Three of his establishments on Main – Fire & the Feast, The Mar-Ket, and Salt & Iron – have enclosed seating on



the street taking up two parking spaces each.

Aware of the rising tension, Ho is trying to help bridge the divide between restaurants and retailers downtown with a program called Restaurants for Retailers.

As a way to support its patrons, retail partners, and downtown holiday festivities, Ho’s Feedme Hospitality & Restaurant Group has spent \$3,000 to buy \$100 gift cards from 30 local retailers.

Ho is promoting one retailer a day by giving away a \$100 gift card by participating Instagram followers. The daily promotion con-

see **BRIDGING** page 15 ▶





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Edmonds likely to move into 2nd Congressional District

Pramila Jayapal would no longer represent the city

BY BRIAN SOERGER
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Unless the state Legislature votes otherwise early next year during its short session – which is not expected – Edmonds will leave the 7th Congressional District and become part of the large 2nd Congressional District.

Democrat Rick Larsen is the 2nd Congressional District representative. District 2 includes portions of Snohomish, Skagit, and Whatcom counties, and all of Island and San Juan counties.

Democrat Pramila Jayapal represents the 7th Congressional District, which includes Seattle.

Some background: Washington state redraws the boundaries of voting districts every 10 years to reflect the state’s changing populations. This happens after the federal government releases its updated census data, which it did recently.

All of the proposed maps from four voting members of the Washington State Redistricting Commission, released in September, moved Edmonds out of the U.S. Congressional District 7 and into either District 1 or District 2.

The four voting commissioners were appointed by state House and Senate leadership. They were April Sims, Paul Graves, Brady Piñero Walkinshaw, and Joe Fain. There is also a fifth nonvoting chairperson selected by the voting members. The commission chair is Sarah Augustine.

The commission’s legislative district maps keep Edmonds in both the 21st and 32nd Legislative Districts.

On Tuesday, Nov. 16, the Washington State Redistricting Commission reported that the four voting commissioners were unable to adopt a redistricting plan by the midnight deadline on Nov. 15.

The state Supreme Court then had jurisdiction to adopt a redistricting plan. But last week, the court declined to adopt one, saying the “plan adopted by the Washington State Redistricting Commission met the constitutional deadline and substantially complied with the statutory deadline to transmit the matter to the Legislature.”

The court said “the commission missed the statutory deadline to transmit the plan to the Legislature by 13 minutes. Given all of the work the commission did, and given that it only missed the statutory deadline by 13 minutes, the court concluded that the commission substantially complied with the statute.”

During its work, the commission worked closely with experts; consulted with the Tribes; held 17 public outreach meetings and 22 regular business meetings; received more than 2,750 comments on draft maps or the 2010 maps; received live testimony from more than 400 people; and received over 3,000 e-mails, website comments, letters, and voicemails.

What’s next?

In general, the Legislature will have the opportunity to review and revise the plans as it sees fit, according to the State Supreme Court.

However, the Legislature only has 30 days from the start of the session to do so, and any change must be approved by two-thirds of the members of the state House and state Senate.

According to Curtis Knapp, a spokesperson for the House Democratic Caucus, the Legislature can only amend the maps to make changes totaling 2% of the population of any legislative or congressional district.

There may be legal challenges to the plans.

Last month, The League of Women Voters of Washington (LWVWA) called for reform of the Washington state redistricting process.

It says the fact that the Washington State Redistricting Commission failed to reach an agreement on the maps before the constitutional deadline and forced the decision to the Washington Supreme Court confirms the need to reform the redistricting process in Washington.

The LWVWA now calls on the public, the legislature, and the media to push for more transparency, efficiency, and effectiveness in the process, and for a structural change to the makeup of the commission.

See the Redistricting Commission’s approved maps: redistricting.wa.gov/final-maps.

Helping the world understand hearing loss and deafness

BY MANYA VEE
FOR THE BEACON

Edmonds resident Angeliki Pedersen’s illustrated book, “The Secrets Hidden Beneath the Palm Tree,” shows us how to understand and interact with deaf children.

In the story, a curious girl notices hearing aids on her new classmate at school. On the playground, she asks him about them.

The boy explains in simple language about his difficulty hearing things, and about his hearing aids. They develop a fast friendship and she looks out for him from then on.

The story comes directly out of Pedersen’s personal life experience. Her son, now 40, is deaf.

Each year as the new school year began, Pedersen accompanied her son to school on the first day to explain about deafness to his teachers and classmates.

“When he was in early elementary grades, I needed a book similar to mine to be able to familiarize his classmates and his teacher with hearing loss. Unfortunately I could not find one,” she said.

She said she wanted others to understand so they could be more compassionate toward the deaf people they encountered. She wanted to nurture curiosity about it.

She thought of lesson plans teachers could use in their classrooms to help kids understand the effect of hearing loss, as well as learn what they could do to help out.

She also noticed that few knew the concepts and technology surrounding hearing loss. Pedersen realized explanations were needed for lip reading, sign language, audiologist, cochlear implant, speech pathology, and for hearing assistant dogs.

As the years passed, she wrote many notes and stories as her experiences accumulated, with a goal of turning this knowledge and experience into something.

But she had no idea how to proceed. Pedersen said she longed to create a platform where all could begin to grasp what deafness is and how it affects lives.

“If all the children have the right information at a young age, later on, with some effort, they can have better communication skills at any level of their life.”

In 2004, Pedersen visited her home country of Greece. She tagged along with her sister to a meeting with her sister, an author of children’s books, to meet the illustrator of those books. She found the illustrations amazing.

That’s when the light bulb went off. She suddenly knew how to transform all her notes into something others could easily use – an illustrated children’s book.

Upon returning home, she wrote her script in her native Greek language in 30 days.



Photo courtesy of Many Vee
Angeliki Pedersen’s illustrated book was written to help people interact with deaf children.

Pedersen returned to Greece in 2006. The Department of Deaf Studies at the University of Patras had invited her to present her script at their annual conference. They had plans to support publishing the book and use it for elementary teacher workshops. Unfortunately, the global recession came along to put an end to those plans.

Instead, Pedersen met with the inspirational illustrator, who agreed to do the illustrations for her book. Pedersen self-published the book in 2011, printed 100 copies, and donated them in Greece.

Translating the book into English was difficult, even though Pedersen is fluent in English, having lived here since 1972. It took 14 years, but at last, with help from others, she was able to get the English version printed in February 2019.

In this very practical book, Pedersen included ideas for teachers to use in their classrooms such as moving the desks in such a way the deaf children can better read lips.

There are games for the kids to play, too. One game has them walking around with cotton balls in their ears.

But hearing loss affects much of our older population as well. Pedersen dreams about grandparents sharing the book with their grandchildren to better facilitate communication between the two of them.

An exciting development for Pedersen came when a deaf professor at the University of Washington saw it. She is from India, and asked Pedersen if she could translate the book into Hindi.

Now, on the horizon are new editions in Spanish and French.

Upon encountering Pedersen’s book, people with any connection to a deaf person

see ANGELIKI PEDERSEN page 8 ►



The BEACON

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The Beacon welcomes letters to the editor of 400 words or fewer and will print them as promptly as possible as space allows.

However, letters must include a first and last name, address and daytime phone number for verification purposes.

We also reserve the right to edit letters as necessary for brevity, grammar and taste.

Published letters will include the author’s name and city of residence.

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Edmonds mayor supports county sales tax increase

BY BRIAN SOERGEL
EDMONDSEditor@YOURBEACON.NET

Three members of the Snohomish County Council are proposing a 0.1% sales tax increase to fund affordable housing. In 2020, a change in state law allowed local governments to raise sales taxes by 0.1% for affordable housing and services without sending the tax to a public vote.



Mike Nelson

Pushing for the increase are Executive Dave Somers, Council Chair and Edmonds representative Stephanie Wright, and Council Vice Chair Megan Dunn.

Edmonds Mayor Mike Nelson supports the idea. “Homelessness and the lack of affordable housing are a county-wide issue that needs county-wide solutions,” he said.

“Last school year, there were over 3,000 school-age children living on the street, in cars, and in hotels and motels in Snohomish County. We know children in stable housing do better in school, and this helps contribute to breaking the cycle of poverty.

“The current proposal is a reasonable new approach to help address this significant countywide problem.”

If approved, Edmonds’ sales tax would rise to 10.5%. The current tax of 10.4% includes 6.5% for the state and 3.9% for Edmonds.

The increase amounts to 10 additional cents on a \$100 purchase, or \$1 on \$1,000. If passed, it would raise approximately \$116 million over five years for investments in affordable housing.

In a presentation to Edmonds city councilmembers last month, Finance Director Dave Turley said that the City’s sales tax is booming, and that the pandemic has not hurt the City’s coffers.

Loophole allows for boost without a public vote

“We’ve been getting more sales tax by month, every month, than we ever have before,” he said. Sales tax is a major part of Edmonds’ general fund – 20%.

In a news release announcing the proposal, the County said that using existing federal, state, and local resources, Snohomish County anticipates being able to construct and acquire 222 new units of affordable housing in the next five years.

The median rent for a one-bedroom apartment in the county is \$1,528, according to Apartment List.

Authorizing this new source of funding would help support creating a projected 300 new units of affordable housing over that same time, more than doubling the current production rate and increasing the total new affordable housing units to 522.

“There are people throughout Snohomish County who are being forced to choose between food, medicine, and losing their home,” said Wright. “This is not just a crisis for those experiencing or living on the verge of homelessness, but one that affects the safety and economic health of our entire county.”

“We have the opportunity to make significant, long-term impacts on homelessness, and to provide holistic services that address the root causes. During the pandemic, these problems increased even as federal and local dollars were used to maintain stability. It is a moral imperative that we take action, and this is another important step in protecting our residents and ensuring that we create healthy communities where all can thrive.”

According to County Councilmember Nate Nehring, a public hearing on the proposal was set for Dec. 15, only two weeks after the proposal was announced.

“Typically, proposals to increase the sales tax rate are placed on the ballot for a vote

of the people,” said Nehring in a statement. “In this case, a loophole passed by the state Legislature is being used to avoid a public vote. That isn’t right.”

At the public hearing, during its last meeting before Christmas, the County Council is expected to act on the proposal.

“There is no reason why this tax needs to be rushed through with minimal transparency,” said Nehring. “If there are councilmembers who think this is a good idea, they should be willing to make that case to their constituents through a robust process of public input and deliberation.”

Nehring is in the process of drafting an amendment that, if passed, would send this proposal to the ballot for a public vote.

Snohomish County, like many parts of the region and country, is facing an affordable housing crisis. Many teachers, first responders, tradespeople, public servants, and others are finding it increasingly difficult to live in their own communities because housing costs have skyrocketed.

According to the County Council:

- Over 33% of households in Snohomish County are cost-burdened, meaning they pay more than 30% of their income on housing costs (based on 2018 Census Bureau report).

- Nearly half of all households in Snohomish County cannot afford an average two-bedroom apartment offered at fair market rent without becoming cost-burdened.

- As of 2019, Snohomish County would need 127,215 additional units of housing by 2040—approximately 6,300 new units each year—for no household in Snohomish County to spend more than 30% of their income toward housing.

- Approximately one-third of all households are at 60% of Area Median Income or below. This means that about one-third

of Snohomish County households are in need of housing that will not be produced without governmental or nonprofit interventions.

- During 2020 in Snohomish County, the Fair Market Rent (FMR) for a two-bedroom apartment was \$2,099. To afford this level of rent and utilities, without paying more than 30 percent of income on housing, a household must earn \$6,997 monthly or \$83,960 annually. Assuming a 40-hour workweek, 52 weeks per year, this level of income translates into an hourly housing wage of \$40.37.

- To afford a two-bedroom apartment at minimum wage, a household would have to work three full-time jobs. In addition, there has been a 50-67% decline in low rent housing in our region from 2011 to 2017 and new construction has not made up for these declines.

- In 2020, there were 1,132 people living unsheltered in Snohomish County, according to the Point in Time Count. It is likely that number has increased significantly due to the pandemic.

In response to the housing crisis, Somers and Lynnwood Mayor Nicola Smith established the Housing Affordability Regional Task Force (HART) that met throughout 2019 and 2020. One of the action items in the HART report was the need to find additional resources to build more affordable housing.

If authorized by the County Council, Somers said he intends to coordinate any spending on affordable housing with HART to ensure these resources have regional and equitable impact.

The following counties and cities in Washington have already authorized 0.1% sales tax for affordable housing: Jefferson, King, Skagit, Spokane, and Whatcom. Cities authorizing the tax include Anacortes, Ellensburg, Olympia, Port Angeles, Poulsbo, Tacoma, and East Wenatchee/Wenatchee.

CITY BRIEFS

Community meeting set for Civic Park public art

The City of Edmonds Arts Commission is holding a meeting on Zoom Thursday, Dec. 16, at 6 p.m. for members of the community to meet Clark Wiegman, the selected artist for Civic Park public art project.

The design for Civic Park features two sites near the main entry to the plaza off Sixth Avenue North that were identified by landscape architects Walker Macy as potential sites for a permanent public art installation.

Wiegman was selected through a competitive process, and is now under contract to create a design for that area.

At the Dec. 16 meeting, the community is invited to learn more about Wiegman, his past work, and ideas he is developing for

see CITY BRIEFS page 13 ▶

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GUESTVIEW

Streateries survey bias will not lead to accurate info

My family has enjoyed dining in streateries on many occasions. I'm impressed by how local restaurant owners have pivoted during difficult times. A permanent outside dining option with community support would be a wonderful thing.

The key words there are "full community support." But as it stands, streateries have become contentious, and I'm concerned that the survey the city of Edmonds is circulating won't gather accurate information about how residents feel.

GUESTVIEW



BY JENNIFER BARDSLEY
EDMONDS RESIDENT

I believe that whoever worded the survey had positive intentions, but it is written in such a way that is biased towards streateries.

Question 3 asks: "If outdoor dining in streateries is no longer available, which of the following options most closely describes your expected eating/drinking habits in downtown Edmonds during the first six months of 2022?"

"Option 1: I will likely continue to visit downtown restaurants and cafes just as frequently, choosing to eat indoors.

"Option 2: I will likely visit downtown restaurants and cafes less frequently, as I am less comfortable eating indoors.

"Option 3: I will likely choose to visit restaurants and cafes elsewhere that continue to have outdoor dining options."

There should be a fourth option that says, "I will likely increase my visits to downtown restaurants and cafes due to freed-up parking spaces."

I am horrible at parallel parking, so when my family visits downtown during busy times I make my husband park. (Twenty-one years of marriage is good for many things, right?) But for some neighbors, reduced parking might be hindering their ability to visit downtown shops and restaurants.

see BARDSLEY page 6 ▶

GUESTVIEW

Recalling the idea of a new kind of senior center

I recall nearly seven years ago, sitting in Farrell Fleming's office in the Old Senior Center building as he asked me if I'd be interested in serving on the board of directors. I had recently retired, and he thought I would be a good addition to the board.

As he chatted, our conversation had to stop several times as freight trains blasted their way through Edmonds, obliterating any ongoing discussion until they had passed. I shared my concern with him about the current Senior Center model. I felt that senior centers as we had come to know them were dinosaurs in our current world.

GUESTVIEW



BY GARY HAAKENSON
EDMONDS WATERFRONT CENTER

They essentially were isolating our senior population to themselves. I felt that this model was depriving seniors of the opportunity to be with younger members of society and, in turn, depriving the younger folks of the wisdom that seniors had to offer.

And I don't think it was a surprise to anyone that today's baby boomers really didn't ever feel like they were "seniors" at all, and they had no desire to hang out in a "senior center." Society and times were changing.

So as I shared my thoughts with Farrell, he told me he agreed with me and wanted to build a new center that would, for all intents and purposes, bring young and old together under one roof to share with each other their own life experiences, as diverse as they may be.

I was excited by the new idea, and told Farrell I would get back to him. As I drove home, I was thinking about the deplorable condition of the present senior center. I remembered the many attempts to either remodel the center or build a new one during my 11 years as Edmonds mayor.

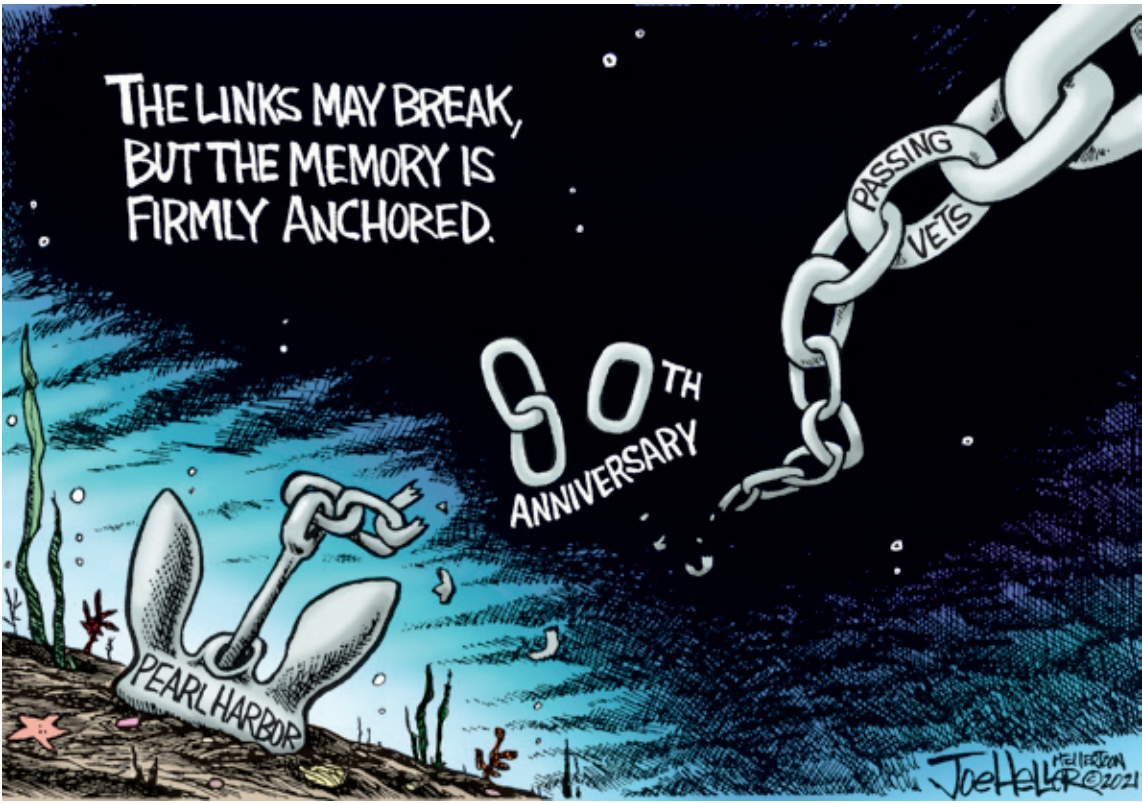
The City owned the building, and the dedicated work by Public Works crews was the only reason that building hadn't fallen into the sea and washed away.

Before I even made it halfway home, I decided I would accept Farrell's offer to join the board.

A lot has transpired since that conversation. I've served six years on the board. I have been honored to have been a campaign co-chair my entire time on the board, and to have served as chairman of the board these last two years.

I have watched our dedicated board of directors work diligently through one obstacle after another to get us where we are today, operating from our state-of-the-art Edmonds Waterfront Center. In addition, I've witnessed the work of the EWC staff, who took on the challenges

see HAAKENSON page 5 ▶



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor's note: The Beacon is now publishing select letters written to the Edmonds City Council and available as public record on the City of Edmonds website.

Streateries: Us vs. them mentality

Edmonds' downtown core restaurants and businesses need to work together as a team – currently they're not.

While the restaurants and businesses are unique in their own way, they do complement each other and need one to succeed for them all to succeed. What streateries have done is pit one against the other and create an "us vs. them" environment, with one stepping on the back of the other to get over the wall but not looking back to help those who helped them.

Survival of one, but not the other, is not a formula for success.

Pat Meyers
Edmonds

Streateries: 'We all have the same goal'

Mayor Nelson, City Council representatives and Economic Development Director Patrick Doherty:

After listening to the Edmonds streateries discussion at last month's City Council meeting, it became apparent that not all of the facts pertinent to this decision have been made clear to this committee.

In an effort to provide you with relevant information related to the debate, we have created a one-sheet perspective outlining both arguments for continuation of the program as well as responses to the arguments against maintaining streateries that we have heard most frequently.

(Editor's note: Read the one-sheet at bit.ly/3pAvCHU.)

In addition, we have provided some thoughts on recommendations for consideration that may both help to address or alleviate some of the concerns voiced, while still providing for safe, socially distanced dining for the people of Edmonds.

Please keep in mind that the restaurants are not asking for a continuation because we are "profiting" from these outdoor dining structures, but simply to provide safe options for our customers to enjoy some sense of normalcy and socialization with one another.

We all have the same goal, to support the people of Edmonds to the best of our abilities. Our local restaurants are some of the largest benefactors to local community events and charities. We all want what is best for our community: allowing all businesses to prosper and thrive in support of our residents and guests.

Know that the recommendations were provided with this spirit in mind and have been vetted with many of our local restaurant proprietors.

We have also been sharing the City's survey on streateries with our customers, ensuring you receive a well-rounded cross-section of citizen perspective as well.

At minimum, we request the Council push out the deadline of Jan. 1, 2022, to a later date that does not collide with a major holiday to allow for proper time to make arrangements for the street closures and deconstruction disruption the removal of the structures would require.

With much appreciation both for your initial offering of the streateries program as well for your consideration in maintaining it through the winter flu season.

Jeff and Erika Barnett
Salish Sea Brewing Company

Objectivity missing in bike lane story?

First off, I love having the Beacon as our local newspaper.

That said, objectivity is a vital component of quality journalism. The editorial comment within "Bike lanes approved for Edmonds" Dec. 2 reading, "When's the last time you saw someone riding a bike in Edmonds ...?", was a breach of journalistic integrity.

I am a resident of Edmonds and a regular bike rider who sees many peers doing the same, year round. To say we don't exist is irresponsible and inaccurate. Further, I believe that improving route options for bicyclists will encourage more folks to get out of their cars and onto two wheels, as well as make the roads safer for riders and auto drivers alike.

Steve White
Edmonds

Editor's note: The question was put forth to represent a comment expressed by many in the community, and clearly came after a point stating not all residents approve of the bike lanes. Thanks for the compliment, though. We love our readers.

I see bike riders

In the article about bike lanes in the Dec. 2 issue, this question was asked: "When's the last time you saw someone riding a bike in Edmonds?" My answer: A few hours ago, as well as several times yesterday, the day before.

I cannot recall a day I have NOT seen someone riding a bike in Edmonds. Kids riding bikes to school, adults with kiddos in a seat on the back or a trailer, dogs in bike trailers, bikes above the Bowl and, yes, even in "a ferry town with hills and increasing vehicle traffic."

see LETTERS page 14 ▶

Online Poll

Last week's question & results:
The holiday trolley will be downtown this year, as well as near Highway 99. Do you plan to ride the trolley this holiday season?
• 33% Said YES • 67% Said NO

This week's summary:
The City Council will vote on Dec. 14 to close the streateries at year's end or extend them, possibly for six months.

This week's poll question:
Do you think the streateries should

continue into 2022?

We want to know what you think:
Vote online now at www.edmondsbeacon.com and look for the results in the Dec. 16 issue of The Beacon.

www.edmondsbeacon.com

HISTORYFILES

Post offices and the past

And just how did Plain gets its name?



Photo courtesy of Tim Raetzloff

Alpine, Wash., in 1915. The old post office has an interesting past.

Did you ever play post office? I never did, and had no idea of the rules until doing some research on local post offices. A town was measured by its post office, as much as by its school or its railroad depot.

A post office was a sign that it was a real place. The loss of a post office usually marked “the end.”

A post office was much more important during the early settlement era. It was a connection point to family and friends left behind. A letter or postcard was the means to stay in touch and let others know how you were doing, and to learn how life was going for them.

The post office was also a place to connect with your new neighbors. They went to the post office for the same reason. The post office was often located in a general store or trading post, a place where everyone needed to visit from time to time.

There are many stories told about post offices. Not every town was able to get the name it desired. The story of North Bend is that William Taylor first wanted the name to be “Snoqualmie” for his town, but the Seattle, Lake Shore, and Eastern Railway objected to the name because it intended to encourage tourist travel to Snoqualmie Falls, and Taylor’s location was too far away from the falls and the station the railroad built there.

Taylor’s second choice was “Mountain View” because of the spectacular view of Mount Si and other nearby mountains. According to Wikipedia, the U.S. Post Office said no, because there was already a Mountain View in Whatcom County.

Taylor shrugged, noted the northward bend of the south fork of the Snoqualmie River, and settled for North Bend. According to HistoryLink, “He never got over having his town name taken away.” For the last 30 years or so, many people have known North Bend as “Twin Peaks” because of the TV show of that name filmed there.

The story of Alpine is similar. There had been a depot at that location named Nippon for nearly 20 years when the Nippon Lumber Company built a mill. Carl Clemans, the owner of the mill, applied for a Nippon Post Office.

He was told he couldn’t have the name because Japanese immigrants received their mail at Nippon Post Office in Seattle. According to Clemans’ own words written a few years later, he picked “Alpine” because of the snowy Alpine setting of the mill.

His troubles weren’t over, however – the depot was still Nippon, and the post office was Alpine. Mail and other deliveries sometimes went to the wrong location.

In November 1913, Clemans wrote to the Great Northern Railway asking for the depot to be renamed Alpine to match the post office. Initially he was denied. There was another depot named Alvin only nine railroad miles away, and actually visible about two miles across the Tye River Valley and the switchbacks of the railroad.

Railroad dispatchers couldn’t have two depots with such similar names that close together. It would result in accidents, and possibly loss of life.

After three months and seven letters, the railroad relented. Nippon became Alpine, and Alvin became Embro. Embro is still so recognized on the Iron Goat Trail near Stevens Pass.

Then there is Plain, near Leavenworth. The Plain post office opened in 1913 and lasted until 1936. There is a story of which I have seen no proof, but it is a good story. When applying for a post office, the local folks didn’t really have a name.

Someone said any name was OK as long as it was “plain.” So Plain it is although that is likely not what they meant. In spite of losing the post office 85 years ago, Plain continues as a census designated place and a lovely place to visit.

Near the mouth of the Stillaguamish River still stands Florence. Florence had a post office from 1884 to 1949. Unlike Plain, which seems to have continued nicely without a post office, Florence is now but a shadow, and nearly a ghost, its time of prosperity and hopes far in the past.

ARTS AND APPETITE

Flyin Tacos; tasty tots at the market

As readers of this column may know, we recently went on a few searches for good pizza in the area and called it the “Pizza Chronicles.” The title was inspired by a fantastic show on Netflix called “The Taco Chronicles,” so although I won’t call my persistent search for good tacos by the same name, the search continues.

We have told you of Omar’s Taqueria, on Highway 99, where the fresh tortillas and spicy pickled vegetables enhance the many choices of traditional taco fillings.

We have also sung the praises of Taqueria Puebla, whose al pastor tacos are a revelation. And Kah-lo’s Cantina offers a crispy tortilla taco and a vegetarian option. If we included fish tacos in this trip down memory lane, it would take two columns, so I’ll stop there with the past, and can talk about the new taco spot in town, which could be physically located in many spots: Flyin Taco, a taco truck.

Their mantra is as simple as their menu – no seats, just eats. Flyin Taco offers four options of their street tacos, and all come with cheddar cheese, red cabbage, avocado cilantro crema, cotija cheese, and some very tasty pickled red onions.

Flyin Taco is unique, though, with those four options, with a choice of smoked brisket, smoked pork, grilled chicken, and grilled veggies, rather than your more traditional carne asada, al pastor, carnitas, etc.

You also can choose flour or corn tortillas, although of our nine tacos, only one was on a flour tortilla since traditionalists, like my husband, feel strongly that to be a taco, it must be a corn tortilla.

Tacos are \$5 or three for \$13, so we figured we might as well get three sets of three to make sure we could fully appreciate each taco (the pork, chicken, and veggie varieties).

The veggie taco on a flour tortilla tasted like a delicious plate of fajitas, with the peppers and onions grilled perfectly. The slow-smoked pork (smoked for 12 hours, just like their brisket) makes you feel like you are combining a favorite barbecue sandwich with a taco.

That night there was a burrito special that we did not try, but I will next time. I will look for this Flyin Taco truck again.

For now, Flyin Taco is reliably located at the Grace Lutheran Church parking lot in Edmonds at 1212 Ninth Ave. N., with more regular locations coming soon. Go to their website at <https://www.flyintaco.com/> for their schedule and more information.

And while we are on the subject of mobile food



Photo courtesy of Maria A. Montalvo

We hear Santa enjoys these tots at the Edmonds Holiday Market.

options and enjoying something new ... how about some tots? We have just two more weeks to enjoy the Edmonds Holiday Market by City Hall. They have more vendors this year than ever before, and the mix of art, crafts, grocery, and eats is fantastic.

You can find a personalized mug or coaster for a friend, pick up your produce and proteins for the week, all while trying out one of the many wonderful breakfast, lunch, and snack options.

From Pop-N-Tyme Kettle corn to Mystery Bay Chowder and Sandwiches, Lumpia Life to Caribbean Cuisine and Spot Hot Dogs, the Holiday Market has it going on in the dining department.

Of course, I will always choose the potato-based option, so when we saw the sign that said, “Santa Ate Tater Tots Here,” we knew where we had to go. Find the grey and orange tent and get some tots with Indian toppings (so incredibly good), or perhaps one of their more sophisticated Indian plates.

The tots themselves were hot and crispy and gave us just the nourishment we needed to sustain us that chilly day.

The holiday market is put on by the City Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Don’t let the weather stop you from biting into a delicious taco or grabbing some tots.

▶ from HAAKENSON page 4

of running our programs in various locations around town after we demolished the old building.

And then they had to scramble nearly every day as COVID dealt us blow after blow. They have shown their mettle yet again as we have had to open the center, close the center, and adjust almost daily to the demands of COVID.

As I close out my tenure here at the center I am thankful for all the previous board members of

the Senior Center who have given of their time over the years to make this dream a reality. And I am most grateful to our community members for their financial support of this project.

Many said we could never raise the nearly \$17 million it would take to make it happen. But this community proved once again that it is a giving community, as it has for many other welcome projects. Whether it was a small gift or a large gift, it was all appreciated

just the same.

We all give what we can. I’m sure, as capital campaign chair, that I wore out my welcome on a few doorsteps and with endless emails asking for your support. Thank you all for your generosity!

January will bring in new board members and a new board chair. It’s been my pleasure to serve these past six years, and I look forward to the bright future of the Edmonds Waterfront Center.

The best is yet to come!

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Sudoku solution									
7	1	8	4	6	3	9	2	5	
5	9	6	1	8	2	7	4	3	
2	3	4	9	7	5	1	6	8	
3	4	5	8	1	6	2	7	9	
6	2	9	5	3	7	4	8	1	
1	8	7	2	4	9	3	5	6	
9	7	3	6	5	4	8	1	2	
8	6	2	7	9	1	5	3	4	
4	5	1	3	2	8	6	9	7	

N	I	C	H	O	L	A	S	E	G	N	O	G
E	C	L	K	U	V	A	A	D	O			
W	E	A	R	R	E	D	M	E	R	R	I	E
Y	U	A	I	U	D	O	L	E	R			
E	A	S	T	O	F	F	E	E	S	A	E	
A	T	A	C	E	O	F	N	O	E	L		
R	E	I	N	O	E	R	C	S	T	E	W	
G	R	O	M	A	J	N						
B	A	L	L	O	N	S	P	A	R	T	Y	
A	O	M				M	R	H				
T	O	O	L	S		S	H	O	E	L	E	G
B						O	H	B	A	R	S	
T	I	M	E	S	S	Q	U	A	R	E	M	A
I	A	R	E			R	L	I	A	A	P	
E	N	T	R	E	E	S	R	U	D	D	L	P



News Tips

The Beacon invites readers to share story tips and ideas. If you see or know of some news deserving of coverage, email Editor Brian Soergel at edmondseditor@yourbeacon.net or call the newsroom at 425-347-5634 ext. 235.

A&EBRIEFS

Write on the Sound accepting proposals

Write on the Sound is currently accepting proposals for the 2022 conference Oct. 7-9. It hopes to present a hybrid event. Final determination will be made in the spring. Presentation format and requirements are subject to City of Edmonds COVID-19 policies.

The City of Edmonds Arts Commission endeavors to create an inclusive conference program that represents a broad range of genres and publishing options. It encourages people of all races, ethnicities, genders, identities, ages, abilities, religions and orientations to apply.

Proposals are accepted through March 31. Link to online application and information: bit.ly/3Gin6uo

More info: 425-771-0228, or email Laurie Rose at laurie.rose@edmondswa.gov.

St. Alban's holding another drive-thru food drive Dec. 11

St. Alban's Church as another drive-thru food drive. This one is 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11.

According to the Northwest Harvest, 10.3% of Snohomish County residents are food insecure and 16% of the county's children are

similarly affected.

Food insecurity refers to USDA's measure of lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members and limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods.

All donations of food and money go to local food banks for distribution. Recommended items for the drive include nonperishable food such as soups, tuna, peanut butter, dry pasta and similar items to help those in need. Diapers and infant formula are also always appreciated. Cash and checks can also be made, with checks made payable to "Food Bank."

In addition to the usual contributions of basic canned and non-perishable foods, church organizers suggest that treats such as hot chocolate, crispy rice bars, and holiday cookies and candies be included in donations to help bring some holiday cheer.

As in the past, St. Alban's parishioners and other helpers will be on hand at the church, located at 21405 82nd Place West near the Edmonds Five Corners intersection, to accept donations. All staff will be observing full current COVID-19 prevention protocols, and contributors are also encouraged to remain in their cars and wear masks.

For more information, contact the church at 425-778-0371.

from BARDSLEY page 4

It might also inhibit their behaviors ordering takeout from local restaurants. We don't know because the survey didn't ask them questions about that.

I hope that the City tries again, with a new survey that gathers more information about what residents actually think.

A new survey might also ask: "If you have eaten in a streateries before, do they make you feel more or less safe?"

"Option 1: More safe because of reduced COVID exposure."

"Option2: Less safe because of proximity to cars and sidewalk mobility issues."

Or what about this: "If streateries are removed, how will that impact your shopping habits in downtown for things like clothes, jewelry, books, art, and home goods?"

"Option 1: My shopping habits will not change."

"Option 2: I will be more likely to shop downtown."

"Option 3: I will be less likely to shop downtown."

Finally, I'd like to express my best wishes to the food service workers and recognize that your health and financial stability is important.

I hope that all Edmonds residents can at least agree upon that.

Casting call: Musicians wanted for Edmonds summer concerts

The City of Edmonds Arts Commission is accepting submissions from local and regionally based bands and performers to perform at the 2022 Summer Concerts in the Parks series.

Concerts are held mid-July through August.

Tuesdays and Thursdays: 4:30-6 p.m. at Hazel Miller Plaza, Fifth Avenue South and Maple Street. Musical duos/trio/quartets and solo performers.

Sunday afternoons: 3:-4 p.m. in City Park on Third Avenue South: Larger musical groups.

Hazel Miller Plaza and City Park are outdoor venues. The Hazel Miller Plaza has a small performance area with power.

Hazel Miller performers are responsible for their own sound equipment and setup. If musicians need a canopy, they must bring their own. City Park is an outdoor venue with a covered pavilion. Sound system and technician provided.

Interested? Submit the following information by Friday, Jan. 10:

- Letter of interest with the name of group or performer, contact name, website or social media address, and contact information (phone and email)
- Promotional material (print or link address to EPK)
- Music samples (List of URLs preferred. CDs should be clearly labeled)

Email to eac@edmondswa.gov

Review of submissions begins in mid-January. Applicants will be contacted only if they are asked to be on the schedule. Selections are finalized in March.

Questions? Email eac@edmondswa.gov. Information: bit.ly/3GdVkJt.

Take the plunge; it's on



Photo courtesy of Lee Lageschulte

The Polar Bear Plunge is on for Brackett's Landing North. The 15th annual event is 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 1, unless new COVID restrictions prohibit large outdoor gatherings. Most meet at the beach, but the diehards march from Daphnes on Main Street.

from HISTORY FILES page 5

In Eastern Washington, two-thirds of the way along Highway 28 from Ephrata to Odessa is Krupp, but the post office is Marlin. The original town name was Krupp. During World War I, someone decided to get rid of the Krupp name, which was associated with the largest German armorer.

The post office was changed to Marlin, and is today. Somehow the town never got around to filing the appropriate papers with Washington State. So the town is still officially Krupp, 100 years later, but the post office is Marlin.

Krupp/Marlin was on the mainline of the Great Northern Railway, as were Edmonds and Mukilteo.

The railroad was important to the post office. Railway mail cars were connected to passenger trains and fast mail trains. Railway postal clerks sorted mail enroute and delivery was often faster than is possible today.

In Skykomish, they say that mail was delivered six times a day. You could just go to the post office and pick up your mail after the train left the depot. In my collection of Alpine photos is a Christmas post card of Alpine in December 1915.

It was mailed in Alpine and delivered to Sultan. It may well have been delivered the same day it was mailed. Maybe a few things worked better in the good old days.

It wasn't a phone call or a text, but it was delivered quickly.

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Flamenco guitarist Jesse Cook at ECA in January

Flamenco guitarist Jesse Cook returns to the Edmonds Center for the Arts Thursday, Jan. 20.

The multi-platinum/gold award-winning and internationally producer, composer, and guitarist will stop in Edmonds on the second stop of the first leg of his 28-date U.S. "Tempest II" tour.

Cook's 11th studio album, "Libre," was released Dec. 3 via Cook's own Coach House label imprint, distributed by Outside Music/

Redeye. Released Nov. 5 was the official music video for "Oran" along with another new single, "Updraft."

The 10-track album combines Cook's Spanish guitar flair with Algerian multi-instrumentalist Fethi Nadjem, modern trap rhythms and drum beats.

"I wrote and recorded Libre during the pandemic when, like most people, I was longing for freedom," Cook said in a news

release.

"My music was my escape from the four walls that surrounded me, and the storm that was swirling outside."

The inspiration for "Libre" came from a long summer-day drive with his 14-year old. "My daughter entertained me with her favorite playlists, much of which were trap



Photo courtesy of Matt Barnes

Jesse Cook has been streamed more than 55 million times on Spotify.

see **JESSE COOK** page 8 ►

Bon Appetit!

This Month's Featured Establishments

Artisan pizzas, craft cocktails perfected at Niles Peacock Kitchen & Bar

Some restaurants radiate an atmosphere and vibe that makes you think you could be in any hip locale, from New York's Upper East Side to Miami Beach to Aspen to Las Vegas to, yes, Edmonds.

Niles Peacock Kitchen & Bar is just such a place. That's no surprise, since the restaurant's proprietor, Niles Peacock, perfected his winning approach while working in all those cities, and more.



Award-winning mixologist Niles Peacock turns a simple bar drink into a piece of cocktail art at his jazz-infused restaurant in Edmonds.

But he offers more adventurous choices as well. "My favorite is My Hot Date. It's very popular," he says. Starting with an olive oil base, Peacock adds mozzarella, gorgonzola and dates, topped with a balsamic reduction drizzle.

There's also The Canadian (marinara sauce, mozzarella, Canadian bacon and pineapple), Classic Pepperoni, BBQ Chicken and Pesto Chicken. Dairy-free and gluten-free options are available.

Peacock has tapped the collective knowledge of numerous experts, including World Pizza Champion Will Grant, owner of That's A Some Pizza on Bainbridge Island.

Diners can begin with a Caesar, Caprese, or Goat Cheese & Beet Salad.

But you'd miss half the fun if you didn't have a cocktail or mocktail to go with your meal.

Why? Peacock is an award-winning mixologist, including the Best Bartender honors presented in 2017 by KING 5's Best of Western Washington.

Among his innovative cocktails: Plead the Fifth, made with bourbon and a house-made Falernum

(a sour syrup liqueur), served on the rocks with a lime peel; Jalapeño Margarita, made with house infused jalapeño tequila and scratch sour mix, then served on the rocks with a salted rim and lime wedge; and Old Pal, with rye whiskey, Campari, dry vermouth and a lemon peel.

Those "rocks" come from a Kold-Draft ice machine that produces cubes that chill evenly, melt slowly and retain the full flavor of your drink.

Not surprisingly, Peacock and his bartenders typically mix drinks with flair and panache, making the experience all the more fun.

"There is showmanship," Peacock concedes, "but there's a reason for everything we do."

Peacock has assembled a staff that reflects his enthusiasm and attention to detail, generally preferring to hire people who have energy and desire

but not necessarily restaurant experience. That way he can train them to meet his exacting standards.

The restaurant is intimate, stylishly graced with original paintings by his mother, N.J. Peacock, of some of the jazz greats. There's also a poster of a show that featured his father, the late Gary Peacock, who was a world-renowned jazz bassist.

Clearly, creativity flows through Niles Peacock's veins, and guests will enjoy the results.

Niles Peacock Kitchen & Bar, at 190 Sunset, Edmonds, is open 4-9 p.m. Tues.-Thurs., 4-10 Fri. & Sat. Although closed Sun. and Mon., it is available for private events.

To learn more, call 305-610-5425 or, better yet, visit his social media sites, Facebook and Instagram, at nilespeacock.kb, or see Niles Peacock Kitchen & Bar on YouTube.

Join us for stone-fired pizza and craft cocktails at our new digs near the Edmonds waterfront.

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AROUNDTOWN

Dec. 11

Edmonds Holiday Market

10 a.m.-3 p.m. The market is centered around Fifth Avenue North and Bell Street, near the holiday tree. Sixty-plus vendors will have a selection of holiday gifts and specialty items, produce, food, wines, flowers, treats, and music. Shoppers are encouraged to wear masks while at the market. Info: facebook.com/edmondsholidaymarket/.

The Holiday Trolley also returns this year after skipping 2020 due to the pandemic.



Holiday Beginning Drawing

1:30-2:30 p.m. This is a beginning drawing workshop where the attendees will draw a still life and work on basic shading techniques. What you'll need: Paper, pencil, and eraser. The class is facilitated by Arika Gloud. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Silver Kite Community Arts is offering free online intergenerational workshops, talks, social hours, and performances for the community. Register on the Silver Kite website (<https://www.silverkite.us/sno-isle>) at least one hour before class starts. Use sil2020 as the password. Silver Kite will send you the link for your class one hour before it begins.

If you have any questions about your registration, contact Silver Kite by email: info@silverkite.us or by phone: 508-812-0431



Dec. 12

Holiday Classics Concert

1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. The Kamiak Performing Arts

Boosters present the 24th annual Holiday Classics Concert – featuring selections from Handel's Messiah. The performances will be at the Everett Civic Auditorium, 2415 Colby Ave., Everett. Masks are required at the Everett Civic Auditorium. Pre-order tickets online only at www.kamiakarts.org.



Dec. 16

Art Walk Edmonds

5-8 p.m. Various locations around downtown. A variety of mediums will be on display for any kind of art lover – watercolors, collage, textiles, glass, author events, wreaths, and more. Info: artwalkedmonds.com.

Dec. 18

Edmonds Holiday Market

10 a.m.-3 p.m. The market is centered around Fifth Avenue North and Bell Street, near the holiday tree. Sixty-plus vendors will have a selection of holiday gifts and specialty items, produce, food, wines, flowers, treats, and music. Shoppers are encouraged to wear masks while at the market. Info: facebook.com/edmondsholidaymarket/.

The Holiday Trolley also returns this year after skipping 2020 due to the pandemic.



Dec. 19

Longest Night Watch Service

4-7 p.m. Edmonds United Methodist Church welcomes residents to the church sanctuary to sit, reflect, listen to healing music with times of silence, and see others who may share their burdens. There will be stations where you can meet with someone for prayer, anointing, or light a candle. Stephen Ministers will be present for any who wish to talk. Stephen Ministers are trained caregivers who confidentially support those who are experiencing loneliness, depression, grief, or who are struggling with a challenging or stressful life event. Edmonds United Methodist Church, 828 Caspers St., Edmonds.



Jan. 28

Breakfast with an Author Fundraiser

7:30 a.m. and 9 a.m. The Mukilteo Schools Foundation presents Breakfast with an Author Fundraiser featuring former pilot Arthur Krull, author of "Hijacked," at Mariner High School. The book is a true story about a hijacking in January of 1980. The plane, piloted by Krull, safely arrived in Cuba, hoping the hijacker would get off. But instead he demanded to refuel and be taken to Iran. The flight crew and passengers devised a complicated and risky plan to secretly evacuate passengers. The book describes Krull's life as a civilian, military and commercial pilot and relates how his wife, Kathy, dealt with his career and especially how she managed their three

young boys during the frightening hijacking ordeal. Tickets and information at: <https://mukilteoschools-foundation.org/events/>



Ongoing through Jan. 26

Creative brush exhibition

The Rosehill Community Center hosts a creative brush exhibition featuring artists Paulette Hunter, Jennie Jung, Jamie Luce, Hyang Sil Park, and Hyeh-Yeon Hoffer. The exhibition runs through Jan. 26. An artists' reception will be from 6-8 p.m., Nov. 18. The Rosehill Community Center is located at 304 Lincoln Ave., Mukilteo. The center is open from 6:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Friday; 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday; and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sundays.



Around Town Calendar is also available online at edmondsbeacon.com

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Beacon publishes nonprofit events, as space allows, open to the public in local areas. Although some events are now being held in person, many are still virtual on Zoom, Facebook, or other sites. It is recommended to call or email the event ahead of time to make sure a particular event is still happening. Businesses are free to determine whether they will continue to require masks, so be prepared for that as well. Submit calendar events two weeks in advance of Wednesday publication date to The Beacon through mail or online at edmondsbeacon.com. Select "Submit events to event calendar."

Cascadia Art Museum asking for volunteers

Want to volunteer at Cascadia Art Museum in Edmonds?

At the beginning of the pandemic, according to a Cascadia news release, it was difficult to staff all volunteer positions, so the museum's days of operation were reduced from Wednesday through Sunday to Thursday through Sunday.

"We are ready to add Wednesdays back to our schedule and we are on the lookout for volunteers to help make this happen," said spokesperson Sally Ralston.

"Volunteers play an essential role in inspiring and engaging our visitors and supporting behind-the-scenes work. Volunteers greet and welcome visitors, provide information and tours, provide support in our museum store, and assist staff in a variety of functions."

The museum welcomes volunteers from all backgrounds.

Volunteers have many benefits, including a flexible schedule.

To learn more about being a Cascadia Art Museum volunteer, contact Nate Hegerberg at nate@cascadiaartmuseum.org.

► from **JESSE COOK** page 7

and drum-beat-inspired. I loved them too, and a question was planted in my mind: 'What would my music sound like mixed with those sounds?'"

He wasn't short on material to draw from; it's been more than 25 years since he first stepped onto the scene with his "Tempest." In the time since, he's had multiple awards – a JUNO win, 11 nominations, three Canadian Smooth Jazz Awards, a Gemini, and an Acoustic Guitar Magazine Player's Choice Silver award.

The digital convergence of the past several years has also resulted in Cook's music streamed in large numbers across a series of platforms. By September 2021, his Spotify stats had surpassed 55-plus million, and plays on Pandora soaring beyond the 300-million milestone.

Info and tickets: bit.ly/3Ilw7V7.

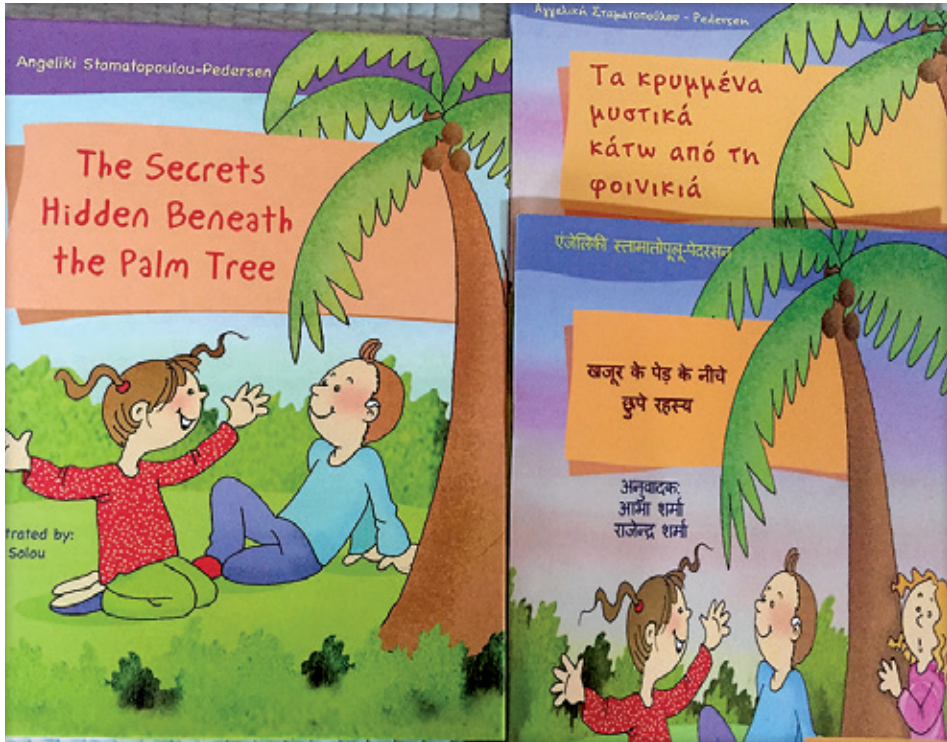


Photo courtesy of Angeliki Pedersen

Agileiki Pedersen's book covers, in English and Greek.

► from **ANGELIKI PEDERSEN** page 2

son are immediately excited by the gentle manner in which she explains things. She purposely omits information about assistive technology, because it changes so rapidly.

Because each child's hearing needs are unique, she hopes her approach opens the door to inquiry and inclusion.

This Shero of Edmonds continues to do all she can to help us all better understand the

issues surrounding hearing loss. She's available to speak at events and to answer questions and lend an understanding ear when asked. She has made it her life mission.

Angeliki Pedersen's book is available at Edmonds Bookshop, as well as on Amazon.

To read all of Manya Vee's profiles of "Sheroes of Edmonds," go to majegallery.com/sheroes-of-edmonds.

Do you know a Shero of Edmonds? Email info@MajeGallery.com.

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Holiday Cheer



2021 SEASON

Through Your Lens | All lit up for the holidays



Edmonds looks pretty during the days, but when the sun goes down the holiday cheer really lights up. Worth checking out are North Sound Church on Fourth Avenue North (the lights in the pavement will guide you there); the fountain at Main and Fifth; and the Log Cabin Visitors Center by the Edmonds Museum. Got your own holiday photos? Email to edmondseditor@yourbeacon.net.

Photos courtesy of Lee Lageshulte

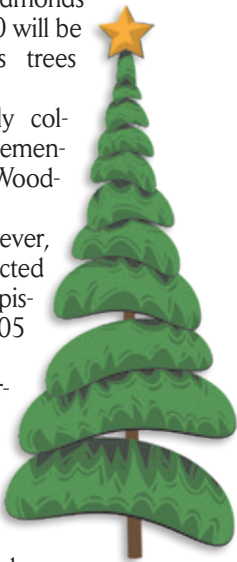
HOLIDAY BRIEFS

Holiday on the Docks

The annual Holiday on the Docks continues through Jan. 2 at the Edmonds Marina. The guest moorage will be filled with boats decked out in holiday decorations. Holiday on the Docks is sponsored by the Port and by the Edmonds Yacht Club.

Christmas tree collections

Now that the Christmas tree is up, you may want to know what to do with after the big day has come and gone. (Unless you have a fake one. Store that one.) Here's an option. Edmonds Boy Scout Troop 300 will be collecting Christmas trees again this year. Trees are normally collected at Westgate Elementary and Edmonds-Woodway High School. This year, however, they will be collected trees at St. Albans Episcopal Church, 21405 82nd Place West. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday Jan. 1 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 2 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 8 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 9



see **HOLIDAY BRIEFS** page 10 ▶



Chrysalis Music Therapy




Our mission is to support and encourage individuals struggling with mental health challenges through music therapy services

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Edmonds service groups help sponsor wreaths on veterans' headstones

The Veterans Memorial Wreath Foundation invites the public to be part of a special event honoring veterans on Saturday, Dec. 18. VMWF will hold a military ceremony and wreath-placing event at 9 a.m. at Veterans Memorial Park at Evergreen-Washelli Cemetery, 11220 Aurora Ave. N, Seattle.

The event is free, and will include a small, informal reception immediately following.

In addition to individual contributions, this year's wreaths funded through the Veterans Memorial Wreath Foundation were sponsored by VFW Post #8870 in Edmonds, at the Edmonds Daybreakers Foundation, Network for Good, and the National Society Sons of the American Revolution.

This year, about 2,000 wreaths will be placed at Washelli. VMWF resident and founder Lorraine Zimmerman hopes

that in the near future, each of the 5,000 veteran headstones at Washelli will have a wreath.

"Due to the ongoing pandemic, we could not have a public event in Seattle in 2020," said Zimmerman. "This year's event will be even more special as we are finally able to gather and remember our military heroes together."

The wreath-laying is part of the Wreaths Across America program, which places 1.7 million wreaths annually on veteran headstones at more than 2,500 locations in the U.S. and its territories.

More than 1 million volunteers nationwide participate in wreath events. Gov. Jay Inslee is expected to make a proclamation honoring wreath day.



► from **HOLIDAY BRIEFS** page 9

Holiday Trolley continues at 2 locations

Back after a hiatus in 2020, the popular Edmonds Holiday Trolley is back this season. New this year is a route in the Highway 99 neighborhood 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12, and Dec. 19. The route will run from the southeast corner of the Safeway/Aurora Marketplace parking lot and head east then west on 238th St. SW to Edmonds Way. It then goes on 228th Street SW to Highway 99.

The trolley will run in downtown Edmonds on Saturdays Dec. 11, and Dec. 18, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The trolley has six marked stops throughout the downtown core – Walnut Street Coffee, Hazel Miller Plaza, Slate Salon & Spa, Thai Cottage, Calypso restaurant, and Salish Crossing.

To see the route maps and for more information: edmondsholidays.com/holiday-trolley.

Edmonds Toy Shop 2021

The Edmonds Toy Shop Providing, which provides support for children in need during the holiday season, is a longtime partnership of Edmonds United Methodist Church and the Edmonds Food Bank.

The Toy Shop, with donations and its volunteers, hopes to serve more than 800 children of food bank families in 2021.

The most needed items for 2021 are cash or \$25 or \$50 gift cards for Amazon, Walmart, Target, Fred Meyer/QFC, and Costco.

The small gift wish list includes baby toys,

board books, picture books, puzzles, Legos (small/medium sets), small stuffed animals, journals, pens, marker sets, small art kits, mittens, gloves, hats, socks, children/youth masks, \$5 or \$10 fast-food or Starbucks gift cards, and coats for Washington Kids in Transition

Bikes and used toys are not being accepted. Be sure your cash donation is clearly marked "for Edmonds Toy Shop." Visit edmondsfoodbank.org/donate/, and enter "Edmonds Toy Shop" in the "in honor of" box.

Mail or drop off at drive-through weekdays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Edmonds Food Bank. Make checks payable to Edmonds Food Bank with "Edmonds Toy Shop" in the memo.

More information: Pamela Frank at EdmondsToyShop@gmail.com.



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www.cocoonhouse.org/holidays-2021

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MOREHOLIDAYBRIEFS

Driftwood Players performing 'It's a Wonderful Life'

Many know the classic story of Clarence and how he earned his wings, but have you seen a small cast of voice personalities play all the characters from the classic movie "It's a Wonderful Life?"

Edmonds Driftwood Players returns for its first show since March 2020 with a transformation of the Wade James stage into WBFR Radio Station in 1946 Manhattan.

It runs Dec. 2-19. Shows are 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays.

The radio personalities play the characters to reenact the story of idealistic George Bailey as he considers ending his life one fateful Christmas Eve.

The show is directed by Craig Schieber. It features the voice talents of Nicola Amos (Lana Sherwood), Walt Foster (Harry "Jazzbo" Heywood"), Katelyn Hamilton (Sally Applewhite), Douglas Newell (Fred die Filmore), and Dan Ruiz Salvatura (Jake Laurents).

Tickets are \$28, \$25 for juniors, seniors, and military. Available online at edmonds-driftwoodplayers.org or 425-774-9600. Discounted tickets for groups of 10-plus people are also available.

Wade James Theatre is at 950 Main St., Edmonds.

Cascadia's Christmas cards on display

Cascadia Art Museum in Edmonds annual exhibition of vintage Christmas cards by noted Northwest artists and designers continues through Jan. 9.

This collection includes examples by many familiar names as well as some creative individuals now forgotten by time. The earliest card is a 1909 watercolor by John Davidson Butler (1890- 1976), given to his parents the same year he exhibited his paintings at the Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition in Seattle.

This card stands in sharp contrast to the unconventional and somewhat bizarre fold-out produced by the iconoclastic Seattle architect Robert Reichert (1921-1996) nearly 50 years later.

A book featuring many of the cards from the collection is available in the museum store.

The Edmonds Celebration of Lights returns

Light a light this holiday season and help support children in Edmonds.

In the spirit of giving, light a light this hol-

iday season for someone you love, something you wish for, or in remembrance of a loved one. Each light you light is a donation to the Edmonds Youth Scholarship Fund, which enables children in Edmonds to participate in programs who otherwise may not have the opportunity.

A display of light-shaped signs with names and wishes from donors will be posted on the Frances Anderson Center fence along Main St. Lights are \$5 each.

A star will be placed on the light for those who give each additional \$5.

The Celebration of Lights will last until Jan. 5. Donations can be made online at www.reczone.org; search "Celebration of Lights" or phone 425-771-0230.

Gallery North has 'An Artful Holiday!'

Gallery North's December exhibit is "An Artful Holiday!," featuring works of art created by 16 local artists.

In addition to winter- and holiday-themed paintings and photographs, this exhibit will feature various interpretations of artful gifts.

Gallery artists have created items to decorate the home, small artworks, jewelry, hand-crafted wood, medallions, and glass.

All artwork and gift items are available for purchase during the show. Gallery North is at 401 Main St., Edmonds.

Info: 425-774-0946, GalleryNorthEdmonds.com.

Art Walk benefit: Wreath Walk returns to Edmonds

Last year, Art Walk Edmonds started a new tradition for the downtown Edmonds of hanging original, artist-designed and decorated wreaths in select storefronts during the holiday season. It continues this year through Dec. 16, along with an online auction for those who bid to take home one of the wreaths.

Art Walk Edmonds has juried the wreath concepts to pick the best of the best in the wreaths. Artists thought "outside the wreath" with their designs – each portray the artist's unique style. Learn more about the wreath's artist by reading their bio listed

beside the wreath and on an auction page.

The auction is live now. Stroll around all 18 locations to see the wreaths in person during business hours.

Once you find your favorite(s), click the QR code by the wreath or visit charityauction.bid/wreathwalkedmonds to register and place your bid. You will be notified when you are outbid so that you can go place another bid.

You also have the opportunity to skip all the bidding and go straight to the "BUY IT NOW" price. However, the wreath will not be available to take home until Dec. 17.

The auction closes 8 p.m. Dec. 16, timed with the ending of December's Art Walk Edmonds.

All proceeds from the Wreath Auction benefit Art Walk Edmonds, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the Arts in Edmonds.

Info: info@artwalkedmonds.com or 425-298-7947.

Letters to Santa mailbox ready for your wishes

The annual program is coordinated by the Edmonds Chamber of Commerce, sponsored this year by one of Edmonds' newest businesses, Bench & Board, and run by a group of local volunteers who spend dozens of hours writing and sending replies, with Santa's approval.

The mailbox is at Fifth Ave North and Bell Street, in front of the Log Cabin Visitor's Center.

The deadline to drop off a letter and receive a response is Thursday, Dec. 16, which is earlier this year in anticipation of potential USPS

delays. Only letters with legibly written return addresses receive replies.

"We are so grateful to the group of volunteers who spend so much of their precious holiday free time responding to these letters," said the chamber's Alicia Moreno.

"The program wouldn't exist if not for them and the generous sponsorship of Bench & Board, which helps cover the cost of stamps and supplies. It is these individuals and businesses in our community who promote the positive, loving aspects of An Edmonds Kind of Day."

Wintertide Lights return to Evergreen Arboretum

Evergreen Arboretum and Gardens returns with its Wintertide Lights 4-8 p.m. every night this month. Admission is free. Evergreen Arboretum in Everett's American Legion Park at 145 Alverson Blvd.

Family Fun Saturdays are 4-6 p.m. Dec. 4, Dec. 11, and Dec. 18. They include a gnome scavenger hunt and holiday items to bring home.

"Last year we organized very quickly to offer a holiday experience during the pandemic," said Eileen Simmons, president of the Arboretum. "We lit trees in the main path through the Arboretum. The response was overwhelmingly positive, and this year we are grateful to have received a grant from the City of Everett."

Donations are still needed for Wintertide Lights. A \$25 donation can be applied to a strand of lights and a \$50 donation allows us to add 50 feet of pathway lights. A donation of \$100-500 lights a tree, depending on size. To donate: evergreenarboretum.com.



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Sip on warm cocoa while you shop and sample our all-natural skin, body, and home care line, as well as our amazingly scented, chemical-free candles!

We are happy to include gift wrapping for a small fee \$5.00

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Happy Holidays From the Basement Salon

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TOYS FOR TOTS



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use QR code, or visit charityauction.bid/wreathwalkedmonds

awe art walk edmonds



Add grapes to your holiday gatherings

Add a special touch this holiday season with simple yet stunning small plates that add beauty and flavor to gatherings with friends and family.

Available into January, California grapes offer a way to make the season special as an ingredient in your favorite recipes or as decoration for a festive centerpiece.

Pops of red, green and black provide a seasonal touch and they're perfect as an easy, fresh, healthy snack.

Plus, you can dip grapes in nut butter and finish with coatings of coconut, dark chocolate and almonds to make these Peanut Butter Grape Bites for a holiday treat that's simply divine – without spending hours in the kitchen.

Visit grapesfromcalifornia.com to find more holiday recipe inspiration.

Peanut Butter Grape Bites
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 5 minutes
Yield: 12 pieces

- 12 grapes, chilled
- 1/3 cup natural peanut or almond butter
- 1/4 cup shredded coconut
- 1/4 cup chopped dark chocolate
- 1/4 cup chopped almonds

Place sheet of wax paper on baking sheet. Dip each grape in nut butter to coat half then dip in either coconut, dark chocolate or chopped almonds. Transfer to sheet then chill until ready to serve.

Nutritional analysis per serving:
70 calories; 2 g protein; 4 g carbohydrates; 5 g fat (64% calories from fat); 1.5 g saturated fat (19% calories from saturated fat); 0 mg cholesterol; 25 mg sodium; 1 g fiber.
– Family Features

► from **WREATHS FOR VETERANS** page 10

The event includes a color guard presenting the colors, an invocation and a ceremonial wreath dedication where a person representing each branch of the military in dress uniform adorns a wreath that represents their branch of the military.

The ceremony concludes with a bugler playing “Taps” and a 21-gun salute.

Following the ceremony, the public is welcome to help distribute wreaths on veterans headstones. Those placing the

wreaths are encouraged to state the name of the person on whose headstone the wreath is lain to help keep their memory alive.

The cost of each wreath is \$15 each, with a portion going to VMWF’s Scholarship Foundation for military dependents. Donations can be made online at www.vmwf.org/give or by mailing a check made out to VMWF to PO Box 1611, Marysville, WA 98270.

Learn more about VMWF at www.vmwf.org.

SKETCHING EDMONDS



A light pole evokes Christmas symbolism

My assignment this week was to do something “Christmasy.” So much Christmas symbolism has become so cliché that it is a challenge to come up with something original. Admittedly, the holiday wreath is a fairly common image, but when I saw this one at the corner of Fifth and Dayton, it spoke Christmas to me.

First of all is the Dickens-esque light pole it’s mounted on. Those lights are one of the best things Edmonds ever did. They add so much charm to the downtown area, especially in this season.

Even the flashing stop light evoked in me thoughts of twinkling bulbs hanging on a tree. What else says winter is nigh than a bare tree with its branches raised in surrender to the coming chill?

The only thing that would have made it perfect would be to have mounds of snow resting on its limbs. The obscured street name was not some artistic device; I simply had misspelled it.

However it does stop drawing your attention away from the rest of the sketch.

Happy holidays, everyone.

You deserve it.
MaJe Gallery
409 Main Street, Edmonds
425.776.3778

Santa PAWS

PHOTO CONTEST

Presented by Animal Medical Center of Seattle

Do you have a mutt with an adorable mug? A feline who fancies posing for the camera? A BFF—Best Furry Family? Then join the Santa PAWS Holiday Photo Contest! It's more than just for smiles. It's for animals in need at PAWS in Lynnwood. With your suggested \$5 donation, you'll be creating smiles and helping cats and dogs find loving homes.

Visit paws.org/SantaPAWS to enter by Dec. 26.

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COMMUNITYSCHOOLS

SKSR awards grants to local educators

Each fall, Sno-King School Retirees, an organization composed of retired and active employees of the Edmonds, Northshore, and Shoreline school districts, offers grants of up to \$300 to its active members for special projects.

They include those that enrich their students' educational experience (field trips, guest speakers, materials for integrated units of study) or for materials/equipment to augment their students' learning. Since the grant program was started in 1998, SKSR has awarded over \$104,000 to its active members in these districts.

Because of continuing social distancing restrictions, this year's applications could not be for field trips or in-person presentations.

This year's SKSR funded 22 grants, a total of \$6,392. Seven of the grants were awarded to educators in the Edmonds School District.

Cedar Way Elementary

Michelle McShane: Materials which will allow kindergartners to practice fine motor skills and eye-hand coordination, as well as social skills while working on math objectives. (Kindergarten)

Kristi Pihl: Animal nonfiction books to engage struggling readers, enrich their science curriculum, and serve as nonfiction writing models. (First grade)

Edmonds Heights K-12

Erin Zackey: Materials for "Art in Science," which combines science, writing, and art for students in first to sixth grade. (Science, art, writing)

Hilltop Elementary

Sarah Allsop-Fine: Three sets of recommended high interest/low reading level fiction and nonfiction titles to develop an interest in reading. (Fifth grade)

Matt Grover: Multiple copies of three historical fiction titles written at different reading levels for historical fiction clubs. (Fourth grade)

Lynndale Elementary

Catherine Feller: A bass and humidifiers for fifth- and sixth-grade students. (Music)

Clarence Korf: Thirty-seven dyslexic-friendly books that will provide a wider range of reading material for students struggling with literacy acquisition. (Library)

Because of COVID-19 constraints, SKSR is not able to recognize these educators at in-person staff meetings; however, some of the schools are inviting SKSR into their Zoom meetings.

► from **CITY BRIEFS** page 3

the project in this early stage of the design process. It is also an opportunity for the artist to hear from the community. Questions and comments are welcome following a brief presentation by Wiegman.

A final design concept will be presented to the Edmonds Arts Commission and then to City Council for approval in the spring.

The link for the Zoom webinar is bit.ly/3dvTl00.

Webinar ID: 893 9188 8219

Passcode: 600649

For more information about the Civic Park public art project, or to submit a specific question ahead of the meeting email eac@edmondswa.com.

Meet your elected officials: Edmonds Civic Roundtable has reception

The recently formed Edmonds Civic Roundtable invites members and the public to an informal, invited reception 4-5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 13, to socialize and meet returning and newly elected officials from the City Council, Port, Edmonds School District, and Verdant Health Commission.

Tickets are \$10. The reception will be held at Salish Sea Boathouse, 180 W. Dayton St., suite 102.



Beacon photo by Brian Soergel

The streateries at Rusty Pelican on Fifth Avenue North.

► from **STREATERIES** page 1

doors – 48.44%

- I will likely visit downtown restaurants and cafés less frequently as I am less comfortable eating indoors – 26.55%
- I will likely choose to visit restaurants and cafés elsewhere that continue to have outdoor dining options – 25.01%

Almost 52% of the public would either visit less frequently or would seek outdoor dining options outside downtown, according to the survey.

The response “less frequently” encompasses both the occasions when people may visit the small number of restaurants downtown that have outdoor dining options not housed in streateries, resulting in less frequent overall visits to downtown, as well as when people may visit all restaurants, even without streateries, but do so less often as they feel uncomfortable about dining indoors.

The second question shows strong public support for streateries, the City’s release said:

All things considered, do you believe outdoor dining in streateries:

- Enhances downtown – 55.87%
- Makes no difference – 6.01%
- Detracts from downtown – 38.12%

In this case, Nelson said, it’s clear that a majority of the public, almost 56%, believes the streateries enhance Downtown Edmonds.

The City has also conducted research into retail sales within downtown Edmonds to get an idea of how retailers have been faring recently. The most telling comparison was summer retail sales in 2021 compared with prepandemic levels in 2019.

Total retail sales for June, July, and August 2021 among all downtown retailers were at 110% of prepandemic 2019 sales for the same months. The facts show streateries do not hurt our retailers but may have actually helped them, Nelson said.

“For these reasons, I support extending the streateries ordinance for the first six months of 2022.” The pandemic is not over, the public has shown its preference for keeping streateries, and the data show that downtown businesses are doing well with streateries present. Now is not the time to pull the plug on streateries.”

89% of readers look to the Beacon newspapers and websites to get informed of local government news.




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	8			4	9		5	6
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	6	2		9	1		3	
				2	8			

Sudoku solution on page 5


MEADOWDALE



Senior Jenaly Gabriel is excited to get this season of winter basketball underway. A four year member of the team, Jenaly has always given her heart and soul to the program. Last spring she devoted much of her efforts to supporting her teammates on the court and this year she is mentoring younger players to rediscover their passion for the game after the Covid-19 interruptions. In addition to basketball, Jenaly is an accomplished softball player. Outside of athletics, Jenaly is a Senior Senator for the ASB and has held down a job, rising to a shift manager at a local restaurant, before lacing up her high tops again. That is why Jenaly Gabriel is our Meadowdale High School Athlete of the Week.

Jenaly Gabriel
Girls Basketball

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EDMONDS-WOODWAY



This week's Edmonds Woodway athlete of the week is senior Boys Basketball player Adonai Daniel. Daniel opened the season with a 22 point effort vs Bothell. Daniel is coming off a stellar season last year when he averaged 16 points per game. Coach Robert Brown has high expectations for Daniel during this season. "Adonai has a chance to be one of the best guards in the WESCO League. We are going to need his leadership and scoring each night for us to have a great season. He's a great teammate and can't wait to watch him lead our team this year." Daniel hopes to continue his playing career next season in college.

Adonai Daniel
Boys Basketball

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► from **LETTERS** page 4

I see middle-aged folks riding electric bikes up those hills; I see bikes on the ferries. I recently traded in my nearly 40-year-old bike for a newer model and can hardly wait for improved bike lanes so I feel safer getting around Edmonds from my home in the Westgate neighborhood.

Open your eyes, drivers – look out for bicyclists. We are here and growing in numbers. For everyone’s safety, thank you to our City Council for making some small steps towards a future where it is safer for all of us to use the streets of Edmonds.

Lora Hein
Edmonds

Sales tax should not fund affordable housing, homelessness

Snohomish County residents: You may not be aware of the news that the Snohomish County Council proposed last week to increase the sales tax for every citizen of the county starting next year to fund affordable housing.

This vote is planned for Wednesday, Dec. 15, by the five members of the council without a vote of the citizens. This permanent tax increase will impact every citizen of the county on any purchase except for groceries and gas.

This snap vote just before Christmas in the midst of a pandemic leaves no time for public comment, and impacts every economic group making the Edmonds area and

the county even more expensive to live in.

While I agree that affordable housing and homelessness are important issues, they should not be funded by sales tax increases. There are over 20 organizations from private, federal, state, public, and developers that have programs in place and are working on this problem already.

You can make your voice heard to demand a public vote on this topic and not a rushed county council vote that will impact every citizen.

Please send an email to contact.council@co.snohomish.wa.us and each council person will receive your input.

Tom Nicholson
Edmonds

Thank you to councilmembers; support for issues

I am a resident, homeowner and parent in the city of Edmonds. I grew up nearby in Shoreline and have lived in this beautiful city for 12 years.

I want to thank our councilmembers for all of the work they’ve done recently to support our local community during the pandemic and to try and build a more accessible and welcoming city for everyone.

Thank you for being willing to learn and grow, to listen to your residents and to acknowledge that racism, classism and other forms of discrimination are built into our institutions and need to be addressed.

I’m sorry that recent council meetings have been filled with a small, extremely vo-

cal group trying to tell you that you’re not listening to your constituents and trying to act like the comments section on some of our local news outlets are legitimate representations of our city.

Neither of those things are true.

I support the plan to add City buildings to the corridor on Highway 99. And allowing our local restaurants to maintain outdoor seating has helped keep local businesses going and, given higher risk, residents have an option to be social and enjoy getting out in our city without fearing for their health.

I’m sorry those of us who care about these issues and support them have not been more present and vocal at your regular meetings.

I know so many people in our community who care about these issues, but like myself they are busy working within our school district, within great organizations like Kids in Transition, our local food bank, and so many other efforts.

Sometimes we forget that supporting our leaders in making these critical decisions is imperative.

Jeanne Petty
Edmonds
(Submitted to City Council)

Encourage alternative forms of transit – including biking

Regarding bike lanes: This is great news. I’ve recently moved to Edmonds and plan on getting a bike so as to reduce the need to drive around town only when necessary.

The argument that there aren’t enough bike riders in Edmonds to warrant bike lanes is spurious; we need to envision a future that encourages alternative forms of transit, and hopefully this helps others to consider biking.

Cara Diehl
Edmonds

Support for SR 99 office, streateries

I want to voice my support for the neighborhood City office by Safeway. The space sounds like it will work well for many uses and be a positive addition to the neighborhood.

I also want to say that I have loved the outdoor dining enclosures and the designated parking for to-go order pick-ups in the downtown area during the pandemic. I have used both many, many times, and had it not been for them, I would not have frequented the restaurants and spent money, thus providing tax dollars to the City during

the pandemic.

With winter approaching, even though I am vaccinated, I am still not comfortable eating in a restaurant in Snohomish County, as there is no requirement for all patrons to be vaccinated. I will continue to order takeout and I will continue to eat at the outside tables and support our local restaurants. I love seeing the lights in the enclosures on dark winter nights; it brightens up downtown.

Thank you all for your time and energy for serving on the council. You take a lot of abuse from the public. I’m not sure why anyone would want to sit in your seats.

Carol Junglov
Edmonds
(Submitted to City Council)

Now is not the time

Re: “What could Build Back Better Act include?,” Guest View, Dec. 2): With inflation rampant and the national debt ballooning, now is not the time for more government spending as proposed by the Build Back Better Act.

The economy is growing and unemployment decreasing. We do not need more government stimulus.

The Bring Back Better act will accelerate inflation, grow the national debt and increase government intrusion in our lives.

Walter A. Appel
Lynnwood

Health Commission offers classes, information

As the weather cools and we head indoors, we find ourselves looking for creative ways to maintain our health and connect with others.

Stuck in a rut and cooking the same meals over and over? Participate in one of our virtual cooking classes and gain some ideas and new healthy recipes. There are free classes coming up that you will want to join.

Want to know about where Verdant funding goes and how we are making a difference? Attend our next virtual board meeting Dec. 15 or visit our website for 2022 meeting dates. The board typically meets the fourth Wednesday of each month at 8 a.m.

Want real-time updates on new classes and upcoming events? Follow us on Facebook and get up-to-date information about events and classes at the Verdant Community Wellness Center.

Carolyn Brennan has joined the Verdant Board as our newly voter-elected commissioner. Commissioner Brennan has an extensive background in public service and is a welcome addition to our board.

Our new website will launch in mid-December, and it will be easier for you to find resources. Check it out at verdanthealth.org.

Verdant is dedicated to supporting the health of the residents of South Snohomish County, and we encourage you to get vaccinated and continue wearing a mask to prevent the spread of COVID among family members and coworkers.

Lisa Edwards
Superintendent
Verdant Health Commission

CROSSWORD

Puzzle Theme: Christmas

1		2		3		4				5	6		7	8	9
										10				11	
12									13						
14	15		16		17		18						19	20	
21			22	23			24			25	26				
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40	41						42	43				44			
							45			46					
47		48	49	50									51		
		52					53								
54								55							

Across

1. Christmas saint

5. Christmas drink

10. Blue Ridge Mountains locale

11. “Much ___ About Nothing”

12. Fashion statement to be like Santa? (2 words)

13. Happier

14. Where the sun rises

17. Chewy candy

19. Envelope that comes back to you

21. Where it’s ___!

22. Trick taker, often

24. “Fields ___ Gold” Sting

25. Holiday song

27. Christmas Eve flier

31. Mother’s cooking preference

33. Capt.’s superior

35. Celebratory spheres

36. Celebrate

40. Carpenter’s Xmas present?

42. Monopoly piece

44. Good set to get at Xmas?

45. Surprised expression

46. Meeting place

47. US New Years’ Eve celebration place (2 words)

51. Actress West

52. We ___ family

53. Providence locale

54. Main dishes

55. Bright nosed one

Down

1. “Happy ___!” (2 words)

2. Jolly gift-giver

3. Creole vegetable

4. Bose speakers provide it

5. New Year’s ___

6. Eden, for one

7. Beauty tools (2 words)

8. Hymn

9. Stuff oneself

13. Hand warmer

15. Enjoyed good food

16. Go brown in the sun

17. Casual attire

18. In favor of

20. A pint, maybe

23. Data storage devices

26. Zeros

28. Ice house

29. Long, long time

30. Baseball fan wear

32. “___ are the champions”

34. Cookie container

35. Baseball gear

37. Underwear for Xmas?

38. Angora garment

39. He found there was no room at the inn

41. ___-Wan Kenobi

43. 2:00 or 3:00

44. Hollywood’s home

46. Purse bauble

47. Boring present for Dad!

48. “Welcome” site

49. “To ___ is human ...”

50. “Comprende?”

Puzzle by Myles Mellor

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► from **BRIDGING** page 1

tinues through Dec. 23.
Here’s how it works: First, follow the hashtag #restaurantsforretailers. On a particular day, you should like the post in question, follow the Feedme restaurant sponsoring the gift card, as well as the chosen retailer and @feedmehrg. Tag a friend, and share the cost for three extra entries.



Shubert Ho
Participating Feedme restaurants are Salt & Iron, Mar-Ket Edmonds, Fire & The Feast, Bar Dojo, Potlatch Bistro, and Shore Pine Coffee & Gelato.

This time last year, said Ho, several of his restaurants were either closed or operating at partial capacity. Salt & Iron was shuttered for normal service because the nature of its menu didn’t lend itself to takeout.

“Instead,” he said, “we got creative and had a ‘Holiday Boozaar,’ integrating local craft vendors and takeout cocktail kits. Going down memory lane, one year after every pandemic milestone, has constantly reminded us to stay creative and keep investing in the community. Without our supporters, we would not be here today.”

Ho said his efforts are an extension of Feedme Hospitality’s pandemic operations, where it created a community kitchen to feed food-insecure seniors and children.

“We felt like it was time to focus on the retail sector as we coexist by sharing clientele who visit the area,” he said. “Restaurants for Retailers is just a continuation of our programming at Feedme HRG. We planned this way before the streateries discussion started. But if anyone

Winners are chosen at random.

“We are always looking for creative ways to cross-promote our neighbors, and if we missed a neighbor this time, we hope to cross-promote with them on future holidays,” Ho said.



was to argue that Feedme disproportionately benefits in one way or another from such things like the streateries, I’d say that we give back as much or more.”

One retailer benefiting was MaJe Gallery on Main Street.

“Special thanks to Shubert Ho for including my gallery in his Restaurants for Retailers campaign,” said owner Manya Vee. “I look forward to meeting a new customer when the lucky person comes in to use it.”

Feedme Hospitality’s community programs

During the Pandemic, Ho said Feedme HRG sought to fill gaps in the community through creating a community kitchen that served seniors, children and frontline workers.

Here is a list of those programs, as provided by Ho:

- March 2020: Schools were shut down before restaurants and kids were transitioned to remote learning. Feedme decided to provide an affordable kids menu daily to help parents feed their kids any time of the day at Salt & Iron.
- March 2020: Feedme was shut down by Gov. Jay Inslee, and health officials were forced to lay off 200 of its 210 employees.
- April 2020: Activated its Feedme Hos-



pitality Community Kitchen in its Salt & Iron location, providing meals for children, frontline workers, and seniors. It worked with organizations like the Foundation for Edmonds

School District, the South County Fire Foundation, and area hospitals. Feedme distribut-

see **FEEDME HOSPITALITY** page 19 ►

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DECEMBER 2021

IS IT REALLY THE IRS?

Four tips to ensure your security

Pretending to be an IRS agent is one of the favorite tactics of scam artists, according to the Better Business Bureau. The con artists impersonate the IRS to either intimidate people into making payments over the phone, or to send misleading emails tricking people into sharing personal information digitally.

You can defend yourself against these scammers by knowing these simple rules:

Tip 1: Expect a letter first

In almost every case, the IRS will send you a letter via standard mail if they need to get in touch with you. This will alert you to expect future communication from the agency and instruct you on the best ways to get in touch with them.

What to do: If you get a letter from the IRS that is unexpected or suspicious, it should have a form or notice number searchable on the IRS website, www.irs.gov. If something doesn’t look right, you can call the IRS help desk at 1-800-829-1040 to question it.

Tip 2: Never over email

The IRS will never initiate contact with you using email. A common scammer trick is to send emails to taxpayers using accounts and graphics that imitate the agency’s logo. These emails may threaten imprisonment or fines if you don’t pay up, or promise an extra refund if you send money to “prepay” your taxes. Often the emails contain links to an official-looking fake website to collect payments. Clicking on them may also trigger the installation of virus programs on your computer.

What to do: Don’t respond to any email communications supposedly from the IRS. Don’t click on any links. Delete the email or forward it to phishing@irs.gov to help catch the scammers.

Tip 3: Proper phone call etiquette

After notification via the USPS, the real IRS may call to discuss options for handling delinquent taxes or an audit. A real IRS agent or a debt collector won’t demand immediate payment without giving

you an opportunity to question or appeal the bill. Nor will they threaten lawsuits, arrest or deportation.

Their tone should not be hostile or insulting. Finally, if they ask for payment, they should be asking you to make payments only to the United States Treasury.

What to do: If you get a call from the IRS or an IRS debt collector, politely ask for the employee’s name, badge number and phone number. They shouldn’t hesitate to provide this information. You should then end the call and dial the IRS at 1-800-366-4484 to confirm the person’s identity.

Tip 4: Check in-person visits

Ask the person for their credentials. Every IRS agent is able to produce two forms of credentials: a pocket commission card and a personal identity verification card issued by the Department of Homeland Security, also called an HSPD-12.

What to do: Never provide sensitive information nor confirm information they may have without first independently verifying they are legitimate representatives of the IRS. If you have concerns, call the IRS at 1-800-366-4484 to confirm the person’s identity.

You do not need to navigate this problem on your own. Call immediately for assistance. It is good to have a knowledgeable expert on your side.

Nancy

Nancy Ekrem
CPA, Managing Shareholder

123 3rd Ave. S, #200 • Edmonds, WA 98020

Police officers on Woodway, E-W campus after threats reported

BY BRIAN SOERGEL
EDMONDSEditor@YOURBEACON.NET

An Edmonds Police officer patrolled the grounds of the old Woodway campus throughout the day on Dec. 2 after possible threats were reported at Scriber Lake High School. No incidents were reported.

In addition, there have been recent threats at Edmonds-Woodway High School and campuses in the Mukilteo School District.

The threats came after four students were killed by a 14-year-old classmate at Oxford High School Nov. 30 in Oxford Township, Mich.

Acting Assistant Police Chief Josh McClure reports that the Scriber Lake principal did not want to file a police report regarding the incident.

"They had documented it internally, and just wanted the Police Department to be

aware of the incident," McClure said.

The Woodway campus is also home to Edmonds Heights K-12 and the district's VOICE and WorkExperience programs.

"No specific threat has been identified or associated with this, and our officer discussed the situation at length with school representatives," McClure said.

"At the same time, while there is no identified threat, we still encouraged the staff to be made aware and report any suspicious activity to 911. We also offered a patrol presence at the school throughout the day today."

Edmonds police also had a presence at Edmonds-Woodway Wednesday, Dec. 8. No incidents were recorded as of The Beacon's 6 p.m. printing deadline on that date.

"The district recently discovered anonymous graffiti threats in bathroom stalls at two of our schools," said district spokesperson Harmony Weinberg.

"The threats were not credible. However, we contacted law enforcement right away and are working with them as we investigate the incidents. We want to thank the students who saw the graffiti and quickly reported their concerns to school leaders."

The threat was reported Nov. 19, according to Edmonds Police reports.

"The safety of our students and staff is our highest priority," Edmonds School District Superintendent Gustavo Balderas wrote to parents and guardians in an email.

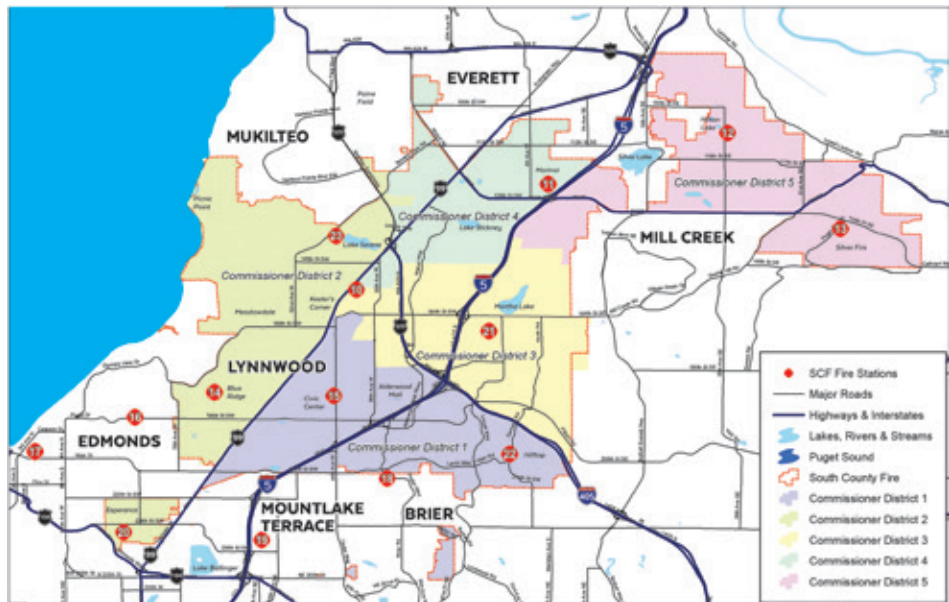
"We are monitoring the situation and will let you know if there are any further developments. We appreciate any additional

information that students may have about this. Please talk with your student and encourage them to share with us if they know anything."

Balderas said the district has a strong relationship with local law enforcement, working in partnership to fully investigate and respond to any threat.

The district uses video surveillance and social media monitoring tools, as well as conducting interviews with students and staff as part of investigations to help find those behind a threat.

see **SCHOOLS THREATENED** page 19 ►



Map courtesy of South County Fire

South County Fire updates commissioner election districts

South County Fire Board of Commissioners have unanimously approved new fire election district boundaries to balance population based on the latest federal census counts, as required by law.

The regional fire authority (RFA) is governed by a board of seven fire commissioners – two elected at-large and five elected from commissioner districts. South County Fire hired an independent consultant to draft the redistricting plan. The board held a public hearing on the proposal Nov. 16.

A map of the updated districts is at southsnofire.org.

Roads and geographical features were used as boundaries wherever possible. The RFA plan adopted by voters in 2017

requires at least two election districts must include a portion of the City of Lynnwood. Three of the proposed districts meet this requirement.

Commissioner districts are for election purposes only. These districts will not change or impact 911 responses or the delivery of fire and emergency services.

The election districts do not include the cities of Brier, Edmonds and Mountlake Terrace. These cities contract with South County Fire to provide emergency services, but are not part of the regional fire authority.

Those in Esperance are in District 2. The commissioner of that district is Greg Urban, president and CEO of the Edmonds Chamber of Commerce. He is also the board chair.

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Photo courtesy of South County Fire

An early morning fire drew about 50 firefighters to the former Family Fun Center.

Fire damages former Family Fun Center

No one was injured in a fire that caused more than \$200,000 damage to a commercial building in Edmonds early Wednesday, Dec. 9.

A passerby called 911 at 1:55 a.m. to report black smoke and flames coming from a large building at 220th Street SW and Highway 99 that previously housed the Family Fun Center.

The building was undergoing interior demolition to be remodeled for use as a church, said South County Fire spokesperson Leslie Hynes.

Fire crews received assistance from the Shoreline Fire Department.

At the peak of the fire, about 50 firefighters were on scene.

Due to excessive heat and limited visibility from heavy smoke inside the structure, crews initially had to attack from outside to knock down the bulk of the fire. It took about 90 minutes for firefighters to get the fire under control.

The cause of the fire appears to be accidental, according to South County Fire investigators.

POLICEBEAT

Nov. 29

Won't you not be my neighbor

Subject contacted for attempting to break into upstairs neighbor's apartment. Upon being contacted by officers, exited their apartment wielding knives. Subject eventually taken into custody. 23200 Block Highway 99.

Sideways

Victim loading groceries into vehicle has purse stolen from adjacent shopping cart. 22500 block Highway 99.

Bullet surprise

Live rifle caliber bullet located by a citizen. 224th St. SW/ Highway 99.

Nov. 28

Racing heart

Male voluntarily taken to Swedish Hospital with complaints of a racing heart. Believed people were trying to kill him. 22600 block Highway 99.

Well, I got your phone

Road rage led to physical confrontation. During the physical altercation, victim had his phone taken. Suspect taken into custody without incident. 22800 block Highway 99.

Outstanding in her field

Female arrested for outstanding warrant. 210th St. SW/74th Ave. W.

Nov. 27

Say what again

Subject lost phone inside store. Later determined the phone was turned off. Phone was not located or returned to owner. 21900 block Highway 99.

Hooch poach

Male attempted to steal alcohol from store. 22500 block Highway 99.

Ruff job; someone's gotta do it

K9 assist to Mountlake Terrace Police for a commercial

Nov. 26

Not tell at motel

Reported shooting at a motel, no victim or suspect located. 23800 block Highway 99.

Let me put this another way

Subject previously trespassed from business returned and cited and released for criminal trespass. 21900 block Highway 99.

UNSUBs meet POPO

Found items turned into the Police Department by unknown citizens. 200 block Fifth Ave. S.

Nov. 25

Hey now

Firearm discharge in Mountlake Terrace. One stray bullet hits home in Edmonds. 7200 block 224th St. SW.

Take with you

Vehicle window broken and items stolen from inside to include debit/credit cards. Fraudulent activity reported. 7600 block 212th St. SW.

Another one

Catalytic converter stolen from vehicle. 500 block Homeland Drive.

Nov. 24

Another one

Neighbor reported a suspicious vehicle in the area. Upon investigation, discovered that the catalytic converter of a vehicle had been stolen. No suspect information. 1100 block Sixth Ave. S.

Scram

Subject trespassed from business. 21200 block Highway 99.

Stop making sense

Edmonds officer provided prior suspect information to other police agency to assist them in identifying suspects from another incident. 200 block Fifth Ave. S.

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Charge: Mayor asked for list to deny public comment

BY BRIAN SOERGER
EDMONDSEditor@YOURBEACON.NET

An Edmonds citizen who regularly speaks at Edmonds City Council meetings said he’s contacted the state attorney general about what took place at the Nov. 16 budget hearing.



Mike Nelson

In an email to The Beacon, Edmonds resident Ken Reidy – who keeps a close eye on council proceedings – shared a note he obtained through a public records request that showed Mayor Nelson had asked for a list of those who spoke about the budget Nov. 1 and Nov. 9. He received the list three hours before that Nov. 16 meeting.

There were 15 speakers on the list, including Reidy on both dates.

It was those speakers, Reidy claims, that Nelson and Council President Susan Paine did not want to speak on the budget a third time on Nov. 16.

“I believe the fact that the mayor was provided a list of citizens adds greatly to the seriousness of this situation,” Reidy said. “The council voted on Nov. 9 to provide the public a third opportunity to speak on the budget.”

“It was scheduled for Nov. 16. The council did not vote on Nov. 9 to limit eligibility to speak on Nov. 16 to those who had not spoken before. Shortly after the Nov. 16 ‘third opportunity’ public hearing started, Council President Paine made a motion to not allow those who had spoken previously to speak. This was a surprise to certain councilmembers.

“After this surprise motion, Mayor Nelson did not request a list of those to not call on.” Reidy spoke during audience comments

on Nov. 16, but not about the budget.

“I was under the belief that budget-related comments had to be made during the budget-related public hearing,” he said. “Now we know he was provided a list hours before the council meeting. I had my hand raised the entire time and was not called on.”

Another Edmonds resident, James Ogonowski, told The Beacon he also could not speak Nov. 16 on the budget. He had spoken Nov. 1 and Nov. 9.

“I also was denied the ability to speak, even though my hand was raised. I, too, was under the impression I could provide a comment on the budget, so didn’t participate in the first round of comments on that day.”

Nelson told The Beacon that those who spoke at the Nov. 9 budget hearing could not speak at the Nov. 16 meeting, as the latter meeting was a continuation of the budget public comment process.

Said Reidy: “The mayor’s claim is not consistent with or supported by what took place.

“Also, why did he get a list showing who spoke at the Nov. 1 meeting? That makes no sense, as the Nov. 1 meeting was certainly not continued.

“Citizens were clearly told there would be a third opportunity to comment. Further supporting this is the surprise motion by Paine and subsequent council vote to restrict certain speakers that took place during the Nov. 16 meeting. If those who spoke at the Nov. 9 budget hearing could not speak at the Nov. 16 meeting, all would have known that, including all councilmembers. It is council’s meeting, not the mayor’s meeting. There would have been no need for the council to vote to not allow certain people to speak.

“Citizens would not have prepared comments, logged in to the Zoom meeting, and raised their hands to speak.”

▶ from SANCTIONS FAIL page 1

to “be dedicated to the concepts of effective and democratic government.”

A major part of the complaint was that Paine had moved up the final budget hearing to prevent a new councilmember, Will Chen, from having a vote on his first day as a member. Paine wanted then-Councilmember Luke Distelhorst, who lost an attempt to retain his appointed seat, to vote instead.



Will Chen

The move to sanction failed on a 4-3 vote. Ironically, it was Chen who provided the swing vote against the sanction.

Although Chen agreed with Buckshnis and Kristiana Johnson’s main points, he called for “friendship” and for all councilmembers

to work together. He mentioned he’d heard that some councilmembers don’t even look at each other.

Buckshnis, Kristiana Johnson, and Vivian Olson voted to sanction. Olson called the whole process “fixed” and “undemocratic.” Paine, Chen, Laura Johnson, and Fraley-Moinillas voted against it.

Historically, the City Council has finalized the budget between Dec. 5 and Dec. 16. There is a legal mandate to finalize the budget by the end of the year.

As The Beacon previously reported, the political maneuvering was deemed legal by City Attorney Jeff Taraday. Paine legally continued the regularly scheduled Nov. 16 meeting on the budget to Nov. 17, instead of pushing it to Tuesday, Nov. 23, the next regularly scheduled meeting.

It was on Nov. 23 that Chen would have had a say in the proceedings on his first day as a councilmember.

Paine summed up her reasoning to move up the 2022 budget process to Nov. 23, a process that new Finance Director Dave Turley previously had told councilmembers should be finished by Thanksgiving this year and in the future.

“Councilmember (Luke) Distelhorst has been involved in projects with a level of dil-

igence and appreciation for the fine-tuned needs that the budget deserves,” Paine said. “Councilmember (Will) Chen is certainly a very bright man, and there is no doubt he would be a strong performer for the council, but moving the timeline a bit was the right thing to do because the right people were in place and understood the projects.”

That statement, according to the complaint, implies that Chen had not followed council meetings and that his experience as a CPA, former internal and external auditor, and as a minority, would have no added value.

Paine also implied that the two veteran councilmembers – Buckshnis and Johnson – were not needed to be part of the final vote, the complaint said. Buckshnis and Kristiana Johnson did not attend the Nov. 17 meeting when the budget was approved. Buckshnis was at a wedding and Johnson claimed medical reasons.

The 2022 budget was approved 4-1, with Councilmembers Distelhorst, Paine, Laura Johnson, and Fraley-Monillas approving. Councilmember Olson cast the lone dissenting vote, saying the budget was being unnecessarily rushed.

“The parts that the other members of the simple majority played during this budgetary process may not rise to a level of a sanction,” said Buckshnis.

“But the council president was only able to perform these acts because of the overt support and votes from all three. The voices of the public were denied, and changing the extended agenda and the adjourned meeting were not the will of the electorate.

“This record should reflect that Councilmembers Adrienne Fraley-Monillas, Laura Johnson, and former Councilmember Luke Distelhorst were complicit in this process.”

Paine, for her part, on Tuesday acknowledged that she had continued the Nov. 16 meeting to Nov. 17 to ensure Distelhorst had a vote. She defended her actions and took a swipe at those attempting to sanction her.

“Bringing this charge against me is a new level of absurdity,” she said. She claimed Buckshnis and Kristiana Johnson simply didn’t

see CAST OF FOOLS page 19 ▶

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▶ from EMILY SCOTT page 1

holiday ambassador on a trolley,” Emily said on Tuesday (Saturdays are for the trolley).

“I’ve been involved with local volunteerism and shenanigans for a while – delegate for the Slster City Commission mayor’s visit, Historic Preservation Commission, Edmonds Historical Society, volunteer at the Waterfront Festival, etc. – and thought to myself:

“Self – you can totally be an Elf! That first year, I was loaded up with candy canes and

historical facts, and a changing uniform. I wore my grandmother’s knitted elf hat and striped leggings that first ride – we didn’t have a costume in yet – and the next Saturday we had the beginnings of the pink elf costume. As a taller elf – that costume didn’t really fit the best, so I had a dear friend help me modify a longer pink dress.”

Of course, Emily said she enjoys her special role on Saturdays. “I love everything about elfing – so many smiles! And holiday carols! And getting to see the best of our community cov-

ered in glittery lights. I am so thankful that I get to spread a dash of cheerfulness around town.”

Emily’s two sons, ages 8 and 12, know that during December their mom has a very important job working for Santa.

“They both also have developed a lovely flair for this season, and we are all often ensconced in holiday hats or sweaters or elf slippers. My youngest is seriously considering following in my elf shoes for a career.”

This year, for the first time, the free Holiday Trolley will also visit the Highway 99 area after previously only trucking around downtown. It will run from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12, and Dec. 19. The route will run from the southeast corner of the Safeway/Aurora Marketplace parking lot and head east then west on 238th St. SW to Edmonds Way. It then travels on 228th Street SW to Highway 99.

“This year’s expansion to Highway 99 is a great way to help share some of the downtown Bowl’s festive flair,” Emily said. “(Economic Development Director) Patrick Doherty might be an incognito elf himself with all the cheerfulness he builds into our community.”



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► from **FEEDME HOSPITALITY** page 15

ed several thousand meals over the course of one year.

- June 2020: Started a fundraiser for the Edmonds Chamber of Commerce for the July 4 celebration through a lemonade stand through Salt & Iron and The Mar-ket to raise money for the chamber, forced to lay off its entire staff due to the cancellation of money-making events like Taste Edmonds and the Classic Car Show. Feedme raised over \$2,000 from the profit generated from flavored and spiked lemonades.
- July 2020: Partnered with the Edmonds Senior Center/Waterfront Center to provide weekend lunch deliveries for at-home older adults. The Senior Center provided grant money to pay for these meals and volunteers for delivery. Feedme’s staff focused on healthy gourmet lunches as a premium service, an alternative from the normal cafeteria-style lunch.
- August 2020: Announced the School Lunch Program, providing \$5 kids lunches weekdays for the 2020-21 school year to support parents, teachers, and children during school lunch. This offering provided a balanced scratch-made meal which included a protein, starch, vegetable, and fruit. To date, Feedme has sold several thousand school lunches between Salt & Iron and The Mar-ket.

“The idea was to not only provide an easy way to prepare lunch for students,” Ho said, “but to also provides a healthy alternative to what is usually served in schools. The price of the meal is basically the cost of the ingredients.”

- November 2020: Restaurants were shut

down again for inside dining. Feedme had to pivot back to takeout-only.

- January 2021: Successfully got the treatery ordinance passed by City Council and built nine 8-by-16-foot treatery verandas for covered outside dining. Feedme also shared its preliminary approved designs with the entire restaurant community in Edmonds.

“Today,” said Ho, “no less than 10 local restaurants have built our structures to provide safe dining and additional capacity to supplement their reduced inside dining.”

- March 2021: Started its first senior subsidized meals to members of the Edmonds Waterfront Center, from the Edmonds Waterfront Center kitchen. This marked the first of many meals Feedme provides 5 days a week for those who need meal assistance.
- July 2021: Reactivated the previous year’s fundraiser for the Edmonds Chamber of Commerce, Edmonds Kind of Fourth, and raised another \$2,000 with community support.
- November 2021: Feedme HRG Community Kitchen was tasked to assist the Edmonds School District in supply chain and production issues by sourcing food from Feedme’s vendors, and by producing enough meals to serve over 25,000 student meals while product and staffing levels were addressed.
- December 2021: Community Kitchen will be providing over 500 individual holiday meals for food-insecure families in the School District.

Said Ho: “Feedme Hospitality Community Kitchen will forever live on as a part of who we are as a result of the Pandemic and Local Community Support.”

► from **SCHOOLS THREATENED** page 16

No officers on campus

In June 2020, the Edmonds School District board voted 5-0 not to renew an interlocal contract with the city of Edmonds for a police school resource officer at Edmonds-Woodway.

They also voted 5-0 to cancel a contract with the city of Lynnwood for its SRO at Meadowdale High School. The SRO at Mountlake Terrace High School also was shelved.

The vote to remove SROs from the three schools was unanimous among all five school board members, who are voted into office by the public: Gary Noble, Deborah Kilgore, Carin Chase, Nancy Katims, and Ann McMurray.

The vote was partly swayed by public comment in the form of emails and public comment during board meetings. Although some praised SROs and spoke for their retention, the majority felt armed police officers should not be on campuses, and that their presence had a harmful effect on students of color.

Jim Lawless, who was Edmonds Police Department’s acting police chief at the time, said he was disappointed in the board’s decision.

“The emphasis, then and now, has always been about the building of relationships with, and maintaining the safety of, the students, staff, and faculty,” Lawless said. “The Edmonds Police Department officer assigned to Edmonds-Woodway High School is highly skilled, trained, and respected within the department, and more importantly within the EWHS community.”

Incidents in Mukilteo School District

At about 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 1, Sheriff’s Office deputies responded to investigate a threat made toward three schools in the Mukilteo School District. Deputies discovered an anonymous social media post that indicated there would be a shooting at Voyager Middle School, Explorer Middle School, and Mariner High School.

Patrol deputies requested assistance from the Sheriff’s Office Major Crime Unit, and detectives began working the case.

Detectives were able to identify the source of the social media post, and deputies responded to the suspect’s residence.

The suspect, a 14-year-old, was taken into custody without incident.

The suspect was transported to Denny Youth Center and booked on six felony charges.

► from **CAST OF FOOLS** page 18

like the way she voted. “It looks a little silly to me.”

Kristiana Johnson argued against that point. She maintained Paine manipulated the process, knowing she would have her four votes if Distelhorst were present. “It will not stand,” she said. “We’re calling you on it.”

This may not be over.

“I promise you, next week, there’s going to be more,” said Fraley-Monillas, who called on councilmembers to stand behind their council president. “And it’s gonna be against the ones who think they are harmless in this whole position.”

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