

Edmonds Beacon

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Finally! Civic Park contractor is selected

But deficits expected as construction prices soar

BY BRIAN SOERTEL
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After several failed attempts to secure a contractor for the renovation of Civic Park – the bids were too high – the City of Edmonds announced Wednesday that it has a winning low contract: A-1 Landscaping and Construction in Snohomish.

The City Council will consider awarding the construction contract and approve the additional funding necessary to build the long-neglected park, the former site of Edmonds High School football games. The grandstand was torn down a few years ago.

In addition to the base bid, councilmembers will consider four bid alternates, each with an additional price tag including an interactive water feature at the park entrance; a scramble/climbing wall; rubberizing the current asphalt perimeter path; and metal tree grates.

It's not going to be cheap. The City estimates the total cost for project construction will fall between \$13.5 million and \$15 million, depending on alternates selected. It could result in a deficit of \$1.5 million to \$2.9 million, based on current funding allocation.

In the fall of 2015, after leasing the property for 40 years, Civic Center Playground (now referred to as Civic Park) was acquired by the City of Edmonds from the Edmonds School District for \$1.9 million; all but \$400,000 was funded by grants. A

see **PARK CONTRACTOR** page 9 ▶



Beacon photo by Brian Soergel

People found a number of creative ways to beat the heat while visiting Edmonds beaches.

BAKING IN THE HEAT

Edmonds residents hit the beaches and hotels during heat wave

BY BRIAN SOERTEL
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Edmonds resident Robert Calhoun decided to take a mini-vacation from the heat this past weekend, which peaked on Monday with desert-like temperatures hovering close to 100 with little or no breeze.

Like many of his Edmonds neighbors, he booked a few days at Best Western Harbor Inn in Edmonds for the air conditioning and the hotel's cool pool.

"I just can't take it when it gets this hot," he said. "I don't have air conditioning."

Others beat the heat – although only temporarily – by heading to what became known as "cooling shelters." Those included the Edmonds Library and Edmonds Waterfront Center.

"The library doubled what we normally have had since reopening to the public," said managing librarian Richard Suico. "We had to pull out chairs and tables to accommodate the amount of people. Folks were grateful for the relief from the weather and to be able to read books and use the Internet."

At the Waterfront Center, which also

doubles as the city's senior center, older residents were invited to take advantage of the air conditioning and grab a bottle of water.

"We only had a few on Friday and about 10 on Saturday," said CEO Daniel Johnson. "But the number of visitors grew to 20-plus on Sunday and Monday as the temperature continued to rise and the word got out."

The Waterfront Center staff went above and beyond the call of duty.

see **HEAT WAVE** page 12 ▶

10 things to know about An Edmonds Kind of 4th

When do you put chairs out for the July 4 parade? Is there a children's parade? When do the fireworks start?

To make your plans easier, the Edmonds Chamber of Commerce offers a list of 10 things to help you enjoy An Edmonds Kind of 4th.

10 things to know before you go

- Do not place chairs on the parade route until after 6 p.m. Saturday, July 3. Chairs and other items

placed in the right-of-way along the parade route before 6 p.m. Saturday will be removed by the Public Works Department. They may be retrieved during regular business hours at the Public Works Building at 7110 210th St. SW. Call 425-771-0235.

Please refrain from chaining or otherwise attaching chairs to each other or to stationary items such as trees, sign posts, etc. This policy is to allow parade-goers

see **EDMONDS FOURTH** page 7 ▶



Erna Hiles turns 100: 'I ain't plannin' too far ahead!'

BY NATALIE KAHN
BEACON REPORTER

What's the secret to reaching 100? Erna Hiles is quick to reveal her answer: Gin!

But before she revealed her response, Erna laughed and suggested it might not be fit to print. Her family members laughed too; they knew exactly what she was going

to say. Erna isn't one to mince words.

Her niece-in-law, Diana Armbruster, offered up a more family friendly response, "She's tough—that's her secret."

Whatever the secret may be, Erna turned 100 last week. Family members from across the country came to celebrate the exciting milestone with her at her home at Sunrise of Edmonds senior living.

However, Erna says she doesn't

100-year-old Erna Hiles has traveled to every state in the country, except one.

Beacon photo by Natalie Kahn

see **CENTENARIAN** page 11 ▶

Artisan Ice Cream from Lopez Island, Fruit smoothies, Frappes

Toasted lunch sandwiches

Breakfast sandwiches served all day



WATERFRONT COFFEE CO

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Open until 9 p.m.

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