

It Must Be Spring!

by Dave Earling

Fear not... Spring is here! For me, the most important signal is getting a heads-up our flower program is about to "blossom" (sorry). In the first week or two of May you will find members of our Parks Department and the Floretum Garden Club at several garden corners around town planting for the season. Soon afterward, the flower baskets will be hung, and Edmonds once again will come alive with flowers!

May is also the beginning of our downtown market, starting with the Garden Market and expanding to the Summer Market in June. The market brings us wonderful fresh fruits and vegetables, flowers, arts and crafts, and pure fun for the community. We have our Edmonds Historical Museum to thank for this weekly summer Saturday celebration.

Of course we also have other special summertime events to look forward to; the fabulous Edmonds Arts Festival, 4th of July celebration, Waterfront Festival, Memorial Day Service, Sunday Concerts in the Park, the fabled Taste of Edmonds, Classic Car Show and the Rotary's Jazz Connection.

All of these events bring our community together, build an atmosphere of involvement, and enrich the value of living in Edmonds! As I have said before, many communities in the Northwest envy the quality of life we have. Our waterfront, our reputation as an art and culture community, the parks, the friendly business community, all add to this identity.

Setting aside these celebrations for a moment, many of you have mentioned to me in the last few years a real, renewed sense of vitality in the community. Our downtown is bustling during the day, in the evenings, as well as on weekends. Our other business areas appear to be equally busy. Many have mentioned the energy change they have seen.

Certainly from the city government side, business is up. Our sales tax numbers continue to be strong, real estate sales show continued strength, and our city's engineering, planning and building inspection departments are busier than they have been in years. The regional economy is booming and appears to remain strong. Our local economy certainly reflects this intensity.

Adding to the economic strength locally, because of the combination of quality of life, fine restaurants, activity at the Edmonds Center for the Arts and other performance venues, our seaside setting, our park system, we are building a reputation as a daytime destination.

Whether for an afternoon or evening, if people want to escape for a few hours or a day from the fast paced life which surrounds them, Edmonds is an opportunity to "get away from it all". And the reputation continues to grow.

I am reluctant to use the word thriving, but in fact Edmonds is in a good, healthy spot right now, so thriving isn't a bad choice of words. Is there more to do? Yes. Do we need to be careful to maintain what we have? Yes. Do we need to find ways to improve our community? Yes. But the pieces have come together from the hard work of many.

For now let's celebrate the coming warmer weather, enjoy our community and look forward to a fun Spring and Summer and all those great Edmonds events!