

**Mayor's column for
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I'm pretty sure it's not Armageddon, but today is one of those days that has all the markings of disaster written all over it. After all the rain of the past week, today we are being hit with a high wind warning, a flood warning, and, as if that wasn't enough, a tsunami watch on the Washington coast due to a very large earthquake in Japan. So what happened to El Niño and all the dry, warm weather it was so supposed to bring?

In Edmonds we have survived the record rains better than most cities. The convergence zone has been a little kinder to us than some of our neighbors, but I must give the real credit to past planning by our Engineering staff and hard work by our Public Works crews. Over many years we have identified infrastructure needs for our storm sewers throughout the city. With careful planning and with City Council approving the funding, we have kept flooding damage to a minimum.

Our Public Works employees, who have in many cases built the systems and always work hard to maintain them, deserve a huge pat on the back for their efforts. They not only have to make sure you are kept safe, but they also have to do so while working in pretty unpleasant conditions.

I often ask that if you see a storm drain plugging up with leaves that you take a moment and clean it out. Just that small act may save a tremendous amount of water damage to your home or someone else's. I thank you for your past efforts, and it seems that you'll be asked to watch for plugged drains maybe one or two more times this year! OK—maybe a few more!

While I'm at it, I must say that if you live near one of our many creeks, you have a responsibility for some stewardship as well. With the heavy rains, our culverts are often overtaxed with capacity. It's important that culverts be kept clear of debris. Swollen creeks grab whatever yard waste is nearby and take it downstream, often creating a dam, which in turn leads to flooding. And it goes without saying, but I will anyway, that we should keep from putting any yard waste into our streams all year round, not just during the rainy season.

Stay warm and dry!