

The Port of Edmonds—Not just your everyday marina
By Chris Keuss, Executive Director, the Port of Edmonds

True or false? — The Port of Edmonds is mainly a marina.

This is not a trick question. It is, however, one that most people will have trouble answering accurately.

Does it include a marina? Yes, of course, one that was recently named the national marina of the year, but is it only a marina? No, it is way more. Take the Harbor Square business complex, for example.

The Port has owned the land under Harbor Square since 1976, when we purchased what was then largely marshland from UNOCAL. In 1969 we upgraded the land, leased it and then three years ago bought most of the buildings from the original developer.

What is not well known is that today Harbor Square is home to some 50 businesses employing over 300 people. Those jobs are in addition to dozens more employed by the Port and our tenant businesses in the marina complex: Anthony's, Arnies, the Waterfront Café, Edmonds Yacht Sales, Bud's Bait and several others.

Harbor Square boasts the area's premier fitness and tennis center—Harbor Square Athletic Club and downtown Edmonds' only full-facility hotel, the Best Western Edmonds Harbor Inn. The 91-room hotel recently joined 4,000 other quality lodging facilities as a Best Western hotel.

Firms that may not be as familiar to you, but should be, are companies such as Gifford Industries. They are nationally recognized as the country's leading provider of hardwood floors for gymnasiums and other high use, high visibility applications. Their corporate offices are right here in Harbor Square.

The Max Foundation is a worldwide organization serving people living with leukemia and other forms of blood cancer. Their world headquarters is in Harbor Square. The Max

Foundation helps patients access treatment, care and support “regardless of the color of their skin, the country of their birth or the size of their bank account.”

Another of Harbor Square’s major businesses is MaverickLabel.Com. Since 1994 they have been providing just about every kind of label you can think of: wine labels, bumper stickers, custom roll, fanfold, sheet, digital, and stock labels to customers all over the world.

Although there are far too many businesses in Harbor Square to mention in one short column, Las Brisas Mexican restaurant deserves to be noted. Edmonds has become a Northwest epicenter of good dining spots and for five years Las Brisas has been serving up superior Mexican fare ranging from traditional tacos, enchiladas and burritos to arroz con pollo, carne asada, beef fajitas, chiles relleno and other tasty treats.

Clearly, the Port of Edmonds is several steps beyond being simply a marina. Next time you’re in the area, check out the variety of businesses—and the opportunities—in one of our most solid enterprises: the Harbor Square business complex. You can learn more by going to our website www.portofedmonds.org.

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