

Snohomish County Executive
AARON REARDON



Priorities in Action



Latest News & Upcoming Events

Friday, January 28, 2011

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 **Initial data show small decrease in county's homeless numbers**

Numbers collected Thursday during Snohomish County's annual Point In Time homeless count show a slight decrease over data collected during 2010.

Numerous volunteers spent the day and early evening gathering information on Snohomish County's homeless population. This year's total – still incomplete – shows 2,249 individuals in 1,365 households without a permanent place to stay. This compares to last year's final count of 2,362 individuals in 1,335 households. Of the individuals counted this year, an estimated 798 were homeless children under the age of 18.

"Any decrease is positive news, but there is still work to be done if we're to end homelessness here," Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon said. "Families are still straining under today's difficult economy and nationally jobs aren't returning fast enough to help the unemployed."

Homeless numbers for 2011 can be divided into three categories: those sheltered in emergency shelter or transitional housing, those that are unsheltered and on the streets, and those that are precariously housed (often referred to as "doubled up temporarily" or "couch surfing").

Those sheltered the night of the count totaled 1,354 individuals in 674 households. This is compared to 1,403 individuals in 685 households for the 2010 count. There were 583 individuals in 482 households surveyed who did not have shelter, as compared to 615 individuals in 439 households for the 2010 count. Finally, an additional 312 individuals in 209 households were considered "precariously housed." This compares to 344 individuals in 211 households for the 2010 count.

County staff and members of the Homeless Policy Task Force will spend the next month closely studying and verifying data from the

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How are we doing?

Did you know that you can track how well the

Point in Time count, comparing numbers and demographics collected during past years while looking for trends. Totals may increase slightly in coming weeks as individual agencies that helped collect numbers finish reporting their results.

“Statistics gathered will help the county differentiate between causes of homelessness and how best to help,” said Ken Stark, Snohomish County’s Human Services director.

The Point in Time count is a state and federal requirement. The results help ensure that Snohomish County receives a proportionate share of federal and state funding to fight homelessness. Data from the annual count also is used to understand how widespread homelessness is in Snohomish County and who is most affected.

In 2006, the County approved the “Everyone At Home Now” report, a strategy for ending homelessness here by 2016. The 10-year plan is a means to achieve the vision that every person in Snohomish County has safe, appropriate and affordable housing.

Reardon, others celebrate groundbreaking of new multipurpose fairgrounds' building



Reardon and others participate in Friday's groundbreaking.

County Executive Aaron Reardon and others celebrated Friday the construction start of the Evergreen State Fairground’s new multipurpose event center.

“Since 2008, we’ve invested almost \$19 million in new trails, parks, ball fields, soccer fields, off-leash areas and renovations to our fairgrounds – all part of our renowned Parks Department,” Reardon said. “We have another \$9 million in investments planned for 2011,

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Sincerely,

Aaron Reardon

which include this new multipurpose building.”

The multipurpose event center, which should open by June, will create new opportunities for events year-round at the fairgrounds. It also should generate new revenue streams for the county while creating economic opportunities for the surrounding community.

The new event center replaces the old rabbit/poultry and dog barns, which were built in 1948. The building will host a variety of events – including craft shows, animal shows, conventions, concerts and trade shows – outside of the 12-day fair when it will showcase dogs, rabbits, cavies, waterfowl and poultry.

The building is being financed with federal recovery zone economic development bonds. This year’s fair will be Aug. 25-Sept. 5.

County's heritage program accepting grant applications

Snohomish County’s Community Heritage Program is currently accepting applications from public and nonprofit agencies for projects that develop and promote heritage preservation in the county.

By providing matching funds on a competitive basis, the Community Heritage Program supports projects that promote the public’s access to county history. Funding is available for professional development, public education, capital improvements or collections enhancement.

Money is awarded from recording fees collected by the Snohomish County Auditor’s Office. The allocation of these fees for projects that “promote historical preservation or historical programs, which may include preservation of historic documents” is authorized under state law. The revenues accrue to a dedicated fund and may not be used for any purposes other than those stipulated in the RCW.

As has been done in the past, the Snohomish County Historic Preservation Commission will review applications and make recommendations to Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon and the County Council for final approval.

Previous awards have been used to create a cyber tour of heritage landmarks across Snohomish County, to collect oral histories of Snohomish County citizens for an audio anthology, to purchase archival materials to properly store museum collections and to expand the Western Heritage Center.

Funds will be available in June and will be awarded on a competitive basis to applicants who can complete their proposed projects by Dec. 15, 2011. Funds are reimbursed for approved project costs only. Historically, project allocations have averaged about \$3,500.

Eligibility details and program requirements are included in the application package, which must be filled out and returned to the Snohomish County Office of Economic Development by 5 p.m. Monday, April 4. Applications received after that time and date will not be considered.

Applications are available [here](#) or by contacting the Office of Economic Development at 3000 Rockefeller Avenue, M/S #411, Everett, WA, 98201. For more information on the program, contact Wendy Becker at 425-388-3186 or wendy.becker@snoco.org.

Reardon tours future arts center in Everett



County Executive Reardon recently toured the future Schack Arts Center with Judy Tuohy, the Arts Council of Snohomish County's executive director. "This premiere facility will enhance and promote the cultural interests of Snohomish County," Reardon said. "Having easy access to the arts is instrumental to quality of life."

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