

Snohomish County Executive
AARON REARDON



Priorities in Action



Latest News & Upcoming Events

Friday, January 7, 2011

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 **Reardon unveils concept for premier ag market center**

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon announced Friday the creation of a 60,000 square-foot agriculture center that will house a full-time, year-round indoor farmers' market, commercial kitchen and processing facility as well as farm-product distribution hub.

The facility, on Grand Avenue between Hewitt Avenue and Wall Street in downtown Everett and near the Everett Public Market, will anchor a 180-unit housing project being constructed by Dargey Enterprises.

The Grand Avenue project is cutting edge in the world of farmers' markets and is unique in its features, which includes a large commercial kitchen that agricultural producers can use on site to make products to sell at the market or load on delivery trucks.

"This project will allow consumers to buy local, farm-fresh goods at a one-stop shop right here in Snohomish County – an effort we have been striving for to keep farming in Snohomish County economically viable," said Reardon, who has led the region through the development of a sustainable agriculture action plan and vision.

"When you buy here – from salads to soups and from beef to beans – you will know where your food came from and have the opportunity to know the farmer who grew it," he said.

Operated by the nonprofit Snohomish County Growers Alliance, the agriculture center will offer residents and shoppers farm-fresh and high-quality local meat, dairy and produce as well as value-added products created onsite solely from local farm crops.

The announcement for a marketplace comes less than a year after the creation of the Snohomish County Growers Alliance, a farmer-led initiative with support from County Executive Reardon.

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How are we doing?

Did you know that you

The Alliance's top objective has been to create a farmers' market and distribution center for locally produced products. It's also a direct outcome of Reardon's 2004 Ag Initiative, the annual Focus on Farming conferences and last year's Ag Sustainability Project report, which called for the creation of a locally driven farmers' market.

Products at the market are likely to include fruits and vegetables such as strawberries, apples, pears, peas, beans, arugula; locally butchered beef, lamb and goat; dairy products such as milk, cheese, yogurt and ice cream; as well as more specialized products including fresh-cut and dried flowers, local honey, soaps, beer and wine.

Developed by Dargey Enterprises, the market is expected to open in the spring of 2012.

"I was a farmer in Tibet so I am very excited about completing this project," said Lobsang Dargey of Dargey Enterprises. "I want to support the local farmers as well as the residents of Snohomish County."

The marketplace is expected to offer 90 retail spaces to large and small direct-to-market farm producers. More than a dozen farmers already have asked to reserve a space.

"They're anxious for the opportunity to move to the next level of growing and selling great food, and to supply their community with local, healthy products," said Linda Neunzig, Snohomish County's ag coordinator and a local farmer.

In addition, café-style and full-service restaurants will be strategically located throughout the marketplace.

Snohomish County celebrates 150th Anniversary

Please join Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon for Snohomish County's Sesquicentennial celebration at 10 a.m., Friday, Jan. 14 at the County Campus Plaza, 3000 Rockefeller, Everett.

Fertile farmland, easy water access and abundant forests attracted settlers, who clustered in the Lowell, Monroe, Stanwood and Edmonds areas in the mid 1800s. As the population grew, local settlers petitioned the territorial legislature to create a separate county.

On January 14, 1861, that petition was granted. Say hello to

can track how well the County is meeting its performance goals?

The SnoStat system tracks how well the County is delivering services, the costs of those services, and the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery.

Simply visit our [SnoStat Web site](#).

Contact me:

3000 Rockefeller Ave.
M/S #407
Everett, WA 98201

Phone: 425.388.3460
Fax: 425.388.3434

[Send me an email](#),

Sincerely,



Aaron Reardon

Snohomish County!

When Washington became a state in 1889, Snohomish was the county's most well-developed cultural and political center. One hundred and fifty years later, Snohomish County is still a cultural and political center. Aerospace, biotech and clean energy lure more investment – and a rich cultural heritage gives us a reason to celebrate.

As a member of the community, you play an invaluable role in the future of Snohomish County. Join us as we remember the past while looking toward the future.

For more information about this event, contact Wendy Becker at wendy.becker@snoco.org.

County makes pitch to state, feds for flood assistance

On Tuesday, Snohomish County toured locations damaged by December floods with state and federal emergency management officials, impressing upon them the need for financial assistance.

Since flooding in December, Snohomish County's Department of Emergency Management has been collecting reports that now total about \$4 million in public and private damages.

Tuesday's tour was a chance for officials with the state's Emergency Management Division and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to see damage firsthand as they determine whether to pursue federal flood assistance.

"We believe the damage to Snohomish County infrastructure warrants assistance," said Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon, who issued an emergency declaration as the Stillaguamish River and its branches reached record flood levels in December. The raging waters impacted several communities in Granite Falls, Arlington, Stanwood and unincorporated Snohomish County.

"We owe it to our residents to push for financial assistance from the state and FEMA," Reardon said.

Reardon immediately contacted the governor's office in December as floodwaters began receding. He also sent Gov. Chris Gregoire a letter encouraging the state to act on behalf of residents in Snohomish County and throughout the Puget Sound, parts of which also suffered flood damage.

In the meantime, the county approved a fee waiver for disposal of flood debris at county transfer stations and drop boxes through April 13. Residents first need to obtain a voucher before taking materials to the transfer station or drop box.

"We are doing all that we can to help families return to a sense of normalcy," Reardon said. "Now state and federal investigators have to decide how they can assist Snohomish County and its residents."

 **REMINDER: 10th Dr. King Community Celebration scheduled for Wednesday**

The community is invited to celebrate the life and values of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during the 10th annual celebration bearing his name. While most events are free of charge, some require an RSVP and have a suggested donation price.

Snohomish County is a sponsor of the King events, along with the city of Everett, YMCA of Snohomish County and United Way of Snohomish County.

Diversity Breakfast

7 to 8:30 a.m.

Holiday Inn, 3105 Pine St., Everett

Doors open at 7 a.m. An RSVP is required for breakfast and can be made at 425-374-5570 or events@uwsc.org. Suggested donation: \$10 individuals, \$100 table sponsorships.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Rally & March

10:30 a.m. to noon

Snohomish County Plaza, 3000 Wall St., Everett

FREE

Community Celebration

Noon to 1 p.m.

Edward D. Hansen Conference Center, 2000 Hewitt Ave.,

Everett

FREE

For more information, contact Amy Ockerlander at 425-388-3460 or amy.ockerlander@snoco.org.

Snohomish County burn ban lifted

Changes in weather patterns have helped clear out accumulating pollution from Snohomish County, eliminating the need for a burn ban here.

The Puget Sound Clean Air Agency anticipates air quality will improve tomorrow in King, Kitsap, Pierce and Snohomish counties, thanks to a new weather system moving into the region later today.

Late last week, the regional clean-air agency instituted a Stage 1 burn ban for Snohomish County, later expanding that ban to disallow burning in any fireplace, pellet stove or wood stove (certified or not), unless it was an only source of heat. All outdoor burning also had been banned.

Weather conditions and pollution levels can change quickly this time of year, so future burn bans are possible. The purpose of a burn ban is to reduce the amount of pollution that is creating unhealthy air. Air quality can deteriorate quickly, which is why taking action to curb burning can help keep air healthy.

The Washington State Department of Health recommends that people who are sensitive to air pollution limit time spent outdoors during burn bans. Air pollution can trigger asthma attacks, cause difficulty breathing, and make lung and heart problems worse.

Contact the Snohomish County Burn Ban Information line at 425-388-3508 for updated information or www.pscleanair.org/airq/agi.aspx# for conditions and forecasts. Find answers to frequently asked questions about

burn bans at www.pscleanair.org/airq/burnban/faqs.aspx .

Thank you very much for taking the time to read my electronic newsletter.

If you would like to send me your comments and feedback, or if you would like to unsubscribe, simply reply to this message.

You may also contact me directly by phone at 425.388.3460.

