

Snohomish County Executive **AARON REARDON**



Priorities in Action



Latest News & Upcoming Events

Friday, October 22, 2010

www.snoco.org

Reardon, residents to rededicate Lake Goodwin playground

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon will join neighbors Wednesday, Oct. 27, to celebrate the official reopening of Lake Goodwin Community Park's playground, destroyed this past summer by arson.

Residents, businesses and local leaders will gather at 4 p.m. for a brief dedication followed by a discussion of what steps residents want next to beautify the area.

"Community response to the damage was significant and impressive," Reardon said. "Numerous fundraisers were held, but mostly residents made it clear they will not tolerate such criminal activity."

About \$30,000 in monetary and equipment donations has made it possible to replace many of the playground pieces lost July 26 in an early morning fire that officials said was purposely set. About \$100,000 in damages was recorded, and an investigation is ongoing.

The playground was reopened in mid-September with donated equipment by Kompan and High Wire Inc. Neighbors and businesses also chipped in, offsetting the cost to repair and replace playground equipment.

Nonprofit and business donors have included the Lake Goodwin Community Club, Silvana Meats, Stanwood Haggen Foods, Stanwood QFC, Thrasher's Corner Pub & Grill Benefit Golf Tournament and the Pam Moffett Memorial Fund.

Donations for playground improvements continue to be accepted. They can be sent to Snohomish County Parks, 6705 Puget Park Dr., Snohomish, WA, 98296, with "Lake Goodwin Community Park Playground" specified.

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Did you know that you 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

Lake Goodwin Community Park is located at 4620 Lakewood Road, Stanwood.

USDA partners with county's Focus on Farming Conference

A \$48,500 grant over three years will help fund Snohomish County's annual Focus on Farming Conference, scheduled this year for Nov. 4 at the Tulalip Resort and Conference Center.

The grant, from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, was awarded to the county in September for its efforts to enhance competitiveness of specialty crops – one aspect of the annual conference that now draws more than 500 participants from across the state.

"Our partnership with the USDA shows the strong connections that this truly regional conference has with the agriculture industry in Washington state and beyond," Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon said. "The work we are doing here in Snohomish County is protecting farmland, keeping agriculture a viable option for generations to come and increasing farmers' profitability."

Another part of the USDA – the Farm Service Agency – was a sponsor of last year's Focus on Farming Conference and continues as a sponsor this year.

"We are pleased to support diverse efforts to help specialty crop growers market their products in a global marketplace and encourage all Americans to increase their fruit and vegetable consumption," said U.S. Deputy Agriculture Secretary Kathleen Merrigan. "These grants are instrumental in helping specialty crop growers tackle the issues they are facing today."

The USDA grant, part of a larger block grant to the state, is administered by the Washington State Department of Agriculture, which is co-hosting its statewide Future of Farming meeting at the Tulalip Resort and Conference Center the day before the annual Focus on Farming Conference.

This year, the county will use \$12,000 of the \$48,500, with \$17,500 available for next year and \$19,000 for 2012.

Snohomish County also is partnering with local organizations such as the Snohomish County Farm Bureau, which has donated

effectiveness of service delivery.

Simply visit our [SnoStat website](#).

Contact me:

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

Phone: 425.388.3460
Fax: 425.388.3434

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Sincerely,

Aaron Reardon

\$10,000 to this year's conference. Additional grants and sponsorships will help fund the 2010 conference, including money from the Snohomish Conservation District (\$5,000), USDA's Farm Service Agency (\$3,500) and Country Financial Insurance (\$3,500).

A number of \$2,500 sponsors include Cedar Grove Compost, NW Dairy Association, Washington State Farm Bureau, Bill the Butcher Inc, and the Washington Potato Commission.

"The fact that so many different agricultural organizations and companies want to be a part of this annual event says we're on the right track with our goals for farming in Snohomish County," Reardon said. "We continue to be a leader in agriculture initiatives."

To register for Focus on Farming VII, go to www.focusonfarming.org.

Updated flood maps now ready for public review

Snohomish County will host two public meetings designed to give residents a look at newly updated FEMA flood maps and the changes they incorporate.

These official flood hazard maps have been created by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) but are administered by Snohomish County. They identify the location of frequently flooded areas and are consulted to determine flood insurance premiums as well as permitting requirements in flood hazard areas.

The updated maps are still considered preliminary until formally adopted by FEMA. Residents attending either of two meetings can learn more about the changes incorporated in the new maps and how the changes will affect flood insurance requirements and building regulations.

Meetings will be held on the following dates and at the following locations:

- Arlington: Wednesday, Nov. 3, 6–8 p.m.
Arlington City Council Chambers, 110 East 3rd St.
- Monroe, Tuesday, Nov. 9, 6–8 p.m.
Park Place Middle School, 1408 West Main St.

The meetings will be held in an informal open-house format, with exhibits and information displays by FEMA and county staff. FEMA representatives will provide a short presentation on the new flood hazard classifications and will outline the process for a 90-day appeal period as well as the timeline for final adoption.

Changes in flood risk designation may affect mortgage loan requirements and flood insurance rates for those properties in areas proposed for adjustment. The county is notifying all affected households of the changes by mail.

Flood Hazard Maps, or Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) as they are also called, are maps that identify areas with a 1-percent chance of being flooded in a given year – commonly known as the 100-year floodplain. The maps are consulted by property owners, real estate, banks and regulatory agencies to determine where and how to build, and determine flood insurance premiums.

The most current maps on file were developed with data more than 20 years old and are outdated. Changes in hydrology as well as new ways to measure potential flood risks have allowed FEMA to create more accurate and updated versions.

The preliminary maps also can be viewed online at www.snoco.org by searching for “DFIRMS.” Residents can view maps in person at Snohomish County’s Department of Planning and Development Services, 3000 Rockefeller Ave., Everett. In some cases, maps also will be available at local city halls.

For more information on the meetings or to request accommodations for persons with disabilities, call Mary Hurner, Snohomish County Surface Water Management, at (425) 388-6401. For more information on the project, go to www.snoco.org and search “DFIRMS,” or contact Chris Nelson, Snohomish County Surface Water Management, at (425) 388-3464, ext. 4696

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You may also contact me directly by phone at 425.388.3460.