

Snohomish County Executive **AARON REARDON**



Priorities in Action



Latest News & Upcoming Events

Friday, October 15, 2010

www.snoco.org

Reardon welcomes Dick's Drive-In to Snohomish County

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon congratulated Dick's Drive-In on Friday for its decision to open a fast-food restaurant in Edmonds.

The announcement comes less than a month after Dick's asked Puget Sound residents to choose a new location through an online poll. With a little urging from Executive Reardon, Snohomish County residents stepped up, putting voting for a new Dick's south or east of Seattle out of reach.

"Dick's Drive-In is an iconic burger joint with a strong reputation for treating employees fairly," Reardon said. "This is a good day for Snohomish County residents, who will now have an easier time getting one of the best burgers in the Northwest."

Dick's said Friday the new property is located at 21900 Highway 99, in the northeast corner of the TOP Foods parking lot. Plans are to open the new drive-in by late 2011.

"All of the north-end communities have been very welcoming, but we can only build one restaurant at a time," said Jim Spady, vice president of Dick's Drive-Ins and son of co-founder and namesake, Dick Spady, in a statement posted on the company's website. "The Edmonds property is an ideal location on Highway 99 with easy access from Interstate 5 via 220th Street SW."

Multiple events surround Nov. 4 Focus on Farming

Participants at this year's Focus on Farming Conference, Nov. 4 at the Tulalip Resort and Conference Center, can tap into additional agricultural events being held in conjunction with the annual conference.

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How are we

On Nov. 3, conference participants can attend the county's second Land and Water Policy Summit, as well as the statewide agriculture industry's Future of Farming meeting. Both will also be held at the Tulalip Resort and Conference Center.

Farmers are invited to join other key interest groups for the second Land and Water Policy Summit from 9 a.m. to noon. This year's summit will focus on efforts to create a Sustainable Lands Strategy, led by Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon.

"Salmon habitat restoration and farmland preservation is not something that has to be mutually exclusive," says Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon. It is under this concept that he is cosponsoring the newly launched Sustainable Lands Strategy with County Councilman Dave Somers, the Puget Sound Partnership and other organizations.

The Sustainable Lands Strategy will help balance agricultural needs while restoring salmon runs in Snohomish County, a requirement of federal law. Draft policy and code recommendations will be discussed at this land-use summit with final recommendations submitted to the Executive and County Council by the end of 2010.

Also that afternoon is the next Future of Farming Strategic Plan meeting, sponsored by agricultural industry leaders in collaboration with the Washington State Department of Agriculture and Washington State University. The purpose of the meeting is to share information on recent activities that advance the statewide strategic plan, which was released in January 2009, and to discuss statewide issues that cut across production agriculture.

The highlight, however, will be Nov. 4's seventh annual Focus on Farming Conference, now a statewide event. This year's conference, with its "Get Up and Grow!" theme, will offer farmers a glimpse of agriculture's future across Washington state and the Northwest.

Since 2004, Reardon has brought together regional farmers, growers and retailers for a day of learning and networking while enjoying farm-fresh local products prepared by gourmet chefs.

"Executive Reardon's commitment to preserving agriculture in Snohomish County has helped create a place at the table for those of us involved in agriculture so that we can discuss these important policy issues," said Brian Bookey, chairman of the Agriculture Advisory Board and president of National Food Corporation, which employees about 300 people. "It also was a key factor in our decision

doing?

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Or, [send me an email](#).

Sincerely,

Aaron Reardon

to rebuild our Stanwood-area egg production farm lost in a fire rather than moving it to Eastern Washington."

To register for Focus on Farming VII, go to www.focusonfarming.org. For conference questions, contact Linda Neunzig, the county's agriculture project coordinator, at 425-388-7170 or linda.neunzig@snoco.org.

For information on the Land and Water Policy Summit, contact Ryan Hembree, agriculture coordinator, at ryan.hembree@snoco.org or 425-330-4885.

Contact WSDA's Mary Beth Lang at 360-902-1812 or mblang@agr.wa.gov for information on the Future of Farming event.

Reardon urges residents to prepare for flood season

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon has declared October 24-31 as "Flood Preparedness Week," urging residents to stock up on emergency supplies before the flood season begins.

"This year, with the National Weather Service forecasting a wetter, colder winter, it is especially important for citizens to have a family plan and emergency supplies for extreme conditions," Reardon said. "The county is taking a similar inventory of supplies and emergency response plans for severe weather so that our staff will be fully equipped and ready to assist."

Snohomish County produces an annual publication that provides valuable flood-related information for residents. The 2010 Flood Guide includes:

- preventing flooding and protecting your property;
- actions you can take to avoid flood disaster – before, during and after a flood;
- the Flood Warning System, and how it works;
- emergency phone numbers and contact information;
- obtaining flood insurance.

The 2010 Flood Guide was recently mailed to all floodplain area residents. It is also available online at www.snoco.org by searching "2010 Flood Guide." Other copies can be obtained from the Snohomish County Departments of Emergency Management by calling 425-388-5060 or Public Works' Surface Water Management Division at 425-388-3464.

Flooding in Snohomish County generally occurs between October and March. More than 10,150 households live within the county's 222 square miles of floodplain. Six presidential declarations of disaster have been issued for Snohomish County since 2006: four for flooding, one for a severe winter storm and another for a severe winter storm with near-record snow. Damage estimates for these storms total nearly \$60 million.

For more information on preparedness visit these sites:

- www.snoco.org, then click on Surface Water Management and Department of Emergency Management web pages;
- www.emd.wa.gov/preparedness/prep_infocus_winter.shtml#Floods;
- <http://www.snohomishcounty.redcross.org>.

County to monitor new crosswalk system for future uses

Snohomish County will install a new activated crosswalk system in front of the YMCA on Puget Park Drive east of Mill Creek to monitor its effectiveness for future uses.

Called "HAWK" for High intensity Activated crossWalk, the system uses a red-yellow-red light sequence to alert drivers that pedestrians are about to cross the road. The system is activated when a pedestrian presses a button on the traffic signal pole. The overhead signal begins flashing yellow and then becomes a solid yellow, advising drivers to prepare to stop. The signal then displays a solid red and shows the pedestrian a "Walk" indicator.

The solid red light is followed by an alternating flashing red signal indicating that motorists may proceed after coming to a full stop if there are no pedestrians in the crosswalk. While motorists see the flashing red light, pedestrians see a flashing "Don't Walk" with a countdown indicating the time left to cross. When not activated, the signal is blank and the "Do Not Walk" indicator is visible to pedestrians.

"The county is always looking for ways to improve safety and accessibility for pedestrians," Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon said. "This first HAWK signal will be monitored by Public Works for future consideration at other intersections."

The system was developed in Tucson, Ariz., to provide safer road crossing options for pedestrians and has since been successfully used throughout the United States.

Installation of the new crosswalk and signal will begin in mid-October and is expected to be completed by the end of December. During construction there will be occasional temporary one-lane closures on Puget Park Drive.

For more information or to register for project updates, go to www.snoco.org and search "HAWK."

Workshops focus on septic-system care, maintenance

Snohomish County will host four septic-care workshops for residents near Maltby and Snohomish this October and November at the dates and locations provided below.

The key objective of the workshops is to improve residents' septic systems, which can save homeowners money while protecting drinking-water supplies, public health and surface-water quality in creeks, lakes and rivers.

Teri King, a septic system expert from the University of Washington's SeaGrant program, will offer a suite of everyday maintenance tips to help maximize a septic system's life and prevent failure.

Attendees will receive an education packet and a free septic system care kit, including a sink strainer, faucet aerators, toilet leak test dye strips, a low-flow showerhead and more – a more-than-\$25 value. Attendees also will be entered to win a free septic system inspection as a door prize.

Septic care workshops will be held on the following dates, times and locations:

Thursday, Oct. 14, 6:30-9:30 p.m.
Maltby Community Club
8711 206th St. SE, Snohomish

Saturday, Oct. 16, 9 a.m.-noon
Snohomish Library
311 Maple Ave., Snohomish

Saturday, Oct. 30, 9 a.m.-noon
Maltby Community Club
8711 206th St. SE, Snohomish

Thursday, Nov. 11, 6:30-9:30 pm

Snohomish Fire & Rescue
1525 Ave. D, Snohomish

The workshops are being offered as a part of Snohomish County's Septic Care Outreach Program, a partnership of Snohomish County, the city of Snohomish, Snohomish Health District, WSU Extension-Snohomish County and the Snohomish County PUD. The workshops are funded by a grant from the Washington State Department of Ecology Centennial Clean Water Fund.

To register for any of the above workshops, contact Stef Frenzl at stef.frenzl@snoco.org or call 425-388-6466.

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

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You may also contact me directly by phone at 425.388.3460.