

# Snohomish County Executive **AARON REARDON**



**Priorities in Action**



**Latest News & Upcoming Events**

**Friday, October 5, 2010**

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## **Reardon's 2011 budget offers sustainable approach to job growth, public safety**

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon presented his 2011 proposed budget Thursday, offering a fiscally responsible and sustainable approach that focuses on job creation, public safety and serving vulnerable populations – without tax increases.

“The budget I present today continues to provide for a safe and vibrant community while laying a solid fiscal foundation for the future,” he said before elected leaders, County Council members, employees and the general public.

The proposed General Fund budget for 2011 is just under \$202 million – similar to the 2010 budget – and is based on modest revenue projections agreed to by Council and Executive financial analysts. Across all funds, the Snohomish County budget proposal offers just less than \$600 million in services and infrastructure.

The budget also sets aside funds to rebuild the County's financial reserves to targeted levels in 2011.

Reardon took time Thursday to laud elected leaders for their participation in this year's budget process, calling the 2011 budget proposal the, “direct result of teamwork and the closest possible partnership.”

“This could not have been achieved without the commitment and dedication of our many county employees, and in particular, our elected leadership,” he said. “Each elected official came to the table during this budget process with a true appreciation for the need to be fiscally responsible and innovate to serve our people better.”

As a result, where other big counties are making drastic cuts to

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balance, Snohomish County's 2011 proposed General Fund budget protects services for vulnerable populations. Public safety programs also are maintained and still the largest part of the General Fund budget at more than 73 percent of total spending.

In addition, next year's budget allows for fund balance growth yet still reduces the need for layoffs, anticipating eliminating fewer than 20 filled positions out of a more than 2,700 person workforce.

Economic development and job growth also took center stage through much of Reardon's remarks.

"We are continually pursuing an aggressive path forward, quickening our pace to reach our goal of an economy stronger than any of our neighbors," he said, while highlighting the County's efforts to promote economic development.

To view more information on Reardon's budget proposals for 2011, [click here](#).

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## **County offers bond assistance to riverfront project**

In an effort to assist the city of Everett with its riverfront redevelopment, Snohomish County approved two recovery bond packages totaling nearly \$19 million on Wednesday.

The county is offering \$18.6M of its American Recovery and Reinvestment Act bond allocation to jumpstart the Everett Riverfront project, which is expected to include a countywide Farmers' Market.

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon forwarded two proposals that the County Council approved Wednesday.

"These projects have the potential to add about 400 new jobs if completed, which could significantly add to the local economy," Reardon said.

Specifically, Oliver McMillan Everett, LLC, has been offered a \$1.36 million bond allocation. The project reclaims a previous city brownfield and could revitalize the eastern most portion of Everett along the Snohomish River.

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### **Contact me:**

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Sincerely,

Aaron Reardon

Another \$5 million has been offered to the city to construct a year-round, 53,000-square-foot riverside farmers' market as a centerpiece of the Oliver McMillan project. The market would be operated by local farmers.

"These bonds are one tool we are using to stimulate jobs and business growth in Snohomish County," Reardon said.

PB Associates was awarded \$1.2 million in bonds earlier in the year to construct a new 15,000-square-foot building expansion for Cascade Aircraft Services, which produces bulletproof cockpit doors and other aerospace parts. The expansion will allow the aerospace manufacturer the opportunity to extend its reach into the global aerospace market.

The bond money offered to companies can be used to fund public and private capital improvements that promote economic development and job growth throughout the county. Private-sector businesses assume full responsibility for payment of this bond debt.

For more information on the program, contact Donna Ambrose at 425.388.3219 or [donna.ambrose@snoco.org](mailto:donna.ambrose@snoco.org).

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## **Focus on Farming, Nov. 4, offers glimpse of ag's future**

Snohomish County's Focus on Farming Conference returns Thursday, Nov. 4, for the seventh year, offering farmers a glimpse of agriculture's future across Washington state as well as the Northwest.

Hosted at the Tulalip Resort & Conference Center, the nationally recognized conference continues the ongoing dialogue between what consumers want and how farms can grow to meet those needs.

"As farming in Snohomish County continues changing, we must remain ahead of the curve," Reardon said. "This annual conference brings together the pieces that make agriculture successful and meaningful to consumers and producers."

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. More than 500 people attended last year's conference.

This year's conference, with its "Get Up and Grow!" theme, begins with a panel discussion on organic and traditional growing methods and why they each can work.

From there, participants can choose from six different tracks offering dozens of workshop sessions that focus on emerging markets, consumer purchasing trends, conservation practices, healthy soils and more.

Highlighting this year's keynote speakers list are Bob Treadway and Damian Mason.

Treadway is in his 25th year as a forecaster, strategy consultant and foresight advisor. He has worked with large organizations including Berkshire Hathaway, Syngenta, Farm Credit Services, the Federal Reserve and the National Corn Growers Association. His work has taken him to eight countries and 139 cities in the past two years. He will discuss how to anticipate consumer and retail developments while building robust food-related enterprises.

Mason is a comedian with an enthusiasm for the agriculture industry. He has a degree in agricultural economics and has studied comedy writing and improvisation at the prestigious Second City in Chicago. Mason combines his farm background and knowledge, with a brilliant sense of comedic timing, allowing him to connect with the heart of agriculture: its people.

"Since the beginning, we've tried to spotlight some of the best experts in the United States," Reardon said. "This year is no different."

As always, the day is filled with a gourmet lunch prepared by local chefs with locally grown and raised food. The evening will be topped off with a wine-and-cheese tasting featuring wineries and artisan cheese makers from Western Washington.

To register for the conference or to view a list of breakout sessions, go to [www.focusonfarming.org](http://www.focusonfarming.org). For questions, contact Linda Neunzig, the county's agriculture project coordinator, at 425-388-7170 or [linda.neunzig@snoco.org](mailto:linda.neunzig@snoco.org).

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## **DUI victims to be honored at county's memorial wall**

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon and members of the Snohomish County DUI and Target Zero Task Force will unveil 13 tiles for DUI victims being commemorated on the DUI Victims Memorial Wall.

The unveiling ceremony will take place at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 6, at McCollum Park, 600 128th St., Everett.

The Snohomish County DUI Victims Memorial Wall is the first in Washington state. The initial unveiling of 45 tiles took place July 19, 2001. With this year's additions, the front of the wall will include 125 Snohomish County DUI victims.

"Families would rather have their loved ones alive and well than a marker on a memorial wall," Reardon said. "However, until these senseless and avoidable tragedies stop, we must continue drawing awareness to them."

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