

Snohomish County Executive
AARON REARDON



Priorities in Action



Latest News & Upcoming Events

Friday, September 10, 2010

www.snoco.org

 **County bridge selected as 2010 “Best County Project”**

The Federal Highway Administration has selected Snohomish County’s new Sauk River Bridge in Darrington for its 2010 FHWA Award of Excellence as its “Best County Project.”

The annual award, presented by the Federal Highway Administration and Washington State Department of Transportation, recognizes federally funded transportation projects that achieved excellence in safety enhancements, construction, innovative design, environmental sustainability and community involvement.

“Our Public Works employees step up to the challenges facing them every day,” Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon said. “The construction of this bridge required innovation and creativity and is worthy of this honor.”

The Sauk River Bridge spans the Sauk River, a federally designated Wild and Scenic River, and leads to the Mount Baker National Forest.

Construction would ordinarily require temporary structures within the river to support assembly of the bridge framework. However, the necessary in-water work was not permitted due to spawning habitat of endangered and threatened salmon species in the vicinity.

As a result, the framework for the bridge was completely assembled on one side of the river and rolled over the water to its foundation on the other side. An innovative cantilever/roller system was devised to accomplish this complex task.

“This project was very unique, but the result is both an engineering marvel and an aesthetic match to its natural surroundings,” said Steve Thomsen, the county’s Public Works director.

The Sauk River Bridge provides a dramatic stopping point for tourists

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on the Mountain Loop Highway with its backdrop of snow-capped Whitehorse Mountain and neighboring Cascade peaks.

At 479 feet, the new structure is Snohomish County's longest two-span, steel-truss bridge. It replaces an original structure built in 1930 that had become both functionally obsolete and structurally deficient.

The new structure is the first steel bridge in the Pacific Northwest to be both hot-dip galvanized and powder-coated for superior paint adhesion. Its foundations are planted up to 125 feet deep to ensure survival during extreme spring and winter floods.

Funding for the project included federal appropriations of \$14.6 million as well as Snohomish County contributions of \$3.5 million.

For more information or to view pictures, go to www.snoco.org and search "Sauk River Bridge."



Future of Flight awarded NASA grant

The Future of Flight Foundation, which operates Snohomish County's Future of Flight museum at Paine Field, was awarded nearly \$50,000 from NASA for a summer program for middle school students.

"Flights of Innovation," which is currently conducted during the traditional school year, is an innovative and unique educational program for middle school students, designed to spark an interest in

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Sincerely,


Aaron Reardon

science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) careers, especially for the aerospace industry. The NASA grant will allow the program to be offered during the summer months.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for our local students to learn more about careers in the aerospace industry, of which Snohomish County is a leading manufacturer,” said Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon. “The Future of Flight museum offers the opportunity for children to imagine themselves working in an exciting industry that supports thousands of families in Snohomish County and Washington state.”

The Future of Flight Foundation also recently received \$30,000 from The Boeing Company, \$10,000 from the Center of Excellence for Aerospace and Advanced Materials Manufacturing, \$2,000 from Puget Sound Energy Foundation and gifts from many individuals for its “Flights of Innovation” program.

The program, piloted in 2009, teaches students important skills such as problem solving, critical thinking, collaboration and teamwork, job search, resume preparation, job interviewing, public speaking, and creating multimedia presentations.

For more information, go to www.futureofflightfoundation.org.

County bonds available to general public for purchase

Snohomish County will begin issuing more than \$18 million in limited tax general obligation bonds next week in order to fund a variety of infrastructure improvements throughout the county.

For the first time, local residents are invited to invest in these secured, interest-bearing bonds at \$5,000 increments.

“We’re offering the general public a chance to invest in projects that will directly benefit them,” Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon said. “During a time of difficult finances, these are strong investment opportunities generally only available to large financial companies.”

“Funding these improvements is a great deal for the taxpayers,” said Council Chairman Dave Gossett. “Interest rates are very low, bids are coming in at bargain prices, and the construction will produce badly needed jobs.”

The bonds are being sold in two separate series.

Approximately \$13.2 million of the bonds are being sold as "Recovery Zone Economic Development Bonds." This funding will be used for much needed improvements to roads, parks, bridges, drainage culverts and the acquisition of a county emergency operations center.

The second series of bonds, worth about \$5 million, will fund improvements currently underway at the county's Paine Field Airport.

These projects will create new, temporary jobs during the current recession and are slated to be constructed between 2010 and 2012.

"The issuance of both series of bonds will be of benefit to the citizens of Snohomish County as well as a boost to the local economy," said Roger Neumaier, the county's Finance Director.

Interested investors should contact Seattle Northwest Securities at 206-628-2854 and ask for Dan Greenwood, or they may contact their own broker for additional information.

County lifts burn ban for unincorporated areas

A burn ban imposed July 15 for unincorporated areas of Snohomish County has been lifted.

Individuals with residential burn permits are now able to have controlled fires.

Recreational fires also are allowed in approved fire pits and do not need a burn permit. The fire pit must be constructed of a noncombustible material such as concrete or metal and needs to be a minimum of 15 feet from structures. A recreational fire is a cooking fire or campfire using charcoal or firewood. These fires may not be greater than three feet in diameter and/or two feet in height. Water must also be immediately available.

If you reside within an incorporated city or town, or within an urban growth area in Snohomish County, contact your city fire department for burn restriction information.

While burning is allowed again in unincorporated areas, caution should continue to be used this time of year.

For updated information, call the Outdoor Burning Information Hotline at 425-388-3508.

County's Solid Waste facilities to close early

for training

Snohomish County's Solid Waste Division has planned early closures at its facilities in Everett, Mountlake Terrace and Arlington to allow for staff training.

The sites will close at 3:30 p.m. as follows:

Wednesday, Sept. 15 – ARTS (Airport Road Recycling and Transfer Station)

Thursday, Sept. 16 – SWRTS (Southwest Recycling and Transfer Station)

Friday, Sept. 17 – NCRTS (North County Recycling and Transfer Station)

Customers of each facility should arrive by 3 p.m. to allow for processing before the 3:30 p.m. closure.

For questions, call 425-388-3425 and press "0."

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.