

Snohomish County Executive
AARON REARDON



Priorities in Action



Latest News & Upcoming Events

Friday, July 2, 2010

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 **An Independence Day message from Executive Reardon**

Dear Friends,

I know I have often used this space to talk about the many blessings we have in our lives, and despite this difficult national recession that continues to plague our economy, that is still true today.

This weekend, we celebrate our nation's independence, which means more than fireworks, barbecues and picnics. First celebrated in 1777, Independence Day gives us a chance to remember the courage and determination of those who founded our great country as well as those who fought (and still fight) for our freedom.

You may have read recently about the World Trade Organization's ruling in favor of the Boeing Company, affirming that Airbus subsidies used to develop commercial airplanes must end. I have said for years that the women and men of the Boeing Company make the best airplanes in the world.

But this positive news is further proof that the strength of this country remains in its people's willingness to take bold steps, try new ideas and continue to create an American spirit of which we can be proud.

I hope that you have a safe and happy July 4th weekend filled with family, friends and fun.

Sincerely,

- Aaron

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 **Reardon asks Council to support countywide Hunting and Fishing Heritage Program**

How are we doing?

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon has asked the County Council to support rural resource landowners by adopting policies in support of a Hunting and Fishing Heritage Program.

A Hunting and Fishing Heritage Program would establish heritage areas to protect the right and ability to hunt and fish in parts of Snohomish County where that activity has historically occurred. Hunting and fishing are a part of Snohomish County's cultural history as well as economic drivers for local resource landowners and farmers.

"As county leaders, we should protect this valuable legacy," Reardon said. "This piece of our heritage is worth protecting, and worth leaving as a legacy to our children and generations beyond."

Following the adoption of the proposed policy, Reardon's office would work with the County Council, the Agriculture Advisory Board and the Planning Commission to draft specific changes to existing regulations that would allow landowners to voluntarily protect their lands for hunting and fishing.

The County Council will consider its 2010 annual Comprehensive Plan amendments known as Docket XIV on Wednesday, July 7. The Council has yet to include the Hunting and Fishing Heritage Program – supported by the Snohomish County Agricultural Advisory Board – for consideration.

"Many landowners already have made significant investments in support of hunting and fishing on their lands that is at risk of pressure from encroaching development under current regulations," Reardon said. "County residents will lose the opportunity to hunt and fish in their own backyard if we don't work to protect it."

County's Project Homeless Connect serves 900 in need

About 900 individuals and families needing human services attended Snohomish County's second annual Project Homeless Connect at Cascade High School on Tuesday.

This year's numbers are nearly double last year's 500 individuals and families who were experiencing homelessness and came to receive services at the daylong event.

"We know that families and individuals are hurting during this severe economic recession," Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon said. "Events such as these and the resource fairs we held in February are designed to help those with critical needs find resources such as

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

Sincerely,



Aaron Reardon

jobs and housing.”

Individuals attending Tuesday’s Project Homeless Connect event cited the economic downturn, high unemployment rates and distressed housing market as the top reasons for their homelessness or difficult circumstances.

Snohomish County’s Human Resources Department collaborated with numerous nonprofits, the Homeless Policy Task Force and community members to provide services including a hot meal, medical and dental services, pet-care services, haircuts, housing resources and hearing/vision care.

Driven by volunteers and donations, this year’s event went on despite difficulties in raising enough funds and donations.

“Donations this year were down significantly from last year,” said Stephani Perin-Earling, volunteer coordinator for the event. “But businesses and nonprofits also have been impacted by this recession.”

Donations are still being collected to offset expenses and to begin planning for next year’s event. To make a monetary donation, please make your check payable to: The Everett Gospel Mission c/o Project Homeless Connect, PO Box 423, Everett, WA 98206-0423.

For more information about the event, contact Stephani Perin-Earling at Stephani@arcsno.org or Dean Weitenhagen at dean.weitenhagen@snoco.org.



County art project wins international honor

A public art project commissioned by Snohomish County and paid for through the 1-percent-for-the-arts program has been nationally recognized by Americans for the Arts as one of the best public arts projects in the nation.

“Landing Zone,” an art installation at Paine Field Community Park by artist Peter Reiquam was selected for the 2010 Public Art Year in Review, recognizing 40 of the year’s best public art works in the United States and Canada. The works were chosen from more than 300 entries.

“It’s important that we promote art and cultural identity in Snohomish County because it helps build a healthy and vibrant community of which residents can be proud,” Reardon said. “This honor further shows we are on the right track with our 1-percent-for-the-arts program.”

The whimsical sculpture of a just-landed flying saucer was the county's first public art project since the inception of the Snohomish County Arts Commission in 2004 and Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon's request for arts funding from certain county construction projects and the County Council's approval of that funding in 2006.

"Peter Reiquam's 'Landing Zone' is a brilliant convergence of art and function and a fine illustration of accessible art," said Snohomish County Arts Commission Chairwoman Rebecca Chawgo. "'Landing Zone' has already become a landmark. It is a work of art that we can enjoy and a place we can meet for generations to come."

Landing Zone put a humorous spin on the theme of flight with its location so close to the airport. The installation was created to represent a new kind of community gathering place, one that provides a unique, sculptural plaza shelter in the form of a 16-foot-diameter flying saucer. Integrated seating in the form of natural boulders suggests an alien landscape and a cast concrete "X" bench marks the fictional landing zone.

The 1-percent-for-the-arts program requires a 1-percent contribution to the county's arts fund as part of county construction projects – excluding roads – that cost at least \$100,000. Funds generated by the 1 percent are designated toward acquisition of visual and performing works of art.

Art works are selected based upon recommendation to the county executive by the Snohomish County Arts Commission. Since the program began, the county has installed and purchased 14 works from available funding.

Paine Field Community Park is located at 11928 Beverly Park Road in Everett.

For more information, contact Wendy Becker, the county's Economic and Cultural Development officer, at 425-388-3186 or wendy.becker@snoco.org.



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You may also contact me directly by phone at 425.388.3460.