

Snohomish County Executive **AARON REARDON**



Priorities in Action



Latest News & Upcoming Events

Friday, May 28, 2010

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Reardon, farmers launch Growers Alliance

On Tuesday, June 8, Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon and local farmers will roll out the creation of a new nonprofit organization devoted to advancing economic growth among county farmers.

The new nonprofit is a direct result of Reardon's agriculture initiative launched in 2007 and is a key aspect of the recently released "Snohomish County Growers Alliance Charter Business Plan," prepared by Community Attributes with a \$45,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The business plan, put together with guidance from a dozen local farmers during the past year, highlights the need for an independent nonprofit structure promoted by local farmers but with assistance from county and municipal governments.

"This is an opportunity for local farmers to take ownership of their financial future," Reardon said. "This nonprofit organization will be owned and operated by farmers who want to increase their opportunities locally and regionally."

Led by local farmers, the nonprofit growers' alliance will assist in the development of a permanent and year-round farmers' market, find additional ways to increase farm productivity and profitability, and provide a voice for the agriculture industry within Snohomish County.

"It is the mission of this alliance to turn local farmers' financial vulnerability into profitability by providing markets that will supply high quality and locally grown food to our neighbors," said Carol Krause, a local farmer and the nonprofit's president. "The formation of the growers' alliance is the first step in organizing ourselves so that we, the agricultural community in Snohomish County, will be in a position to provide support for

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The SnoStat system tracks how well the

our local industry.”

The nonprofit’s first goal is to gain 100 members in 100 days, Krause said.

Beginning at 10 a.m., at Swan’s Trail Farm, 7301 Rivershore Road, Snohomish, Reardon, Krause and other members of the alliance will discuss strategies for reaching that goal as well as talk about next steps including a future farmers’ market.

“We know that since the last agriculture census, farmland and farmers in Snohomish County have increased,” Reardon said. “It’s important to continue building on those successes while also working to preserve farmland for future generations.”

To read the Snohomish County Growers Alliance Charter Business Plan, go to www.snocobiz.org/news.php.

For more information, contact Linda Neunzig, agriculture project coordinator, at 425-388-7170 or linda.neunzig@snoco.org; or contact Carol Krause at 425-334-4124 or thefarm1@gte.net.



County named Employer of the Year

Snohomish County was recently named Employer of the Year by the Arc of Snohomish County.

Snohomish County was selected for fostering a community of inclusion and going above and beyond its mission to support individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

“I cannot stress enough how important it is to serve all populations living in Snohomish County, including those with developmental disabilities,” County Executive Reardon said after accepting the award. “Snohomish County is creating opportunities for people with developmental disabilities.”

The Arc – Advocates for the Rights of Citizens with developmental disabilities – began in Snohomish County in 1943 to increase the number of special education programs and services for children.

“The work that the Arc of Snohomish County is doing fills a great need in our county,” Reardon said. “It, too, should be recognized for its efforts here and across the state.”

Other awards were given to Rod Duncan, of the Division of

County is delivering services, the costs of those services, and the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery.

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Contact me:

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

Phone: 425.388.3460
Fax: 425.388.3434

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

Sincerely,

Aaron Reardon

Developmental Disabilities for Outstanding State Professional and Melinda Bocci of Snohomish County Developmental Disabilities for Outstanding County Professional.

John Amber-Oliver, Rebecca Christofferson, Meagan Diemert, James Oliver and the Marysville School District were recognized as outstanding volunteers and the Mill Creek Foursquare Church received the Outstanding Community Partner award.

Long term Arc of Snohomish Board members Joan Flesher, Mike Hatch, Joyce McMillen and state Rep. Al O'Brien also received awards. Together they represent 51 years of service.

County resurfacing 109 miles of roadways

Snohomish County will soon begin its annual roadway resurfacing program, this year focusing on 109 miles of county roadways.

The county annually evaluates its entire road network in an effort to develop a multi-year plan for preserving and maintaining county roads in the most cost-effective way possible. This year the county will place an asphalt overlay on 12 miles and a chip seal on 97 miles of road. The county also contracts with cities to perform overlays and will resurface another 1.5 miles for Woodway.

Road Maintenance Division crews will use about 15,000 tons of asphalt to patch potholes and rough or failing pavement as well as to complete the chip sealing. Chip sealing extends the life of the road surface for an additional seven to 10 years with minimal cost. Typically crews are able to complete the work quickly to minimize impacts to residents and businesses.

The process consists of the following steps:

- * A layer of asphalt oil is applied to the road.
- * This is followed by a layer of crushed rock/chips.
- * The chips are pressed into place by a roller.

The road is immediately usable, and during the following week, most remaining crushed rock is pressed into the asphalt by vehicles driving on the road. A temporary 20 m.p.h. speed limit will be enforced during that time. Crews return within a week to sweep up any remaining loose chips and replace pavement markings.

Contract overlay work has already been completed in the

southeast portion of the county and will begin on June 1 in southwest Snohomish County.

Chip sealing is scheduled to begin in south and southeast Snohomish County by July 6. The county will perform work farther north by the end of July and should have all chip seal work completed by the end of August or early September.

 **Plan Ahead: early closures scheduled at county disposal facilities June 2 - 4**

Snohomish County Solid Waste facilities in Everett, Mountlake Terrace and Arlington will close early on June 2-4 for ongoing staff training.

Specifically, each site will close at 3 p.m. on the following schedule:

- * Wednesday, June 2 – ARTS (Airport Road Recycling and Transfer Station)
- * Thursday, June 3 – SWRTS (Southwest Recycling and Transfer Station)
- * Friday, June 4 – NCRTS (North County Recycling and Transfer Station)

Customers are asked to arrive by 2:30 p.m. to allow for processing before the 3 p.m. closure. For questions, please 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.