

Snohomish County Executive **AARON REARDON**



Priorities in Action



Latest News & Upcoming Events

Friday, April 16, 2010

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Reardon to dedicate Lake Stevens Park Saturday

New ball fields will be named in honor of Gary Cease

More than 300 people are expected to attend Saturday's grand opening of Lake Stevens Community Park as well as the dedication of the ball fields being named for community advocate Gary Cease. Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon and other elected officials from the county and Lake Stevens will join the Lake Stevens Junior Athletic Association (LSJAA), friends and family of Gary Cease and others for the opening. Festivities begin at 10 a.m. at the park located at 1601 N. Machias Road.

"The Lake Stevens Community Park is a wonderful amenity to the county park system," Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon said. "It offers new ball fields for the youth of Snohomish County while providing volunteer opportunities for community groups."

Property for the park was originally purchased from Roesler Timber Company in 1996 with the assistance of the LSJAA. Following years of community design input and master planning, construction of the park began in 2008 at a cost of \$4.3 million. Funding for the project included park impact mitigation fees, real-estate excise tax and a grant from the State of Washington Recreation Conservation Office.

Included in that construction are three new ball fields that will be named after Gary Cease, a popular, long-time volunteer coach and referee who worked tirelessly as an advocate for the Lake Stevens area youth.

Cease served 28 years as a coach, referee, mentor and ambassador for youth baseball, football and wrestling. He assisted the baseball and football little leagues as well as the middle and high school wrestling programs in Lake Stevens. He was a former president of the Lake Stevens Junior Athletic Association and Greater

In this issue:

Reardon to dedicate Lake Stevens Park Saturday

Reardon applauds Council for passing 2010 supplemental budget

Join your neighbors for Earth Day at Allen Creek

ST Chair Reardon, WSDOT launch construction of new HOV lane on I-90

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Snohomish County Youth Football League and served with the Lake Stevens Parks and Recreation Board. Cease died November 11, 2008.

The LSJAA will open and close the park, assume maintenance and operation responsibilities and help coordinate sports at the park for more than 2,500 young people participating in baseball, softball, football, soccer, cheerleading and basketball.

The park also includes Glen Anderson's mosaic artwork, funded through the county's 1 percent for the arts program.

For more information, contact Tom Teigen, county parks department director, at 425-388-6600 or tom.teigen@snoco.org.



Reardon applauds Council for passing 2010 supplemental budget

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon applauded the County Council's action Wednesday approving a modified county budget for 2010.

The Council's 2010 budget, passed in November 2009, was modified Wednesday to take into account a continuing drop in revenues due to a stalled economy. The new budget calls for all county departments to decrease spending, putting expenditures more in line with projected revenues for 2010.

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Sincerely,

Aaron Reardon

“The action on this supplemental budget was absolutely necessary as we continue to see a drop in revenues due to this stalled economy,” Reardon said Wednesday. “The budget passed today by the Council is a better accounting of the changes we expected to see in 2010, and it better prepares us for the continued slowdown we expect in 2011.”

Analysts suggest an uptick in the national economy since the beginning of the Great Recession has begun. But it could still be one or more years before a positive impact is realized in the Northwest.

The budget modification passed Wednesday eliminates more than \$6.5 million in current year expenditures on an across-the-board basis from all departments. These expenditure reductions address an anticipated revenue shortfall of \$3.6 million in 2010, while allowing for a critical contribution of \$2.9 million to year-end fund balance in the General Fund.

Between 2004 and 2006, the county’s fund balance grew to more than \$30 million. Since that time, due to the recession and continued use of the fund balance, the fund balance has dropped to less than \$10 million.

Recently, Reardon proposed and Council passed a federally subsidized bond package to stimulate the local economy. Under the plan, Snohomish County will begin making more than \$20 million in American Recovery Reinvestment Act (ARRA) bonds available to local companies to create new jobs.

Snohomish County will use another \$13 million in Recovery Zone Bonds to complete public-safety road projects and capital improvements of certain public facilities, including the Snohomish County Fairgrounds.

“Both bond proposals will create temporary and permanent jobs while stimulating growth throughout the county,” Reardon said.

 **Join your neighbors for Earth Day at Allen Creek**

Celebrate your local stream this Earth Day! The AQWA Team (Allen Quilceda Watershed Action Team) will host a free hands-on Earth Day event at Jennings Park in Marysville.

The public event, to be held Saturday, April 24, offers many fun activities for both children and adults, including a chance to “dig

in” and get some work done along Allen Creek. Participants are invited to stop by between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. to learn about salmon, native trees, water pollution and steps they can take to keep their streams healthy.

“We must promote awareness and support a conscious effort to change practices that are harmful to the environment,” Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon said. “This event is a great opportunity to put that philosophy in action.”

The first 200 participants will receive a “blank” shirt depicting an outline of their watershed. Everyone can then personalize their shirt as they visit different sponsor booths located throughout the park. Each booth will teach participants about a different part of their watershed. Volunteers will also be planting native trees along the creek and digging up blackberry roots to improve conditions for fish and other wildlife.

“We hope that through creating their own shirts, students and adults alike will see all of the ways they impact their local streams and rivers with the choices they make every day” said Cara Ianni of the Stilly-Snohomish Fisheries Enhancement Task Force.

Adopt-A-Stream Foundation’s Jennifer Adams added, “There will be lots of fun activities that people can join. We think this will be a great time for the whole family!”

The AQWA Team is a partnership of local agencies and organizations working together to restore and protect the health of Allen and Quilceda creeks. AQWA Team members include Snohomish County Surface Water Management, the Stilly-Snohomish Fisheries Enhancement Task Force, Adopt-A-Stream Foundation, city of Marysville, city of Arlington, the state Department of Ecology, Snohomish Conservation District, the Tulalip Tribes, Evergreen Fly Fishing Club and local citizens.

Other event participants include WSU Extension Beach Watchers and Shore Stewards and the Snohomish County Noxious Weed Board.

For more information, contact Cindy Flint at 425-388-6628 or cindy.flint@snoco.org, or contact Jennifer Adams at 425-316-8592. Large groups are asked to pre-register.

 **ST Chair Reardon, WSDOT launch construction of new HOV lane on I-90**

Latest stage of Lake Washington HOV expansion supports 2013

launch of light rail construction

Sound Transit and the Washington State Department of Transportation on Wednesday broke ground on the next stage of adding new HOV lanes in both directions across Lake Washington on Interstate 90 to prepare for East Link light rail service between Seattle and the Eastside.

"Each step of this work saves time for commuters," said Sound Transit Board Chair and Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon. "By adding all-day HOV lanes in both directions and finally light rail, we're meeting the regional demand for fast, reliable options for moving people on our busiest corridors."

The new HOV lanes and HOV direct access ramps will help improve the speed, safety, and reliability of buses that use I-90, and will help meet the growing demand of transit users on both sides of Lake Washington. Currently, buses and carpools traveling I-90 in the off-peak direction often are stuck in traffic because the reversible center express lanes operate only in the peak direction (westbound in the morning and eastbound at night). The new HOV lanes between Seattle and Bellevue will offer 24-hour HOV capacity both eastbound and westbound. HOV direct access on- and off-ramps will enable buses and carpools to access the HOV lanes without crossing other lanes of traffic.

The second stage of the project now getting underway will add a new eastbound HOV lane between Mercer Island and Bellevue. The first stage of the project opened in 2008 with new westbound HOV lane between Bellevue Way and 80th Avenue Southeast on Mercer Island and improved HOV access in Mercer Island and Bellevue. The third and final stage will add HOV lanes to both directions of I-90 between Mercer Island and Seattle, clearing the way for light rail to be constructed in the center lanes.

The total cost of the HOV lane project for all stages is \$187.6 million. This stage of the project is scheduled to be complete by late 2012 and the final stage completed by 2014.

The East Link light rail line is scheduled to begin construction in late 2013/early 2014 and open for service between Seattle, Mercer Island and Bellevue in 2020 and to Overlake in 2021.

For more information about the I-90 Two-Way Transit & HOV Operations project

<http://www.soundtransit.org/I90Stage2>

or

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/I90/TwoWayTransit>

For more information on East Link light rail

<http://www.soundtransit.org/Eastlink>



Sound Transit Board Chair Reardon breaks ground on the I-90 HOV lane project with ST CEO Joni Earl, community leader Aubrey Davis, ST Board Members Claudia Balducci, Dow Constantine and Fred Butler, Mercer Island Mayor Jim Pearman, State Representative Judy Clibborn, WSDOT Secretary and ST Board Member Paula Hammond and Bellevue City Councilmember John Chelminiak.

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