

Snohomish County Executive **AARON REARDON**



Priorities in Action



Latest News & Upcoming Events

Friday, April 23, 2010

www.snoco.org

Message from Executive Reardon

Thank you for reading this week's NewsFlash. In this edition, you'll find lots of great Snohomish County news and fun ideas for the family. But first, let me highlight a few items.

Aerospace:

You probably saw the news that the EADS Company changed their plans and now intends to bid on the U.S. Air Force's tanker replacement. This decision does not change the fact that the Boeing proposal is still superior and should be the bid chosen by the U.S. Air Force. The women and men of the Boeing Company continue to make the best planes in the world, and continued delays in the selection process only impedes much needed job growth.

High Honors:

Snohomish County departments, employees and residents are receiving top honors for their work and volunteerism as you'll read about below. This is a testament to some of the core values that we believe in here in Snohomish County: hard work and dedicated service. I think you'll agree with me that Snohomish County employees continue to perform at the top of their game during these difficult times, and residents are still stepping up when needed.

Fun:

While there are many opportunities for fun this weekend, two stand out as great opportunities for county residents. One is Saturday's Earth Day event at Allen Creek, an opportunity to learn more about the importance of a clean environment while having a great time. The other is our first Spring Recreation Expo, complete with carnival rides and fair food. More details on both can be found below.

As always, I hope you enjoy the weekend, and thank you for

In this issue:

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Events this weekend!

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reading my newsletter.

Reardon tours Goodwill job training center

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon met with local Goodwill leaders earlier this week and toured the organization's South Everett Job Training and Education Center.

The training center has seen its enrollment in basic work skills classes increase during the past year due to unemployment and economic issues.

Reardon thanked the staff of the Goodwill training center for their service to their community. "More than ever, people are relying on any help they can to land a new job, protect their home or increase their income," Reardon said.

Customer service, retail and service industries remain the strongest job placement sectors in the region, yet ESL classes also have been extremely popular. The training center continues to serve a multicultural and diverse group of people who also vary in age.



County's Public Works Department earns two major project awards

Snohomish County's Public Works Department recently was honored by the American Public Works Association (APWA) and

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Sincerely,



Aaron Reardon

the state Governor's Office for its work to increase road safety and ease commutes.

For the third year in a row, a Public Works' project has received the Project of the Year award from the APWA. Public Works, along with Community Transit, also was awarded a 2010 Commute Smart Award by Governor Chris Gregoire.

"Public Works is using innovation to increase our residents' quality of life," said Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon. "We must continue to find new ways of doing business, and your Public Works Department is rising to that challenge."

This year's APWA award is for construction of the new Sauk River Bridge #414 in Darrington. Located on the east side of town, the bridge spans the "Wild and Scenic River" and is the gateway to the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

An innovative construction technique was one of the features making this project an award winner: The bridge was constructed on one side of the river and rolled over the river to its foundation on the other side. This saved more than \$1 million in costs, shortened construction time by five months and minimized environmental impacts.

The original steel and timber bridge was built in 1930. It was rebuilt in 1981, but at 18 feet wide, it proved a tight squeeze for larger vehicles. The new bridge, constructed for \$16 million, is the county's longest two-span steel truss bridge at 480 feet and has been built high enough to withstand a 100-year flood. Its 34-foot width includes two travel lanes and wide walkable/bikeable shoulders.

The county's 2010 Commute Smart Award is for work with Community Transit to "curb the congestion" along the 164th Street Southwest/Southeast corridor, as well as along the 128th Street and 20th Street arterials.

Curb the Congestion is reducing the number of vehicles on the road by providing individual assistance and incentives to try an alternative to the drive-alone habit. Qualifying transportation options include riding the bus, carpooling, vanpooling, walking and bicycling.

Since its inception in 2008, the program has served 1,500 citizens and removed 14,000 vehicle trips from these roadways. Curb the Congestion is funded by Snohomish County through

development mitigation fees and federal grants and is implemented by Community Transit in partnership with the county.

 **County employee recognized for veterans' assistance**

Snohomish County employee Tim Sewell will be honored by the Snohomish County chapter of the NAACP during its National Day of Honor luncheon in May.

Sewell, one of the county's Veterans Services Officers, will be awarded the local chapter's Distinguished Leadership Award as selected by the chapter's Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committee.

"It's very satisfying to see our employees honored for their dedication and service to residents, especially our veterans," said Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon. "Tim is to be commended for the work he does here."

Sewell has worked as a Veterans Services Officer in Snohomish County for the past 10 years, assuring veterans in need that they will receive both emergency help and appropriate referrals to essential community services. Sewell joined the county program in September 1999, following a 20-year career in the United States Navy.

In 2006, he received the Outstanding Employee Award from the Governor's Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee and the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs for his service to veterans.

The county's Veterans' Assistance Program provides limited emergency assistance to eligible veterans and dependents in Snohomish County and collaborates with local and state agencies to improve the services available to Snohomish County veterans.

For more information on the program, veterans are encouraged to call 425-388-7255 or to come to the program office at 3000 Rockefeller Avenue in Everett between 8-11 a.m. or 1-4 p.m. weekdays.

County volunteers garner 2010 Service

Award

Veronica de Gier of Everett and Louise Scollard of Mountlake Terrace were recently awarded with 2010 Governor's Volunteer Service Awards.

The week of April 18-24 has been recognized as Washington Volunteer Recognition Week. Both women were honored April 19 at the sixth annual Governor's Volunteer Service Awards ceremony.

"Snohomish County is at its best when the women and men of this community step up and volunteer their time," Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon said. "Both women have shown a dedication to service that is a strong example to others."

Gier has been a longtime volunteer with Snohomish County's Department of Emergency Management and the city of Everett, generously giving of her time to increase preparedness, help with disaster recovery, Breast Cancer awareness and fundraising, assisting disaster medical personnel, and playing a key role in last October's H1N1 vaccination clinics.

Scollard was awarded for her dedicated efforts to the South County Senior Center, funded in part by Snohomish County, and a surplus food program that redistributes food from stores to seniors in need.

The two women were part of a larger list of 49 volunteers honored for their dedication and commitment to improve their communities through service.

For more information on volunteer opportunities within Snohomish County government, go to www.snoco.org and search "volunteer."

Events this weekend!

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. Many fun activities for both children and adults, including a chance to "dig in" and plant a tree along Allen Creek. Learn about salmon, native trees, water pollution and steps you can take keep your streams healthy. First 200 receive

T-shirts.

Jennings Park
6915 Armar Road
Marysville
10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Saturday, April 24

Spring Recreation Expo

Spring into all of the great recreation opportunities that Snohomish County offers. The 1st annual Spring Recreation Expo has a variety of vendors featuring outdoor projects, displays, demonstrations and workshops. All that, plus a carnival, food vendors, dog show, horse show, swap meet and more. **Free parking and admission.**

Evergreen State Fairgrounds
14405 179th Avenue SE, Monroe
10 a.m.-7 p.m., Saturday, April 24
10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday, April 25
Carnival runs until 10 p.m.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read my electronic newsletter.

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You may also contact me directly by phone at 425.388.3460.