

Snohomish County Executive  
**AARON REARDON**



*Priorities in Action*



Latest News & Upcoming Events

Friday, January 29, 2010

[www.snoco.org](http://www.snoco.org)



## County, United Way and WDC to host economic resource fair

The Snohomish County Executive Office, United Way of Snohomish County and the Workforce Development Council Snohomish County (WDCSC) are hosting a multi-day resource fair designed to offer assistance to families and individuals impacted by the current economic crisis.

Called “Helping Hands for Hard Times,” the three-day resource fair in multiple locations will provide employment, housing, financial and healthcare help to residents currently in need. There is no admission fee and all services will be offered to participants free of charge.

“We have to help families gain access to the resources they need to get through these difficult times,” said Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon. “People all over this county are hurting. We can’t rely on the politics playing out in Olympia or Washington, D.C.”

More than 25 nonprofit and public agencies offering a variety of services will be present at each fair in Everett, Marysville/Tulalip and Lynnwood. Participants also can attend classes that focus on asset building, avoiding foreclosure, résumé building and interviewing techniques scheduled throughout the day at each location.

“With more than 10 percent unemployment, the need for services and job search tools is critical,” said Carl Zapora, CEO and president of United Way of Snohomish County. “This expo is a terrific way for people to find services and helpful tips to get through these challenging times.”

### In this issue:

County, United Way and WDC to host economic resource fair

Initial homeless count numbers show slight decrease

New traffic signals improve safety near schools

County will replace Marten Creek Bridge

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### How are we doing?

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Resource fairs will be held:

- Wednesday, February 10, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Everett Events Center, 2000 Hewitt Ave.
- Thursday, February 11, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Tulalip Conference Center, 10200 Quil Ceda Blvd.
- Friday, February 12, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Lynnwood Conference Center, 3711 196th St. SW

Each event will allow for individual consultations as well as group sessions and workshops. Topics covered and services offered include: employment counseling, job search assistance, skills training, financial aid information for training, home and personal finance consultation, weatherization and home energy assistance, housing resources, healthcare assistance, H1N1 flu vaccinations, childcare resources and a variety of other support services.

“We’re seeing more and more people needing help during this difficult economic period,” said Sue Ambler, CEO and president of WDCSC. “It makes a lot of sense to pull together all these resources for easy access.”

Participants are advised to bring with them proper identification for different program requirements. Those people looking for employment referrals should bring an updated résumé.

For more information on specific classes or participating agencies, go to [www.snoco.org](http://www.snoco.org) and search “resource fair.”

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## Initial homeless count numbers show slight decrease

Early data collected during Thursday’s annual Point In Time homeless count show only a slight decrease over numbers collected during 2009.

Volunteers spent the day and early evening gathering data on Snohomish County’s homeless population. This year’s total – still incomplete – shows 2,291 individuals in 1,279 households without a permanent place to stay. This compares to last year’s final count of 2,356 individuals in 1,469 households.

goals?

The SnoStat system tracks how well the County is delivering services, the costs of those services, and the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery.

Simply visit our [SnoStat website](#).

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Sincerely,



Aaron Reardon

Of those households, an estimated 822 homeless children under the age of 18 were counted.

“Nobody should have to be without a permanent home,” Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon said. “With today’s economic crisis, we must not only find homes for those without, but we must help those families on the brink of losing their homes.”

Numbers for 2010 initially can be divided into two categories. Those staying in shelters and transitional housing the night of the count totaled 1,383 individuals in 661 households. This is compared to 1,246 individuals in 614 households for the 2009 count.

An additional 908 individuals in 618 households who were surveyed on the street identified themselves as homeless. This compares to 1,110 individuals in 855 households for the 2009 count.

The county’s Human Services Department will spend the next two months closely studying and finalizing data from the Point in Time count, comparing numbers and demographics collected during past years while looking for trends. Totals are expected to increase slightly in the coming weeks as individual agencies that helped collect numbers finish reporting their results.

Specifically, the county is reviewing additional information related to a person’s disability status, the number of episodes of homelessness and the duration.

“Statistics gathered will help the county determine how different populations are affected by homelessness, including single mothers with children, those with mental-health and chemical-dependency issues, as well as veterans,” said Ken Stark, Snohomish County’s Human Services director.

The Point in Time count is a state and federal requirement. The results help ensure that vital federal and state funding continues to come into the community to fight homelessness. Data from the annual count also is used to understand how widespread homelessness is in Snohomish County and who is most affected.

In 2006, the county approved the “Everyone At Home Now” report, a strategy for ending homelessness here by 2016. The plan calls for the expansion of homeless housing coupled with support services and for the development of programs geared

toward specific groups.

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## **New traffic signals improve safety near schools**

Two new traffic signals will be activated next week to improve pedestrian safety to and from Shoultes Elementary and Cascade Elementary schools.

Specifically, a traffic signal will be activated Tuesday, Feb. 2, at the 136th Street Northeast/51st Avenue Northeast intersection in front of Shoultes Elementary School. Another signal will be activated Wednesday, Feb.3, at the 100th Street Northeast/51st Street Northeast intersection next to Cascade Elementary School. Staff from Snohomish County and the city of Marysville will be on site to assist pedestrians and drivers with the transition.

“Our children should not have to walk to school in fear of their safety,” Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon said. “These improvements will help keep children out of harm’s way.”

The traffic signals are part of the work Snohomish County Public Works has undertaken to improve conditions for pedestrians – including school students – on 51st Avenue Northeast next to the two schools. Sidewalks, wheelchair ramps and crosswalks were added at all legs of the two intersections. Left turn lanes also have been improved for better flow of traffic.

During 2009, the county made similar improvements to the 51st Avenue Northeast intersection at 122nd Street Northeast.

For environmental protection, porous asphalt was installed in the middle of 51st Avenue Northeast, north of 136th Street. The porous asphalt will allow stormwater to drain through the surface of the road, removing pollutants as the water filters through the asphalt and soil. This “green building” practice eliminated the need for a detention pond and the cost of purchasing extra right-of-way at the intersection.

Funding for these improvements was provided through the Enhanced Community Infrastructure Development Initiative (ECIDI). The ECIDI program was developed by Aaron Reardon and added to and approved by the County Council in 2006 to speed up the delivery of 46 projects to neighborhoods

throughout the county. The projects were designed to improve roadways for pedestrians, bicyclists and drivers; expand recreational opportunities; improve water quality; restore streams; and reduce flooding. By building sooner, 10 years sooner in some cases, the county has avoided rising costs and saved money.

The 136th Street Northeast and 100th Street Northeast intersections are in an area recently annexed by the city of Marysville and will be maintained by the city.

For more information about this project, contact project manager Mo Kashani at 425-388-3488, or access the project Web page at [www.snoco.org](http://www.snoco.org) and search “51st.” Questions and comments should be sent to [transportation@snoco.org](mailto:transportation@snoco.org).

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### **County will replace Marten Creek bridge**

Snohomish County approved funding Wednesday for the replacement of the Marten Creek Bridge #562, located about 21 miles east of Granite Falls.

The 1949-built, concrete and timber bridge on the Mountain Loop Highway was identified in 2002 for replacement due to deteriorating timber supports. The bridge crosses Marten Creek, which flows into the South Fork of the Stillaguamish River.

Advanced Construction will begin replacement of the bridge in April and is expected to finish the project by November 2011. The project, funded through federal and state monies, will cost about \$1.8 million.

The new bridge will be supported by steel piles and will span 130 feet – almost twice as long as the original structure. It will be 38 feet wide, accommodating two lanes and shoulders. The steel piles will be placed outside of the stream bed to avoid scouring.

Single-lane closures are expected during construction. Emergency access will be maintained.

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