

Snohomish County Executive
AARON REARDON



Priorities in Action



Latest News & Upcoming Events

Friday, April 13, 2007

www.snoco.org

 **Event kicks-off rewrite of development regulations**

On Wednesday, April 11, County Executive Aaron Reardon and Planning and Development Services Director Craig Ladiser welcomed more than 100 county residents, elected officials and business owners for the kickoff to the County's first comprehensive update to the Unified Development Code (UDC). The UDC is the rules and regulations that guide housing and development in the County. Project Manager Jean Shaffer presented the overall scope of the project, timeframes, project priorities and opportunities for the public to participate.

Executive Reardon encouraged those in attendance to, "share your vision for the future of our community and shape how our County develops into the future."

The goal of the UDC Update Project to create development regulations that carry out our Growth Management Act Comprehensive Plan, comply with the law and are also easy to understand and implement. Improved development regulations will support County's priorities such as sustainable agriculture, environmental protection, economic development and vibrant, livable communities.

Citizens who attended asked wide-ranging questions related to rural business site planning, urban residential design standards and zoning, public notification of permits, code enforcement, storm water retention and more.

The first UDC Update Project public forum is scheduled for Thursday, May 3, with two sessions, one beginning at 9 a.m. and another at 6 p.m. For more information about the forums and the overall project, visit www.snoco.org and

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"Sustainable Communities" conference comes to Snohomish County

How are we doing?

Did you know that you can track how well the County is meeting its performance 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](http://www.snoco.org).

search “UDC Update.”

 **Volunteers make a difference in the lives of children**

This year alone, over 1,500 cases involving children will be processed through the Snohomish County child welfare court system. Through no fault of their own, these children have been removed from their homes due to allegations of abuse and neglect by their caretakers. The County advocates for these children through the Snohomish County Volunteer Guardian ad Litem (VGAL) Program.

“This is an amazing program that places children in the hands of people that are truly looking out for that child’s best interest,” says Executive Reardon. “It is an opportunity to provide a sense of security and safety that every child deserves.”

VGAL’s come from all walks of life and as appointed representatives of the Superior Court have been making a difference in the lives of abused and neglected Snohomish County children since 1978. In 2006, 163 volunteers advocated for approximately 500 dependent children. This year those numbers will increase. By increasing the number of volunteers in the program, Snohomish County will be able to achieve its goal that every child who needs a VGAL will have one.

Following initial program training, VGAL’s conduct an independent investigation of their appointed dependency case and provide recommendations to the court in advocacy for the child’s best interest. Most VGALs remain with an assigned case until a child is placed in a safe, permanent home.

For information about how you can get involved with VGAL, please contact the Snohomish County Volunteer Guardian ad Litem Program at 425.388.7854 or visit www.snoco.org and search “Volunteer Guardian ad Litem.”

Contact me:

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Fax: 425.388.3434

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

And please be sure to [visit me on the web!](#)

Sincerely,



Aaron Reardon

“Sustainable Communities” conference comes to Snohomish County

On Tuesday, April 11, Executive Aaron Reardon and Congressman Jay Inslee welcomed the American Public Works Association (APWA) to Snohomish County for their 2007 Spring Conference. The theme of this year’s conference was “Sustainable Communities.”. The APWA is an international educational and professional association of public agencies, private sector companies and individuals dedicated to providing high quality public works goods and services. This is the first time this important event has been held in Snohomish County.

“Having APWA in Snohomish County highlighted the important work we are doing to promote sustainable growth,” says Executive Reardon. “We all have a role to play to ensure that growth is sustainable and protects our quality of life and environment.”

Nearly 400 participants from cities and counties from around the state convened to discuss designing and building sustainable communities. Discussion topics included: alternative fuels, low impact development, quiet pavement design, climate change planning for public agencies, sustainable community involvement, future air travel, product stewardship and recycling.

A Transportation Forum was held including transportation decision makers from Sound Transit, Washington Department of Transportation, Discovery Institute, AAA, and Boeing. The discussion centered around transportation challenges and potential solutions we will be facing in the next decade.

More information on the [APWA](#)

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.

