

Snohomish County Executive  
**AARON REARDON**



Priorities in Action



Latest News & Upcoming Events

Friday, January 26, 2007

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

 **Executive Reardon proclaims January as "Snohomish County Mentoring Month"**

On Monday, January 22, Executive Reardon was joined by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Snohomish County, Volunteers of America, Juvenile Rehabilitation Mentoring program and various school districts to recognize the positive impact that mentoring can have on a child's life. In acknowledgement of the importance of these programs, Executive Reardon proclaimed January as "Snohomish County Mentoring Month." The Harvard Mentoring Project designated January as National Mentoring Month.

"Many children in our community do not have positive adult role models in their lives. By volunteering as a mentor, you can make a difference in the child's life and help them to succeed in school, and in life," says Executive Reardon. "Children are our most valuable resource, and by investing your time as a mentor to a child, you are investing in the future of Snohomish County."

At the signing, big brothers and big sisters and their "littles" were thanked for their continuing commitment to the mentoring program. Big Brothers Big Sisters has recognized Snohomish County as a partner in mentoring through the investment of time and heart given by employees. The impacts of mentoring have proven to drastically reduce the chance youth will become in drugs and alcohol and can lead to a marked improvement in self-confidence and scholastic performance.

If you are interested in becoming a mentor in Snohomish County please visit [www.bbbs-snoco.org](http://www.bbbs-snoco.org).  
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## **Supporting a four-year university in Snohomish County**

On Thursday, February 1, the Senate Higher Education Committee will hear testimony on legislation to move forward our effort to site a four-year college in Snohomish County. Senate Bill 5322, sponsored by Senator Jean Berkey, calls for the expedited creation and siting of an independent four-year polytechnic university in the Snohomish-Island-Skagit county region.

Opportunities for job development in our economy are growing at historic rates. To reap the full benefit of this economic growth, we must ensure our students are equipped with the tools needed to compete for these new jobs. Snohomish County is a leader in the effort to expand higher education opportunities in sciences and engineering to meet these demands.

A polytechnic university in Snohomish County will create advanced education opportunities for existing businesses while providing higher education access to those who need it the most -- the future leaders of our County and our State. Join me in asking our representatives in Olympia to move forward with plans to site an independent four-year polytechnic university in Snohomish County.

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## **Snohomish County proposes new development rules**

County Planning and Development Services presented proposed rule changes to the County Planning Commission on Monday, January 23 that will change the way high density housing developments in Snohomish County are regulated.

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### **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](#).

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### **Contact me:**

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

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

Sincerely,



Aaron Reardon

The new rules target growing concerns about the quality of design and livability of some of the densest single family housing being built in the County. The rules will require additional disclosure of covenants and restrictions, require improved access for emergency vehicles, address parking concerns, improve environmental standards and promote higher quality design.

“It’s about planning for the future,” says Executive Reardon. “New neighborhoods need to promote the quality of life we expect in Snohomish County.”

The rules will affect single family housing known as ‘detached condominiums.’ Detached condominiums are a development alternative in multi-family zones where apartments or traditional condominiums might otherwise be built.

These developments have recently been referred to as ‘LDMR’ for the Low Density Multiple Residential zone in which many are being built. The County Council recently approved an additional 90 acres of LDMR zoning by a 5-0 margin, highlighting the need for the new rules.

[More Information](#)

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### **February declared "Career and Technical Education Month" by Executive Reardon**

In recognition of the growing need for a strong link between education and career skills, Executive Reardon, accompanied by representatives from school districts in Snohomish County, proclaimed February 2007 as “Career and Technical Education Month”.

“The partnerships between businesses and our schools are paving the way for our youth to become skilled and talented workers, benefiting both our economy and career fields that forecast tremendous growth within the next decade,” says Executive Reardon.

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Coupled with a traditional academic curriculum, Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs provide high school students with the leadership and employability skills that translate into important qualifications in the workforce. Students are encouraged to explore career options and the skills necessary for such careers.

Our students are facing an increasingly competitive global marketplace in which they must demonstrate skills and knowledge that place them at the forefront of the workforce. CTE programs have been met with tremendous success in Snohomish County.

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***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.***