

Snohomish County Executive
AARON REARDON



Priorities in Action



Latest News & Upcoming Events

Friday, August 24, 2007

www.snoco.org

 **From French fries to fuel**

Evergreen State Fair vendor oil converted to biodiesel

Nearly 200 gallons of used oil will be collected each night from fairground food vendors, converted to fuel, then used to power a portion of the tractors and equipment that service the fairgrounds. An estimated 50 gallons of this used oil will be converted on the fairgrounds daily, and several 15-20 minute demonstrations each day will show visitors how it is done. In addition, a tabletop crusher will demonstrate oil production from a pilot canola seed crop program the County originated in 2006. The canola was grown locally and dried at the County's Cathcart facility.

The first demonstration was held on Friday. County Executive Reardon was joined by Council member Dave Sommers, Bob McCall of Standard Biodiesel, Bruce Barbour of Biodiesel Works and Mark Campbell, Manager of the Evergreen State Fairgrounds.

"We are excited to show fairgoers how innovative ideas are being put into action when it comes to preserving our environment," says County Executive Aaron Reardon. "This is a great first-hand experience that will highlight the County's effort to expand the use of more environmentally friendly fuels and promote biodiesel as a cash crop for local farmers."

As part of the County's biodiesel pilot project, in 2006, the first of the County's fleet road maintenance and solid waste division trucks and diesel equipment vehicles began using a 20% blend of biodiesel fuel. More than 110 County vehicles have been using 120,000 gallons of B20 biodiesel fuel annually. In 2008, another 200 vehicles and equipment will begin using B20 biodiesel.

continued

"The future of biodiesel shows promise for all of us to reduce dependence on foreign oil, encourage investment in our agriculture industry and sustain a clean environment," said Reardon.

In this issue:

From French fries to fuel

Reardon appoints Hembree to Agricultural Coordinator post

Reardon officially opens 2007 Evergreen State Fair

Music on the Plaza featuring Hejira

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

For information about the Evergreen State Fair, visit www.evergreenfair.org.



(Councilmember Dave Sommers and Executive Reardon at the Evergreen State Fair biodiesel demonstration booth)

Reardon appoints Hembree to Agriculture Coordinator post

Honors John Roney for his years of service

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon announced today the appointment of Ryan Hembree as the County's new Agriculture Coordinator during the annual Farmer's Breakfast at the Evergreen State Fair.

Hembree will replace John Roney, who served as the County's first Agriculture Coordinator, and will retire after 19 years with Snohomish County.

"In three years John has helped the County take giant steps forward to preserve our farming heritage and advance our local farm economy," said Reardon, who presented Roney with a proclamation declaring "John Roney Day" and a framed display signed by local farmers and County staff. "His ability to listen and solve problems helped to eliminate years of mistrust between farmers and County government, and spearhead our Focus on Farming Initiative."

continued

effectiveness of service delivery.

Simply visit our [SnoStat website](#).

Contact me:

3000 Rockefeller Ave.
M/S #407
Everett, WA
98201

Phone:
425.388.3460
Fax:
425.388.3434

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

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

Sincerely,



Aaron Reardon

Ryan Hembree comes from the County's Planning and Development Services Department where he focused on agriculture viability, farm policy and public involvement. He has served the Agricultural Advisory Board for six years and is leading a County-wide project to identify prime farmlands and plan for sustainable agriculture.

Agricultural Advisory Board Chair, Dave Remlinger said, "Ryan's appointment will bring good things for agriculture in Snohomish County. He is dedicated to his community, to agriculture, and has the skills necessary to move us forward."

"I grew up in Snohomish County and have seen many changes in our local farms," said Hembree. "Since my youth on my uncle's dairy, the farm has always represented a way of life and our region's heritage. Our local farms give us the ability to ensure a secure and healthy food source, preserve open spaces and salmon habitat and are a source of family recreation. I look forward to doing my part to tackle the challenges facing our local agriculture industry."

As the Agriculture Coordination, Hembree will continue the County's efforts to preserve farmland through programs such as transfer and purchase of development rights, develop a comprehensive sustainability plan, work with the Agriculture Advisory Board to implement the recommendations of the Snohomish County Agriculture Economic Development Action Team and implement the recommendations of Executive Reardon's Agriculture Action Plan. Hembree will step into the Agriculture Coordinator post on September 1.

continued



(John Roney, Executive Reardon and Ryan Hembree at the annual Farmer's Breakfast at the Evergreen State Fair)

Reardon officially opens 2007 Evergreen State Fair

Birkestol Family honored for 100 years of farming

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon officially opened the 2007 Evergreen State Fair on Thursday, August 23. Last year, nearly one million fairgoers passed through the Fair gates for 12 days of rodeos, auto races, carnival rides, concerts, lumberjack contests and more.

A highlight of the opening ceremony was the presentation of this year's Snohomish County Centennial Farms Award honoring the Birkestol sisters for their family's 100 year commitment to farming their land.

Since 2000, the County and the League of Snohomish County Heritage Organization have formally recognized owners of farms that have been under one family's ownership and operated continuously for 100 years on opening day of the Evergreen State Fair.

continued

“Family farms not only represent our local heritage but remain vital to our economy and our quality of life,” said Executive Reardon. “Just as they have for more than 100 years, our local farms are providing the healthy, local food our community needs.”

Norwegian immigrant Ole Birkestol came to Snohomish County in 1906 with his brother, Iver. Soon after their arrival, they purchased 145 acres on Norman Road, just outside of Stanwood. In 1922, Ole married Ingeborg Thorsen, also a Norwegian immigrant, who lived across the Stilliguamish Valley. They had two daughters, Annabelle and Grace.

Ole and Iver dissolved their partnership in 1926 and the property was divided. Ole continued to harvest hay, keep Guernsey cows, and grow peas and oats for silage on his 75 acres. Sisters Annabelle and Grace remember growing up with chickens, pigs, horses and cows. When Ole died in 1936, Mrs. Birkestol ran the dairy. In the early 1940s, she built a modern 30-cow milking shed so she could be competitive and sell milk to the lucrative Seattle market.

The Guernsey cows no longer fill the barn and the peas gave way to corn silage, but the farm is still producing under the stewardship of Annabelle and Grace.

After accepting the award Annabelle thanked Snohomish County and Executive Reardon for their commitment to farmers and agriculture.

Snohomish County has expanded its agriculture exhibit at the Fair highlighting the importance of agriculture to the local economy and honoring the local farming heritage. In addition, fairgoers can get first-hand experience with local farms and farmers at many animal, crop and craft exhibits throughout the fair.

continued



(Executive Reardon, Grace and Anabelle Birkestol)

Music on the Plaza: featuring Hejira

Bring your lunch and enjoy great Music on the Plaza with Hejira.

Hejira features a musical blend of original compositions that bridge diverse cultures and combine Classical, Jazz, Blues, Rock and Flamenco for an eclectic musical experience.

The group will perform live **Wednesday, August 29th from 11:30a.m. – 1:30p.m.** as part of Snohomish County's Music on the Plaza summer concert series.

The concert will be held at the Snohomish County campus amphitheater located at Rockefeller Avenue and Wall Street in Downtown Everett.

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.

