

Snohomish County Executive  
**AARON REARDON**



Priorities in Action



Latest News & Upcoming Events

Friday, October 26, 2007

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

 **It's time to prepare for winter storms**

It is now October 2007 and in the Northwest we have already had one wind storm, Snow Advisories down to 3000 feet and the first frost of Fall. Summer is over! If you have not already made your winter preparations, now is the time.

We all remember the November 2007 floods and the December 2007 windstorm. Washington State was lucky because we had reasonable warning.

If we all follow these simple suggestions, the next time a power outage, flood or earthquake hits the region, we will all be better able to handle a sometimes difficult situation.

**We should all make some basic emergency preparations which include:**

- **Home evacuation plans**, listing where family member will meet and what you will do for shelter in the event your home is unsafe
- **72 hour kits (3 Days – 3 Ways)**, readily available with water, food, medications, warm clothing and something to keep you dry
- **A communications plan**, including out of state contacts, who to call out of the area to let them know your status and find out the status of family members in the area that you may not be able to reach. Everyone should have these phone numbers written down and ideally a phone card in case the cell phone system is not functioning

The importance of these basic preparations is even more

**In this issue:**

**It's time to prepare for winter storms**

**County receives funding for homelessness prevention**

**Snohomish County wins bid to host prestigious 2008 Skate America**

**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](#).

evident in light of possible floods and winter storms that may bring snow, ice, wind and freezing conditions that could shut down our normal modes of transportation restricting our ability to seek or receive help from others.

**Remember to prepare your car for winter:**

- Ensure your car tires are in good shape and are properly inflated
- Carry and know how to install a set of tire chains
- Keep your windshield wiper fluid up
- Replace wiper blades
- Make sure your battery is in good condition

It is important to remember that no matter how well equipped your vehicle is to handle snow and winter driving conditions, if the thousands of vehicles in front and behind you are not moving on the interstate then neither will you.

**Prepare an emergency kit for you car.** You don't need much, but what is in your kit just may be critical to your well being. Here are some key items to include:

- Water
- Snack Bars
- Blanket
- Extra set of warm clothes, gloves, etc.
- Children's entertainment (if you have small children)
- **Keep your gas tank at least half full**

For more information on emergency preparedness, what to do if you spot a downed power line, etc.; please visit Snohomish County's website [www.snoco.org](http://www.snoco.org) and search "EMERGENCY".

Do something and do it now.

*Prepared with assistance from Ed Madura, Program Manager for Preparedness and Mitigation – Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management*

---

 **County receives funding for homelessness prevention**

**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

The State Department of Community, Trade & Economic Development (CTED) has awarded Snohomish County \$1,184,007 in new funds for a pilot project focused on ending homelessness. Snohomish County was one of nine agencies selected to receive funding out of nineteen submissions.

“Project Ladder” will serve youth aging out of foster care, and families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). Families experiencing domestic violence will receive priority.

“Domestic Violence is a leading cause of homelessness among women and children, and the vast majority of homeless single mothers are survivors of domestic violence” said Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon. “This innovative program will enable the survivors of domestic violence to regain control over their lives. It provides both housing stability, and assistance in developing the skills needed not just to survive, but to thrive.”

Project Ladder takes a two-pronged approach to combating homelessness. First, the program will provide housing vouchers, enabling the project participants to be rapidly rehoused. Second, the program provides each client with tailored case management services focused on long term self-sufficiency, including vocational, employment, and financial literacy training.

The County will subcontract for services with local agencies with proven track records. Catholic Community Services will provide support services to families, while Cocoon House will provide services to youth aging out of foster care.

State funding for the program comes from the State Homeless Grant Assistance Program (HGAP). HGAP was first launched in 2006 to provide grants to counties for innovative projects that reduce homelessness and demonstrate systems change by integrating criminal justice, social service, health, and other state and local systems. In addition, the County will contribute \$590,219 in funding for the project from the County’s Ending Homelessness Fund.

In 2006, Executive Reardon unveiled “Everyone At Home

NOW,” the County’s 10-year plan to end homelessness. “We cannot accept, nor afford the social and financial cost of homelessness in Snohomish County,” said Executive Reardon. “More than just housing, Everyone At Home NOW and programs like Project Ladder offer people hope and opportunity to achieve beyond what would have been possible if still homeless.”

---

 **Snohomish County wins bid to host prestigious 2008 Skate America**

On Wednesday October 24, the U.S. Figure Skating Association and Production Sports announced that Everett placed the winning bid to host the 2008 Skate America competition. The pronouncement is big news for Snohomish County and is expected to bring in \$22 million in revenue for local business from 40,000 spectators and millions of television viewers worldwide.

Skate America takes place only sixteen months ahead of the 2010 Winter Olympics. With sixty of the world’s best figure skaters from 15 different countries, Snohomish County will have an audience unmatched by only the Olympics. “Skate America will bring with it a captive world wide audience. It is perhaps the best opportunity in Snohomish County event history to highlight the best we have to offer,” said Reardon.

The premier international figure skating event held in the U.S., past champions include Michelle Kwan, Timothy Goebel, Jamie Sale and David Pelletier, Kristi Yamaguchi and Scott Hamilton.

The Snohomish County Lodging Tax Advisory Committee played a key role in securing 2008 Skate America by awarding a grant of \$100,000 to Production Sports, 2008 Skate America Local Organizing Committee to demonstrate to U.S. Figure Skating that Snohomish County welcomes and is committed to showcasing the Pacific Northwest in advance of the 2010 Olympics.

To find out more about 2008 Skate America, please visit: [www.2008SkateAmerica.com](http://www.2008SkateAmerica.com)

---

***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.***

