

# Snohomish County Executive **AARON REARDON**



*Priorities in Action*



Latest News & Upcoming Events

Friday, October 17, 2008

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

## **Reardon advocates for calm, realistic budget approach**

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon urged county leaders again Thursday to establish realistic revenue assumptions for 2009 and to take swift action in passing a budget.

"We're ready to assist the County Council in creating a baseline for projected revenues from which a balanced budget can be written quickly," Reardon said. "It's never a good policy, nor is it responsible, to just throw darts at a moving target."

Council members said Thursday that a suggested shortfall appeared to be edging near \$30 million, just two days after announcing a \$20 million mark. Council members said the figure could get worse but that they would need additional analysis first.

"Their numbers fluctuate as much as the Dow Jones Industrial Average these days," Reardon said. "This can be done in a calm, reasoned manner."

Just weeks ago, the Council requested all departments and elected officials present across-the-board reduction proposals at 7-percent and 9-percent levels. Reardon said Thursday such cuts interfere with a department's ability to offer public services.

"There are cases where a program is very successful and if cut across the board, it no longer performs to the benefit of the public," Reardon said.

Reardon again urged the Council to approve a budget quickly, adding that the process needs to be "humanized" so as to take into account the more than 3,000 people holding county jobs.

"Our employees deserve a realistic assessment of the difficulties ahead, but also enough time to make decisions should they be

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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:**

3000 Rockefeller Ave.  
M/S #407

impacted by reductions,” Reardon said.

## Skate America glides to Everett

In just six days, 60 elite athletes from around the world will be descending upon Snohomish County for one of the premier international figure skating competitions.

2008 Skate America will be held from Thursday through Sunday, Oct. 23–26, at Comcast Arena in Everett.

Part of the International Skating Union Grand Prix Series, 2008 Skate America will bring the eyes of the world to Snohomish County for a preview of future Olympic competitors. Past champions include U.S. skaters Michelle Kwan and Scott Hamilton and Canada’s Jamie Sale and David Pelletier.

With the excitement of the 2010 Winter Games ramping up, ticket sales are on track to set all-time records.

The event will bring more than 100 journalists and photographers and be televised internationally on NBC, CBC, TV Asahi and IceNetwork, and provide more than \$2.5 million in direct economic impact to Snohomish County.

An exciting component of the weekend, FanFest, is free to the public. FanFest will feature sponsor booths, live music, interactive games and Team USA autograph signings throughout the weekend. With more than 30,000 visitors expected during Skate America, FanFest is sure to be where the off-ice action is.

In addition, from 8 to 10 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 26, SkateFest will feature free skating, lessons and fun with U.S. Figure Skaters. SkateFest provides the opportunity to get on the ice with U.S. Figure Skating coaches and athletes.

Try skating for the first time with free rental skates or lace up your own. This is an event for the whole family to join in the excitement of 2008 Skate America.

### **FanFest Hours:**

Thursday, Oct. 23: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 24: 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 25: 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 26: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### **U.S. Team Athlete Autograph Sessions:**

Friday, Oct. 24: 6 p.m.

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

Saturday, Oct. 25: 6 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 26: 3:30 p.m.

\* Each session will last approximately one hour. Athletes will be announced at a later date.

**Entertainment:**

**Thursday, Oct. 23rd**

Noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m. (30 minute sets)

David Lee Howard – solo acoustic 12-string performer  
(WARM 106.9 broadcasts live)

**Friday, Oct. 24th**

Lunch time concert – Noon.

David Lee Howard – solo acoustic 12-string performer

**Sunday, Oct. 25th**

3:30 p.m. (30 minute set)

Keith Levoy – folk rock performer

4 p.m. (40 minute set)

The Hayburners – an award winning American folk duo

For more information on 2008 Skate America, please visit

[www.2008SkateAmerica.com](http://www.2008SkateAmerica.com).



**New off-leash park opens Nov. 1 at Willis Tucker**

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon and other community leaders will dedicate a new off-leash dog area Nov. 1 at Willis Tucker Community Park, located at 6705 Puget Park Drive, Snohomish.

Constructing a dog park was part of Reardon's Community Infrastructure Development Initiative (CIDI) approved in 2006. The program funded a variety of parks and public works projects designed to have immediate, positive impacts on surrounding neighborhoods and communities. The 4.5-acre site at Willis Tucker was eventually selected as the location for the off-leash park.

Festivities begin at 11 a.m. with a canine costume contest at the park's amphitheatre, followed by a ribbon cutting at 11:45 a.m. Dogs are then free to fetch, run, meet and greet till dusk when the park closes.

Snohomish County Animal Control will be available with information on licensing. Snohomish Off-Leash Dog Group (Sno-DOG) will provide information on volunteer opportunities and Dog-On-it-Parks will have agility equipment to test a pet's abilities.

For more information on this new park or others within the county parks' system, go to [www.snocoparks.org](http://www.snocoparks.org) or call 425-388-6600.

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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.***