

Snohomish County Executive  
**AARON REARDON**



*Priorities in Action*



Latest News & Upcoming Events

Friday September 19, 2008

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

 **Volunteers still needed for Sept. 20 Graffiti Paint-Out**

Join Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon and other elected officials as they take a stand against graffiti and work to make this community safer.

Volunteers are still welcome for the second annual Graffiti Paint-Out Day to be held Saturday, Sept. 20. Supplies, T-shirts, food and beverages will be provided

“Graffiti isn’t only an eyesore, it’s a crime,” Reardon said. “Together, we can show this community we won’t stand for it.”

Last year, Reardon and others removed graffiti from a well-known section of the Snohomish County Interurban Trail south of Everett. This year, officials will focus on the BNSF Railway corridor just northwest of Everett Station. More than 12,000 riders pass through this gateway to the city each month.

Sponsors include the city of Everett, Lowe’s Home Improvement Store, the Snohomish County-Camano Association of REALTORS, BNSF Railway, QFC, Subway, Starbucks and Sound Transit.

Volunteers are encouraged to arrive at Everett Station, 3201 Smith Ave., beginning at 8:45 a.m. for registration. Painting begins about 9:30 a.m. and runs until about 1 p.m. with a wrap-up celebration following.

For more information, go to [www.snoco.org](http://www.snoco.org) and type “graffiti.”

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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.

## Arts Together festival on the Snohomish County Plaza

Don't miss Arts Together, Snohomish County's newest creative arts festival tonight and Saturday, September 19th & 20th at the Snohomish County Plaza, corner of Rockefeller & Wall.

Admission is FREE!

Check out the artist marketplace with juried arts and crafts for sale, including handcrafted jewelry, shawls and handbags, fine art, photography and sculpture.

Enjoy live music on the KSER Stage with family favorite Tim Noah, high octane rockabilly with James Hunnicutt and the Revolvers, the Everett Chorale and The Raineros.

Watch live on-site glassblowing and ice carving, great food and more.

Hours: Friday, September 19, until 7 p.m.; Saturday, September 20, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. For more information, go to [www.snocoarts.org](http://www.snocoarts.org).

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## Early childhood learning fairs scheduled for Sept. 20

Snohomish County's Human Services Department and its Children's Commission will help host early childhood learning fairs at local libraries on Saturday, Sept. 20.

Early Learning Resources Open Houses will be held at more than 20 libraries throughout Snohomish and Island Counties in partnership with Sno-Isle Libraries and the Everett Public Library. The fairs will offer hands-on activities and giveaways for children, demonstrations of library resources for early learning, information about six essential pre-reading skills and other community resources related to early learning.

The open houses were organized by the Foundation for Early Learning, which has partnered with local governments, libraries and other community organizations across the state to reach out to families and encourage early learning. The years between birth-through-five are critically important in helping children learn and grow.

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

Admission to the fairs is free, and at most locations, preschoolers will receive a free cloth book bag to decorate with fabric crayons. The Early Learning Resources Open Houses will help parents, caregivers and interested residents learn about the many tools, books and activities available, many times at little or no cost.

Times and locations vary. For specific information about your library, go to [www.sno-isle.org](http://www.sno-isle.org) and [www.epls.org](http://www.epls.org).

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### **Early childhood program expands healthcare training**

Snohomish County's Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) is partnering with UCLA/Johnson & Johnson to launch the Health Care Institute Health Improvement Project, which will help more than 200 underserved families in Snohomish County improve their health-care knowledge.

ECEAP is a free, comprehensive, family focused school-readiness program preparing three- and four-year-old children for school while teaching parents the tools they need to raise healthier children.

Under the Health Care Institute Improvement Project, parents will receive additional training on how to best respond to their child's illnesses.

Specifically, the program is focused on educating and training parents how to recognize and address common health problems at home, know when to call a health-care provider, minimize or avoid costly medical bills and learn how to effectively communicate with a health-care provider.

"The better we prepare parents to raise their children, the more promising their prospects will be, which provides an overall benefit to them as individuals and this community," said County Executive Aaron Reardon. "The addition of new healthcare training only enhances an already successful program."

Beginning with the 2009 school year, Reardon has recommended the county begin investing funding in ECEAP. Funding now comes from state and federal sources only. Additional funding from the county will allow more

families to utilize the program.

“These are the workers, leaders and decision-makers of tomorrow, so we have a responsibility to be sure they’re prepared,” he said.

During the health-care training, ECEAP parents will receive a health-care reference book, first-aid kit and more. In the months following training, ECEAP family support staff will follow up with families to see how the program is helping them improve their child’s health-care needs.

The Health Care Improvement Parent Trainings will be held at 17 sites during October and November for enrolled families.

The UCLA/Johnson & Johnson Health Care Institute Improvement Project began in 2002. During the past five years, the program has successfully reduced national emergency room visits by 57 percent, reduced school days missed by 29 percent, and reduced working days missed by 42 percent. Additionally, there has been a \$554-per-family savings in Medicaid costs.

For more information on the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program, contact Melinda Marine at 425-388-7491 or [Melinda.Marine@snoco.org](mailto:Melinda.Marine@snoco.org).

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 **County recommends \$3 million for housing and homelessness projects**

Snohomish County’s Community Development Policy Advisory Board (PAB) has recommended 26 local projects receive more than \$3 million in local and federal funding for affordable housing and homelessness projects during 2009.

The county’s Human Services Department is responsible for distributing federal and local housing and homelessness grants on an annual basis through the Office of Housing, Homelessness and Community Development.

Making recommendations, however, is a policy board made up of government and business officials with an interest in seeing homelessness end.

The policy advisory board met Wednesday evening,

recommending nearly \$1 million in local affordable-housing funds and estimated \$2.2 million in federal funding be spent on various projects.

Local money comes from document recording fees and federal funding includes Community Development Block Grants from the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Traditionally, requests for funding outpace what is available, and that is no different this year. More than 30 applications requesting nearly \$7.5 million in funding were received.

“Dollars available for spending on affordable-housing projects come from an ever-shrinking pot,” said Deanna Dawson, a member of the policy advisory board and executive director in Executive Reardon’s office. “We must scrutinize every application and be sure that what we award will have direct-service benefits to families in Snohomish County.”

“We had to make some hard decisions, but I am grateful that we continue to resolve housing problems throughout the county,” said County Councilman Brian Sullivan, also a member of the policy advisory board.

Recommendations now go to the Snohomish County Council for final approval.

Specific grant projects and organizations to receive funding as proposed to the council are listed below. Recommended amounts are based on projections of local collections and estimated federal spending, which could change:

\* HASCO’s Autumn Leaf House, which serves seven single mothers with histories of alcohol and/or drug abuse and their children. \$24,500

\* Catholic Community Services Colby Crest at Meadowdale for operation of 11 units set-aside for chronically homeless persons with disabilities. \$21,607

\* Catholic Community Service Meadowdale Apartments in Lynnwood for 14 units set-aside for chronically homeless persons with disabilities. \$27,500

- \* YWCA Homeward Bound Transitional and Permanent Units located at the emergency shelter in Lynnwood. \$33,071
- \* Senior Services minor home repairs for 279 elderly homeowners and homeowners with disabilities living in Snohomish County. \$444,859
- \* Snohomish County Human Services weatherization services for 87 low-income homeowners living in Snohomish County. \$150,000
- \* HASCO for single-family housing repairs at 16 owner-occupied single family homes located in Snohomish County. \$452,500
- \* Housing Hope Homeownership Assistance Fund, which provides down-payment assistance to first-time homebuyers participating in Housing Hope's Urban Self-Help Housing program. \$16,108
- \* Senior Services of Snohomish County's Galway Bay project, which will purchase and rehabilitate a 26-unit apartment complex for low-income elderly persons in Sultan. \$40,000
- \* Senior Services of Snohomish County's Wishing Well I project, which will purchase and rehabilitate a 40-unit apartment complex for low-income elderly persons located in Marysville. \$40,000
- \* Senior Services of Snohomish County's Friendship House project, which will purchase and rehabilitate a 35-unit apartment complex for low-income elderly persons located in Monroe. \$40,000
- \* HASCO's Kingsbury East and Squire Mobile Home Parks project, which will partially re-pay bridge financing used to acquire two mobile home parks in Lynnwood that were at-risk of displacing elderly mobile home owners. \$576,800
- \* Cocoon House's Youth Emergency Shelter East (338 points) project, which will pay for the development costs of a new youth emergency shelter in Monroe. \$88,973
- \* Housing Hope's Woods Creek Village project, which will

pay for bridge financing to acquire two parcels in Monroe for the construction of new affordable-housing units. \$388,904

\* Parkview Service Homeownership for People with Disabilities, which offers down-payment assistance to families with physical or developmental disabilities. \$175,000

\* Artspace Everett Lofts project, which will offer 40 units targeted to low-income artists. \$175,000

\* Habitat for Humanity, which will receive funding for some operating costs. \$30,000

\* Housing Hope, which will receive funding for some operating costs. \$30,000

\* Senior Services of Snohomish County, which will receive funding for some operating costs. \$30,000

\* Washington Home of Your Own, which will receive funding for some operating costs. \$12,454

\* Everett Gospel Mission Men's Shelter, which operates an emergency shelter for 130 single men. \$36,422

\* Cocoon House Central Youth Shelter, which operates a homeless youth shelter. \$23,178

\* The Interfaith Association of Northwest Washington Family Shelter, which provides 40 beds for homeless families. \$37,249

\* YWCA Homeward Bound Shelter, which will use funds to support staffing expenses. \$24,684

\* Cocoon House North Youth Shelter, which operates a homeless youth shelter. \$17,383

\* Monroe Gospel Women's Mission Shelter, which provides 16 beds for single homeless women. \$22,654

Members of the policy advisory board are Nathan Gorton, executive officer of the Snohomish County-Camano Association of REALTORS; Gold Bar Mayor Crystal Hill;

Sultan City Councilman Ron Wiediger; Lynnwood City Councilwoman Lisa Utter; Mountlake Terrace City Councilwoman Michelle Robles; County Councilman Brian Sullivan; County Councilman Mike Cooper; County Councilman John Koster; and Deanna Dawson, an executive director in the Snohomish County Executive's Office.

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***Thank you very much for taking the time to read my electronic newsletter.***

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***You may also contact me directly by phone at 425.388.3460.***