

Snohomish County Executive
AARON REARDON



Priorities in Action



Latest News & Upcoming Events

Friday August 29, 2008

www.snoco.org

 **Reardon rules out staff pay raises, asks others to follow suit**

To continue shoring up lagging revenues, Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon announced Monday that department heads and management-exempt employees reporting to the executive department will not be eligible this year for merit raises.

“The county’s finance department has determined that we do not have sufficient funds available for these special merit increases,” Reardon said. “While I have limited control over spending by other elected officials, I strongly encourage them to follow suit.”

Reardon sent a memo Monday to department heads announcing the decision and a letter to other elected officials asking them to take the same steps.

County employees are still expected to receive cost-of-living adjustments at the beginning of 2009. COLAs, as they are called, vary according to departmental contracts.

In the meantime, Reardon is looking to decrease a \$9 million revenue shortfall leading into the 2009-2010 budget cycle. Reardon will present his proposed budget Sept. 4.

“It is our obligation to the citizens of Snohomish County to protect the financial health of Snohomish County government, and this step is necessary to assure that,” he said. “While merit raises can be beneficial during healthier economic times, this year any such reward would fly in the face of the financial realities confronting the majority of our citizens.”

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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

Evergreen State Fair continues through Labor Day

There's still plenty of fun to be had at this year's Evergreen State Fair in Monroe, which runs through Labor Day.

Staying close to home this weekend, but want to have some family fun? Then don't miss the Guinness World Record attempt for the largest "Hokey Pokey," the apple pie contest, grape stomp, baby diaper derby and more.

Here's a sample of what's going on:

Friday:

Rodeo
Ice Cream Making
Chili contest
At the Speedway: Hornet Open Invitational, BTP and Crash Cars

Saturday:

Rodeo
Texting contests
Apple pie contest
Grape Stomp
At the Speedway: Hornet Open Invitational, BTP and Crash Cars

Sunday:

Rodeo
Guinness World Record attempt: Largest Hokey Pokey
Frisbee throwing contest
Ice cream sundae decorating contest
Grape stomp
At the Speedway: Giant demolition derby and fireworks with school bus figure eights, hornets, boat races and roll over contest

Monday:

Mini horse show
Rodeo
Baby diaper derby

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

At the Speedway: Drifting Championships

For a complete listing of fair events, please visit www.evergreenfair.org.

Outdoor residential burning ban canceled

A countywide burn ban issued in July will be lifted Tuesday, Sept. 2.

All outdoor residential burn permits, including permits issued by the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency for agricultural burning, were suspended mid-summer due to concerns about dangerously dry conditions.

Conditions have improved, and individuals who currently have a residential burn permit may now proceed. Burn permits are required and issued by the Snohomish County Fire Marshal's Office as well as participating local fire districts.

Residential Burn Permits, which cost \$30, will only be issued for parcels located outside the Urban Growth Areas (UGAs) and established No Burn Zones that are within fire protection districts of unincorporated Snohomish County.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to have the permit on site at all times. Permission to burn under a permit may be suspended or cancelled without notice by any of the following agencies: Snohomish County Fire Marshal's Office, Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, Washington State Department of Ecology, Washington State Department of Natural Resources and any other federal, state or county agency with jurisdictional powers.

Recreational fires continue to be allowed and do not require a burn permit. Approved fire pits must be constructed of a noncombustible material such as concrete or metal and need to be a minimum of 15 feet from structures. A recreational fire by definition is a cooking fire or campfire using charcoal or firewood. These fires may not be greater than three feet in diameter and/or two feet in height. Water must be immediately available.

As directed by the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency

(PSCAA), all land-clearing burning remains prohibited in unincorporated Snohomish County.

For updated information, contact the Outdoor Burning Information Hotline at 425-388-3508 or the Snohomish County Fire Marshal's Office at 425-388-3557.

 **Parks prepares to open Paradise Valley area**

Snohomish County Parks and Recreation will share its trails management and use plan for the Paradise Valley Conservation Area during a public meeting on Sept. 9.

The parks department is preparing to open the Paradise Valley Conservation Area for public use. To guide construction and maintenance of the trail system, a plan has been created that includes a variety of hiking, mountain bike and equestrian trails.

The original property, approximately 667 acres located along Paradise Lake Road north of the King County line, was purchased from the Lloyd family in 2000. In June, Snohomish County acquired an additional 126 acres adjacent to the conservation area.

The area has remained closed to the public while Parks created a balanced plan for meeting both conservation and recreation goals within the property.

Under the proposed plan, an extensive network of existing trails that crisscross the combined properties has been evaluated for use. Many trails are suitable for passive recreation and will remain open. Others will be closed to avoid sensitive natural features. Large undisturbed habitat "islands" will be created by closing unnecessary trails and old logging roads.

Various improvements such as signage and gates have been installed to prevent unauthorized use and further protect the area.

In addition, parking has been constructed and a mountain bike skills center is proposed for a portion of the property.

Residents are invited to comment on the plan during the

Sept. 9 public meeting.

The meeting will be held at Hidden River Middle School's cafeteria, 9224 Paradise Lake Road, Snohomish, from 7 to 9 p.m. A presentation on the plan will run from 7 to 7:30 p.m.

To view project background information and history, go to www.snocoparks.org. For more information on the project or the upcoming meeting, contact Chris Mueller at (425) 388-6620.

County kicks off new series of rural lands meetings

Beginning Sept. 3, Snohomish County will begin its second series of meetings geared toward defining a vision for its rural lands.

In June, the county's Planning and Development Services Department hosted a set of meetings to collect input on how rural lands should be managed or developed in the future. Residents responded to the question: How should the county's rural areas look, feel and function?

The department collected more than 1,000 comments from Snohomish County residents, and more than 200 people attended four meetings held in Arlington, Maltby, Monroe and Everett.

This time around, planners will discuss with participants the common vision for Snohomish County's rural lands and whether that vision is supported by current policies and regulations. If not, what are the opportunities and process for change?

Meetings will be held as follows:

- Wednesday, Sept. 3, 6:30–8 p.m.
Maltby Community Club
8711 206th St. SE, Snohomish 98296
- Wednesday, Sept. 17, 6:30–8 p.m.
Evergreen State Fairgrounds Longhouse
Hwy 2 and 179th Avenue SE, Monroe 98272
- Tuesday, Sept. 23, 6:30–8 p.m.

Pioneer Hall
20722 – 67th Avenue NE, Arlington 98223

- Thursday, Sept. 25, 6:30–8 p.m.
Public Meeting Room #1, Robert Drewel Bldg.
Snohomish County Campus, 3000 Rockefeller, Everett
98201

Accommodations for persons with disabilities or language barriers are available upon request for any of the meetings. Please make arrangements in advance by calling Mary Hurner at 425-388-3258.

For more information on the Rural Lands Planning Project, go to www.snoco.org and type “Rural Lands Planning Project” in the Search Box or e-mail RuralLandsProject@snoco.org.

U.S. premier figure skating event almost here

Skate America, the U.S. premiere figure skating event is coming to Snohomish County in just under two months. It was just under one year ago that the U.S. Figure Skating Association announced that Production Sports, Inc. and Everett, Washington were chosen to produce and host the 2008 Skate America competition.

The best athletes from across the world have been selected to compete in this pre-Olympic competition, many of whom will actually participate in the 2010 Games.

The future opportunities from hosting this international event are limitless - if we as a community show the world that Snohomish County is the place to be.

Only 100 miles and just over one year's time separate the athletes from their 2010 Olympic dreams. Your enthusiasm and assistance is needed to help make 2008 Skate America a memorable experience for both the athletes and spectators.

Are you interested in volunteering at Skate America?

Skate America is currently seeking dedicated community volunteers to assist with the hosting of the event. There are many opportunities to get involved: Airport Greeters, Bus

Hosts, Hotel Greeters, Event Welcome Ambassadors, Fan Fest Host, Reception Host, Vendor Assistant, and Media Support. 2008 Skate America, part of the International Skating Union Grand Prix Series, will be held at the Comcast Arena at Everett from October 24-26, 2008. Volunteers are needed from Tuesday, October 21st through Monday, October 27th.

Applications will be accepted through Monday, September 15, 2008. This deadline is needed to facilitate sufficient time for background checks and establish volunteer schedules.

Interested individuals may download an application by visiting www.2008SkateAmerica.com and clicking on "Volunteers". If you have questions, please contact Pam Dawson, at volunteersa2008@charter.net.

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.