

Snohomish County Executive **AARON REARDON**



Priorities in Action



Latest News & Upcoming Events

Friday, June 13, 2008

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Art alliance honors county executive

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon has been named a 2008 Local Hero by the Washington State Arts Alliance and will be honored during the group's annual meeting July 1 at the Edmonds Center for the Arts.

Reardon was nominated by the Lynnwood Arts Commission and the Arts Council of Snohomish County, with support from the Snohomish County Arts Commission, for his strong support of the arts.

"Executive Aaron Reardon has sent a strong message that he values the quality of life in Snohomish County and he is working to provide a well-rounded community and promote economic activity through the arts and culture," his nominating letter reads. "He has put into place the mechanisms needed that will drive, support and promote the arts and culture throughout our county."

Reardon has been instrumental in promoting the arts in Snohomish County. In 2004, he helped establish the Snohomish County Arts Commission. The seven-member commission serves as the lead organization for the county's art and heritage groups.

He also initiated an ordinance approved this year that requires a contribution to the county arts fund from certain county construction projects costing at least \$100,000. The contribution is equal to 1 percent of the project costs.

These funds are being used to acquire visual art such as drawings, tapestries, weavings, paintings, murals, frescos, sculptures, mosaics and photography as well as to support the performing arts.

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

“For many years after the mid 1990s, the arts slipped very low on the priority list of Snohomish County government,” wrote Fred Wong, Lynnwood’s cultural arts supervisor, in support of Reardon’s nomination. “So, Mr. Reardon’s actions represent a dramatic initiative and catalyst for countywide arts advocacy.”

Reardon said he was pleased to be receiving the award.

“It’s important that we preserve the artistic works of Snohomish County residents as well as promote the cultural identity of this county,” Reardon said. “This honor proves we are making the right steps.”

 **Finalized homeless numbers increase slightly**

Updated numbers show Snohomish County’s Point in Time homeless count in January is slightly higher than initially reported.

County staff surveyed outdoor camp sites, shelters and the Snohomish County Jail on Jan. 24 as part of the annual Point in Time count required by the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development.

New numbers suggest 2,154 individuals were homeless that night, a difference of 335 people. Initial reports in January counted 1,819 people reporting homelessness. In 2007, nearly 2,700 people were considered homeless in Snohomish County.

The updated numbers account for improved gathering of homeless figures from area shelters and in the field, say county officials. Not all information could be gathered during the night of the actual count.

Despite a higher number, the 2008 homeless count shows a drop over 2007 and 2006 numbers. In 2006, there were 2,626 people counted as homeless.

Still, county officials have said they’re reluctant to declare homelessness in decline following three previous years of successive gains. The temperatures Jan. 24 were frigid, making it difficult for more than 180 counters to gather an

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

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

Sincerely,



Aaron Reardon

accurate count.

Under the latest figures, 956 people had no shelter during the PIT count, while 1,198 people were sheltered in emergency and transitional housing or were using hotel vouchers for the night.

The Point in Time count helps Snohomish County create policy and programs to assist those who are homeless. County Executive Aaron Reardon has made affordable housing one of his top agenda items, tackling affordable housing and homelessness together.

“This information provides a base from which to determine trends in the county’s homelessness issue and how best to tackle those problems,” Reardon said. “We’re looking for innovative ways to make homeownership affordable and reduce the number of homeless.”

In January, Reardon convened the county’s Housing & Homelessness Policy Oversight Committee, which is considering how best to establish benchmarks for homeless and housing initiatives as well as guide long-term strategies.

Initial homeless counts from January already have been discussed by the committee, but more discussion is likely to occur.

In 2006, the county approved the “Everyone At Home Now” report, a strategy for ending homelessness here by 2016. The plan calls for the expansion of homeless housing coupled with support services and for the development of programs geared toward specific groups.

Earlier this month, the Housing Consortium of Everett and Snohomish County released its latest affordable-housing report, which calls for the construction of 18,000 new units during the next 10 years.

The executive’s policy committee will be reviewing proposals for reaching that goal.

 **Music on the Plaza returns for fourth year**

Music on the Plaza returns July 9, offering local residents a chance to sit back and enjoy a festive afternoon concert at

the downtown Snohomish County Campus in Everett.

County Executive Aaron Reardon recently announced the schedule for this year's entertainment lineup, marking the fourth annual Music on the Plaza Concert series. The concerts feature local artists and are presented by the County Executive's Office and the Snohomish County Arts Commission.

"These concerts are an important part of highlighting the arts in our community and the role they play in quality of life," Reardon said. "They also are a fun way to enjoy a Wednesday lunch."

The Music on the Plaza concerts are free and open to the public, beginning July 9 with Ed Hartman and the Olympic Marimba Band, which brings its Caribbean flavor to town.

Other concerts will feature American Roots Music of Massy Ferguson and the high-energy Blues of The Eric Madis Band.

The lunchtime concerts run through August 20 at the campus amphitheater located at Rockefeller Avenue and Wall Street.

Concert series schedule:

Wednesdays

11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

July 9 - Ed Hartman and the Olympic Marimba Band
Marimba Music from around the Globe

July 16 - Eric Madis
A Spectrum of Blues

July 23 - Sister Monk
Gypsy Funk

July 30 - Dub Championz
Reggae

August 6 - Massy Ferguson
Americana Roots Music

August 13 - Los Flacos
Music from Latin America

August 20 - Bob Strickland Group
Jazz

For information on the music series, contact Wendy Becker, Cultural and Economic Development Officer, at 425-388-3186 or visit www.snohomishcountyarts.org.



Final reminder: Help your County serve you better

Community forum to update online performance measures

Here at Snohomish County, we strive to be innovators in government. We are always working to improve the way we do business. Now, we're asking for your help.

In 2004, we launched SnoStat to measure the effectiveness of Snohomish County services. Today, these performance measures guide County decisions and are the foundation of the county budget. We know that good performance measures increase government's accountability to you, the taxpayers.

In June, we will host a public feedback session designed to improve our performance measures.

Thursday, June 19th, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Light meal provided.

A few seats are still available.

If you are interested in attending, please contact us at sno.stat@snoco.org.

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.