

Snohomish County Executive **AARON REARDON**



Priorities in Action



Latest News & Upcoming Events

Friday, June 6, 2008

www.snoco.org

County hires new human services director

Following a national search, Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon has selected Kenneth Stark as the new county human services director.

Stark currently is the director of Gov. Chris Gregoire's Mental Health Transformation Project and has a long history of work in human-services-related fields. He will start his new position on June 23.

"Ken Stark has an impressive employment record in the field of human services so it's with great anticipation that we make him our new director," Reardon said. "We believe he will fulfill the goals we set before him and transform a department that is becoming more and more crucial to Snohomish County residents."

Since 1975, Stark has worked in the private and public sector, mostly overseeing or administering alcohol- and substance-abuse programs, including programs in King County and the Washington Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS).

Gregoire called Stark "a dynamic visionary leader" when she asked him in 2005 to retool delivery of the state's mental health care system.

"Ken has built an impressive career on the principle of identifying and implementing effective treatment strategies," she said. "He has been a staunch supporter of quality improvements and evidence-based decision making – exactly what our mental-health-delivery system needs."

Stark will lead the county's Human Services Department, which includes divisions offering community mental health,

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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.

substance abuse, veterans and housing/homelessness programs.

“We need new direction and a fresh perspective. Ken can provide that,” Reardon said. “He will be responsive to the needs of Snohomish County residents, providing services that increase their quality of life.”

Since December, Cindy Hart has been acting human services director. She will return to her previous position in the county’s Department of Facilities, where she is deputy director.

“Cindy has been instrumental during our transition in the Humans Services Department. I thank her heartily for the work she’s accomplished there.” Reardon said. “However, she is an asset to us in the facilities department, and it is important to get her back to the work for which she was hired.”



Flying Heritage Collections opens at Paine Field

Executive Reardon helped Microsoft cofounder Paul Allen open the Flying Heritage Collection, a private collection of restored aircraft now located at Snohomish County’s Paine Field near Everett.

The opening of the rare aircraft coincided with the 64th anniversary of D-Day, the day on which the Normandy invasion began, which eventually led to Allied liberation of Europe from the Nazis during World War II.

Set in a 51,000-square-foot hangar, FHC aircraft have been displayed alongside engaging, comprehensive exhibits open to the public. Examples include U.S., British, German, Russian and Japanese types, which were often pitted against each other in great air battles. These rare survivors were researched, hunted down and sometimes recovered from former battlegrounds and airfields. The majority on display have received restoration of the highest authenticity and several will be flown for demonstration.

“We’re pleased that the Flying Heritage Collection has chosen Paine Field as its permanent location,” Reardon said. “This fine collection of aircraft only strengthens the

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](#).

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Sincerely,

Aaron Reardon

aeronautical and tourist attractions that make Paine Field so special.

Also located at Paine Field are the Future of Flight Aviation Center and Boeing Tour, the Legend Flyers, the Museum of Flight Restoration Center and others.

For more information, go to www.paineairport.com.



(Executive Reardon and Microsoft cofounder Paul Allen answer media questions at the Flying Heritage Collection on June 6)

Sound Transit launches Sounder commuter rail service from Mukilteo

On Saturday, May 30, County Executive Aaron Reardon was on hand for the start of commuter rail service from Mukilteo. The new service began with free rides to Saturday's Mariners' game. Weekday service began Monday, June 2.

Community members marked the completion of Mukilteo Station's first phase less than a year after breaking ground on the project. Mukilteo joins Edmonds as a stop for the three roundtrip trains carrying commuters between Everett and Seattle each weekday. Sound Transit plans to launch a fourth roundtrip in September.

“With fuel prices continually on the rise, Mukilteo Station offers residents another option for saving money and

reducing commute times in the area,” said Reardon, also vice chairman of the Sound Transit Board. “The new station preserves the character of one of our most beautiful cities and allows travel more easily throughout the region.”

The new service will expand commuting options for Snohomish County residents and will run on a schedule that also serves ferry commuters from Whidbey Island. The service will take more cars off the region’s roads and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The completed first phase of construction includes a passenger platform on the north side of the tracks, 68 parking stalls, and public art by Whidbey Island artist Linda Beaumont. The second phase of the project, expected to begin next year, will include a south platform, pedestrian bridge and additional parking spaces.

The \$19.6 million project budget for both phases is being funded by Sound Transit and the Federal Transportation Administration.

“We are really excited to have this last piece of the puzzle for our north Sounder corridor up and running,” said Sound Transit Board member and Edmonds City Councilmember Deanna Dawson. “These kinds of high capacity transit connections between Snohomish County communities are critical to keeping our region moving.”

Sound Transit’s Mukilteo Station is part of a larger effort to revitalize Mukilteo’s waterfront neighborhood and create a transit hub that serves both local residents and ferry riders. Sound Transit worked with the Port of Everett, the City of Mukilteo, the City of Everett and Washington State Ferries on planning and integrating the transit elements. Sound Transit also worked closely with Burlington Northern Santa Fe, the United States Air Force, and NOAA on project planning.

Mukilteo fares

One-way fares between Mukilteo and Seattle are \$4 for adults, \$3 for youths and \$2 for seniors or people with disabilities. Fares between Mukilteo and Edmonds are \$3.25 for adults, \$2.25 for youths and \$1.50 for seniors or people with disabilities.

Game-day Sounder service

Sounder commuter trains serve select weekend Seattle Mariners and Seattle Seahawks games. Saturday's service to the Mariners game will depart Mukilteo at 11:26: a.m. (and Everett at 11:15 a.m. and Edmonds at 11:41 a.m.). Mariners trains arrive at King Street Station in downtown Seattle, a short walk to the field. Return service departs King Street Station 35 minutes after the game ends.

[Get more details on Mariners service](#)

County cleanup at Mariner deemed a success

Following the success of Saturday's Mariner Neighborhood Cleanup, Snohomish County officials say they're planning to return this fall for a second event.

The county's Solid Waste, Code Enforcement and Roads divisions also are considering weekend cleanups in other parts of the county that would benefit from such a unified effort.

About 250 residents participated in Saturday's local cleanup, where residents in a targeted area were invited to dump their trash and recycling – mostly for free – to give the neighborhood a face-lift.

During February's Public Safety Town Halls hosted by Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon, Mariner residents said they needed help reducing crime in rundown areas of the neighborhood.

Reardon responded by having staff create a comprehensive plan for beautifying the area.

“We know that a clean neighborhood promotes a crime-free area, so this project was an innovative way to spur efforts along,” Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon said. “Now we're proactively looking at other parts of the county where weekend cleanups would be beneficial.”

On Saturday, the county's Solid Waste Division collected 108 computers, 308 tires, 5.5 tons of metal, a dozen refrigerators and 330 gallons of paint and oil. The county

teamed up with business partners Waste Management, Rubatino, Les Schwab and Total Reclaim to remove the trash, hazardous waste and recycling.

“Given the terrific response from the neighborhood, all of us at the county, along with our business partners, are looking forward to coming back in a few months for a fall cleanup,” said Sam Chandler, the county’s Solid Waste utility manager.

Prior to Saturday, the county’s roads division swept streets and code enforcement toured the area looking for violations. The county is helping property owners with violations work toward voluntary compliance.



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

Seats are limited so be sure to register early.

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.

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You may also contact me directly by phone at 425.388.3460.

