

Snohomish County Executive  
**AARON REARDON**



**Priorities in Action**



**Latest News & Upcoming Events**

**Friday, January 18, 2008**

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

 **Volunteers needed for homeless count**

On Thursday, Jan. 24, Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon and other county staff will take part in the annual Point in Time homeless count. Additionally, volunteers are needed to make the count successful.

Data from the annual count will be used to create an understanding of how widespread the issue of homelessness is in Snohomish County and who is most affected.

“We have pledged to end homelessness in Snohomish County,” Executive Aaron Reardon said. “The Point in Time count allows us to identify the scale of local homelessness, measure our progress and put a face to the issue.”

The annual count comes on the heels of the convening of the county’s Housing & Homelessness Policy Oversight Committee, which has been asked to make suggestions on how best to establish benchmarks for homeless and housing initiatives as well as guide long-term strategies.

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 affordable housing and homeless prevention services as well as for the development of programs geared toward specific groups.

During the 2007 count, more than 2,600 individuals were estimated to be homeless, not including nearly 350 incarcerated individuals with no identified residence upon release. More than 600 of those counted were homeless veterans. More than one in three homeless individuals was under the age of 18.

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“Working together, we can end this cycle of homelessness that affects far too many people in Snohomish County,” Reardon said. “Nobody should be without a home.”

If you would like to volunteer, contact Sola Plumacher, the count coordinator, at (425) 388-7289. Otherwise, contact one of the count leaders or show up at one of the four staging areas listed below:

- North County: Anji Jorstad, (425) 349-6835 or [anji.jorstad@compassh.org](mailto:anji.jorstad@compassh.org). Housing Hope, 3018 188th St. NE, Arlington.
- East County: Bill Humphreys, (425) 259-3191 or [bhumphreys@voaww.org](mailto:bhumphreys@voaww.org). Take the Next Step, 202 S. Sams St., Monroe.
- Central County: Dana Libby, (425) 259-8129 or [dana\\_libby@usw.army.org](mailto:dana_libby@usw.army.org). The Salvation Army, 2525 Rucker Ave., Everett.
- South County: Mary Anne Dillon, (425) 258-2766 or [mdillon@ywcaworks.org](mailto:mdillon@ywcaworks.org). The YWCA, 6027 208th St. SW, Lynnwood.

Volunteers can arrive anytime between 4 and 10 p.m. at the check-in locations. Participants are asked to help during a three-hour period if possible.

The Point in Time count is a federal and state requirement.

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## **County Council & Executive urge Legislature to approve Everett campus site**

Looking to send a strong positive message to the state legislature, the Snohomish County Council and Executive approved a joint resolution Wednesday in support of the Pacific Station site in Everett as the home of the new University of Washington, North Campus.

The council voted 4-1 to approve the measure. Executive Aaron Reardon has said he, too, will sign the resolution.

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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](#).

Councilman Brian Sullivan, who introduced the measure, said Wednesday the purpose of the resolution is to show united support for a university branch in Snohomish County.

“If the goal is to start having students in classrooms by the fall of 2008, then we need to move forward quickly on a siting decision,” Sullivan said. “Time is also of the essence as the state legislature has convened this week and will be moving forward on the UW North issue in the Higher Education committees.”

The resolution acknowledges that in-depth studies called for by Governor Chris Gregoire selected the Pacific Station site in Everett as the No. 1 recommended location to best serve students in the region, with the Smokey Point – Marysville site listed second.

“The need for a four-year college focused on math and science in Snohomish County is clear,” Reardon said. “This sends a strong message to our legislative delegation that it’s time to come together and secure the funding needed to help Snohomish County’s students meet the challenges of the global economy.”

Population data shows that more than 70 percent of the students who will use a UW campus will be living in Everett and south Snohomish County. The NBBJ study, which lawmakers will use to guide university decisions, suggests that an Everett location most easily accommodates students traveling within a 30-minute radius.

“The Everett area also provides an estimated 50 percent of the industries most ready to participate in ‘experiential learning,’ academic-industry internships,” said Council Chairman Dave Somers. “You’re looking at Boeing and others who are ready to support this location for a four-year university.”

“With the lowest cost of all the sites, along with the adjacent multi-modal transportation center, and numerous food and recreation amenities nearby, the Everett site is best suited for a new university,” said Councilman Mike Cooper.

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**Contact me:**

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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

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**Snohomish County celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

Wednesday, Jan. 16, hundreds of people celebrated the life and accomplishments of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by participating in the annual community celebration sponsored by Snohomish County, City of Everett, United Way of Snohomish County and YMCA of Snohomish County.

The day's events kicked off with a Diversity Breakfast where the winners of the "Prodigies of Peace" essay contest were announced. Superior Court Judge Eric Lucas emceed the event where nine students, ranging from 3rd through 12th grade, were rewarded with plaques and savings bonds. Executive Aaron Reardon announced the winners of the 9th-12th grade category, two of whom hail from Mariner High School, Reardon's alma mater. Julian Bond, chairman of the NAACP and 1960's civil rights activist, gave a preview of his noon keynote address and set the tone for the celebration.

Later, more than 300 elementary, junior high, high school and college students, as well as community members, attended a rally on the County Plaza. The crowd was warmed up by Reginald Gillins, who eloquently delivered Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous "I have a dream" speech. The rally was followed by a march through downtown Everett, which culminated at the Everett Events Center for the celebration's cornerstone event featuring a keynote speech by Julian Bond.

Guided by this year's theme "Lest we forget," Bond delivered an eloquent speech telling the story of his great-grandmother, who was a slave, his grandfather, who lived through the Civil War and the abolishment of slavery, and his father, the first family member to live completely free of slavery.

Bond's message was clear: While the country has come a long way toward erasing inequality, there is still more to be done to eliminate discrimination in our society.

The official Martin Luther King Jr. holiday is Monday, Jan. 21.



*(Reginald Gillins speaks as Executive Reardon, Everett Mayor Ray Stephanson, Dennis Smith of United Way of Snohomish County and community members listen)*

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## **County seeks public input on farming**

Does Snohomish County farming have a future? The public is invited to envision the future of agriculture at workshops held in January:

- Tuesday, Jan. 22, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Rosehill Community Center, 304 Lincoln Ave., Mukilteo.
- Thursday, Jan. 24, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Meadowdale High School, Great Hall, 6002 168th St. SW, Lynnwood.

Join representatives from the Snohomish County Agriculture Sustainability Project and offer feedback, help create priorities and develop a long-term vision for agriculture. Refreshments will be served.

Executive Reardon officially launched the Agriculture Sustainability Project in October. The project is a community-based initiative created to enhance and strengthen the county's agricultural economy as well as preserve local farmlands. For information, contact Linda Neunzig, Agriculture Project

Coordinator, Office of Economic Development, 425-388-7170 or by e-mail at [linda.neunzig@co.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:linda.neunzig@co.snohomish.wa.us).

View the [press release and fact sheet](#) from the October launch

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## Residents asked for input on transportation

The Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) is updating the region's long-range Destination 2030 transportation plan with strategies to keep people moving toward 2040 and beyond as the region grows and prospers. During the update, residents throughout the region will work together to build a shared strategy to meet transportation demands over the next three decades.

PSRC wants to hear from you – What are your transportation priorities and concerns, what alternatives would you like to see in the region's transportation plan, and what are your environmental concerns? On January 28, PSRC will hold a public meeting in Everett, providing a chance to share your transportation views and get information on key projects in the area.

Meeting information:

Monday, January 28  
4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
Main Library, 2702 Hoyt Avenue  
Everett, Washington

For more information, please visit [www.psrc.org/projects/mtp/index.htm](http://www.psrc.org/projects/mtp/index.htm), or call (206) 587-4819.

The scoping public comment period ends on January 30, 2008.

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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.***