

Snohomish County Executive
AARON REARDON



Priorities in Action



Latest News & Upcoming Events

Friday, January 4, 2008

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Executive Aaron Reardon begins 2nd term

Councilman Dave Somers named new chairman for 2008

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon began his second term and County Councilman Dave Somers was named council chairman during Wednesday morning's swearing-in ceremony.

Reardon, who was resoundingly re-elected in November, was among a number of elected officials taking the oath of office Wednesday. Also sworn in were County Auditor Carolyn Diepenbrock, County Clerk Sonya Kraski, County Assessor Cindy Portmann, County Treasurer Kirke Sievers and new County Council members Mike Cooper and Brian Sullivan.

John Lovick, Snohomish County's new sheriff, was sworn in prior to the new year.

Reardon, ambitious to begin an aggressive agenda that includes new policies for protecting farmland, creating affordable housing and reducing the county's carbon footprint, offered a friendly hand to the new council.

"Councilman Sullivan and I worked together in the legislature to land the Boeing 787, while Councilman Cooper and I worked together to protect our state's shorelines and provide Snohomish county with on-going workforce training benefits," Reardon said. "It is a great honor and a pleasure to have this opportunity to work with both of them once again."

continued

In this issue:

Executive Aaron Reardon begins 2nd term

County program assists jailed veterans

Save the Date: Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration to be held Wednesday, Jan. 16

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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).

Somers, unanimously voted as this year's chairman, highlighted challenges facing the county, but reassured those present for the oaths of office that the county is prepared to handle them.

"There are a lot of challenges in every aspect of county government including planning issues and transportation," Somers said Wednesday. "But we also have tremendous opportunities."

Cooper was unanimously elected to serve as vice chairman during 2008.

During Reardon's first term, he produced a balanced budget that closed a multi-million- dollar deficit without a general tax increase. Among his other successes was the creation of an annual farming conference that helped reinvigorate Snohomish County's agriculture industry.

He proposed, and the council, approved a community infrastructure initiative, which is providing Snohomish County with more than 40 transportation, parks and surface-water-management projects years ahead of schedule. These projects are reducing traffic, improving roadway safety, expanding recreational opportunities, improving water quality and reducing flooding.

Much of that success has come from a willingness to look forward, Reardon said.

"Doing things the way they've always been done just for the sake of doing so serves no one," he said. "We must be able to recognize when change is needed, and we must act accordingly. Our public expects nothing less."

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

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

Sincerely,



Aaron Reardon



(Executive Reardon takes the oath of office on January 2)

County program assists jailed veterans

Snohomish County is reaching out to incarcerated veterans with the hope of helping them successfully re-enter the community upon their release.

As of Thursday, members of the county's Human Services Department have begun hosting a monthly class for veterans in the Snohomish County Jail. The classes are geared toward assisting veterans with access to drug and alcohol treatment, with acquiring food and housing assistance and with making their way back into the job market upon completing their sentence.

"These men and women honorably served our country and this is an opportunity to reach out and help them get their lives back on track," said County Executive Aaron Reardon. "They've made some unfortunate decisions, but they don't have to become habitual offenders."

In Snohomish County, the number of incarcerated veterans is steadily increasing. During the past two years, the number of veterans housed in the Snohomish County Jail on a daily basis has nearly doubled from about 35 inmates to nearly 60 people.

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The long-term goals of this program are to reduce potential recidivism, lower the number and duration of incarceration periods, provide healthcare access and increase the number of veterans who become employed and obtain stable housing upon their release.

It also will provide positive impacts to veterans' families, many of whom don't know how to help their loved one.

[More](#)

 **Save the Date: Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration to be held Wednesday, Jan. 16**

The annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Celebration -- sponsored by Snohomish County, the City of Everett, YMCA of Snohomish County and United Way of Snohomish County -- is fast approaching. The all day celebration will honor Dr. King for his commitment to civil rights and the sacrifices made by so many during the quest for equality.

To be held **Wednesday, Jan. 16**, this year's events will include a diversity breakfast, rally, march and a community celebration featuring special guest speaker Julian Bond, chairman of the NAACP. Prior to his appointment as NAACP chairman in 1998, Mr. Bond spent 20 years in the Georgia General Assembly. He has served as a university professor and was an activist who participated in sit-ins and anti-segregation rallies during the Civil Rights Movement.

All events are free and open to the public

Schedule:

7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.: Diversity Breakfast
Holiday Inn
3105 Pine St., Everett
Space is limited, please RSVP to
kreardon@ci.everett.wa.us

10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Rally
Snohomish County Plaza
3000 Rockefeller Ave., Everett

11:00 a.m.: March Begins at Snohomish County Plaza

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.: Celebration with Julian Bond
Edward D. Hansen Conference
Center
2000 Hewitt Ave., Everett

For more information on the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Celebration, please visit the Snohomish County website. To learn more about this or other events taking place in Snohomish County to honor Dr. King, please contact Amy Ockerlander at 425.388.3090.

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