

Snohomish County Executive
AARON REARDON



Priorities in Action



Latest News & Upcoming Events

Friday, September 12, 2008

www.snoco.org

 **Volunteers needed for second annual Graffiti Paint-Out**

Join Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon, Sheriff John Lovick, Councilman Brian Sullivan and Everett Mayor Ray Stephanson as they take a stand against graffiti while working to make this community safer.

Volunteers are needed to work side by side with these elected officials – as well as county and city staff – for the second annual Graffiti Paint-Out Day to be held Saturday, Sept. 20.

“Graffiti isn’t only an eyesore, it’s a crime,” Reardon said. “Together, we can show this community we won’t stand for it.”

Last year, Reardon and others removed graffiti from a well-known section of the Snohomish County Interurban Trail south of Everett.

This year, officials will focus on the BNSF Railway corridor just northwest of Everett Station. More than 12,000 riders pass through this gateway to the city each month.

The work is an effort to beautify one area, but it’s also a call to residents countywide to take a stand against graffiti.

“I truly appreciate the citizen support we receive in cleaning up our district,” said Councilman Brian Sullivan, who represents the Everett area. “Graffiti-free neighborhoods make for cleaner and safer communities that we can take great pride in.”

While the county’s Public Works crews continue to help

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How are we doing?

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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.

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neighborhoods remove graffiti year-round, the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office will utilize a recent grant worth \$13,000 to increase its gang-related graffiti and tagging abatement program.

"We won't tolerate graffiti vandalism in Snohomish County. It makes people feel unsafe and can encourage other types of crime," Lovick said. "Working together, we can reinforce pride in our community by keeping neighborhoods graffiti-free."

Sponsors for the annual paint-out event include the city of Everett, which also has taken a strong stand against graffiti and gang-related tagging.

"The annual Graffiti Paint Out is one way to show taggers that their scrawls won't be tolerated in our city," Everett Mayor Ray Stephanson said. "We are coming together as a community to brighten the city's landscape thanks to this partnership among Everett and Snohomish County and many volunteers and businesses."

Other sponsors providing food, beverages, supplies and technical assistance include Lowe's Home Improvement Store, the Snohomish County-Camano Association of REALTORS, BNSF Railway, QFC, Starbucks and Sound Transit.

Volunteers are encouraged to sign up early and can do so by sending their name, e-mail address and telephone number to county.executive@snoco.org or by calling 425-388-3460. Those participating will receive a free shirt as well as food and beverages provided by sponsors.

The schedule for the day is as follows:

8:45-9 a.m. Volunteers arrive
9-9:30 a.m. Safety/event discussion
9:30 a.m. Volunteers walk to assigned areas
10 a.m.-1 p.m. Paint out
1-2 p.m. Wrap-up celebration

For more information, go to www.snoco.org and type "graffiti."

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

Snohomish County Today: Budget Q&A

In a new video airing on the Snohomish County Web site as well as local government access channels throughout the county, Executive Aaron Reardon answers budget questions in a talk-show format designed for the viewer. Want to know why the Executive believes a property tax increase is a bad idea? [Click here](#).

Local organizations, county partner to promote tourism

Eleven organizations and events have qualified for funding recently approved by County Executive Aaron Reardon and the County Council to increase county tourism and promote overnight stays at local hotels and motels.

The local organizations will receive nearly \$100,000 from Snohomish County's Hotel/Motel Lodging Tax Fund.

"These cultural events and publications attract new visitors to our community and enrich all our lives," Reardon said.

The Snohomish County Lodging Tax Advisory Board reviewed applications and recommended a total of \$99,236 for projects. Organizations will provide another \$365,132 in matching funds.

"As chair of the advisory committee, it's a pleasure to award funding to so many worthy projects," said County Councilman Brian Sullivan. "The community truly benefits from the diverse scope of projects granted funds."

The Hotel/Motel Funds come from a rebate the county receives as part of the sales tax the state collects on overnight lodging in unincorporated areas of Snohomish County and in those cities that do not have their own lodging tax fund ordinances.

Funding is distributed twice a year.

Specific projects and groups receiving money are:

- * Arts Council of Snohomish County for publicity of "Girls Night Out;"
- * Community Transit to produce "Snohomish County by

Bus: A Visitor's Guide;"

- * Future of Flight for attractions advertising;
- * Imagine Children's Museum for its Polar Party Days;
- * Marysville Historical Society for its technology lab;
- * Mukilteo Lighthouse Festival Association for its annual festival;
- * Northwest Agriculture Business Center for advertising Snohomish County's Fall Farm Festival;
- * Northwest Sports Association for its annual fastpitch softball tournament guide;
- * Sky Valley Chamber of Commerce for its "Sky Valley Adventures" publication;
- * Snohomish County Arts Commission for Web site maintenance;
- * Village Theater for an expansion project.

According to the latest numbers published by the Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development, tourism in Snohomish County accounted for \$823.4 million in visitor spending in 2006 and generated more than 9,260 jobs – almost a 6 percent increase over 2007. Typically, overnight visitors spend three times as much as single-day visitors.

Based on these figures, Snohomish County ranks third in Washington state in visitor spending.

County panel offers health advice to seniors

On Wednesday, Sept. 24, the Snohomish County Office of Long Term Care & Aging will conduct a panel on dental healthcare titled "32 Reasons to Smile: Oral Health As You Age."

From 10:30 a.m. to noon, at the Monte Cristo Hotel Ballroom, 1507 Wall Street, Everett, the panel will discuss oral health and aging from different perspectives. Dr. Ross Haddow, DDS, will provide practical tips about maintaining oral health as an older adult. Martha Peppones, MS, RD, CD, and director of Nutrition Programs for Senior Services of Snohomish County, will discuss the link between nutrition, oral health and overall health. In addition, Robert Quirk, director of Information & Assistance for Senior Services of Snohomish County, will share information on

accessing dental care.

The panel discussion is free and run in partnership with The Everett Clinic and the Snohomish County Council on Aging. Registrations to reserve a space are requested. For more information or to register, contact Joyce Frasu at 425-388-7377 or j.frasu@snoco.org.

Stark approved as Human Services Director

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon congratulated Ken Stark on his recent confirmation by the County Council as the county's Human Services director.

Stark was appointed to the position by Reardon in June following a national search that included more than 25 applicants. Stark came to the county after working as the director of Gov. Chris Gregoire's Mental Health Transformation Project. He has a long history of work in human-services-related fields.

"I have no doubt that Ken's approach to human services is what this county needs," Reardon said. "He'll continue to find better and more efficient ways of providing services to Snohomish County's residents just as taxpayers expect."

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). He brings a results-based approach to the county's Human Services Department, Reardon said.

Stark earned a master's degree in education from Seattle University in 1979 and a master's in business administration from City University in 1981. Prior to his work for the governor, which began in 2005, he served a year as deputy assistant secretary of the Health and Rehabilitation Administration for DSHS.

Before that, he spent 16 years as DSHS' director of the Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse and one year as administrator of the King County Assessment Center, which refers clients to various alcohol and drug treatments. In addition, Stark also has worked as administrator of the

private-based Riverton Hospital Care unit and was president and director of First Step, a for-profit, outpatient chemical-dependency treatment program.

“As an Executive Office appointee, I appreciate the council confirmation vote and look forward to working with the council members and community stakeholders in providing quality services to residents of Snohomish County,” Stark said.

Among the many honors that he has received, Stark received the 2005 governor’s Distinguished Management Leadership Award and the 2003 Service Award from the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors.

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.