

Snohomish County Executive  
**AARON REARDON**



Priorities in Action



Latest News & Upcoming Events

Friday September 5, 2008

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

 **Reardon offers balanced budget, no property tax increase**

*County Executive responds to revenue shortfall, sets County priorities for 2009-2010*

Without recommending a property tax increase to cover a shortfall in projected revenues, Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon has proposed the county's first biennial budget for 2009-2010.

For details on Executive Reardon's 2009-2010 Recommended Budget, go to [www.snoco.org](http://www.snoco.org) and search "Budget." There you will find a complete copy of Executive Reardon's Budget Address and department-by-department details of the Recommended Budget.

 **Reardon urges disaster preparation in September**

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon urged residents this week to ready themselves for natural and manmade disasters by declaring September National Preparedness Month.

The county continues to prepare for such events so as to provide essential public services following a disaster. But it's important for individuals to prepare themselves and their families by taking simple steps such as assembling an emergency supply kit, making a personal preparedness plan and becoming more informed about different threats.

"Snohomish County is ready to respond in the event of a disaster," Reardon said. "But any step citizens take to be prepared only enhances our ability to serve them."

For more information on what to include in an emergency kit or how to better prepare, residents can go to [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) and [www.citizencorps.gov](http://www.citizencorps.gov).

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Did you know that

National Preparedness Month also is a good time to recognize and pay tribute to Snohomish County's first responders, law-enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency service personnel and others who put themselves at risk for the safety of the community.

Citizens also can help first responders during a disaster by finding ways now to make their community safer.

"I encourage all residents to share their gratitude with the men and women on our frontlines," Reardon said. "I also strongly suggest that Snohomish County citizens work together to make sure we prevent disasters when possible and are prepared if they occur."

Finally, with the fall and winter months approaching, now is an opportunity to remove objects and debris that can be propelled and cause damage during windstorms. Homeowners also should check trees for limbs likely to break or fall and remove them before they can cause damage. An excellent source of tips for windstorm preparedness ideas can be found at

[www.emd.wa.gov/publications/pubed/windstorm\\_children\\_brochure.pdf](http://www.emd.wa.gov/publications/pubed/windstorm_children_brochure.pdf).

For more information on disaster preparedness, go to the Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management Web site at [www.snoco.org/departments/emergency\\_management](http://www.snoco.org/departments/emergency_management).

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## **Cities, County host Operation Homefront's Freedom Walk 2008**

*Sept. 11 event honors military, first responders*

The public is invited to the free Operation Homefront Washington Freedom Walk to remember those who lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001 as well as to show support for military women and men and our first responders.

The annual event begins at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 11 at the Snohomish County Plaza, 3000 Rockefeller Ave., in downtown Everett.

Register now at: <http://www.operationhomefront.net/washington>.

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](#).

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

And please be sure to

“We can never do enough to honor those who lost their lives in the Sept. 11, 2001, tragedy,” Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon said. “But we can join together on this day to thank the many men and women in the Armed Forces, as well as first responders, who are protecting our freedom overseas and at home.”

“I am very excited about this year’s Freedom Walk to show our military families and first responders that we will never forget 9/11 and the sacrifices they and their families make for us 24/7,” said Janice Buckley, president and founder of Operation Homefront Washington. “This is a great way for us in the communities to show our support in a tangible way.”

Operation Homefront Washington Freedom Walk 2008 is sponsored by: RedWeek, TriWest, City of Everett, City of Marysville and the Snohomish County government.

"This is our second year of sponsorship of the Freedom Walk," said RedWeek CEO Randy Conrads. "We are so very appreciative of the sacrifices of our men and women in uniform and their families here at home. Support for Operation Homefront is an honor and a duty we feel very strongly at RedWeek.com."

The event includes a rally featuring speakers from Operation Homefront, Naval Station Everett and community leaders as well as a walk that begins at the County Campus Plaza and heads west on Wall Street, north on Colby Avenue, east on California Avenue and south on Rockefeller Avenue back to the County Campus plaza.

“In Everett, we are excited to be a host city for this important event,” Everett Mayor Ray Stephanson said. “We are proud of the men and women who serve this county and our first responders. We want you to join us in Everett for this very special recognition.”

Freedom Walk 2008 is just one of many such events that will occur around the country to bring community members together in a commitment to never forget the lives lost in the Sept. 11 attacks as well as the sacrifices made by our veterans, military personnel and first responders.

Marysville Mayor Dennis Kendall says his city is proud to take part in the Operation Homefront Freedom Walk.

“Empathy for those who lost their lives in the 9/11 attack, and the pride we carry as a military family-friendly city are inherent traits of our community,” Kendall said. “This event will serve as visual

[visit me on the web!](#)

Sincerely,



Aaron  
Reardon

reminder to U.S. service members and first responders that we support you. I encourage my fellow citizens and their families to join in the walk and show their appreciation.”

**Registered participants will receive:**

T-shirt (first come, first served)  
Patriotic pom-poms  
American flag  
Water

“Freedom Walks give Americans a chance to honor those lost on Sept. 11, and to all who have bravely sacrificed their lives to protect our freedom,” said TriWest President and CEO David J. McIntyre, Jr. “By participating in these walks, Americans can show the world our unwavering resolve and support for those who continue to fight for freedom.”

Last year, more than 750 people participated in Operation Homefront Washington's Freedom Walk in Lakewood, Pierce County.

For more information please visit [www.everettwa.org](http://www.everettwa.org)



## **Veterans' input needed for service improvements**

Veterans and community members from throughout Snohomish County will again have the opportunity to provide input to the veterans' service providers on the kind of services they believe are needed in Snohomish County.

From 10 to 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, Sept. 10, the Snohomish County Human Services Department, its Veterans Assistance Program and the Veterans Administration Puget Sound Health Care System will sponsor the second annual fact-finding mission to raise awareness of veteran needs and to plan for these requirements.

In addition, participants will be among the first to review data gathered in 2007 for Snohomish County in the CHALENG Report – a part of the Veterans Administration's Project Challenge, which collects information on homeless veteran needs. Project CHALENG fosters coordinated services by bringing veterans affairs at all levels together for a better continuum of care.

In 2007, Snohomish County led counties statewide in the number of surveys collected.

The Sept. 10 meeting will be held at the Everett VFW's lower level conference room, 2711 Oakes Ave., Everett. For more information, contact Ramona Menish at 425-388-7245 or [ramona.menish@co.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:ramona.menish@co.snohomish.wa.us).

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## **U.S. premier figure skating event almost here**

Skate America, the U.S. premiere figure skating event is coming to Snohomish County in just under two months. It was just under one year ago that the U.S. Figure Skating Association announced that Production Sports, Inc. and Everett, Washington were chosen to produce and host the 2008 Skate America competition.

The best athletes from across the world have been selected to compete in this pre-Olympic competition, many of whom will actually participate in the 2010 Games.

The future opportunities from hosting this international event are limitless - if we as a community show the world that Snohomish County is the place to be.

Only 100 miles and just over one year's time separate the athletes from their 2010 Olympic dreams. Your enthusiasm and assistance is needed to help make 2008 Skate America a memorable experience for both the athletes and spectators.

Are you interested in volunteering at Skate America?

Skate America is currently seeking dedicated community volunteers to assist with the hosting of the event. There are many opportunities to get involved: Airport Greeters, Bus Hosts, Hotel Greeters, Event Welcome Ambassadors, Fan Fest Host, Reception Host, Vendor Assistant, and Media Support. 2008 Skate America, part of the International Skating Union Grand Prix Series, will be held at the Comcast Arena at Everett from October 24-26, 2008. Volunteers are needed from Tuesday, October 21st through Monday, October 27th.

Applications will be accepted through Monday, September 15, 2008. This deadline is needed to facilitate sufficient time for background checks and establish volunteer schedules.

Interested individuals may download an application by visiting [www.2008SkateAmerica.com](http://www.2008SkateAmerica.com) and clicking on "Volunteers". If you have questions, please contact Pam Dawson, at [volunteersa2008@charter.net](mailto:volunteersa2008@charter.net).

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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.***

