

Snohomish County Executive
AARON REARDON



Priorities in Action



Latest News & Upcoming Events

Friday August 1, 2008

www.snoco.org

 **Reardon vetoes \$163 million tax-increase plan** *Executive says justice center levy high priced and too burdensome*

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon vetoed Wednesday the County Council's proposal to institute a tax levy for the construction of a new justice center.

The veto comes following the council's recent 3-2 decision to place a tax levy proposal before voters on the November ballot. Under the council's Amended Ordinance 08-096, the county would raise more than \$163 million in general obligation bonds for the design, remodel, construction and equipping of a new justice center.

"Council should winnow down its proposal and allow more public input on what residents are willing to support before sending a ballot measure to voters," Reardon said. "This proposed tax hike is out of touch with the citizens of Snohomish County."

Specifically, Reardon questioned analysis on proposed staffing levels needed for a new center, indicating that council had offered no plan for funding new positions.

"This proposal assumes that staff operating in our justice center will grow by more than 387 FTEs or 52 percent by 2025," he wrote in his veto letter. "The council engaged in no discussion or debate on whether these assumptions are realistic, or how these staffing increases would be funded."

Reardon acknowledged Wednesday that the county's current justice system facilities are aging, but he urged members of the law and justice community to review current operations and to ensure that facilities are being used

In this issue:

Reardon vetoes \$163 million tax-increase plan

Night Out Against Crime, Tuesday at McCollum Park

State grant will restore historic Carnegie building

County preserves Heybrook Ridge, other parcels

YARD grants head to council for final approval

Massy Ferguson to headline next plaza concert

Movies in the Park continues with "School of Rock" Thursday, August 7

How are we

in the most effective and efficient way possible.

He also urged the council to take fiscally responsible steps in preparing a new ballot measure.

“The council must ask itself whether it makes sense to ask taxpayers to pay for a facility the county cannot afford to fill,” he said.

Reardon said a tighter measure with a smaller burden on taxpayers would be a positive step toward improving the county’s justice system.

“I thank all the members of the Justice Center Advisory Committee for their hard work and service,” he said. “The Justice Center Master Plan is a good first step that should be refined to address the long-term needs of the Snohomish County law and justice community.”

 **Night Out Against Crime, Tuesday at McCollum Park**

Join your neighbors and learn the latest in crime prevention during this year’s National Night Out Against Crime event, being held Aug. 5 at McCollum Park.

Sponsored by the Snohomish County Executive’s Office, the annual event will feature free food, live music, face painting, games and many more fun activities. More importantly, participants can find out what efforts Snohomish County and other fire and law enforcement agencies are making to prevent crime and protect property.

From 5 to 8 p.m., county officials will be available at McCollum Pioneer Park, 600 128th St. SE, Everett. Free hot dogs, corn on the cob and snow cones will be available as well as opportunities to win tickets to the upcoming Evergreen State Fair. Music will be provided by “Funny Feeling.”

Midway through the event, the Snohomish County Sheriff’s Office will offer a live flyover and demonstration of its search-and-rescue helicopter.

Safety booths and personnel will include the WSU Snohomish County Extension Office, Community Transit,

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](#).

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

Mill Creek Police Department, Snohomish County Fire District No. 1, Domestic Violence Services of Snohomish County, YMCA of Snohomish County, United Way of Snohomish County, Snohomish County Parks and Recreation and more.

For more than 20 years, communities have gathered nationwide to celebrate National Night Out Against Crime. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the event.

The Aug. 5 event at McCollum Park is in partnership with the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office, SnoCope Federal Credit Union, Farmer's Insurance, Mill Creek Police Department, Mill Creek Lion's Club and more.

For more information on the event, contact Amy Ockerlander at 425-388-3460 or amy.ockerlander@snoco.org.

State grant will restore historic Carnegie Building

The Washington State Historical Society has recommended that Snohomish County receive more than \$880,000 in grant money for the renovation of the county's Carnegie Building.

The funding will be used to complete structural upgrades to the Everett building, which will become the home of the Museum of Snohomish County History.

The museum is expected to make tenant improvements and begin moving in items for storage this fall.

"This grant allows us to make certain improvements, which will allow this historic site to have another life," County Executive Aaron Reardon said. "Snohomish County is rich in historic and cultural resources worthy of preservation, and this building is one of them."

"Historical preservation has always been a top priority for me," said County Councilman Brian Sullivan, a strong proponent of the project and its future use. "Now, we are one step closer to restoring the Carnegie Building with these funds."

Grant funding will be available next July assuming state

legislative and gubernatorial approval, both of which are expected.

Specifically, the county will receive \$882,000 – the full amount requested under the grant application. The county was one of 53 organizations and municipalities that applied for a grant.

In addition to the grant money, the county will complete roofing repairs this summer at the Carnegie Building, which is more than 100 years old and listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Carnegie Building has served as a library and mortuary and has been owned by the county since 1980.

 **County preserves Heybrook Ridge, other parcels**

Snohomish County will assist the Cascade Land Conservancy and a grassroots group of east Snohomish County residents in finalizing their purchase of 130 acres of sensitive forestland near the recently established Wild Sky Wilderness Area known as Heybrook Ridge.

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon and members of the County Council have said they will approve the use of conservation futures funding following Tuesday’s proposal from the Snohomish County Conservation Futures Program Advisory Board. The board recommends preservation-related property acquisitions with conservation futures money.

The county will contribute up to \$700,000 of funding from the Snohomish County Conservation Futures Program – collected as part of the annual property tax levy to conserve open space, forest lands or agricultural properties – to the \$1.21 million purchase. Friends of Heybrook Ridge – made up of local residents and outdoor enthusiasts – will donate \$550,000, including a \$500,000 anonymous gift.

Snohomish County will be the eventual owner of the property with its parks department as the designated custodian, after the Conservancy, which secured an option on the property last year, completes the purchase in coming weeks.

The Conservancy had until July 31 to finish raising funds for the Heybrook Ridge parcel, which was logged long ago but has now grown back to provide a forested setting for the town of Index.

“This purchase, with help from the CLC and local residents, allows us to provide a legacy to the people who live in Index and the region,” Reardon said. “Under the county’s protection, Heybrook Ridge will continue to provide opportunities for hiking and climbing, as well as contribute to the natural beauty of the area.”

“This is a great example of a community coming together to preserve a local jewel that is central to both its charm and character,” said Council Chairman Dave Somers, who sits on the advisory board. “I’m thrilled the gateway to the Wild Sky Wilderness Area will be preserved for present and future generations.”

The advisory board agreed unanimously to present the Heybrook Ridge project to the Executive and Council for final approval as well as six other projects. Total expenditures recommended by the board Tuesday were nearly \$7.7 million.

“These seven projects approved today make significant strides in protecting wetland, forestland and wildlife habitat,” said Councilman Mike Cooper, who also sits on the advisory board. “We especially took steps today to preserve habitat in urban areas.”

Additional projects include:

\$450,000 for the preservation of more than seven acres adjacent to the county’s Lord Hill Regional Park. This will provide improved access to the park for equestrian uses.

\$1.215 million toward the purchase of nearly 10 acres of sensitive wetlands and shoreline bordering Lake Stickney, where future development is imminent. This purchase will require an additional \$1 million in state grant funding for which an application has been submitted.

\$1.520 million toward the purchase of more than eight acres of land in the Lake Serene watershed. This purchase will

require an additional \$980,000 in state grant funding for which an application has been submitted.

\$2.975 million for the preservation of 40 acres near the county's Cathcart property. The purchase will transfer ownership to the county's Parks and Recreation Department, preserving the land.

\$750,000 for the purchase of remaining parcels at Sky View Tracts along the Skykomish River near Sultan. The county plans to construct a river park at the site.

\$75,000 for nearly an acre near the county's River Meadows Park. The purchase will allow the parks department to complete an addition to its new Yurt Village camping facility.

For more information, contact Christopher Schwarzen at 425-388-3883 or Christopher.schwarzen@snoco.org.

YARD grants head to Council for final approval

About \$1 million in park amenity projects, funded in part with Snohomish County grants, were forwarded Tuesday by the County Executive to the County Council for final approval.

Ten projects were selected earlier this year as part of the inaugural Youth Amenities and Recreation Development (YARD) grant program. They are being funded with \$450,000 in county seed money, matched by more than \$500,000 in community funds and volunteer labor.

The YARD grant program gives nonprofits, school districts and local municipalities a funding source to complete much-needed parks projects throughout Snohomish County.

“We’re building up this community by investing county money in partnerships that will improve the quality of recreational opportunities available in Snohomish County,” Reardon said. “This small amount of seed money is a considerable investment without a tax increase to Snohomish County residents.”

The program is part of the Community Enhancement

Initiative proposed by Reardon as part of the 2008 county budget. Reardon has announced plans to include additional YARD grant money in the 2009-2010 biennial budget.

Applications for this year's awards were solicited in February and March by the county's Parks and Recreation Department. A total of 13 applications were received and 10 met the grant requirements. Grant winners gathered in May for the award announcements, together with the County Executive and members of the County Council.

"The YARD grants provide much needed support for shared county open spaces," said County Councilman Brian Sullivan. "I look forward to final council approval of these funds."

Council members have been supportive of the program from the beginning and now must finalize grant awards.

The Mukilteo North Little League, located in Sullivan's council district, will use \$50,000 in YARD grant money to improve existing baseball and softball fields at Paine Field Community Park. The Little League has secured \$45,671 in matching funds and labor.

In total, matching funds and volunteer labor for this year's projects come from four school districts, two cities and 10 nonprofits, including various parent-teacher associations and the YMCA.

"The biggest benefit of this grant is that we don't have to ask our children to go sell candy bars and raise money to purchase playground equipment," said Brenda Fuglevand, principal of Forest View Elementary, during the award announcements in May. "And to have this kind of equipment available for them to climb, play and swing benefits their education."

The Forest View PTA is combining \$24,100 in YARD grant money with another \$41,252 to complete a playground climbing structure at the school.

Other grant-funded projects can be found throughout Snohomish County, including Arlington, Everett, Monroe, Mountlake Terrace and Sultan. Grants vary from a little more than \$6,000 to the maximum of \$75,000. Projects

include sports field improvements, playground equipment and a ropes challenge course.

For a complete list of this year's grant winners, go to:
www.snocoparks.com.

 **Massy Ferguson to headline next plaza concert**

Massy Ferguson brings their fresh take on Americana Roots music to the Snohomish County Campus Wednesday, August 6th, at the Music on the Plaza lunchtime concert series. The concert runs from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in downtown Everett.

Tracing their influences to alt-country and American southern rock the band has put together an impressive list of songs and shows, keeping true to old musical pioneers while forging their own path.

The lunchtime concerts are free to the public and run through Aug. 20 at the campus amphitheater located at Rockefeller Avenue and Wall Street. Burgers and Brats hot off the grill, kettle corn and fresh cut flowers also will be available during the concert.

Concert series schedule:

Snohomish County Campus
3000 Rockefeller Ave.
Everett

Wednesdays

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

August 13

Los Flacos
Music from Latin America

August 20

Bob Strickland Group
Jazz

For more information, contact Wendy Becker, Cultural and Economic Development Officer, at 425-388-3186 or visit www.snohomishcountyarts.org.

 **Movies in the Park continues with "School of Rock" Thursday, August 7**

Don't miss "School of Rock" on Thursday, August 7 as Movies in the Park at Willis Tucker Community Park continues.

Sundquist Homes, in partnership with Snohomish County Parks, sponsors the summer movie series held at Willis Tucker Community Park and the Evergreen State Fairgrounds through Aug. 21.

Open seating begins at 7:30 p.m. for each movie at Willis Tucker, and seating is on the grass. Families and individuals should bring low-back lawn chairs and blankets for comfort.

Admission to all movies in the series is free. Popcorn and soda are available for purchase.

Below is a list of remaining movies. Starting times are approximate.

School of Rock

Rated PG-13

9:15 p.m., Aug. 7

We Are Marshall

Rated PG

9 p.m., Aug. 14

Evan Almighty

Rated PG-13

8:45 p.m., Aug. 21

For more information visit www.snocoparks.com.

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.

