

Snohomish County Executive  
**AARON REARDON**



*Priorities in Action*



Latest News & Upcoming Events

Friday, July 11, 2008

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

 **Senator Murray secures transportation funding for Snohomish County roads**

U.S. Senator Patty Murray announced this week that she has included \$4.5 million for transportation projects supported by Snohomish County in the Fiscal Year 2009 Senate Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development (THUD) appropriations bill. The bill must pass the House and Senate before it can be signed into law. Murray serves as chair of the THUD Appropriations Subcommittee.

The Granite Falls Alternate Route project, pegged to receive \$2.5 million, will divert trucks and trailers from downtown Granite Falls to a corridor outside the city. In addition to increasing the mobility and safety of residents and businesses, this alternate route will reduce travel time and barriers for freight movement, and support economic growth throughout the region.

"The completion of this project will be a strong example of how local, state and federal partnerships can provide a safer route that also improves the quality of life and economic growth in the region," said Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon. "I thank Senator Murray for her continued commitment to the Granite Falls Alternative Route and enabling this project to be completed."

Murray also secured \$2 million for U.S. 2 safety improvements. These improvements will reduce fatal and injury accidents and increase traveler and pedestrian safety. The project will also reduce congestion-related collisions within Monroe & Sultan by enhancing signal operations systems. U.S. 2 carries more than 6 million tons

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

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of goods annually and is a major recreational route to Stevens Pass and Eastern Washington. Project improvements along the corridor will help keep those goods moving with minimal delay to both the Puget Sound region and Eastern Washington.

"This bill makes targeted investments in projects that will make Snohomish County safer, bolster mass-transit, and improve quality of life." Murray said. "With gas prices at record-highs, local governments strapped for cash, and economic growth being threatened, communities need a boost from the federal government. I'm proud to work to return Snohomish County families' federal tax dollars to projects in their own backyard."

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 **Eric Madis featured at Music on the Plaza**

NW guitarist, singer and composer Eric Madis, will bring his mastery of Blues and signature bottleneck slide style to the 4th Annual Music on the Plaza lunchtime concert series, Wednesday July 16th on the Snohomish County campus. The concert runs from 11:30a.m. to 1:30p.m.

Eric Madis is distinguished by his tight and vibrant arrangements and broad selection of songs. His band does modern versions of old country blues, 1940s swing styles, Chicago blues, Gospel-influenced ballads and exciting modern styles.



The lunchtime concerts run through August 20th at the campus amphitheater located at Rockefeller and Wall.

**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

Bring your lunch or grab a burger or brat hot off the grill. Kettle corn and fresh cut flowers from Hmong growers will also be available during the concert.

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## **County boosts support for housing and homelessness services**

Snohomish County has begun distributing more than \$2 million in county raised funding to support programs geared toward ending chronic homelessness.

The county's Human Services Department has awarded more than \$1.54 million to 20 projects that specifically serve homeless individuals and families in a variety of programs. Another \$500,000 is being used to support a housing voucher program tied to human services offered through the county and other organizations.

"This funding allows for innovative approaches to tackling one of Snohomish County's more pressing issues at hand," said Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon. "Together with the county, these organizations are offering hope to a population in need."

The money is part of Snohomish County's Ending Homelessness Program (EHP), which permits the county to collect local recording fees on real-estate transactions in support of efforts to end homelessness. The program was created by the state legislature in 2005 and amended in 2007 through ESSHB 2163 and HB1359.

Specifically, the \$1.54 million will be used to provide direct client-service programs, capital projects and other activities specifically targeted at ending or preventing homelessness in the county.

Among recipients this year are Volunteers of America, Cocoon House, the Salvation Army, Snohomish County Legal Services, the YWCA and the Snohomish County Center for Battered Women.

Funding will be use to provide permanent housing options, case management for homeless domestic-violence victims, emergency rental assistance, eviction prevention and

children's services for homeless families.

Each recipient and funding amount was determined by the county's EHP Advisory Committee, made up of five members with expertise in housing and homelessness issues.

The \$500,000 voucher program is new this year and will provide housing assistance connected to human services during a three-year period for up to 50 families.

Families participating in the program will receive a housing voucher from the Housing Authority of Snohomish County (HASCO). Supportive services will be provided by the Snohomish County Community Action Partnership/Workforce Development Council, Cocoon House and Sunrise Services/Washington Home of Your Own agencies. This assistance will be tailored to the individual family and could include services such as financial literacy education, chemical-dependency help or parenting services.

"Each program supports the county's plan to end homelessness by 2016," said Reardon, who convened the county's Housing and Homelessness Policy Oversight Committee in January.

The committee has been asked to establish benchmarks for forthcoming homeless and housing initiatives as well as guide long-term strategies. Represented are leaders from local and state government, the housing and real-estate industry, educators, nonprofit executives, business leaders and members of the faith community.

For more information on the Ending Homelessness Program, contact Dean Weitenhagen, Supervisor of the county's Office of Housing, Homelessness & Community Development, at 425-388-3267 or [dean.weitenhagen@snoco.org](mailto:dean.weitenhagen@snoco.org).

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 **Fair celebrates 100 years with a contest per day**

When it comes to the Evergreen State Fair, many contests have become annual events. This year, the Evergreen State Fair will host another attempt at a Guinness World Record. We're looking to bring nearly 7,000 people together to dance the Hokey Pokey and break this record. The attempt will be made Sunday, August 31.

In addition, fairgoers can expect fun associated with blowing the biggest bubble or winning the Egg Toss with a friend as well as numerous other contests including quarter in the haystack, a hula hoop race, pie eating and more.

The 100th Evergreen State Fair will be held August 21 – September 1 at the Evergreen State Fairgrounds in Monroe. To learn more, [click here](#) or visit [www.evergreenfair.org](http://www.evergreenfair.org).

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***Thank you very much for taking the time to read my electronic newsletter.***

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***You may also contact me directly by phone at 425.388.3460.***