

Snohomish County Executive  
**AARON REARDON**



**Priorities in Action**



Latest News & Upcoming Events

Friday, March 14, 2008

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

 **Reardon's housing task force sets priorities**

Snohomish County's newest housing and homelessness task force will target issues concerning manufactured-housing preservation, homeless veteran housing and homeownership opportunities for low- and moderate-income families.

The Snohomish County Housing and Homelessness Policy Committee met last week to discuss how best to handle its charge of creating short-term and long-term strategies for ending homelessness and creating new housing initiatives.

Following a recommendation made at the meeting, three workgroups are being formed to focus on manufactured housing communities, veterans housing and eliminating barriers to homeownership.

"Solving these issues is in no way going to be easy," Reardon said. "But these groups are going to help us make some strong, solid recommendations that will result in new housing options for all Snohomish County residents."

Reardon convened the committee in January after announcing that a priority of his second term was to focus on increasing housing opportunities for all residents and ending homelessness. Reardon said then that the best course for both was to tackle the two together.

About 40 members of the community – representing nonprofits, homebuilders, real-estate professionals, faith-based networks and government – have joined the committee.  
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During the March 7 meeting, members learned the

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difficulties between building new homes and keeping them affordable.

“The variables between a profit and loss for development are very tight,” Reardon said. “Our challenge is to grow the number of affordable housing options and to reduce the number of currently cost-burdened homeowners.”

[More](#)

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### **Bus ads highlight “Secure Your Load” campaign**

Snohomish County’s new, eye-catching advertising campaign on the back of commuter buses is virtually guaranteed to remind residents to safely secure their truck or car loads.

Ten Community Transit buses will feature the new ads – a “full wrap” bus back with an image of a dangerously unsecured load hanging off a truck – that deliver a strong message to a large audience throughout the year. Drivers traveling behind the bus also will see the slogan “Secure Your Load for Safer Roads.”

A state grant will pay the majority of the costs associated with the Snohomish County advertising campaign. The Washington Department of Ecology has awarded Snohomish County \$65,000 for the advertisements that began running on buses earlier this month.

Since the “Secure Your Load for Safer Roads” campaign began in January 2007, the number of unsecured loads arriving at Snohomish County Solid Waste Stations has decreased to less than half what it was then.

“We’d like to see that number reduced even further,” said Sam Chandler, the county’s solid-waste director. “Unsecured loads have been responsible for several serious accidents in our area, and we need to be vigilant in preventing such accidents.”

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[SnoStat website.](#)

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#### **Contact me:**

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

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

Sincerely,



Aaron Reardon

Part of the county's success has been an ongoing educational program run by Public Works' Solid Waste Division. Money collected from unsecured load fees has been used in various ways to educate residents to the importance of properly tying down loads before traveling.

The Community Transit bus system is another way to increase awareness. The buses will run throughout the entire Community Transit system, which includes Arlington, Edmonds, Everett, Bothell, Lynnwood, Stanwood, Marysville, Mukilteo, Monroe, Lake Stevens and Mountlake Terrace. The system serves more than 1,300 square miles, provides 7.7 million passenger trips annually and serves 19 Park & Ride lots.



*(Photo caption: Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon [left] discusses the new ad campaign with Jon Yeckley, the county's community litter cleanup program manager.)*

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## **County planner honored for “green” building**

Snohomish County Senior Planner Deanna Carveth will be honored this week at the 2008 Built Green Conference in Seattle.

Carveth will receive the Built Green Pioneer Award, designed to recognize people who have played an integral role in developing and maintaining the Built Green program. Carveth is a senior planner in the county’s public works department.

The Built Green program is operated by the Master Builders Association in partnership with King and Snohomish counties.

“The Pioneer award is the most prestigious award offered by Built Green,” wrote Built Green Director Aaron Adelstein to Carveth. “Without your time, energy and support, the program would not be the success that it is today.”

Carveth helped create the county’s Sustainable Development Task Force at Snohomish County. Now a nonprofit organization, the task force teaches builders, developers and real-estate agents in Snohomish County the benefits of environmentally friendly, or “green,” building.

The task force has about 45 members including realtors, developers, participating cities, engineering firms, architects and the Snohomish County Public Utility District.

Her work with the task force and the county has caused local developers to “think outside the box,” and embrace new green-building techniques. The result has been a number of green projects including Snoqualmie Gourmet Ice Cream’s environment-friendly construction of their new headquarters in Maltby.

“Deanna’s work is exemplary of the kind of bright and innovative people that work at Snohomish County,” said Public Works Director Steve Thomsen. “It’s nice to have her on staff to guide us in our efforts to become a sustainable county.”

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Carveth also helped bring last year's Built Green conference to Everett, with the highest attendance ever recorded at the annual event.

The conference this year was held at the Washington State Convention & Trade Center, Seattle, on March 13 and 14. Snohomish County is one of the leading sponsors. County Executive Aaron Reardon will speak the morning of March 14 on the economics of green building before introducing keynote speaker Andrew Winston, founder of Winston Eco-Strategies.

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## **Volunteers needed to assist vulnerable adults**

Adults living in nursing homes, assisted-living facilities and adult family homes throughout Snohomish County are in need of community help.

More than 2,500 such residents lack a volunteer ombudsman, who can serve as an advocate, educator, investigator and problem solver on their behalf. Volunteer ombudsmen come from all walks of life, various age groups and educational levels. The common thread is a passion for older adults and persons with disabilities.

The Snohomish County Long Term Care Ombudsman Program will offer a four-day training session on June 4, 6, 10 and 12 for those interested in becoming a volunteer ombudsman.

Volunteers must be present each day, and once certified, volunteers are asked to help four hours a week at an assigned long-term care facility. Expenses such as mileage are reimbursable.

The Snohomish County Long Term Care Ombudsman Program is part of a statewide program and protects the rights of residents of long-term care facilities (adult family homes, boarding homes and nursing homes) and empowers residents and their families to advocate for high-quality and compassionate care.

For more information, contact Michal Glauner at 425-388-7393 or [michal.glauner@co.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:michal.glauner@co.snohomish.wa.us).

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