

Snohomish County Executive
AARON REARDON



Priorities in Action



Latest News & Upcoming Events

Friday, January 11, 2008

www.snoco.org

 **Reardon initiates affordable housing/homelessness plans**

Snohomish County began a timely initiative Friday geared toward ending homelessness and increasing affordable housing by convening the first meeting of the Housing & Homelessness Policy Oversight Committee.

The committee coincides with other efforts the county will make this year to tackle two of the most pressing issues facing Snohomish County. Among those are this Tuesday's Workforce Housing Summit at the Lynnwood Convention Center and the Point in Time homeless count scheduled for Jan. 24 throughout the county.

Executive Aaron Reardon convened Friday's committee meeting, gathering around him nearly 40 members of the community. 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.

"The work you do today will be implemented into county policies and ordinances," Reardon told the group. "This won't be another committee without an outcome. We will get the job done."

The committee will be asked to make suggestions on how best to establish benchmarks for forthcoming homeless and housing initiatives as well as guide long-term strategies.

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In this issue:

Reardon initiates housing/homelessness plans

Summit to address benefits of employer-assisted housing

Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration to be held Wednesday, Jan. 16

Crisis card highlight Snohomish County resources

Arts Commission soliciting submissions, \$1,000 prize to be awarded

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

There are several obstacles to adding affordable housing units in Snohomish County and to decreasing the number of homeless living here. One is the widening gap between housing prices and income, committee members said Friday.

“I have watched people struggle through such crises,” said County Councilman Mike Cooper, a member of the committee. “Every day, there are families one paycheck away from being homeless.”

The committee is expected to meet at least three more times before the Housing Consortium of Everett and Snohomish County – a nonprofit membership organization searching for solutions to the county’s housing challenges – complete its forthcoming Affordable Housing Action Plan.



Summit to address benefits of employer-assisted housing

Snohomish County is partnering with local and national organizations to help local businesses address the challenges of workforce housing in the county.

A Snohomish County Workforce Housing Summit will be held Tues., Jan. 15, 2008, from 9 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. at the Lynnwood Convention Center in Lynnwood.

The summit is being coordinated by Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon and is sponsored by Freddie Mac – one of the nation’s largest investors in residential mortgages – Snohomish County, BECU, United Way of Snohomish County and HomeSight.

The summit will showcase successful employment and quality-of-life initiatives designed to help local employers enhance employee recruitment and retention. Participants will hear about the benefits of offering an employer-assisted housing benefit to their workforce and can learn from local employers who currently offer the benefit.

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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

“Anytime we can assist local businesses in helping their employees gain homeownership, it’s a win-win all around,” Reardon said. “Homeownership ensures better company retention and happier employees.”

By engaging in a forum of ideas, innovations and best practices, employers will walk away with a better understanding of how to offer practical benefits to their employees. Programs with proven workforce-housing benefits will be discussed, as well as examples and case studies that address employee retention, rewards and recruiting.

The summit is a great networking opportunity because it will bring together organizations and businesses dedicated to affordable housing solutions.

For more information or to register, please visit www.chcs.com/homesight. Local employers are invited to attend. Seating is limited.

 **Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration to be held Wednesday, Jan. 16**

The annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Celebration – sponsored by Snohomish County, the City of Everett, YMCA of Snohomish County and United Way of Snohomish County – is fast approaching. The all day celebration will honor Dr. King for his commitment to civil rights and the sacrifices made by so many during the quest for equality.

To be held **Wednesday, Jan. 16**, this year’s events will include a diversity breakfast, rally, march and a community celebration featuring special guest speaker Julian Bond, chairman of the NAACP. Prior to his appointment as NAACP chairman in 1998, Mr. Bond spent 20 years in the Georgia General Assembly. He has served as a university professor and was an activist who participated in sit-ins and anti-segregation rallies during the Civil Rights Movement.

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All events are free and open to the public

Schedule:

7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.: Diversity Breakfast
Holiday Inn
3105 Pine St., Everett
Space is limited, please RSVP
to kreardon@ci.everett.wa.us

10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Rally
Snohomish County Plaza
3000 Rockefeller Ave., Everett

11:00 a.m.: March Begins at Snohomish County Plaza

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.: Celebration with Julian Bond
Edward D. Hansen Conference
Center
2000 Hewitt Ave., Everett

For more information on the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Celebration, please visit the City of Everett website at www.ci.everett.wa.us. To learn more about this or other events taking place in Snohomish County to honor Dr. King, please contact Amy Ockerlander at 425-388-3090.

 **Crisis card highlights Snohomish County resources**

The annual Looking for every opportunity to serve at-risk adolescents, the Snohomish County Office of Children's Affairs & Prevention has collaborated with other county agencies to create a condensed help guide called the Youth Crisis Card.

About the size of a business card, the Youth Crisis Card contains detailed information and contact numbers for services available to youth and families in need.

The card is tailored to inform parents and guardians of the most important resources to contact when they need help with a child or teenager who is at risk of running away,

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abusing alcohol or drugs, or even hurting themselves or another person. The card contains basic information about Family Reconciliation Services, local shelters, the Crisis Residential Centers in Snohomish County and who to call to access mental health or chemical-dependency resources.

Easily carried in a pocket, purse or wallet, the card will be distributed by Snohomish County deputies and other Snohomish County law enforcement when they come into contact with families suffering serious conflicts between youth and parents, or when a child has run away.

The card was developed this past summer by the county's Office of Children's Affairs & Prevention with help from the Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee, local law enforcement agencies and the Secure Crisis Residential Center, which provides temporary housing to runaway youth.

Highlighted on the card is information about Family Reconciliation Services, a free program for youth age 12 through 17 having serious conflicts with their parents, the parent of a runaway child or the runaway child themselves.

"These are agencies, many connected with Snohomish County, that want to help resolve some of the serious issues that youth and parents face," said County Executive Aaron Reardon. "Bringing these resources together to serve families more efficiently is what good government should be about."

Also included on the card – which was printed with funding from the Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee – is contact information for crisis lines, detoxification centers and out-of-home placement. The cards periodically will be updated as new resources become available.

Information:

[Snohomish County Office of Children's Affairs & Prevention:](#)

[Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee](#)

 **Arts Commission soliciting submissions,
\$1,000 prize to be awarded**

The Snohomish County Arts Commission is accepting submissions for the **2008 Arts Together** festival poster. Arts Together is the first annual festival of the creative arts and will be held September 19 and 20 on the county campus. The festival will showcase the many diverse arts organizations, mediums, influences and cultural resources available in the County. The selected work will be the promotional centerpiece of this event.

Eligibility/Criteria: Only Snohomish County artists are eligible. Artwork will be judged on the theme of “Celebrating the Creative Arts” and suitability for print and electronic media.

Prize: The Arts Commission will purchase the winning artwork for the Snohomish County art collection for \$1,000. The purchase price includes exclusive and unlimited rights for the Arts Commission to use the image, accompanied by a credit line recognizing the artist.

Deadline: 5 p.m. February 29, 2008.

To enter, send an email to the Snohomish County Arts Commission with the following information:

- **Name, phone number and address;**
- **Title of artwork and medium;**
- **Attach a jpg or tif file of the artwork.**

Email your entry to:

neumaierdesign@comcast.net

Information:

Wendy Becker

Economic & Cultural Development Officer

(425) 388-3186

wendy.becker@co.snohomish.wa.us or

www.snohomishcountyarts.org

***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.

