



January 2016

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Please contact me anytime with questions, concerns or to share your priorities.

Sincerely,

Brian Sullivan

Snohomish County Council,
District 2



Happy

Happy New Year!

To start off this year, I would like to resume my regular newsletter updates. I hope you find these informative and I would welcome any feedback. I'm excited to tackle the opportunities and challenges as we start the New Year, and I'm also pleased to be serving in leadership once more this year as Vice-Chair of the Council.

Changes coming to the County Council

In November, voters elected a new County Executive - Dave Somers - who was also our longtime colleague here on the Council. I congratulate Executive Somers and look forward to working with him in his new role and as he forms his administration.

[HeraldNet: Executive Somers settles into office](#)

The vacant District 5 seat will be filled for the remainder of the term, and voters will get to elect a new County Councilmember in 2017. Early next month, the County Party will convene precinct committee officers to select three nominees. Shortly after this vote, the Council will

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appoint a member from those nominees. I look forward to welcoming a new Councilmember and to having all districts represented for future issues coming before council.

[My Edmonds Beacon: 2016 County Council Chair](#)

Continuing to advocate for our shared budget priorities

We are operating under the 2016 budget, which Council approved in late 2015. This budget was balanced and did not raise revenue. That being said, there is more work to do in order to ensure our long term financial stability. Snohomish County has strong economic and job growth, with our economy outpacing the state and country as a whole. However, governments in general are still lagging the larger overall recovery. This puts us in the position of trimming budgets even as demand on our services increase. As chair of the Finance and Economic Development Committee, I will continue to work with departments in County government throughout the year to ensure we are meeting performance and cost-saving measures. Although we still have challenges, I'm confident in our ability to solve them collaboratively with an eye towards the future.

Working to solve our Homeless Crisis in Snohomish County

[Mukilteo Beacon: \\$1 million to go to Snohomish County Homeless Crisis](#)

Using existing funding sources, I worked with my colleagues to direct \$1 million in capital funding to support housing programs targeted at the homeless population in Snohomish County. Together with funding from the City of Everett, these funds can help activate housing under what is known as the "low-barrier" or "housing first" model. This model is the most effective approach to chronic homelessness because it offers individuals immediate access to permanent supportive housing, which in turn lowers returns to homelessness, lowers the use of other government services, and provides an environment that is more conducive to the treatment of underlying causes like mental health or

chemical dependency issues. This approach has had tremendous results, reducing chronic homelessness by up to 91% in some jurisdictions. You can read more about this approach here:

[NPR: Utah Reduced Chronic Homelessness By 91 Percent; Here's How](#)

Building on our past work - like securing capital funds for short term housing in the County's Carnegie building, the work of embedded social workers with Sheriff deputies, and in partnership with our cities - I believe we are making a meaningful impact on this problem.

Continuing to work towards a solution for our aging courthouse

I remain deeply disappointed that our courthouse project - an on time and on budget project - did not move forward. That being said, I also completely understand the public's frustration with their government not being able to deliver what we pledged. Although we now find ourselves starting over, I still believe the current building is not adequate to our basic needs: civil actions and major trials being moved or delayed due to leaking roofs, scheduling delays due to a building accommodating 15 judges when it was designed for 4, manufacturing parts for elevators that malfunction and trap the public. We still have an urgent need to replace our courthouse, and we still have the money from the construction bonds. Last year, as part of the budget, I directed the executive to convene stakeholders including judges, the executive, the council, as well as victim advocates and families to determine the best path forward within our financial means. I hope to have recommendations and a path forward to report back to you by June this year. I have heard from many constituents on this project, including design and location, and I welcome all input.

**Things to do
District 2 & Snohomish County
Winter, 2016**



Discover what our own community has to offer, be a tourist or have a "staycation" - courtesy of Snohomish.org.

[Hibulb Cultural Center's Exhibit "Project 562" - Now through June 30th.](#)

Mtika Wilbur is presenting portraits of Native Americans devoted to the protection of the sacred and the natural. Project 562 aims to build cultural bridges, abandon stereotypes and renew and inspire our national legacy by documenting people from 562 Tribal Nations in the United States.

[Schack Art Center presents Skagit Women Print - Through February](#)

Eighteen artists who live or work throughout the Skagit Valley have joined together to produce a suite of original prints for "Skagit Women Print." The contributors include printmakers and painters, as well as poets, photographers and ceramic artists.

[Everett Philharmonic: Magnificent Mozart - January 31st 3:00 PM](#)

Everett's own Philharmonic will perform famous works by Mozart, including the Prague Symphony and Selected Aries with mezzo-soprano Gail Neil.

[Lecture Series: Inside the B-25 February 11th 7PM](#)

Climb inside FHC's iconic B-25J Mitchell medium bomber. The B-25 Mitchell became a World War II legend through its service in the Pacific, from the Doolittle Raid through the bombing of the Japanese home islands. Join FHC Aviation Curator Cory Graff as

he outlines the importance of the B-25 and visitors are allowed to examine our example closer than they ever have before.

[Cascadia Art Museum "Looking Back, Moving Forward" - Through May](#)

The Cascadia Art Museum is dedicated to the legacy of Northwest Art. Cascadia presents private historic artwork, dance films, costumes and more by key Cornish 1/6/2016 Visitor Newsletter: Winter in Snohomish County, Washington 8/8 figures such as Merce Cunningham, Robert Joffrey and Mark Toby.

I hope you found this eNewsletter to be informative and useful. You can make it even more valuable by suggesting topics and issues for future newsletters.