Labor Day in Snohomish County honors strong workforce

This weekend marks Labor Day, a federal holiday since 1894. The holiday, which for many will signal the end of summer and the beginning of a new school year for their children, is an opportunity to honor the American workforce and its unrivaled ingenuity and accomplishments.

While the past few years have been difficult nationwide, we are still blessed in Snohomish County to have a diverse workforce that plays an integral part in our economy. From aerospace workers to medical and biotech employees, from retail to hospitality personnel, we have a history of working hard and that is evident in every part of our lives.

Here at Snohomish County government, we continue to increase training and workforce opportunities for our residents. Two great examples are the Workforce Development Council of Snohomish County and our very successful Washington Aerospace Training and Research Center. Both are getting people to work.

A highly skilled and dedicated workforce is critical to our ability as a community to deliver the quality of life we envision for ourselves and future generations. As the ancient Greek playwright Sophocles said, “Without labor nothing prospers.” If we remain committed to our workforce – those who provide that labor – Snohomish County will continue to prosper.

Be safe and enjoy the day.

Sincerely,

County seeks new members for housing committee

Snohomish County is seeking residents to serve on its Housing and Community Development Technical Advisory Committee, which helps determine how federal, state and local funding should be used to increase housing opportunities for those in need.

Snohomish County receives federal funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban
Development as well as other sources, which it distributes through a competitive funding process. Part of that process involves a review of proposed projects by members of the technical advisory committee.

The county is now seeking interest from local residents to serve three-year terms beginning Jan. 1. The committee meets at least twice a year.

Positions available are intended to ensure input from a diverse representation of the county. The classification groups for citizen members are as follows:

- Two low-income representatives.
- Two senior representatives.
- Two minority representatives.
- Two disabled representatives.

“Snohomish County highly values active community participation in our funding processes for housing opportunities,” said Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon. “This advisory committee is an opportunity for residents to help guide support toward key projects and services that are making a meaningful difference in our community.”

Residents interested in volunteering to be a citizen member of the Technical Advisory Committee should contact Dean Weitenhagen, supervisor of Snohomish County Office of Housing and Community Development, at 425-388-3267 dean.weitenhagen@snoco.org.

**Deadline for county photo contest approaching**

The deadline for submissions to the 2012 Snohomish County Photography Contest is approaching.

The photo contest hosted by the Snohomish County Arts Commission will accept entries until Sept. 10. The photo entries that best respond to the theme of “play” will be selected for a group exhibit, and a purchase prize of $1,000 dollars will be awarded to one photographer.

Artists should consider the following definition of “play” for their work: “It is an activity, which proceeds within certain limits of time and space, in a visible order, according to rules freely accepted, and outside the sphere of necessity or material utility. The play-mood is one of rapture and enthusiasm, and is sacred or festive in accordance with the occasion. A feeling of exaltation and tension accompanies the action. Play was derived from *plega* in Anglo-Sax, which means to sing, dance, clap, quick movements and gestures. A creative process in which we learn, challenge, and develop, play reveals our relationship to the world and to those in it.”

A group exhibit is scheduled for Oct. 1 to Nov. 1 at the Snohomish County Campus, with an artist reception to be held Oct. 5. There is a $25 entry fee, which allows each artist to submit up to three images.

To view the entire submission criteria, go to [www.snoco.org](http://www.snoco.org). For more information, contact Wendy Becker at 425-388-3186 or wendy.becker@snoco.org.
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You may also contact me directly by phone at 425.388.3460.

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