Reardon discusses senior services needs with Council on Aging

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon met Wednesday with the county’s Council on Aging to give an assessment of how funding has kept up with the county’s rapid growth in the senior population during the past 10 years. Reardon said county funding for local senior services has increased during his tenure as county executive so as to keep up with the population’s needs. He encouraged members to talk directly with their state representatives as the Washington State Legislature plays a large role in the amount of funding for senior services available each year. “You represent the community, and our state legislators need to hear directly from you,” Reardon said, encouraging members to be active in their roles on the Council. The Council on Aging is a 30-member citizen’s advisory board that advises the County’s Division of Long Term Care and Aging, Human Services Department and County Executive Office on issues facing older persons and younger persons with disabilities in Snohomish County. For information on the Council on Aging, click here.

Fire Marshal rules Picnic Point explosion accidental

Thursday’s explosion and fire at the Alderwood Wastewater facility near Edmonds has been ruled accidental by the Snohomish County Fire Marshal’s Office.

The explosion and fire was reported by workers at the site, located at 6315 Picnic Point Road, at about 11 a.m. after a cloud of propane vapors ignited. The incident occurred while a contractor was lifting a 1,000-gallon propane tank onto a truck to remove it from the tank.
The tank was estimated to have approximately 300 gallons remaining inside. As the tank was being placed onto the metal deck of the truck, a brass drain valve on the bottom of the tank broke off, releasing propane from under the tank.

It was estimated that it took about 45 seconds for the vapors to be ignited.

Snohomish County Fire District 1 was the first fire agency to arrive at the scene. The fire department triaged about 40 of the 60 employees at the work site and transported five with burn injuries to Harborview Medical Center.

The explosion also damaged two buildings under construction on the property. Estimated loss to the building and contents is $1 million.

Representatives for the Department of Labor and Industries (WISHA) were on the scene and all evidence has been turned over to them.

**County salary commission begins new review March 14**

The Snohomish County Citizens Commission on Salaries of Elected Officials will begin meeting March 14 to review the salary schedule for elected officials for 2013 and 2014.

The commission is an independent group that meets every two years to set the salaries of elected officials in Snohomish County. Elected officials whose salaries are determined by the commission are the members of the County Council, the Executive, Assessor, Auditor, Clerk, Prosecuting Attorney, Sheriff and Treasurer.

All meetings of the salary commission are open to the public and begin at 6 p.m. They will be held in the 6th Floor Executive Board Room, 3000 Rockefeller Ave., Everett. Scheduled meeting dates are March 14, March 28, April 11 and April 25. A public hearing on recommendations is scheduled for the April 11 meeting.

By law, salary recommendations must be made by May 1 for the next two-year period. A 2006 amendment to the county charter eliminated the need for council and executive approval of the salary changes.

The commission is made up of 10 members, nominated by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council. Six members of the commission are selected by lot by the County Auditor from among all registered voters in Snohomish County. The remaining four members are required to have experience in the field of personnel management and come from four sectors: business, professional personnel management, legal profession and organized labor. Commissioners serve two-year terms.

For more information, click [here](#).
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