County crews work around the clock to battle winter storm

This week’s winter storm packed a punch, and your Snohomish County government responded with around the clock work to keep roadways open and drivable.

Working in shifts 24-hours per day, more than 40 trucks driven by County crews have plowed more than 15,000 miles of roadway and dispersed more than 4,000 tons of salt to clear ice and snow from roads since Saturday.

Detailed information about Snohomish County’s snow plowing routes, road closures and other important road condition updates can be found here.

As the snow begins to melt, road crews are now also working to clear drainage inlets as well as trees and debris from the side of roads. Snohomish County is reminding residents that snow plowed from roadways and shoveled from sidewalks and driveways often builds up over curbside storm drains, blocking runoff, which can cause flooding when temperatures rise or form dangerous ice slicks if temperatures drop again. All told, nearly 50,000 stormwater catch basins lay along roads maintained by Snohomish County.

When safe to do so, residents can help by shoveling the snow away from the top and sides of grates in their neighborhoods. This will add greatly to the safety and convenience of pedestrian and motor-vehicle travel in the community until crews can complete clearing work.

Residents wishing to report drainage issues or flooding problems along roadways in their neighborhoods should contact Snohomish County by calling 425-388-7500 or emailing contact.pwrm@snoco.org.

Homeowners of flat-topped structures — especially mobile homes, car ports and boat marinas — also should take steps to safely remove snow and standing water from their roofs. The combination of snow and water...
increases the chance for a collapsed roof.

County crews will continue to clear roads through the week, as well as continue removing downed trees from roads while also clearing debris from drains.

Volunteers needed for homeless count

Snohomish County is seeking volunteers for its Jan. 26 Point in Time homeless count.

The annual count is an important tool in the community’s efforts to assess the number of homeless individuals and families in Snohomish County as well as to determine ways of ending homelessness. Volunteers are needed for different parts of the county between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Human service providers, county staff and community volunteers will join together in this effort to respectfully count the number of families and individuals who are homeless in our community. The results of the count help ensure that vital federal and state funding continues to come into the community to fight homelessness.

Data from the annual count also is used to help understand how widespread homelessness is in Snohomish County and who is most affected.

Sincerely,

Aaron Reardon
“We must continue our efforts to assist those who are homeless in Snohomish County,” said Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon. “This annual count gives us a better understanding of who is homeless and why.”

During the 2011 count, 2,273 individuals and 1,385 households were identified as being homeless. Additionally, 760 homeless individuals, or 33 percent of the count, were homeless children under the age of 18.

Volunteers are asked to commit to a three-hour period during the Jan. 26 count. All training and materials will be provided at the sites specified below. To volunteer or for more information, please contact one of the area leads below:

**East County:** Sharon Paskewitz, 425-212-3211 or spaskewitz@voaww.org;  
**South County:** Maria Bighaus, 425-774-9843 ext. 236 or mbighaus@ywcaworks.org;  
**Central County:** Jeanita Nelson, 425-374-6319 or JeanitaN@ccsww.org;  
**North County:** Nate Greenland, 425-347-6556 or nategreenland@housinghope.org.

For more detailed information about the PIT Count, contact Nate Marti at 425-388-3268.

**Speedway lands Richard Petty Driving Experience**

For the first time ever, NASCAR fans, racing enthusiasts and thrill seekers will have the opportunity to Drive or Ride-Along in a NASCAR race car with the Richard Petty Driving Experience (RPDE) at the Evergreen Speedway.

June 26-28 marks the first time RPDE will operate at the 5/8 mile facility, located at the Evergreen State Fairgrounds in Monroe. This new partnership not only brings the thrill of authentic NASCAR drive-and-ride entertainment to the Northwest, but it also will kick off Evergreen Speedway’s “Speed Week,” including a Fan Fest, driver meet-and-greets, and two great days of racing including the Coors Light 300.

“We are thrilled and proud to be hosting the Richard Petty Driving Experience at Evergreen Speedway,” say High Road Promotions owners Doug and Traci Hobbs. “The Richard Petty brand is synonymous with racing. It is an honor to be joining a family of tracks that include Daytona, Charlotte, Indianapolis and Las Vegas.”

“This is a great opportunity for our Evergreen State Fairgrounds,” said Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon. “We expect race fans from
across the Northwest and Canada to travel here for this weekend racing experience.”

The Evergreen Speedway was built in 1954 at the Evergreen State Fairgrounds and remains Washington state’s only NASCAR Home Track, running the Whelen All-American Weekly Racing Series as well as the K&N Pro Series West Touring Division. High Road Promotions has a 25-year agreement to operate the speedway.

“We’re excited to partner with the Evergreen Speedway for the first time in RPDE history,“ says Rick Fedrizzi, President and COO of RPDE. “Operating at this 5/8 mile oval in Monroe, Wa., will give the Northwestern race fans a chance to get behind the wheel and drive their home track. Whether you’re a veteran racing enthusiast or casual fan, this will be an unforgettable experience for all.”

The 12-lap “Rookie Experience“ will be the base driving program offered by the Richard Petty Driving Experience at the Evergreen Speedway, priced at $399. The option to Ride-Along shotgun for four thrilling laps also is available for only $99. To book a reservation or to view the Richard Petty Driving Experience 2012 schedule, call 1-800-237-3889 or go to www.DrivePetty.com.

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.