Public shooting range takes step forward with land acquisition

Snohomish County’s Parks & Recreation Department recently finished the acquisition of 156 acres, which will be used for the design and operation of a public shooting range.

The property along Sultan Basin Road just north of Sultan was reconveyed to the county by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) after an extended process that included concept planning, environmental review, public meetings and action by the state Natural Resource Board and the Snohomish County Council.

“It has long been the county’s desire to open a public shooting range, and this reconveyance puts us one step closer,” said Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon. “We are committed to developing a fiscally and environmentally sustainable facility through a public/private partnership.”

Snohomish County Parks is seeking partnerships with interested organizations to design, construct and operate a multi-use public shooting range. Proposals may be submitted through a request for proposals (RFP 16-11) that can be accessed through the Snohomish County Purchasing Division at http://bit.ly/vzhCiw.

Planning of the site will include an open, public process involving substantial input from interested user groups and individuals interested in using the shooting range as well as those who may have concerns about the facility.

U.S. Navy band makes Snohomish County stop during national tour
The Navy's premier jazz ensemble, the Commodores, will stop in Snohomish County during its national tour for a complimentary performance Nov. 19.

Doors for the event will open at 7 p.m., and the concert, co-sponsored by Snohomish County, will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Everett Civic Auditorium, 2415 Colby Ave.

A specialty unit of the United States Navy Band in Washington, D.C., the group features 18 of the Navy's top jazz and “big band” musicians. Under the leadership of Senior Chief Musician Philip M. Burlin, the Commodores combine the best of jazz, popular and patriotic music.

“Art and music are a critical part of our community’s quality of life,” said Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon. “It’s a pleasure to have a group such as the Commodores jazz ensemble come to Snohomish County and perform.”

Since their founding in 1969, the Commodores have become one of the most acclaimed jazz ensembles in the country. Many jazz legends have appeared with the group, such as Ray Charles, Stanley Turrentine, Louie Bellson, Terry Gibbs, Chris Potter, Jerry Bergonzi, Bob Mintzer, Dave Leibman, James Moody, and Clark Terry.

Tickets are required for entry. Complimentary tickets can be picked up at the following locations:
• Snohomish County Human Resources, 3000 Rockefeller Ave., 1st floor Admin. West Building, Everett;
• Everett Mayor’s Office, 2930 Wetmore Ave., 10th floor, Everett;
• Marysville City Hall, 1049 State Ave., Marysville;
• Mukilteo City Hall, 11930 Cyrus Way, Mukilteo.
Farming

This year’s Focus on Farming attendees can judge for themselves how good “Top Chef” contender Robin Leventhal is at cooking.

Leventhal will be on hand to help prepare part of the afternoon’s gourmet lunch made with locally grown and raised food. Traditionally, top chefs from the region volunteer their time at the Focus on Farming Conference to cook for the farmers they rely on for their livelihoods.

“It is amazing to see such high-class chefs volunteer their time to cook for our hard-working farmers and their families,” said Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon. “It’s a way to honor the work they do that allows us to have fresh, local food.”

Leventhal will join other regional chefs including Tamas Ronyai of Farestart, Chris Viner of Lombardi’s and Larry Fontaine of Centerplate at Comcast Arena.

“As chefs we nourish the body and potentially the soul through our craft. Our success is heavily dependent on the quality of our ingredients,” Leventhal said. “It’s a great honor to be able to give back to the farmers by cooking this meal with the fruits of their labor, knowing that synergy happens when we work together.”

While the menu isn’t yet complete, the lunch will include Ronyai’s pear mousse with spiced pumpkin, French macaroons and apple cider caramel. Leventhal will prepare a dish including sweet corn, fennel velouté and pickled red cabbage relish, with the fennel pollen collected from her own neighborhood.

This marks the eighth year for the annual Focus on Farming Conference. What started with a handful of farmers at the Evergreen State Fairgrounds has turned into a nationally recognized agriculture conference with more than 500 people in attendance.

To register for the conference or to view a list of breakout sessions, click here.

Housing, community development funds available for 2012

Snohomish County is accepting applications for affordable housing, public facility, infrastructure, and service projects from nonprofit organizations, for-profit developers and government agencies.
An estimated $4.2 million in federal and local grant funds is anticipated to be available for the 2012 program year, which begins July 1, 2012. Projects must benefit low- and moderate-income individuals or neighborhoods within Snohomish County.

Details of eligibility and other program requirements are included in the application materials. Applications must be completed and returned to the Snohomish County Human Services Department by 5 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 30. Incomplete applications or applications received after that date and time will not be considered.

Applications are available here.

Snohomish County will hold three information workshops for applicants. A workshop focusing on public facility and infrastructure projects will be Thursday, Nov. 3, from 1 to 3:30 p.m. in Conference Room 4H00, fourth floor of the Snohomish County Administration Building West.

A workshop for affordable housing projects will be held Friday, Nov. 4, from 10 a.m. to noon in Conference Room 4H00, fourth floor of the Snohomish County Administration Building West. A workshop for service projects will be held Monday, Nov. 7, from 3 to 5 p.m. in Public Meeting Room 1, first floor of the Snohomish County Robert J. Drewel Building (Administration Building East).

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You may also contact me directly by phone at 425.388.3460.