Saturday's Latino Town Hall to address regional issues

Please join me Saturday for the Latino Civic Alliance’s Everett Town Hall, which will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Everett Performing Arts Center.

Snohomish County is partnering to host this important town hall focusing on regional issues affecting Latinos living in the Puget Sound. Admission is free to the public. Community members will have an opportunity to ask questions and discuss issues with area legislators and other public officials throughout the day.

Together, we will address issues concerning economic development, immigration, education, gang violence, agriculture, health care, housing and more.

The goal of the forum is to provide a fair and open discussion of pending legislation, local challenges and statistics surrounding these pressing issues.

Snohomish County continues to grow as a multicultural community, and town halls such as this one are important to make sure that

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with panel discussions beginning a little after 9 a.m. For more information on the event and the Latino Civic Alliance, click here.

Sincerely,

County protects Tualco Valley farmland from development
Snohomish County has moved to protect four more farm properties from development through its Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program.

On Wednesday, Snohomish County approved the purchase of development rights on two parcels in the Tualco Valley, both currently operated by Willie Green’s Organic Farm. The easement purchases are expected to close by the end of the month.

In September, Snohomish County closed on two other parcels in the Tualco Valley under the PDR program – the Cabe Farm and Hollandia Farms. The four properties total nearly 400 acres, and under the PDR program, they will be protected from development in perpetuity.

“Our PDR program preserves valuable farmland from development, ensuring the viability of farming for future generations,” Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon said. “We not only secure the future of scenic open spaces but also encourage the continued growth of fresh, healthy, locally grown foods.”

The Tualco Valley near Monroe was selected as a target area for the PDR program because it traditionally has been one of Snohomish County’s most productive agricultural areas.

The county agreed to pay $1.4 million for the development rights on the four properties through a mix of grant funds including money from the U.S. Natural Resource Conservation Service, the Washington State Recreation & Conservation Office and Snohomish County Conservation Futures Program.

Since 2004, Snohomish County has embarked upon a progressive program to set aside and conserve agricultural land that is potentially at risk for being carved into smaller parcels for development. This purchase-of-development-rights program has helped conserve farmland and provide agricultural landowners with reasonable monetary return for their development rights.

To date, the county has worked with five farm owners, protecting nearly 500 acres of farmland in the Tualco Valley area outside of Monroe.

With about 1,600 farms, agriculture is a $127 million industry in Snohomish County, according to the USDA.

**Workshop offers "social enterprise" options**

Lean economic times and the corresponding reduction in state and federal funding are forcing nonprofit organizations to look at new ways to...
generate revenue, and to do it on a sustainable basis.

One approach, called “social enterprise,” is to develop revenue-generating business that can earn unrestricted income and increase visibility. HopeWorks Social Enterprises, established in 2010 by Housing Hope, is hosting a workshop Wednesday, Oct. 12, to assist nonprofits in understanding the opportunities and challenges associated with successful social enterprise.

Snohomish County, through the Gates Foundation’s Investing in Families grant, has been working with local nonprofits including Housing Hope to expand social enterprise options locally.

“As state and federal grants dry up, we must help our local agencies find new ways to fund the important work they are doing in this community,” said Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon. “Working with the Gates Foundation’s Investing in Families program is allowing us to do that.”

The workshop – which will run from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Housing Hope Village, 5908 Evergreen Way, Everett, will offer a dynamic, interactive session to help determine if a social enterprise is relevant to your organization and to explore the steps toward developing a cost-effective business plan. It will include case studies and best practices from the field, as well as input from fellow participants, and discussion on the following:

- What social enterprise is, how to implement it and why it’s important;
- Understanding the spectrum of social enterprise;
- Learning specific ways social enterprise can be applied to organizations;
- Evaluating your organization’s strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats;
- Developing and screening potential business ideas;
- Forecasting realistic expectations of costs and revenue;
- Putting it all together in a business plan;
- Obtaining financing and other support.

The workshop will be conducted by Kirsten Gagnaire of MissionWise, a leading nonprofit consultancy that helps nonprofits build organizational strength and sustainability. Gagnaire has more than 15 years of experience in concept-to-execution program management with health and human services.
The cost of the workshop is $25 per agency for up to five attendees. To register, contact Housing Hope at 425-347-6556 or maryjonasen@hopewrks.org.

For more information, click here.

-executive-proclamation-draws-awareness-to-breast-cancer-prevention

Drawing awareness to National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, County Executive Aaron Reardon signed a proclamation earlier this week urging residents to take preventive measures to lower their risk of this fatal cancer.

Breast cancer is the second-most common cancer among women in the United States behind skin cancers. However, through continued research and advocacy, survival rates continue to increase.

To view the proclamation, click here.

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.