Reardon's budget protects critical services without raising taxes

Earlier today, I presented my 2012 Executive Budget Proposal, offering a fiscally responsible and balanced approach to protecting quality of life without tax increases.

We have not raised general fund property taxes in the last seven years and this year will be no different. Yet our proposed budget is balanced, our reserves are above our adopted 11-percent target, and they will continue to grow under next year’s spending plan.

The proposed General Fund budget for next year is just over $206 million – slightly higher than the 2010 budget. Across all funds, the Snohomish County budget proposal offers just less than $600 million in services and infrastructure.

Our budgets during this Great Recession have set Snohomish County apart from other jurisdictions in Washington, including the state government itself. By tackling the impacts of the recession as it was ongoing, we positioned ourselves where we are today: prepared to invest in the future and provide the critical services the people of Snohomish County expect.

In spite of the recession, during the past eight years, we have created in Snohomish County more than 40,000 new jobs across all sectors of the economy – more than double that of Washington State or any other Puget Sound county.

The result is a 2012 proposed General Fund budget that protects services for vulnerable populations, maintains public safety and allows for fund balance growth while promoting new infrastructure for job development, especially at Paine Field.

The collaboration and teamwork at all levels of Snohomish County government – our elected officials, department heads and frontline staff – and our spirit of ingenuity and integrity is an example to others around...
the state that we mean business.

To view my budget proposal for 2012, [click here](#). I welcome your comments.

Sincerely,

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**Snohomish County unveils veterans' care network**

Earlier this week, Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon other leaders and dignitaries unveiled the county's new [Network of Care for Service Members, Veterans & Their Families Program](#), designed to bring together multiple services geared toward and dedicated to veterans and their families in a one-stop-shopping format.

Through the Network of Care Program, Snohomish County can now link veterans to everything from how and where they can find out what federal benefits they are eligible for to what state and local services might be available for employment, housing assistance, counseling, transportation or even childcare.

“It has always been my office’s priority to increase resources for the women and men of Snohomish County who have served in the military,” said Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon. “We owe our veterans a debt of gratitude for their service as well as top-notch services. In Snohomish County, they can be sure they will receive it.”

Regardless of where veterans, service members and their families begin their search for assistance and services, the Network of Care ensures they will find what they need by providing a comprehensive directory of the service providers in Snohomish County and the region, putting people in touch with the right services at the right time.

Using a highly interactive web-portal format, the Network of Care also provides easy-to-search libraries and vital information about crisis intervention, employment and education.

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**Snohomish County Tomorrow observes 20-year partnership**

[Snohomish County Tomorrow](#) commemorated its 20-year anniversary during its annual assembly, “Celebrating Milestones,” at the Lynnwood
Convention Center on Wednesday.

“This celebration is an opportunity to commemorate more than 20 years of successful collaboration on local and regional growth issues,” said Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon, one of the featured speakers of the night.

Snohomish County Tomorrow is a cooperative forum consisting of representatives from the Snohomish County and each of its cities as well as from the Tulalip Tribes. The group’s primary function is to oversee the Countywide Planning Policies – written policies on growth management from which the county and city’s comprehensive plans are developed.

Burn ban for unincorporated Snohomish County lifted

The recent burn ban for unincorporated areas of Snohomish County has been lifted.

This means individuals with a current residential burn permit may have non-recreational fires.

Recreational fires also are allowed in approved fire pits without a burn permit. However, the fire pit must be constructed of a noncombustible material such as concrete or metal, and they must be a minimum of 15 feet from any structure.

A recreational fire by definition is a cooking fire or campfire using charcoal or firewood. These fires may not be greater than three feet in diameter and/or two feet in height. Water must also be immediately available.

If you reside within an incorporated city or town, or within an urban growth area, in Snohomish County, please contact your city fire department for burn restriction information.

Continue caution is urged this time of year with any fire. If you have any additional questions please contact your local fire agency or call Snohomish County’s Outdoor Burning Information Hotline at 425-388-3508 for updated information.

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.