County poised for growth despite stock market dips

In recent days, we’ve all watched as the stock market once again dipped, leading to speculation that our great nation is again heading toward a recession.

Every community across the country has seen higher unemployment as a result of the Great Recession. Our mission is to ensure we are positioned competitively to take advantage of every opportunity to grow our local job base.

Our continued effort to remain the most competitive place to do business has provided some silver lining during a difficult economic time. During the past eight years, Snohomish County has seen jobs grow at nearly four times the rate than that of Washington state – a direct reflection of Snohomish County’s continued competitiveness.

In the past five years alone, Snohomish County’s economic competitiveness has helped land new businesses and attract job growth from the likes of Goodrich Aerostructures (120 new jobs), Berlex (70 new jobs), Korry Electronics (600 new jobs), Comcast (350 new jobs), T-Mobile (600 new jobs) and as recently as July, Avtech (200-plus jobs), just to name a few. We’ve also focused on providing new skills to workers – such as our efforts to spearhead the creation of the Aerospace Training and Research Center at Paine Field.

While the recession has taken a toll, Snohomish County sits poised to take advantage of our nation’s eventual economic recovery. Maintaining a balanced budget, as we have done for eight years without raising taxes, ensures that Snohomish County is economically ready and open for business.

Sincerely,
Public input sought on parks improvement plan

Snohomish County’s Parks & Recreation Department will host open-house meetings to gather public input as it begins updating its six-year parks improvement plan.

When completed, the updated plan will provide direction to the department as it sites new facilities and manages existing parks. The public meetings are planned to collect citizen input on parks-and-recreation services.

“Our parks system is rated one of the best in the nation and this is an opportunity for our residents to make it even better,” Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon said.

The Snohomish County Comprehensive Parks Plan is the main planning document used to direct the Parks Department in its long-range planning. Following a brief presentation about the current plan, the public will be asked to identify priorities for park facilities.

Three meetings have been scheduled, each from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. They will be held:

**August 15**
Evergreen State Fairgrounds
14405 179th Ave. SE
Monroe

**August 23**
Arlington High School
18821 Crown Ridge Blvd.
Arlington

**September 8**
Willis Tucker Park
6705 Puget Park Drive
Snohomish

Residents unable to attend one of the meetings may submit feedback to Sharon Swan at sharon.swan@co.snohomish.wa.us or by mail to:

Snohomish County Parks & Recreation
Comprehensive Plan Update
6705 Puget Park Drive
Snohomish, WA 98296

Sincerely,
Funds available for clean-water projects on the Stillaguamish River

With $160,000 available in a clean water fund for the Stillaguamish River, Snohomish County’s Surface Water Management staff and members of the Stillaguamish River Clean Water District (CWD) Advisory Board will host an Aug. 15 meeting to solicit project ideas and partners.

The Clean Water District Discretionary Fund is available to assist private landowners, community groups, even local agencies, in undertaking small scale projects to improve water quality on private or public property within the CWD.

Approximately $160,000 is available to fund up to $20,000 per project with a 25 percent match requirement. Examples of eligible projects include fencing to keep livestock out of streams, repairs of onsite septic systems, and education and outreach to promote water-quality stewardship.

During the workshop, which will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. at Peace Lutheran Church in Silvana, staff will present an overview of the discretionary fund as well as discuss project ideas with potential applicants.

Information about the CWD and the Discretionary Fund is available online at http://cwd.surfacewater.info.

Music on the Plaza, Movies in the Park

**Music on the Plaza**  
Snohomish County Campus  
Free, starts at 11:30 a.m.  
*Aug. 10, Wild Snohomians, rock and roll  
*Aug. 17, Nathan Arneson, country  
*Aug. 24, Sepals Gritty, indie rock.

**Movies in the Park**  
Willis Tucker Park, Free  
*Aug. 11, "Up," Rated PG, 9 p.m.  
*Aug. 18, "Enchanted," Rated PG, 8:45 p.m.  
Movies in the Park is sponsored by Sundquist Homes.

For more events sponsored by Snohomish County, 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.