Award-winning ECEAP again taking signups

Snohomish County is again offering critical early childhood education to children who will be four years old by Aug. 31, 2011 and whose families are income-eligible through our award-winning Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP).

ECEAP helps low-income preschool children in Snohomish County succeed in the public education system by addressing the educational, health and social needs of the children while placing special emphasis on participation and support to the family.

Early childhood education is proven to make children at higher risk more likely to graduate high school and attend college, and less likely to drop out or rely on social services and serve time in our correctional facilities.

I have long been a proponent of providing the right foundation for children through early childhood education - including sponsoring an effort to provide increased local funding in support of ECEAP. The results are measureable: the earlier we prepare children and families for school the more successful they will be and the less they will lean on government for costly social services down the road.

Annually, we see ECEAP’s benefits come to life as a result of the dedication of the people working in this program, as well as the commitment of the participating families. Our children are Snohomish County’s workers, leaders and decision-makers of tomorrow. We have a responsibility to be sure they have the tools to succeed.

For more information, click here.

Thank you,
Multiple events on tap for Earth Day

Earth Day is approaching and Snohomish County is hosting and participating in a number of events throughout April to promote awareness of the importance of environmental stewardship.

Earth Day has been celebrated on April 22 since 1970 as a way to draw awareness to the environment as well as to promote a more sustainable lifestyle.

“These are great opportunities to promote awareness and support efforts toward protecting our environment,” Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon said. “We only make a difference when we put our principles in action.”

In Snohomish County, residents have an opportunity to choose from different events being held on different days and at different locations. Below is information.

**Earth Day Celebration of the Allen/Quilceda Watershed:** Come celebrate Earth Day with friends and family by planting trees, removing invasive species, and spreading mulch at Jennings Nature Park! This event will be fun for all with about a dozen sponsors and educational booths to raise awareness of water pollution, salmon, the water cycle, restoration projects and more. The first 200 participants get a free Earth Day 2011 T-shirt. Contact Jacob Zarate to register for this event at 425-508-6709 or jacob.zarate@snoco.org.

- **Date & Time:** Saturday, April 30, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- **Location:** Jennings Nature Park, 5315 64th St. NE, Marysville

**Earth Day Work Party with Friends of Narbeck Wetland Sanctuary:** Please join us for an Earth Day work party at Narbeck Wetlands Park. The work party will be removing invasive plants, trimming alders to preserve views, refreshing the parking lot planting beds, restoring the overlook sitting and picnic area, planting trees and shrubs to block discontinued trail access, painting the mud hut, and cleaning up the park. Contact Jim Maynard with questions at 425-388-5108.

- **Date & Time:** Saturday, April 16, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- **Location:** Narbeck Wetland Sanctuary Park, 6920 Seaway Boulevard, Everett

Contact me:

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Phone: 425.388.3460
Fax: 425.388.3434

Send me an email,
**Ivy-Out at Meadowdale Park:** Volunteers will work in partnership with the Snohomish County Parks Department to remove invasive ivy. Participants should meet in the lower area of the park. Tools will be provided. Contact Doug Dailer with questions at 425-508-6618.

- **Date & Time:** Saturday, April 30, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- **Location:** 6026 156th St. SW, Edmonds

**Spring Recreation Expo:** Jump start your spring and summer by exploring everything you need to know or have for a great outdoor or backyard adventure. This second annual expo also will include a Sky Valley BBQ competition. For more information, contact Brenda Granstrom at 360-805-6707 or click here.

- **Date & Time:** Saturday, April 30, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, May 1, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- **Location:** Evergreen State Fairgrounds, 14405 179th Ave. SE, Monroe

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**County sponsors fair to help those with developmental disabilities**

Snohomish County will help host the 14th annual Snohomish County Transition Resource Fair, offering access to more than 50 organizations that assist with developmental disabilities.

The free resource fair will be held from 4 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 30, in the cafeteria of Cascade High School, 801 E. Casino Road, Everett. Booths will be open from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Agencies attending will provide information on assistive technology, support groups, affordable housing, transportation options, social security, advocacy and leadership opportunities. Groups also will be able to assist with questions related to wills and trusts, recreational opportunities, assistance in obtaining medical supplies, canine companions, representative payees, employment providers, medical assistance programs and more.

In addition, the fair offers nine free classes on relevant topics including:

- current legislative issues and efforts;
- guardianship and alternatives to guardianship;
- transition success stories;
- access to community colleges.
Sponsors of the fair include the Snohomish County Transition Council and Everett Public Schools.

For more information, contact Tamra Bradford at 425-388-7320.

**Kathleen Wright named 2011 Evergreen State Fair Honoree**

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon has announced the selection of Kathleen Wright as this year’s Evergreen State Fair Honoree.

Each year, the Evergreen State Fair honors an individual or family who has contributed significant personal time and energy toward the improvement and betterment of the annual fair. Their efforts can be focused in a specific area of exhibition or toward the overall function of the fair. The honoree is announced each year at the annual kickoff dinner in March.

This year’s fair honoree, Kathleen Wright, first became involved with the Evergreen State Fair in 1993 when she entered items for competition in the open class baking department. During that fair she realized she wanted to be part of the team and excitement that brings so much enjoyment to contestants and the fair-going public. She returned in 1994 as the superintendent of the open-class baking department and has been a strong role model ever since for community involvement and helping others learn to take an active role.

“Kathleen’s passion for our fair goes far beyond its 12-day run each year,” Reardon said. “Because of her passion for the ideals of the fair, family, tradition and education, I’m pleased to announce her as the 2011 Fair Honoree.”

Always mindful of a fair’s function to “educate, encourage and evaluate,” Wright also demonstrates in the American Heritage Department, judges baking entries at Clark County, San Juan County and Western Washington fairs and competes in many of the display hall departments.

Wright also leads free seminars promoting how to enter at the fair. She has also presented seminars on topics such as “Superintendent 101” and “How to Grow a Successful Department” at the Washington State Fairs Association’s Westside Superintendent Schools. She also conducts judges’ training for baked goods each year.
The Evergreen State Fair will run Aug. 25 through Sept. 5, 2011. The Evergreen State Fairgrounds is located at 14405 179th Avenue SE, Monroe.

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.