Working to improve service for veterans

Serving those who have served our country in the armed forces is an important part of how we honor those who have sacrificed on behalf of all of us. Next Friday, Snohomish County will host an important seminar to help ensure our local veterans are receiving the assistance they need.

Beginning at 10 a.m. next Friday at McCollum Park, in coordination with the state Department of Veterans Affairs, my Human Services staff and I will host a “Veterans Services – 101” session for local veterans service providers. The two-hour session is designed to improve coordination of services by expanding knowledge of what is available for veterans at the county, state and federal levels.

Community partners will leave the training with an understanding of available resources for veterans so that when they are working with a veteran, they can provide thorough guidance and assistance.

Approximately 65,000 veterans live in Snohomish County. Our Veterans Assistance Program serves an average of 3,200 indigent and low-income veterans per year through services that include emergency vouchers for rent and food as well as help with medical expenses or burial costs.

We also have a number of projects underway to provide greater assistance to indigent and low-income veterans in the form of housing, treatment and support services.

Coordinating efforts with initiatives such as this training session are instrumental to stretching our resources to provide the best service.

If you work with veterans and want to know more about the upcoming session, please contact Cammy Hart-Anderson at 425-388-7233.

Sincerely,

Aaron Reardon
Reardon declares days of honor for Special Olympics athletes

County Executive Aaron Reardon met earlier in the week with Kristie Clark and Jill Mayer, both of Snohomish County and on their way to participate in this year's Special Olympics' World Games being held in Athens, Greece.

Reardon signed proclamations on behalf of both women, declaring June 28 "Kristie Clark Day" and June 30 "Jill Mayer Day." The days were chosen to coincide with the first day of competition for each woman.

Neither are strangers to the Special Olympics. Both have competed previously and won medals. This year, Mayer will compete in golf, and Clark will compete in bowling.

"Jill and Kristi are two amazing athletes, and I wish them the best when they compete in Athens," Reardon said. "Their competitive spirit and continued hard work are something all of us should emulate."

Clark and Mayer are part of Team Washington. Nearly 7,500 athletes from 180 countries will be participating.

To see the proclamations honoring Clark and Mayer, click here. For more information on the Special Olympics, click here.
"Music On The Plaza" returns July 6

Three talented Snohomish County employees will join this year’s musical lineup for the seventh annual “Music On The Plaza,” which runs Wednesdays beginning July 6.

Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Christopher Sedgewick with his indie rock band Sepals; Trucking and Intermodal Operations Supervisor Steven McMahon with the Mountain Mission Bluegrass Trio; and, Public Works employee Jette Markstrom with Magazine will each perform during the eight week series ending Aug. 24.

“These concerts help add vibrancy to the downtown retail core and support our local artists,” said Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon.

The free concerts are supported with funds dedicated specifically to promote the arts in Snohomish County.

The lunchtime concerts are open to the general public and are held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Snohomish County campus amphitheater located at Rockefeller Avenue and Wall Street.

In addition to great music, fresh flowers from local Hmong growers as well as kettle corn, burgers and brats from the Comcast Arena Grill will be for sale.

Below is a complete listing of performers:

*July 6 - Mission Mountain Trio, Old Fashion Bluegrass
*July 13 - Rikers Island Blues Band, Blues & Swing
*July 20 - Camille Bloom, Soulful Rock
*July 27 - Massy Ferguson, Americana Roots
*Aug. 3 - Magazine, Classic Rock
*Aug. 10 - Wild Snohomians, Rock and Roll
*Aug. 17 - Nathan Arneson, Modern County
*Aug. 24 - Sepals, Indie Rock
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.