County, Arlington to celebrate Centennial Trail opening

Join Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon as Snohomish County Parks celebrates the completion of the latest section of the Centennial Trail.

The new section stretches four miles along abandoned railroad right-of-way north of Arlington and terminates at the Bryant trailhead. An additional four miles currently under construction will connect the northern portion of the trail to Skagit County later this fall.

“Whether used for recreation or a better commute, each new mile of the trail we complete increases opportunities to enjoy a healthier, more active lifestyle,” said Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon.

The newly completed section brings the trail one step closer to safely and seamlessly connecting from the City of Snohomish to Skagit County. Next year, the County is scheduled to complete construction of a final 1.2 mile gap in the trail between the existing trail south of Arlington and the newly constructed trail sections to the north.

The Centennial Trail is a paved, multipurpose recreational trail serving walkers, bicyclists, equestrians and others stretching more than 17 miles from Snohomish to the south side of Arlington. Development of the trail began in 1989 during the state's centennial.

The celebration begins Saturday, September 18, at 2:00 p.m. Festivities will be held at the beginning of the trail at the intersection of West and Haller Streets in Arlington.

The $2.4 million trail construction project was funded by local
development impact fees and a grant from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office.

Additional information can be found at [www.snoco.org](http://www.snoco.org), search “Centennial Trail.”

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Reardon objects to claims of unfair subsidies to Boeing

Earlier this week, Executive Reardon spoke out on claims that a recent World Trade Organization’s interim ruling found fault with Washington State tax law. The WTO panel investigating European complaints that Boeing received subsidies issued a confidential interim report to the affected parties on Wednesday.

Full details of the report are not yet available; however, some in Europe have claimed that the WTO’s ruling finds fault with changes made Washington tax laws to secure local construction of the 787 in 2003. Securing the 787 program has led to thousands of new local aerospace jobs.

“If the changes we made in 2003 during the competition for the plane now called the 787 are considered part of this ruling, then I must strongly object,” said Reardon. “The changes we made to the B&O tax rate in 2003 were purely prospective, applying only to the investment in an entirely new airplane. These changes cannot be considered a subsidy as there was no existing B&O tax for the then 787.”

“Boeing competes and wins fairly because it has the best product made by the greatest workforce in the world.”

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Volunteers needed for Council on Aging

Snohomish County residents who are interested in the needs and issues facing older persons and younger persons with disabilities are asked to apply for membership on the Snohomish County Council on Aging (CoA).

The CoA is a 30-member board that advises both County Executive Aaron Reardon and the Long Term Care and Aging Office of the County’s Human Services Department on issues facing older persons and younger persons with disabilities in Snohomish County. The Snohomish County Long Term Care & Aging Office manages federal, state and local funds targeted to
assist elderly residents.

CoA members serve as ambassadors to the community, strategists for funding and program issues, activists around legislative matters, and monitors of the quality and responsiveness of programs and services.

New members will begin 3-year terms on January 1, 2011. The Council on Aging meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month (except December) from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Smaller committee groups meet according to need. It is the expectation that every council member regularly attend and participate in the monthly council meetings and commit to serve on at least one sub-committee of interest.

The Council on Aging strives for a membership that is geographically balanced throughout the county. Snohomish County residents who represent the needs of ethnic and racial minority communities, older persons wishing to improve the quality of life for senior citizens, persons who represent organizations which serve older and younger disabled persons, locally elected officials and members of the general public are encouraged to apply.

Interested persons must complete and file an application form by Friday, September 24, 2010 with Snohomish County Long Term Care and Aging. All nominees are subject to approval of the Executive and appointment by the County Council.

For an application form or to find out more about the council or other opportunities to volunteer for Snohomish County, go to www.snoco.org and search “boards and commissions.”

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You may also contact me directly by phone at 425.388.3460.