Snohomish County Executive
Aaron Reardon

Priorities in Action  Latest News & Upcoming Events

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Reardon: County bonds will stimulate new jobs growth

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon is recommending the county distribute $9 million of its American Recovery and Reinvestment Act bond allocation to three companies for the creation of new jobs. The county also has released a second request for proposals for nearly $11 million still available.

Following an advisory committee review and Reardon’s recommendation, the Snohomish County Council is expected to approve bond funding to three companies for capital improvements in Everett, Sultan and Arlington.

Together, more than 200 full-time jobs will be created.

“Growing and retaining jobs is our first priority,” Reardon said. “The lower interest rates and longer terms offered by the Recovery Zone Facility Bonds give businesses the incentive they need to start or expand now rather than later.”

Specifically, Kimberly Clark Worldwide will be offered $5 million in bonds to convert existing pulp mill streams into fuel-grade ethanol, producing 6 to 8 million gallons of ethanol annually. This production would replace up to 8 million gallons of fossil fuels with renewable cellulosic ethanol. It also would eliminate 60,000 tons of fossil fuel carbon dioxide, increasing the county’s clean technology and lowering its carbon footprint.

In Sultan, Terra Investment Group will use $2.8 million to build Miranda’s Market, part of a larger complex called Sultan Village – a three-story mixed-use development including a restaurant and lounge, RV park, office, game room, retail store, meeting space and third-floor condominiums. Sultan city officials say the project will establish a retail center for commercial and recreational tourism, improving economic development in the Sky Valley area.

Finally, PB Associates will use $1.2 million to construct a new 15,000-
square-foot building expansion for Cascade Aircraft Services, which produces bullet-proof cockpit doors and other aerospace parts. The expansion will allow the aerospace manufacturer the opportunity to extend its reach into the global aerospace market.

“These three companies represent an expansion of industries most important to the long-term sustainability of our county – aerospace, clean technology and tourism,” Reardon said. “The jobs created by these businesses offer new opportunities for a diverse range of professional, skilled and unskilled laborers.”

The $20 million in Recovery Zone Bonds for local companies is part of a larger bond program that can be used to fund public and private capital improvements that promote economic development and job growth throughout the county. Called the “ReCAP Initiative,” the extremely low-interest bond program focuses exclusively on capital projects such as essential public facilities and business infrastructure rather than on providing additional funding for county programs and services.

The county’s Economic Development Division is soliciting proposals for a second round of funding up to $11 million in bond money. Private-sector businesses assume full responsibility for payment of this bond debt, but funds will be available for capital improvements in different sectors including the aerospace and biotech industries as well agricultural improvements and renewable energy projects.

Snohomish County plans to use another $13 million in Recovery Zone Bonds to complete capital improvements of certain public facilities, including the Snohomish County Fairgrounds, and public-safety roads projects. Both will provide temporary and permanent jobs while stimulating growth throughout the county.

For more information on the program, contact Donna Ambrose at 425.388.3219.

Volunteer to help local homeless families get back on track

Snohomish County will host its second annual Project Homeless Connect from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., June 29, at Everett’s Cascade High School. Volunteers are needed to make the event a success.

Last year’s inaugural event served more than 500 individuals and families experiencing homelessness, offering them housing resources, medical and dental services, haircuts, food and other social services through state and local agencies.
This annual event is a collaborative effort between government, nonprofits and community members committed to providing immediate, tangible services to individuals and families residing in Snohomish County who are experiencing homelessness.

“We must continue to work together to provide the basics all people deserve,” Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon said. “Events such as these help those in need find services to break the cycle of homelessness.”

Due to the nation’s continued economic downturn, high unemployment rates and a distressed housing market, this year’s Project Homeless Connect is expected to serve even more people and families in need than last year.

As a community based event, Project Homeless Connect heavily relies on volunteers, donations and sponsorships.

“Last year, our community came together, and we received many donations to cover expenses such as food and supplies,” said Stephani Perin-Earling, the event’s volunteer coordinator. “Due to the economy, we have seen a drastic decrease in donations this year, yet there are still as many needs.”

If you would like to volunteer on the day of the event, please contact the United Way of Snohomish County at 425-374-5500 or info@uwsc.org. To make a monetary donation, please make your check payable to: The Everett Gospel Mission c/o Project Homeless Connect, PO Box 423, Everett, WA 98206-0423.

For more information about the event, contact Stephani Perin-Earling at Stephani@arcsno.org or Snohomish County’s Jackie Anderson at jackiem.anderson@snoco.org or Dean Weitenhagen at dean.weitenhagen@snoco.org.

Shape future North Creek Trail at public meeting

Snohomish County Public Works has scheduled three open house meetings to introduce plans for a new trail in the southern part of the county.

North Creek Trail is being planned as a regional multipurpose shared-use path that will eventually connect the Regional Sammamish River Trail/Burke–Gilman Trail in King County with Snohomish County’s Regional Interurban Trail at McCollum Park in Everett.

Snohomish County’s portion of the trail is in the early design, which includes choosing a route and purchasing right-of-way. This phase is
expected to be completed in 2013.

The public is invited to attend one of three meetings to learn about preliminary trail routes being considered and to help guide the process. Exhibits will be on display and project team members will be available to speak one-on-one with citizens by explaining the proposal and answering questions. There will not be a formal presentation.

Meetings are scheduled for 6 to 8 p.m. on the following dates and at the following locations:

• Monday, June 14, Lynnwood High School, 18218 North Road, Bothell;
• Wednesday, June 16, Crystal Springs Elementary, 21615 9th Ave. SE, Bothell;
• Wednesday, June 23, Mill Creek Council Chambers, 15728 Main St., Mill Creek.

Citizens can register for e-mail updates during the process by visiting www.snoco.org and typing “North Creek Trail” in the search box.

In Pictures

Community Attributes' Chris Mefford, Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon, Snohomish County Agriculture Project Coordinator Linda Neunzig and Carol Krause, local farmer and president of the new Snohomish County Growers Alliance.

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