Volunteers needed for annual homeless count

Volunteers are needed for the annual Point In Time homeless count, which will be conducted Thursday, Jan. 28. The annual count is an important tool in the community’s efforts to assess the number of homeless in Snohomish County as well as to determine ways of ending homelessness.

The Snohomish County Executive Office and the county’s Homeless Policy Task Force, as well as numerous human services providers, will participate in the annual count. The results of the count help ensure that vital federal and state money continues to fund local programs that work to end homelessness.

“Ending homelessness is an issue that should be foremost on all of our minds,” said Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon, who has participated in past annual counts. “The annual count gives us excellent data that can be used to help understand how widespread homelessness in Snohomish County is and who is most affected.”

More than 200 volunteers participated in last year’s count, which found more than 2,300 people identifying as homeless, including more than 800 children under the age of 18.

Volunteers are needed for each part of the count between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. Volunteers are asked to commit to a three-hour period. All training and materials will be provided at each of the four gathering sites in Arlington, Everett, Lynnwood and Monroe.

For more information or to volunteer, contact one of the area leads below:

- East County: Take the Next Step, 202 S. Sams St., Monroe;
Bill Humphreys – (425) 259-3191; bhumphreys@voaww.org;

• South County: Trinity Place Apartments (YWCA), 19321 46th Ave. W., Lynnwood;
  Maria Bighaus – (425) 774-9843 ext. 236;
  mbighaus@ywcaworks.org;

• Central County: Salvation Army, 2525 Rucker Ave., Everett;
  Jerry Gadek – (425) 259-8129;
  jerry.gadek@usw.salvationarmy.org;

• North County: Smokey Point DSHS Community Services Office, 3704 172nd St. NE, Arlington;
  Nate Greenland – (425) 347-6556;
  nategreenland@housinghope.org.

“The Snohomish County Point in Time Count allows us to identify the scale of local homelessness, to measure our progress and to put a face to the issue,” Reardon said.

Emphasis on the Point in Time count began in 2006, with the county’s approval of the “Everyone At Home Now” report, a strategy for ending homelessness here by 2016. The plan calls for the expansion of affordable housing and homeless prevention services as well as for the development of programs geared toward specific groups.

During the 2009 count, 2,356 individuals and 1,469 households were identified as being homeless. This count did not include 316 incarcerated individuals with no identified residence upon release. Additionally, an estimated 849 homeless individuals were homeless children under the age of 18.

For more detailed information about the PIT Count, contact Nate Marti at 425-388-3268 or nate.marti@co.snohomish.wa.us.

County human resources employees honored for work

Snohomish County Human Resources employees have recently been honored for their work and community involvement.

Norma Middleton, the county’s assistant Human Resources director, has been appointed to the International Public Management Association (IPMA) Fellowship Committee. This committee evaluates applications for IPMA-HR members and designated agency member representatives for the association’s...
fellowships. The committee makes recommendations to the group’s Executive Council.

Middleton also has been selected by the city of Lynnwood to serve on its Civil Service interview panel. Middleton has been employed at Snohomish County since 2008. She is a regional leader in the human resources management community and an active member of her Edmond’s community.

“It’s pleasing to see outside recognition earned by Snohomish County employees,” County Executive Aaron Reardon said. “Our employees’ dedication to service goes further than their county jobs. They are very willing to get involved in their communities and professional organizations for continued education and improvement.”

Jackie Anderson, a human resources analyst in the county’s Human Resources Department, has been selected by Edmonds Community College to assist the Six Sigma Program with its mock interview program. The Six Sigma Program is a nationally known business improvement certificate program.

Anderson has been employed with Snohomish County for 23 years and also is known as a reliable and skilled member of the human resources community.

**Evergreen State Fair seeks advisory board members**

The Evergreen State Fair is seeking candidates for four vacancies on the Snohomish County Fair Advisory Board.

The Fair Advisory Board was created to assist staff with production of the annual fair and to recommend practices and directions relating to Snohomish County’s largest annual event.

The Fair Board is composed of 11 members – five representing the Council districts in which they reside and six at-large members who may live anywhere in Snohomish County. The board meets the second Tuesday evening of each month and represents a broad range of interests. Participation in activities during the annual 12-day fair also is expected.

Members serve four-year terms and are limited to three consecutive full terms. Prior fair experience is not necessary.

For information about the position or to download a nomination
form, go to [www.snoco.org](http://www.snoco.org) and search “Boards and Commissions.” Copies also may be picked up at the Fairgrounds Office. Completed nomination forms should be sent to the Fairgrounds Office at 14405 179th Ave. SE, Monroe, WA 98272 or by e-mail to mark.campbell@snoco.org.

The Evergreen State Fair runs August 26 through September 6, 2010, in Monroe. For more information, go to [www.evergreenfair.org](http://www.evergreenfair.org) or call 360-805-6700.

**County will offer free Feb. 24 arthritis seminar**

Snohomish County’s Long Term Care & Aging Division will host a free seminar focusing on the effects of arthritis.

There are more than 100 types of arthritis that can affect one’s joints in the body. The Feb. 24 class will look at what individuals can do to keep joints healthy as well as treatment options for severe arthritis.

From 10:30 a.m. to noon at Compass Health’s Administrative Office, 4526 Federal Ave. in Everett, orthopedic surgeon Michael Codsi, of The Everett Clinic, will discuss easy ways to prevent pain or to treat pain that already exists. Codsi also works as the team physician for the Everett Aquasox.

The free seminar is co-sponsored with The Everett Clinic and the Snohomish County Council on Aging. To register, contact Joyce Frasu at 425-388-7377 or j.frasu@snoco.org.

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**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.*