County officials to host town hall meetings

On Feb. 12 in Edmonds, County Executive Aaron Reardon, Sheriff John Lovick and Council Vice Chairman Mike Cooper will hold the first in a series of public-safety town hall meetings.

The town hall, which will take place from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the South County Senior Center, will be an opportunity for officials to gather input on public-safety issues facing Snohomish County residents.

“Nothing is more important than the work we do to keep our communities safe,” Reardon said. “These town halls offer the opportunity to hear from our residents, exchange ideas and ensure we’re looking at every public-safety option.”

Public-safety topics likely to be discussed include efforts to reduce local crime and graffiti, preparation for emergencies and safety resources available to residents.

“People care very much about their neighborhoods. Even a little bit of crime can impact their quality of life,” Lovick said. “We’re serious about listening to them and learning how we can help make their neighborhoods safer. And we want to give them useful information they can put into practice when they leave these meetings.”

The South County Senior Center is located at 220 Railroad Ave., Edmonds.

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Upcoming public-safety town halls also are being planned in Everett and Sultan. The Everett-area town hall will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Feb. 20 at Mariner High School, 200 120th St. SW, and will include Councilman Brian Sullivan, the area’s representative. The Sultan town hall will be from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Feb. 27 at Sultan High School, 13715 310th Ave. SE, with Councilman Dave Somers, who represents the area.

Reardon is planning future town halls, which will focus on various topics and include other county officials and agency representatives.

“Engaging the public on the important issues facing this county is important,” Reardon said. “We need to make sure we’re continually talking with our residents as county government belongs to them.”

County offers parks and recreation grants

Under a proposal launched by Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon, local organizations building sports and recreational facilities now can compete for grants as part of the new Youth Amenities and Recreation Development grant program (YARD Grants).

YARD Grants will provide matching grant funding to youth sports or community organizations – in partnership with public entities such as the county, cities or school districts – proposing to rehabilitate, expand or develop sports fields, playgrounds and other recreational facilities serving youth in Snohomish County.

The program is part of the Community Enhancement Initiative proposed by Executive Reardon as part of the 2008 county budget.

“These grants will allow us to partner with stakeholders to provide community-based recreational facilities for Snohomish County youth,” Reardon said. “Youth sports and other community organizations are part of the fabric of our county and we look forward to partnering with them.”

A total of $450,000 is allocated to the grant program.

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Successful applicants will receive up to $75,000 to assist in the construction of the facilities described in their proposals.

Selected organizations must match grant proceeds with cash or volunteer labor.

Application materials will be available on the Snohomish County Web site and can be downloaded by going to www.snoco.org, and searching “Parks.” Applications are due March 7, and should be returned to Parks Administration, Willis Tucker Park, 6705 Puget Park Dr., Snohomish, WA 98296, or e-mailed to Russ Bosanko at russ.bosanko@co.snohomish.wa.us.

Successful applicants will be announced in May.

Questions and technical assistance in application preparation is available by calling Snohomish County Parks at 425-388-6600

**Upcoming forum provides overview of Rural Cluster changes**

The Unified Development Code Update project invites the public to attend an informational forum to learn firsthand about proposed changes to the County’s Rural Cluster Subdivision (RCS) policies. These proposed changes result from months of public outreach and citizen input concerning issues such as road standards, landscape and fire code changes.

The meeting will be held Thursday, February 21 at 6:00 p.m. at Snohomish County Administration Building East, Meeting Room #1.

For more information on the UDC Update please visit www.snoco.org and search “UDC Update.”

**Tired of candy and flowers for Valentine’s Day?**

Tired of candy and flowers for Valentine’s Day? Take your loved one to the park! Visit Snohomish County Parks and Recreation for an alternative to traditional holiday gifts.
Click here.

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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.