Reardon to deliver state-of-the-county address

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon will deliver his annual state-of-the-county address **Wednesday, Jan. 30, at 10 a.m.**, focusing on last year’s achievements and this year’s goals.

This will be Reardon’s fifth state-of-the-county address and his first since being elected to a second term.

Highlights will include the county’s plans to preserve farmland, efforts to improve housing opportunities for Snohomish County residents, steps to reduce greenhouse gases and projects to protect community character while balancing new growth.

Reardon’s address will follow the Snohomish County Council’s general legislative session, and will be held in the First Floor Meeting Room located in the county’s East Administrative Building, 3000 Rockefeller Ave., Everett.

The public is invited to attend.

Custody officers needed at county jail

Snohomish County Corrections (SCC), in partnership with WorkSource-Everett, will hold its annual Custody Officer Hiring Fair on Feb. 1 at Everett Station, 3201 Smith Ave.

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Custody Officers supervise the daily activities of inmates at the Snohomish County Jail, located in downtown Everett. Corrections is seeking a variety of applicants for a number of entry and lateral positions. Entry level jobs start at more than $43,500 plus benefits, while lateral-hire salaries can be as high as nearly $58,000 plus benefits.

Recently, custody officers have been hired from a number of fields including the military, education, home health aides, medical assistants, loan processors, realtors, laborer, drivers and private business owners. The customer service skills needed for these jobs transfer well into a corrections environment and complement the on-the-job security and operations training provided after candidates are hired.

Job candidates must be 21 years old or older and pass job-related tests, background check, polygraph and psychological exam. Previous corrections experience is not required as on-the-job training is provided.

Doors open at 9 a.m. and initial testing and interviews, including an opportunity to take a physical-ability test, will begin at 10 a.m. Candidates only need to bring a picture I.D. with them.

Reardon reappointed to Sound Transit board  
Executive nominates Edmonds Council woman to post

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon was reappointed Tuesday to the Sound Transit board of directors, where he will serve as vice chairman and head of the finance committee.

The Snohomish County Council unanimously approved the reappointment.

Reardon has served on the Sound Transit board since 2004, leading Snohomish County’s interests in regional transportation authority. The county executive says this year is a critical one following the failure of last year’s Proposition 1, which would have expanded light rail to 164th Street in Snohomish County.  
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“During 2008, Sound Transit will be making pivotal decisions on projects that would benefit our residents following a future public vote,” Reardon said. “It’s important to make sure we’re balancing our projects for the benefit of all.”

Among the projects to be completed and thoroughly underway this year in Snohomish County are:

- Sounder will launch a fourth roundtrip train between Everett and Seattle in late September. Passengers will be able to catch the train from the Mukilteo Station’s north platform, which should open in mid-year.

- ST Express bus riders will have new transit opportunities with the opening of the South Everett Freeway Station.

- Sound Transit will break ground on an Everett Station parking expansion and Edmonds Sounder station improvements.

- By 2009, smart card technology giving customers a fast, convenient electronic fair payment system for all Central Puget Sound transit systems will be available for use and purchase.

Reardon will serve as the vice chairman and head of the finance committee for at least a two-year term, however, his reappointment is for four years. His term will expire in 2011.

In addition, Reardon, in his role as county executive, has nominated Edmonds City Councilwoman Deanna Dawson, to serve on the Sound Transit board for a four-year term, expiring at the end of 2011.

More
6th annual Students of Color Career Conference

Last Friday, Everett Community College (EvCC) held the 6th annual Students of Color Career Conference sponsored by Snohomish County, the city of Everett, Everett Public Schools and Everett Community College. More than 650 middle and high school students attended the conference, which featured panel discussions on several career opportunities such as engineering, business, science, law and civil services.

During the conference, winners of the EvCC Students of Color Scholarship were announced. This year 9 of 60 applicants received $500 or $1,000 scholarships made possible by funding from Reed Consulting, Inc. Applicants competed by composing a 500-word essay on the theme “My Dream and My Plan to Achieve It.”

Next year’s conference is scheduled for Jan.16, 2009.

January designated Mentoring Month

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon signed a proclamation Tuesday designating January as Mentoring Month.

Surrounded by members and volunteers from Big Brothers Big Sisters of Snohomish County, Reardon said the organization was one to be valued for the work that it accomplishes.

“The reasons for the proclamation are twofold. One, I want to say thank you for all the work in this community on behalf of those being mentored,” Reardon said Tuesday. “Two, I want to encourage as many adults as possible to give more of their time to such a worthwhile organization.”

During 2007, nearly 450 children in Snohomish County had a Big Brother or Big Sister. More than 21,000 hours of one-to-one time was spent with these individuals.

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“Often, children don’t have a role model in life,” Kelli Wilson, chairwoman of the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Snohomish County, said during the signing. “With a little help, they can go on to do great things.”

Research has shown that student mentoring programs increase attendance and improve scholastic performance. Partnerships between government agencies, businesses, faith communities and schools provide an opportunity for Snohomish County residents to support young people in the community.

Last year, more than 300 people answered the call to become a Big Brother or Big Sister, but more than 90 children are still waiting for a mentor.

To view the proclamation click here.

For more information on the program, visit www.bbbs-snoco.org or call 425-252-2227.

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.