

Media Advisory – June 3, 2008

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County cleanup at Mariner deemed a success

Following the success of Saturday's Mariner Neighborhood Cleanup, Snohomish County officials say they're planning to return this fall for a second event.

The county's Solid Waste, Code Enforcement and Roads divisions also are considering weekend cleanups in other parts of the county that would benefit from such a unified effort.

About 250 residents participated in Saturday's local cleanup, where residents in a targeted area were invited to dump their trash and recycling – mostly for free – to give the neighborhood a face-lift.

During February's Public Safety Town Halls hosted by Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon, Mariner residents said they needed help reducing crime in rundown areas of the neighborhood.

Reardon responded by having staff create a comprehensive plan for beautifying the area.

"We know that a clean neighborhood promotes a crime-free area, so this project was an innovative way to spur efforts along," Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon said. "Now we're proactively looking at other parts of the county where weekend cleanups would be beneficial."

On Saturday, the county's Solid Waste Division collected 108 computers, 308 tires, 5.5 tons of metal, a dozen refrigerators and 330 gallons of paint and oil. The county teamed up with business partners Waste Management, Rubatino, Les Schwab and Total Reclaim to remove the trash, hazardous waste and recycling.

"Given the terrific response from the neighborhood, all of us at the county, along with our business partners, are looking forward to coming back in a few months for a fall cleanup," said Sam Chandler, the county's Solid Waste utility manager.

Prior to Saturday, the county's roads division swept streets and code enforcement toured the area looking for violations. The county is helping property owners with violations work toward voluntary compliance.

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