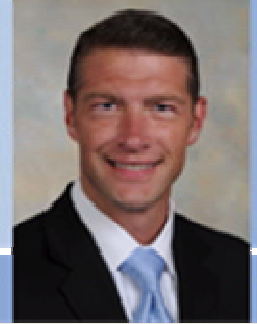


Snohomish County Executive **AARON REARDON**



Priorities in Action  Latest News & Upcoming Events

County's unemployment rate continues steady decrease

Recent numbers compiled by the State of Washington show that Snohomish County is growing new jobs and cutting unemployment as the region continues showing signs of recovering from the Great Recession.

Earlier this week, the state Employment Security Department (ESD) reported that Snohomish County's unemployment rate had dropped below state levels to 8.2 percent in December, its lowest level in three years.

Summarizing its latest report, ESD said, "It appears that the county is on its way to recovery. The near term outlook for the county's economy includes projections of growth in most sectors and a slowly receding unemployment rate as the economy recovers."

Much of the county's job growth continues to come in the form of family wage jobs in manufacturing. The aerospace industry in Snohomish County created 600 jobs in December, raising the total to more than 6,700 jobs in our county during the past year.

We have made a concerted effort in Snohomish County to attract economic growth, and in particular ensure our local aerospace sector has the ability to thrive. Those efforts are paying off, and helping guarantee that Snohomish County remains a great place to live, work and raise a family.

Sincerely,

Residents, businesses urged to report damages

Snohomish County residents, farmers, businesses and municipalities should begin reporting to the county's Department of Emergency Management (DEM) storm damages related to winter weather occurring between Jan. 13 through 23.

Damage assessments will be used to determine and justify the need for possible state

Jan. 27, 2012

www.snoco.org

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assistance, federal assistance and other potential grants.

During the storm, the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office responded to more than 110 traffic collisions and another 320 traffic hazards in unincorporated Snohomish County. The Washington State Patrol responded to nearly 1,000 incidents in Snohomish County.

Snohomish County's road crews plowed nearly 20,000 miles of roadway during the multi-day storm event, using nearly 4,600 tons of sand to clear ice and snow. Crews also worked to clear tree limbs and debris from the county's stormwater catch basins – there are about 50,000 throughout the county – to prevent urban flooding.

"Snohomish County has shown continually its ability to respond to weather events such as snow and ice, keeping roads clear and open," said Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon. "But we also know that some residents and business owners may have suffered damages due to ice and flooding."

Residential, agricultural and business damages can be reported by filling out a damage-assessment form found at www.snoco.org.

East County Senior Center honored by national association

The East County Senior Center is being honored by the National Institute of Senior Centers for its recent "Senior to Senior" project in Monroe. Leaders with the center have been invited to attend the Annual ASA/NCOA conference in Washington, D.C.

Snohomish County contributes a portion of different county funds to the budgets of each senior center throughout the county.

"Our senior centers provide critical outlets to our aging population – to whom we owe much respect and recognition," said Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon. "Funding these centers is important to helping them maintain their quality of life, and we know that during the next 20 years, this portion of our population will continue to increase."

In 2011, Snohomish County provided about \$82,500 to the East County Senior Center, or roughly 22 percent of the center's total budget. The 2012 budgeted amount for the East County Senior Center is basically the same.

Parks adds 100 acres to system for multiple uses

Earlier this week, Snohomish County approved the purchase of 100 acres near Maltby from the University of Washington for future park amenities including baseball and soccer fields.

Snohomish County's approval follows the University of Washington's decision to sell

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Sincerely,



Aaron Reardon

its “Wellington Hills” property during its Jan. 12 Board of Regents meeting. The purchase price is \$9.7 million and will be paid for using Brightwater mitigation funds that must be spent within a 4-mile radius of the plant and by the end of 2015.

“Today’s purchase is a great value for money that must be spent on park land,” said Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon. “Its future uses will enhance an already world-class parks-and-recreation system.”

The Wellington Hills purchase is the latest of the county’s purchases using Brightwater mitigation funds totaling \$70 million, of which more than \$30 million had been designated for recreation. King and Snohomish counties agreed to the mitigation package in 2005 prior to the sewage treatment plant being built at the crux of Highways 9 and 522.

Future uses will be determined through a public-input process.

Other purchases using Brightwater mitigation funds include 127 acres of the nearly 800-acre Paradise Valley Conservation Area, which includes Snohomish County’s first Regional Mountain Biking Skills Park; the 38-acre Tambark Creek Community Park near Mill Creek; and the 13-acre Miners Corner Community Park located at 228th Street Southeast and 45th Avenue Southeast.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read my electronic newsletter.

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You may also contact me directly by phone at 425.388.3460.

