
Snohomish County Year 2000 Press Releases

December 29, 2000

[**New County Council Member
To Be Chosen In January**](#)

The Snohomish County Council will have a new council member in January. Councilman Rick Larsen, who has represented the 1st Council District (generally north Snohomish County) for three years, has submitted his resignation effective December 31st. Larsen was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in November to represent the 2nd Congressional District. He and his family will be moving to Washington D.C.

22 December 2000

[**County Council agrees on full funding for roads**](#)

Citing the critical need to continue solving the county's transportation woes, the Snohomish County Council unanimously voted Dec. 20th to increase the road levy budget by 6% in 2001.

15 December 2000

[**COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION VACANCY
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8 December 2000

30 August 2000

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25 August 2000

[**County lowers the curtain on lake weeds**](#)

An innovative project to control invasive weeds in Lake Shoecraft in northwest Snohomish County is nearing completion...

14 July 2000

[**Chip Seal Program to start
on north county roads July 17**](#)

The Snohomish County 2000 Chip Seal Program will refurbish some 61 miles of county roadway starting July 17, 2000...

5 July 2000

Salmon Recovery

[**Snohomish River Basin Issues and
Conditions Report Released**](#)

The Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Forum has released the ***Snohomish River Basin Conditions and Issues Report*** in the wake of announced rules

[Christmas Safety Tips: The dangers of decorations](#)

'Tis the season! Christmas. Hanukkah. Kwanzaa. Festival of Lights. Yes, this holiday period is a time of great celebration, tradition, beauty and...*danger*...

7 December 2000

[DREWEL SEEKS LODGING REPRESENTATIVE TO ADVISE COUNTY ON TOURISM DEVELOPMENT](#)

A representative of a Snohomish County hotel, bed-and-breakfast or camping facility is needed to serve on the county's Lodging Tax Advisory Committee, County Executive Bob Drewel has announced...

6 December 2000

[County council to consider executive's veto of the reduced county road tax on Dec. 20](#)

The Snohomish County Council will hold a public hearing Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2000 to consider increasing the county's Year 2001 road tax from 2 percent to 6 percent above current rates at the request of County Executive Bob Drewel...

5 December 2000

[County Executive Asks Council to Restore Funding for Road Program](#)

Snohomish County Executive Bob Drewel today asked members of the County Council to reconsider their decision to limit next year's Road Fund levy to a 2% increase. Drewel had requested an increase of 6% in his Year 2001 Budget. The County has historically adopted a 6% increase in the annual Road Fund levy to keep pace with its transportation needs.

December 1, 2000

[Christmas Safety Tip: Keep Your Tree Green](#)

It was an e-mail posting to break your heart: "two days after Christmas in the middle of the night our Christmas tree caught fire and destroyed our home," Christian Witt wrote to www.fire-investigators.org. "everyone got out ok but everything we owned was destroyed." ...

November 22, 2000

[Drewel postpones sales tax ballot measure](#)

Citing a commitment to fiscal responsibility, County

by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to protect chinook salmon under the Endangered Species Act. View the entire report as a 315-page PDF file: **BASIN ... Report.**

June 23, 2000

[Tri-County Delivers Salmon Recovery Plan to Feds](#)

Snohomish, King, and Pierce County executives announced the transmittal of the proposed Tri-County salmon recovery plan to National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

June 16, 2000

[Help for Snohomish County Residents, Community Resource Fairs Planned](#)

Where do Snohomish County residents turn when they face life's most critical problems? Who can help community members when they experience housing problems, consumer disputes, domestic violence, concerns around divorce and child support, discrimination, hunger, or obstacles to employment?

June 16, 2000

[Drewel Seeks Citizen Volunteers to serve on county advisory boards](#)

Citing the opportunity to impact local government programs and serve the community, Snohomish County Executive Bob Drewel is asking for volunteers to fill several vacancies on county boards and commissions.

June 2, 2000

[Independent Citizen Committee Recommends County Build Downtown](#)

The independent citizen committee studying the feasibility of a Snohomish County move of some government offices to Paine Field has released its recommendation that the County reject such a move. Instead, the County should construct new government facilities on or near its current facilities in downtown Everett ...

May 26, 2000

[County 2000 Resurfacing Program Targets](#)

Executive Bob Drewel has deferred plans for a spring election asking voters to approve a sales tax increase to fund future jail operations...

November 13, 2000

[**Drewel postpones airport west-side commercial development**](#)

County Executive Bob Drewel has announced that he will withdraw from County Council consideration a proposed option agreement with TRF Pacific, Inc., for commercial development of approximately 80 acres on the west side of the Snohomish County Airport at Paine Field...

November 1, 2000

[**County to hold open house on Lundeen Park Way Extension**](#)

Nov. 16 event is chance for residents to learn about road-widening project...

November 1, 2000

[**Beavers: County tries innovative methods to coexist with dam-builders**](#)

Snohomish County had a problem last summer. Here it was July—supposedly the dry season—and Spada Road was flooded.

Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2000

[**County Maintains Support for Agriculture, Announces Clarification of Grading Policies**](#)

Snohomish County farmers should be able to breathe easier. The county announced today its receipt of official clarification that routine plowing and tilling on existing farm fields does not constitute grading or similar activities that would require a grading permit.

October 20, 2000

[**County Seeks Public Comment on EIS for New Transfer Station**](#)

Snohomish County Public Works Solid Waste Management Division is in the process of locating a site for a new Central Recycling and Transfer Station.

October 18, 2000

[**108 Miles of Roadway**](#)

This year's program will use about 106,000 tons of asphalt to resurface approximately 47 miles of two-lane county roadways, plus another 4 miles of city streets in Stanwood, Mukilteo, Brier and Monroe. In addition, the County will chip seal some 61 miles of roadway. All total, the program will spruce up some 108 miles of roadway at a cost of about \$6 million.

May 25, 2000

[**Drewel recommends County Remain Downtown, Announces Vision for County Civic Center Development**](#)

Snohomish County's long-term facilities needs can best be met by working with the City of Everett to construct new jail and administrative space on the county's current land in downtown Everett, County Executive Bob Drewel said today...

May 15, 2000

[**Tacoma attorney appointed County Hearing Examiner**](#)

The Snohomish County Council has appointed Tacoma attorney Bob Backstein as the county's new hearing examiner. Backstein succeeds John Galt who retired recently after 22 years in the position.

May 12, 2000

[**New park will be named for Willis Tucker, County's first Executive**](#)

The tireless efforts of Snohomish County's first county executive to expand the county park system will be recognized Thursday when Snohomish County will officially name Willis D. Tucker County Park.

May 10, 2000

[**Vernon Rd on Lake Stevens to be closed until next February**](#)

Vernon Road on the north shore of Lake Stevens will be closed to through traffic starting Monday, May 15, 2000, through Feb. 2001 to allow for the construction of a new bridge on just north of 95th Avenue NE ...

April 27, 2000

[**Martha Lake Elementary**](#)

[Drewel names new Human Svcs director](#)

County Executive Bob Drewel has announced the appointment of **Janelle Sgrignoli** of Everett as director of the county's Human Services department...

October 16, 2000

[County to sell 17 mobile homes at Oct. 28 public auction](#)

Viewing opportunities Sat., Oct. 21st and Wed., Oct 25 at King's Court in Lynnwood ...

September 5, 2000

[Tulalip Tribes Give Courts a Surprise Boost of \\$50,000](#)

When the Tulalip Tribes made their annual distribution of community impact funds earlier this year, there wasn't enough money to go around. But what could have been a big zero for Snohomish County Superior Court has ended in a surprise \$50,000 donation from the Tribes' general fund.

31 August 2000

[Salmon Watchers training offered](#)

County staff will teach volunteer "Salmon Watchers" how to collect data on the salmon that migrate and spawn in the urban and rural streams throughout the county. The information collected will be posted on the internet and shared...

[gets new 'interactive' crosswalk](#)

A new "interactive" crosswalk that flashes like a strobe light should help motorists see pedestrians more easily at a school crossing in front of Martha Lake Elementary School has been installed ...

April 6, 2000

[County workers donate to hungry](#)

Snohomish County government employees are celebrating the results of their second annual "March Against Hunger," which brought in 59,035 pounds of food donations and \$846 cash for the 19 Volunteers of America food banks...

March 29, 2000

[Market Place Rd. opens](#)

A new road section of Market Place in Lake Stevens will open to traffic some time in the first week of April...

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 10 January 2001

Mike Ashley of Silvana is new county council member from District 1

The Snohomish County Council voted unanimously today to appoint Mike Ashley to fill the vacancy on the county council created when former Councilmember Rick Larsen was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in November. Larsen resigned from the council effective Jan. 1st.

Ashley, a dairy farmer from Silvana, takes office immediately. A formal swearing-in ceremony will be held in the near future. He represents Council District 1 (see [district map](#)). Ashley was one of three candidates chosen Jan. 6th by the Snohomish County Democratic Central Committee. The other two candidates were Kevin Quigley of Lake Stevens and Fredda Smith of Lakewood. The county council interviewed all three candidates before making their choice. Ashley will have to stand for election at the next General Election in November, 2001.

The process of selecting a new council member is governed by Section 4.80 of the [Snohomish County Charter](#), which reads in part: *The council shall fill a vacancy from a list of three people submitted by the county central committee of the party which the official in office immediately prior to the vacancy represented.*

###

CONTACT: Fred Bird, Council Staff, 425-388-3494 or fred.bird@co.snohomish.wa.us

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 22, 2000

COUNTY COUNCIL AGREES ON FULL FUNDING FOR ROADS

Citing the critical need to continue solving the county's transportation woes, the Snohomish County Council unanimously voted Dec. 20th to increase the road levy budget by 6% in 2001. In taking this action, the Council in effect concurred with County Executive Bob Drewel's veto of an earlier action limiting the increase to 2%. The county's general fund budget, which had also been limited to a 2% increase, remains unchanged.

While the total dollars raised by the road levy will increase 6%, the levy rate charged per \$1000 of a home's assessed valuation will actually fall. This is because of spreading the increase over a wider base that includes new construction and updated property valuations. The road levy applies to property in unincorporated Snohomish County only. Residents within cities do not pay the county road levy.

Drewel's veto, his first in nine years, was aimed at re-opening discussion on funding for the county's road needs, and scheduling a public hearing to hear citizens' views on the issue before taking final action on the road levy budget increase.

At the public hearing, Drewel observed, "Citizens are telling us every day that transportation is their biggest concern, and that they are willing to pay to fix it. Recent polling has shown that 68% of Snohomish County residents would support local taxes and fees if they were spent on fixing local transportation problems - that's two-to-one supporting exactly what we seek to do in our roads program." Staff reported to elected officials that if the county limited the road levy budget increases to 2% rather than 6% over the next six years, it would remove \$88 Million from the county's road construction program, including county dollars and matching state and federal funds.

Following public testimony which reflected both the general desire for tax relief and the need to relieve road congestion and meet the infrastructure needs of growing neighborhoods, Councilmembers agreed that the County's critical transportation needs could not be met at the reduced funding level. The issue of fairly distributing the cost for roads and other public facilities from new development between developers and the taxpayers was also raised. The Executive promised to bring a new road mitigation fee structure to the Council early in the new year.

"It's a tough issue for me," said council member Dave Somers, "because I represent a mostly rural district [east Snohomish County] where taxpayers are charged the road levy – but we also benefit from improvements to county roads. I supported the budget increase because I'm convinced that there is a substantial need, and because the County Executive has committed to move right away on reviewing the county's mitigation fee structure for new construction. I estimate that developers now pay only about 20% of the community costs associated with new construction," he said.

"People keep reminding me of the negative impact traffic congestion has on all our lives," said Council Chair Barbara Cothorn, "and the cost of not increasing the road budget weighs on my mind. Contacts from citizens throughout the county encouraged me to take this action. Like Councilmember Somers, I also look forward to revising our mitigation fees," she said.

In taking the action to restore the 6% increase to the road levy budget the Executive and Council agreed to hold all dollars above 2% in reserve pending final court action on the constitutionality of Initiative 722. In November, Thurston County Superior Court Judge Christine Pomeroy issued a preliminary injunction to block I-722 from taking effect until she decides the case for a number of cities and counties. In early December, the Washington State Department of Revenue advised counties that the injunction applies to all jurisdictions statewide. The state's Supreme Court will likely be called upon to make the final ruling on I-722.

#

CONTACT:

Executive Office: Gary Weikel, Deputy County Executive, 425/388-3448

Stephen Holt, Executive Director, 425/388-3123

County Council: Fred Bird, Communication Services, 425/388-2453

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 15, 2000

COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION VACANCY OFFERS CHANCE FOR PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Qualified candidates from north Snohomish County are being sought for appointment to the Snohomish County Planning Commission. Candidates must live in County Council District #1 (generally, from Marysville north to the Skagit County line).

The Planning Commission is an advisory body that reviews comprehensive plans and development regulations and makes recommendations to the County Council. The Commission meets regularly on the fourth Tuesday of each month, and occasionally holds special meetings. Meetings are generally in the afternoons and/or evenings, and can require a time commitment of four to eight hours on meeting days. Considerable pre-meeting preparation and reading is required. Attendance and participation in all commission meetings is important.

Knowledge of land use theories, growth management and resource preservation is desired, along with a minimal potential for conflict of interest and a demonstrated interest in the welfare of Snohomish County. The Council also takes into consideration geographic and philosophical balance when appointing commission members.

"This is a great chance for citizen involvement that can make a real difference," said County Councilmember Rick Larsen, who currently represents the north Snohomish County area on the Council. Larsen was elected to Congress last month and will begin his new position in January. The new Planning Commissioner will be chosen by Larsen's yet-unnamed successor to the Council. "Citizens with experience in the field of land use, urban design or architecture would be especially valuable additions to the Commission, and I would strongly encourage anyone with such experience to consider applying for this vacancy."

Nomination forms must be completed and filed with the county by Jan. 15. The appointment to the current vacancy will complete a term that expires June 30, 2003. The board is made up of 11 members who serve four-year terms and are limited to three consecutive full terms. Ten members are appointed by Council (two from each Council district) and the remaining at-large

position is appointed by County Executive Bob Drewel.

Interested parties may contact Connie Mennie at 425-388-3876 for a nomination form. For more information about the Planning Commission's duties or its schedule, contact Larry Springer at 425-388-3047.

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CONTACT: Larry Springer, Planning Commission, 425-388-3047
Connie Mennie, Executive Office, 425-388-3876

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Wednesday, Aug. 30, 2000

DREWEL'S DEPUTY LEAVING TO HELP DIRECT SOUND TRANSIT

[Drewel names executive leadership team reorganization](#)

Snohomish County's deputy executive, second in command to County Executive Bob Drewel, has announced her decision to accept the position of Chief Operating Officer with the regional transit agency, Sound Transit. And she will leave big shoes to fill.

Joni Earl has served as the county's deputy executive since January 1992, joining Drewel's office from day one. She has had responsibility for overall management of day-to-day county government operations and served as acting county executive when Drewel was unavailable. She directed the annual budget process and, in addition, oversaw several county departments, including Finance, Human Resources, Information Services, and Planning and Development Services.

"Joni Earl is simply the finest, most capable public servant I have had the privilege to work with," Drewel said. "Joni has served Snohomish County citizens so very, very well – as she will the citizens of the Sound Transit region. I will miss my good friend greatly, but I'm happy to know we will work together on Sound Transit." Drewel said Earl's last day at the county will be Oct. 6.

Earl's influence has been felt outside the county offices as well. For the past year, she has been Snohomish County's top negotiator in meetings with the National Marine Fisheries Service to craft a Puget Sound regional response to the listing of Chinook salmon under the Endangered Species Act. She was honored by being elected this year as the West Coast Vice President for the International City/County Management Association.

"I am very excited about this opportunity with Sound Transit. It is a new position for this agency, and one that I believe is critically important to the success of the regional transit plan approved by the voters in 1996. While leaving Snohomish County was a very difficult decision, it helps my emotions to know I am continuing to work on something important to Bob Drewel and to our region's future," Earl said in announcing her resignation.

Earl began her government service career with the City of Bremerton, where she was assistant city treasurer. She then moved to Kitsap County, where she was fiscal officer and was later promoted to budget director and director of internal management. Prior to coming to Snohomish County, Earl was city manager for the City of Mill Creek for four years.

Earl earned her master's degree from the University of Puget Sound and a bachelor's degree from Washington State University. Her community involvement includes Camp Fire Boys & Girls of Snohomish County, United Way of Snohomish County, and Everett Rotary.

**CONTACT: Bob Drewel, Snohomish County Executive, 425-388-3879
Bob White, Executive Director, Sound Transit, 206-398-5014**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Wednesday, Aug. 30, 2000

DREWEL NAMES EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM REORGANIZATION

In the wake of Deputy Executive Joni Earl's resignation, County Executive Bob Drewel has appointed her successor and restructured key leadership positions in his office.

Drewel proudly tapped Executive Director Gary Weikel to be the new Deputy County Executive for Snohomish County. In naming Weikel, Drewel said, "There is no one in county government today who knows as much about county operations or has a better working relationship with County Council and Council staff than Gary Weikel. I have total and complete trust in Gary's ability to take on this job, and am confident the entire organization will work to make our transition of leadership a success."

In restructuring the office, Drewel also announced that current Planning and Development Services Director, Steve Holt, will be joining the Executive's office. He will share responsibilities with Weikel and Margery Hite for department oversight, regional policy issues, communications, and other myriad duties and responsibilities under the County Executive's domain.

Weikel has held the position of Executive Director in Drewel's office since 1992 and served in a similar capacity for five years with the late County Executive Willis Tucker. Prior to that time, Gary worked as president and business agent for a local union organization. He also is former president of the Snohomish County Labor Council and vice president of the Washington State Labor Council.

In accepting the appointment, Weikel stated, "I am very honored that Bob has the confidence in me to select me as his Deputy."

Drewel discussed his selection of Holt, the PDS director since 1994, to join the Executive leadership team. "We have a number of significant policy issues on the near term horizon and are already preparing for the next round of review and population forecasts required by the Growth Management in the next year or two," Drewel said. "Steve's guidance and knowledge in these areas is unprecedented, and his ability to work with varied stakeholders and with our cities will help fill the hole created by Joni's departure."

Holt responded, "Bob's mission has always been about quality of life. This assignment gives me a slightly larger paint brush to work towards quality places for people to live and work, and the quality of our environment." Holt will serve in a dual role as director of PDS while the search for his replacement is underway.

CONTACT: Bob Drewel, Snohomish County Executive, 425-388-3879

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PRESS RELEASE August 25, 2000

County lowers the curtain on lake weeds

An innovative project to control invasive weeds in Lake Shoecraft in northwest Snohomish County is nearing completion. The project combines Sonar, a slow-acting herbicide, with floating curtains to isolate two parts of the lake infested with Eurasian watermilfoil. Milfoil is a non-native invasive aquatic plant that grows so thickly it interferes with fishing, swimming, and boating. The herbicide interferes with pigments that allow the milfoil to grow.

The project began in late June with installation of 3,100 feet of floating containment curtains that stretch from shore to shore and from the lake surface to the bottom. After the curtains were in place, the herbicide was applied to 25 acres of the lake behind the curtains to kill the milfoil. Regular monitoring has shown that the curtains are working well—the herbicide concentrations remain high in the treatment areas, and very little herbicide has leaked into the rest of the lake. There are no restrictions on swimming, boating, fishing while the herbicide is being used.

With approximately two weeks left in the project, nearly all the milfoil plants in the treated areas are dead. In future years, divers will follow-up the herbicide treatment by hand-pulling any remaining plants.

The Lake Shoecraft project is one element in a five year \$250,000 effort to eradicate Eurasian watermilfoil in both Lake Shoecraft and Lake Goodwin. The milfoil control work is partially funded by property owners at the two lakes through a Lake Management District. The owners approved formation of the District and new fees by a majority vote in 1999. Snohomish County Surface Water Management and grants from the State Department of Ecology provide the remaining funds. Work in Lake Shoecraft during 2000 will cost about \$150,000. An Olympia-area company, Resource Management, Inc., is performing the milfoil treatment under contract to the Snohomish County Surface Water Management Division.

###

PRESS RELEASE July 14, 2000

Chip Seal Program to start on north county roads July 17

The Snohomish County 2000 Chip Seal Program will refurbish some 61 miles of county roadway starting July 17, 2000, Snohomish County Public Works has announced. This year's program will focus on north county roads for the first three to four weeks, then move to south county roads in early August. The process extends the usable life of a road by seven to 10 years, at a minimal cost. All work is expected to be completed by mid-September.

The Chip Seal Program works like this: County Road Maintenance crews repair weathered arterials and residential streets by preleveling the surfaces with hot asphalt. They then apply a layer of asphalt oil, followed by a layer of crushed rock. Crews complete the job by striping the roadway and placing crushed rock along the shoulders (where necessary).

Typically, crews are in and out of any given location within one day, so impacts are minimal for residents and businesses. There will continue to be some loose gravel on the road for about seven more days, however, so speed limits of 20 mph will be in effect during that time. Driving slowly will help compact the road surface and minimize loose gravel being thrown from tires. Crews will return about a week after chip sealing to sweep up loose gravel.

Locations and Notification

This year's Chip Seal Program includes work at 21 locations in north county and another 22 locations in south county. (All sites are conditional on scheduling and weather.)

The County sends advance notification to all individual homes and businesses along affected streets, and runs ads in newspapers around the county. In addition, crews put up signage in advance of the work so residents will be forewarned.

Below are this year's planned chip seal north county locations, listed in the approximate order of work:

City:	Street:	From:	To:
Oso	Whitman Rd.	SR 530	End of county rd.
Stanwood	324 St. NW	44 Ave. NW	End of county rd
	316 St. NW	English Grade Rd.	3 Ave. NE
	54 Ave. NW	284 St. NW	End of county rd.
	284 St. NW	68 Ave. NW	28 Ave. NW
	28 Ave. NW	Old Hwy. 99 N.	SR 532
	284 St. NW	68 Ave. NW	28 Ave. NW
	W. Sunday Lk. Rd./ Sunday Lk. Rd	SR 632 / 28 Ave. NW	SR 532 / 12 Ave. NW
Silvana	Silvana Terrace Rd.	Larsen Rd.	End of county rd.
	48 Ave. NW	220 St. NW	Silvana Terrace Rd.
Sisco Heights	132 St. NE	SR 9	McElroy Rd.
	McElroy Rd.	Burn Rd.	132 St. NE
Getchell	99 Ave. NE (Sisco Hts.)	84 St. NE	Private rd.
	86 St. NE	99 Ave. NE	End of county rd.
	90 St. NE	105 Ave. NE	End of county rd.
	88 St. NE	105 Ave. NE	End of county rd.
	105 Ave. NE	84 St. NE	End of county rd.
	123 Ave. / 108 St. / 115 Ave. NE	84 St. NE	84 St. NE
Granite Falls	Russian Rd.	Jordan Rd.	Private rd.
	Mtn. Loop Hwy.	Granite Falls City limits	Green Mtn. Rd.

For more information about the Chip Seal Program, please contact Snohomish County Public Works Road Maintenance at 425-388-3411, ext. 7500, or 1-800-562-4367, ext. 7500, Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.

m.-4 p.m. (TDD / TTY 425-388-3700).

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PRESS RELEASE – 5 July 2000

Salmon Recovery

Snohomish River Basin Issues and Conditions Report Released

The Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Forum has released the *Snohomish River Basin Conditions and Issues Report* in the wake of announced rules by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to protect chinook salmon under the Endangered Species Act. Originally intended as a primer for participants in watershed planning, the report summarizes existing information and provides context for salmon recovery efforts that were triggered by the federal government's declaration of "threatened" status for chinook salmon under the Endangered Species Act.

In late June NMFS issued general guidelines to conserve and protect chinook salmon that will apply to nearly all river systems in western Washington flowing into Puget Sound from the Cascade Mountains. The Snohomish River Basin is the second largest of these systems and includes the Skykomish River (and its tributaries) and the Snoqualmie River (and its tributaries), which join southwest of Monroe to form the Snohomish River. The basin extends from Stevens Pass in Snohomish County and Snoqualmie Pass in King County west to Puget Sound at the City of Everett and the Tulalip Reservation.

The report was part of a four-year effort by staff representatives from state, local and tribal governments to develop a composite picture of basin conditions and challenges. This group commissioned Pentec Environmental, Inc. of Edmonds to review and collate information from existing and available studies. In addition to summarizing this information, the consultant also suggested ideas for improving salmon habitat conditions based on this information. Pentec also identified information gaps to be filled. The report addresses water quality, fish habitat, land use, stream-flow conditions, water supply and water demand for population growth.

Snohomish County and the City of Everett coordinated the effort and presented the report to forum co-chairs Dave Somers, Snohomish County Council member and Louise Miller, King County Council member. The forum includes representatives of local governments, the Tulalip Tribes, business

interests, environmental groups, recreational groups and agriculture. The forum will be a focal point for salmon recovery planning for the next few years and will recommend ways for citizens and local governments to minimize exposure to claims that their programs or activities harm chinook salmon habitat.

A forum committee of fisheries experts from state, local and non-profit agencies already has drawn on a draft version of the report in a preliminary assessment of factors that limit salmon production in the Snohomish River Basin. The forum has been reviewing this assessment and will spend the next few years to shape these recommendations into a recovery plan for the review, approval and implementation by local governments.

"We must take a common sense approach to salmon recovery so that recovery plans reflect equity between urban and rural areas, be based upon the best available scientific information, and respect the interests of everyone affected by salmon recovery," said forum co-chair Dave Somers.

The Conditions and Issues Report will be posted on government web pages in the near future. Copies of the full report will be distributed to libraries throughout the basin.

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For more information about this report and the Work Group effort, contact Tom Dickson at (425) 388-3494 or by e-mail at tom.dickson@co.snohomish.wa.us For information about forum activities, contact Dave Campbell at (425) 388-3464 or via e-mail at dave.campbell@co.snohomish.wa.us

VIEW the entire report
Snohomish River Basin Issues and Conditions Report
A 315-page PDF file

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 8, 2000

The Safety Season:

A four-part series on fire prevention tips for the holidays

Part II: The Dangers of Decorations

'Tis the season! Christmas. Hanukkah. Kwanzaa. Festival of Lights. Yes, this holiday period is a time of great celebration, tradition, beauty and...*danger*.

All those Yule logs, menorahs, votive candles, luminaries, tree ornaments and holiday greens may be time-honored decorative touches. But they also can be accidents waiting to happen. And happen they do, every holiday season. Asphyxiations. Chokings. Poisonings. And house fires.

"Major factors that increase the risk of fire in the home during the holidays are defective decorative lights and careless use of candles and fireplaces," says Snohomish County Fire Marshal Pam Miller.

Candles are of particular concern this year because of their growing popularity, not only for decorative uses but also for aromatherapy and spiritual practices. The National Candle Association reports candles sales have grown by 10-15 percent yearly during the past decade. Candles are used in seven out of every 10 U.S. households.

That increased use has resulted in increased *misuse*. In the 1980s, candles were responsible for 1.1 percent of home structure fires, according to the National Fire Protection Association. In 1997, that figure had jumped to 2.9 percent, causing 11,600 fires, 156 deaths and more than \$171-million in property damage.

Historically, there are twice as many home candle fires in December as there are in an average month. Candles cause 43 percent of all home decoration fires.

A graphic case in point occurred the evening of December 2, when an unattended candle

ignited a Bremerton home and took the lives of two teenaged girls.

"This is a big potential problem this year," says Miller. "The sad thing is all these fires are preventable. Three-quarters of candle fires occur because candles are left unattended and 40 percent are caused by combustibles too close to the candle."

Here are some tips for safe enjoyment of candles this holiday season:

- Unlit candles are much safer than lit candles. But if you do light your candles, make sure they are placed in stable holders or on a trivet. Always put candles on a level surface where they cannot be easily knocked over.
- Never leave the house or go to sleep with candles burning.
- Never put lit candles on a tree.
- Glass containers can break. If you find a chip or crack, discard it. Do not allow a glass container to burn dry.
- Allow ample overhead clearance and make sure candles are not too close to a wall, near combustible materials, near dry greenery, draperies, sheers, lampshades, garments, or in an enclosed area.
- Keep candles out of reach of children and pets.
- Keep burning candles out of direct drafts. This includes air and heat vents, open doors and windows, and people traffic. A draft may cause the wick or flame to draw too near to the sides and may fracture the glass.
- Never drop burned matches or other objects into candles.
- When the candle is cool, trim the wick with scissors to no more than ¼-inch. A longer wick is prone to dark smoking, especially with more fragrant candles. Also, a longer wick is more apt to burn off-center creating a hot spot on the side of the container that could cause it to fracture.
- Choose high-quality candles. Inferior wax emits more smoke. Beeswax burns cleanest.

Unfortunately, candles aren't the only cause of seasonal house fires. Here are some safety tips for other types of holiday decorations:

Outdoor Lights

- Be sure to purchase only lights that bear the mark of an approved testing laboratory.
- Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up. Wires should not be warm to the touch. Replace any frayed or damaged cords.
- For outside decorations, use only those lights labeled for outdoor use.
- Use only insulated staples, not nails or tacks. Make sure lights are securely fastened to prevent wind damage.
- If your outdoor outlets don't have ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs), have an electrician replace them before you use them. Test all GFCIs once a month (by pressing

the test button), then make sure they are reset.

- Bring outdoor lights inside following the holidays so they are not damaged by extended exposure to harsh weather conditions.
- Always unplug all lights before leaving home or going to sleep and don't overload electrical outlets.

Indoor Lights

- Be sure to purchase only lights that bear the mark of an approved testing laboratory.
- Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up.
- Wires should not be warm to the touch. Replace any frayed or damaged cords.
- Always unplug all lights before leaving home or going to sleep and don't overload electrical outlets.
- Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe.
- Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet.
- Use only battery-operated lights if you have a metal Christmas tree, or decorate without lighting.
- Do not overload electrical outlets.
- Do not leave holiday lights on unattended. Be sure to unplug all lights before going to sleep or leaving the house.

Tree Ornaments

- All decorations should be nonflammable or flame-retardant and placed away from heat vents and other heat sources.
- Put decorations high enough on the tree so you child or pet can't reach them. Children can choke or cut their mouths on ornaments, ornament hangers or tinsel. They also can be poisoned by older painted ornaments that contain lead.
- Hang one of the new fire alarm tree ornaments.

Wreaths and Greens

- Do not place greens near a fireplace, candles or any other open flame or heat source.
- Do not go near a holiday tree or greens with an open flame such as candles, cigarettes, lighters or matches. Do not flick cigarette ashes near greens.
- Holly and mistletoe are poisonous. Keep them away from children!
- Poinsettias can cause severe stomachaches if swallowed.

Other Decorations

- Keep wrapping paper away from candles and electric lights.
- Promptly remove all discarded packages and wrappings from the house.

- Never burn wrapping paper in a fireplace. It can throw off dangerous sparks and produce a chemical buildup in the home that could cause an explosion.
- Wear gloves to avoid eye or skin irritation while working with spun glass ("angel hair").
- Follow container directions when using artificial snow sprays.
- If you burn luminaries (votive candles in paper bags), be sure they are placed well away from any wood or other flammable materials. Use flame-resistant bags. Don't use in strong wind.

Finally, make sure—as you should every season—that you have working smoke alarms installed on every level of your home. Test them monthly and keep them clean and equipped with fresh batteries at all times. Know when and how to call for help. And remember to practice your home escape plan.

Next week: Keep Your Fire in the Fireplace.

#

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 7, 2000

DREWEL SEEKS LODGING REPRESENTATIVE TO ADVISE COUNTY ON TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

A representative of a Snohomish County hotel, bed-and-breakfast or camping facility is needed to serve on the county's Lodging Tax Advisory Committee, County Executive Bob Drewel has announced.

The committee was established to review applications for funding from lodging taxes collected by the county, and to make recommendations to the County Council on those applications and related lodging tax issues. The lodging tax is collected on the sale of hotel rooms and other lodging facilities; state law requires that the tax be used to promote tourism by specifically generating programs that result in increased overnight stays.

"The role of tourism as part of Snohomish County's full economic development package cannot be overstated," County Executive Bob Drewel said in announcing the vacancy. "We truly appreciate the role that our lodging and tourism service industries play, and especially the individuals who look beyond their own interests to look for the good of the greater community."

The current vacancy is for a lodging tax representative. The committee is chaired by a County Council Chair Barbara Cothorn and includes two representatives of the lodging industry, two representatives of agencies that are eligible for tourism funding, and a non-voting representative of a Snohomish County city.

Appointments are recommended by County Executive Bob Drewel and confirmed by Council. For more information on the committee or to receive a nomination form, contact Connie Mennie in Drewel's office at 425-388-3876.

###

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Larry Springer, Planning Manager, 425-388-3047

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 5, 2000

COUNTY EXECUTIVE ASKS COUNCIL TO RESTORE FUNDING FOR ROAD PROGRAM

Snohomish County Executive Bob Drewel today asked members of the County Council to reconsider their decision to limit next year's Road Fund levy to a 2% increase. Drewel had requested an increase of 6% in his Year 2001 Budget. The County has historically adopted a 6% increase in the annual Road Fund levy to keep pace with its transportation needs.

In order to reopen discussion on this element of the budget, Drewel used his veto authority to sidetrack a specific ordinance enacting the Road Fund levy. County Code requires the Council to enact a number of separate ordinances authorizing major budget items.

"I want to emphasize that I have taken a targeted veto action as the formal means to advance public consideration of this critically important issue - adequate funding to maintain, repair, and improve our county roads," Drewel said. Initiative 722, enacted by voters in November, created a general limit of 102% on property tax increases.

"I do not believe that the citizens of Snohomish County who voted for this initiative expected that it would lead to a long-term loss of dollars for maintaining and improving our streets and bridges," Drewel said. "I am convinced that transportation is the number one concern of our citizens."

The difference between the 2% adopted increase in the Road Fund levy and the 6% increase requested by Drewel could mean a loss of \$88 million for county road projects over the next six years.

Along with his veto of the Council's adopted Road Fund Levy Ordinance, Drewel submitted a proposed alternative ordinance restoring the levy rate from 102% to 106%. In light of pending court action on I-722, Drewel recommended to Council that, if implemented, any Road Fund revenues collected above the 102% be placed in a reserve account and not spent until final court action challenging I-722 is completed.

The County Council had already set public hearings adopting the Year 2001 levy rates for

Dec. 13, 2000. The Executive is asking the County Council to reschedule those hearings to a later date in December to allow for adequate public notice. The Council will also have to hold a public hearing to consider the actual veto. These new hearing dates have not yet been determined.

#

CONTACT: Gary Weikel, Deputy County Executive, 425/388-3448
Stephen Holt, Executive Director, 425/388-3123

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 1, 2000

The Safety Season:

*A four-part series on fire
prevention tips for the holidays*

Part I: Keep Your Tree **Green!**

It was an e-mail posting to break your heart: "two days after Christmas in the middle of the night our Christmas tree caught fire and destroyed our home," Christian Witt wrote to www.fire-investigators.org. "everyone got out ok but everything we owned was destroyed."

Sadly, Witt's story is played out all too often across the country. Fires during the holiday season annually injure some 2,000 people and cause more than \$500 million in property damage, according to the United States Fire Administration (USFA). Americans buy more than 33 million live Christmas trees each year to serve as their traditional centerpiece of the holiday celebration. More than 500 of those evergreens end up as the primary fuel source for a house fire.

Don't blame the trees, though.

"A Christmas tree can't actually start a fire," says Snohomish County Fire Marshal Pam Miller. "But it can easily be ignited by an external source."

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), electrical causes such as lamps, heaters and cords were responsible for starting nearly half (46.9 percent) of all structure fires involving Christmas trees. Another 24.6-percent of the fires were caused by various open flames, sparks and embers. The remaining fires (28.5 percent) were started by other ignition sources such as cigarettes, matches and gas-fueled equipment.

In Snohomish County, there were 25 house fires last December, including one fatality. None of those fires was started by a Christmas tree, but the risk is always there, says Miller. "You've

always got to be careful," she says. "A burning tree can fill a room with fire and smoke so fast you wouldn't believe it."

As Witt pled in his email, "Please Please remember to turn off your Christmas tree lights when you go to sleep or go out. Don't let what happened to my house happen to yours!"

The following safety tips will help you keep your Christmas tree green and your holiday season accident-free:

Selecting a Tree

You basically have two choices when you choose a Christmas tree: real or artificial. If you select a metallic or artificial tree, make sure it is flame-retardant. If you buy a real tree, your choices—and your responsibilities—are much broader. Always follow these precautions:

- Select the freshest-looking tree available. Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long, has probably dried out, and is a fire hazard.
- Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needle should not break if the tree has been freshly cut.
- The trunk should be sticky to the touch.

Caring for Your Tree

If you take proper care of your tree, there is virtually no chance it can catch fire.

- Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks.
- Saw off the butt end of your tree ½-inch above the original cut and immediately place the tree in water in a cool place until you are ready to display it.
- Put the tree in a stand that is large enough and designed not to tip over.
- Place the Christmas tree well away from heat registers, space heaters, fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators, television sets or other sources of heat that will dry out your tree. Also place the tree away from any doors and keep the emergency escape route clear of trees, packages and furniture.
- Never let your tree run out of water; check it daily, as your tree absorbs water readily after cutting. If you let the tree run out of water, re-cut the butt end of your tree as above.
- Mist the branches and foliage with water daily to keep them moist and fresh.
- Lighted candles or other open flames should never be used on or near Christmas trees.
- Be careful not to drop or flick cigarette ashes near a tree.
- Check electric lights and connections. Worn, frayed wires or electric cords must not be

used. Use only UL approved electrical decorations and extension cords.

- Avoid use of combustible decorations and flammable reflectors for colored lights. Keep metal foil icicles or tinsel away from bulb sockets.
- Avoid accumulating wrapping paper and electrical toys under trees.
- Always unplug tree lights and other decorations when out of the room or sleeping.

Disposing of Your Tree

- When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly.
- The best way to dispose of your tree is by taking it to a recycling center or having it hauled away by a community pick-up service.
- Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood-burning stove.
- Consider converting your tree to a bird feeder with suet, peanut butter, and seeds.

Next week: The Dangers of Decorations.

#

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 22, 2000

DREWEL POSTPONES SALES TAX BALLOT MEASURE

Citing a commitment to fiscal responsibility, County Executive Bob Drewel has deferred plans for a spring election asking voters to approve a sales tax increase to fund future jail operations.

Though the measure won't be on the ballot in 2001, it is projected to come before voters in 2002.

The date change came as the result of budget analyses that showed two things: that the costs of operating the expanded jail will be less than previously projected, and that implementing a 1/10 of 1% sales tax increase will generate more funds than initially thought. That combination means it makes sense to wait a year before asking voters to approve the increase, Drewel said.

"This is good news for the county, and good news for taxpayers. We won't ask for the needed funding until we absolutely have to," Drewel noted.

Less rosy, however, is the county's incarceration challenge. "Criminal justice is truly our growth industry. Ever-increasing numbers of criminal defendants, coupled with a facility that cannot accommodate even present levels, make the jail expansion our highest priority need."

The current jail, constructed in the mid-80s, was built to house 277 inmates. By using double-bunking and transporting some inmates to Yakima County, current daily population averages around 580. Defendants sentenced to work release or the DUI program often are put on a waiting list of up to six months before reporting to jail to serve their sentences.

The expanded jail, expected to open in late 2004, will add 640 new inmate beds to the existing jail, which then will be reconfigured to house 400 (total 1040). Costs of running the new facility are estimated at \$12.5 million per year. The sales tax increase, if approved, will generate about \$8 million annually toward those operating costs.

"We intend to make the case to the citizens of Snohomish County that a small increase in the sales tax is crucial to the health of our criminal justice system," Drewel said. "Over the coming months as we plan expansion of the jail, we are committed to using tax dollars as efficiently as possible and seeking additional funding only when absolutely necessary."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Tri-County Delivers Salmon Recovery Plan to Feds

Proposed Plan Offers Local Solutions to Regional Problem

A detailed summary of the Tri-County plan is available on the Tri-County's Salmon Information Center's website at <http://www.salmoninfo.org>, or call the toll-free hotline, at 1-877-SALMON-9. Additional updates on the Tri-County's progress will be posted on the Center's website. The Salmon Information Center is the region's comprehensive, objective source of information to help you get involved in salmon recovery.

Snohomish, King, and Pierce County executives announced the transmittal of the proposed Tri-County salmon recovery plan to National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

The Tri-County effort, a voluntary assembly of local governments, tribes, environmental coalitions and business coalitions have joined together for the common purpose of recovering salmon and responding to listings under the Endangered Species Act. The Tri-County plan is being presented in anticipation of its fitting within NMFS' 4(d) rule which was released Tuesday, June 20, 2000.

"The Tri-County Effort is an unprecedented regional coalition," said Snohomish County Executive Bob Drewel. "I'm proud that the Pacific Northwest knows what's important and that we're willing to work together to save those things that make our region unique."

This recovery plan will conserve the listed species while allowing government services and business activities to continue. Local plans, such as the Tri-County plan, allow salmon recovery decisions to be made by communities and can be tailored to local watershed conditions. The Tri-County will present the specifics to the NMFS and USFWS through the summer. NMFS is expected to release a final version of the Tri-County plan for public comment later this fall.

The NMFS has issued a final 4(d) rule for West Coast chinook salmon listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The rule will prohibit activities that will harm salmon and their habitat - also known as "take." The final 4(d) rule also allows local governments to propose their own recovery plans in order to customize salmon recovery for their region. If the Tri-County plan is accepted by the NMFS, it will provide certainty to the region's governments and businesses that if they follow the plan, then their activities will be fish-friendly.

"We've created a plan that is firmly grounded in science, but allows for choices to be made," said Pierce County Executive Doug Sutherland. "The plan allows for multiple ways to achieve our goal - especially in the important area of land use and development. Salmon science should be about creating opportunities for individuals to achieve our common goal, and not about limiting them to a 'one-size-fits-all' solution."

The Tri-County plan focuses on the one area where local governments and organizations can have the greatest benefit - salmon habitat. In order to protect existing habitat and prevent further degradation over the next few years, the plan will change how government conducts its own operations and those vital activities it permits.

"We are very encouraged that NMFS is looking to local governments, like Tri-County, for ways to recover the salmon," said King County Executive Ron Sims. "Our three counties and local cities are working closely with tribes, businesses, the environmental community, utilities and others to exercise local control over how the 4(d) rule will affect our region."

Over the long-term, the plan would recover salmon by restoring critical habitat; concentration on watershed-based recovery efforts; and monitoring efforts to evaluate success. The proposed Tri-County salmon protection plan covers the following activities:

- **Roads Maintenance and Repair.** Frequently government road crews work in and around streams, lakes, and rivers to maintain our road network. These new best management practices would reduce sediment and erosion and restrict repair work, except in emergency situations, when salmon are spawning.
- **Stormwater Management.** The effects of development are often felt by our stormwater system and its ability to retain and treat run-off from roofs, pavement, lawns, and other impervious surfaces. New stormwater guidelines would require governments and developers to implement new methods of catching and treating stormwater.
- **Land-use and Development Regulations.** Construction and other development near salmon-bearing water bodies would face increased scrutiny under the Tri-County plan. Those projects near water would either have to follow prescriptive guidelines or conduct a scientific evaluation on the impact to fish before any permits could be issued.
- **Habitat Acquisition and Restoration.** Providing usable, high-quality habitat for returning salmon and other species is critical to achieving our goal. The Tri-County area has been developed as our region's population grew, so protecting the remaining critical habitat is vital.
- **Watershed-based Recovery Plans.** The Tri-County plan is built on the belief that local communities can identify what needs to be done to recover the salmon. Long-term salmon recovery plans would be created for individual watersheds by local governments, businesses, environmental groups, and other stakeholders.
- **Adaptive Management.** Saving the salmon will not occur overnight and existing conditions may change or new opportunities could arise. The plan establishes a system to monitor our salmon recovery actions, gather information, evaluate new methods or approaches, and implement necessary changes over time.

The delivery of the Tri-County plan is not the final step in the process. The NMFS and USFWS will be reviewing the plan and discussing it with the Tri-County over the summer. It is possible that NMFS will make changes to the plan, but NMFS is expected to publish it for public comment before finalizing the plan.

The USFWS has the responsibility for issuing protective rules for the bull trout. They will be reviewing the Tri-County plan to ensure that their rules for the bull trout are coordinated with NMFS' 4(d) rule for chinook.

HELP FOR SNOHOMISH COUNTY RESIDENTS, COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIRS PLANNED

Where do Snohomish County residents turn when they face life's most critical problems? Who can help community members when they experience housing problems, consumer disputes, domestic violence, concerns around divorce and child support, discrimination, hunger, or obstacles to employment?

"These are very common problems in Snohomish County," says Jenny Herd, Executive Director of Snohomish County Legal Services. "There are not enough resources available to help everyone, but some services exist to help people solve problems that might otherwise spiral into disaster."

Three community resource fairs are planned in Snohomish County in July. These fairs will feature county and statewide services that help people solve problems and ensure fairness in their communities. Numerous legal service providers and self-help resources will be available to individuals. Several social service agency representatives will also be on hand to share information about their services regarding housing and health issues. The Northwest Justice Project, Snohomish County Legal Services, Columbia Legal Services, [Snohomish County Clerk's Office](#) Family Law and Domestic Violence Facilitator Programs, Dispute Resolution Center of Snohomish and Island Counties and the Center for Battered Women will all be present at the Everett Community Resource Fair.

"Information is power," says Pam Daniels, Snohomish County Clerk. "These fairs are an opportunity to provide information to people who help other people, and people who want to help themselves."

###

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Friday, June 16, 2000

DREWEL SEEKS CITIZEN VOLUNTEERS TO SERVE ON COUNTY ADVISORY BOARDS

Citing the opportunity to impact local government programs and serve the community, Snohomish County Executive Bob Drewel is asking for volunteers to fill several vacancies on county boards and commissions.

"In a representative government, we need citizens to help us do the public's work," Drewel said. "This is an opportunity to make a real difference."

Topics addressed by the boards with current vacancies are numerous, with something of interest to nearly everyone with a desire to serve, Drewel added.

The following county boards and commissions currently have vacancies:

- [Alcohol & Other Drugs \(AOD\) Board](#)
- [Agricultural Advisory Board](#)
- [Board of Equalization](#)
- [Children's Commission](#)
- [Community Services Advisory Council](#)
- [Council on Aging](#)
- [Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board](#)
- [Mental Health Advisory Board](#)
- [Mukilteo Ferry Advisory Committee](#)
- [Planning Commission](#)
- [Solid Waste Advisory Committee](#)

Board duties, qualifications for service, meeting dates and term lengths vary greatly. For more information about any of these opportunities or to receive a nomination form, please contact [Connie Mennie](#) in the Snohomish County Executive office at 425-388-3876.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Friday, June 2, 2000

Independent Citizen Committee Recommends County Build Downtown

The independent citizen committee studying the feasibility of a Snohomish County move of some government offices to Paine Field has released its recommendation that the County reject such a move. Instead, the County should construct new government facilities on or near its current facilities in downtown Everett, the Citizens Advisory Committee recommends.

"The committee recommends that new construction be built specifically to serve county office space requirements, and believes this to be the ideal solution," the report reads. "There appears to be a significant opportunity to develop a master-planned project on existing county-owned property in downtown Everett."

Success of such a proposal is largely dependent upon further cooperation and collaboration between the County and the City of Everett, the committee noted. It further concluded that development outside the city "might well be an acceptable alternative if it is not possible to reach a successful collaboration with the City of Everett."

County options to purchase two BOMARC buildings at Paine Field or the Cogswell College and Wetmore Buildings in downtown Everett were rejected by the committee as unsuitable for the county's needs. Also declared fiscally unsound is the county's current practice of leasing office space in several different locations at a cost of \$2 million annually. That money would be better spent on investments into needed facilities for criminal justice, administrative offices, and improved customer service areas.

Committee chair Paul Masten lauded County Executive Bob Drewel's process in reviewing the BOMARC option and including extensive public comment and involvement in making his recommendation. "The County used good judgment in reviewing this option," Masten said.

The 11-member Citizens Advisory Committee was appointed by Drewel in April to provide independent critical review of the County's proposed purchase of the BOMARC buildings. That review expanded to include other property offers as well as the county's administrative needs and their relation

to needed expansion of criminal justice facilities downtown.

Committee members, in addition to Masten, are Carolyn Eslick, Shawn Hoban, Don Laufenberg, Cynthia Mackenzie, Patrick MacMahan, Peter Newland, Kathy Panfili, Reid Shockey, Brent Stewart and Diane Symms. Their report can be viewed on the Snohomish County website (www.co.snohomish.wa.us) or to get a copy, please call Connie Mennie at 425-388-3876.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Friday, May 26, 2000

Ready...set...pave!

County's 2000 Resurfacing Program targets 108 miles of roadway

It's that time of year again. Time for Snohomish County Public Works to start resurfacing as many of the county's overused roads as time, money and weather conditions will allow.

This year's program will use about 106,000 tons of asphalt to resurface approximately 47 miles of two-lane county roadways, plus another 4 miles of city streets in Stanwood, Mukilteo, Brier and Monroe. In addition, the County will chip seal some 61 miles of roadway. All total, the program will spruce up some 108 miles of roadway at a cost of about \$6 million.

The Resurfacing Program is actually three programs in one:

- **Thin overlays:** The County's Road Maintenance crews put 1 to 1-1/2 inches of asphalt on residential streets marred by potholes and minor deterioration.
- **Thick overlays:** The County's three contractors apply 2-3 inches of asphalt on moderately to severely deteriorated arterials and residential streets in need of "structural" overlays.
- **Chip Seals:** County Road Maintenance crews repair weathered arterials and residential streets by preleveling with hot asphalt then applying a layer of asphalt oil, followed by a layer of crushed rock. This extends the usable life of a road by seven to 10 years, at a minimal cost.

Partnerships

The overlay work requires coordination and partnership between Public Works, cities and contractors. First, County crews prepare the roads for resurfacing by patching failed areas, sweeping the roadway, removing signage, cutting brush and preparing driveways. Next, the contractors pave the roadway. This year, three contractors will do the work:

- Associated Sand and Gravel (Everett and Arlington) will work in the northwest and northeast quadrants of the county.
- Wilder Construction (Everett) will work in the southwest quadrant.

- Lakeside Industries (Monroe) will work in the southeast quadrant.

When the contractors have finished their work on a particular road, the County stripes the roadway and places crushed rock along the shoulders (where necessary).

The program also benefits from partnerships with cities. "For many years, we have worked closely with cities in the county," says Public Works Construction Supervisor Allen Prouty. "So we've been able to combine our resources and increase the overall tonnage of asphalt in the bid package. This means we get better prices and stretch taxpayer dollars."

Pulverization

Another way the County saves time and money is by using a process called "pulverization." Instead of grinding, removing and hauling away the old asphalt, crews now grind, pulverize and reuse the old material as part of the new road base.

"This not only saves money, but it's ecologically responsible," explains Prouty. "Instead of having to pay to haul it away as waste material, we reuse it right on the spot as new construction material. It's a win-win procedure."

Locations and notification

The 2000 Resurfacing Program includes work at approximately 127 locations around the county. (All sites are conditional on scheduling and weather.) Typically, crews are in and out of any given location within a week, so impacts are minimal for residents and businesses. "For that reason, and because the nature of the work is subject to change at a moment's notice due to a variety of reasons such as bad weather and equipment breakdowns, the County cannot possibly send notification to all individual homes or businesses along affected streets," says Prouty. "Crews do put up signage in advance of the work, however, so residents will be forewarned." Here are this year's planned resurfacing locations:

City/area	No. of locations	Total Miles
Stanwood	13	14.65
Silvana	2	2.0
Oso	1	1.66
Arlington	1	.81
Lakewood	1	1.83
Marysville	9	1.38
Arl/Granite Falls	4	6.22

Granite Falls	4	8.58
Getchell	6	5.09
Tulalip/Kayak Point	1	.89
Lake Cassidy	3	5.97
Lake Stevens	25	7.71
Machias	1	1.25
Snohomish	7	3.75
Three Lakes	10	7.36
Lake Roesiger	3	9.45
Monroe	17	11.82
Sultan	3	6.42
Gold Bar	2	3.32
South Everett	4	2.57
Edmonds (Esperence)	2	.11
Clearview	8	4.67

[Complete List of resurfacing projects](#)

[Map of resurfacing projects](#)

For more information, call Ingrid Earle at 425-388-3488, ext. 4523.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: NOVEMBER 13, 2000

DREWEL POSTPONES AIRPORT WEST-SIDE COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

County Executive Bob Drewel has announced that he will withdraw from County Council consideration a proposed option agreement with TRF Pacific, Inc., for commercial development of approximately 80 acres on the west side of the Snohomish County Airport at Paine Field. Drewel concurs with Airport Director Dave Waggoner's recommendation that the process needs to provide more time to address some concerns raised through recent public comment.

"We expect the airport to be self-funding without the support of local taxes," Drewel said, "and land lease revenues from west side development are essential to the airport's long-term financial stability. Airport management has requested more time in its planning process for future west-side development, and I fully support this honoring of the public process."

Drewel has asked Waggoner to research and address the issues raised by some citizens over the past several months. Waggoner will coordinate the schedule and content of a west-side development work plan with the Executive and the County Council. This plan will address the range of community concerns expressed over the past several weeks, and incorporate those findings in a proposal for development of the Airport's west side. Issues include traffic, noise, buffers, size of the proposed development, development alternatives, and revenue sharing.

Questions should be addressed to Airport Director Dave Waggoner at 425-353-2110, ext. 2224.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Nov. 1, 2000

County to hold open house on Lundeen Park Way Extension

*Nov. 16 event is chance for residents
to learn about road-widening project*

Lake Stevens residents are invited to attend a public meeting November 16 on the Lundeen Park Way Extension, a \$7.4-million road improvement project designed to help alleviate traffic congestion in the Frontier Village area.

The Snohomish County Department of Public Works (DPW) will host the event from 6-9 p.m. in the North Lake Middle School Cafeteria, 2202 123rd Ave. NE, in downtown Lake Stevens. Snohomish County's Department of Planning & Development Services (PDS) also will be in attendance, as well as representatives of the Washington State Department of Transportation.

From 6-7:30 p.m., visitors can look at project designs, maps and other graphics and discuss the project with County staff. Public Works staff will give a presentation from 7:30-7:45 p.m. Following that, residents will have a chance to ask questions and discuss the project with staff from County and state agencies.

In addition, PDS is holding public hearings in the Lake Stevens High School Cafeteria, 2908 113th Ave. NE, on November 6 (and November 8, if needed) to discuss the Lake Stevens Subarea Plan. The 6:30 p.m. hearing will be followed at 8 p.m. by a hearing on the Development Phasing Overlay ordinance. Public Works staff will be at the PDS open house from 5:30-6:30 p.m. to discuss the Lundeen Park Way project.

PDS also will conduct a public hearing on the Development Phasing Overlay ordinance at 7 p.m. on November 14 in the Ginni Stevens Auditorium, County Administration Building, 3000 Rockefeller, in downtown Everett. For more information, please call Carri Schlade at 425-388-3424.

Lundeen Park Way is the final link in a long-planned traffic improvement program in the area.

The Lundeen Park Way Extension is a \$7.4-million project designed to help provide improved circulation of vehicles and pedestrians around the evolving Frontier Village urban center. The project will accomplish this by constructing the following improvements:

1. Extend Lundeen Park Way south to SR 204 and widen the entire corridor to four lanes, with bicycle lanes and sidewalks. (The road section south of the existing road currently is under construction as part of a residential development.)
2. Construct a 240-foot bridge over the Weiser Creek tributary.
3. Construct a new signalized intersection at Lundeen Park Way and SR 204.
4. Improve the SR 204 intersections at 91st Avenue NE and SR 9.
5. Improve the Lundeen Park Way intersection at SR 9.

Stormwater drainage along the new roadway will be collected through a curb-and-gutter system and conveyed through enclosed pipes. Grass-lined swales and detention ponds will be used to enhance the quality of roadway runoff. The northern end of Lundeen Park Way will drain into Sunnyside Creek (formerly Hulbert Creek), while the southern end will drain into Weiser Creek.

Construction could begin as early as summer 2002 and is expected to take two years to complete. The completed roadway will better connect the Lundeen area neighborhood to important east-west arterials. It also will increase access for emergency vehicles to growing neighborhoods. Finally, the project will preserve riparian wetlands around the unnamed Weiser Creek tributary in the project area. The posted speed limit will be 35 miles-per-hour. All these improvements are consistent with direction the Growth Management Act gives the County in planning for its growth.

For more information, contact Project Manager Sam Filetti at 425-388-6698 or Public Involvement Coordinator Wayne Lee at 425-388-3789.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Nov. 1, 2000

Leave it to beavers

*County tries innovative methods
to coexist with dam-builders*

Snohomish County had a problem last summer. Here it was July—supposedly the dry season—and Spada Road was flooded.

For Jake Jacobson, a Snohomish County Public Works watershed steward, identifying the problem was simple. Several colonies of beavers had built a series of dams along Spada Creek, raising the pond levels above the road level. This was just one of a dozen or so sites around the county where this kind of flooding happens fairly regularly.

The solution was simple, too. Jacobson and a couple of helpers got a permit from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and notched the dam by hand, which lowered the level of the pond. They then installed a Clemson pond-leveler, a 120-foot-long pipe with a caged inlet at one end and a standpipe at the other. They ran the 10-inch pipe under the road and through the culvert, then rebuilt the beaver dam. Suddenly the pond levels were down and the road was dry. Total cost: around \$800.

Jacobson is justifiably proud of the environmentally friendly, yet inexpensive fix. "Our goal was to keep the habitat, and we did that. We didn't harm any beaver and we didn't import any non-native materials." He is quick to point out, though, that "This is a small-stream device. It wouldn't work on large streams because the device couldn't carry the base flow."

Problem solved—at least for now.

Throughout Snohomish County, beavers and humans are in conflict, trying to share the same living space. But beavers are shy, doing most of their construction at night. So people living near woodland streams are much more likely to see the effects of beavers than the beavers themselves. As human development increasingly encroaches on beaver habitat, more of those

beaver dams are causing problems like the one on Spada Road.

Don't blame the beavers, though, says Jacobson. "The real problem here is the location of the road, not the beaver."

The same could be said of 163rd Avenue SE where it crosses Panther Creek just west of Panther Lake. Here again, a beaver dam upstream of the road was clogging the culvert and causing the road to flood. In this situation, though, the County employed a different device called a beaver excluder. The cowcatcher-like grate forces the beaver to move their dam 2 feet out from the mouth of the culvert, so it keeps the stream flowing and allows the native bull trout and coho salmon to swim upstream.

The chief drawback to the excluder and the other alternative devices, though, is that they all require regular maintenance. But then, Jacobson says, "There's no such thing as a maintenance-free device. You just have to plan and manage it."

Sometimes even regular maintenance won't help. Take the flooded portion of 103rd Avenue SE south of Lake Stevens. The busy roadway bisects a massive beaver pond on the Pilchuck River tributary. This time, says Jacobson, "It's not a blockage problem, it's a water-level problem." Here the flooding is caused by the beavers' 2-foot-high grass dam, and the pond is backing up over the road.

This time, however, the solution isn't so simple. In this case, pond-levelers and beaver excluders won't work. "We need to raise the road level—and that's very expensive," says Jacobson.

But that's still a ways down the road, so to speak. For now, says Snohomish County Environmental Planner Terri Spencer, "We're just going to have to learn to live with beavers. They're incredibly beneficial for salmon, migratory birds and controlling soil erosion and downstream flooding. They have as much right to be here as we do."

Beaver Facts

Beavers are mammals with thick brown fur, webbed hind feet, a broad flat tail, and sharp incisors perfectly adapted for gnawing bark, felling trees, and constructing dams and underwater lodges.

Historically, 1.5 beavers have lived on each square mile of natural habitat in the United States. In the Stillaguamish Watershed, that figure has been as high as 2.5 beavers per square mile.*

Beaver pond habitat in the Stillaguamish has been reduced by more than 86

percent from historic levels.*

An average of 200-300 beavers are removed annually by recreational trappers in the Stillaguamish.*

Severe declines of beaver in Washington and Oregon have fundamentally altered important natural aquatic ecosystem processes such as nutrient cycling, flood plain development, and stream hydrology.**

Between 1834 and 1837, pelts from 405,472 beavers from the southwest Washington and Oregon area were shipped to Europe.**

Beaver fur once was so highly valued in North America that the French and Indian War of 1775 were fought primarily over the rights to beaver pelts.

Beaver Benefits

Beavers create and maintain a series of beneficial aquatic conditions in many headwater streams, wetland, and riparian systems, which serves as juvenile salmon rearing habitat.**

Beaver ponds enrich pond productivity, increase nutrients, enhance invertebrate production, increase salmon growth and survival, and improve water quality.**

Beaver ponds increase the water table, enhance summer flows, add cold water during summer, cause more-even stream flows throughout the year and reduce downstream flooding and damage from rapid increases in stream flows.**

Beaver ponds increase the surface area of water several hundred times and thereby enhance the overall riparian habitat development and vegetation growth.**

By ponding water, beaver dams create enhanced rearing and over-wintering habitat that protect juvenile salmon during high flow conditions.**

Beaver ponds historically have accounted for 34-90 percent of total coho salmon production.*

Studies of trout movement indicate that fish can pass over beaver dams during all seasons.**

* From a 1995 report by D'eon, Lapoint, et al.

** From a 2000 report by Washington Fish & Wildlife Department

#

CONTACT: Lorna Smith, Public Involvement/Environmental Manager, 425-388-4509
or Wayne Lee, Public Involvement Coordinator, 425-388-3789

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2000

County Maintains Support for Agriculture, Announces Clarification of Grading Policies

Snohomish County farmers should be able to breathe easier. The county announced today its receipt of official clarification that routine plowing and tilling on existing farm fields does not constitute grading or similar activities that would require a grading permit.

[Copies of a memo to County Agricultural Advisory Board
and letter from the International Conference of Building Officials](#)

The letter came from the International Conference of Building Officials (ICBO), the organization responsible for interpretation of the Uniform Building Code, in response to a county request for a code opinion on the "plowing as grading" question. While the county has never required a grading permit for plowing and tilling, it admits to a lack of clarity in the existing code. That ambiguity led to confusion and, sometimes, incorrect assumptions for some members of the agricultural community.

"I was concerned about the mischaracterization of the debate that has been ongoing. I felt the need to get clarity on the issue right now," said Steve Holt, Planning & Development Services Director.

Holt said the ICBO position gives county staff less discretion and more clarity when it comes to applying the building code requirement to specific lands or practices. "We don't make the law; we just have to understand and apply it," he said.

Holt and County Councilmember Dave Somers met with members of the media today to provide copies of a county letter to the Agricultural Advisory Board released yesterday. Somers is the Council's Planning Committee chairman and the elected representative of largely-rural east Snohomish County.

"Dave has been a 'watchful friend' – he's pushed the Executive branch to deal with these issues productively," Holt noted. "We have a deep concern for agriculture and a desire to keep agriculture viable in Snohomish County."

County Executive Bob Drewel was clearly pleased with the ICBO letter, which he said confirmed the county's longstanding position that farming and building have different impacts. He cautioned, however, that much work still needs to be done on development and implementation of county legislation to implement requirements for salmon habitat protection and preservation under the Endangered Species Act.

Michael Ashley, chairman of the Snohomish County Agricultural Advisory Board, characterized the ICBO position as "a great relief." He commended the County Executive and Council for leadership in this arena, saying, "They have kept those of us in agriculture informed and involved. I look forward to continuing this partnership to achieve effective legislation here in Snohomish County that will assure success for us all."

###

CONTACT:

Tom Niemann, Planning & Development Services Department. Call 425-388-3311, ext 2214

[Copies of memo to County Agricultural Advisory Board
and letter from the International Conference of Building Officials](#)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 20, 2000

County Seeks Public Comment on EIS for New Transfer Station

Snohomish County Public Works Solid Waste Management Division is in the process of locating a site for a new Central Recycling and Transfer Station. The County's Everett Recycling and Transfer Station (ERTS), which serves central Snohomish County, does not meet current or projected capacity and service needs. The City of Everett owns the property on which the ERTS facility is located and has told the County that it would like to terminate the lease on that site and redevelop the land for other purposes.

Snohomish County has issued a Determination of Significance and will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Subsequent to a siting study conducted earlier this year, the County has identified two sites that will be examined in the EIS. The preferred alternative site under consideration is located at southeast Paine Field. Another alternative site is located at the Kimberly-Clark property in north Everett (east of East Grand Avenue and north of Everett Avenue).

Public scoping meetings on this initial phase of the project's environmental review process will be held at two locations:

Thursday, November 9
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Fairmount Elementary
11401 Beverly Park Rd
Everett

Tuesday, November 14
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Ginni Stevens Auditorium
County Administration Bldg
3000 Rockefeller Av, Everett

The meeting agenda will include:

- Why a new transfer station site is needed
- A presentation of potential sites under consideration
- An opportunity for public comment on the scope of the EIS

- What happens next

At the meeting, let us know what issues you believe should be addressed in the EIS. You may ask questions and comment on the proposed project. Written comments regarding the EIS preparation must be received by November 17.

If you have general questions on this project, contact Steve Goldstein at (425-388-6483).

If you have questions or comments on the environmental review of this project, please contact Crilly Ritz by phone (425-388-3488, EXT. 4586), mail (Snohomish County Public Works, Public Involvement and Environmental Group, 2930 Wetmore, Everett, WA 98201), FAX (425-388-6674), or e-mail (crilly.ritz@co.snohomish.wa.us).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 25 MAY 2000

**DREWEL RECOMMENDS COUNTY REMAIN
DOWNTOWN, ANNOUNCES VISION FOR
COUNTY CIVIC CENTER DEVELOPMENT**

Snohomish County's long-term facilities needs can best be met by working with the City of Everett to construct new jail and administrative space on the county's current land in downtown Everett, County Executive Bob Drewel said today.

Releasing his recommendation on the proposed purchase of Boeing-owned buildings at Paine Field, Drewel announced he is asking the County Council not to exercise its option on the BOMARC buildings. Though financial justification for a BOMARC move was strong, several other criteria such as customer service implications and a desire to keep county operations closer together, impacted his recommendation. Deadline for a decision on the BOMARC option is June 15.

Drewel's recommendation follows three months of intense public scrutiny, including financial analysis by the county and outside interests, seven public meetings throughout the county, surveys of the county's customers at its front service counters, and review by an 11-member independent Citizen Advisory Committee. The review was spurred by the availability of the two buildings at Paine Field, which preliminary estimates showed could save the county millions of dollars over the long term compared with the county's current leasing of several different buildings scattered throughout downtown Everett.

The county's analysis confirmed those long-term savings could indeed be met by the county owning its own buildings rather than leasing - but that the BOMARC option is not the preferable one at this time. Neither is purchase of the Cogswell College or Wetmore Buildings, both of which were offered as options for future county business space.

Instead, Drewel recommends the county construct the necessary county administrative offices and additional pre-trial jail beds on the three-block campus where county offices currently are located. Doing so will require cooperation and partnership with the City of Everett.

"I am very encouraged by my meetings with Mayor Ed Hansen over the past several weeks to come up with a solution that benefits us all - not only the county and the city, but also our customers, downtown

Everett business owners, and our employees," Drewel said. "To make this work in a way that is financially responsible, however, we will need to continue the momentum, roll up our shirtsleeves and sharpen our pencils."

In addition, Drewel pledged county commitment to work with the city, private sector interests, and the Economic Development Council to develop a shared vision of the city as the County vacates 185,000 square feet of leased space over the next four to five years. He thanked the Boeing Company, property owners who offered to sell land or buildings, and county staff.

###

CONTACT: Joni Earl, Deputy County Executive, 425-388-3496

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 15 MAY 2000

Tacoma attorney appointed County Hearing Examiner

The Snohomish County Council has appointed Tacoma attorney Bob Backstein as the county's new hearing examiner. Backstein succeeds John Galt who retired recently after 22 years in the position.

"Bob Backstein's distinguished career in both public and private law practice ultimately led to his selection over three other outstanding candidates," said County Council Chair Barbara Cothorn. "His experience and reputation as a fair and impartial hearing examiner in Pierce and Thurston counties was a major factor in the council's decision."

Land use law has been Backstein's primary interest and career focus. After 11 years in the Phoenix, Arizona City Attorney's office, he moved to Washington in 1970 and has worked in both private and public law practices here. He was Chief Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for Pierce County and set up hearing examiner systems for Pierce and Thurston County and the cities of Tacoma, Lacey and Olympia, and served for several years as hearing examiner for those jurisdictions. Backstein again returned to private law practice before serving as city attorney for Tacoma, Steilacoom and University Place.

Backstein is presently associated with the Tacoma law firm of Luce, Lombino & Riggio, P.S., and serves as city attorney for the cities of Milton and Ruston in Pierce County. He will start work in Snohomish County in mid-June. Besides Backstein, the Office of Hearing Examiner includes a deputy hearing examiner and two administrative support staff. The office conducts public hearings and decides a variety of development applications and enforcement cases, including conditional use permits, zoning variances, shoreline development permits, rezones, appeals to enforcement cases and determinations under the State Environmental Policy Act.

##

For additional information, please contact Tom Dickson at 425-388-3494.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Friday, May 12, 2000

NEW PARK CEREMONY SLATED TO HONOR SNOHOMISH COUNTY'S FIRST EXECUTIVE

The tireless efforts of Snohomish County's first county executive to expand the county park system will be recognized Thursday when Snohomish County will officially name Willis D. Tucker County Park. The action recognizes Tucker's leadership in helping to add regionally significant park properties and trails during his administration from 1980 through 1991.

The dedication ceremony will be held at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, May 18, at the entrance to the property at the end of Snohomish-Cascade Drive.

The County Council on May 10 authorized the departmental transfer of 83.7 acres of surplus land to Parks and Recreation from the Public Works solid waste division. This undeveloped property is located immediately adjacent to the Snohomish Cascade residential development, just east of Mill Creek.



Annette and Willis Tucker

"Honoring Willis in this way will provide a lasting tribute to a special person who had a very significant role in shaping Snohomish County government today," County Executive Bob Drewel said. "This park, which will serve thousands of families in the years to come, is a testament to Willis' legacy of commitment to our citizens and our environment."

Prominent among the county's park acquisitions under Tucker's leadership are: 1) Picnic Point Park and over 400 acres of adjacent open space land, 2) the present 1300-acre Lord Hill Regional Park, 3) the first seven miles of nationally-recognized Centennial Trail, 4) 943 acres of strategic wetlands and islands in the Snohomish River Estuary, and 5) acreage additions to River Meadows Regional Park and Rhody Ridge Arboretum Park.

The Conservation Futures Program also was initiated under Tucker's administration. This land acquisition program has enabled Snohomish County, as well as nearly every city and town in the county, to successfully preserve several thousand acres of sensitive and endangered lands for future generations.

###

CONTACT: Ron Martin, Parks & Recreation Director, 425-388-6607

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 10, 2000

County to replace old trestle bridge with new concrete span

Lake Stevens' Vernon Rd. to be closed until next February

Vernon Road in Lake Stevens will be closed to all through traffic starting Monday, May 15, 2000, Snohomish County Public Works has announced. The closure is necessary while the County rebuilds Bridge #125, which is on Vernon Road just north of 95th Avenue NE. The closure will be in effect until February 2001, when the new span will be completed, weather permitting.

Through traffic along Vernon Road will need to take the detour route along Highway 9 and Lundeen Parkway. Vernon Road will remain open throughout construction for local access and emergency vehicles.

The existing wooden trestle bridge was build in 1927. It is 280 feet long and only 20 feet wide, with only one sidewalk and no shoulders. The new, \$1.9-million structure will be a 280-foot-long concrete double span bridge. It will be 42 feet wide, with sidewalks and shoulders along both sides.

The County's contractor for the project is PCT, Inc. of Seattle.

For more information, call Project Engineer Gary Harris at 425-388-3488, ext. 4225.

###

Martha Lake Elementary gets new 'interactive' crosswalk

A new "interactive" crosswalk that flashes like a strobe light should help motorists see pedestrians more easily at a school crossing in front of Martha Lake Elementary School has been installed by the Snohomish County Public Works Dept. The crosswalk is expected to be activated in the first week of May. The crosswalk is on the 17500 block of Larch Way.

The crosswalk uses light emitting diodes (LEDs) embedded in the pavement that will flash with an attention-grabbing pattern to alert motorists of potential pedestrian activity. Pressing a push-button on the side of the road activates the crosswalk.

"The interactive crosswalk should prove to be effective in better identifying the school crossing," says county Traffic Engineer Jim Bloodgood, "especially at night or in bad weather conditions such as rain or fog."

The new crosswalk does not guarantee that vehicles will stop, however, so Martha Lake students and their parents are being "educated" in the proper use of the facility:

1. Wait for a gap in traffic,
2. Press the button,
3. Wait until all approaching vehicles have come to a complete stop, and then
4. Cross the street.

The county Public Works Department has requested permission from the Federal Highway Administration to experiment with this state-of-the-art crosswalk and will be studying its effectiveness over the next two years. If it is successful at Martha Lake Elementary School there could well be other installations in the county, Bloodgood says. For more information, call Jim Bloodgood at 425-388-6420.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 18, 2000

DREWEL NAMES NEW HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTOR

County Executive Bob Drewel has announced the appointment of Janelle Sgrignoli of Everett as director of the county's Human Services department.

"We looked far and wide, and when it came down to it, the best person for the job was one of our own," Drewel said of Sgrignoli, who has served as the department's acting director since June.

"Janelle is known throughout the county for her superlative management skills, and brings both common sense and humor to the job," Drewel wrote to Council Chair Barbara Cothorn last week.

Sgrignoli began her county career 17 years ago as a grants accountant and has worked her way through the ranks, serving as financial compliance officer, administrative services manager, and deputy director. She has thorough knowledge of the department's varied programs as well as countywide processes, and has worked over the years with many community agencies on behalf of the county.

"As one (external selection committee) member said, Janelle's reputation in the community is impeccable," Drewel noted in making this appointment.

Sgrignoli will manage a \$36 million annual departmental budget made up of federal, state and local funding. The county's Human Services department administers programs under the umbrellas of Long Term Care and Aging, Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, Children and Youth Services, Alcohol and Other Drugs, and Community Services.

Her appointment ends a year-long search that has been ongoing since former director Joe Valentine resigned in October 1999 to become deputy director of the City of Seattle's human services department. During the interim, Snohomish County brought a former director, Marianna Conner, out of retirement to serve as interim director during the initial search phase. When that effort failed to produce a top candidate, a second search phase ensued, during which Sgrignoli served as acting director.

Sgrignoli has an AA degree in business and accounting from Everett Community College, and continuing education through the Cascade Center for Public Service, Daniel J. Evans School of Public Affairs at the University of Washington.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 16, 2000

County to sell 17 mobile homes at Oct. 28 public auction

*Viewing opportunities Sat., Oct. 21st and Wed., Oct 25
at King's Court in Lynnwood*

Looking for a great deal on a previously owned mobile home? Snohomish County may have just the ticket.

On Saturday, October 21st, from 10 a.m. till 2 p.m., and on Wednesday, October 25, from 10 a.m. till 2 p.m., interested buyers will have an opportunity to inspect 17 mobile homes that Snohomish County is putting up for public auction. The viewing will be held at King's Court, 1919 – 196th Street SW, in Lynnwood.

The public auction will be held at 9 a.m. on Saturday, October 28th at Murphy's Auction, 18226 – 68th Avenue NE, in Kenmore. To get there from I-5, take the NE 145th Street exit in Seattle, drive east to Bothell Way NE, turn left and drive north on Bothell Way around the north end of Lake Washington to 68th Avenue NE in Kenmore. Turn left and drive three blocks north on 68th to the auction facility.

There is no starting minimum bid required, and the County will accept any reasonable offer. Buyer's also may submit absentee bids. All purchased mobile homes must be removed from the premises by December 31, 2000. The County will not provide any moving equipment or moving assistance.

The mobile homes were all built between 1968 and 1996 by manufacturers such as Fleetwood, Broadmore, Ridgewood and Silvercrest. The list includes single-wides and double-wides, ranging from 1 bedroom/1 bath to 3 bedroom/2 bath. For more-detailed information and photos of the units, visit the Murphy's Auction website at <http://www.murphyauction.com/kenoct00.html>. The website is titled "Kenmore Heavy Equipment & Vehicle." Scroll down to page four, "Mobile Homes," for the specific information on the mobiles. Handouts with the information also will be available during the public viewing periods at King's Court.

For more information on the auction, call Murphy's Auction at 1-800-426-3008 or 425-486-1246. For more information on the mobile homes, call Carol Foss (Snohomish County) at 425-388-6663.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 5, 2000

TULALIP TRIBES GIVE COURTS A SURPRISE BOOST OF \$50,000

When the Tulalip Tribes made their annual distribution of community impact funds earlier this year, there wasn't enough money to go around.

But what could have been a big zero for Snohomish County Superior Court has ended in a surprise \$50,000 donation from the Tribes' general fund.

John McCoy, Tribal Governmental Affairs Director, explained it this way: "During the last round of community impact funds, the in-house attorneys and I were talking about how these funds are distributed." And because some tribal members have activity in Superior Court, McCoy said it makes sense for the Tribes to help offset some of those costs.

He later discussed the situation with the Tribal Board, and said they reached the decision that helping fund Superior Court operations "was the right thing to do." He added that the funds come with no strings attached. The donation came from tribal "hard dollars," funds that may be used at the discretion of the board. Those funds are separate from the community impact funds legally required to offset the community impacts of reservation-area gambling.

"We just wanted to do our part as a responsible corporate community member," McCoy said of the Tribes' donation. "I'm sure the courts will put it to good use."

County Executive Bob Drewel said the generous offer is especially welcome. As he prepares his 2001 annual budget, Drewel and his staff are increasingly aware of the rising costs of the county criminal justice program, whose costs are approaching 67% of the county's general fund. Just eight years ago, that number was 56%. As the public gets tough on crime and criminal justice costs rise, fewer dollars are available for other necessary county programs such as human services and parks.

"Generous neighbors like the Tulalip Tribes are helping us to do the public's work well," Drewel said. "In an era of shrinking resources and increased responsibilities, it makes sense for us to join together in partnership for the sake of our community. We appreciate their confidence ... and their generosity!"

###

CONTACT:

Bob Drewel, Snohomish County Executive, 425-388-3879

John McCoy, Governmental Affairs Director, Tulalip Tribes, 360-651-3225

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PRESS RELEASE August 31, 2000

This fall's best show is in area streams

The best show returning this fall is not on television, it's in the streams!

Salmon begin their yearly migration into Snohomish County streams this fall and Snohomish County needs you to watch for them and record their location.

County staff will teach volunteer "Salmon Watchers" how to collect data on the salmon that migrate and spawn in the urban and rural streams throughout the county. The information collected will be posted on the internet and shared with natural resource agencies, schools, and anyone interested in salmon in Snohomish County.

After attending one training session, Salmon Watchers watch for fish for at least 15 minutes twice a week during October, November and December. At the training sessions fish experts will teach Salmon Watchers how to identify salmon, and give them data forms, fish I.D. cards and other information.

Salmon Watch sites can be a bridge, park, public path or a watcher's own backyard. Salmon Watchers can choose their own site or County staff can help them find one. This is a great activity for families, homeschools, community organizations, schools, and individuals.

Salmon Watcher training sessions are Wednesday, September 13 from 6:30-8 p.m. at the Marysville Public Library, 6120 Grove St., Marysville; Tuesday, September 19th

from 6:30-8 p.m. at the WSU Coop Extension service in McCollum Park, 600 128th Ave. S.E., Everett; and Wednesday, September 20 from 6:30-8 p.m. at Longhouse at Evergreen State Fairgrounds, Hwy. 2 & 179th Ave. S.E. Monroe.

To reserve space for one of these sessions, please call (425) 388-6407 at least four days before the session you choose to attend. If you need more information about Salmon Watch program please call Roger Kelley at (425) 388-6414.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thursday, April 6, 2000

COUNTY WORKERS DONATE 59,000+ POUNDS OF FOOD TO HUNGRY NEIGHBORS

Snohomish County government employees are celebrating the results of their second annual "March Against Hunger," which brought in 59,035 pounds of food donations and \$846 cash for the 19 Volunteers of America food banks throughout Snohomish County.

"This generous outpouring just goes to show what I have known all along," commented County Executive Bob Drewel. "County employees are good neighbors who like to help those less fortunate. I am very proud of this bunch. When you give them a chance, they will shine."

The food drive pits departments in friendly competition with one another. The department earning top honors for most food brought was Planning & Development Services, whose employees donated 19,854 pounds. Bringing in the most food per employee was the Executive office, with 154.3 pounds per employee.

The food drive is sponsored by the county's Diversity Council and was the inspiration of the late Valarie Butler Davis, a Treasurer's office employee who died unexpectedly last year. A perpetual trophy awarded to the department donating the most food per employee is named in her honor.

"Valarie would be so proud of all of you," Deputy County Executive Joni Earl told employees at the event's weigh-in last month. "Goodness and sharing are at the heart of this event, and you have truly outdone yourselves!" Earl had challenged employees to double their efforts after last year's drive brought in 22,817 pounds of food donations.

The county chose March for its annual food drive because food bank shelves are typically empty after the holiday "rush" of donations. Volunteers of America spokespeople estimated the 59,035 pounds of food collected would fill food bank shelves until early April. For that reason, Snohomish County and its corporate sponsors, KRKO Radio and AT&T Cable Services, challenge other jurisdictions and companies to "adopt" other months throughout the year to stock local food banks. For more information, contact the Volunteers of America at 425-259-3191.

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CONTACT: Connie Sherwood, Event Co-Chair, 425-388-7268

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For release: March 29, 2000

New Lake Stevens area Market Place road section to open within first week of April

A new road section of Market Place in Lake Stevens will open to traffic some time in the first week of April, Snohomish County Public Works and Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT) have announced. The ¾-mile stretch of road will extend Market Place from SR9 southeast to 99th Avenue SE at Chapel Hill Road.

Market Place is classified as a collector arterial, and will consist of one lane in each direction, a continuous center-turn lane, bicycle lanes, curbs, gutters and sidewalks. The project also includes wetland mitigation and a new traffic signal at Market Place and SR9.

The new, \$1.2-million stretch of road connects directly to an older, existing piece of Market Place between SR9 and 91st Avenue NE, which connects to a newer section of Market Place from 91st to SR204, completed last fall. That end of Market Place will connect to the proposed Lundeen Parkway when that project is completed.

"This new road has been designed to take pressure off the SR204/SR9 intersection and to provide easier access to new development in the area," explains Project Manager Sam Filetti. "It will also make it easier for pedestrians and bicyclists to get around the area, and to connect to other local bicycle routes."

Actual opening of the road section depends on WSDOT, which needs a few sunny days to complete rechannelization and signalization at the SR9/Market Place intersection.

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Contact: Wayne Lee, Public Involvement Coordinator, 425-388-3789
Sam Filetti, Project Manager, 425-388-6698

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