

2001 Snohomish County News

December 26, 2001

[Recycle Your Christmas Tree](#)

Now that the decorations are down, what do you do with the tree? Snohomish County Solid Waste Management Division offers these suggestions...

December 20, 2001

[Swearing-in Ceremony for New Councilmembers Jan. 2, 2002](#)

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December 18, 2001

[Solid Waste Facilities Closed for Holidays](#)

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December 17, 2001

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Snohomish County Public Works has rescheduled a public open house that was interrupted December 12 by a power outage at Sunnycrest Elementary School in Lake Stevens.

Thursday, Dec. 6, 2001

19 April 2001

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Top Puget Sound area county officials spoke out today to strongly urge the state House of Representatives to restore severe cuts made to the criminal justice systems in Central Puget Sound region counties.

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5 April 2001

[Snohomish County committed to working with National Foods](#)

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DREWEL BRINGS BUDGET ADMINISTRATOR INTO EXECUTIVE OFFICE, STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF FISCAL OVERSIGHT

Citing the importance of managing public funds well in an environment of increasing needs and a weakened economy, County Executive Bob Drewel has brought Roger Neumaier, the county's assistant finance director since 1999, into the Executive Office.

Monday, Nov. 5, 2001

INFORMATION SOUGHT FOR EXHIBIT HONORING COUNTY'S BLACK PIONEERS, KICKOFF MEETING SCHEDULED NOV. 29

Snohomish County asks for your help in developing an exhibit depicting African-American individuals and families who were influential in the county's early years.

Nov. 14, 2001

TULALIPS & COUNTY CONCLUDE HISTORIC PACT AS PORTION OF LEGAL JURISDICTION REVERTS TO TRIBES

Next Wednesday, Nov. 21, the Tulalip Tribes will assume jurisdiction in criminal matters involving Native Americans on trust land and in certain other instances within the Tulalip Reservation.

Monday, Oct. 22, 2001

STANWOOD WOMAN EARNS COUNTY'S CUSTOMER SERVICE AWARD FOR RAISING PUBLIC DUI AWARENESS

Apparently coordinating 36 meetings each year for DUI offenders to meet victims and their families, speaking and arranging for speakers at school assemblies and driver's education classes, and helping to educate the public at safety fairs wasn't enough ... Tracy McMillan

September 28, 2001

PUBLIC INVITED INTO COUNTY BUDGET PROCESS AT COMMUNITY MEETING TUESDAY, OCT. 2

Together with the League of Women Voters and other civic organizations, County Executive Bob

Seattle architectural design firm...

29 March 2001

Elizabeth Fraser Cullen to head Office of Public Defense

Snohomish County Executive Bob Drewel announced that Elizabeth Fraser Cullen will join Snohomish County as Attorney Administrator for the county's recently reorganized Office of Public Defense. The appointment is subject to confirmation by the Snohomish County Council.

28 March 2001

Drewel Seeks Start-Up Business Expert To Serve On County Development Board

Persons with business expertise are encouraged to volunteer for service on a county board that helps promote local economic development efforts...

23 March 2001

Granite Falls Bridge #102 to get new signals in May -- Public Open House set for March 29 at Granite Falls High School

23 March 2001

Citizen Commission Proposes Salary Increases For County Elected Officials, Invites Public Comment March 27

Because Snohomish County ranks third statewide in terms of population and number of employees, but pay for its leaders lags behind, a citizen commission is proposing raises for county elected officials...

9 March 2001

New Planning and Development Service Director Joins County

Snohomish County Executive Bob Drewel announced today that Faith L. Lumsden will join Snohomish County as Director of the county's Department of Planning and Development Services. The appointment is subject to confirmation by the Snohomish County Council.

9 March 2001

Paine Field To Experience Increased Flight

Drewel invites the public to join in a discussion of his proposed 2002 county budget. The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 2, at the Snohomish County PUD Auditorium, 2320 California St., Everett.

September 28, 2001

[Snohomish County Executive Proposes Lean Budget: Invests In Public Safety, Urbanizing Areas, Human Services, And Technology](#)

Snohomish County Executive Bob Drewel today released to the County Council his proposed Year 2002 budget. It is his tenth budget as County Executive. Recognizing the difficult times faced by the nation and this region, Drewel proposed a lean budget that refocuses limited resources on a few essentials.

September 11, 2001

County Response to East Coast Terror Attacks
[Snohomish County Offices Remain Open, County Responds to Protect Public Safety](#)

August 15, 2001

Monroe Outreach Meeting August 30th
[County council reaching out to hear from citizens](#)

The Snohomish County Council will hold a Public Outreach Meeting Thursday, August 30, 2001 to both explain what the county does with the public's taxes and to solicit recommendations for improving services. The meeting will be held from 6:30 to 9 p. m. at the East County Senior Center, 824 Village Way, Monroe.

August 1, 2001

[Property revaluation notices sent to L. Stevens Sch. Dist., & parts of Msv. & Arl. Sch. Dists.](#)

July 18, 2001

[Asphalt work will top off 228th St. SE/SW project -- Motorists advised to take alternative routes during paving](#)

After two years of construction, it's come down to this: the last 2 inches of asphalt...

[Activity During Boeing Field Main Runway Closures](#)

Seattle's Boeing Field today announced it will close its main runway to repair earthquake damage from Friday March 9 through Sunday, March 18 or sooner. During this period some corporate aircraft (generally business passenger planes and other large passenger planes) that cannot use Boeing Field's shorter second runway will likely use the Snohomish County Airport at Paine Field.

5 March 2001

[Grant Will Help Children Of Homeless Families](#)

The Medina Foundation announced today that it is making a three year grant to assist children of homeless families in Snohomish County. The purpose of the grant is to support the county community in its work to ensure that homeless children have access to the community resources they depend on.

5 March 2001

[All County Property Owners to Receive Property Tax Statements](#)

Beginning this year, the Snohomish County Treasurer's Office will mail property tax statements to all taxpayers, whether or not their taxes are actually remitted by a mortgage company...

2 March 2001

[Independent Committee Advising County On Redevelopment Plan Selects Leaders](#)

A Snohomish attorney, Janice Ellis, has been elected chair of the independent Citizen Advisory Committee reviewing Snohomish County's plans to redevelop its downtown Everett campus. The new committee vice chair is Kathy Panfili, a customer service manager for Verizon.

1 March 2001

[QUAKE DAMAGE AT BOEING FIELD TEMPORARILY DIVERTS FLIGHTS TO PAINE](#)

Snohomish County Airport at Paine Field is the only major Puget Sound airport left undamaged

June 29, 2001

[**Property revaluation notices sent to portions of Marysville, Arlington, Lake Stevens, and Lakewood School Districts**](#)

Gail S. Rauch, Snohomish County Assessor, announced that her office will send out the 2nd batch of "notices of real property value changes" today. The 17,722 notices will be mailed only to property owners in the area that is bordered on the North by 172nd St NE (Hwy 531), on the West by I-5, on the East by Hwy. 9 and on the South by Soper Hill Rd as shown on the map...

June 22, 2001

[**County/Everett to start work on 112th Street SW/SE project**](#)

Snohomish County Public Works and Everett Public Works will begin making street improvements in early July along a 1¼ -mile segment 112th Street SW/SE between SR 99 (Evergreen Way) and 3rd Avenue SE. This important South County minor arterial is located ½-mile south of the Everett Mall area, partially within the City of Everett and partially within the County.

7 June 2001

[**County to discuss Machias-OK Mill bridges replacement**](#)

Area residents who live near or drive over the Machias-OK Mill Road Bridge #44 or Dubuque Creek Bridge #423 are invited to attend a June 19 open house to discuss bridge replacement proposals.

8 June 2001

[**Property revaluation notices sent to Tulalip area, Lakewood, Warm Beach, Kayak Pt.**](#)

Gail S. Rauch, Snohomish County Assessor, announced today that her office will mail 11,062 "notices of real property value changes" today. These notices will be mailed only to property owners in the area that is bordered on the North by the Stillaguamish River and Hat Slough, on the East by Interstate 5, on the West by Puget Sound and the most Southerly point being Priest Point, as shown on the [\[current mailing area map\]](#)...

25 May 2001

by yesterday's earthquake...

21 February 2001

[**County Commission Invites Public To Comment On Officials' Salaries**](#)

Citizens who want to weigh in on how much county elected officials are paid will have their chance at two upcoming public hearings, the independent salary commission recently announced.

7 February 2001

[**Vernon Road/Bridge closure extended through April**](#)

Vernon Road between 95th Avenue and Lundeen Park Way will continue to be closed to all through traffic through April, Snohomish County Public Works has announced.

31 January 2001

[**Snohomish County imposes emergency moratorium on sex offender housing**](#)

The Snohomish County Council has imposed an emergency moratorium to prevent the location of transitional housing for violent sex offenders near Monroe.

[**Moratorium Public Hearing March 28th**](#)

23 January 2001

[**County offers free erosion control workshop for small builders**](#)

A free January 25 workshop will help small builders in Snohomish County understand new water quality codes and speed up the building permit process, Snohomish County Planning & Development Services (PDS) has announced...

12 January 2001

[**Selection Of Jail Design Firm Marks County's First Step Toward Downtown Campus Renovations**](#)

Snohomish County Executive Bob Drewel has announced the selection of NBBJ, an architectural firm based in Seattle, to design the county's new justice center...

[County to hold public meeting on Woods Cr. Bridge project June 7](#)

Snohomish County Public Works is proposing to rebuild Woods Creek Bridge #6 next year. The structure crosses Woods Creek at Old Owen Road at the Monroe city limits, about 1.2 miles above the creek's confluence with the Skykomish River...

16 May 2001

[Drewel Seeks Volunteer Ethics Commissioners](#)

Because two vacancies on the Snohomish County Ethics Commission will become available soon, County Executive Bob Drewel is asking interested persons to apply.

4 May, 2001

[Free Workshop For Families Of Kids With Special Needs May 18 In Everett](#)

Families with children who may have emotional, social, behavioral, or developmental disabilities are invited to a free workshop...

27 April 2001

Outreach Meeting May 9th

[County council reaching out to citizens](#)

How does Snohomish County spend your tax dollars and how could the county do a better job? The county council wants to hear from you! The ... Council will hold a Public Outreach Meeting Wednesday, May 9, 2001 to both explain what the county does with the public's taxes and to solicit recommendations for improving services. The public meeting will be held from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the Stillaguamish Senior Center, 18308 Smokey Point Blvd., Arlington....

20 April 2001

[Extended Meridian Road Closure](#)

Meridian Ave. S. (224th St. SW - 231st St. SE) to be closed to through-traffic through Monday (4/23) ... Paving work is part of 228th Street SE/SW Improvements project...

19 April 2001

[County Executive invites citizens to participate on board of Equalization](#)

Snohomish County residents with knowledge of

8 January 2001

[County Announces 75% Increase in Energy Assistance to Help Low-Income Households Stay Warm This Season](#)

Many more local low-income families struggling to keep warm are eligible for assistance to pay their heating bills, thanks to an unexpected \$625,000 recently released to Snohomish County...

8 January 2001

[Snohomish County exercising leadership to save salmon](#)

On January 8th, the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) protective regulations (called a 4(d) rule) took effect for Puget Sound chinook salmon. These regulations make it illegal to harm chinook or their habitat. The new regulations also allow local jurisdictions, businesses and citizens to determine how to best ensure protection through their activities...

5 January 2001

[SNOHOMISH COUNTY CELEBRATES DIVERSITY WITH COMMUNITY EVENTS HONORING DR. KING](#)

Calling the national holiday honoring Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday "a day on, not a day off," a variety of groups throughout Snohomish County will gather in Everett next Thursday, Jan. 11, for a community celebration...

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Calling the national holiday honoring Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday "a day on, not a day off," a variety of groups throughout Snohomish County will gather in Everett next Thursday, Jan. 11, for a community celebration...

January 3, 2001

[Dave Somers elected county council chair, outlines his goals for the coming year](#)

Elected council chair for 2001 by his fellow council members, County Councilman Dave Somers of

property values are invited to submit their nominations for appointment to the county's Board of Equalization. Nominations are due by May 15.

Monroe said he will pursue three themes in the new year—"access, equity and quality of life." Councilman Kirke Sievers of Everett was elected vice-chair...

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RECYCLING



NEWS FROM:
Public Works Solid Waste Management

December 26, 2001

Recycle Your Christmas Tree

Now that the decorations are down, what do you do with the tree? Snohomish County Solid Waste Management Division offers these suggestions:

- Sign up for tree pick-up service from a local youth organization or take your tree to a community drop off site (donations requested). Check your local newspaper, or look for community notices.
- If you have curbside yard debris collection service from your garbage collector, check with them for instructions on when, where and how to leave your tree for pick up.
- Take your tree to a local compost facility (prices and hours vary), such as Bailey's Compost, Pacific Topsoils, or Lord Hill Farms.
- Chip your own tree and use it for compost or mulch in your yard.
- As a last resort, take your tree to one of the County's Recycling and Transfer Stations at Arlington, Everett, or Mountlake Terrace. Charge is \$5 per tree (effective Dec. 26 – March 31).
- Questions? Call (425) 388-3425.

####

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

20 December 2001

Swearing-in Ceremony for New Councilmembers Jan. 2, 2002

Three new members of the Snohomish County Council will be sworn into office on Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2002. The ceremonies will be held at 9 a.m. in the Jackson Board Room on the 6th floor of the County Administration Building, 3000 Rockefeller Ave. in Everett.

Taking office are 1st District Councilman John Koster of Arlington, 4th District Councilman Dave Gossett of Mountlake Terrace, and 5th District Councilman Jeff Sax of Snohomish. Councilman Koster was previously sworn in on Nov. 21, 2001 upon the certification of the November general election. Koster took office at that time to complete the unexpired term of former Councilman Rick Larsen who resigned last January following his election to Congress. Koster, Gossett and Sax will serve four-year terms.

Following the swearing in ceremony, there will be a short reception.

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December 18, 2001

Solid Waste Facilities Closed for Holiday

Snohomish County's Solid Waste Recycling and Transfer Stations in Everett, Mountlake Terrace and Arlington, and all Drop Boxes (Gold Bar, Granite Falls, Dubuque Road-Lake Roesiger, Oso and Sultan), will be closed on Tuesday, December 25th for Christmas, and Tuesday, January 1st for New Years day.

Transfer Stations will also be closing early, at 4:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve, Monday the 24th, and New Year's Eve, Monday the 31st. Drop Boxes will close at their usual time, 4:00 p.m.

Questions? Call (425) 388-3425.

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CONTACT: Jeannie Roberts (425) 388-6475

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December 17, 2001

Lundeen Park Way Open House Rescheduled for January 16

Snohomish County Public Works has rescheduled a public open house that was interrupted December 12 by a power outage at Sunnycrest Elementary School in Lake Stevens.

The meeting was being held to get public comments on the draft supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed widening and extension of Lundeen Park Way. About 25 people attended before a power failure cut the meeting short. A repeat open house has been slated for January 16, 2002, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Sunnycrest gymnasium at 3411 99th Ave. NE.

EIS Comment Period Extended

The comment period for the draft supplemental EIS has been extended from January 5 to January 25 due to rescheduling the open house. The EIS document is available for review at the Lake Stevens, Marysville and Everett public libraries. It also can be purchased or reviewed at the Public Works customer service counter on the first floor, 2930 Wetmore, in Everett.

For more information about the environmental process or to obtain a copy of the draft supplemental EIS, contact Mary Auld at 425-388-3488, ext. 4510, or at mary.auld@co.snohomish.wa.us. Comments concerning the proposed project or the EIS must be submitted to Mary Auld at Snohomish County Public Works, 1st Floor, 2930 Wetmore, Everett, WA 98020 by January 25, 2002. Submitted comments will be published in the final EIS.

Revised project schedule

Draft EIS issued	November 19, 2001
Open House	December 12 (cut short due to power outage)
Rescheduled Open House	January 9, 2002
Comment period end	January 25, 2002
Final EIS issued	February 2002
Record of Decision	March 2002
Obtain permits and right-of-way	2002-2003
Construction begins	2003
Construction completed	2004

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Contact: Mary Auld, Environmental Planner, 425-388-3488, ext. 4510
Wayne Lee, Public Involvement Coordinator, 425-388-3789
Sam Filetti, Project Manager, 425-388-6698

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thursday, April 19, 2001

County Leaders Say Proposed Legislation Will Severely Impact Local Criminal Justice

Top Puget Sound area county officials spoke out today to strongly urge the state House of Representatives to restore severe cuts made to the criminal justice systems in Central Puget Sound region counties.

The Legislature had committed to continue funding jails, courts, prosecutors and law enforcement following passage of Initiative 695, which reduced state funding to criminal justice systems around the state. The Governor's budget funded these services and the Senate had supported these levels. However, the current proposed House budget dramatically cuts those criminal justice funds.

The following statement was issued today by Snohomish County Executive Bob Drewel, Council Chair Dave Somers, Prosecutor James Krider and Sheriff Rick Bart. King County Executive Ron Sims and Pierce County Executive John Ladenburg also joined in the statement, as did King County officials Prosecutor Norm Maleng, Sheriff Dave Reichert and Presiding Superior Court Judge Brian Gain. A similar letter was sent to legislators yesterday:

"We are very troubled that the House budget apparently is being balanced on the backs of law enforcement, prosecutors, courts and corrections staff in just six Washington Counties. The proposed cuts of \$6.49 million to Clark, King, Snohomish, Kitsap, Pierce and San Juan Counties for criminal justice will effectively cause the loss of effective programs and officers in police forces, prosecution and courts, resulting in a deterioration of public safety in the communities we all represent.

"In Snohomish County alone, this would result in the loss of \$1.1 million. The impact is also great in King County, which will facing a loss of \$2.7 million, and in Pierce County, with a shortage of \$1.3 million if the House cuts are adopted. Public safety could be seriously jeopardized.

"The proposed House budget would break faith with the promise made to counties in 2000 that the funding for backfill of I-695 cuts would be ongoing and increased for inflation.

"As our legislators, we expect you to oppose these cuts and restore this funding for vital criminal justice services. At a minimum we request that the House match the Governor's proposed budget for these services, which was endorsed by the Senate.

"Last year, the Legislature passed Engrossed House Bill 2487, and in a new section (section 1(3)) it reads, "It is the intent of the legislature that the funding provided ...increased by the fiscal growth factor, will be appropriated in subsequent fiscal biennia.

"Anything less will be viewed as a promise broken to the counties and citizens you represent."

Bob Drewel
Snohomish County Executive

Dave Somers
Snohomish County Council Chair

James Krider
Snohomish County Prosecutor

Rick Bart
Snohomish County Sheriff

John Ladenburg
Pierce County Executive

Ron Sims
King County Executive

Norm Maleng
King County Prosecutor

David Reichert
King County Sheriff

Brian Gain
King County Superior Court Presiding Judge

Legislators are expected to act in the coming days. Persons wishing to comment may contact the toll-free legislative hotline in Olympia at 1-800-562-6000.

###

CONTACT: Jim Hammond, Executive Management Analyst, 425-388-3142

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For release: April 16, 2001

Public invited to April 19 event at Mountain Way Elementary
County to unveil alternatives for Granite Falls Bridge

WHAT: Public meeting on Granite Falls Bridge #102

WHEN: April 19, 2001, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

**WHERE: Mountain Way Elementary School Gymnasium,
702 N. Granite Avenue, Granite Falls**

Snohomish County Public Works will present five design alternatives for the Granite Falls Bridge at its April 19 public meeting. The meeting is scheduled for 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Mountain Way Elementary School Gymnasium, 702 N. Granite Street.

Public Works staff will show drawings, provide cost and construction estimates, and present a list of pros and cons for each alternative. In addition, they will show a computerized simulation of projected traffic flow on the bridge.

The public will have a chance to look at graphics, ask questions and make comments on each of the proposed alternatives. County Councilmember Mike Ashley and representatives from the City of Granite Falls, Granite Falls School District and CSR also will be in attendance.

"We've made every effort to come up with a menu of feasible options," says County Bridge Engineer Darrell Ash. "We haven't had a lot of time since the last meeting (March 29) to do detailed studies, but we wanted to get back to the community as quickly as possible with additional information and design alternatives. I believe we can come up with a workable solution to satisfy concerns about the bridge."

The County is seeking interim improvements to the bridge while working on plans and funding for a future widening of the structure. That \$3-million to \$4-million project will include deck replacement, widening, cleaning and painting of structural steel.

For more information, contact Project Engineer Darrell Ash at 425-388-6688.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 5 April 2001

Snohomish County Committed To Working With National Foods

On April 4, 2001 at 2:16 a.m. the alarm went off. The building and contents of National Foods, an egg farm located on unincorporated land near Arlington Airport was destroyed in the fire.

The Office of the Snohomish County Fire Marshal is taking the lead in the investigation. They have been unable to enter the structure yet, and it may be some time before it is safe for them to do so. All fires are routinely investigated by the Fire Marshal to determine their cause. The Fire Marshal will keep the news media and public posted on the results of their investigation. In the meantime, any questions regarding the fire should be directed to the Arlington Public Information Officer, Kristin Banfield.

“Fortunately no one was killed or injured in this morning’s fire,” said Council Member Mike Ashley, who represents the first council district where National Foods is located. “It is an unfortunate circumstance for this business. National Foods employ’s approximately 100 people and is an important agricultural business to Snohomish County. I have met with Faith Lumsden, Director of Planning and Development Services and with County Executive Bob Drewel, and we will make certain that they get expeditious review of any permits they need to rebuild and keep the business functioning. I’ve talked with Brian Bookie, one of the owners of National Foods and reassured him that the County is here and asked him to contact me when they are ready to move on their permitting issues.”

Mike Ashley also met with Bob Kraski and Dave Weiser, mayors of Arlington and Marysville, and offered whatever assistance we may have in this regard.

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CONTACT: CARRI SCHLADE, LEGISLATIVE AIDE at 425.388.3494.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Tuesday, April 3, 2001

Master plan contract selection kicks off county's downtown Everett office consolidation project

"Just over three years from now, Snohomish County's administrative and courthouse complex in downtown Everett will look different and be different—consolidated, convenient and cost-effective," said County Executive Bob Drewel in announcing the selection of NBBJ, a prominent Seattle architectural design firm, to prepare the master plan for the first comprehensive renovation of the county's central facilities in over three decades.

"Last year, we decided Snohomish County's long-term facilities needs could be best met by staying in Everett and working collaboratively with the city to construct a new jail, court and administrative space on land taxpayers already own," Drewel said. "As Snohomish County has grown so has the public's expectations for service, particularly in the area of law and justice."

"We recognized that continuing to pay \$2 million every year to rent commercial office throughout Everett was fiscally unsound," said Drewel. "A comprehensive reorganization and consolidation of county service functions and facilities is the most efficient solution, and NBBJ has the experience and talent to meld the varied responsibilities of county government into efficient, interconnected structures that offer convenient access for citizens and business customers alike."

NBBJ was previously chosen to plan and design the county's new justice center, to be located contiguous to the existing county jail in the block just east of the county's main courthouse and administrative complex in Everett. "It makes sense to tie all the project pieces together," said Drewel, "because most of these services should be integrated for security and efficiency."

Offering the resources of the world's third largest architecture practice, NBBJ's current and recent local projects include the new University of Washington Bothell Campus, the proposed new Seattle Justice Center, the Navy's Family Support Center in Marysville, and Providence General Medical Center in Everett. NBBJ also designed SAFECO Field and the renovated Key Arena (Coliseum) in Seattle.

The master planning process precedes actual architectural design and involves developing a main theme and design approach (broad common architectural themes) for the whole campus. Planning elements range from improving customer parking options and access to the services, to improving

internal work flow patterns for increased efficiency. Contract details between NBBJ and the county are being negotiated, while the master planning process begins immediately.

Initial design concepts will be delivered this fall, with the planning and designing process continuing through 2003 when the reconstruction of the main upper campus facilities is expected to begin. Construction of the proposed jail and court facility on the lower campus is expected to start in August 2002, and both projects should be completed and occupied in the fall of 2004.

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CONTACT: Larry Van Horn, Facilities Director, 425-388-3035
Margery Hite, Executive Director, 425-388-3297

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Thursday, Dec. 6, 2001

DREWEL BRINGS BUDGET ADMINISTRATOR INTO EXECUTIVE OFFICE, STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF FISCAL OVERSIGHT

Citing the importance of managing public funds well in an environment of increasing needs and a weakened economy, County Executive Bob Drewel has brought Roger Neumaier, the county's assistant finance director since 1999, into the Executive Office.

"As public servants, we are entrusted with the responsibility to be wise stewards of the public's money," Drewel noted. "Roger has improved the county's budget-building processes, and he has incredible management and strategic planning skills. I am excited about the opportunity to put those skills to work in the Executive Office."

Neumaier assumes the role of Executive Office Administrator. In addition to retaining county budget oversight and continuing his work with Budget & Finance staff, he participates on Drewel's management team and will provide supervision, analysis and project oversight.

Prior to joining Snohomish County nearly three years ago, Neumaier was director of business and strategic planning for the Washington State Health Care Authority. Before that, he was chief financial officer and manager of revenue collections for the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries. A certified public accountant, he holds a bachelor's degree from Carleton College in Minnesota and has participated in the Career Executive Program through the Cascade Center, University of Washington.

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CONTACT: Gary Weikel, Deputy Executive, 425-388-3643
Roger Neumaier, Executive Office Administrator, 425-388-3862

Monday, Nov. 5, 2001

**INFORMATION SOUGHT FOR EXHIBIT
HONORING COUNTY'S BLACK PIONEERS,
KICKOFF MEETING SCHEDULED NOV. 29**

Snohomish County asks for your help in developing an exhibit depicting African-American individuals and families who were influential in the county's early years. The display will be part of the Northwest Black Pioneers Exhibit, which will travel throughout the state honoring Black History Month next February.

The county has formed a Black Pioneers Committee to help collect information and develop the display. Community members and representatives of the business community, public organizations and service groups are volunteering to forward this important effort.

"This is the beginning of an ongoing effort to document Snohomish County Black history," said Karyn Zigler, the county's diversity analyst.

Anyone with photographs, information or artifacts to share is invited to a project kickoff reception from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 29. New volunteers to serve on the committee also are welcome. The meeting will be held in the Ginni Stevens Hearing Room and the lobby of the County Administration Building, 3000 Rockefeller, Everett.

The Northwest Black Pioneers Exhibit is underwritten by The Bon Marche Corporation. For more on Snohomish County's efforts, contact Zigler at 425-388-3542.

###

CONTACT: Karyn Zigler, County Diversity Analyst, 425-388-3542

Nov. 14, 2001

TULALIPS & COUNTY CONCLUDE HISTORIC PACT AS PORTION OF LEGAL JURISDICTION REVERTS TO TRIBES

Next Wednesday, Nov. 21, the Tulalip Tribes will assume jurisdiction in criminal matters involving Native Americans on trust land and in certain other instances within the Tulalip Reservation.

A Town Hall meeting to answer questions and further explain this change has been scheduled for 7 p. m. Monday, Nov. 19, at the Tulalip Boys & Girls Club, 7707 36th Ave NW.

“When the Tribes formally assume a greater role in law enforcement within the reservation on Nov. 21, that added police presence will benefit all Tulalip residents, whether Native American or not,” said County Executive Bob Drewel.

Tulalip Tribal Chair Herman Williams, Jr., concurred: “This is an historic moment for the people of the Tulalip Tribes. The Federal Government is returning to us our rightful jurisdiction over Native Americans while they are on our lands. We look forward to a fruitful partnership with Snohomish County as we address important public safety issues together.”

For the past several months, Snohomish County and the Tulalip Tribes have been working together to prepare for this “retrocession” of certain police powers from the State of Washington to the Tulalip Tribes.

“We have developed an arrangement between Tribal and County agencies to make these changes work for all Reservation residents,” Drewel said.

According to County Prosecutor Jim Krider, this change will not affect non-Indians and all owners of fee land within the Reservation boundaries. Those individuals and properties will remain under the jurisdiction of Snohomish County and the State of Washington, and will continue to be served by the Snohomish County Sheriff’s Office and every other county agency.

“The change that takes place Nov. 21 will primarily affect the Tulalip Tribes, its members, members of other tribes, and holders of land on the Reservation that are in trust with the federal government,” Williams explained. Briefly, tribal members will be subject to the jurisdiction of the Tulalip Tribes, Snohomish County or both, depending on where they are within the Reservation.

Key to this change's success will be the positive working relationship between Sheriff's deputies and the Tribal Police officers. County Sheriff Rick Bart is hopeful: "Both (County Prosecutor) Jim Krider and I are impressed with Tribal Police Chief Jay Goss, a 30-year law enforcement professional with an outstanding reputation," he said. "In addition, we anticipate that a number of his officers will be as qualified as our deputies, and will receive cross-commissions as Sheriff's deputies, as our deputies are cross-commissioned as members of the Tribal Police."

Cross-commissioning helps to ensure that the existence of two different jurisdictions does not get in the way of effective law enforcement. "Before being cross-deputized, Tribal officers and Sheriff's deputies will have to demonstrate that they meet the qualifications and the training requirements required of each department," Bart added.

"It is a rare instance where we get a new police force that provides additional police protection. This is good news for all Reservation residents," Drewel concluded.

###

An Explanation of Retrocession

"Retrocession" describes a complicated interaction of state, federal and local laws. For most of the past century, until the mid-50's, the federal government directly controlled or policed the Reservation. Then, with some minor exceptions, the State of Washington took over, and it became the responsibility of Snohomish County to provide law enforcement on the Reservation. Several years ago, the Tulalip Tribes petitioned the Washington State Legislature to "retrocede" a portion of their law enforcement powers that had been "ceded" to the State of Washington, hence the term "retrocession." The State Legislature and the Governor agreed to retrocede a portion of the state jurisdiction to the tribes.

At the end of 2000, the United States government also approved the Tribes request for retrocession. Since then, the County and Tribes have been working together to understand the legal implications and ensure that retrocession does not disrupt public safety on the Tulalip Reservation.

CONTACT: Jim Hammond, County Executive Analyst, 425-388-3142
John McCoy, Tulalip Tribes, 360-651-3225

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Monday, Oct. 22, 2001

STANWOOD WOMAN EARNS COUNTY'S CUSTOMER SERVICE AWARD FOR RAISING PUBLIC DUI AWARENESS

Apparently coordinating 36 meetings each year for DUI offenders to meet victims and their families, speaking and arranging for speakers at school assemblies and driver's education classes, and helping to educate the public at safety fairs wasn't enough.

This year Snohomish County's DUI Countermeasure Program Coordinator, Tracy McMillan of Stanwood, also coordinated four major public events: the DUI Awards Ceremony in March, the dedication of the DUI Victim Memorial Wall in July, and the DUI Victim Rally and the DUI/PACE (Pro-Active Criminal Enforcement) booth at the Evergreen State Fair, both in August.

Juggling all these duties with passion and professionalism has earned McMillan the Customer Service Award from County Executive Bob Drewel.

"In times of overwhelming need and limited resources, the best thing that we (in county government) have going for us is our people," Drewel said. "Tracy, I've always held you in the absolute highest regard."

Of particular note was McMillan's hard work and persistence in creating the DUI Victim Memorial Wall at McCollum Park, the first of its kind in Washington State, and possibly the country. The Memorial Wall honors Snohomish County residents who were killed in a crash caused by a drunk or drug-impaired driver.

"At the Victim Wall dedication I had the opportunity to meet a number of the victims' families," wrote McMillan's supervisor, Carol Williams. "Each one told me how knowledgeable and helpful Tracy had been. They kept describing her as 'wonderful.'"

Drewel, Snohomish County Executive since 1992, instituted the Customer Service Award to recognize outstanding work performance in county government.

###

Contact: Connie Mennie, County Executive Office (425) 388-3876

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Friday, September 28, 2001

PUBLIC INVITED INTO COUNTY BUDGET PROCESS AT COMMUNITY MEETING TUESDAY, OCT. 2

Together with the League of Women Voters and other civic organizations, County Executive Bob Drewel invites the public to join in a discussion of his proposed 2002 county budget.

The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 2, at the Snohomish County PUD Auditorium, 2320 California St., Everett.

"I think it is important to present my recommendations not only to the County Council, but also to the larger community – to open up civic discussion about what county government does," Drewel said Friday.

In addition to presentations, the use of electronic technology will allow the audience to respond to questions and see their answers tallied immediately. "It will be interesting to ask folks about their knowledge and perspectives on the county budget, and have everyone in the room see those answer at the same time," Drewel noted.

Drewel said he is announcing his budget recommendations earlier in the budget season this year in order to help encourage public participation and discourse as the county faces increasingly difficult funding and program decisions. Pressures include the critical need for transportation solutions at the same time that state transportation funding is being slashed and the local economy is softening.

"The public demands that we run government more like a business," Drewel noted, "and I think this budget shows how we do that – finding efficiencies, developing partnerships, and staying focused on the highest priorities.

"But we are very different from any business in one crucial way. We simply cannot drop a line of business because it isn't profitable. We are mandated by law to provide critical services, and we won't be getting out of the law enforcement business any time soon, no matter how expensive it gets."

In addition to the League of Women Voters, event co-sponsors include the chambers of commerce from Everett, South Snohomish County, Arlington and Marysville/Tulalip; Everett Rotary, the Snohomish County Labor Council, Pilchuck Audubon Society, Greater Port Gardner Bay Business & Professional Women, and the local chapter of the American Association of University Women.

###

CONTACT:

Bob Drewel, Snohomish County Executive	(425) 388-3879
Jim Hammond, Executive Management Analyst	(425) 388-3123
Dan Clements, Finance Director	(425) 388-3621

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 29 March 2001

ELIZABETH FRASER CULLEN TO HEAD OFFICE OF PUBLIC DEFENSE

Snohomish County Executive Bob Drewel announced that Elizabeth Fraser Cullen will join Snohomish County as Attorney Administrator for the county's recently reorganized Office of Public Defense. The appointment is subject to confirmation by the Snohomish County Council.

As Attorney Administrator for the Office of Public Defense, Ms. Cullen will have administrative responsibility for the services provided in the county's indigent criminal defense program. One of Ms. Cullen's responsibilities will be to review the county system for providing legal defense services, to ensure that it is both effective and efficient. She will also handle part of the calendar work that previously was contracted to outside attorneys.

For the past twelve years, Ms. Cullen has been a staff attorney with the Snohomish County Public Defender Association. She spent over four years in the defense of people accused of felonies and eight years in the defense of people accused of misdemeanors. During that time she also served as counsel for those with mental health issues facing involuntary commitment.

Over the years, Ms. Cullen has built strong working relationships with the District and Superior Courts, the Snohomish County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, the criminal defense bar, County Corrections, the Sheriff's Office, and other law enforcement agencies.

Ms. Cullen holds a law degree from the Columbus School of Law at the Catholic University of America. She is a member of both the Washington State Bar Association and the Snohomish County Bar Association.

Under the U.S. Constitution, all defendants are guaranteed assistance of counsel if they face the possibility of jail time in a criminal case. When criminal defendants are indigent, the government must provide them with an attorney. In the state of Washington, it falls to counties to provide criminal defense services to indigent defendants.

The County's Office of Public Defense makes initial determinations of indigency which establish eligibility for public defense, under the direction of policies set by state law. Most of the legal services

for indigent defendants are provided through contracts with non-county attorneys, such as those with the Public Defender Association (a non-profit agency) and private contract attorneys. Those contracts are administered by the Office of Public Defense. The Office of Public Defense also provides the courts with information about defendants that the courts use to determine conditions of release from jail pending trial.

The work of the Office of Public Defense has been handled by the county since the mid-1970s. Over time, this work has been under the direction of the courts (as the Department of Assigned Counsel), the department of corrections (as Court Services), and now the Office of Public Defense, which reports to the Executive office. The County Council re-configured the current Office of Public Defense this year upon the Executive's recommendation to help address the need for greater efficiency in criminal justice services. Together, all criminal justice expenditures now consume 65% of the county's general fund budget.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Wednesday, March 28, 2001

**DREWEL SEEKS START-UP BUSINESS EXPERT
TO SERVE ON COUNTY DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

Persons with business expertise are encouraged to volunteer for service on a county board that helps promote local economic development efforts.

The Pilchuck Development Corporation was chartered by Snohomish County to issue non-recourse industrial revenue bonds to finance eligible manufacturing facilities within Snohomish County. Its seven-member board, including County Executive Bob Drewel, reviews proposals and determines eligibility for participation. Current board members also include persons with banking and business experience. One vacancy currently exists; a board member with start-up business experience would be especially valuable, as would someone from east or north Snohomish County.

"The work of the Pilchuck Development Corporation ties in exactly with our goals of promoting local business with a focus on generating new manufacturing jobs. This helps diversify our local economy while helping to reduce commute times and increase community involvement," Drewel said. "The work of this board is very important."

Deadline for application is April 20. Nomination forms are available by calling Connie Mennie at 425-388-3876.

#

**CONTACT: Alison Sing, Senior Economic Development Officer, at 425-388-3380.
or Larry Springer, Housing & Community Development Manager, at 425-388-3047**

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For release: March 23, 2001

Granite Falls Bridge #102 to get new signals in May
Public open house set for March 29 at high school

WHAT: Public Open House on Granite Falls Bridge #102

WHEN: March 29, 2001, 6:30-8 p.m.

WHERE: Granite Falls High School Multipurpose Facility,
405 N. Alder Avenue, Granite Falls

Granite Falls Bridge #102, where Mountain Loop Highway crosses the South Fork of the Stillaguamish River northeast of Granite Falls, is long (340 feet) and narrow (20 feet). Its 10-foot lanes barely accommodate large passing vehicles. It's also busy. The span handles some 4,000 vehicle crossings daily, including a large number of gravel trucks.

Responding to local concerns, Snohomish County Public Works is making changes to the structure. Starting in May, county crews will convert the bridge from two lanes to one. They will restripe the bridge deck to create 3-foot shoulders on each side, leaving a 14-foot center vehicle lane.

The changes mean vehicles will be able to cross the bridge from only one direction at a time. To control the alternating traffic flow, crews will install loop sensors and traffic signals at each end of the bridge. When work is completed in June, vehicle operators will need to wait at either end of the bridge until they get a green light. The work will require brief, intermittent bridge closures, but should not cause any major inconveniences for bridge traffic.

The county plans to widen the bridge in the future. That \$3.1-million project will include deck replacement, widening, cleaning and painting of structural steel. These improvements will allow the county to reconfigure traffic on the bridge to two lanes once again.

Residents will have a chance to ask questions about the bridge project, look at project drawings and meet with representatives from Snohomish County Public Works at a public open house on March 29. The event will be held from 6:30-8 p.m. at the Granite Falls High School Multipurpose Facility, 405 N. Alder Avenue.

###

For more information, contact Project Engineer Darrell Ash at 425-388-6688.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Friday, March 23, 2001

Citizen Commission Proposes Salary Increases For County Elected Officials, Invites Public Comment March 27

Because Snohomish County ranks third statewide in terms of population and number of employees, but pay for its leaders lags behind, a citizen commission is proposing raises for county elected officials.

The 2002 proposed recommendations would increase pay by 2% for the Sheriff, the only Snohomish County elected official whose pay currently is ranked third compared with his peers statewide. Council salaries would increase from \$73,576 in 2000 to a \$84,872 base salary in 2002. Salary increases for the Executive, Assessor, Auditor, Clerk and Treasurer would range from 6 to 8%. Total impact to the county budget would be about \$62,000 annually if these recommendations were implemented.

The Salary Commission further proposes to separate the Prosecutor's salary from this process and permanently tie it to that of Superior Court Judges, whose salaries are determined at the state level. Current annual salary for a Superior Court Judge is \$111,548, compared with the Prosecutor's 2000 salary of \$105,227.

A public hearing to receive comments on these recommendations is scheduled for next Tuesday, March 27, at 7 p.m. in the Jackson Board Room, 6th floor of the County Administration Building. The Commission is charged with forwarding its salary recommendations to the County Council no later than May 15.

Seven citizen members comprise the Salary Commission. In addition to Chairman Donn Wells of Edmonds, commissioners include Barbara Earl of Mill Creek; Bob Shonka of Monroe; Mike Conrad, Earl Dutton and Walter Hall, all of Everett; and Caldie Rogers of Marysville.

The Salary Commission was created in 1997, at the recommendation of the Charter Review Commission, to "study the relationship between salaries and duties of elected officials other than judges and to recommend to the Council salaries that are based on realistic standards." The commission meets every two years to review and make salary recommendations.

###

Exhibit #1

Salary Commission Recommendation¹

(Adopted 3/20/01)²

2002 Base Salary Recommendations:

Executive	\$ 120,349
Sheriff	99,047
Assessor	85,383
Auditor	80,051
Clerk	79,630
Treasurer	79,630
Council	84,872

Summary

	2000	#2	#4	Mid-Point	2001 Sal. + 3% COLA
Executive	\$108,456	\$125,232	\$108,456	\$116,844	\$120,349
Prosecutor	\$105,227	\$108,300	\$108,300	\$108,300	\$111,549
Sheriff	\$94,623	\$101,100	\$91,224	\$96,162	\$99,047
Assessor	\$76,649	\$87,024	\$78,768	\$82,896	\$85,383
Auditor	\$73,334	\$82,104	\$73,334	\$77,719	\$80,051
Clerk	\$72,517	\$82,104	\$72,517	\$77,310	\$79,630
Treasurer	\$72,517	\$82,104	\$72,517	\$77,310	\$79,630
Council	\$73,576	\$91,224	\$73,576	\$82,400	\$84,872

1) Recommendation is 2000 midpoint of #2 and #4 salaries, adjusted for year 2002 starting base by adding the estimated 2001 COLA increase. Because the 2001 COLA rate is unknown at this time, it has been estimated at 3%. COLA increases are to be granted annually, including 2002, to affected elected officials at same time and rate as those for non-represented county employees.

2) Prosecutor's salary is not included in these recommendations because the Salary Commission

made a prior recommendation to separate the Prosecutor salary from consideration by tying it directly to the salary of Superior Court Judges, which is determined by a separate state process.

Exhibit #2

*2000 Elected Officials
Comparison with Other Jurisdictions
(revised 3/14/01)*

By Population			By # of Employees		
#	Population	County	#	Employees	County
1	1,685,600	King	1	10,682	King
2	706,000	Pierce	2	2,718	Pierce
3	593,500	Snohomish	3	2,415	Snohomish
4	415,000	Spokane	4	1,829	Spokane
5	345,000	Clark	5	1,430	Clark
6	230,200	Kitsap	6	1,172	Yakima
7	214,000	Yakima	7	1,080	Kitsap
8	204,300	Thurston	8	1,035	Thurston
9	163,500	Whatcom	9	753	Whatcom
10	140,700	Benton	10	640	Cowlitz

Rankings by % of King County (jurisdictions of 200,000+ population)				
County	Population	% of King	2000 Executive Salary	% of King
King	1,685,600	-----	\$142,584	-----
Pierce	706,002	42%	\$110,376	77%
Snohomish	593,500	35%	\$108,456	76%
Spokane	415,000	25%	\$78,768	55%
Clark	345,000	20%	\$125,232	88%

Kitsap	230,200	14%	\$95,016	67%
Yakima	214,000	13%	n/a	n/a
Thurston	204,300	12%	\$99,996	70%

Snohomish County Rankings by Year					
1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	Position
6	5	5	5	5	Assessor
6	5	5	5	4	Auditor
5	5	4	4	4	Clerk
11	11	7	2	6	Council Member
5	4	4	4	4	Executive
11	11	7	2	6	Prosecuting Attorney
4	4	4	4	3	Sheriff
5	4	4	4	4	Treasurer

Top 10's – 2000 (revised 3/14/01)

Executive			Sheriff		
#	Salary	County	#	Salary	County
1	\$142,584	King	1	\$119,340	King
2	\$125,232	Clark	2	\$101,100	Pierce
3	\$110,376	Pierce	3	\$ 94,623	Snohomish
4	\$108,456	Snohomish	4	\$ 91,224	Clark
5	\$ 99,996	Thurston	5	\$ 84,120	Kitsap
6	\$ 98,520	Clallam	6	\$ 81,996	Spokane
7	\$ 96,624	Whatcom	7	\$ 76,392	Thurston
8	\$ 95,016	Kitsap	8	\$ 74,580	Yakima
9	\$ 78,768	Spokane	9	\$ 72,984	Whatcom
10	\$ 74,964	Lewis	10	\$ 70,092	Benton

Top 10's – 2000 (revised 3/14/01)

Prosecuting Attorney			Treasurer		
#	Salary	County	#	Salary	County
1	\$122,916	King	1	\$87,024	Pierce
2	\$108,300	Kitsap	2	\$82,104	Clark
3	\$108,300	Yakima	3	\$78,768	Kitsap
4	\$108,300	Pierce	4	\$72,517	Snohomish
5	\$105,588	Clark	5	\$69,888	Thurston
6	\$105,227	Snohomish	6	\$63,528	Whatcom
7	\$102,888	Benton	7	\$63,384	Yakima
8	\$ 96,396	Thurston	8	\$63,084	Benton
9	\$ 95,664	Whatcom	9	\$58,992	Spokane
10	\$ 94,188	Skagit	10	\$58,680	Clallam

Top 10's – 2000 (revised 3/14/01)

Assessor			Clerk		
#	Salary	County	#	Salary	County
1	\$99,816	King	1	\$91,404	Pierce
2	\$87,024	Pierce	2	\$82,104	Clark
3	\$82,104	Clark	3	\$78,768	Kitsap
4	\$78,768	Kitsap	4	\$72,517	Snohomish
5	\$76,649	Snohomish	5	\$69,888	Thurston
6	\$69,888	Thurston	6	\$63,384	Yakima
7	\$63,528	Whatcom	7	\$63,084	Benton
8	\$63,384	Yakima	8	\$58,992	Spokane
9	\$63,084	Benton	9	\$58,512	Grays Harbor
10	\$58,992	Spokane	10	\$58,020	Lewis

Top 10's – 2000 (revised 3/14/01)

Auditor

Council Member

#	Salary	County	#	Salary	County
1	\$84,684	Pierce	1	\$94,848	King

2	\$82,104	Clark	2	\$91,224	Clark
3	\$78,768	Kitsap	3	\$83,052	Kitsap
4	\$73,334	<i>Snohomish</i>	4	\$73,576	<i>Snohomish</i>
5	\$69,888	Thurston	5	\$72,744	Thurston
6	\$63,528	Whatcom	6	\$70,092	Benton
7	\$63,384	Yakima	7	\$66,228	Pierce
8	\$63,084	Benton	8	\$64,560	Yakima
9	\$58,992	Spokane	9	\$61,908	Spokane
10	\$58,680	Clallam	10	\$61,896	Grays Harbor

CONTACT: Connie Mennie, Executive Office, 425-388-3876

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Monday, March 12, 2001

NEW PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTOR JOINS COUNTY

Snohomish County Executive Bob Drewel announced today that Faith L. Lumsden will join Snohomish County as Director of the county's Department of Planning and Development Services. The appointment is subject to confirmation by the Snohomish County Council.

As Director of Planning and Development Services (PDS), Lumsden manages county review of all land use and building permit applications, long range planning under the Growth Management Act, the office of the Fire Marshal, code enforcement, and community development services such as the Community Development Block Grant program, historic preservation, and economic development. Lumsden previously was director of the City of Bellevue's Land Use Division, and was interim director of Kitsap County's Community Development Department.

"I am delighted Faith Lumsden is joining our management team," Drewel said. "She has a great track record of success, and is respected throughout the region. Faith brings energy and insight into further improving our regulations and permitting system. She understands the challenges that lie ahead in managing growth to maintain and improve our quality of life and environment. I am pleased she will be implementing my Urban Agenda to better plan and manage growth in our urban neighborhoods."

Until her selection for the Snohomish County post, Lumsden was president of Lumsden International, Inc., a consulting firm providing land use and community development assistance to government and private sector clients throughout Western Washington. Snohomish County has been one of her clients, and Lumsden has played a leading role in ongoing efforts to reorganize, edit and simplify all Snohomish County development codes into a Unified Development Code, and to improve Urban Development Standards.

"I'm very pleased to move from the private sector back into public service," said Lumsden. "This is a pivotal time for implementing the very diverse goals that are adopted in our county comprehensive plan. This department has highly committed, creative staff, and I look forward to working with them to realize the vision of the plan," she said.

Lumsden is a former planner, holds a law degree from the University of Washington, and is active in the land use and environmental law section of the State Bar Association. She is a frequent speaker at training seminars and conferences on land use, regulatory reform, development issues, and integrating environmental, growth management, and shorelines regulations.

Lumsden will fill the position currently held by Stephen L. Holt, who was tapped last fall to join Drewel's senior

management team in the Executive Office.

"Faith is a talented and decisive manager," Drewel said, "yet she has a gift for listening to all sides to really understand different people's perspectives. She brings a keen intellect, a wry sense of humor, great problem-solving skills, and a profound commitment to leaving this a better world. She is the right person at the right time."

#

CONTACT: Steve Holt, Executive Director, (425) 388-3123

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Friday, March 9, 2001

**PAINE FIELD TO EXPERIENCE INCREASED FLIGHT ACTIVITY DURING BOEING
FIELD MAIN RUNWAY CLOSURES**

Seattle's Boeing Field today announced it will close its main runway to repair earthquake damage from Friday March 9 through Sunday, March 18 or sooner. During this period some corporate aircraft (generally business passenger planes and other large passenger planes) that cannot use Boeing Field's shorter second runway will likely use the Snohomish County Airport at Paine Field. As announced by the County last week, some cargo and air express aircraft have already been using Paine Field because quake damage shortened the usable portion of Boeing Field's main runway. Today's closure of the entire runway at Boeing Field will divert additional, mostly corporate aircraft traffic.

Closure of the main runway, 13R-31L, at the King County International Airport (KCIA) also known as Boeing Field in Seattle will begin at 7pm Friday March 9, 2001 and is anticipated to continue through Sunday March 18th, but may be completed sooner.

As announced last week, the Federal Aviation Administration will extend the operating period for the Air Traffic Control Tower to 24-hours a day during this time to ensure safe and efficient aircraft operations.

Snohomish County Airport at Paine Field was the only major Puget Sound airport left undamaged by the earthquake. Federal law dictates that additional air traffic can be diverted to Paine Field until temporary repairs are completed at Boeing Field. Airports are governed by federal law and cannot reject any legally registered and operational aircraft. Snohomish County must also adhere to the grant assurances that were signed when the county accepted the airport from the federal government.

"All of the cargo and air express operators have been helpful and understanding of local noise issues," said Airport Director Dave Waggoner. "They have expressed a willingness to minimize the impact of Paine Field operations by using their quietest aircraft here, and by minimizing late night and early morning operations."

Operators desiring to set up temporary operations are being urged to use only their quietest aircraft and to avoid operations after 10 p.m. and before 7 a.m. One company has agreed to

use newer stage three cargo aircraft at Paine Field instead of the noisier hush kit aircraft normally used for Boeing Field operations. Unfortunately small corporate operators often have fewer options for reducing noise than larger cargo operators. Paine Field staff is working with operators to inform them about Paine Field's Aircraft Noise Policy and it is hoped that cooperation will minimize the impact of these temporary operations on Paine Field's neighbors.

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**CONTACT: Bill Dolan, Airport Director - Airfield
at 425 353-2110 extension 2228 Deputy**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Friday, September 28, 2001

Snohomish County Executive Proposes Lean Budget: Invests In Public Safety, Urbanizing Areas, Human Services, And Technology

***"Our approach, in tough times,
is to do things simply and do them well."***

Snohomish County Executive Bob Drewel today released to the County Council his proposed Year 2002 budget. It is his tenth budget as County Executive. Recognizing the difficult times faced by the nation and this region, Drewel proposed a lean budget that refocuses limited resources on a few essentials.

"The horrible attacks in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania are fresh in everyone's minds. The Boeing layoffs will pose a serious economic challenge to this community," Drewel said.

"Although we have tough times ahead, I am hopeful that we will weather the storm, because we have a great team here in Snohomish County. The public demands that we run government more like a business, and I think this budget shows how we do that — finding efficiencies, developing partnerships, and staying focused on the highest priorities," he said.

"But we are very different from any business in one crucial way – we simply cannot drop a line of business because it isn't profitable. We are mandated by law to provide critical services, and we won't be getting out of the law enforcement business any time soon, no matter how expensive it gets."

Drewel's budget cuts approximately \$2.5 million in programming to fund investments in Sheriff's deputies, energy/weatherization, increased funding for the Health District, a Clerk's document imaging/management system, and other technology upgrades to improve customer service. Drewel's proposed 2002 budget also makes significant expenditures on a new campus master plan, a new jail, and urban drainage -- all previously funded through long-term

bonds.

Drewel outlined the key factors that shaped his budget, including slowdowns in the national and regional economy, the failure of the State Legislature to fund transportation improvements, and significant revenue cuts triggered by Initiative 695, both to the county and to the health district.

The 2002 budget totals \$654.7 million, which holds basic county operations flat. An increase in cyclical capital expenditures -- for parks acquisition, drainage engineering, and beginning to construct a much needed new county jail facility -- causes the total budget to increase by 14% compared with 2001. Overall county staffing would increase 1% (by 27 positions), mostly for roads.

The county's General Fund would add fewer than two positions, and totals \$161.8 million. That is a 4.6% increase over 2001, primarily for public safety. This is at a time when health-care costs are up 22%, energy costs have soared, and public safety demands continue to mushroom.

Drewel proposes adding five Sheriff's deputies. At the same time, he cut staff in six other departments, including 22 staff from Planning and Development Services. Since 1992, Drewel has added 75 positions to the Sheriff's department.

Drewel commented on the growing cost for public safety. "Public safety will consume 68% of next year's General Fund budget. Five years ago, it was 57%," Drewel said. "Our legally mandated public safety costs continue to increase, leaving fewer dollars for human services, parks, managing growth, and other services. Unless the State either provides the financial support necessary for the programs they mandate, or our public supports local tax measures to support specific programs, in future years we will be eliminating services and programs that many residents rely on," Drewel said.

The budget calls for a 1.89% increase in the countywide property tax levy. This is equal to the national implicit price deflator, and is 2% less than the local consumer price index during the same period. Noting the urgent and substantial need to address traffic congestion, Drewel recommends a 6% increase for the road levy for unincorporated parts of the county to fund road capacity improvements.

Drewel noted that his proposed cuts, as well as conservative and prudent management of the county's finances in past years, now allows the county to weather the economic uncertainties of 2002 without crisis. In addition to the economy and its impact on county revenues, Drewel cited the possible impact of Initiative 747, on the November ballot. If approved, I-747 will reduce 2002 General Fund revenues by approximately \$492,000 and the Road Fund by \$1.8 million, Drewel said.

"Because of good management, we can absorb cuts next year. But I-747 creates a significant budget challenge in succeeding years," Drewel said. "Over the next six years of our

Transportation Improvement Plan, I-747 will cut approximately \$47 million in county funds. This could translate into a total loss of \$60-90 million due to our lost ability to leverage state and federal dollars," Drewel said. "This would be a major blow to our ability to ensure the mobility of Snohomish County residents and the economic viability of goods and services."

To gain more efficiencies for coming years, Drewel proposes that the county and its partners study ways to cut operating costs while retaining services. Drewel focused on seven areas for study: exploring efficiencies with the Health District; better coordination of various county emergency service agencies; possible consolidation of various water resource functions; cost-saving opportunities in the Sheriff's Office; Animal Control; coordination between the Prosecuting Attorney and other law and justice agencies; and cost restraints in the Office of Public Defense. Drewel asked for findings by June 2002.

"This is a back-to-basics budget delivered at a time when there is much reason for uncertainty in our economy and in the business challenges that we face," Drewel said. "Our approach, in tough times, is to do things simply and do them well."

The County Council must adopt a 2002 county budget by December of this year.

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CONTACT:

Bob Drewel, Snohomish County Executive	(425) 388-3879
Dan Clements, Finance Director	(425) 388-3621
Roger Neumaier, Assistant Finance Director	(425) 388-3862

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Tuesday, September 11, 2001 (12:30 PM)

CONTACT: Bob Drewel, Snohomish County Executive, 425-388-3879
Gary Weikel, Deputy Executive, 425-388-3643

**SNOHOMISH COUNTY OFFICES REMAIN OPEN,
COUNTY RESPONDS TO PROTECT PUBLIC SAFETY**

Snohomish County Executive Bob Drewel held a news conference today to announce that notwithstanding today's tragic events elsewhere in the nation, Snohomish County government offices will remain open to serve the public as usual. Drewel appealed to people to remain calm and urged citizens to continue to respect and honor the diversity of people that make our country great, to refrain from rushing to judgment, and to leave it to the national authorities to assign blame and apprehend those responsible.

Drewel and elected officials from throughout Washington State participated in an 11:30 AM conference call with Governor Gary Locke to coordinate state and local government response to today's tragedy in New York, Washington D.C. and elsewhere.

"Snohomish County government remains open for business as usual," said Drewel. "This is a national tragedy, but we must not let those who did this succeed in shutting our nation down," said Drewel. Drewel said that Governor Locke has ordered the state Capitol to reopen at 1:00 today.

"We all are shocked and concerned about the news of attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Our prayers are with those who were injured or killed, and their families who love them," said Drewel. "But now it is time to return to calm, to continue our lives, and begin healing the tragedy behind us," he said.

Drewel reported that local and state governments continue to respond to protect public safety. He reported the following actions:

- Paine Field Airport in Everett and other airports will be closed until at least

Wednesday morning on order of the FAA. Medical and Search & Rescue flights will continue as usual;

- Washington State Ferries are closed to car traffic;
- Earlier traffic jams on I-5 have been cleared;
- The Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management, and the Navy Base in Everett are both on alert.
- Snohomish County campus security will be heightened to watch for anything unusual. People may experience longer delays to clear security entering the courthouse -- we hope you understand this is for your safety, please be patient.
- Those wanting to find out if a loved one is safe can contact the Red Cross at 425 252-4103.
- The Puget Sound Blood Center is also responding to people who wish to donate blood to help. Because of the overwhelming response, the Everett branch at 2703 Oakes reports current waiting times of about 3 hours. The blood bank asks donors to contact their toll-free line at 1-800-398-7888 to be given an appointment for donation. Deputy Executive Gary Weikel has authorized the release of county employees to the Puget Sound Blood Bank, subject to supervisor approval, to give blood.

Drewel met earlier today with the Sheriff, Boeing and others, and will continue to monitor developments.

In addition to the County's response, Drewel advised citizens to remain calm. "This is a terrible tragedy, and it may be hard to imagine that things will be the same again. In times like these, people may feel anger and a natural instinct to lash out. But we need to remember we are a county and a nation of diverse people – and that is what has made us great. I call for Snohomish County citizens to be respectful. Do not make judgments based on the color of someone's skin, what they wear, or their religion. We are all Americans. Let the federal authorities do their jobs to discover who is responsible for the attacks, and to bring those responsible to justice," Drewel said.

"This is an emotional time for everyone. As we hold the people affected in our hearts, let's be kind and understanding with one another. Everyone will need a little extra sympathy and compassion today."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 15 August 2001

Outreach Meeting August 30th

County council reaching out to hear from citizens

How does Snohomish County spend your tax dollars and how could the county do a better job? The county council wants to hear from you!

The Snohomish County Council will hold a Public Outreach Meeting Thursday, August 30, 2001 to both explain what the county does with the public's taxes and to solicit recommendations for improving services. The meeting will be held from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the East County Senior Center, 824 Village Way, Monroe.

"Good government requires a two-way conversation," said County Council Chair Dave Somers, "and the better part of that dialogue obliges government to listen to the people. That's why we are coming to East County August 30th for another in the county council's series of outreach meetings this year," he said. The council first outreach meeting was held in Arlington in April.

"We want to hear from citizens on ways we can improve county government," said Somers. "There will be short presentations on county government's wide ranging responsibilities and the costs of providing these mandated services, and we will report on some of the challenges the county faces."

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Contact Dave Somers at 425-388-3494
or dave.somers@co.snohomish.wa.us

For Release: July 18, 2001

Asphalt work will top off 228th St. SE/SW project ***Motorists advised to take alternative routes during paving***

After two years of construction, it's come down to this: the last 2 inches of asphalt.

When Snohomish County's contractor, Tydico Construction, Inc., finishes its final paving "lift" next week (July 23-27), the \$9-million 228th Street SE/SW Street Improvements project will be just about done—within budget and ahead of schedule. After that, it will be relatively clear sailing along the newly widened three-to-five-lane arterial. All that will be left to do between 9th Avenue SE and Locust Way will be some painting, striping and landscaping.

Crews also will have some connections to complete on the five new traffic signals in the 1.6-mile project area. The first of the new signals, at 228th and Meridian Avenue, was put into operation in late June.

"It's been a long haul," says the Public Works Resident Engineer Bob Morrison. "But the end is in sight. By the end of August, traffic will be flowing through here like it was meant to when we designed this project."

Traffic won't flow much at all, though, during the four to five days of paving, Morrison warns: "Congestion could get downright ugly all along 228th, with frequent, significant delays of 30 minutes or longer. I wouldn't plan on driving through the corridor at all during the paving operation."

Flaggers, signage and barricades will help direct traffic through the construction zone.

Snohomish County, the City of Bothell, the contractor and the utilities wish to thank the public for their patience and cooperation during this lengthy project. We realize the construction process has created a hardship for many residents and commuters, but when the project is completed, 228th Street SE/SW will be a vastly improved, more efficient and safer thoroughfare for motorists, pedestrians and residents alike.

For up-to-date information on the project, call the County Roads Construction Hotline toll-free at 1-800-562-4367, ext. 3993. (TDD/TTY users call WA Relay Center at 1-800-833-6388.)

#

*Contact: Bob Morrison, Resident Engineer, 425-482-6859
Wayne Lee, Public Involvement Coordinator, 425-388-3789*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 5, 2001

Grant Will Help Children Of Homeless Families

The Medina Foundation announced today that it is making a three year grant to assist children of homeless families in Snohomish County. The purpose of the grant is to support the county community in its work to ensure that homeless children have access to the community resources they depend on.

"Every child should have a childhood," said Snohomish County Executive Bob Drewel. "Kids whose parents become homeless lose not only their homes, they can also lose contact with friends, their schools, books, neighborhood parks, and Little League. This grant is a wonderful opportunity for our community to pull together for the kids."

Sarri Gilman, former executive director of Cocoon House, will facilitate the project over the three year period. She will work with existing social service agencies, housing providers, schools, and concerned community members to fill the gaps in childhood resources for homeless children. The first year grant award is \$300,000.

"Snohomish County has been blessed with a very special partnership among non-profit and public agencies," said Executive Drewel. "Many of these groups have joined together in the Homeless Policy Task Force to make the best possible use of resources in support of people in grave need. This project will build on that partnership," Drewel said.

The Homeless Policy Task Force has quickly established a record of accomplishment. For example, by creating a common vision to deal with homelessness, in 2000, the Task Force was instrumental in securing an additional 1275 housing vouchers for needy people in Snohomish County.

"My best childhood memories involve playing with neighborhood kids, attending after-school activities, and going horseback riding – knowing that they'd always there for me," Bob Drewel said. "If my family had had to move from shelter to shelter, or live in a car, I wouldn't have had any of that. No child should have to lose a childhood."

The Medina Foundation is located in Seattle and supports organizations in the greater Puget Sound area involved in education, human services, persons with disabilities, and alcohol and drug abuse.

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CONTACT: Margery Hite, Executive Director, 425-388-3297

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 5 March 2001

All County Property Owners to Receive Property Tax Statements

Beginning this year, the Snohomish County Treasurer's Office will mail property tax statements to all taxpayers, whether or not their taxes are actually remitted by a mortgage company. Property owners who have their mortgage company pay their taxes, do not have to forward these statements to their mortgage company as the companies have already been notified of the taxes due. These statements are provided to taxpayers as an information-only courtesy.

"This change will actually save money because our office won't have to change name and address records each time there is a transfer of mortgage servicing," said Snohomish County Treasurer Bob Dantini. "The change will provide a direct 'connect' with taxpayers who might not have previously received a copy of the statement from their mortgage company. The tax statement contains useful information about how taxes are distributed to all the taxing districts. It's important we know how our taxes are spent," he said.

Beginning with first half 2001 taxes, taxpayers will also have the option of paying taxes with an automatic debit to their bank account on the due date. "This process uses the Automated Clearing House (ACH) method of moving money in a very secure manner," Dantini said. "Sometimes even the most well-intentioned forget to pay their taxes on the due date. This option will eliminate the possibility of a having to pay interest and penalty due to a late payment".

Taxpayers will continue to have the option of paying their taxes by mail (postmarked on or before the due date), at any branch of Frontier Bank (current year tax only), or in person at the treasurers office on the second floor of the County Administration Building, 3000 Rockefeller Ave., in Everett. For additional information, contact the treasurer's office at treasurer@co.snohomish.wa.us or call 425-388-3366.

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For immediate release: Friday, March 2, 2001

Independent Committee Advising County On Redevelopment Plan Selects Leaders

A Snohomish attorney, Janice Ellis, has been elected chair of the independent Citizen Advisory Committee reviewing Snohomish County's plans to redevelop its downtown Everett campus. The new committee vice chair is Kathy Panfili, a customer service manager for Verizon.

The committee was created by County Executive Bob Drewel "to review, discuss, analyze and challenge the County's assumptions" related to the campus master planning efforts, including new administrative and jail space adjacent to the current facilities. The committee also is expected to comment on the advisability of demolition, renovation and/or preservation of specific structures.

In late January, the committee has toured the county jail and courthouse buildings. It also has met twice to receive background briefings on the county's space needs, customer service issues, and its current downtown Everett administrative space leases. Committee members will tour the county's Mission and Carnegie Buildings, both officially recognized as historically significant, on March 8 with the county's historic preservation officer, Louise Lindgren. Committee member Ed Morrow also sits on the Everett Historical Commission.

Other committee members include Brian Benzel of Edmonds, Carolyn Eslick of Sultan, Shawn Hoban of Everett, Cynthia Mackenzie of Snohomish, Patrick McMahan of Mountlake Terrace, Brent Stewart of Everett, and Diane Symms of Mukilteo. The committee meets monthly and is advisory to County Executive Bob Drewel. He is charged with carrying out the County Council's directive last June to forego the possibility of moving county offices to the former BOMARC property at Paine Field and, rather, to redevelop its current downtown Everett campus.

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**CONTACT: Kathy Panfili, Committee Vice Chair, 425-261-5353
Connie Mennie, Committee Staff, 425-388-3876**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: **Thursday, March 1, 2001**

QUAKE DAMAGE AT BOEING FIELD TEMPORARILY DIVERTS FLIGHTS TO PAINE

Snohomish County Airport at Paine Field is the only major Puget Sound airport left undamaged by yesterday's earthquake. Two Alaska Airlines 737 passenger aircraft diverted to Paine Field yesterday shortly after the earthquake shut down SeaTac's operations. SeaTac is coming back up to normal operation levels using a temporary air traffic control tower. In contrast, the main runway of Seattle's Boeing Field suffered serious damage. Consequently, federal law dictates that additional air traffic can be diverted to Paine Field until temporary repairs are completed at Boeing Field, which preliminary estimates may take two weeks or longer.

Corporate, air express and air cargo aircraft operations normally based at Boeing Field have been displaced until temporary runway repairs can be completed. Many of these operations are expected to come to Paine Field, the only available Puget Sound airfield adequate for many corporate and transport aircraft.

Airports are governed by federal law and cannot reject any legally registered and operational aircraft. Snohomish County operates under these laws and must also adhere to the grant assurances that were signed when the county accepted the airport from the federal government.

"All of the projected operators have been helpful and understanding of local noise issues," said Airport Director Dave Waggoner. "They have expressed a willingness to minimize the impact of Paine Field operations by using their quietest aircraft here, and by minimizing late night and early morning operations."

Paine Field has the capacity to accept these diverted operations and has arranged for the FAA tower to remain open 24 hours a day to ensure safety. Bruce Goetz, the Airport Superintendent of Operations, has received several calls from corporate aircraft operators and air express/cargo companies who need to use Paine Field for their operations. Goetz has provided operational information on the airport facilities and support services available from

Fliteline Services and BFGoodrich.

Each potential user of the airfield is being briefed on Paine Field's Aircraft Noise Policy to reduce noise impacts on neighboring homes and businesses. Corporate and Cargo operators desiring to set up temporary operations are being urged to use only their quietest aircraft and to avoid operations after 10 p.m. and before 7 a.m. One company has agreed to use newer stage three cargo aircraft at Paine Field instead of the noisier hush kit aircraft normally used for Boeing Field operations. It is hoped that this type of cooperation will minimize the impact of these temporary operations on Paine Field's neighbors.

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**CONTACT: Bruce Goetz, 425-353-2110 x2230
Paine Field Superintendent of Operations**

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For release: June 22, 2001

County/Everett to start work on 112th Street SW/SE project

Snohomish County Public Works and Everett Public Works will begin making street improvements in early July along a 1¼ -mile segment 112th Street SW/SE between SR 99 (Evergreen Way) and 3rd Avenue SE. This important South County minor arterial is located ½-mile south of the Everett Mall area, partially within the City of Everett and partially within the County.

The purpose of the project is to improve safety, increase traffic capacity / level of service, facilitate multi-modal usage and enhance the existing condition of the local roadside streams (tributaries to Swamp Creek and North Creek). This portion of 112th currently carries 12,000-14,000 vehicles per day, a figure that is projected to double by the year 2015.

The existing facility poorly accommodates bicycles and pedestrians. Transit facilities exist, but the heavy traffic restricts merging and reduces transit efficiency. These deficiencies will be resolved by the street improvements.

Crossings of Swamp and North Creek tributaries are under capacity, which results in periodic flooding and road closures. The North Creek tributary also has a significant fish barrier (i.e., stream velocity), which is caused by its enclosure in more than 800 feet of 24-inch-diameter culvert. Replacing the cross culverts and creating a new stream channel for the North Creek tributary will significantly improve both conditions. The new stream channel will re-establish flow to a beautifully wooded portion of the historic route.

Construction Impacts

This year's construction work (Stage 1 of the overall project) will begin around July 1 and will continue through late September or early October. Stage 1 activities will include:

- Tree salvage (in progress);
- Culvert crossing at 115th St. SW (near 9th Pl. W.);
- Four detention / water-quality ponds;
- Traffic signal improvement at 112th Street SE and 4th Avenue W.; and
- Ditch / culvert work on 116th Street SE (tentative).

The culvert crossing at 115th St. SW will require **total road closure from around July 1 through late September or early October**. A detour route will be clearly marked with signs and barriers. Construction also may require some temporary interruptions of driveway access, but it will not affect mail delivery or other essential services.

Stage 2

Stage 2 of the 112th Street SW/SE project will occur during 2002-2003. It will complete the process of bringing 112th Street SW up to urban standards. Stage 2 activities will include:

- Widening the existing two lanes to five lanes (plus bike lanes) from SR 99 on the west to 3rd Avenue SE on the east end (approximately 0.6 miles west of I-5);
- Curb, gutter and sidewalk on both sides of the street;
- Completing traffic signal improvements at the intersections of 112th Street SW / 4th Avenue W. and 112th Street SE / 3rd Avenue SE;
- Illumination;
- Storm drainage improvements along 112th Street;
- Channel / culvert work along 116th Street SE and 2nd Avenue SE to accommodate stream enhancement;
- Culvert replacements on Swamp Creek and North Creek tributaries;
- One detention / water-quality pond; and
- Steam/wetland mitigation.

Related Work

Utilities will be relocating their facilities to make way for the County improvement work. These relocations will be constructed by the utilities during 2001 and 2002 under separate contracts.

Snohomish County Public Works also is in the process of improving 112th Street SW from SR 99 to Beverly Park Road, and then south on Beverly Park Road to SR 525. Improvements in that area will include widening the road to a five-lane configuration with two lanes in each direction and a center turn lane. A raised median may be proposed at appropriate locations. Auxiliary lanes will be added where needed at intersections.

The proposed roadway section also will include a bicycle lane, curb, gutter and sidewalk on

each side of the street. Enclosed drainage, storm water detention and water-quality facilities will be constructed. Wetland mitigation will be constructed to mitigate disturbed wetlands. This project also will relocate and rehabilitate approximately 400 feet of York Creek in the vicinity of Beverly Park Road and 121st Street SW.

For more information, call Project Manager Doug McCormick at 425-388-6655 or e-mail him at dmccormick@co.snohomish.wa.us.

#

Contact: Doug McCormick, Project Manager, 425-388-6655
Wayne Lee, Public Involvement Coordinator, 425-388-3789

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For release: June 7, 2001

County to discuss Machias-OK Mill bridges replacement

*Public invited to June 19 open
house at Machias Elementary School*

Area residents who live near or drive over the Machias-OK Mill Road Bridge #44 or Dubuque Creek Bridge #423 are invited to attend a June 19 open house to discuss bridge replacement proposals. The event, hosted by Snohomish County Public Works, will be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Machias Elementary School gymnasium, 231 – 147th Avenue SE, Snohomish.

Machias Bridge #44 crosses the Pilchuck River about 400 feet east of Machias Road. The site is 2 miles east of Lake Stevens, 7 miles east of Everett and 4 miles north of Snohomish. It provides central access from the north and south arterials serving the east population and the west Pilchuck Valley area. Dubuque Creek Bridge #423 lies east of the river and crosses Dubuque Creek, a tributary to the river.

"The type, size and location of the existing bridges all indicate they need to be replaced," says Snohomish County Bridge Engineer Darrell Ash. "The structures are still safe, but they have been classified as functionally obsolete. The new bridges will be longer, wider and safer."

The proposed Bridge #44 will be located immediately to the south of the existing bridge. This will allow the County to build the new bridge without having to close the existing bridge or create detour routes. Consequently, the construction impacts will be minimal for most bridge users.

Likewise, the proposed Dubuque Bridge #423 replacement will require no detours or bridge closures, although some lane closures and delays will occur.

This \$8-million project also will include intersection improvements at Machias and OK Mill roads. The existing intersection is located on a curve with poor sight distance. Intersection improvements will include realignment and additional vehicle turn lanes. An underground City

of Snohomish waterline will need to be relocated.

Construction is scheduled to begin in 2004, pending the environmental review process, permit approvals and right-of-way acquisition. This project is funded by a combination of county, state and federal grants.

At the open house, citizens may speak with County staff and look at maps and graphics depicting the existing bridge and intersection, as well as several design alternatives. Staff will be happy to answer any questions from the public.

###

For more information, call Project Manager Jeri Bernstein at
425-388-3195. (TTY users: 425-388-3700.)
E-mail: jeri.bernstein@co.snohomish.wa.us.

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For immediate Release: 21 February 2001

County Commission Invites Public To Comment On Officials' Salaries

Citizens who want to weigh in on how much county elected officials are paid will have their chance at two upcoming public hearings, the independent salary commission recently announced. Public hearings at which citizens may testify have been scheduled for Tuesday, March 13, and **Tuesday, March 27**. Both hearings begin at 7 p.m. in the Jackson Board Room on the sixth floor of the County Administration Building, 3000 Rockefeller, Everett.

"The salary commission works for the good of the citizens of Snohomish County, both in terms of best use of tax dollars and also in attracting quality candidates for public service," said Donn Wells, returning as commission chair for 2001.

The commission's next business meeting is scheduled for 2 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 27, in the Jackson Board Room. Subsequent business meetings will take place March 6 and March 20, also at 2 p.m., in the Willis Tucker Conference Room on the third floor of the County Administration Building.

Seven citizen members comprise the Salary Commission. In addition to Wells, commissioners include Caldie Rogers of Marysville, Barbara Earl of Mill Creek, Bob Shonka of Monroe, and Walter Hall, Mike Conrad and Earl Dutton, all of Everett.

The commission will study job descriptions of elected officials and make salary comparisons between Snohomish County and other counties. It may also consider salaries in the private sector. County elected officials have been invited to comment at the March 6 meeting. The Commission is charged with making salary level recommendations to the County no later than May 15.

The Salary Commission was created in 1997, at the recommendation of the Charter Review Commission, to "study the relationship between salaries and duties of elected officials other than judges and to recommend to the Council salaries that are based on realistic standards." The commission meets every two years to review and make salary recommendations. Officials whose salaries are under review include the Assessor, Auditor, Clerk, Council, Executive, Prosecuting Attorney, Sheriff and Treasurer. Judges' salaries are exempt because they are determined by a statewide schedule.

###

CONTACT: Bill Cook at 425-388-3874.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 7, 2001

Vernon Road/Bridge closure extended through April

Vernon Road between 95th Avenue and Lundeen Park Way will continue to be closed to all through traffic through April, Snohomish County Public Works has announced. The extended road and bridge closure is necessary while the County's contractor, PCT, Inc., completes construction of the new Bridge #125, which is on Vernon Road just north of Frontier Village near Lake Stevens.

Through traffic along Vernon Road will continue to take the detour route along Highway 9 and Lundeen Park Way. Vernon Road remains open up to the bridge abutments for local access and emergency vehicles.

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.

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For more information, call Project Engineer Gary Harris at 425-388-3488, ext. 4274.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 31 JANUARY 2001

Snohomish County imposes emergency moratorium on sex offender housing

The Snohomish County Council has imposed an emergency moratorium to prevent the location of transitional housing for violent sex offenders near Monroe. The moratorium suspends the acceptance of permit applications for such housing for up to a year while the county reviews proposals to update the county code which currently does not define location criteria for these facilities.

The state Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), under court order to provide transitional housing for some of the states most violent sexual predators, last month announced a narrowed-down list of four sites statewide, including one at the Monroe Honor Farm in the Tualco Valley south of the city of Monroe. DSHS's first choice is a site adjacent to the state's main prison in Walla Walla. Two other sites are located in Spokane County.

Snohomish County will be working closely with Monroe and local residents to fight the state's decision, said County Council chair Dave Somers.

Somers denounced DSHS's secret site selection process and said that the choice of the honor farm violated the state's own selection criteria. Somers said that while Walla Walla may be the first choice, that site can only take three offenders and other housing locations will have to be quickly opened elsewhere.

"DSHS never involved the community, the city of Monroe or Snohomish County before making their decision and we can't accept that," said Somers. "Monroe already has more than its fair share of state corrections facilities, including the State Reformatory and the Twin Rivers Correction Center, and several other halfway houses for sex offenders are already located in the county."

"The honor farm does not meet the states own guidelines," said Somers. "It's more than five minutes away from nearest police and emergency services, and its right next to heavily used

public facilities."

Somers said the popular 360-acre Crescent Lake Wildlife Area is directly across the street from the honor farm's current prisoner housing. "Crescent Lake is a major hunting area and a very popular year-round bird watching site that is listed in several state birding guides," said Somers. "That same street, Crescent Lake Road, is a major thoroughfare used by hundreds of bicyclists in the summer," he said. "It, too, is listed in numerous regional bicycling guides."

Somers also noted that the planned extension of the county's Centennial Trail will run along Highway 203 on the opposite or east side of the farm property.

"I just don't know what they could have been thinking when they chose that site," said Somers.

The moratorium goes into effect immediately; however, the county council will hold a required public hearing to take public testimony on the moratorium on March 28th at 6:30 p.m. at a Monroe location to be announced at a later date. The [entire text](#) of the moratorium can be viewed on the county's web site.

###

Contact: Dave Somers at 425-388-3494 or dave.somers@co.snohomish.wa.us

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 28 March 2001

County Council reaffirms moratorium on sex offender housing, begins formal county code revision process

The Snohomish County Council has reaffirmed an emergency moratorium, first approved on January 31, 2001, to prevent the location of transitional housing for violent sex offenders near Monroe. In a public hearing held Wednesday, March 28, 2001 at the Monroe High School, the council also adopted a work plan that outlines the subsequent process and schedule for revising the county code.

The emergency moratorium suspended the acceptance of permit applications for sex offender housing for up to a year while the county reviews proposals to update the county code which currently does not define location criteria for these facilities.

Contact: Dave Somers at 425-388-3494 or dave.somers@co.snohomish.wa.us

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 23, 2001

County offers free erosion control workshop for small builders

A free January 25 workshop will help small builders in Snohomish County understand new water quality codes and speed up the building permit process, Snohomish County Planning & Development Services (PDS) has announced. Erosion Control Measures for Small Builders of Single Family Residences will focus on the County's Best Management Practices (BMPs) for temporary erosion and sediment control (TESC). The event will be held Thursday evening, January 25, from 6:30-9 p.m. in the Ginni Stevens Hearing Room on the 1st Floor of the County Administration Bldg., 3000 Rockefeller, in downtown Everett.

"This workshop will give small builders some in-depth, user-friendly information so they can accomplish satisfactory erosion control and water quality at their construction sites," says PDS Water Quality Specialist Ed Caine. "Water quality is a major component of critical areas and drainage reviews. But a lot of people may not know that water quality codes were changed in 1998. Over the past two years, many people—especially those who have not obtained a building or grading permit during that time—have experienced unanticipated delays in permit processing. This workshop should help all small builders understand the new codes and get their permits in a more timely manner."

Among the topics to be discussed are how to:

- Avoid wet areas or areas of unknown stability on construction sites;
- Plan erosion control during the early design stages of their project;
- Divert run-off water from disturbed areas;
- Stabilize and protect disturbed areas;
- Create natural buffer zones and soil stabilizers;
- Identify and avoid critical areas;
- Find cost-effective solutions for water quality control on problem sites; and
- Solve water quality management problems in single family construction.

For more information or to sign up for the workshop, call PDS at 425-388-3311, ext. 2393, or visit the PDS Permit Counter on the 5th Floor of the County Administration Bldg., 3000 Rockefeller, in downtown Everett.

#

Contact: Ed Caine, Water Quality Specialist, 425-388-3311, ext. 2961
Wayne Lee, Public Involvement Coordinator, 425-388-3789

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Friday, Jan. 12, 2001

Selection Of Jail Design Firm Marks County's First Step Toward Downtown Campus Renovations

Snohomish County Executive Bob Drewel has announced the selection of NBBJ, an architectural firm based in Seattle, to design the county's new justice center. The justice center is one part of the comprehensive renovation of the county's downtown campus. Design work will include a 640-bed jail, four courtrooms and associated remodeling of the current courthouse, and ancillary jail services including a kitchen and laundry.

The selection was made Jan. 10 following interview panels with the top three candidate firms responding to the county's request for qualifications. County officials cited NBBJ's strong presentation, including its commitment to preserving the historic significance of current county buildings while anticipating future technologies to provide efficient government services. As an example, the NBBJ presentation cited a vision for designing the county's Wall Street streetscape into a "great front porch" for the downtown Everett community.

"We are very excited about this design opportunity," said Dennis C. Forsyth, principal in the NBBJ firm. "We can't wait to get started."

The county's facilities director, Larry Van Horn, said that additional master planning for new administrative offices will "be on the heels" of this contract, with a request for qualifications to be released in the coming weeks. That design work will be much broader, including recommendations for administrative building placement on the current campus, customer service improvements, parking and transportation access, and long-range projections for space and facilities needs.

"Snohomish County and our design teams are interested in bringing together our own plans and those of the City of Everett to help spark increased vitality and urban renewal," said Deputy Executive Gary Weikel. "It just seems like a prime opportunity for all of us."

###

CONTACT: Larry Van Horn, Facilities Director, 425-388-3035
Gary Weikel, Executive Director, 425-388-3448

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For release: May 25, 2001

County to hold public meeting on Woods Cr. Bridge project

***Monroe area residents will have chance
to comment at June 7 event***

WHAT: Public meeting on Woods Creek Bridge #6 Replacement

WHEN: Thursday, June 7, 2001, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

(County presentation at 7 p.m.)

**WHERE: Salem Woods Elementary School Gymnasium,
12802 Wagner Road, Monroe.**

Snohomish County Public Works is proposing to rebuild Woods Creek Bridge #6 next year. The structure crosses Woods Creek at Old Owen Road at the Monroe city limits, about 1.2 miles above the creek's confluence with the Skykomish River. The existing wood-and-concrete structure was built in 1959 and is considered functionally obsolete.

The public is invited to a public meeting on June 7 to discuss the project. The meeting will be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Salem Woods Elementary School Gymnasium at 12802 Wagner Road, Monroe. An open house will be followed at 7 p.m. by a brief presentation by County staff and a question-and-answer period.

Old Owen Road, which is classified as a rural area major collector, carries local and through-traffic between Monroe and rural areas to the northeast. The project site will encompass a 532-foot-long stretch of the road. The new bridge will be a single-span, concrete structure 82 feet long and 40 feet wide, located in essentially the same place as the existing bridge. It will have two 12-foot travel lanes and two 8-foot shoulders.

The project will involve removing the existing bridge and replacing it with a longer structure that requires no in-stream piers. The wider bridge and bridge approaches will accommodate wider road lanes, shoulders and pedestrian facilities.

"There is no question Bridge #6 needs to be replaced," says Darrell Ash, County Bridge Engineer. "There is some discussion, though, about the best way to replace it. Since we cannot construct a new bridge parallel to the existing bridge, we basically have only two choices. We could rebuild the bridge in one construction season—which would require total bridge closure for about three months. Or we could phase construction over two or three years—which would require one-way traffic on the bridge all the time, with occasional total closures. We think the single-season alternative is the best—it's cheaper, easier, more fish-friendly and less confusing—but we want to hear what the residents and bridge users have to say."

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For more information, contact Project Manager Darrell Ash at 425-388-6688.

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Wednesday, May 16, 2001

DREWEL SEEKS VOLUNTEER ETHICS COMMISSIONERS

Because two vacancies on the Snohomish County Ethics Commission will become available soon, County Executive Bob Drewel is asking interested persons to apply. Applications are due by June 5. The new appointees will serve a three-year term beginning in July.

"The importance of public confidence in the integrity of local government cannot be understated," Drewel said. "For that reason, the work of the Ethics Commission is especially valued."

The Ethics Commission was created to receive complaints of ethics violations and otherwise administer the county's Code of Ethics. According to county code, "no member of the commission, during his or her tenure, shall: a) hold or be a candidate for elective office; b) be an officer of any political party or political committee; c) make contributions to, or permit his or her name to be used in support of, or opposition to, any candidate for county office; d) lobby or employ or assist a lobbyist."

The Ethics Commission is comprised of five members, who are limited to serving no more than two consecutive three-year terms. The new commissioners will replace Troy Hewitt and William Wright, whose second full terms end July 1.

Nomination forms must be completed and filed with the County Executive by June 5. Appointments are recommended by Drewel and confirmed by the County Council. Interested persons may receive a nomination form by calling Connie Mennie in the Executive office at 425-388-3876. For more information on the Ethics Commission, contact Kathryn Bratcher at 425-388-3494.

The remaining Ethics Commission members are Ann Bergstrom, Bill Higgins and Bonnie Marriott.

#

CONTACT: Connie Mennie, Executive Office, 425-388-3876
Kathryn Bratcher, Ethics Commission, 425-388-3458

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Friday, May 4, 2001

FREE WORKSHOP FOR FAMILIES OF KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS MAY 18 IN EVERETT

Families with children who may have emotional, social, behavioral, or developmental disabilities are invited to a free workshop to learn whether their children qualify for services under the Individuals with Disabilities Act, and how to access special learning services in schools through an Individual Education Program (IEP).

The workshop is scheduled from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm Friday, May 18, at McCollum Park's WSU Cooperative Extension office, 600 - 128th St. SE, Everett. Lunch will be provided. To make a reservation, please call Carla Hall at 425-388-7400.

Experts will provide information and answer questions about the Individuals with Disabilities Act and school IEPs, tailored programs for children who need special services to succeed in public schools (and private schools that receive federal dollars). The panel includes Trina Osher, coordinator of policy and research for the national Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health, and trained parent advocates from Snohomish County. Topics to be covered include:

- What help does the Individuals with Disabilities Act of '97 provide for children and youth with social/emotional, behavioral, and/or developmental disabilities?
- What legal rights do parents have under the Individuals with Disabilities Act?
- What is an Individual Education Program, and who are the members of the IEP Team at school?
- How to gain the support of family advocates during IEP Team meetings, establishing an IEP, and knowing what to ask for your child.

The workshop is sponsored by the The Family Connection (a program of the Snohomish County Office of Children's Affairs), and The Federation of Families.

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CONTACT: Carla Hall, Office of Children's Affairs, 425-388-7400

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27 April 2001

Outreach Meeting May 9th

County council reaching out to hear from citizens

How does Snohomish County spend your tax dollars and how could the county do a better job? The county council wants to hear from you!

The Snohomish County Council will hold a Public Outreach Meeting Wednesday, May 9, 2001 to both explain what the county does with the public's taxes and to solicit recommendations for improving services. The public meeting will be held from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the Stillaguamish Senior Center, 18308 Smokey Point Blvd., Arlington. [See MapQuest™ map for directions.](#)

“Good government requires a two-way conversation,” said County Council Chair Dave Somers, “and the better part of that dialogue obliges government to listen to the people. That’s why we are coming to North County May 9th for the first of several countywide outreach meetings this year,” he said.

“Government also has an obligation to explain itself, to account to the people for how their taxes are spent,” said Somers. “There will be short presentations on county government’s wide ranging responsibilities and the costs of providing these mandated services, and we will report on the many challenges the county faces.”

###

Contact Dave Somers at 425-388-3494
or dave.somers@co.snohomish.wa.us

For release: April 20, 2001

Extended Road Closure:

Meridian Ave. S. (224th St. SW - 231st St. SE) to be closed to through-traffic through Monday

Paving work is part of 228th Street SE/SW Improvements project

The full-road closure of Meridian Avenue N. between 224th and 231st Streets SW has been extended through Monday, April 20, Snohomish County Public Works has announced. This section of Meridian will be closed to all through-traffic (except local residents, local businesses and emergency vehicles) to complete paving work. Through-traffic on 228th Street will not be affected, except for possible delays.

The detour route will continue to be as follows:

- Southbound traffic on Meridian will turn west on 224th, south on 4th W., east on 228th, south on 2nd Ave. SE (which turns into 231st), then south on Meridian.
- Northbound traffic on Meridian will turn east on 231st (which turns into 2nd Avenue SE), west on 228th, north on 4th W., east on 224th and north on Meridian.

Flaggers, signage and barricades will help direct traffic along the detour route.

Please be reminded that 228th is a major arterial, and traffic will continue to be heavy through the corridor until construction is finished sometime in August of this year. Motorists may avoid the congestion by seeking alternative driving routes during the remainder of the project.

Snohomish County, the City of Bothell, the contractor and the utilities thank you for your continued patience and cooperation during this project. We realize the construction process

creates a hardship for many of you, but when the project is completed, 228th Street SE/SW will be a vastly improved, more efficient and safer thoroughfare for motorists, pedestrians and residents alike.

For up-to-date information on the project, call the County Roads Construction Hotline toll-free at 1-800-562-4367, ext. 3993. (TDD/TTY users call WA Relay Center at 1-800-833-6388.)

###

Contact: Bob Morrison, Resident Engineer, 425-482-6859
Wayne Lee, Public Involvement Coordinator, 425-388-3789

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thursday, April 19, 2001

County Executive Invites Citizens To Participate On Board Of Equalization

Snohomish County residents with knowledge of property values are invited to submit their nominations for appointment to the county's Board of Equalization. Nominations are due by May 15.

The Board of Equalization reviews appeals to assessed valuation of real and personal property. Currently, the board reviews 500 to 1,000 appeals annually and the time commitment is about one full day per month. If more appeals are filed, however, the time commitment may expand. Board members receive annual training and are paid \$100 per meeting.

"This is an excellent way for knowledgeable citizens to become involved in their government," said County Executive Bob Drewel. "It's clear that the strength of our community depends largely upon the work of such volunteers."

The board is made up of five members and two alternates. No more than two board members may reside in the same County Council district. Terms are for three years each beginning July 1, and commissioners may not serve more than three consecutive full terms.

Nomination forms must be completed and filed with the County Executive by May 15.

Commissioners are appointed by the County Council upon recommendation of County Executive Drewel. For more information on the board, call Marsha Carlsen at 425-388-3445. To receive a nomination form, contact Connie Mennie at 425-388-3876.

##

CONTACT: Marsha Carlsen, Board of Equalization, 425-388-3445
Connie Mennie, Executive Office, 425-388-3876

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 8, 2001

County Announces 75% Increase in Energy Assistance to Help Low-Income Households Stay Warm This Season

Many more local low-income families struggling to keep warm are eligible for assistance to pay their heating bills, thanks to an unexpected \$625,000 recently released to Snohomish County.

"This is an increase of more than 75% over last year," noted County Executive Bob Drewel, "and is truly good news, as it gives us more than \$1.45 million to help our neediest families cope with the recent sharp rises in the cost of gas and electricity."

The increase in funds for the County is a result of two nationwide emergency releases of Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funds ordered by the White House in late December. Snohomish County PUD and Puget Sound Energy have each announced rate increases for this heating season. Low-income households are especially burdened by fuel prices increases, forcing many families to forego other essential expenses in order to stay warm during the cold months.

To apply, call the Energy Assistance Hotline at 425-259-5185. A one-person household with earned income up to \$1,088 per month may qualify for an assistance grant. Two-person households earning up to \$1,465 monthly, and four-persons households earning up to \$2,220 monthly, also are eligible for assistance.

The Energy Assistance Program, administered by the County's Human Services department, began distributing grants for heating costs to eligible households last November. Program eligibility and grant amount are based on household income, household size, annual heat cost, and type of dwelling unit. Grants range from as little as \$25 to as much as \$700, with grants averaging \$250.

"Grant applications are running well ahead of last year," said program manager Bill Beuscher. "We are awarding grants to qualifying households almost three times faster than last year. People are very concerned about the recent rate hikes."

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CONTACT: David Ott, Human Services, 425-388-7249

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 8, 2001

SNOHOMISH COUNTY EXERCISING LEADERSHIP TO SAVE SALMON

On January 8th, the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) protective regulations (called a 4(d) rule) took effect for Puget Sound chinook salmon. These regulations make it illegal to harm chinook or their habitat. The new regulations also allow local jurisdictions, businesses and citizens to determine how to best ensure protection through their activities.

Snohomish County has been a leader in preparing for the federal regulations and in taking proactive steps to protect chinook – through its Early Action Program and ongoing recovery planning efforts.

"Responding to the ESA has been a substantial priority for the county," said County Executive Bob Drewel. "I am proud of our work so far in protection, recovery and long-term planning, as well as our strong partnerships with other jurisdictions, tribes, and citizens in preserving this living symbol of our Pacific Northwest," he said.

"The county is committed to restoring salmon and protecting our quality of life here in Snohomish County," said Dave Somers, Snohomish County Council Chair. "At the same time, we are also committed to recognizing and protecting the interests of property owners and business. A healthy environment and a healthy economy are essential and compatible. I want to assure the citizens of Snohomish County that local efforts designed to preserve and enhance chinook salmon will be reasonable, rational and effective. Rural and urban areas of our county will be treated equitably," Somers said.

In 1999, the county adopted an Early Action Program to start recovering salmon immediately – a multi-faceted cross-departmental work plan. This proactive program focused on six major areas: 1) capital projects and land acquisition to preserve and improve chinook habitat, 2) improved operations and maintenance of county facilities, 3) inventory, monitoring and analysis, 4) improved environmental regulation and enforcement, 5) planning, and 6) citizen outreach and education. A partial list of the county's recovery accomplishments include:

- the first jurisdiction in Puget Sound to improve regulatory protection for salmon streams, by

adopting 150 foot protective buffers next to chinook streams, with additional protections out to 300 feet.

- a 24-hour/seven day per week grading hotline so citizen can report potential grading violations.
 - acquiring over 700 acres of critical habitat, and a prioritized assessment of future habitat acquisitions.
 - a new park stewardship plan for managing at least four parks with significant habitat.
 - restoration of native vegetation and other habitat features to five key sites. Several more projects are underway including restoration of over 230 acres of tidally influenced wetland in the Snohomish estuary.
 - providing fish access to more than 7 miles of habitat by removing fish passage barriers.
 - an effective road maintenance program that reduces sediment from maintenance practices, and plans to acquire advanced technology street sweepers.
 - updated hydrologic maps for greater accuracy in protecting fish and evaluating habitat.
 - extensive education and involvement programs reaching thousands of citizens annually with information about watersheds, salmon recovery and hands-on volunteer opportunities.
-
- obtaining over \$5 Million in outside funding to support the county's salmon recovery program in habitat restoration, land acquisition and recovery planning.

"The county is also committed to long-term, watershed-based salmon conservation planning efforts" said Drewel. The county is undertaking long-term planning for the Stillaguamish, Snohomish and Cedar/Sammamish watersheds, involving cities, tribes and other stakeholders, along with the necessary investment in staff, technology, and research to make these efforts successful. This watershed-based approach builds on the county's Early Action Program, and is designed to pool resources, provide consistency across jurisdictional boundaries and insure workable, customized local approaches over the long term. This cooperative program has already resulted in technical assessments of salmon habitat currently used to guide future decision-making about restoration and acquisition actions.

Snohomish County has also been an active participant in the Tri-County region's effort to develop a model response to the listing of chinook and Puget Sound bull trout. Drewel joined with the county executives of King and Pierce counties to initiate the Tri-County coalition, composed of representatives of cities, counties, tribes, agencies, and interest groups in the three county area. The central Puget Sound area is the first major urban area facing salmon listings under ESA, and the Tri-County approach provided an effective scale with which to address the challenge. Drewel, Council member Somers and county staff have helped lead the coalition to develop a model program to allow local governments to continue providing services in compliance with new ESA regulations. That model is currently under review by the federal government.

Snohomish County is poised to continue meeting the challenge of the ESA regulations. The Early Action Program continues to be implemented in 2001. Meanwhile, long-term watershed planning continues, and the county is considering elements of the Tri-County model. Recommendations are expected in the next month.

"As stewards of natural resources and service providers for its citizens, Snohomish County plays a vital role in the protection and restoration of salmon populations. We've made significant progress in analyzing the problem and taken positive steps toward recovery. But there's a lot more to be done. Snohomish County is committed to doing its part and fulfilling its role in achieving salmon recovery," said Drewel.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 5, 2001

SNOHOMISH COUNTY CELEBRATES DIVERSITY WITH COMMUNITY EVENTS HONORING DR. KING

Calling the national holiday honoring Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday "a day on, not a day off," a variety of groups throughout Snohomish County will gather in Everett next Thursday, Jan. 11, for a community celebration.

Community events begin at 10:45 am with memorial walk beginning at Everett Community College, a tradition over the past several years. Walkers will travel from the college's Parks Student Union Building to Naval Station Everett, where more events are scheduled for the "1st Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Celebration" from noon to 2 p.m.

On the agenda are presenter Samuel Irving's portrayal of Dr. King, the slain civil rights activist known for non-violent action on behalf of social justice. Other scheduled performances include Living Voices ("Right to Dream"), Pat Wright (Total Experience Gospel Choir), T.T. Minor Elementary Choir of Seattle, Marysville-Pilchuck High School Jazz Band, Tulalip Tribes, Greater Trinity Missionary Baptist Church Choir, and DanVonique Bletson.

"As Snohomish County communities become increasingly diverse, it is important for us to honor and respect the heritage and traditions of all our residents," County Executive Bob Drewel said. "I encourage us all to remember Dr. King and the vision of equality and respect he espoused so that we can help create a Snohomish County that is truly whole."

Drewel issued a proclamation today officially proclaiming Jan. 11 as Snohomish County's "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Celebration."

Sponsors of the community celebration are Snohomish County, the City of Everett, YMCA, United Way, Community Transit, Metropolitan Community Church, Greater Trinity Missionary Baptist Church, Everett Community College, Tulalip Tribes, First Mutual Bank, EverTrust Bank, Naval Station Everett, Edmonds School District, Marysville School District, Boeing, and the Bon Marché.

The celebration will be followed on Saturday, Jan. 13, with a summit, "Violence Can't Live Here." The summit is presented by Collage (Coalition of Local Leaders in Gaining Equity) from 9 am to 3 pm in the college's Jackson Center.

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**CONTACT: Karyn Zigler, Diversity Analyst, 425-388-3542
Connie Mennie, Executive Office, 425-388-3876**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 3, 2001

Dave Somers elected county council chair, outlines his goals for the coming year

Elected council chair for 2001 by his fellow council members, County Councilman Dave Somers of Monroe said he will pursue three themes in the new year—"access, equity and quality of life." Councilman Kirke Sievers of Everett was elected vice-chair.

Speaking first to the issue of public access to county government, Somers said, "despite recent successful efforts ... to communicate with and involve the citizens of Snohomish County with their county government, we still have a long way to go. A majority of people do not understand what we do and why we do it. Taxes to most are just a sinkhole with little correlation to the benefits taxes provide. How can we ever ask for the public's support on critical needs, such as corrections, when people have so little knowledge of and so little confidence in county government?"

"The answer," he said, "is we can't ask for public support because we won't get it until county government undergoes an institutional change that emphasizes inclusiveness and communication at every level of government."

Somers cited four steps to improving public access to government, including:

- Continue improving information and services access by the public through the internet ... bring in outside experts to review the effectiveness of the county's web sites and make recommendations on what should be offered, including such potential services as interactive bill-paying, permit applications and web access to property records.
- Actively publicize county calendars, events and issues in local newspapers, and by increasing direct mailings to citizens. "There is a cost to this," he said, "but the cost of not communicating is continued lack of public understanding and trust, and county government cannot afford to continue doing business that way."
- Holding quarterly evening meetings at different locations around the county. "The county council can be more accessible by taking itself out to the people," he said.
- Continue to improve communication and cooperation with local cities and towns to better coordinate services and land-use issues.

"My second goal," said Somers, "is working towards greater equity in the county. All citizens have the right to be treated fairly and equitably, and to share equally the costs and benefits of living in Snohomish County. All citizens, whether a family seeking a remodeling permit for their home, or a developer proposing a large scale new development, should be treated fairly and have equal access to information and services."

His specific "equity" proposals included:

- Adjust county road and park mitigation fees to "make sure new development is paying it's fair share."
- Endangered Species Act response... "make sure that urban and rural residents participate equitably in restoring our salmon runs."
- Study the creation of a county ombudsman position ... "work with the county executive to make recommendations on the establishment of a County Ombudsman office, particularly for land-use, permitting, social services and public works issues."

"It is imperative," said Somers, "that Snohomish County government follows through on a number of commitments and promises made to its citizens in our growth management plans. My third goal is to emphasize maintaining and improving our citizens' quality of life through a number of legislative and budgetary initiatives," including:

- Move up the preparation and implementation of urban design standards. "The urban nature of much of the development happening here necessitates county government become adept at handling urban issues," he said. "The County desperately needs to take action on urban design standards and adapt our planning and permitting process to better accommodate urban development issues."
- Take action in the 1st quarter on recommendations to improve the county's regulations governing planned residential developments (PRD's).
- Implement a proposed tree retention ordinance that would establish standards for clearing and replantings in new developments.
- Finalize the Lake Stevens subarea plan and work towards completion of Phase II plans for the rest of the county.
- Work towards the introduction of a Public Benefit Rating System (PBRS) for the county to use as a tool to protect important public benefits such as open space, watersheds, water quality, and fish and wildlife habitat. "A PBRS," said Somers, "will also help assure that land-owners who voluntarily participate will receive appropriate reductions in property taxes to offset any potential reduction in land value caused by the protection of these important public benefits."

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CONTACT: Dave Somers, County Council: 425-388-3494 or dave.somers@co.snohomish.wa.us

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