

**NEWS RELEASE**  
**November 9, 2010**

**MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**411 NORTH 5<sup>TH</sup> ST**  
**SHELTON, WA 98584**

**TO: KMAS, KRXY, SHELTON-MASON COUNTY JOURNAL, THE OLYMPIAN, SHELTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, NORTH MASON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, CITY OF SHELTON, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, THE SUN**

**RE: Mason County Hosting GIS Day Event**

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The Mason County Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Department is pleased to announce a morning of mapping demonstrations on GIS Day, November 17, 2010. This free event is geared towards GIS users but is open to the public. The introduction and welcome session will begin at 8:15 am and the event will run through noon at the Mason County Public Works Administration building, located at 100 W Public Works Dr in Shelton.

Held each year on the Wednesday of National Geographic Society's Geography Awareness Week (November 15–19 in 2010), GIS Day is a global event to make people aware of geographic information system (GIS) technology and the important contributions it makes in the fields of science, technology, information, and the humanities. Mason County GIS Day provides an opportunity for those interested in learning about GIS to see its applications in action.

Mason County's 2010 GIS Day event will kick off with a showcase all of the GIS Department's services, and subsequent sessions will be specific to ESRI's ArcMap software. Several demonstrations are planned for the morning, including making a map layout, simple editing, documenting your work, and where to find additional training resources.

A GIS is a computer-based mapping tool that takes information from a database about a location, such as streets, buildings, water features, and terrain, and turns it into visual layers. The ability to see geographic features on a map gives users a better understanding of a particular location, enabling planners, analysts, and others to make informed decisions about their communities.

Although you may not be aware of it, GIS touches our lives daily. It is used throughout the world to solve problems related to the environment, health care, land use, business efficiency, education, and public safety. The power supply directed to homes, the patrol cars and fire trucks that keep neighborhoods safe, and the delivery trucks on the road all function more efficiently because of GIS. This technology can also help businesses place ATMs and restaurants at more convenient locations, allow people to pull maps off the Internet, and help farmers grow more crops with less chemicals.

For more information, contact Jennifer Radcliff at 360-427-9670, Ext. 526 or by email at [jennifr@co.mason.wa.us](mailto:jennifr@co.mason.wa.us), or view the event flier on our website at [www.co.mason.wa.us/gis](http://www.co.mason.wa.us/gis).

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Ross Gallagher  
Chair

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Lynda Ring Erickson  
Commissioner

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Tim Sheldon  
Commissioner