

Mayor's Message

September 2012

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Dear Resident,

Today is the first day I have pulled out my scarves and had an extra cup of tea in my office. I am looking forward to the fall season with crisp, sunny days and colorful leaves. Remember to stay active and commit to your own health and wellness.

Community KUDOS! Mount Vernon Trail Builders



On Friday, September 28, I am honored to attend the ribbon cutting for Little Mountain Park's newest trail. The new multi-use trail is approximately 1/3 mile long (described as 'easy' hiking level) and runs parallel to Carpenter Creek. Included in the completed project is a bridge that crosses the creek and a link to the established "La-Z-Boy" trail. The entire trail

and bridge was completed with volunteer labor and donations!!!! WOW!
[Ribbon Cutting Invitation](#)

The City is celebrating the Mount Vernon Trail Builders Group & the Mount Vernon Parks Foundation for this effort, and ongoing remarkable support for Little Mountain Park. The Mount Vernon Trail Builders group was formed in May of 2009 and states their goals on the website www.mountvernontrailbuilders.com as: "We support sustainable trails in Mount Vernon. Volunteerism, advocacy, and fundraising are our tools of choice. To achieve our goals we work in partnership with Mount Vernon Parks & Recreation. Our vision includes the building of a perimeter trail around Little Mountain Park. This will make it easy for our residents and visitors to walk and bike for fun, recreation, transportation, and health in Mount Vernon, Washington." Check out the videos on their website!

How can we say thank you and support the Trail Builders?

- You can volunteer; either individually or as a group member.
- You can help spread the word that we're building trails on Little Mountain.
- You can make a tax deductible donation that will help us fund the building of our trails.

Mount Vernon Trail Builders hopes to have a "featured group" at every volunteer session this year. Last year (2011) alone they amassed three thousand volunteer hours. The purpose of this program is to raise community awareness and help attract essential resources for this work.

THANK YOU J.T. and all the volunteers that have committed themselves for the betterment of Mount Vernon and all who enjoy Little Mountain Park.

Public Safety Facility Coordinating Council



The Coordinating Council, made up of members from Skagit County and the Cities of Anacortes, Burlington, Mount Vernon, and Sedro-Woolley, began meeting monthly in June 2012. All the members of the Council are committed to work through this process and provide a recommendation to the

County Commissioners who are the ultimate responsible authority. The monthly discussions are moving through several critical topics such as location, size, bed rates charged to users, programming, etc. (For instance, the City of Mount Vernon's jail bill last year was over \$516,000 and will increase by 5.9% in 2013) These meetings are generally 2-3 hours in length and very intense. No decisions have been made by the Council in regards to size and projected cost; however, extensive studies are recommending a jail built for an ultimate size of 600 beds, built in phases. This would accommodate projected need to 30 years in the future.

The Coordinating Council has planned to continue study until January 2013 and then come to a recommendation for the Skagit County Commissioners. Here are the large issues facing the City of Mount Vernon -

- Funding: possibility of sales/and or property tax increases? Estimates start at \$50 million for this project. How much percentage would fall to the municipalities? What formulas would be used for increases?
- Increased operation costs of larger facility, passed onto the City users in higher bed rates. We will be paying \$72 per day in 2013. This will most certainly increase with a larger facility. (\$516,000 this year - increasing in cost per day, and increasing number of bookings if there were more room)
- Location - the current jail facility is located on S. 3rd Street - possible expansion of that facility, or completely new campus proposed at the Alf Christensen Seed site just south of the current location. Either choice causes impacts to Downtown Mount Vernon.

You can access information at: www.skagitcounty.net/PSFCC

Ward 2 Picnic



Ward 2 residents are invited to join Councilmembers Gary Molenaar and Mark Hulst for a picnic and an evening of meet and greet with your neighbors.

The Councilmembers will prepare hotdogs and hamburgers - please bring chips and a beverage. Don't miss this unique opportunity to get to know your neighbors!

Date: Tuesday, October 23, 2012

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: Hillcrest Lodge, 1717 S. 13th Street

To find out which Ward you live in, view the City Ward Map [here](#), and if you would like to attend, please RSVP with the Mayor's Office at (360) 336-6211 or email garym@mountvernonwa.gov or markh@mountvernonwa.gov

Enjoy where you are in any given moment. Although you may have goals you have yet to achieve, savor what you have now.

Jill Boudreau
Mayor, Mount Vernon WA

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