

Pod Management

This year we have begun a system of “Pod Management” which involves grouping department directors to work together interdepartmentally toward common goals. Each department continues on their own specific goals in addition to the group goals.

We are focusing on Economic Growth, Public Safety, and Quality of Life, and have had some very productive pod work sessions to identify areas in which working collaboratively would gain efficiencies.

For example, our Public Safety pod which includes Law Enforcement and the Fire Service has developed a work plan which includes:

Emergency Management focused on Disaster Recovery – Plans include review of Citywide emergency management plan & municipal code, evaluation of the Skagit County Department of Emergency Management (DEM) services, define partner agency roles/responsibility and conduct drills.

Fiber Optic Master Planning - Use of fiber optic internet connections is critical to effective delivery of public safety services, in addition to economic development pod plans. This project contains elements of both pods’ focus. Plan, prioritize & propose ideas; addition of expansion areas to master map to include Little Mountain, Waterfront, high volume intersections in partnership with WSDOT; and identify added resources needed for successful expansion.

Regional Collaboration – through participation in a police critical investigations regional taskforce. Work has already been completed on the concept of pooling detectives during overwhelming critical incidents in Skagit County. We will research the concept of a countywide computer forensics team to share trained detectives, equipment, and training.

Physical Security planning for the Municipal Courtroom and City Hall offices

All of our pods will continue to meet throughout the upcoming year to work towards meeting their work plan items. Once our work plan documents are completed, they will be published online, under the Mayor’s page.

Mayor’s Coffee Hours

Saturday, February 23

9:30—10:30 a.m.

Haggen Deli

2601 E. Division Street

Friday, March 1

10:00—11:00 a.m.

Natural Way Chiropractic

1825 Riverside Drive, Ste A

Friday, March 8

9:00—10:00 a.m.

Body Boutique Day Spa & Salon

1100 Roosevelt Avenue

“Pod” management

ECONOMIC GROWTH:

Community & Economic Development

Public Works

Parks and Recreation

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Law Enforcement

Fire Service

QUALITY OF LIFE:

Library

Parks and Recreation

Finance

Human Resources

Information Systems

City Attorney

Upcoming Events

Father/Daughter Valentine Ball

Saturday, February 9
5:30–7:00 pm or 7:30–9:00 pm
Cacade Commons
2310 E. Section Street
*\$11 per person. All tickets must be pre-purchased.
(360) 336-6215

Citizens Academy 2013

February 21 – May 9, 2013
Thurs. Evenings, 6:30 – 9:30 pm

Learn about the Police Department in this free program for Skagit County residents!

Apply online by February 7 at www.mountvernonwa.gov/ca
(360) 336-6271

Mount Vernon City Council

February 13 and 17, 7:00 pm
Police/Court Campus
1805 Continental Place
*check website for agenda



Online Bill Pay

We are pleased to announce that online bill pay via the City's website for payment of City utility bills is now available. The Finance Department has partnered with Paymentus Corporation to offer online bill pay for your City utility bill. You may make a one-time payment or set up scheduled payments. To access this feature 24/7 go to the City website at www.mountvernonwa.gov and click on the "Pay Online" button. You may also pay your bill over our new dedicated phone line by dialing 1-866-571-6963. This phone service payment option is also available 24/7. The option of receiving your bill electronically via "E-bill" will be available to City utility customers by April 1, 2013.



Citizens Academy 2013



I would like to invite you to consider applying to attend the Mount Vernon Police Department's 19th Annual Citizens Academy. The purpose of the Academy is to enhance communication and understanding between the Police Department and citizens. Attendees will learn about the Police Department, become familiar with the Department's policing philosophy, see what it is like to be a Police Officer in Mount Vernon, and learn of the inherent dangers of law enforcement.

Citizens Academy XIX begins February 21, 2013 and meets every Thursday evening for 12 weeks at the Mount Vernon Police Department from 6:30 - 9:30pm. There is a "Mock Scenes" day on Saturday, April 20th from 10:00am to 2:30pm. Graduation day is Thursday, May 9th.

This is a great way to learn more about policing. Visit our website at www.mountvernonwa.gov/ca to fill out an application and register online. Space is limited, and the application deadline is February 7th.

Public Safety Facility Coordinating Council

As Mayor and a voluntary participant in the Public Safety Facility Coordinating Council process, I am deeply committed to the Skagit County Jail overcrowding discussion and working toward a common public safety goal for all of Skagit County.

A blending of all discussions would result in a jail that is not overbuilt, takes advantage of regionalism concepts, and is highly sensitive to the costs. Incarceration is ever-changing activity – new laws, mandatory sentencing, shifts in criminal activity trends, etc. Planning 30 years in advance is nearly impossible but even without a solid 30 year estimate of need; we know that today's need exceeds today's capacity.

In addition to my involvement in the long term solution, I have organized a group to immediately address the short term need. After being presented with the possibility of our MVPD officers being shut out of the jail for booking, I called a meeting of the Sheriff, Mayors and Police Chiefs. We agreed to immediately begin working together to avoid a 'hard cap' (the possibility of not having any ability to book misdemeanor arrestees) by drafting a work plan for short term outsourcing. This short term solution group is now meeting weekly.

The new jail facility discussion has a long way to go. The planning process is public, and I encourage you to visit <http://www.skagitcounty.net/Common/asp/default.asp?d=PSFCC&c=General&P=main.htm> to follow the agenda, minutes, and video of our meetings. If the voters approve a 3/10% sales tax to fund this facility, the City of Mount Vernon's public facility planning process will be 'front and center' in moving forward. This involves public process in the siting, zone changes, and permitting of the facility.

Come to a Mayors coffee to join in the discussion.