

## Pod Management Update

In our February 2013 newsletter, I introduced you to a planning process nicknamed “POD Management.” Since we are already more than half way through the year, it’s time for a progress report! Working collaboratively results in fulfillment of common goals, better inter-departmental cooperation, and gained efficiencies.

We have three pod themes: Public Safety, Economic Development, and Quality of Life. Each group met to answer the following questions:

**What Is** (what are we currently facing for issues)

**What Could Be** (brainstorming a variety of topics)

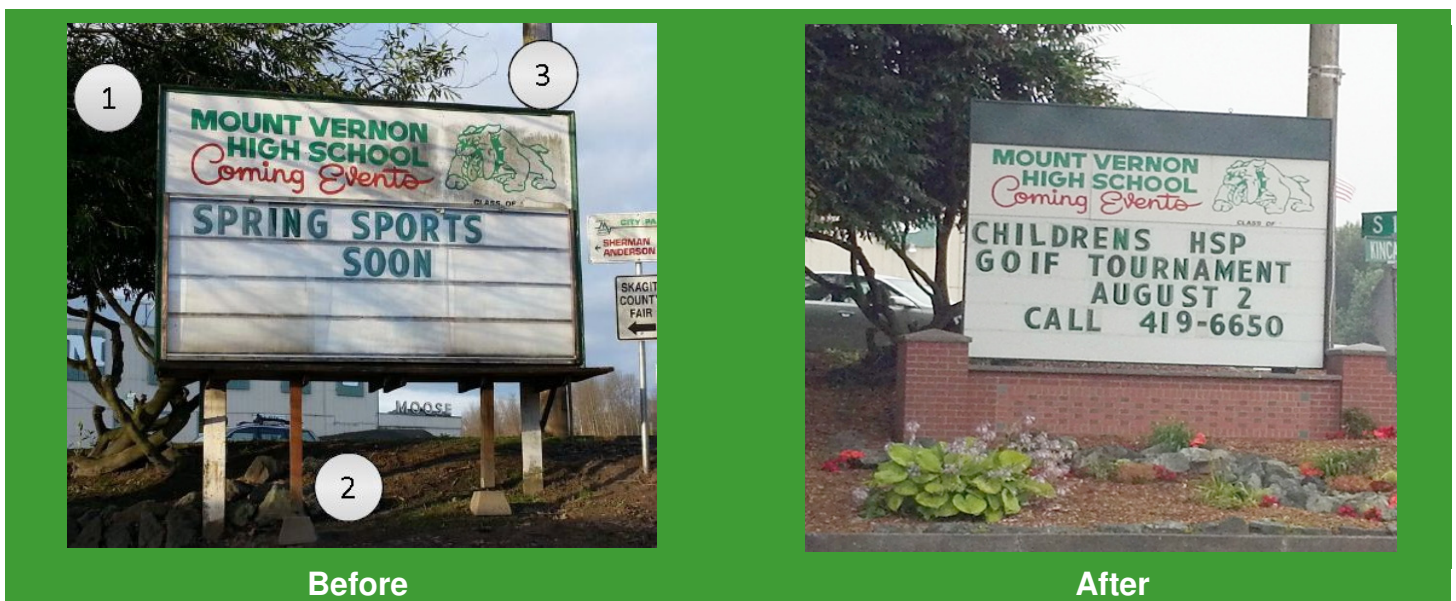
**What Should Be** (prioritizing what we should be working on in the best interest of our City)

**What Will Be** (a work plan agreed upon by all)

I have prepared a mid-year update to the pod plans, documenting what we have accomplished this year. You can read through the documents on the Mayor’s webpage at <http://mountvernonwa.gov/Index.aspx?NID=91>

Some significant progress has been made, and also a few items have been added to our work plan. The updates on the website are in ‘blue’.

- The Public Safety POD was to review our Emergency Management Plan focusing on disaster recovery. I’m happy to report, that this review and update is complete! In addition to the document, we have already completed a ‘table top’ exercise with the City Policy group – walking through what we would all do if the City experienced an anhydrous ammonia leak. We will continue to drill during the year and use real life possibilities as scenarios. Our next drill will focus on recovery from a train derailment.
- The Quality of Life POD completed a roundtable of recreation providers in Mount Vernon and will be publishing information on the Parks and Recreation webpage. The idea is that our Recreation offerings complement others who are also in the same field, enhancing offerings and avoiding duplications. In addition, a ‘one stop hub’ of information.
- The Community and Economic POD completed a First Impression project on the corner of Kincaid and 1<sup>st</sup> Street. In partnership with Mount Vernon School District, the reader board received a much needed facelift, complete with brick work to tie it into the Waterfront Project that is under construction.



## Thank You

Thank you **Skagit Gardens Wholesale** for beautiful plants to complete upgrade of planters in the Downtown area and ongoing support for "MV" planters at the Kincaid exit!!! The generosity is overwhelming as our entire City benefits from beautiful, colorful plants!



## Mayor's Coffee Hour

**Saturday, July 20**

12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Mount Vernon Towing & Auto Repair  
2218 Cedardale Road

**Friday, July 26**

10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

La Iglesia Episcopal de la Resurrección  
415 S. 18th Street

## Sign up for the Wellness Challenge e-Newsletter

Click on "Notify Me" on the City's website: [www.mountvernonwa.gov](http://www.mountvernonwa.gov) or call (360) 336-6211

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## Waterfront Project Parking Update

Strider Construction is well underway with construction of the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of our Waterfront Project. Some parking has been 'redistributed'. Stay tuned to our website for changing information, as we work through this transformative project. A new parking lot north of Division is now open & available for all day parking. Portions of the public parking areas south of Division will be closed as construction of the floodwall project continues.

Puget Sound Energy will be conducting some SIGNIFICANT work on the high voltage power lines along Main Street. This is a huge undertaking, in which PSE will install large new pole structures and eliminate several old poles. The revetment area will have some extra space closed the week of 7/22-7/27.

The most current Waterfront project parking maps can be found online at [www.mountvernonwa.gov](http://www.mountvernonwa.gov) and are updated promptly with any changes.

Watch for the blue "P" Parking signs – and thank you all for the patience, flexibility, and overall excitement at our new Waterfront!

## Mayor's Wellness Challenge

Last year, we introduced the Mayor's Wellness Challenge. The goal of the month long event is to increase community engagement around the positive goal of wellness, and to focus on bringing the discussion of wellness to our community. I believe we elevate ourselves to be a community that solves problems, enhances quality of life, and is attractive to investment and economic growth.



The Mayors Wellness Challenge begins on August 15! This year's events are now being scheduled, with some great activities including a Bike to Farms Tour, tai chi, pickle ball demonstration, budgeting class, geocaching, "take your parent for a walk" and much more! Sign up to receive Wellness Challenge updates and information on our website by clicking on "Notify Me" in the left column, then sign up for "Mayor's Wellness Challenge News" or call (360) 336-6211.

Start simple! For instance, the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the Mayor's Wellness challenge is called "H2O only day" – give up soda and juice... drink water!

Believe in this - Healthy Mind, Healthy Body, Healthy City.

## Engage with your City

A government works well when residents participate & understand how the system functions. I invite you to join us for City Council committee and council meetings on Wednesdays! All of these gatherings are public meetings, and anyone can attend.

In Mount Vernon, we hold a committee each week at 6pm, followed by Council meeting at 7pm. The meetings are held at the Police/Court campus located at 1805 Continental Place. We discuss the operations of the City in detail.