

# MAYOR'S MESSAGE



February 2014



*Happy Valentines Day!*



## Rail Safety

The City of Mount Vernon provides first response to emergencies in the City. In the past year, our staff has updated the emergency response plan and begun exercising our plan to ensure the best possible service to the City in an emergency.

In recent months, the issue of railroad safety has been the subject of discussions here and around the country. Our public safety plans for 2014 include a focus on rail safety and the response of our City staff. The Fire Department is working with Skagit County Department of Emergency Management to conduct both tabletop and on-site drills that involve oil tanker emergencies.

The tabletop drill is scheduled for April 9 and will involve any agency that would routinely respond to an event such as a tanker derailment in the city. Burlington Northern Railroad has committed to providing a training tank car for the City emergency responders to practice on. This training will take place following the tabletop drill, but the schedule will depend on when the car will arrive in the City.

During an emergency, the City receives support from County, State, and Federal resources; however, we intend to be as prepared as possible to be the first response in any situation. For more information, contact Chief Roy Hari at (360) 336-6277.

## 2014 Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan

Every 6 years the City is required to evaluate the current state of parks, facilities, and programs in our community through a Comprehensive Plan Update. Within the plan, there is a section for community feedback which is provided through open house meetings, a survey, and focus groups. This gives the community the opportunity to share input and new ideas. We would love to hear from you, so join your fellow community members and take the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/mvpr2014>, or our City website at [www.mountvernonwa.gov](http://www.mountvernonwa.gov). To be part of a focus group, call the Parks Office at (360) 336-6215.

### Mayor's Coffee Hours

**Friday, February 21**

**10:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

Skagit Publishing Community Room  
1215 Anderson Road

**Friday, February 28**

**12:00 - 1:00 p.m.**

Walk the Little Mountain Nature Trail with the Mayor.  
Meet at the East Park Entrance on Little Mountain Road. Trail is relatively flat, round trip is approximately 1/2 mile.

**Friday, March 7**

**12:00 - 1:00 p.m.**

Mount Vernon Elks Lodge  
2120 Market Street  
*\*Bring a lunch if you'd like*



## Make-It Mondays

Mount Vernon City Library is hosting a series of art and crafting workshops for adults on Monday evenings.

The next events are:

### Create Felt Soaps with Ruth Riegand of South Fork Alpaca Farms

Monday, February 24, 6:00 p.m.  
Vaux Retreat Center, 3011 E. Fir Street

### Faux Finishing Wall Painting Techniques with Elizabeth Risser

Monday, March 3, 6:00 p.m.

Pre-registration for these programs is encouraged but not required. Call (360) 336-6209 or stop by the library at 315 Snoqualmie Street to register.

## Parks Comprehensive Plan Focus Group Meetings

Join in one of the Comp Plan Focus Group Meetings to share your input and discuss with other community members ways to improve our City of Mount Vernon Parks.

### Schedule of Focus Group Meetings:

- February 18th ~ Passive Recreation
- February 25th ~ Trails
- March 4th ~ Enrichment Programs and Events
- March 11th ~ Active Recreation
- March 18th ~ Seniors
- March 25th ~ Teens

All Focus Groups will meet 6:00-7:00 p.m. at the Vaux Retreat Center, 3011 E. Fir Street.

Call Mount Vernon Parks and Recreation at (360) 336-6215 for more information.

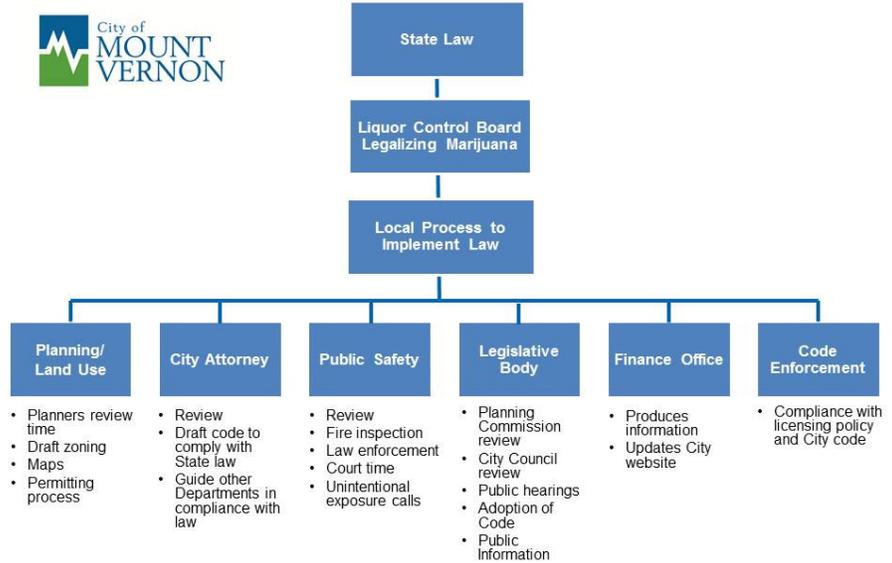
**Mayor Jill Boudreau**  
910 Cleveland Avenue  
P.O. Box 809  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

360.336.6211  
[www.mountvernonwa.gov](http://www.mountvernonwa.gov)



## Olympia Update

The City enjoyed successful and collaborative visits with our State representatives on January 29-30. We always produce an informational packet to leave with our representatives. This year, many of them commented on how useful the information was. We included a graphic to illustrate the amount of work a municipality does in implementing laws that our legislators pass (specifically marijuana legalization). To view the complete packet of information that was given to our elected officials, visit the City website at [www.mountvernonwa.gov](http://www.mountvernonwa.gov).



## POD Work Plans for 2014 Now Online!

Our successful “POD” structure is continuing in 2014. Department Directors are grouped into 3 focuses: Public Safety, Economic Opportunity, and Quality of Life. Our work plans for this year are now available to view online under the “Mayors Page” at the City website: [www.mountvernonwa.gov](http://www.mountvernonwa.gov)

Highlights for this year include rail safety training (as mentioned above), efficiency in our Municipal Court through implementing a document management and paperless system, regional Technology Summit, Geocaching event, and more.

The City of Mount Vernon is committed to transparency and engagement. Take a look at the plans and let us know what you think!

## Waterfront Update

Strider Construction is continuing setting concrete forms and placing rebar and concrete for the floodwall. Work has begun on the new river walk beneath the Division Street Bridge and temporary parking lot lighting has been installed. Demolition of the revetment parking structure and building demolition work is complete and the concrete from the demolition work will be recycled and used as fill material within the project. Storm drain system work will continue this week and require the closure of the Pine and Main Street intersection on Monday, February 17. The project remains on schedule to be complete by September 2014!