

2014 Mount Vernon Geocoin Challenge and Birthday Celebration

On Saturday, June 21, we are celebrating the City of Mount Vernon's 124th birthday and the Summer Solstice with a special geocaching event - a family friendly challenge: find 10 of 15 caches to claim the very first Mount Vernon Parks and Recreation coin (limited number available). This particular challenge takes place in the City's expansive parks system, as well as some of our trails and monuments.



Register online at www.mountvernonwa.gov or in person at Hillcrest Lodge, 1717 S. 13th Street, starting at 7:30 am on the morning of the event. From 1:00-2:00 pm, there will be a birthday party and cake for all geocachers and Mount Vernon residents in honor of the City's 124th birthday.

Citizens Academy 20th Year Reunion

On Thursday, May 29, the Mount Vernon Police Department celebrated 20 years of Citizens Academy (see photo below). Since its beginning, nearly 500 citizens have graduated from the 12 week program. A recurring theme of the evening revolved around the connections that Citizens Academy Alumni have, not only with the Department and each other, but also through their current involvements in a multitude of community groups. These graduates act as information conduits to their neighbors, families, and associates about what they learned and experienced.

Today, over 130 graduates have gone on to join our Citizens on Proactive Patrol program. In a given year, we average over 30 active C.O.P.P. volunteers who donate over 3,000 hours annually to the community in activities designed to help residents and business owners feel safe and save tax dollars. Specifically in 2012, their work provided a benefit of over \$71,000 to the City.

What is a "Citizens Academy"?

The Citizens Academy is a twelve-week program designed to provide Mount Vernon residents first hand information about how their Police Department operates. Participants find out what it's like to be a police officer in Mount Vernon and learn the inherent dangers and stress in law enforcement. Academy members will also become familiar with the Department's policing philosophy. Citizens Academy typically runs from the middle of February to the first week of May, meeting every Thursday night from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Mount Vernon Police Department.

Purpose of the Citizens Academy

To open our doors to the community and, through education, to increase communications and understanding between citizens and the police. Together, it is easier to identify neighborhood and community problems and effect realistic solutions. For more information, call (360) 336-6271.

Elks Lodge/Library Partnership

Thanks to the generous support of the local Mount Vernon Elks Lodge (through an Elk's Beacon Grant), the Mount Vernon City Library will be presenting a Read the Book/See the Movie day at the Lincoln Theatre. Join us on Saturday, July 26, at 3:00 pm for *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey* and at 7:30 pm for *The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug*. Both showings are free to the public; stay tuned for news on related activities at the Library and in Pine Square on July 26.

Mayor's Coffee Hours

Friday, June 20, 10:00 - 11:00 am
Max Dale's Restaurant
2030 Riverside Drive

Friday, June 27, 2:00 - 3:00 pm
City Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room
910 Cleveland Avenue



Summer Solstice Celebration

Thursday, June 19, 6:00 - 8:30 pm
Skagit Riverwalk

Patio furniture and umbrella auction, live music, food and libations. Tickets are \$35 and may be purchased at the Mount Vernon Parks and Recreation Office, 1717 S. 13th, or at Gretchens, 509 S. 1st

Fabulous 4th of July

Edgewater Park
600 Behrens Millet Road
Food and music at 6:00 pm, fireworks at dusk.

Drug Takeback a Success

- 272.58 lbs of expired/unused drugs collected between 10 am and 2 pm on April 26.
- 70 people contributed to this collection, and the feedback was positive as usual!
- Thank you to Heidi Kjos and Ron Wells (RSVP/COPP Volunteers) for staffing this event!

Shop Local!

- **Shopping local creates jobs.** Local shops create local employment. These people in turn spend in the local economy.
- **Shopping locally saves you time and money.** You travel less, saving time and fuel.
- **Shopping locally saves the environment.** Local shops often stock a high percentage of locally sourced goods that do not require long-distance transportation, helping reduce our global footprint.
- **Local shops value you more.** Evidence shows customers receive better care and service locally. These businesses survive by their reputation and repeat business, which means you get a higher standard of service.

Mayor Jill Boudreau
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State of the City

If you get a chance please view my recent State of the City presentation on TV10 playing daily at 11:00 am and 6:30 pm. This event was taped on May 28 during a Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce luncheon held at the Best Western Skagit Valley Inn. I want to thank Chamber President and CEO Kristen Keltz for inviting me to speak and also the many Chamber members and guests who attended. I also want to recognize and thank State Senator Kevin Ranker for not only attending the luncheon, but for his ongoing support of our Downtown Flood Protection and Waterfront Revitalization Project. Senator Ranker was instrumental in helping us secure \$1.5 million in State funding for the Phase II Flood Protection Project that is now under construction and for also securing \$5 million in State funding for our soon to be underway third and final Phase III construction project. All our local legislators have helped champion this project and we are grateful for their help in making our downtown neighborhoods a better place to live, work and play.



Jeff Brown Receives Governor's Award of Excellence

On April 21, Mount Vernon Firefighter Jeff Brown was given the Governor's Outstanding Volunteer Service Award. Jeff has been a volunteer with Skagit County Search and Rescue for over 12 years and has been helping to operate the program for most of that time. Jeff is also a training instructor for the search and rescue volunteers as well as the new recruits. He is part of the Special Response Team, which is a highly skilled group within Search and Rescue, and also volunteers as a medic for the Skagit County SWAT team. Jeff volunteers nights, weekends, and days off from his regular job with both Search and Rescue and the SWAT team.



Waterfront Project Update

Strider Construction continues work on the concrete walkway, and floodwall adjacent to the river. Decorative brick installation will continue north of the plaza park. Overhead walkway lighting will continue this week.

Main Street between Myrtle and Gates Street is closed to vehicle traffic for construction of the pedestrian plaza park. Plaza work continues with irrigation system and decorative seating wall construction. This project remains on schedule to be complete by September 2014.

