

## Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Mount Vernon Waterfront Revitalization and Flood Protection Project, Phase 2 of 3 set for September 20<sup>th</sup>

A new era for downtown Mount Vernon begins on Saturday, September 20, when a ribbon cutting ceremony will be held for Phase 2 of the Waterfront Revitalization and Flood Protection Project, which creates a 24-foot wide pedestrian river walk, a 30,000 square foot Riverfront Park and a permanent downtown floodwall.

The ceremony will take place at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 20, at the new Skagit Riverwalk Park between Gates and Montgomery Streets. The plaza area will be open to the public for the ceremony, and then Strider Construction will continue working on finishing touches for the next few weeks.



Phase 2 is funded with the assistance of a few key partners: the State of Washington, through the State Capital Budget; Recreation Conservation Office (RCO); State Department of Ecology (DOE); Skagit County Dike District #3; Skagit County; and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Section 108 Loan Program.

Funding is being sought for Phase 3, which will enable the City to complete the project. Once funding is secured, Phase 3 will include 1.2 miles of floodwall and earthen levee, .9 miles of river walk and trail connection to a regional trail system. Completion of Phase 3 will also result in FEMA certified flood protection for the historic downtown. The project is part of a comprehensive redevelopment plan for Mount Vernon's historic downtown area that is being used to guide public and private investments over the next 20 years.

## Walter Martinez Promoted to Police Sergeant

On September 3<sup>rd</sup>, at a formal swear-in ceremony at the Police Department, Walter Martinez was promoted to the position of Police Sergeant. The ceremony was attended by family, department personnel, retired department employees and City staff.

Sergeant Martinez is a 10 year veteran of the Department and has a broad range of experience as a Patrol Officer, Field Training Officer, Recruiter, Tactical Officer and Lead Officer. He has attended over 2,100 hours of training.

Sergeant Martinez is a true Mount Vernon local, graduating from Mount Vernon High School in 1995 and Skagit Valley College in 1997. He is married with three children.

The role of a Sergeant is a critically important position. As the first-line supervisor, they are there to ensure quality service delivery to the community and the safety of their team.

### Mayor's Coffee Hours

Saturday, September 13, 10:00 - 11:00 am  
Vaux Retreat Center  
3011 E. Fir Street

Friday, September 19, 9:30 - 10:30 am  
Friendship House Café  
108 Snoqualmie Street



## Friends of the Library Fall Book Sale

Friday, September 19, 3:00 - 6:00 pm  
 Saturday, September 20, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm  
 Fire Station 1  
 901 S. 2nd Street

Park at the Library and walk over to the sale. Books, CDs, talking books, and more! Proceeds help the Friends of the Library support the Mount Vernon City Library

## Skagit Valley Festival of Family Farms

Saturday, October 4 and Sunday, October 5  
 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

This is a once a year event opportunity where family farms across Skagit County open their barn door just for you. Come explore and learn down on the farm.

You will learn how these farms maintain their generational heritage while participating in a variety of activities including farm tours, harvest markets, educational displays, demonstrations, kids activities, corn and hay mazes, animal exhibits, pumpkin patches, hayrides, food, music, and lots of fun.

The festival is your chance to talk to your farmers and follow your food from the field to the table. This one of a kind event offers a hands-on experience learning what it takes to run a farm; from growing crops to feeding animals and supplying products to the public.

FREE admission and parking! Visit [www.farmtour.com](http://www.farmtour.com) or call (360) 421-4729 for information.

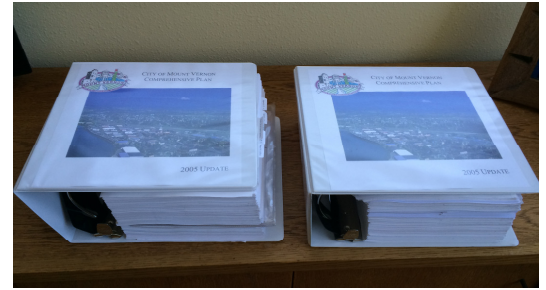
**Mayor Jill Boudreau**  
 910 Cleveland Avenue  
 P.O. Box 809  
 Mount Vernon, WA 98273

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



## Comprehensive Planning

The Growth Management Act of 1991 imposes a state mandate that jurisdictions complete comprehensive planning every eight years. The City of Mount Vernon will be submitting a plan to the State of Washington by June 30, 2016. Elements included in the plan are: Land Use, Housing, Parks and Recreation, Economic Development, Transportation, Capital Facilities, Public Services & Utilities (including public safety). Additional Elements can include planning for Health and Wellness.



*Two 6-inch binders holding the City's Comp Plan*

The Comprehensive Planning process is designed to involve the public. For example, we just completed the Parks and Recreation plan, involving several focus groups and public hearings.

In preparing our 2015 budget, we will include funding to hire consultants to assist the City in our plan. Elements that require specific expertise include Transportation and land use subarea planning.

The Capital Facilities planning is accomplished annually through a process. The Public Services components outline planning for: Police and Corrections, Fire and Safety Services, City Administrative Offices, Public Schools, Library, Utility Services (Sanitary & Storm Sewers and Solid Waste, Fiber), Private utilities (water, gas, electricity, cable).

The current City of Mount Vernon Comprehensive Plan (2005) can be found on our City website: [www.mountvernonwa.gov](http://www.mountvernonwa.gov) under the Department tab, Community and Economic Development, Community Development page.

## Skagit County Jail Process

The Mount Vernon City Council has approved the Essential Public Facilities permit, completing the final step in permitting the "Truck City" site in South Mount Vernon for a new Skagit County Jail. Many kudos to our City staff that worked on this extensive land use process and moved the process forward in a professional manner.

Skagit County project manager Marc Estvold presented a conceptual image during the City Council presentation on September 10. The timeline is proceeding to design engineering and a construction phase with a target open date in May 2017. More information on this Skagit County project can be found at [www.skagitcounty.net](http://www.skagitcounty.net).

