

MAYOR'S MESSAGE



December 2014

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you! Thank you for subscribing to the Mayor's e-newsletter and for passing information along to your neighbors and friends. The more good information is shared, the more ideas are generated to help us fulfill our Mission.

Winter Wellness Challenge

Baby, it's cold outside! Many of us struggle to be active in the wintertime – as an effort to rally each other to wellness, the City is offering a Winter Wellness Week in January with free activities for our community! Thank you to our partners: Skagit Regional Health, Skagit Valley College, Mount Vernon Downtown Association, Hospice of the Northwest, Fitness Centers in Mount Vernon, and our Parks and Recreation Department for putting together events the last week in January. You can view the tentative list at www.mountvernonwa.gov – click on the Mayor's Wellness Challenge logo. Grab a friend and attend the events! You can do it!



POD Management Plan Year End Reports

As you may know, the City of Mount Vernon Department Directors work together, interdepartmentally toward common goals. You can view the year end summary of accomplishments in the Public Safety, Economic Opportunity and Quality of Life work plans by visiting the City website at www.mountvernonwa.gov (look under News & Announcements). These are internal work plans, however, it is meaningful that we are transparent and offer our residents information on our work goals. When you view the reports please note that the text in black is the plan developed at the beginning of the year, and text in **green** is the year end accomplishments.

Finance Department Receives Award

The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting has been awarded to the City of Mount Vernon by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

The CAFR was judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the CAFR. Finance Director Alicia Huschka and her staff continue to excel and be properly recognized in all aspects of operating the City of Mount Vernon's Finance Department. It's very reassuring to our residents and business owners to know that our Finance Department has received this award for eight consecutive years and fifteen years overall.

Mayor's Coffee Hour

Friday, January 9
10:00 - 11:00 am

Skagit Valley Hospital
1415 E. Kincaid Street
Cascade Conference Room



Mayor Boudreau with Finance award recipients (l to r)
Mike Weber, Director Alicia Huschka, and Rebecca Wade

Mount Vernon Police 2015 Citizens Academy

NOW IS THE TIME to sign up for the 2015 Citizens Academy program, which will run from February 12 – April 30, meeting every Thursday night from 6:30 – 9:30 pm.

The purpose of the Citizens Academy is to enhance communication and understanding between the Mount Vernon Police Department and citizens.

Attendees will...

- Become familiar with the Department's Policing Philosophy
- Discover what it is like to be a Police Officer in Mount Vernon
- Do a ride along in a police car, visit 911 Dispatch
- Receive hands on experience during the Mock Scenes day

The classes are taught by police officers, department personnel, and guest speakers; covering over 20 topics.

Applications are available online at www.mountvernonwa.gov/ca, at the Police Department Front Desk at 1805 Continental Place, or by calling Crime Prevention at (360) 336-6250.

Last day to register is Monday, February 2. Class size is limited and fills fast!

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

360.336.6211
www.mountvernonwa.gov



Recent Flood Warning and City Response

The City's Public Works Director, Esco Bell, sure slept better during the recent flood warnings for the Skagit River. In the past our City had to mobilize thousands of volunteers to build a 150,000 sand bag wall to protect our historic downtown. This effort took days and significant resources. You may remember being a part of this effort! With the completion of Phase 2 of the Waterfront Revitalization and Flood Protection our flood fight efforts are significantly simpler. Eight City Public Works staff members installed 'stop log' components, effectively sealing off the Downtown Area from flood waters in a matter of 3 hours. I had the pleasure of speaking with many members of the public who were walking along the Skagit Riverwalk during the flood warnings, and could see for themselves the effectiveness of our Project. The City continues with progress on the final Phase 3!



Sandbags in 2006 flood



Riverwalk during high water last month



Installing stop logs along waterfront

Planning Commission Openings

The City of Mount Vernon is now accepting letters of interest and applications from candidates interested in serving on the Planning Commission. We are looking for two commission members to fill openings created by term expirations. Commission members are volunteers who:

- Are interested in City of Mount Vernon land use, comprehensive planning, and zoning issues
- Live within the City limits of Mount Vernon
- Have a desire to devote time and effort to the responsibilities of being a board member
- Have a rapport with the community
- Are able to attend regular meetings on the first and third Tuesday of each month, 6:00 PM, at the Police/Court Campus and any called meetings as necessary

Applications are on the City website www.mountvernonwa.gov or at City Hall, 910 Cleveland Avenue. The application and a letter of interest should be addressed to Mayor Jill Boudreau, PO Box 809, Mount Vernon, WA 8273 and received no later than closing on December 31, 2014.