

We provide professional, efficient services to create a lifetime positive difference for our Community.

Fire Service Deployment Model

The City of Mount Vernon is currently conducting a study of our fire service deployment model. We have assembled a committee comprised of administration, City Council, labor union representatives, and community members to study this Department. The process we are using is called appreciative inquiry – What is? What might be? What should be? What will be? This gives a chance to start from the beginning and learn about laws, work standards, deployment models, and current structure, then move to envision what we could and should do.



The study group recently reviewed Washington State laws pertaining to fire deployment. Why are those firefighters just waiting outside? That is often a question our emergency personnel hear when on the scene of a house fire. Difficult as it is, and against the very nature of our firefighters, the law (WAC 296-305-05002) is clear on the subject:

"(3) In the initial stages of an incident where only one crew is operating in the hot zone at a working structural fire, a minimum of four individuals shall be required, consisting of two individuals working as a crew in the hot zone and two individuals present outside the hot zone available for assistance or rescue of firefighters during emergency operations where entry into the hot zone is required.

(4) Initial attack operations shall be organized to ensure that if, on arrival at the emergency scene, responders find a known rescue situation where immediate action could prevent the loss of life or serious injury, such action shall only be permitted when no less than three personnel (2-in/1-out) are present and equipped to provide emergency assistance or rescue of the team entering the hot zone.

No exception shall be allowed when there is no possibility to save lives or no "known" viable victims.

(5) Firefighters must not engage in interior structural firefighting in the absence of at least two standby firefighters (2-in/2-out) except as provided in WAC 296-305-05002(4)."



This law, known as the "2-in/2-out" rule, is intended for the safety of our firefighters as well as the very people they may be trying to rescue. All too often we hear tragic news reports of firefighters perishing after becoming trapped inside a burning building and unable to self-extricate. That is what the "2-out" crew is for - specifically to rescue them. From the firefighters' perspective, no one wants the "2-out" assignment - it's just against their nature to stand around when there's a fire going on. But it is the law, and someone has to do it!

Mayor's Coffee Hour

Saturday, April 18, 10:00 - 11:00 am
The Woods Coffee
1626 Freeway Drive

Friday, May 1, 8:00 - 9:00 am
Mount Vernon City Hall Lobby
910 Cleveland Avenue



New "Tulip Dance" Sculpture on the Skagit Riverwalk

Día: Multicultural Celebration

April 25, 2 - 4pm
City Library, 315 Snoqualmie Street

A free event for the whole family featuring bilingual storytime, crafts, face painting and prizes.

City Council Meetings

Police/Court Campus
1805 Continental Place

Regular Council Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month and Study Sessions take place on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 7pm.

The public is invited to address City Council on non-agenda items at the beginning of each meeting.

City Council Committee Meetings

Police/Court Campus
1805 Continental Place

Committee Meetings are held every Wednesday at 6pm:

- 1st Wednesday: Public Safety
- 2nd Wednesday: Public Works
- 3rd Wednesday: Economic Development
- 4th Wednesday: Finance

City Council Meetings, Study Sessions and Committee Meetings are **open to the public.**

Please check the Council agendas on www.mountvernonwa.gov or call (360) 336-6211 to confirm dates and times.

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

360.336.6211
www.mountvernonwa.gov



Mosquito Control

To reduce the mosquito populations in the City the Collections staff places Altosid® pellets in catch basins during the course of their routine maintenance work. The pellets are typically used starting in April throughout the summer. The City uses the extended release formula which lasts up to 150 days or 5 months. The Altosid® pellets contain methoprene, a proven insect growth regulator that stops mosquitoes from becoming breeding, biting adults. Altosid® will not affect fish, waterfowl, mammals or beneficial predatory insects. That means it prevents the emergence of breeding, biting adults without upsetting the food chain or impacting non-target species.



Of course mosquitoes cannot be completely eliminated in the City of Mount Vernon so to reduce your chances of being bitten you are encouraged to restrict outdoor activities when mosquitoes are active (dusk to dawn), wear long sleeved shirts and long pants, and use an effective mosquito repellent that contains an active ingredient that has been registered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

You can also reduce mosquito habitat by eliminating stagnant water around your home, business, or private property.

If you have additional questions feel free to contact Blaine Chesterfield at (360) 336-6204 or email blainec@mountvernonwa.gov

Shop Local!

City sales tax collected was up in 2014! On March 25, our Finance Director Alicia Huschka gave a report to City Council about the 2014 sales tax collection figures. The City collected 2.6% (or \$139,000) more sales tax revenue than in 2013.

The City uses sales tax and property tax to fund essential services in our operating budget. Our 2014 collection of \$5,538,000 represents 21% of our operating revenue.

The Finance Committee of City Council meets at 6:00 pm on the 4th Wednesday of each month. Feel free to come to this valuable public meeting!

When you shop local, you are helping to maintain our essential city services. Examples of organizations in Mount Vernon that advocate for business in the city are the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce www.mountvernonchamber.com and the Mount Vernon Downtown Association www.mountvernondowntown.org.

The City maintains a wonderful collaboration with both organizations as we work together for prosperity in Mount Vernon. Check out their websites for local events and information.

