

# MAYOR'S MESSAGE



January 2016

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

## 2016 Legislative Session

The Washington State Legislature is in session from January 11 – March 10, 2016. This year is considered a “short session” with an amazing flurry of activity in those 60 days. The City of Mount Vernon maintains relationships with the two legislative districts that represent us. This year, the City will be advocating for:

### 1. Public Records Act reform

Alternative dispute resolution, reasonable charges for providing electronic data, and reasonable charges for fulfilling requests made for commercial purposes.

### 2. Forest Practices in Urban Growth Areas

The City requests legislative change to amend Chapter 76.09 RCW to close the loophole exempting non-conversion forest practices in UGA's of over 20 areas from the City's critical areas ordinance which are based on best available science.

### 3. Fireworks law reform: We support HB 2348

Mount Vernon needs the ability to adopt emergency bans of fireworks sales and distribution to more quickly respond to dangerous and emergency situations.

### 4. Human Services & Housing:

Greater access to mental health, substance abuse services, and supportive shelter/housing is essential. The City will post the legislative priorities once adopted by Council and is anticipating a visit to the State Capitol to meet with legislators on January 27 and 28.

#### 10<sup>th</sup> Legislative District:

Senator Barbara Bailey  
(360) 786 - 7618  
barbara.bailey@leg.wa.gov

Representative Dave Hayes  
(360) 786 - 7914  
dave.hayes@leg.wa.gov

Representative Norma Smith  
(360) 786 - 7884  
norma.smith@leg.wa.gov

#### 40<sup>th</sup> Legislative District:

Senator Kevin Ranker  
(360) 786 - 7678  
kevin.ranker@leg.wa.gov

Representative Kristine Lytton  
(360) 786 - 7800  
kristine.lytton@leg.wa.gov

Representative Jeff Morris  
(360) 786 - 7970  
jeff.morris@leg.wa.gov

## City Councilmember Mary Hudson



Welcome, newly elected Ward 3 Councilmember Mary Hudson! Mary has been a Mount Vernon resident for almost 40 years. Raised in an Air Force family, she was born in Saginaw, Michigan and has lived in many parts of the United States, at Ramstein Air Force Base, West Germany, and graduated from La Junta High School in southeast Colorado.

Mary worked for Sears in both Mount Vernon and Bellingham for 15 years before coming to work for Wells Nursery in Mount Vernon. She celebrated 23 years with Wells in November of 2015. Outside of work, Mary is active in many organizations. She served as a trustee for the Skagit Valley Hospital Foundation for 10 years, 2 of which she acted as President. She serves on many committees for the Foundation including Public Relations, Fine Art, the Gail Edward Iverson Circle of Friends, Par-Tee Golf Classic, and the Festival of

Trees. Mary also serves on the Executive Quality Oversight Council for Skagit Regional Health as a community representative. In addition, she has served as secretary for the Skagit County Farm Bureau, volunteered for Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland, the Burkland-Johnson Guild for Seattle Children's Hospital, Immaculate Conception Regional School, and MoNA.

Mary looks forward to serving on the Council and is excited about this opportunity to give back to Mount Vernon. Please contact her with any questions, comments or concerns you may have: [maryh@mountvernonwa.gov](mailto:maryh@mountvernonwa.gov)

### Mayor's Coffee Hour

**Saturday, January 23, 10:00 - 11:00 am**  
Fire Station 3  
4701 E. Division Street

**Friday, January 29, 10:00 - 11:00 am**  
Police/Court Campus, Multi-Purpose Room  
1805 Continental Place



Thank you to everyone who contributed to the overwhelming success of the 2015 Police Department / Skagit Rotary Coat Drive

### Skagit Housing Summit

Friday, January 22, 8:30 - 11:30am  
McIntyre Hall  
2501 E. College Way

Join the discussion: Learn about Skagit's housing mismatch, data on the scope and scale of the issue, successful local efforts, proven models, and help shape our next steps toward solutions. Please register at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SkagitHousingSummit>, as space is limited.

### Father/Daughter Valentine Ball

Saturday, February 6, 6:30 - 8:30pm  
Mount Vernon High School Cafeteria

All girls ages 18 and younger are invited with their fathers (or other father figure) to a Valentine's Ball. This is an opportunity for dads and daughters to dress up and spend a night together creating lasting memories, remember to bring your camera! Purchase tickets early to reserve your spot on the dance floor! All tickets must be pre-purchased. Call to purchase yours today at (360) 336-6215.

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

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



## 2016 Mayor's Winter Wellness Week

The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual winter addition to the Mayor's Wellness Challenge – Winter Wellness Week – is coming up on January 24-30, with FREE daily activities for the entire community:

#### January 24: Pickleball

LaVenture Middle School Gym, 1200 N. LaVenture Road  
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

#### January 25: The 2016 Gardening Season - New Plants, New Trends

Skagit Valley Food Co-op, 202 S. 1st Street, Room 309  
6:30 - 8:00 pm  
\*Please pre-register by calling (360) 542-5007 or online at [www.skagitfoodcoop.com](http://www.skagitfoodcoop.com)

#### January 26: Winter Skies @ the MVHS Planetarium

New Main at Mount Vernon High School, 314 N. 9th Street  
6:30 pm  
\*RSVP required as seating is limited: (360) 336-6211 or [mvmayor@mountvernonwa.gov](mailto:mvmayor@mountvernonwa.gov)

#### January 27: Health & Harmony Piano Social

Skagit Valley Hospital Main Lobby  
1415 E. Kincaid Street  
(Lobby located off Hospital Parkway)

#### January 28: "Illuminight" Winter Walk

Tri Dee Arts, 215 S. 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
4:00 pm – Create lantern; 5:30 pm – Walk along the Riverwalk

#### January 29: De-Stress About Your Mobile Devices

Mount Vernon City Library, 315 Snoqualmie Street, 1:00 - 4:00 pm

#### January 30: Tai Chi

Hillcrest Lodge, 1717 S. 13th Street, 10:00 - 11:00 am

Thank you to the City's partners: Skagit Regional Health, Skagit Valley Food Co-op, Mount Vernon Downtown Association, Tri-Dee Arts, Skagit Watershed Council, Friends of Illuminated Wildlife, Mount Vernon School District, and our City Library and Parks and Recreation Department for putting together these events the last week in January.

For more detailed event information, see [www.mountvernonwa.gov](http://www.mountvernonwa.gov) and click on the Mayor's Wellness Challenge logo or "like" the Mount Vernon Wellness Challenge page on Facebook.

## Why Shop Downtown

**Our lives are woven together in a community of mutual support.**

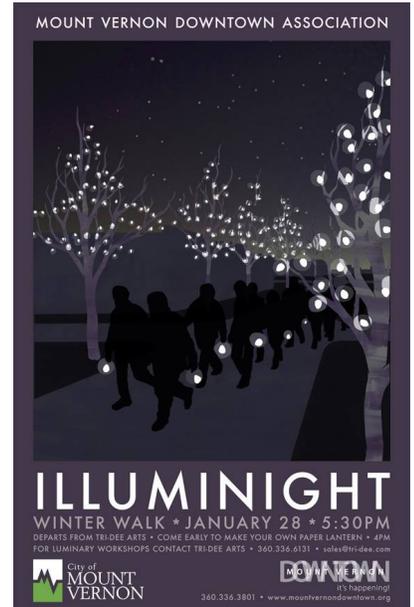
For every \$100 spent in local independent businesses, \$68 returns to the community, compared to \$43 for national chain stores and \$0 from shopping online.\*

\*The 3/50 Project.

Downtown  
Mount Vernon  
has **38**

Independently owned retail shops.

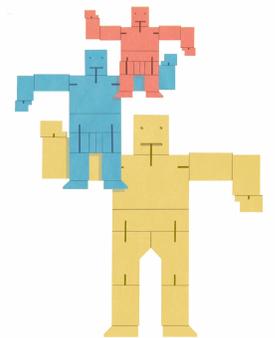
Get Involved! Find more info at:  
[www.mountvernondowntown.org](http://www.mountvernondowntown.org)



THIS IS YOUR DOWNTOWN

WHY SHOP DOWNTOWN N208

The Multiplier Effect  
of Local Independent Businesses



Independent retailers return more than three times as much money per dollar of sales than chain competitors. Shopping online returns almost no local benefit.

Get Involved! Find more info and download this flyer at: [www.mountvernondowntown.org](http://www.mountvernondowntown.org)  
Tag your photos #mydowntown and follow @MountVernonWA for a chance to be featured.