

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

## Paving the Way for Our Future

This November, the citizens of the City of Mount Vernon will decide how to address a dilemma that is increasing in magnitude. Funding for our weakening transportation infrastructure has been inadequate in recent years. As we move forward, out of the economic downturn, we have to face the reality of what deferred maintenance has meant for the 274 lane miles of streets, the 150 miles of sidewalks, 12 bridges, 31 traffic signals and 5,000 signs that the City has to care for.

Recent funding levels have been drastically lower than in prior years. In fact, the amount of revenue dedicated to transportation and maintenance in 2015 was 38% lower than in 2007. In 2011, it was 53% less than what was spent in 2007. We're slipping. The City is unable to even maintain the transportation assets that it currently has, let alone to make improvements that are necessary for continued growth.

Deferring these maintenance needs has caught up with us, and it is time to make a decision.

The State of Washington has provided an opportunity for cities to form a local Transportation Benefit District, for the purpose of raising adequate revenue levels for funding transportation needs. The Mount Vernon City Council has seized this opportunity to allow voters to decide how we turn away from this trend of deferring maintenance, and on to what we like to call "future funding."

Proposition 1 is a ballot measure to increase local sales and use tax within Mount Vernon city limits by .2%. That would equate to two pennies on a \$10 purchase. Doesn't seem like much, but the result would generate approximately \$1.3 million, annually; 100% of which would be legally dedicated exclusively to our transportation system, allowing the City to eventually catch-up on its deferred maintenance, as well as build for future growth. Should Prop 1 pass this November, it would go into effect January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2017, and then expire after 10 years, allowing the voters to again assess whether there remains an urgent need for this funding.

More Proposition 1 information can be found by clicking the "Transportation Benefit District" button on our homepage at: [www.mountvernonwa.gov/](http://www.mountvernonwa.gov/)



## "Notify Me" Website Feature

Did you know you can subscribe to receive email notifications on a wide variety of City-related information, news, and events?

Go to [www.mountvernonwa.gov](http://www.mountvernonwa.gov) and click "Notify Me" to receive email updates on topics of your choice, including News and Announcements, Community Events, Job Openings, City Council Meeting Agendas, and much more. This is a great way to keep informed of the latest happenings in the City of Mount Vernon.



## Mayor's Coffee Hour

**Friday, September 23, 10:00 - 11:00 am**  
Fire Station 2  
1901 N. LaVenture Road

**Friday, September 30, 10:00 - 11:00 am**  
Eaglemont Clubhouse Banquet Room  
4800 Eaglemont Drive



Honoring Ken Thompson (22 yrs of service) and 50+ other volunteers at the annual Police Appreciation Awards Banquet

## Skagit Valley Festival of Family Farms

October 1-2, 2016  
10:00 am - 4:00 pm

The family farms of Skagit Valley welcome and open their barns and lifestyles to you and your family for this one-of-a-kind event.

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

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

## Skagit Reads: I am Malala

Join your fellow Skagitonians this fall in reading *I am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban*. This memoir by Malala Yousafzai, the youngest winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, tells the story of a girl who refused to be silenced as she fought for her right to an education.

Check the Skagit Reads website at [www.skagitreads.org](http://www.skagitreads.org) for all the events connected with this year's book.

Then, attend the FREE documentary film screening of *He Named Me Malala* at the Lincoln Theatre on Thursday, October 6, at 6:30pm. Rated PG-13.

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## Washington State Bicycle & Pedestrian Documentation Project

The Washington State Documentation Project collects bicycle and pedestrian usage data in cities throughout the State annually and will be held this year on September 27-29.



Each year the Washington State Department of Transportation and Cascade Bicycle Club enlist the support of volunteers and organizations to benchmark the number of people bicycling and walking on trails, paths, bike lanes, sidewalks and streets across the state.

The data collected is instrumental in transportation planning and design, targeting safety and mobility projects, and improving traffic models.

Opportunities to help in Mount Vernon are still open. To volunteer in assisting their efforts, visit <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/bike/count/htm> then click on "I want to volunteer" in the box on the right side of the page. You will then be prompted to register. Once registered, you can select Skagit County and view the available sites countywide, including Mount Vernon.

## Arnie Garborg Sculpture Dedication

On September 1st a dedication ceremony was held for "Blue Square" - Mount Vernon's newest public art piece created by renowned local artist Arnie Garborg.

Garborg, a noted sculptor, passed away in 2012 and his estate donated the piece to the City. The sculpture has been installed along the Riverwalk near the Skagit River Bridge for the enjoyment of our community and visitors.



Photo Credit: Cathy Stevens, Mount Vernon Arts Commission

## Puget Sound Energy Door-to-Door Campaign

Between October 10 and 20, representatives of Puget Sound Energy will be knocking on the door of approximately 4000 residential customers in Mount Vernon to familiarize them with PSE's energy efficiency rebates and services. Customers also will be offered a free LED bulb.

The campaign will focus on two communities. One extends roughly from College Way on the south to Swan Road on the north and between Riverside Drive on the west and Barney Lake to the east. The other is between E. Blackburn on the south and East Division on the north and extends from Blodgett on the west to Burlingame Road to the east.

