

# Mayor's Message

April 2012



## In This Issue

[The First 100 Days](#)

[First Impressions Project](#)

[Mayor's Coffee Hours](#)

## Quick Links

[City of Mount Vernon](#)

[Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Skagit Valley Tulip Festival](#)

[Waterfront Revitalization Project](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Dear Resident,

Welcome to the first edition of the "Mayor's Message" newsletter. I am pleased to have the opportunity to share with you news, events, programs and initiatives our City is working on.

## The First 100 Days

For the past 3 months I have been diligently absorbing as much information as possible in an effort to 'hit the ground running' as Mayor. Learning about our city services such as wastewater treatment, vector trucks, street striping, plat approvals, and the website platform have truly been intriguing!

I want to thank our City Council for a warm welcome, and I am enjoying the collaborative relationship. Our City staff has jumped right in as a team, and we have some good accomplishments already!



Olympia Meetings with our Elected Officials

**First Impressions & Mayors Coffee Hours** - see the other featured stories in this newsletter!

**Administrative Projects Completed** - updated employee handbook, social media policy, chaired the Skagit County Solid Waste Advisory Board meeting to recommend an extension of solid waste contract for 10 years, and a contract with our firefighters. Still working on negotiations with other represented labor groups, an ethics statement, and Citywide communications plan.

**Public Safety** - The City has taken a comprehensive look at panhandling on major arterial streets and specifically the public safety challenges it poses. This project has resulted in a proposed Pedestrian Interference Ordinance. This ordinance prohibits the exchange of items from a motorist and pedestrian on major arterial streets in the City of Mount Vernon. This ordinance does not prohibit free speech, and employees are equipped with referral materials for those individuals contacted that are truly in need of social services assistance. Council is currently studying the proposed language, and map of affected roadways. The choice of proposed prohibited roadways is driven by traffic data of volume and accidents reported.

**Relationship Building** - as you can imagine, the Mayor is automatically a member of several commissions and groups. For instance, I attend monthly: Emergency Medical Service Commission, Skagit Transit Board, Skagit Council of Governments meetings, Skagit Community Action Board meeting, Downtown Business Association Board meeting, and the Mount Vernon Leadership group luncheon. I consider all of my involvement an opportunity to build good working relationships with our regional partners. In our modern economy, we must look to retain our own identity AND work together for efficiency and effective government. It has been a great pleasure to work with our State Legislators and our Federal delegation. In January, I attended the Association of Washington Cities Legislative Days in Olympia, and made a pitch for our Waterfront Revitalization project. We just found out that the needed funding for Phase 2 was included in the State Budget, so we are able to proceed with the project in 2012.

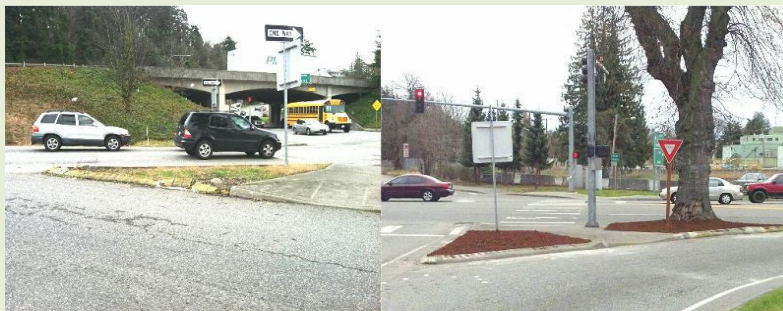
**Communications** - we are working to increase the communications from City Hall, utilizing the services we already have in TV10 and our website. This e-newsletter is one way we are hoping to increase the flow of information from City Hall to our residents! In looking at our website, it is in need of a new platform which will take several months to complete. Until then, we are committed to maximizing our current site with updated information.

Thank you for the honor of serving as your Mayor!

## First Impressions Project

The First Impressions Project is re-evaluating the look of the entrances to our City, and improving them with maintenance, landscaping, and signage. The work is being completed by our City Work Program participants and City employees, with little budget impact. It is important to keep up maintenance in public spaces and show pride in our City.

The photos shown here are 'before' and 'after' pictures of the I5 southbound Kincaid Exit. Curbing was repaired, weeds pulled, and bark placed. Much better!! Our crews will continue to look for ways to enhance our City entrances!



Kincaid Exit Improvements



## Mayor's Coffee Hours

I am hosting weekly coffee hours throughout Mount Vernon in 2012. Each week, a business or non-profit is invited to provide a space for the Mayor and community members to meet for an hour to share information. Our time together has been very enjoyable, and we have great discussions! Topics have included parking, roundabouts, public safety issues, the jail issue, and economic development.

[Coffee Hour Schedule](#)

I hope you find this informative, and would appreciate any feedback you have.

**Sincerely,**

Jill Boudreau  
Mayor, Mount Vernon WA