

Mayor's Message

May 2012



Dear Resident,

Yet another month has flown by, and we continue to work hard at the City with many projects! You may have seen our street crews around town, taking advantage of the weather to re-stripe the roads. We are celebrating the success of the Friends of the Library book sale and the dedication of 24 community members who graduated from our Mount Vernon Police Citizens Academy. Here are some highlights:



Capital Improvements Plan

This month, we have completed our initial meetings for the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) document. This document outlines major projects in each City Department. For instance, in the Public Works Department, a request is the College Way I-5 Lane Capacity Improvements Project (adding two lanes on College Way under the I-5 overpass), at a cost of \$5.75 million. The CIP document is crucial in long range planning and in the budget process every year. There are visionary projects and basic infrastructure items included, most without funding sources. When the City applies for grants, a frequent question is if the project is included in our CIP document. Next, the CIP will go before the Planning Commission and then on to our City Council for formal adoption. Last year's CIP is available for viewing on the City Finance Department web page [here](#).



Ground Breaking Ceremony

LaVenture/Anderson Project

On May 1st I participated in a ground breaking ceremony for the long anticipated LaVenture/Anderson road extension project. I'm told this project has taken 20 years to come to fruition! The extension will connect Anderson Road (and I-5 on/off ramps) to South LaVenture Road at Blackburn. Traffic studies and engineers show us that this can alleviate significant traffic off College Way, and balance trips onto our City's arterial streets. From a regional perspective, it also enhances connections between Mount Vernon and Sedro-Woolley by creating linkage from I-5 to LaVenture/Francis Road and connection to Hwy 9. This \$10 million construction project is funded largely by Federal and State transportation dollars - with a \$1 million match from the City of Mount Vernon and Skagit County. More information can be found on the [Skagit County Public Works](#) website.

Memo Medley

- This past week I met with other area mayors and the County Administrator, Tim Holloran, to begin building relationships with Skagit County.
- Thank you to Representative Kris Lytton (40th District) for attending the Mayor's Coffee Hour at Stonebridge Condos!
- Please continue to check the website for our Mayor's Coffee schedule! This week, we meet at Hagen Starbucks at 10am on Saturday and proceed to take a walk on one of our City trails. [Coffee Hour Schedule](#)
- **SAVE THE DATE!!** Our "Happy Birthday Mount Vernon" dance will be held on Saturday, June 30 at the Mount Vernon High School Cafeteria from 4-7pm. This is a free family event, with great music, birthday cake, and demonstrations by some of our local dance groups!



I have this quote in my office - "Courage and perseverance have a magical talisman, before which difficulties disappear and obstacles vanish into air." John Quincy Adams

Jill Boudreau
Mayor, Mount Vernon WA