

Mayor's Message

June 2012

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Dear Resident,

Last evening I was able to enjoy the Arts Commission Summer Solstice event on the Riverwalk. What a lovely evening along the river, enjoying the "creative best" of the City! Several local artists hand painted patio umbrellas for auction items... to benefit the Arts Commission. As I enjoyed some lemonade and gazed at the Skagit River, I could hardly contain my excitement of our Waterfront Project that will begin soon. Click [here](#) to see an animated presentation of Phase 2.

Mount Vernon Birthday Party!



You are cordially invited to come and celebrate our 122nd Birthday on June 30, 2012 from 4pm - 7pm at the Mount Vernon High School Cafeteria. We will have cake and punch, dance music, and demonstrations from local dance groups! This is a perfect time to celebrate the kind of community that we are - pulling together as a community to be well and support our quality of life. This will also be the kick off for the Mayors Wellness Challenge in August - you can sign up for the event emails and pick up a tentative schedule of events.

Thank you to our local businesses who have donated (to date) for this party - Skagit Valley Food Co-op, Walmart, Red Apple Market, and Calico Cupboard!

Mayors Wellness Challenge Update: We are completing our calendar with wonderful wellness events in August! In addition, we have invited some distinguished guests to visit us during the month, including First Lady Michelle Obama! Click [here](#) to watch a the video invite. You can also extend the invitation personally - here is a link to contact the White House: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact>

Public Works Update



During sunny weather, our street crews are spending most of their time restoring street pavement markings such as lane striping, cross walks, stop bars and turn arrows. This is weather permitting work - last year it was quite a challenge to find the sunny weather to complete this work. We are looking at any assistance we can for our street crews to help them be as productive as possible this year.

Other projects they are working on this summer include replacing a storm sewer line in the alley north of Pine Square in downtown. Our crews will replace the

surface in the alley with bricks so that the finished product will fit in well with other efforts in the downtown to improve the use and experience of the alleys.

Road maintenance such as crack sealing takes place in the summer. You will see crews raising manholes to the grade of the road.

If you have spotted a street concern, please do not hesitate to let our staff know! Call 360-336-6204.

Rough Railroad Crossings on College Way

During the last few weeks, the City of Mount Vernon has been working closely with Burlington Northern Railroad and WSDOT to ease the bumpy crossings on College Way (State Route 538). All improvements to the crossing must be made by Burlington Northern. We are doing our best to encourage them to improve the crossing.

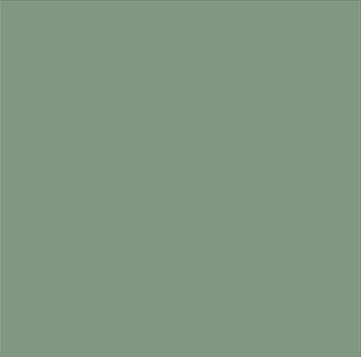
City Council Ward Meetings

Our Councilmembers just finished their Ward meetings this past week - we held meetings at Hillcrest Lodge, Fire Station 3, and the City Hall lobby. It was so nice to see the engagement with our Council - and the positive conversations. We will be posting the questions/comments and answers on the City website by July 1. Check back to read what the community is asking about!



Drug Taskforce Officer

The Mount Vernon Police Department has committed to assign an officer to the Skagit County Interlocal Drug Enforcement Unit (SCIDEU) beginning in July. We have had a person dedicated in the past, however due to budget impacts withdrew our officer in recent years. The City feels that the investment of an officer to this regional unit is of utmost importance in the fight against drug & criminal activity in the City. The Unit is made up of local law enforcement, State Patrol officers, and a mix of Federal representation. Their mission is to disrupt, dismantle, and effectively



prosecute criminal organizations and other high to mid-level criminal elements anywhere within Skagit County. SCIDEU is overseen by the Skagit County Sheriff's Department.

Wishing you a happy and healthy summertime! Looking forward to seeing you at the Mount Vernon Birthday Celebration!

Jill Boudreau
Mayor, Mount Vernon WA