

Mayor's Message

August 2012



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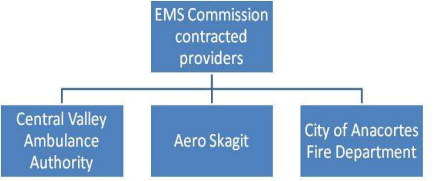
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Dear Resident,

Happy Summer! I hope you have been enjoying our lovely town and all the events that have been taking place during the summer time. Remember to consider the back to school season - watching for more pedestrians and traffic during school opening and closing times.

EMS Levy



Voters in Skagit County recently passed an EMS levy in the August 7 election. Voters approved a 50% increase in funds to the Emergency Medical System (EMS). As a member of the EMS Commission (representing the municipalities) it is of utmost importance that I assure you of my commitment to using your funds wisely.

Since there has been no increase in funding to the EMS system since 1978, you can imagine that this increase in funding was needed. However, I have been a proponent of studying our current organization around the EMS system to ensure efficiency and effective service.

Currently, the EMS Commission contracts for EMS (ambulance) service through three providers who are paid from the levy funds. The graphic shown is an illustration of the following:

- Central Valley Ambulance serves the Cities of Mount Vernon, Burlington, and Sedro Woolley in addition to central areas of unincorporated Skagit County including Alger, Bow, and Conway.
- Anacortes Fire Department serves the City of Anacortes, unincorporated areas of Fidalgo Island, Guemes Island, and areas to LaConner.
- Aero Skagit covers unincorporated eastern Skagit County

The City of Mount Vernon is covered by Central Valley Ambulance Authority, and as a resident of Mount Vernon you have an added benefit of our Mount Vernon Fire Department response as well. In many instances, our Fire Department can respond quicker to aid in basic life support and advanced life support situations. Mount Vernon Fire also serves as a backup ambulance response for the region when Central Valley Ambulance Authority has all 4 ambulances busy on calls.

In July, the EMS Commission contracted Emergency Services Consulting International to evaluate the current EMS organization in Skagit County, and provide recommendations for efficiency. The comprehensive report is due to the Commission in December 2012. In coming months, the EMS Commission may be discussing how to reimburse our contracted providers of EMS services (Central Valley Ambulance Authority, Aero Skagit, and Anacortes Fire Department) from the levy funds. I anticipate that the Skagit Valley Herald will be reporting on developments of the Commission, but I want to assure you that this is a broad and complicated topic which is not always effectively communicated in a short news story.

I wear two "EMS" hats as mayor. I sit on the EMS Commission, and am also invested into Central Valley Ambulance Authority as it is the provider of services to our City. It is important to emphasize that I feel a deep commitment to good services AND efficient use of taxpayer dollars.

If you have questions for me, please ask. Come to a Mayors Coffee so we can have

an open public dialogue about this service and the accountability I feel we must have to you.

Wellness Challenge Update



Hundreds of people have joined in the Mayor's Wellness Challenge!!!! Our recent highlight was the taping of Seattle Kitchen with celebrity chefs Thierry Rautereau and Tom Douglas! We hope to continue the relationship and encourage the use of Skagit Valley products in their restaurants.

There are still great events to participate in! Click [here](#) for the remaining calendar of events.

Plan to participate in the finale event on August 30 at the Lincoln Theater! Starting at 6:30pm we will show a short documentary film entitled the Family Meal - exploring the nurturing aspects of a family eating together. We will be joined by Marilyn McKenna who will share her very personal experience through weight loss and wellness. The first 100 attendees will receive a goody bag! See you then!

Working Together in a Trusting Environment



I was told of an overheard comment at the Mount Vernon Dog Park this morning... a resident made a comment about the number of "city workers" needed to complete a simple task. How unfortunate that this resident did not ask the 'workers' what they were doing before assuming something so negative.

Here is the real story - the crew at the dog park this morning were folks sentenced to community service by our municipal court. There was one 'city worker' present as a supervisor who needed to keep the group together that day with close supervision, due to the personalities of the offenders in the group. Our supervisors make decisions about when it is appropriate to leave offenders on their own to complete tasks. The City Work Crew (offenders) is vital to help maintain our Parks and public areas of town.

I have high expectations of myself and staff. We solve problems, we value open and candid two way communication, we are accountable for our performance. There are expectations of professionalism, educating ourselves & residents, tempering emotional reactions, and accepting criticism in order to improve and provide efficient services to create a lifetime positive difference.

I also have high expectations of our residents. Our staff is ready to answer any questions you may have about our services. You are encouraged to talk with our city staff if you have a question or concern, or thank them for a job well done. Residents need not assume anything - you are our partners in "Creating a Great Life" in our beloved town.

Mount Vernon is becoming the most transparent government in the history of Skagit County. This is a personal goal of mine... to be an example of good government and influence others to uphold integrity as a key component to vitality.

You can help us with our goal of 1000 subscribers to this newsletter by the end of the year. Forward to a friend today!

Jill Boudreau
Mayor, Mount Vernon WA