



# Report from Mayor Jennifer Gregerson

to the Community, City Council and City Staff

December 2, 2014

My monthly report on my activities, ensuring that I remain accountable and connected to our community.



## A Financially Sound City

- This month, the City Council reviewed my budget proposal over the course of a number of hearings. I have worked with staff throughout the month to answer their questions- I am appreciative of the close look the Council has taken at the 2015 budget. They have asked tough but valid and important questions.

## Sustainability

- Discussed next steps for Alliance on Housing Affordability (AHA). The organization has provided support for each city's comprehensive plan update, and now is moving towards its next iteration. I am the Chair of AHA, and appreciate the opportunity to get more involved on issues of affordable housing in our county.

## Transportation

- Attended the Council's Transportation Committee meeting. We discussed upcoming projects, pavement preservation analysis and priorities for transportation projects.

## Community Outreach

- Attended Mukilteo Historical Society monthly meeting, where they shared a year end report



A bit of friendly wildlife visiting City Hall!

and summary of activities.

## Waterfront

- Attended the monthly Mukilteo Multimodal Ferry Terminal Project and Tank Farm Coordination Meeting, along with representatives from WSF, Sound Transit, Port of Everett, Island County, NOAA and the Tulalip Tribes. The first phase of the new ferry terminal advertised the bid to prospective contractors on November 24th. In the first phase, WSF will be removing the old tank farm pier, in a process that will take two years. They will begin work on top of the pier in the spring, and can work in the water starting August 1. That is when the contractor will begin removing the creosote piers. The other activity we will see soon on the waterfront is the Port of Everett project which will build the access road (a new First Street), and the water line and other

utilities throughout the tank farm property. In mid-November, they awarded the bid for the work to a contractor. Once they start building that water line, they will need to tear up the current pathway which is used as interim access to Edgewater Beach. That means our interim path will be closed during that construction work-starting on December 10th. By summer next year, however, we will have a new First Street allowing for walking, biking and permanent vehicular access to Edgewater Beach!

## A Vibrant Economy

- Attended the Paine Field Community Council meeting. Airport staff updated noise complaint statistics and other projects happening on and around the airport. The Future of Flight had a great year, welcoming over 270,000 visitors to the Mukilteo area. This was also an opportunity to meet the new Airport Director, Arif Ghouse.
- Attended the Chamber of Commerce executive board meeting and updated on city events.

## A Safe Community

- Attended Council's Public Safety Committee. We discussed a number of items, including:

Mayor's Action Agenda

Preserving Our Streets • Green Team • Japanese Gulch • Human Resources  
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school safety and our Police Department's commitment to our schools and children; public health; landslide mitigation efforts; fire department updates; and priorities for public safety priorities moving into 2015.

- Attended the Dawson Place Transforming Hurt to Hope Luncheon. Dawson Place is a not for profit comprehensive multidisciplinary team serving child victims of sexual or physical abuse in Snohomish County, Washington. Law enforcement, child protective services, medical, victim advocacy, prosecution, and mental health agencies all work together to provide the best possible services to children and their families victimized by sexual or physical abuse. It was a powerful afternoon, to hear the stories of victims and the support they receive at Dawson Place.
- Met with Fire District 1 Commissioner David Chan to discuss our continued partnership with the District. FD1 provides our ladder truck service and emergency incident command services, through an agreement that expires at the end of 2017. FD1 is also providing our fire marshal services via a contract through the end of the year.

### **A Great Team**

- Held our quarterly all-staff meeting, celebrated some of our excellent employees, discussed the 2015 budget proposal, and shared updates on each department's activities. It's a valuable opportunity to bring the excellent team, that I am honored to work with, together in one room.
- Attended National League of Cities (NLC) fall conference, along with Councilmembers Champion, Cook, and Vander-
- MSD Chris Phillips and I continue to work on organizational management and leadership development at the City. I'm glad to have Chris' expertise on these issues to help shape our continuing way forward and make Mukilteo an excellent organization.



*During the National League of Cities conference, Mayor Gregerson joined a bike tour of other city officials of bike infrastructure in Austin, Texas. The City of Austin sets a great example of using different types of infrastructure and policy tools to make it a great, and always improving, place to bike.*

wielen. At the conference, I attended the NLC Information Technology and Communications Policy Committee. Our committee works on important issues related to city views and federal policy on technology and communications. These issues are closely related to economic development and business growth in cities. I also attended two skills training sessions on Public Sector Negotiation Skills and Finding Common Ground: Promoting Civil Discourse on Divisive Issues.

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# 2014 ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

## JANUARY



Mayor Gregerson was sworn in and presented an Action Agenda for 2014 on January 4th.

- Met with Troy McClelland of Economic Alliance of Snohomish County. Discussed how the EASC markets our region, including Mukilteo and its unique positioning and manufacturing sector. Also talked about legislative priorities coordinated with EASC, other Snohomish County cities, and others.
- Worked with Councilmember Brian Sullivan and Paul Tsoukalas of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Snohomish County to submit a state capital budget request for the Mukilteo Boys and Girls Club: Shin Center.
- Along with newly elected Lynnwood Mayor Nicola Smith and Anacortes Mayor Laurie Gere, spoke to a group of women leaders about our vision for our cities in 2014.
- Hosted 50 Aces High School students from their government classes at City Hall, featuring presentations from each department and a visit with police officers and firefighters.
- Was interviewed by Karen Erickson from KSER about sustainability in Mukilteo for her monthly program (available after at <http://recycle-withkbbk.podbean.com/>)
- Participated in labor negotiations meetings with all of the City's five labor groups.

## FEBRUARY



Mayor Gregerson and Spencer, Snohomish County Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year, from the Alderwood Club.

- Joined residents and visitors at Harbour Point Retirement Center for coffee, answered questions about the waterfront, snow response, volunteerism, 777x, and Paine Field
- Met with Congressman Rick Larsen at City Hall. Discussed Harbour Reach Extension proposal, rail safety, and the City's opposition to commercial air service at Paine Field
- Property transaction officially closed: Japanese Gulch, all 140 acres, is in public hands. Enjoy the trails, and dream of what we can do in its future!
- Directed staff to improve our commute trip reduction program
- Visited Olympia, met with Senator Marko Liias and Congressman Rick Larsen, discussed rail safety related to oil transport. Later, also attended Rail Safety meeting with Congressman Rick Larsen. Learned more about issues related to Bakken oil transport along BNSF line that runs through Mukilteo. Learned about opportunities for emergency response training

## MARCH



Mayor Gregerson and Officer Davis with Mukilteo's Chief for a Day, Connor Dunham!

- Mukilteo Fire staff participated for several weeks in the Oso slide in the recovery efforts. Our hearts are with the survivors and the communities of Oso, Darrington and Arlington
- Toured the LDS Bishop's Storehouse in Mukilteo with Lynnwood Stake President Jeff Lee and other church members. They serve a wide region, including church members and non-members. We discussed opportunities to work together and keep communication open in times of emergency
- Attended the Mukilteo Elementary Leadership Day event, heard from amazing young leaders at ME, and shared in the ribbon cutting celebration, organized by students at their new outdoor garden: M-Eco
- Met with Bill Kolden, Human Resources consultant, to discuss process and needs for HR assessment. Met with consultant Bob Jean to discuss executive department assessment and how to meet our strengths and be most effective. Received a draft report from them, which will help guide the way to the next phase of city leadership and help complete my vision for administration and executive services in Mukilteo city government.

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## APRIL



Mayor Gregerson and Officer Colt Davis joined the Easter bunny at the Mukilteo Firefighter's Annual Easter Egg Hunt, held at Mukilteo Elementary.

- This month, I worked with our staff on the recommendation to bring a Human Resources Manager to the City. This fulfills my promise to examine executive services in the city and ensure that we provide the highest quality services in the most efficient and effective way. I am also recommending a Management Services Director to help oversee most departments and provide full-time professional support of day-to-day operations.
- Held our first Green Team meeting! The Green Team includes one member from each department in the City, working together to share ideas and initiatives to make our City more sustainable. An energetic group, we came up with a number of simple ideas to improve city practices, such as paper reduction, recycling procedures, cleaning and city operations.
- Met with Mohammed Khan and heard an update on the plans for the Mukilteo mosque. I think it's exciting to have a newly active faith community in Mukilteo. Mohammed is aware of the challenges related to traffic in the area of the proposed mosque, and is working closely with our planning staff as he continues to develop the project concepts.

## MAY



Mayor Gregerson spoke at the Workforce Development Center graduation, and was honored to meet students who had completed the program and are ready to move on to jobs in aerospace manufacturing or college!

- Attended Washington Low Income Housing Alliance awards dinner with Mukilteo residents who are involved in these issues. Affordable housing is a critical issue for our region, and I think it's important for Mukilteo to do all that we can.
- Attended our first ever Block Watch Captain's meeting, to encourage their participation and contributions to making Mukilteo a safe place to live. 95% of police arrests are the direct result of a citizen's phone call. Don't hesitate to call 911 if you see suspicious activity.
- Attended Economic Alliance of Snohomish County annual awards, celebrated success of Himalayan Dog Chew owners, and winners of Entrepreneur of the Year Award from the Herald Business Journal. These business owners are the new tenants of the old City Hall on Chennault Beach!
- Toured, and then spoke at the Workforce Development Center graduation. This is a great organization that provides hands-on, real world aerospace training for juniors and seniors from high schools throughout Snohomish County. The students are paid for their work, and work on actual manufacturing jobs that ordered by their partners, including Boeing.

## JUNE



Mayor Gregerson and Ewa Wheeler get some tips on self defense from Andre Lannertone, owner of Inner-Strength Self Defense in Mukilteo.

- Attended the City Council's Economic Development Committee meeting. Our city staff shared that we have changed the business license form to better match economic indicators, so that we can gather better information about our businesses. The second meeting this month provided an opportunity to discuss lighthouse operations with the Mukilteo Historical Society board.
- Celebrated the opening of Edgewater Beach Pedestrian and Bicycle Interim Access improvement project.



As part of the Mayor's Salute to Youth program, Mayor Gregerson joins Olympic View Middle School students Milly, Annemarie and Kaelyn to honor their efforts to combat bullying at Serene Lake Elementary School. In July, the Mayor proclaimed July 21st as Anti-Bullying Day in Mukilteo in honor of their efforts. [Learn more about the girls' work here.](#)

# 2014 ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

## JULY



*This month, Mayor Jennifer Gregerson married our new first gentleman of Mukilteo, Jeff Wakeman!*

- Attended the Leadership Alliance Against Coal (now known as the Safe Energy Leadership Alliance) meeting, which brings together elected officials and policy makers, to discuss response and actions to be taken on coal and oil train proposals. Our voices together carry more weight on this important topic.
- Attended Domestic Violence Services Hope Within Luncheon. It was an inspiring event, which helps acknowledge the victims of domestic violence killed in the last year. I remain committed to investing in services for the victims of domestic violence in our city.
- Met with Washington State Department of Transportation Regional Administrator Lorena Eng and staff to talk about opportunities and challenges related to SR525 and 526 in our community. Public Works staff and I shared our priorities for improvements needed on SR525 and SR526.

## AUGUST



*Mayor Gregerson visited the NOAA Northwest Fisheries Center Mukilteo Research Station on Mukilteo's waterfront, for a tour with city staff. Research on salmon, english sole, and other fish, as well as on ocean acidification, is conducted at the Mukilteo facility.*

- Attended the Green Team monthly meeting to discuss strategies and ideas for making changes in city operations. We discovered that only one department was purchasing recycled paper for our copy machines. We will be implementing that change throughout the city moving forward. Each month, the city uses about 9 reams of paper.
- Met with Meghan McKee of UET to hear updates on their business this year and share news about the City. UET continues to grow their business, hiring more people in Mukilteo and serving energy companies with their innovative renewable energy battery storage solution.
- Spent half a shift with Police Corporal Bredstrand as part of a ride along with the police. It was wonderful to see a day in the life with one of our officers. I appreciate the great work that they do to keep our community safe.

## SEPTEMBER



*Mayor Gregerson joins Mayor-for-a-Day Lara Wahid in her office. Lara, a Harbour Pointe Middle School 7th grader, celebrated her day during the Lighthouse Festival.*

- Attended the Council's Transportation Committee meeting. Staff updated on the assessment of our pavement condition, which will aid in calculating future costs for maintenance of our roads. The new system helps assess current conditions and generate priorities for future investment.
- This month marked the beginning of department budget presentations, including prioritizing initiatives for 2015.
- Met with Dennis Vrabek to talk about property and future possible development in Mukilteo.
- Met with staff from the Prothman Company to discuss and select finalist candidates for the Management Services Director position. On Monday, October 6th, the City Council confirmed my appointment of Chris Phillips as the new Management Services Director. Chris most recently served as Executive Officer, Naval Air Station Whidbey. He brings many years of administrative and executive leadership to the City.

# 2014 ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

## OCTOBER



Mayor Gregerson welcomed Congresswoman Suzan DelBene and a number of women leaders to Mukilteo City Hall this month. This was the first Women Executive Leaders Luncheon, bringing together women leaders in politics, business and the community. It was a great opportunity to come together.

- Attended the monthly Green Team meeting. This month we met with an education and outreach expert from Waste Management to learn more about waste reduction. One of their recommendations, improving our janitorial service at our city facilities, is included in the 2015 Budget proposal.
- Participated in a course conducted through the UW Evans School of Public Affairs titled "Managing Process Improvement." I'm excited to bring ideas back to the City organization, and find ways to better serve our residents, and work efficiently and effectively.
- Participated in a roundtable on the new Together We Can initiative at Kamiak HS, bringing our community together to battle the issue of drug and alcohol abuse in our community and families, and supporting a healthy community. I'm energized and hopeful about these efforts.



In August, Mayor Gregerson helped honor Citizen of the Year recipients: Ann Brice, accepting on behalf of her late husband, Jim Brice, and John Collier, volunteer and current President of the Mukilteo Historical Society.



In March, Interim City Administrator Rex Caldwell and Mayor Gregerson accept certificates of appreciation for the City's support of guard and reserve employees. ICA Caldwell was also presented the "My Boss is a Patriot" award from Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve representative John Van Dalen. He was nominated by Sergeant Cheol Kang.



Congressman Rick Larsen attended the May meeting of the Mukilteo Youth Advisory Committee.



In March, Mayor Gregerson presented Carolyn van der Muelen with a special proclamation for the Foster Bike nonprofit she founded with her brother. Their nonprofit provides bikes to foster children in the area, which they began because of their love for biking in Mukilteo as young kids.



In February, Mayor Gregerson visited Serene Lake Elementary for their leadership day, and got to say hi to her kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Good!

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