



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 30, 2007

Mount Vernon, Washington – The landmark “Tulip Smokestack” that is located at 117 N 1st Street, in downtown Mount Vernon, will be repainted with new tulip designs during the coming Labor Day weekend.

The Mayor’s Office has been working with various individuals and companies to help facilitate the painting of a newly created tulip design on the landmark smokestack located at 117 N 1st Street, in downtown Mount Vernon. The smokestack is located on private property, and the owner has graciously authorized the repainting, which is scheduled to occur over this Labor Day weekend.

Local artist Esther McLatchy created and donated the new tulip design to the City of Mount Vernon. Cindy Verge, Executive Director of the Skagit Valley Tulip Festival, assisted Ms. McLatchy with design and color selection, and the Skagit Valley Tulip Festival Board of Directors has officially approved the design. Jose Cardona, owner of Cardona & Sons Painting, has volunteered to do the painting, and Dale Ragan, owner of Karl’s Paints in Mount Vernon, is donating all necessary paint supplies. In addition, Birch Equipment is providing a 125 foot boom truck at a substantially reduced rental rate.

Mayor Norris said “Unfortunately, repainting the smokestack has taken a considerable amount of time. The owner had to complete a structural analysis, and then remove approximately 20 feet from the top of the smokestack. I appreciate everyone’s patience during this process.”

Norris further said “I’m very grateful to all the parties that have stepped forward and volunteered their time or supplies to help bring painted tulips back to our very visible downtown smokestack. My Office has received countless inquiries from residents and visitors asking when tulips would once again grace our skyline. Well, the time is now, and Esther has done a magnificent job creating the new tulip design. I look forward to its completion.”

For further information, contact:

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