

Innovation!

The City is currently a part of an application to the State for an Innovative Partnership Zone (IPZ) designation from the Department of Commerce. The whole idea behind an IPZ is to bring together research, industry, workforce training organization, and government to work together to stimulate our regional economy. For instance, Walla Walla has a very successful IPZ around viticulture, wine making. Walla Walla is now known as a premier wine making area and a destination for tourism.

What can an IPZ do?

- Marketing. As we have successful regional relationships, our 'profile' grows!
- Future funding potential. The State government is placing greater emphasis on regional economies, innovation, and cluster development. IPZs may be well-positioned for funding.
- Grant applications. The IPA designation may give us a competitive advantage for federal funds or foundation grants.
- Creates a knowledge-economy in your region.
- Facilitates collaborative partnerships.

While Skagit County has a number of interesting economic assets that could qualify as industry clusters, the one that rises to the top is the focus on increasing economic opportunities for **innovative agriculture**. The nationally recognized research and experimentation conducted by Dr. Jones of WSU and the recent collaboration between Dr. Jones and Wayne Carpenter on a malting company are examples of successful and innovative approaches to value added agriculture. Other innovative successes related to agriculture include bamboo innovator Provitro and the Maas brothers Farm Power which turns manure into methane, which fuels an electric generator that produces energy that is then sold to Puget Sound Energy. It is likely that there could be many other similar examples that currently exist and/or could be developed with the right economic infrastructure and support.

Agriculture is one of the leading industries in Skagit County. Innovative approaches within the agricultural industry already exist. Through a supportive and collaborative infrastructure Skagit County can become a center for agricultural research, technology and innovation.

The Skagit County IPZ application partners include the City of Mount Vernon, Port of Skagit, Economic Development Association of Skagit County, Northwest Agriculture Business Center, WSU, Skagit Valley College, Skagit County, Sakuma Farms, Knutsen Farms, and Skagit Valley Malting.

We have made it through the first round of applications, and will present to the State in mid-September and plan to move forward. We want to promote the long term economic viability of our City, and believe that one way to do this is by working together with our region to make it happen.

Mayor's Coffee Hours

Friday, September 20

10:00—11:00 a.m.

Stonebridge Retirement Community

512 Shady Lane

Friday, September 27

10:00—11:00 a.m.

Skagit Land Trust

1020 S. 3rd Street

Friday October 4

10:00—11:00 a.m.

Eaglemont, Banquet Room C

4800 Eaglemont Drive



Current work being completed on the waterfront

Upcoming Events

Friends of the Library Book Sale

Saturday, September 21
10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Cleveland Avenue, Outside between the
Library and City Hall

Sale of gently used (donated and
withdrawn) books and other items,
including some collectible titles.

Proceeds help the Friends support the
Mount Vernon City Library! In the event
of inclement weather, sale will be held
next door, inside Fire Station #1

Mount Vernon Farmers Market

Saturday, September 21
9:00 am—1:00 pm
Skagit State Bank parking lot, on the
corner of Snoqualmie Street and
Cleveland Avenue

Ray Reep Salmon Derby

Saturday, September 28
Weigh in 3:00 - 5:00 pm
Edgewater Park
600 Behrens Millett Rd

\$15 Entry Fee - Contact Parks and
Recreation at (360) 336-6215 for more
information

Check our website
www.mountvernonwa.gov
for Parks and Recreation offerings

Mayor Jill Boudreau

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Eat Local

A Celebration of Skagit
Valley Farm Fresh Products
and Mount Vernon Dining -

September 1-30, 2013. Twenty-five of Mount Vernon's best restaurants have
joined together to celebrate the wondrous bounty of Skagit Valley.

Throughout September, restaurants will have special menu items, including
beverages, which feature Skagit Valley products and showcase local farms.
For instance, Round Table Pizza has developed a "Skagitarian Pizza" that
features zucchini, sweet mini peppers, onions, spinach, and tomatoes fresh
from our local farms!

**You can pick up a free booklet, Fresh and Best in Season in the Skagit
Valley, written by Graham Kerr and Suzanne Butler at the local
restaurants, or visit www.eatlocalmountvernon.com to obtain a copy.**

Part of the infrastructure that makes farm to table communities work is a
central place where farms bring their goods, and restaurants can go to
purchase. The Northwest Agriculture Business Center has teamed up with
Bow Hill Blueberries to offer a commercial 'food hub' to serve this purpose.
Here is a web link to a wonderful video about this effort. [http://
www.indiegogo.com/projects/419290/ema](http://www.indiegogo.com/projects/419290/ema)

Don't forget to vote in the People's Choice Award Contest and you'll be
entered to win a gift certificate from participating restaurants! Share the
adventure and enjoy the taste! For more information, call the Mount Vernon
Chamber of Commerce at (360) 428-8547.

Community Survey

Part of the Mayor's Wellness Challenge is a community survey, found on our
city website: www.mountvernonwa.gov

The survey asks our residents about services provided and what they would
like to see in the future. Please take about 10 minutes to participate in your
City government! We need your input as we move into budget preparation
for 2014.

Strauss Jewelers Clock Refurbished!

An icon of downtown has been restored to
glory! The 1905 era clock that graces the
street in front of Strauss Jewelers is
proudly keeping time again. Last May, the
clock's movement was pulled out and
refurbished. Several of the gears were
worn, and Alan Heugh made new gears by
hand and refurbished the clock since the
parts have not been available for over 40
years. The last repair was over 18 years
ago, and took 6-9 months to complete.
Thank you to Lynn and Barbara Strauss
and their business for this beautiful asset
to downtown, and their commitment to the
City of Mount Vernon!

