

## Budget News

The 2014 budget was approved by City Council on December 11, 2013 and restores our workforce to full time. City staff was under furlough (reduced work week/reduced salary) for the past 4 years, and saved the City more than \$900,000 over that time period. Full time staff means an additional 78 hours of work for City Hall, Library, Parks & Recreation, and administration in the Police, Fire, and Public Works Departments. Furloughs were necessary to help the City through the recession. We are pleased to have our staff back to full time to fulfill our mission of professional and efficient services. City Hall is now open Monday – Friday from 8 am – 5 pm.

## Economic Opportunity

Governor Inslee recently released plans for the Department of Commerce to focus on seven specific industries for economic growth in Washington State. These industries are considered to be the backbone of our economy:

- Clean energy
- Agriculture
- Military
- Aerospace
- Life sciences
- Information and communication technology
- Maritime

Through the Department of Commerce's Office of Economic Development and Competiveness, leaders for each of these sectors are being hired to enhance and expand economic development in these areas.

The City of Mount Vernon began focusing on sectors in 2013 and is delighted that the four sectors chosen by us are part of the seven that the State has identified (Information technology, Agriculture, Aerospace, and Healthcare/Wellness as part of Life sciences). We are looking forward to connecting with opportunities that the State level economic development work will provide.

Our focus in 2014 will be to continue with our success in the technology sector by working with EDASC on a Tech Summit in the Fall. We would like to focus on both public and private opportunities through sharing the success of Mount Vernon with other Western Washington cities, and highlighting opportunities available by locating in the City. Mayor Boudreau and IS Director Kim Kleppe recently attended a technology predictions luncheon in Bellingham to glean information and keep abreast of the latest information in the technology sector.

## Mayor's Coffee Hours

**Saturday, January 18**

**9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.**

Walk Kulshan Trail with the Mayor!  
Meet at the trailhead by Riverside Drive and the Railroad tracks. Parking is available at Habitat for Humanity, 1022 Riverside Drive

**Friday, January 24**

**12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

Mount Vernon City Hall, 2nd Floor  
910 Cleveland Avenue  
*Bring a lunch if you'd like!*

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Mayor Boudreau attended the State of the State address as a guest of Governor Inslee on January 14, 2014. She is pictured at right with Mr. Jeff Charbonneau, National Teacher of the Year from Zillah, WA; Miss [Ibrahim Abshir](#), a student at Rainier Beach High School and her brother.



## Father/Daughter Valentine Ball

Saturday, February 8  
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Mount Vernon High School Cafeteria

All girls are invited with their fathers (or other father figure) to a Valentine's Ball. Tickets are on sale now, and must be pre-purchased by calling (360) 336-6215 or stop by the Parks office at Hillcrest Park. \$22 per couple, \$11 each additional girl.

## Make-It Mondays

Mount Vernon City Library is hosting a series of art and crafting workshops for adults on Monday evenings this winter.

The first event is:

**Intro to Watercolors with  
Deirdre Czoberek**

Monday, January 27, 6:00 p.m.  
City Library, 315 Snoqualmie Street

No experience necessary and supplies will be provided. Pre-registration is encouraged but not required. (360) 336-6209

## Did You Know:

- The City's annual street lighting budget is \$350,000
- 59 computer printers are used every day in the City of Mount Vernon offices
- Our Finance Department will issue approximately 2360 business licenses in 2014

**Mayor Jill Boudreau**  
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## Downtown Public Restrooms

Coming in 2014 - public restrooms located at the corner of Gates and Main! The City acquired a building in 2013 as part of the Flood Protection and Waterfront Revitalization Project, and is moving forward with renovations in the 1st part of 2014. The City is currently working to select an architect to complete the design process. If you have spent time in Downtown, you know that public restrooms would be a valuable service to our residents and visitors alike!



## Trip to Olympia

The Mayor, Staff, and City Councilmembers Ragan, Lindquist, and Fiedler will be headed down to Olympia on January 28 to meet with our legislators and attend the Association of Washington Cities Conference. We will be sharing our progress on the Waterfront Project and economic opportunities. We will also share our concerns about unfunded mandates that directly affect you and our City budget.

**Decreased shared liquor revenue:** Recent legislation reduced the shared funding created from liquor sales. The enhanced public safety funding promised in the 2011 liquor privatization initiative has not materialized.

**Marijuana sales revenue:** The new recreational marijuana industry is subject to up to a 75% state excise tax, but none of this potential funding is directed back to locals to address public safety needs and other local impacts. The City of Mount Vernon is asked to enforce marijuana laws and needs shared revenue to accomplish this mandate.

**Offender medical costs:** Cities are responsible for providing inmates with medical care. These costs equate to \$80,348 in our City budget. Local inmates are not eligible for state or federal benefits such as Medicaid, which leaves our city to pay the bill. We need options to mitigate costs.

As population trends have shown us – growth in incorporated cities has doubled since 1985, while the taxing structure and revenue sharing has remained largely the same. It is time for a conversation about shared revenue, and who provides services that the State should partner in.

Population trends in Washington State

