

Happy Thanksgiving!

Let us remember that, as much has been given us, much will be expected from us, and that true homage comes from the heart as well as from the lips, and shows itself in deeds. ~Theodore Roosevelt

Happy Thanksgiving! As we prepare to pause in gratitude on Thanksgiving Day, I would like to thank YOU for positive contributions to our wonderful community. The City of Mount Vernon enjoys a hometown attitude because of residents that truly care about their quality of life and their neighbors. As a wonderful example, the City is so grateful for a generous donation of tulip bulbs from **Skagit Valley Bulb Farm (also Tulip Town) and the DeGoede family!** **Thousands of gorgeous bulbs** are currently being planted along the Skagit Riverwalk promenade and plaza in addition to areas around historic Downtown.

Budget Update

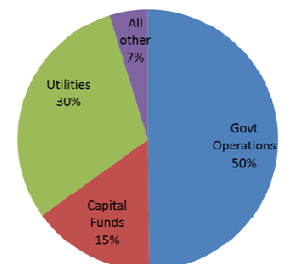
The City Council, Mayor, and staff have been working diligently on budget details since October 15. There have been two public hearings – one regarding revenue and property tax and another for a general City budget hearing. On Tuesday, November 25, 2014 City Council adopted an ordinance setting property tax revenues for 2015 without taking a lawfully allowed 1% increase. City Council elected to take new construction revenues which are forecast to add \$90,000 in revenue to the City operating budget. Budget discussion will continue in a City Council Study Session scheduled for Wednesday, December 3, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. Council will conduct a public hearing regarding the imposition of a water utility tax at that time.

The image to the right shows a breakdown of the Government Operations portion of the City budget – where most of the traditional municipal services are accounted for. Public Safety funding includes Police, Fire, 911 services, Municipal Court and Public Defense, and LEOFF 1 retiree expenses.

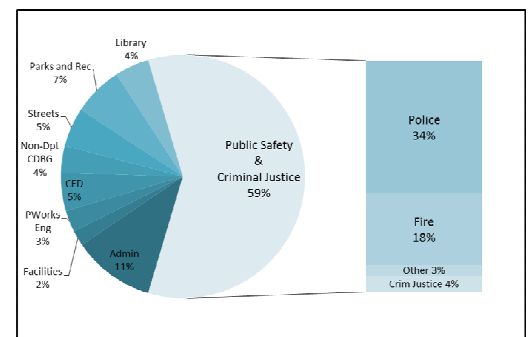
The administrative category includes the Finance, City Attorney, Human Resources, Mayor/Council, and Information Services Departments.

Detailed information can be found on the City website at www.mountvernonwa.gov

2015 City Budget \$52,323,415



Breakdown of how the budget is spent



Community Emergency Response Team

If an earthquake or other major disaster struck your neighborhood, would you be willing to help rescue people and provide basic first aid until police, fire and EMS personnel arrive? If so, then join the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

The CERT program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as Fire Safety, Light Search and Rescue, Team Organization and Disaster Medical Operations.

Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.

Please visit <http://www.skagitcounty.net/EmergencyManagement/Documents/CERT.pdf> for more information on the next CERT Training beginning January 22, 2015.

Mayor's Coffee Hours

Friday, December 5, 12:00-1:00 pm
City Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room
910 Cleveland Avenue

Saturday, December 20, 10:00-11:00 am
Skagit Valley Food Co-op, Mezzanine Area
202 S. First Street



Veterans Recognition Ceremony on November 8, 2014

Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 6, 8:00 - 11:00 am
Hillcrest Park Lodge
1717 S. 13th Street

Come join in a festive holiday morning celebration. Breakfast of pancakes and ham will be served while a live band performs our favorite holiday tunes. Santa himself will be on site to visit with each and every child. Make sure to bring your camera to capture the holiday moment. Tickets are \$5 per person and may be purchased at the door the day of the event or in the Parks & Recreation Administration office at Hillcrest Park.

FREE Holiday Movie "Polar Express 3D" at the Lincoln Theatre!

Saturday, December 6, 3:00 pm
Lincoln Theatre - 712 S. 1st Street

Mount Vernon City Councilmember Gary Molenaar loves Christmas! He envisioned a free movie for our community at the Lincoln Theatre – and his business Ken's Hairstyling has sponsored the movie for 3 years running! Thank you! This year, the City partnered with the Downtown Business Association to create a wonderful family event – complete with golden tickets! Seating is limited to 411 persons. First come, first served.

Old Fashioned Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting

Sunday, December 7, 5:00 pm
1st Street

Come to historic downtown 1st Street for Mount Vernon's annual Christmas Parade, starting at 5 pm on Sunday, December 7. The Tree Lighting Ceremony in Pine Square will follow shortly after the parade ends, around 6 pm.

Mayor Jill Boudreau
910 Cleveland Avenue
P.O. Box 809
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

360.336.6211
www.mountvernonwa.gov



Winter Preparedness – Consider a Car Emergency Kit!

Everyone should carry a Winter Survival Kit in their car. In an emergency or inclement weather it could save your life and the lives of your passengers. Designate one small canvas bag with these suggested items:

- windshield scraper and small broom
- flashlight with extra batteries (Reverse batteries in flashlight to avoid accidental switching and burnout)
- battery powered radio
- water
- snack food including energy bars
- first aid kit with pocket knife
- necessary medications
- blankets or sleeping bag
- tow chain or rope cat litter for traction
- booster cables
- emergency flares and reflectors
- fluorescent distress flag and whistle to attract attention
- cell phone adapter to plug into lighter

For more winter driving tips, visit www.wsdot.wa.gov/winter

Transportation Improvement Board Grant Awarded to the City of Mount Vernon!

The City was recently notified that it has received a \$2.7 million grant from the Washington State Transportation Improvement Board – specifically for the College Way widening (under I-5) project!

This project partners with WSDOT to realize significant traffic volume improvements by adding two lanes to College Way by excavating under the existing bridge.

WSDOT completed a study in 2011 to show what the proposed \$6 million project could achieve. The recent grant allows funding to complete design and engineering – and kickstart the construction budget.

Great job Public Works staff for their successful grant application! See below for a CONCEPTUAL rendering of the project!

