

We provide professional, efficient services to create a lifetime positive difference for our Community.

New Dog Kennel at Police Department

We recently completed construction of a new dog kennel at the Mount Vernon Police Department. This new facility is an exciting and valuable addition to our Police Department Campus. The kennel allows for safe and humane housing of animals for animal control as well as for temporary needs police may have, such as safe keeping of an animal belonging to a detained person.

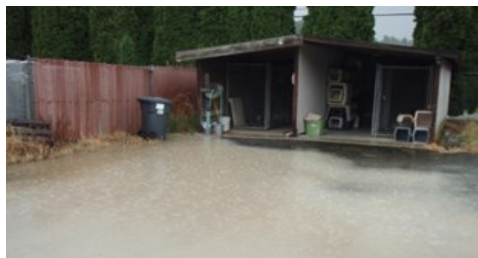
The addition of power and heat to the kennel makes it fully functional in all weather conditions and allows for a longer holding period at our facility rather than direct transport to the Humane Society. The new kennel can also hold up to 8 large dogs, which is twice as many as the old facility.

Added features such as pulley operated doors between some kennels allow officers to safely and humanely care for aggressive or fearful animals. Animals are also separated by concrete walls so there is no longer any nose to nose contact, thereby reducing the chances of disease transmission.

The cost of the new kennel was approximately \$140,000. The project was funded by REET I, a revenue of .25% paid by the seller on the sale of real property. REET funds are restricted by state law to be used for capital projects within the jurisdiction.

The new location of the kennel facility – on the Police Department Campus as opposed to the City Shop – will free up time for those impounding, caring for and reuniting animals. Now owners can fill out paperwork have their animal returned to them all in one place. It also makes it much easier for officers to check on animals during the overnight hours if needed.

In 2015 we were able to reunite 103 pets with their owners at the City kennel, representing a savings of \$6,800 in impound fees to the City of Mount Vernon. With the addition of this new facility we hope to increase the number of pets reunited with their owners by way of our City kennel.



Old Kennel



New Kennel



New Kennel Holding Pens

Welcome Fire Chief Bryan Brice

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Bryan Brice to the position of Fire Chief for the City of Mount Vernon. Chief Brice was sworn in on August 8th and brings with him 26 years of experience in fire service. As former Fire Chief for the City of Oxnard, CA, Chief Brice has been responsible for the oversight of 8 career fire stations and 128 personnel.

Mayor's Coffee Hour

Friday, September 23, 10:00 - 11:00 am

Fire Station 2
1901 N. LaVenture Road

Bring your interests, comments and concerns to discuss over a cup of coffee



Swearing in Ceremony for New Fire Chief Bryan Brice

Back to School Driving Tips

With the end of summer and the beginning of a new school year, now is the perfect time to remind ourselves to slow down and pay attention, especially before and after school when traffic in those areas is more congested and children are present. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) offers the following tips for motorists, children, and their parents:

- Obey signs, signals, and crossing guards in school zones.
- Look for and expect to see pedestrians and bicyclists, especially before and after school.
- Slow down, especially with children walking/biking to school, around bus stops, in school zones and in low light or bad weather.
- Learn and obey school bus laws.
- Drive focused and alert at all times. Avoid use of electronic devices and other distracting behaviors while driving.
- Schools have very specific drop-off procedures. If you are dropping a child off, make sure you are aware of them for the safety of everyone involved.

2016-17 Daily School Hours

Centennial/Jefferson/Lincoln
8:30am - 3:00pm

Little Mountain/Madison/Washington
9:00am - 3:30pm

LaVenture/Mount Baker
7:30am - 2:00pm

Mount Vernon High School
8:00am - 2:30pm

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Veterans History Project

I invite you to join us in participating with the Library of Congress' **Veterans History Project**. The mission of the Veterans History Project is to collect, preserve and make accessible the personal accounts of American wartime veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war. This incredible project allows all of us to participate in preserving our history, and to tell the story of our heroes and loved ones.



Participants are asked to submit a 30-minute interview with a veteran, as well as documents such as photos and journal entries. These items and stories will be sent to the Library of Congress to be displayed and permanently preserved. Our hope is that residents of Mount Vernon will participate in this national project and join us in celebrating those who have fought and sacrificed for our freedom.

For more information on how to participate, please call City Project Development Manager Peter Donovan at: 336-6211 ext. 1105. Or, download your own Veterans History Project starter kit for free at: www.loc.gov/vets

City Receives State Audit Award

The City of Mount Vernon has been awarded for its dedication to making government work better. In an annual audit exit conference on August 1st, officials from the Washington State Auditor's Office presented the City with a coveted Stewardship Award.



According to the State Auditor's Office, the award is presented in recognition of outstanding accomplishment in the stewardship of public resources; and it was given to only 4 cities in 2015.

The State Auditor's Office and the City of Mount Vernon have a shared goal of ensuring that government works better, costs less and earns the trust of the public. Finance Director Alicia Huschka and the entire Mount Vernon Finance Department have a long history of excellence, and I am proud of the responsible, accountable work that they perform on behalf of the citizens of Mount Vernon.

In addition to the 2016 Stewardship Award, the City of Mount Vernon has now logged its 17th year of receiving a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting (CAFR); an award given by the Government Finance Officers Association. A CAFR is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.