

# Mayor's Message

July 2012

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## Dear Resident,

I walked to the Skagit Valley Food Co-op today - it is several blocks from City Hall, which allows me to enjoy the historic architecture of 1st Street. Friendly waves, hellos, and busy shoppers were a delightful sight and a perfect example of our Mount Vernon community. I'm beginning to think of areas in the City as unique districts: Riverside/College Way businesses, Historic Downtown, South Mount Vernon industrial area, and the eclectic West Mount Vernon. This helps in our economic development plans, making sure we look at appropriate and effective ideas for the uniqueness of each district.



## Aerospace Summit

On July 17, the City of Mount Vernon and Port of Skagit teamed up to host an Aerospace Roundtable - to promote a robust and dynamic aerospace cluster in the Skagit Valley, and support strong and sustainable jobs. This Summit was attended by over 19 different companies, and

organizations willing to talk about the possibilities of expansion and challenges faced. The last portion of the meeting was a presentation by Cyndi Schaeffer, Edmonds Community College, regarding a movement in aerospace manufacturing into expansion/diversification of medical device production. Exciting discussions and connections made!

## Newsletters, Logo and Website



### Newsletters:

Consider forwarding this informative newsletter to 3 friends today - it a great way to keep in touch with City Hall. Help me reach my goal of 1000

subscribers by December 31st!

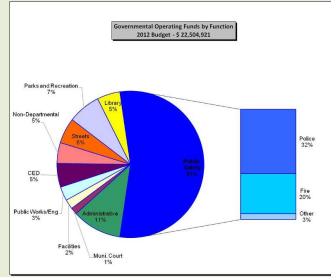
### City Logo:

We have an updated version of the City Logo! Keeping with the heritage of the MV graphic, the new style incorporates a vertical design and colors that represent trees and river. We will be slowly switching over our business card and letterhead designs as stock depletes.

### City Website:

Our new website design is coming right along! Debut is scheduled for this fall....

## City Budget Process



City Hall will begin working on the 2013 budget beginning in August. It is a very organized process overseen by Finance Director Alicia Huschka. Our City Department Directors are asked to prepare their budgets to reflect stated city goals, comprehensive planning documents, and our revenue forecasts. It is Washington State Law that cities operate under a balanced budget.

After Directors submit their budgets, meetings occur between the Mayor's office and Directors to work through their requests and available revenue. This is where the rubber meets the road and many questions are asked and answered. As you can imagine, tough choices are made in these meetings by all involved. Our number one priority is delivering the best possible services to our City in the most efficient and effective way. Every dime counts!

A preliminary budget document is prepared for submittal to the City Council in mid-October and review of the document will take place in two budget work sessions (public meetings) at the end of October.

On November 7, the City Council holds a public hearing on revenue sources and the coming year's budget including consideration of possible increased in property tax rates.

In late November, a final budget hearing is scheduled to adopt the 2013 budget.

You can always express your thoughts on the City Budget! Email your City Councilmember, attend Mayors Coffees, or attend a City Council meeting.

### Fast budget facts:

- Total 2012 Budget is \$46.8 million with an OPERATING Budget of \$22.5 million. Revenues have decreased by over \$3 million dollars since 2008 and seem to remain flat so far in 2012.
- The chart above reflects spending of our operating budget - with Public Safety being the top expenditure of 55% (Police and Fire).
- You can view the detailed (and highly interesting) budget document in its entirety by clicking [here](#).

**The Mayors Wellness Challenge begins AUGUST 1!** Click [here](#) for events schedule - plan to participate and TELL A FRIEND!

Jill Boudreau  
Mayor, Mount Vernon WA

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City of Mount Vernon, Office of the Mayor | P.O. Box 809 | 910 Cleveland Avenue | Mount Vernon | WA | 98273