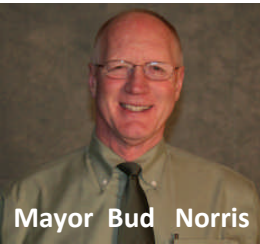


REPORT FROM THE MAYOR

March 2010



Mayor Bud Norris



2010 Budget

2010 is the second year in a row that the City has been required to adopt a budget during an economic downturn. Most local governments and our State are faced with similar conditions trying to operate with declining revenues coupled with steady demand for service. Along with our City Council we made tactical decisions during 2009 to control our costs moving into 2010. As 73% of the budget in our government operations are employee related, this meant controlling salary and benefit costs.

The total City budget for 2010 is \$50.6 million, \$3.5 million less (6% less) than the 2009 budget. We have made every effort to maintain the City's workforce during these economically trying times, even so, the City will have 203 full time employees in 2010, eight fewer when compared to 2008. Some of our cost saving measures included a reduced work week, closing city hall and other city offices a half hour early on Fridays, and some union groups will take two furlough days in 2010. All non-union employees and most represented employees did not receive cost of living increases in 2010, and the City changed medical insurance plans late in 2009 in an effort to trim costs. Our police guild chose not to forgo their negotiated cost of living increase for 2010.

Although the City has several primary goals and priorities, public safety remains the City's primary responsibility. While City operating budgets have decreased over the last two year, the proportion of the budget dedicated to public safety has grown from 44% in 2008 to 50% in 2010.

In spite of the necessary budget reductions we have made, we continue to focus on economic development as the primary tool to grow a strong community. We look forward to economic recovery for the City of Mount Vernon, our region, State and Nation.

Govt Operations by Dept:	2010 Budget		2009 Budget		2008 Budget	
Police	6,891,411	30%	7,270,868	29%	6,637,596	26%
Fire	4,626,136	20%	4,949,738	20%	4,686,895	18%
Streets	1,435,574	6%	1,602,027	6%	1,705,611	7%
Parks	1,648,702	7%	1,767,942	7%	1,731,854	7%
Library	1,192,561	5%	1,270,030	5%	1,238,663	5%
Other City Services	7,148,439	31%	8,222,794	33%	9,350,940	37%
Total Govt Operations	22,942,823	100%	25,083,399	100%	25,351,559	100%

Downtown/Riverfront Revitalization Project

We continue to move forward with the plans to develop permanent flood protection for downtown. This spring we will begin construction on the first phase of the Downtown/Riverfront Revitalization Project. The City received grants from the State Department of Commerce, Skagit County and the Washington State Recreation & Conservation Office. With these funds the City will be able to construct the section between Lion's Park and the Division Street Bridge, which will be completed by fall of 2010.

We are continuing to work with FEMA on the Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR). This review process conducted by FEMA will insure us that our engineering and design meet the Corps of Engineer's design. We continue to aggressively pursue other funding through both the state and federal programs to complete the entire project. We are asking for \$8.8 million. I invite you to come in and view the latest design plans for the flood protection project and riverwalk.



Skagit Riverwalk looking north towards Lions Park

Congratulations Mount Vernon School District



Congratulations to the Mount Vernon School District, the Mount Vernon School Board, and the citizens of Mount Vernon for successfully passing the recent Maintenance and Operation and Technology levies. Schools are such a vital part of the present and future success of our city.

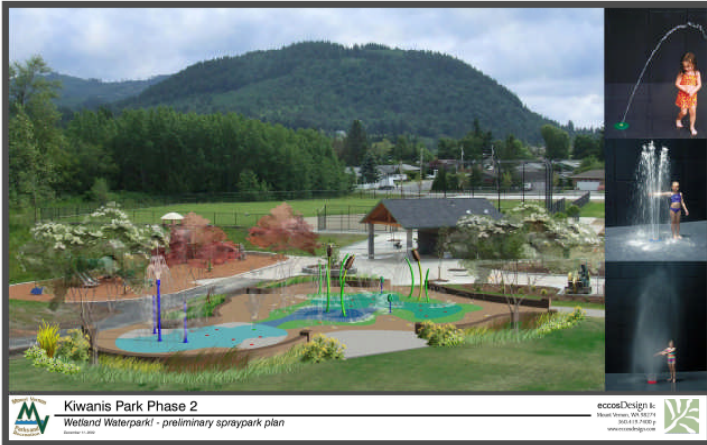
Citizen of the Year Award

Mayor Norris presented the 2009 Citizen of the Year Award to Mr. John Cheney at the City Council meeting on January 13, 2010. Mr. Cheney is a longtime architect in our community, and has made numerous architectural contributions to Mount Vernon and the surrounding area. Mr. Cheney also served on the Mount Vernon Planning Commission for 3 years, on City Council for 24 years, was Director and past Chair of the Skagit Transit Board, has served on the Board of the Skagit County Community Action Agency, and contributed countless hours of architectural review and design for the Mount Vernon Parks Department at no cost. We thank Mr. Cheney for his many years of outstanding service to our community.



John Cheney receives award

Kiwanis Spray Park and Board Walk



Kiwanis Spray Park Phase 2

The Mount Vernon Parks and Recreation Department received a 50/50 matching grant from the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) for \$644,000 to build Phase 2 of Kiwanis Park. Work is being done now and we expect the Spray Park portion of the project to be open in June of 2010.

The board walk will provide neighborhood access and wetland interpretation in the wooded area of the park. This will be a great addition to an already wonderful park in our system. Call the Parks Department for more information at 360-336-6215.

Transportation Update

Solving traffic congestion problems is an important priority in a growing city like Mount Vernon. That is why I'm pleased to report about two more street projects nearing completion that will help reduce traffic congestion in the College Way corridor near I-5. Colacurcio Brothers Construction of Blaine has constructed turning lanes, sidewalks and drainage improvements to the intersection of Freeway Drive and College Way to increase its capacity and help traffic move through the area.

Second, the City has extended LaVenture Road 1300 feet south from Fowler Street to Blackburn Road. The \$1.4 million improvement project was constructed by Interwest Construction of Burlington and funded by grants awarded to the City by the State Transportation Improvement Board, Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and Skagit County Economic Development Grant funds. This is the first phase of a larger and regionally important project to connect LaVenture Road to the I-5 interchange at Anderson Road, and it is the result of a successful partnership between the City and Skagit County. One of the most important benefits of the full project will be its reduction of peak hour traffic on I-5 and College Way.



LaVenture Road Extension

Another project that was completed last fall will benefit other modes of transportation and access to recreation. The City's Kulshan Trail was extended 3500 feet from its existing end near LaVenture Middle School, past the northern edge of Bakerview Park, to Waugh Road. Kulshan Trail now extends continuously for more than two miles and provides an excellent east/west alternative route for bicyclists and pedestrians.

Did You Know?

Did you know that Skagit Valley Hospital was the 2010 recipient of the HealthGrades Coronary Interventional Excellence Award, ranked among the top 10% in the nation for Coronary Interventional Procedures and Ranked #1 in WA for Coronary Interventional Procedures? The City tips its hat to Skagit Valley Hospital, an outstanding organization which truly makes Mount Vernon stand out as a first class city.



Skagit Valley Hospital

If you would like to receive future newsletters via email, please contact mvmayor@mountvernonwa.gov

City of Mount Vernon Mayor's Office • 360-336-6211 • P.O. Box 809 • 910 Cleveland Avenue • Mount Vernon, WA 98273-0809 • www.ci.mount-vernon.wa.us