



MONROE THIS WEEK

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**EVERYONE
COUNTS!**



CENSUS 2020

Thank you for reading Monroe This Week.

This week's edition provides details on the second round of the Small Business Relief Grant, the Monroe School District's plan for the start of the school year, an opening for a Citizen Representative to Snohomish County Tomorrow, updated economic reopening and eviction moratorium policies from Governor Inslee, upcoming Census 2020 operations, and helpful recycling tips.



Please contact me with any and all feedback regarding the articles below. I can be reached at gthomas@monroewa.gov.

Yours in Service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "G. Thomas". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Mayor Geoffrey Thomas

CITY OPENS SECOND ROUND OF SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF GRANT

Last month the City announced the Monroe CARES grant program to disburse financial assistance through CARES Act funds to businesses and non-profits organizations affected by the COVID-19 crisis. The primary focus of the grant program is to provide support to businesses that have not been eligible for Federal, State and County grant funds, and to non-profit agencies which provide basic services and meet the increased needs of Monroe's most vulnerable residents. The Small Business Relief grant was originally allocated \$60,000.



At its July 28 meeting, the City Council reviewed and approved the initial Small Business Relief Grant award recommendations, totaling \$50,370, submitted by the Economic Development Advisory Board (EDAB). As part of its slate of recommendations, the EDAB also suggested the City open a second round of the grant offering, to provide additional assistance to local businesses. After thoughtful consideration, the Council approved a second round, and allocated \$30,000, which added to the \$9,630 remaining from the first round, left a total of \$39,630 available in this second round.

This morning the City issued a [News Flash](#) announcement and posted the [application packet](#) to the City's [website](#). Applications are due to City Hall by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, August 14.

MONROE SCHOOLS TO BEGIN SCHOOL YEAR WITH DISTANCE LEARNING

Today the Monroe School District [announced](#) that the 2020-21 school year will begin on Wednesday, September 9 with distance learning.



This decision was made after much deliberation and consultation with the Snohomish Health District and collaboration with the District's labor unions, with the safety of students, staff, and the greater community as the top priority.

In addition to direct consultation with school districts, earlier this week the Health District issued a [formal recommendation](#) that school districts throughout Snohomish County enact distance learning to begin the school year. With today's announcement, our local school is following this recommendation, with the ultimate goal to have all students back in school buildings as soon as it can be safely done.

The Monroe School District will be sharing detailed information in the coming weeks to assist with this transition, and encourages families to keep an eye on emails and the district website for updates.

SNOHOMISH COUNTY TOMORROW SEEKING CITIZEN REPRESENTATIVE

Snohomish County Tomorrow (SCT) is seeking nominations for a Citizen Representative to its Steering Committee. SCT is a cooperative, public inter-jurisdictional forum with the primary function of overseeing Countywide Planning Policies, through which the County and cities' comprehensive plans are developed. The Steering Committee is the policy advisory body of SCT, and includes three elected representatives of Snohomish County, one elected representative from each of the nineteen municipalities in Snohomish County and the Tulalip Tribes, and six citizen representatives. Any resident of Snohomish County may apply by visiting the County's [Boards and Commissions](#) webpage; applicants should show on their application that they are applying to the "SCT Steering Committee". Questions may be directed to SCT Coordinator Cynthia Pruitt at Cynthia.Pruitt@snoco.org.



GOVERNOR EXTENDS PAUSE ON REOPENING OF COUNTIES INDEFINITELY

On Tuesday, July 28, Governor Jay Inslee extended indefinitely the pause on the phased reopening of Washington counties. The pause on reopening was initially issued by the governor in late June, and was scheduled to expire this week.



As I shared in last week's edition of [Monroe This Week](#), Governor Inslee and Health Secretary John Wiesman announced modifications to the Safe Start Washington guidelines in an effort to slow the rising transmission of the COVID-19 virus. Extension of the reopening pause is a continuation of this effort. Snohomish County has seen an uptick in cases since advancing to Phase 2, though not to the extent of the County's spike in mid-March. Snohomish County will remain in Phase 2 for the duration of the pause.

GOVERNOR EXTENDS EVICTION MORATORIUM

As part of a series of updates addressing the COVID-19 pandemic, this week Governor Inslee issued a [Proclamation](#) extending the statewide eviction moratorium through October 15. Governor Inslee stated that the extension is meant to protect renters from falling into homelessness, but added that it does not give renters with the means to pay their rent the right to refuse to do so.



Originally announced in March, the moratorium prohibits landlords, property owners, and property managers from seeking, serving, or enforcing an eviction notice against a tenant, and further prohibits local law enforcement from serving or otherwise acting upon an eviction notice. There are two exceptions to the moratorium:

- The individual or individuals named in the eviction notice are causing a significant and immediate risk to the health, safety, or property of others; or
- Prior to the issuance of the eviction notice, 60 days written notice was provided of the intent to either (i) personally occupy the property, or (ii) sell the property.

Under one or either of the above exceptions, landlords, property owners, and property managers may issue eviction notices, and local law enforcement is allowed to serve or enforce such orders.

The Proclamation also creates a workgroup to help inform potential changes to the moratorium in the short-term and the long-term, if needed. The workgroup is specifically asked to consider how future extensions could address options to increase rent.

CENSUS NON-RESPONSE FOLLOW-UP BEGINS

The U.S. Census Bureau has begun Non-Response Follow-Up (NRFU) operations in Washington. NRFU operations began in Western Washington on July 30, and involve census workers going door-to-door to collect information from households that have not self-reported. Census workers will complete a virtual COVID-19 training program before beginning their work, will wear face coverings, and will follow the health guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).



The Census Bureau shared the following helpful NRFU operations information:

What to Expect

Census workers, who are hired from the local community, will visit non-responding households and interview residents to collect census information. All census workers speak English and many are bilingual. If a census worker does not speak a householder's language, they will have materials to help identify the correct language and assist the person to answer the census.

If no one is home during the visit, the census worker will leave a notice on the door with information about how to respond online, by phone, or by mail.

How To Identify Workers

Census workers will have a valid government ID with their photograph, a U.S.

Department of Commerce watermark and an expiration date on the badge (example below). They will also have a census bag and an iPad or mobile phone with them.

Anyone wishing to confirm a census worker's identity can call the Los Angeles Regional Census Office at (213) 314-6500.



Example Census ID Front



Example Census ID Back

Monroe's [Census Response Rate](#) is currently 71.3%, matching that of Snohomish County, and exceeds the statewide response rate of 68.1%.

HELPFUL RECYCLING DOS AND DON'TS

As I shared in a recent edition of [Monroe This Week](#), the rate for Republic Services' collection of garbage, recycling, and organics in the City of Monroe will increase slightly on September 1. This increase reflects the Sustainability Adjustment approved by the City Council at its [June 23 Business Meeting](#), and was enacted to ensure continued recycling collection in the City due to new constraints, higher disposal costs, and lower resale cost recovery imposed on the global recycling industry.



To help keep the Sustainability Adjustment low, Republic Services has provided some [helpful tips](#) to ensure the efficient and safe collection of recycling and waste products. I encourage all residents to review the tips and to implement these best practices as part of their household disposal.

UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

The City has issued [formal notice](#) that the City Council will meet in a Special Study Session and Business Meeting on Tuesday, August 4. This meeting was previously cancelled due to National Night Out, which has been cancelled due to COVID-19. Participation information for the Special Meeting is included in the above link. The Special Meeting agenda can be accessed by clicking the button below.

[Council Agendas/Minutes](#)

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS



Councilmember
Patsy Cudaback



Councilmember
Kevin Hanford



Councilmember
Ed Davis



Councilmember
Jason Gamble



Councilmember
Jeff Rasmussen



Councilmember
Kirk Scarboro



Councilmember
Heather Rousey

Have a question for your Councilmembers?
Contact them at councilmembers@monroewa.gov

