



MONROE THIS WEEK

August 7, 2020 • Vol 6/Edition 30



Thank you for reading Monroe This Week.

This week's edition provides details on the voluntary and confidential CORONA survey, the Governor's extension of the utility shutoff moratorium, openings on the City's Salary Commission, the launch of the City's drone program, the resumption of CPL permit processing, a Snohomish County PUD Scam Alert, an extension of the deadline for participation in the City's ADA Transition Plan survey, and reminder of the Sustainability Adjustment taking effect September 1.



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

Yours in Service,

Mayor Geoffrey Thomas

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH LAUNCHES CORONA SURVEY

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) has launched the Community Recovery-Oriented Needs Assessment, or the CORONA survey. This voluntary and confidential survey is an effort to assess the behavioral, economic, social, and emotional impacts and the needs of communities across the state as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. The survey results will inform immediate, long-term, and ongoing actions that DOH and local health jurisdictions can take to address the impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak on Washingtonians. The survey can be completed [online](#), or by phone at 855-530-5787, where interpreters are available to help.



Survey participants have the option to remain anonymous. At the end of the survey, participants will be given the option to provide their name, phone number and/or email address. Each week of the survey, three participants will receive a \$100 Amazon.com gift code as a thank you for their time and participation. If you have additional questions about the CORONA Survey, you can call the Department of Health at 1-800-525-0127.

GOVERNOR EXTENDS UTILITY SHUTOFF MORATORIUM

Last Friday, Governor Jay Inslee announced an extension of the moratorium on utility shutoffs. Originally scheduled to end last Friday, the extension prohibits local utilities, through at least October 15, from shutting off water, power, or phone service to Washington residents who cannot afford them. Originally announced in March, the moratorium ensures Washington residents maintained access to vital services during the COVID-19 pandemic.



CITY SEEKS APPLICATIONS TO SALARY COMMISSION

The Monroe Salary Commission reviews and establishes the salaries of the mayor and councilpersons. Interested in volunteering? The City is currently seeking three applicants to the Salary Commission. In fulfilling its role, the Salary Commission shall perform the duties set forth in [Chapter 35.21.015](#) of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) and [Chapter 4.70](#) of the Monroe Municipal Code (MCC). Meetings are held

annually in August and September. Applicants must reside within the Monroe City limits. Applicants are asked to fill out the City's Boards and Commissions application, which is available on the City's [website](#). I will review applications and submit appointments to the City Council for confirmation, a process outlined in [MCC 4.10.030](#).



CITY DRONE PROGRAM UP AND RUNNING

The City of Monroe's Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) - or drone - program is up and running. UAS use has been helpful with support for City grant submissions, getting aerial photos of our parks and city infrastructure; it has also been used for promotional video and police response support. Usage of the UAS will always be in strict accordance with constitutional and privacy rights, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations, and City policy regulations developed earlier this year. All pilots are FAA-licensed UAS operators. Usage is posted on line on a new [website](#) that was published this week, and the usage report will be updated each month.



CITY WILL RESUME CPL PERMIT PROCESSING

The Monroe Police Department will begin processing new Concealed Pistol License (CPL) applications and CPL's that are expired over 90 days, effective August 10. Due to COVID restrictions, the department is not fingerprinting at this time. The City maintains a [website](#) with a list of companies providing fingerprinting services and instructions on how to submit applications, fingerprints and payment.



SNOHOMISH COUNTY PUD ISSUES SCAM ALERT

This week the [Snohomish County Public Utilities District](#) (PUD) issued a Scam Alert to its customers. According to the PUD, customers may receive a phone call from someone claiming to be a PUD representative, stating that the customer is eligible for a refund due to an overcharge. The caller may ask for the customer's bank account number or credit card, so the refund can be placed in their account or on their credit card. THIS IS A SCAM. The scammer is hoping the PUD customer will provide their person financial information so that it can be used for fraudulent purposes.



Customers due a credit from the PUD will only be contacted if a legitimate mailing address is NOT on file with the PUD; that is the only information the PUD would ask a customer for, and would never ask for account or banking information. If ever in doubt, customers can call the PUD at 425-783-1000.

DEADLINE EXTENDED: CITY SEEKING PUBLIC INPUT FOR ADA TRANSITION PLAN

The City has extended the time frame for residents to participate in a survey about Monroe's sidewalks! As I shared in the [June 12](#) and [July 24](#) editions of *Monroe This Week*, the City is in the process of developing an ADA Transition Plan. This project started in 2019 with a self-assessment of our existing sidewalks along public streets, identifying locations where barriers exist that do not meet accessibility standards. This survey is part of our public outreach effort. We want to hear from you about any particular locations that you would like to see changed. Your input will help prioritize what gets fixed first. Please participate in the [public survey](#) by August 31!



REMINDER: SUSTAINABILITY ADJUSTMENT TAKES EFFECT SEPTEMBER 1

As I shared in a recent edition of [Monroe This Week](#), effective September 1, 2020, the rate for Republic Services' collection of garbage, recycling, and organics in the City of Monroe



will increase by \$1.86 per month for Residential Customers, \$1.86 per month per dwelling unit for Multifamily Complex Customers, and \$.50 per month per yard for cart-based Commercial Garbage Customers. 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. Questions? Visit Republic Services' [website](#) to learn about this surcharge or call Republic Services' Customer Service at (425) 778-0188.

UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

The City Council will meet in a Regular Business Meeting on Tuesday, August 11, 2020. The meeting will be held via the Zoom remote meeting platform and participation information will be posted with the August 11 agenda, which 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

