



MONROE THIS WEEK

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Thank you for reading Monroe This Week.

This week's edition provides details on our local recognition of Labor Day, local artist David Hose's combating of graffiti, a local group's effort to support families as they go back to school, a downtown sidewalk sale event taking place next weekend, results of the Evergreen State Fair Park Food Drive, and a reminder of the 2020 Monroe Business Survey.



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".

Mayor Geoffrey Thomas

CITY AND NATION TO CELEBRATE LABOR DAY THIS MONDAY

This coming Monday, September 7, is the annual

Labor Day holiday. Observed on the first Monday of September, Labor Day is a federal holiday to honor and recognize the contributions of the American workforce to the development and achievements of the United States.



Beginning in the late 19th century, as labor movements grew, trade unionists proposed there be a day set aside to celebrate labor. Last week, I issued a [Proclamation](#) recognizing Labor Day here in the City of Monroe. This Labor Day, we acknowledge the necessary and valuable contributions of labor organizations which form the foundation of our community and nation.

One of many examples of the contribution of skilled labor to the Monroe community is our own City staff. The City of Monroe values the partnership between the Teamsters Local Union No. 763 and the Monroe Police Officer's Guild. This Labor Day we celebrate and give thanks for these and all American workers.

COMMUNITY ARTIST COMBATS GRAFFITI

You may have noticed an increase of graffiti around town over the last couple of months. Most notably is the overpass on Highway 522, but graffiti has also made its way on to several businesses throughout the downtown area. The City's Code Enforcement Division, part of the Community Development Department, has recently received a significant number of complaints. Finding the perpetrator of graffiti can be difficult. Unfortunately, it becomes the owner of the property's responsibility to clean-up the graffiti.



Local artist David Hose felt it was his civic duty to use his artistic know-how to repair the "River of Life Mural" at 207 N. Lewis Street. The mural features a picturesque underwater river scene celebrating the natural resources of Monroe. Hose painted the mural in 2004. As part the damage, one of the trout figures was tagged over. Mr. Hose removed the graffiti and repainted the damaged area, which now looks as good as new. Mr. Hose stated, "I love Monroe, and will gladly do my part to keep it beautiful for everyone to enjoy."

Mr. Hose, thank you for your generous spirit to keep the City of Monroe beautiful through these difficult times. Thank you, also, to all the businesses that have responded to graffiti damage by quickly repairing and abating these nuisances.

If you have a graffiti complaint or general questions about code enforcement, please feel free to contact Rick Bomar, Code Enforcement Officer, at RBomar@MonroeWA.gov.

COMMUNITY HELPS FAMILIES PREPARE FOR START OF SCHOOL

Next Wednesday, September 9 is the first day back to school in the [Monroe School District](#). Recognizing that families will face food and supply challenges with kids at home and parents who need to work, community members have come together to form [Monroe Sack Lunches & School Supplies](#) to help fill the gap. Donations of school supplies and non-perishable food items can be dropped off at [Monroe Pizza and Pints](#). For those interested in and able to donate, the School District maintains a list of [suggested school supply items](#). Supplies currently needed include:

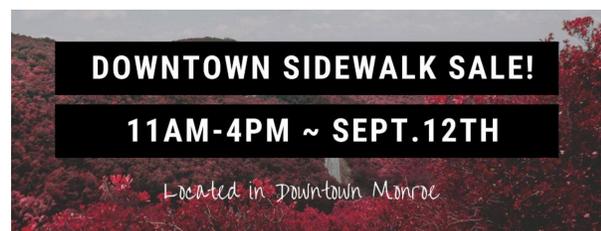


- Batteries
- Blue light lenses
- Computer paper
- Headphones
- Pens
- Spiral notebooks
- Wireless mice

Thank you to Monroe Pizza & Pints for serving as a donation site, and to the Monroe Chamber of Commerce for accepting donations at the August 26 [Monroe Farmers Market!](#)

DOWNTOWN BUSINESSES TO HOST SIDEWALK SALE SEPTEMBER 12

Next Saturday, September 12, business retailers across the downtown core will move their inventory out into the fresh air for a [downtown-wide sidewalk sale](#) from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This event is intended to allow shoppers the opportunity to safely and responsibly shop and support some of their favorite local businesses, while enjoying a variety of discounted merchandise and other promotions.



Visitors will have the opportunity to stroll through downtown while patronizing local shops and boutiques. Tables with sale items will be placed in front of businesses, along with goodies and other great deals. Food vendors will be on site, and the Chamber of Commerce will be distributing free tote bags.

Shoppers are asked to please wear facial coverings and remain six feet apart.

FAIR FOOD DRIVE TO PROVIDE 7,734 MEALS TO THOSE

IN NEED

As I shared in a recent edition of [Monroe This Week](#), the Evergreen State Fair Park honored the spirit of the Fair by holding a drive-thru Food Drive on Thursday, August 27. It has been a long-standing tradition of the Fair to hold a food drive benefiting



local area food banks on Opening Day. Though the Fair is cancelled this year, the Fair Park staff elected to still hold the food drive on what would have been the 2020 opening day. Over 6,300 pounds of food, and an additional \$4,275 in cash was donated at the one-day event. Volunteers of America calculates that a donation of 1.2 pounds of food or \$1.72 are each equal to one meal. This means the impact of the food drive is 7,743 meals going to Snohomish County residents in need. Donors had the option to stay and enjoy some fun activities, including fair food vendors and a vehicle decorating contest. Vendors on-site included Pompeii Pizza, Pioneer Popcorn and Conifer Foods baking fresh Fisher Scones (which all sold out). The winning decoration was a full trailer decorated to the theme of "CoroNO Fair is Not Fair", complete with kids, pigs, a goat, and music. Thank you to the donors and the Evergreen State Fair Park for supporting our community in this time of need.

REMINDER: 2020 MONROE BUSINESS SURVEY NOW OPEN

The 2020 Monroe Business Survey is now open. Monroe business owners and managers are encouraged to participate; this year, participation is more important than ever. Businesses and residents are facing unprecedented challenges brought on by COVID-19, such as shut downs, drop in consumer demand, travel restrictions, and more; the survey helps zero in on the impacts



of these issues. Survey results will assist the City Council and myself to craft policies and programs aimed at relief and support. The survey will take approximately 25 to 30 minutes to complete. Results will be published on the City website following completion of the survey. No personal or contact information will be included in the published results, and all response data is protected. If you are a local business owner or manager, please [take the survey](#) today!

UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

The City Council will meet in a Regular Business Meeting on Tuesday, September 8, 2020. The meeting will be held via the Zoom remote meeting platform and participation information will be posted with the September 8 agenda, which can be accessed by clicking the button below.

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

