



# MONROE THIS WEEK

February 14, 2020 • Vol 6/Edition 6



*Thank you for reading Monroe This Week and Happy Valentine's Day!*

*Please contact me with any and all feedback regarding the articles below. I can be reached at [gthomas@monroewa.gov](mailto:gthomas@monroewa.gov).*

*Yours in Service,*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Geoffrey Thomas".

*Mayor Geoffrey Thomas*



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## FINAL HPAC RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Council will review and discuss the final recommendations from the

Homelessness Policy Advisory Committee (HPAC) on Tuesday, February 18th. Recommendations include providing a one-stop shop for services, developing affordable housing alternatives, establishing a service providers network in the Skykomish Valley, lobbying for new law enforcement strategies, and supporting agencies that serve and promote self-reliance. There is an opportunity for public comment at the beginning of the meeting. Public comment is limited to 3 minutes per speaker. A copy of the recommendations is available on the city's website [here](#).



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## HOMELESSNESS RESPONSE GROUP

Since its implementation in early 2016, the Homelessness Response Group has come together every month to meet the needs of our homeless neighbors. Over the course of the past year, over 111 individuals representing 41 community groups, organizations, agencies, faith communities, government agencies, and concerned citizens have an opportunity to learn about services and receive updates on works-in-progress.

If you'd like to be part of advocacy and action on behalf of our homeless and low income neighbors for safe and affordable housing, the next meeting is scheduled at on Tuesday, February 18 at 1pm at the Monroe Covenant Church, located at 202 South Sams Street. SeaMar will give an overview of services offered here in Monroe. Future meetings will be held at the Monroe Library. Contact [Take the Next Step](#) for more information or sign up for their newsletter.

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## NEW PLANNING COMMISSIONER

The City would like to congratulate Elizabeth (Liz) Nugent on her appointment to Planning Commission. Liz and her husband moved to Washington from the eastern slopes of Colorado in 2015 to be closer to family. They chose Monroe for the small town feel similar to their hometown in Colorado. Liz worked for a large national CPA firm when she first moved to Monroe in 2016, and a year later she started her own firm (she does not do income taxes). She grew up in a self-employed family and combined with her CPA license, she enjoys working with small businesses on their accounting and payroll. Liz and her husband have two children who attend Monroe schools. They often walk their rescue dogs around town and enjoy supporting local businesses.



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## JUDGE NESS SWEARS IN

On Feb. 13th, Judge Ness was joined by friends, family, and colleagues for a

ceremonial swearing in as Monroe's judge and to celebrate her new role. City Council and I are excited to have Judge Ness become our new Municipal Court judge. She joins us having substantial experience with the Snohomish County Prosecutor's Office and over 8 years of experience as a judge pro tem for around the region. For more information about Judge Ness's background, please read [here](#).



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## VISIT WITH CUB SCOUT PACK 148

I am frequently contacted by school and scouting groups to talk about local government. On Feb. 11, I met with the Webelos Den for Cub Scout Pack 148 in Monroe. We talked about the three branches of government and reminded one another that none of the three branches are "in charge" of our government, but rather that the government is empowered and lead by "we the people" as stated in the US Constitution. We talked also about a few of the issues we face here in Monroe (including homelessness) and we talked about how laws are changed and created. The Webelos then led me and our council in the Pledge of Allegiance. If you have a student or scout group interested in meeting with me, please feel free to contact [Gina Pfister](#).



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## RIDE ALONG WITH OFFICER'S K-9 TANGO & SOUTHARD

On Feb. 8th, I joined Officer Southard and K-9 Officer Tango for five hours on their shift. During our shift, we responded to a number of calls, but the most prevalent type of call we received was related to people who are homeless in our community. I had a conversation with one person experiencing homelessness who shared some challenges with working through the social service system to obtain help. I encountered another person who was homeless, but not a danger to self or others at the time, that I really wish state laws would have allowed our officers to move to social services.



Monroe continues providing our officers, city prosecuting attorney, and judge the tools and support that a local government like Monroe can provide to

address these issues. While we continue to evaluate and adjust our tools and resources in Monroe, I continue to press for changes in resources and laws at the county, state, and federal levels. Our region needs more facilities and programs to help people and changes in laws that allow our officers to more easily get people in crisis who refuse help the help they need even if they are not a danger to self or others. I encourage residents and business owners to stay in contact with their state legislatures about these issues. They can be contacted [here](#).

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## SOUND SALMON SOLUTIONS PLANTING

On Tuesday, a group of ten Sound Salmon Solution volunteers met at Al Borlin Park and planted 100 western red cedar trees and 200 western hemlocks! A special thank you to UW Bothell intern Tetsu and the WA Department of Ecology for funding this project.



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## UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETING

The next City Council Regular Study Session is Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 7pm in the City Hall Council Chambers. The City Council will review and discuss the final recommendations from the Homelessness Policy Advisory Committee (HPAC). There is an opportunity for public comment at the beginning of the meeting. Public comment is limited to 3 minutes per speaker.

[Council Agendas/Minutes](#)

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## UPCOMING EVENT

**2/15**

Monroe Valentines Ball;  
7:00-9:30pm; Song River Banquet  
and Event Center

**2/18**

HPAC Recommendations;  
7:00pm; City Hall Council  
Chambers

[View All Events](#)

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## YEAR-TO-DATE COMPARISONS

Curious about some of the City's major revenue streams? Don't have time to read through the entire budget? [Here](#) are a few of the City's revenue year-to-date numbers along with their prior year comparisons. If you would like further

information, contact the Finance Department at 360-794-7400 and reference Monroe This Week.

## CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS



Councilmember  
Kevin Hanford



Councilmember  
Patsy Cudaback



Councilmember  
Jeff Rasmussen



Councilmember  
Heather Rousey



Councilmember  
Ed Davis



Councilmember  
Jason Gamble



Councilmember  
Kirk Scarboro

Have a question for your Councilmembers?  
Contact them at [councilmembers@monroewa.gov](mailto:councilmembers@monroewa.gov)

