



# MONROE THIS WEEK

April 24, 2020 • Vol 6/Edition 15



*Thank you for reading Monroe This Week.*

*This week's edition provides details on new federal legislation expanding small business support and COVID-19 testing, our local celebration of Arbor Day, plans for our next community Town Hall meeting, a wonderful recognition of a dedicated school district staff member, and family fire safety tips.*



*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,*

*Mayor Geoffrey Thomas*

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## CONGRESS APPROVES FUNDS FOR SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT AND INCREASED COVID-19 TESTING

Yesterday afternoon, Congress passed new legislation providing support to small businesses and additional resources to combat COVID-19. Totaling over \$480

billion, the bill dedicates an additional \$310 billion to the [Paycheck Protection Program](#). Introduced by the passage of the CARES Act, the Paycheck Protection Program is a loan program designed as a direct incentive for small businesses to keep employees on the payroll. Administered through the federal [Small Business Administration](#), loans will be forgiven if employees are kept on the payroll for at least eight weeks and loan funds are used for payroll, rent, mortgage interest and/or utilities. Congress also approved an additional \$75 billion to help hospitals and healthcare providers address COVID-19 and \$25 billion to facilitate and expand COVID-19 testing.



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## CITY RECOGNIZES ARBOR DAY WITH TREE PLANTING

This morning I issued a [Proclamation](#) recognizing today, April 24th, as Arbor Day. In 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees. This new holiday was first celebrated with the planting of one million trees across the state of Nebraska. From that ambitious beginning sprang a holiday that in 2020 marks its 148th anniversary and is recognized throughout the nation and world. In honor of Arbor Day, and this past Wednesday's Earth Day, today, while following social distancing, staff of the Parks Department will plant a Pacific Sunset Maple at Lake Tye Park. The city is fortunate to have two red maple trees donated this year; the first was received from a group of gardening friends in honor of the Monroe Garden Club, and I have the honor of donating the second. Both trees will be planted on either side of the concrete stage at the south end of Lake Tye, with the second tree to be received and planted at a later date when we hope to hold a delayed public celebration.



In recognition of our efforts to green up our city, last April the City of Monroe was recognized as a [Tree City](#). Since 1976, the [Arbor Day Foundation](#) has recognized over 3,400 communities across the country as Tree Cities for their commitment to manage and expand public trees. I encourage you to read today's Proclamation, which recognizes the numerous contributions trees make to our environment, ecosystem and quality of life.

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## SAVE THE DATE: CITY TO HOST NEXT TOWN HALL MAY 5

Following up on last week's successful and well attended presentation, the City will host a virtual Town Hall meeting on Thursday, May 6th at 6:00 p.m. Yesterday, Congress completed passage of legislation dedicating an additional \$310 billion to the Paycheck Protection Program established



by passage of the CARES Act.

Funds from the initial allocation were quickly exhausted, necessitating the passage of this supplemental legislation. At the May 6th meeting, Economic Development Specialist James Palmer will provide details on the application process and eligibility requirements for this new application cycle. Check back to *Monroe This Week* next Friday for further agenda details and information on how to join the meeting.

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## MONROE SCHOOL DISTRICT COUNSELOR RECOGNIZED AS EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

On Monday, April 20th, [Northwest Educational Service District 189](#) named Erin Wood as the [2020 Regional Classified Employee](#) of the Year. Ms. Wood is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor and Behavioral Health Specialist for the [Monroe School District](#), a position she has held for the past five years. As the district's primary voice on mental health, Ms. Wood serves all ten of the district's school buildings and regularly consults on the social and emotional needs of students at all levels of the district. Congratulations, Ms. Wood, and thank you for your dedication to Monroe's youth!



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## DOES YOUR FAMILY HAVE A FIRE ESCAPE PLAN?

During this time of Stay Home/Stay Healthy, [Snohomish County Fire District 7](#) encourages families to create and practice their [fire escape plan](#). Part of this plan is to make sure your home has working smoke alarms. It is important to discuss your plan with everyone living in your home, especially children. Along with fire escape planning, Fire District 7 encourages sleeping with bedroom doors closed. This [video](#) from UL Firefighter Safety demonstrates the effectiveness of having a closed door during a fire. In a recent house fire, Monroe police officers closed the door to the bedroom where the fire originated; this quick action slowed the spread of the fire and helped save the life of a rescued child. It is estimated that families have about 3 minutes to get out of a house in the event of a house fire. Having working smoke alarms, a family escape plan, and closing your bedroom door at night can save a life.



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## CITY THANKS GROCERY AND PHARMACY PROVIDERS

Last week I shared the good news that Washington State is on track in efforts to flatten the COVID-19 curve. In that article,

I provided links to videos the city produced encouraging us all to maintain social distancing to keep the curve flat, and providing best practice tips to businesses to help their customers maintain social distancing in their establishments. This week we extend our [sincere thanks](#) to our grocery and pharmacy providers that have both remained open and implemented social distancing practices in their buildings to help ensure continued health for their employees, ourselves and our families as their customers, and our community as a whole. **#KeepTheCurveFlat.**



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## UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The City Council will meet in a Regular Business Meeting on Tuesday, April 28, 2020. The meeting will be held via the Zoom remote meeting platform and participation information will be posted with the April 28th agenda.

[Council Agendas/Minutes](#)

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## 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)

