



# MONROE THIS WEEK

August 21, 2020 • Vol 6/Edition 32



## SNOHOMISH COUNTY FOOD DRIVE

AUG 27, 2020 • 4 -7PM • West Parking Lot

Benefits Local Food Banks • Car Decorating Contest • Food Trucks



*Thank you for reading Monroe This Week.*

*This week's edition recognizes the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, includes a message from Municipal Court Judge Jessica Ness, and provides details on the first meeting of the Community Human Services Advisory Board, an upcoming food drive at the Evergreen State Fair Park, facial covering recommendations from the Snohomish Health District, tomorrow's Flags For Our Fallen Virtual 5K, free statewide WiFi hotspots, Governor Inslee's latest COVID-19 update, and a reminder about the rate stability resulting from the cancellation of the Spring Cleanup.*



*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,*

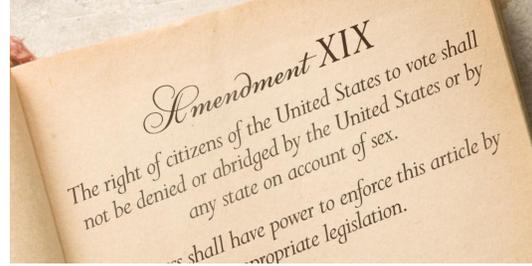
Mayor Geoffrey Thomas

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## CITY RECOGNIZES 100th ANNIVERSARY OF 19th AMENDMENT

This past Tuesday, August 18, 2020, was the 100th Anniversary of the 19th

Amendment to the United States Constitution. The 19th Amendment provides that the “right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex....”.



I'm thankful for the work of suffragists who advocated and fought to overturn injustices that denied people the right to vote – simply because they were women. As I reflect further, I am dismayed that people living in our nation even had to fight for equal rights...and still do.

In issuing a [Proclamation](#) commemorating this 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment, I call upon each of us to not only remember the struggles that Americans have endured and fought to overcome throughout our country's history, but further to recognize the struggles that remain and, as suffragists have done before us, to take active steps to reform or repeal systems and laws that perpetuate inequity, and to take active steps to persistently advocate for and protect equality for all people.

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## A MESSAGE FROM MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE JESSICA NESS

Dear Monroe Community:

An Offender appeared in court who recently had a significant life change due to his involvement in the court system at Monroe Municipal Court. I want to share with you his success story.

The Offender was a homeless, drug-addicted man in his late twenties. He committed criminal law violations in other jurisdictions, was arrested, and then released multiple times upon his promise to appear at a future court date. He began committing numerous drug and trespass crimes in Monroe and was arrested by Monroe Police. Monroe Municipal Court set bail on these cases. Rather than remain in custody awaiting trial, the Offender chose to work with the Monroe Police Department's grant-funded social worker. Social Worker Delgado, along with Officer Springer, arranged to transport the Offender to an in-patient chemical dependency treatment program. He successfully completed that 30-day treatment program and the Court subsequently released him to a clean and sober living facility.



The Offender was recently in Court for disposition of his criminal matters. At sentencing, he explained his choice to receive treatment instead of remaining in-custody at the Snohomish County Jail. He thanked the Monroe Municipal Court and the Monroe Police Department for holding him accountable and helping him to obtain the chemical dependency treatment that he needed. He told the Court that he has since reunited with his wife and children and is looking for ways to give back to the community.

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## COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD HOLDS FIRST MEETING

On Thursday, August 20, the Community Human Services Advisory Board (CHSAB) held its first meeting. This new advisory board will assist the City by serving as the community filter, and to help us do better, as we move forward with implementing the recommendations of the Homelessness Policy Advisory Committee. The members are a wonderful and diverse board of residents and represent a cross section of our community, including people from our faith community, local service providers, business owners, and active community volunteers. People serving on the Board are from diverse lived experiences, including a resident who is formerly homeless and residents who have lived through poverty and through recovery.



The CHSAB will meet twice monthly, on the first and third Thursday, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Meetings will be held via the Zoom meeting platform, are open to the public, and will include a Public Comment period at the end.

A topic of the first meeting was the upcoming International Overdose Awareness Day on August 31. International Overdose Awareness Day is a global event to raise awareness of overdose, to reduce the stigma of overdose-related death, and acknowledge the grief of family, friends and community. I will issue a Proclamation next week recognizing International Overdose Awareness Day here in Monroe.

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## SNOHOMISH COUNTY TO CELEBRATE FAIR COMMUNITY WITH FOOD DRIVE

Let's keep the spirit of the Evergreen State Fair going! It has been a long-standing tradition that on opening day of the Fair there is a food drive benefiting local area food banks. Last year brought in 33,866 pounds of food, about 28,000 meals for our community. This year, because of COVID-19, the need is greater than ever. So, while the Fair has been cancelled, Evergreen State Fair Park staff and volunteers will host a countywide [drive-thru food drive](#) on Thursday, August 27; the food drive will be held from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the West parking lot at the Fair Park. There will be a variety of food trucks at the event for take-out. All State guidelines for COVID-19 will be followed for this drive-thru event.



Participants are invited to decorate their vehicles in a Fair-inspired theme. Ideas could include: County Fair elements, fair food, carnival ride, race car or even a pig. Participants could win a Family 4-Pack of Fair admission and Carnival tickets to the 2021 Evergreen State Fair. Businesses are also welcome to decorate their business vehicle for a chance to win 12 fair admissions.

Items collected from this event will be donated to food banks countywide in partnership with Volunteers of America and the Snohomish County Food Bank Coalition. Suggested items for the food drive include: monetary donations, diapers, baby wipes, hygiene/toiletry items, canned vegetables/goods, pasta, peanut butter, rice, kitchen staples and other non-perishable items.

## COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT ISSUES FACIAL COVERING RECOMMENDATION

This week, the Snohomish Health District issued a [recommendation](#) on the usage of facial coverings. According to the Health District, a cloth face covering with multiple layers, made of cotton or a cotton blend, appears to work best in combating the transmission of COVID-19. The other two common facial covering types - lightweight gaiters and bandanas - are less effective because they disperse larger respiratory droplets into smaller ones that can travel further and stay airborne longer. All facial coverings are recommended to be worn covering both the mouth and nose.



## FLAGS FOR OUR FALLEN VIRTUAL 5K TOMORROW

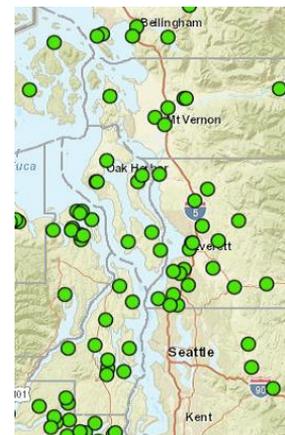
Join me tomorrow for the [Flags For Our Fallen 5K](#). Due to COVID-19, earlier this summer VFW Post 7511 made the decision to hold this year's 4th annual event virtually. This transition provides our community the opportunity to remember the lives of the brave men and women who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for our country, while maintaining social distancing. As a virtual event, participants are encouraged to run or walk a 5K, either alone or with a friend, and post photos on social media using the #Flags4rFallen hashtag. If you see participants around town, be sure to wave and show your support. Kick off ceremony will begin at 7:00 a.m.



## FREE DRIVE-IN WIFI HOTSPOTS AVAILABLE STATEWIDE

In response to the impacts of COVID-19, Drive-In WiFi Hotspots provide free temporary, emergency internet access for Washingtonians who do not have broadband service to their homes. Access is available to all residents, with specific emphasis on remote learning for students. Additionally, this service can be used for job searches, telehealth, telework, unemployment filing, and census participation.

Launching primarily as parking lot hotspots in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the free community WiFi is



accessible regardless of how users arrive at the locations. Some sites also offer indoor public access during business hours. Everyone using the sites – outside or inside – must practice social distancing and hygiene precautions, including staying in your vehicle or at least six feet from other users, and wearing a face covering if necessary.

Each hotspot will have its own security protocol. Some will be open and others will have Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) safe security installed. To find a hotspot near you, access the state Department of Commerce's Drive-In WiFi Hotspot [locator tool](#).

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## GOVERNOR "CAUTIOUSLY PLEASED" IN COVID-19 CASE RATE PROGRESS

In a press conference this week, Governor Jay Inslee said he is "cautiously pleased" to see a decline in COVID-19 case rates over the last



couple of weeks. The governor cautioned that there is still work to be done to drop the R0 (or "R-naught") number below one; the R0 number indicates the reproduction or spread of disease. An R0 below one indicates that every person who has COVID-19 is likely to spread it to less than one other person, which would lead to a decline in new infections. The R0 in Washington is around one right now, but the only way to get case levels down to where people can resume more normal activities is to get it well below one. Governor Inslee acknowledged that Washington has bent its COVID-19 transmission rate down once before, but that it later increased. Governor Inslee stated that in order to return to the way things were before the outbreak, case numbers need to come down and remain down.

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## REMINDER: CANCELLATION OF SPRING CLEANUP ENSURES RATE STABILITY THROUGH YEAR END

As I shared in last week's edition of [Monroe This Week](#), the City of Monroe recently made the difficult decision to cancel the annual



Spring Cleanup. Originally scheduled for the traditional mid-May date, the Cleanup was postponed due to the COVID-19 outbreak. With the recent spike in transmission of the virus, the cancellation decision was made to ensure the safety and health of both participants and event staff. In recognition of the cost savings of the cancellation, Republic Services has waived its right to request a rate increase following the state's increase of the Business & Operations tax earlier this year. This action ensures rate stability for Monroe residents through the end of 2020. The City looks forward to the return of the Spring Cleanup in 2021.

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## UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

The City Council will meet in a Regular Business Meeting on Tuesday, August

25, 2020. The meeting will be held via the Zoom remote meeting platform and participation information will be posted with the August 25 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](mailto:councilmembers@monroewa.gov)

