



MONROE THIS WEEK

June 19, 2020 • Vol 6/Edition 23

Save the Date!

MONROE HIGH GRADUATION CEREMONIES

June 19 & 20

Thank you for reading Monroe This Week.

This week's edition provides details on the City's Monroe CARES Grant Program, festivities honoring the Class of 2020, a free Wood Chipping Event, the upcoming reopening of the Sky Valley Food Bank, an extension of the Downtown Permit Fee Waiver, a Joint Statement by myself and the City Council, local recognitions of Juneteenth and Father's Day, and an update on the City's year-to-date fiscal status.



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

CITY ANNOUNCES MONROE CARES GRANT PROGRAM

On Wednesday, June 17, the City announced the establishment of the Monroe CARES grant program to disburse \$110,000 in CARES Act funds to businesses and non-profits affected by the COVID-19 crisis. The program will disburse funds through two grant programs: The Small Business Relief Grant will make available \$60,000 for Monroe businesses, and the Community Relief Grant will make available an additional \$50,000 for non-profit organizations that serve Monroe's most vulnerable residents.



Our highest priority right now is getting our entire community back up and running as quickly as possible and as safely as possible. Providing support to our local businesses and non-profit agencies, and ensuring the availability of products and services for all Monroe residents will help us get there.

Guidelines, eligibility information, and the application for the Small Business Relief Grant can be found on the [grant website](#).

Community Relief Grant guidelines and eligibility criteria are under development and will be announced in early July.

WEEKEND OF FESTIVITIES TO HONOR CLASS OF 2020

With Snohomish County now in Phase 2, Monroe High School is able to move forward with individual in-person graduation ceremonies for the Class of 2020, beginning today. Participating seniors were assigned a one-hour slot today, June 19, between 4:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., or tomorrow, June 20, between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Graduates may arrive at the high school, dressed in their caps and gowns, with up to 10 family members in their vehicles. Seniors will be cleared individually to exit the vehicle and walk across the graduation stage. The graduate's name will be read over a microphone, and they will have the opportunity to stop at a designated place on the stage for pictures with their diploma cover and to turn their tassel. For further details on the graduation ceremonies and the required social distancing guidelines, visit the Monroe School District [website](#).



Yesterday evening, June 18, our community recognized and celebrated the Class of 2020 with a car parade through Downtown Monroe. Beginning at the YMCA, the parade of vehicles progressed down Frylands Blvd. before turning

on Main Street and passing through the downtown area. Monroe Police supported the parade by providing lead vehicles to direct the pace of the parade and ensure the safety of the parade route.

Congratulations to the Monroe High School Class of 2020!

PROTECT YOUR HOME BY REDUCING YOUR WILDFIRE RISK

Snohomish County Emergency Management and Fire District 7 are jointly hosting a Wood Chipping Event tomorrow, June 20, between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. at Fire Station 31 here in Monroe. This community event is an opportunity for residents of Fire District 7 to have their tree limbs and brush (six inches or less in diameter) chipped free of charge by a professional chipping service. Cleaning up tree limbs and brush can help protect your home by reducing your wildfire risk. Please review the [event flyer](#) for accepted materials and additional event information.



FOOD BANK FACILITY RE-OPENING TO PUBLIC JULY 1

The Sky Valley Food Bank has announced it will reopen its facility and resume direct public service on July 1. The Food Bank will implement an open market shopping style, mostly outside, so appropriate dress and umbrellas on rainy days are encouraged. Service hours will be Mondays between 9:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., and Wednesdays between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. To maintain social distancing, appointments are required and can be made [online](#). The Food Bank maintains a [Frequently Asked Questions](#) section on its website detailing social distancing guidelines and other details of the open market.



DOWNTOWN FEE WAIVER PROGRAM EXTENDED

Based on the City of Monroe Downtown Master Plan, the City has taken action to support private investment in downtown, to create an attractive and unique place for people to shop and dine, and to create community space for events. While permits are still needed, to encourage private investment in Downtown Monroe, the City had enacted a waiver of permit fees in the [Downtown Planning Area](#), which was to expire this month. To continue to encourage private investment, especially in light of the COVID-19 outbreak, earlier this year the City Council extended the waiver for one year. Permit fees are currently waived through June 14, 2021. A [brochure](#)

DOWNTOWN PERMIT FEE WAIVER

is available detailing our downtown and the fee waiver program. I encourage anyone considering investment in downtown to review the brochure and to utilize the contact information found inside for the City's Permit Center and Economic Development Specialist to learn about opportunities in the area. Additional information is also available on the City's Economic Development [website](#).

CITY COUNCIL ISSUES JOINT STATEMENT CONDEMNING AND STANDING AGAINST RACISM

As I shared in a recent edition of *Monroe This Week*, I issued a Proclamation in conjunction with the Justice March for George Floyd organized by Isaiah and Caleb Cole. At its June 9 Business Meeting, the Monroe City Council voted unanimously to support this message as an official [Joint Statement](#). Together, the City Council and I promise to:



1. Condemn and stand against racism, discrimination, and hatred; and
2. Better understand and acknowledge those privileges we encounter while others do not, simply because of heritage, background, and experiences; and
3. Enforce accountability, fairness, equity, and justice in the court and all departments at the City of Monroe, including within our Police Department; and
4. Listen and learn about how we can do better and how our community can do better to embrace, support, and lift up people who are discriminated against and marginalized; and
5. Promote and embrace diversity, equity, inclusiveness, and justice for everyone in our community and beyond.

I ask you and others in our community to hold us to these promises, to be partners with us, and for others to realize needed change and reform.

CITY RECOGNIZES JUNETEENTH TODAY, JUNE 19

On Tuesday, June 16, I issued a [Proclamation](#) recognizing Juneteenth here in the City of Monroe. On January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, setting in motion the end of slavery in the United States. Word of the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation was



delayed in reaching authorities and African Americans in the South and Southwest by some two and a half years, to June 19, 1865. This date is now recognized nationally as the oldest known public celebration of the end of slavery in the United States. I encourage you to read the full text of the Proclamation, and to become more familiar with the significance of this celebration in African American history and in the heritage of our nation and

CITY CELEBRATES FATHER'S DAY SUNDAY, JUNE 21

Today I issued a [Proclamation](#) recognizing this Sunday, June 21, as Father's Day. This holiday is dedicated to honoring remarkable men who strive and sacrifice to encourage us to reach great heights and support us no matter the challenges we face. We celebrate the men who raised us, who love us unconditionally, and who set us on the road to success. I encourage you to read the full text of the Proclamation, and to give thanks for, honor and express love to fathers everywhere, who support us, mentor us and act as role models.

**HAPPY
FATHER'S
DAY**

UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The City Council will meet in a Regular Business Meeting on Tuesday, June 23, 2020. The meeting will be held via the Zoom remote meeting platform and participation information will be posted with the June 23 agenda.

[Council Agendas/Minutes](#)

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

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

