



# MONROE THIS WEEK

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## POST 7511 - AUX 7511 MONROE WA



*Thank you for reading Monroe This Week.*

*This week's edition provides details on the state's pause in the reopening of counties, a sustainability adjustment taking effect on September 1, the 4th Annual Flags For Our Fallen Virtual 5K, and the move of the Walk the Heart Path at Sky River Park, as well as a call for stories for #WeAreMonroeWA and a 2020 Census update.*



*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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## SNOHOMISH COUNTY TO REMAIN IN PHASE 2 AS STATE PAUSES REOPENING OF COUNTIES

This past Tuesday, July 14, Governor Jay Inslee

announced a two-week pause on the reopening of Washington counties. Due to a steady increase in COVID-19 cases across Washington, counties will not be able to advance beyond their current Safe Start Washington phase until at least July 28.

While other parts of our nation have seen a steep rise in confirmed cases and hospitalizations, Washington has thankfully avoided such a circumstance. Our state did see an upward tick in hospitalizations in June, while remaining below the peak numbers of earlier this spring. Governor Inslee stated that the pause order is based on both the increase in confirmed cases and an estimated transmission rate indicating infected persons are transmitting the virus to others. This combination leaves Washington in what the Governor called a 'dangerous situation' if left unchecked. Snohomish County remains in Phase 2 for the duration of the pause.



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## SUSTAINABILITY ADJUSTMENT TAKES EFFECT SEPTEMBER 1

Effective September 1, 2020, the rate for Republic Services' collection of garbage, recycling, and organics in the City of Monroe will increase by \$1.86 per month for Residential



Customers, \$1.86 per month per dwelling unit for Multifamily Complex Customers, and \$.50 per month per yard for cart-based Commercial Garbage Customers. This increase reflects the Sustainability Adjustment approved by the City Council at its [June 23 Business Meeting](#), and was enacted to ensure continued recycling collection in the City due to new constraints, higher disposal costs, and lower resale cost recovery imposed on the global recycling industry. Questions? Visit Republic Services' [website](#) to learn about this surcharge or call Republic Services' Customer Service at (425) 778-0188.

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## FLAGS FOR OUR FALLEN 5K GOES VIRTUAL

As you may have already heard, on June 30, VFW Post 7511 made the decision to transition this year's [4th Annual Flags For Our Fallen 5K](#) to a virtual event. This decision was made in consideration of the COVID-19 pandemic, to ensure 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 a 5K, either alone or with a friend, on the Saturday, August 22 race day and post photos on social media using the #Flags4rFallen hashtag. The deadline to register with a guarantee of a t-shirt is July 25, so the VFW encourages runners to [register](#) soon. I will be speaking via a VFW live stream at the race kickoff at Lake Tye Park, and look forward to "seeing" everyone there!



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## WALK THE HEART PATH REMAINS OPEN AT SKY RIVER

## PARK, MOVED TO NEW LOCATION

As you may recall, in [early June](#) the Monroe Parks Department painted a half-mile heart path at Sky River Park. At that time, I invited all Monroe residents to Walk the Heart and reflect on what WE can do better as a community. The original path passed through the park's ballfields. Since then, Snohomish County has shifted into Phase 2, and the ballfields have reopened for limited practices in compliance with Governor Inslee's [guidelines for sporting activities](#). With the reopening of the ballfields, it was important to the City to keep the Walk the Heart path open. The path has been shifted to the west, around the playground equipment. I invite you to Walk the Heart at its new location, to continue to reflect upon what we can do better as a community, and to continue to share your thoughts with me.



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## CITY SEEKS STORIES FOR #WeAreMonroeWA

In last week's edition of [Monroe This Week](#), I shared that the City launched a new Facebook page entitled [We Are Monroe WA](#). Similar to [Humans of New York](#), #WeAreMonroeWA features stories about the people who make Monroe the amazing community it is, because we are all Monroe. Have a story to share? Email [wearemonroewa@monroewa.gov](mailto:wearemonroewa@monroewa.gov), or text 360-722-1684. Please include a photo with your story submission, and if it is about a specific person, their contact information so the City can get their permission to share the story. Follow the #WeAreMonroeWA page for uplifting stories about our community.



#WeAreMonroeWA

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## CENSUS RESPONSE RATE STRONG, BUT MORE TO GO

While Monroe's [2020 Census Response Rate](#) remains strong, it has slowed significantly since I last reported on the 2020 Census here in [Monroe This Week](#). As of Wednesday, July 15, Monroe's response rate sits at 70.2%. While this rate is above both the country as a whole (62.1%) and the state (67.5%), it is slightly behind Snohomish County (70.7%), and is an increase of just 1.1% since the first week of June.



Census information is used to direct billions of dollars in federal funds to local communities for schools, roads, and other public services. Results are also used to determine the number of seats each state is allocated in Congress. Completing the Census is quick and easy. You can help bring federal funds to Monroe and raise our response rate by completing the [2020 Census](#).

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# UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

The City Council will meet in a Regular Study Session Meeting on Tuesday, July 21, 2020. The meeting will be held via the Zoom remote meeting platform and participation information will be posted with the July 21 agenda.

The City Council will also meet in a Regular Business Meeting on Tuesday, July 28, again via the Zoom remote meeting platform. The City has issued **formal notice** that a Public Hearing, declaring certain property as Surplus and authorizing its disposition, will take place during the July 28 meeting. Participation information for the Business Meeting and Public Hearing is included in the above link. The Business Meeting agenda will be posted on Friday, July 24 and 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)

