



MONROE THIS WEEK

June 26, 2015



Mayor

Geoffrey Thomas
gthomas@monroewa.gov

Councilmembers

Kevin Hanford
Patsy Cudaback
Jeff Rasmussen
Jim Kamp
Ed Davis
Jason Gamble
Kurt Goering
councilmembers@monroewa.gov

City Hall

806 West Main Street
Monroe, WA 98272
Phone: 360.794.7400
Open 8AM – 5PM, M-F

Appointment Openings

Ethics Board
Planning Commission
Salary Commission

Job Openings

Senior Planner
Associate Planner
Accountant
Executive Assistant

Events this Week

- 6/26-27** Summer Showdown @ Evergreen Speedway
- 6/27** Backyard BBQ Bash @ E. County Senior Center, 5PM
- 7/4** Determined Parents 5K Walk/Run & Family Day @ Lk Tye, 10AM – 3PM

For more events,
download the
Choose Monroe App



and tap on "Events."

From the Office of Mayor Thomas

To highlight some of the things going on in our community, I am writing this weekly city update, "Monroe This Week." If you have any suggestions or questions regarding "Monroe This Week" or the stories below, please contact me at GThomas@MonroeWa.gov.

Yours in Service,

Mayor Geoffrey Thomas

June 30th – No Council Meeting

As it is the fifth Tuesday of the month, there is no Monroe City Council meeting on June 30th.

Fireworks

The Monroe Municipal Code's restrictions on the discharge of fireworks are summarized as follows:

1. Fireworks can only be used between 9 a.m. and midnight on July 4th.
2. No fireworks of any kind are allowed to be used in any park or parking area of a park.

Conditions are very dry outside this year - **please be especially careful using fireworks this Fourth of July.**

Tjerne Place to Connect Chain Lake to Woods Creek!

The City has awarded a construction contract for the extension of Tjerne Place from Chain Lake Road to Woods Creek Road (behind Safeway). This east-west connector is one that has been planned for some time. Funding for this project is coming from city funds (\$730,500), a State Transportation Improvement Board Grant (\$2,970,100), and Snohomish PUD (\$1,000,000, as part of a related project). Construction is set to begin August 3, 2015, and be completed by June 30, 2016. Stay tuned for more details!!!

Resurfacing at Lake Tye Park and Wales Street Park

The City is completing projects totaling \$34,848 to resurface tennis and basketball courts at Lake Tye Park and Wales Street Park. The project is a budgeted Parks Capital Improvement Project and the work is expected to be completed by the end of this summer.

**City of Monroe
Year to Date Comparisons**

The following are year to date comparisons of a few

Sales Tax Revenues
'14 to 5/31/14: \$1,444,637
'15 to 5/31/15: \$1,601,592
UP \$156,955 or 10.86%

Real Estate Excise Tax
'14 to 5/31/14: \$154,089
'15 to 5/31/15: \$187,640
UP \$33,551 or 21.77%

Lodging Tax Revenues
'14 to 5/31/14: \$18,601
'15 to 5/31/15: \$18,679
UP \$79 or 0%

Business License Fees
'14 to 5/31/14: \$20,929
'15 to 5/31/15: \$21,069
UP \$140 or 1%

Building Permit Revenues
'14 to 5/31/14: \$53,530
'15 to 5/31/15: \$135,163
UP \$81,633 or 152%

Planning Fee Revenues
'14 to 5/31/14: \$11,140
'15 to 5/31/15: \$47,740
UP \$36,600 or 329%

New House Permits
'14 to 5/31/14: 8
'15 to 5/31/15: 34
UP 26 units or 325%

Multi-Family Permits (# units)
'14 to 5/31/14: 0 units
'15 to 5/31/15: 4 units
UP 4 units

New Residential Development is Strong in 2015

The housing market continues to pick up in the City of Monroe. The information to the left shows the number of residential permits issued by permit type for 2015 year-to-date, and all of 2014. The thirty-seven single family permits issued in 2015 already exceeds the 2014 total of fourteen. Multi-family development activity, which is more variable, also continues to take place in the City.

THANK YOU WET NOSES!!!

Wet Noses Natural Dog Treat Company, located here in Monroe, has generously donated dog waste bags for the dispensers in our city parks at an estimated value of six hundred dollars. The company has also pledged to schedule future service project days at our community's Wiggly Field dog park on an annual basis. We are excited to have Wet Noses Natural Dog Treat Company as a community service partner!

Kayak Boat Rentals coming to Lake Tye!

Beginning as early as July 1st, you will be able to rent kayaks at Lake Tye. Thank you to our concessionaires for expanding opportunities to enjoy Lake Tye Park!!!

Downtown's Main Street Plaza & Lewis Street Projects

The first phase of this project is coming to an end. The second phase, which constructs the same improvements on the block west of Lewis Street on West Main Street, begins on July 6th and is expected to be completed as early as the week of August 3rd. The new sidewalks are looking great! Come check them out and shop downtown!

Downtown Permit Fee Waivers

In June, the City Council voted unanimously to reinstitute permit fee waivers for development in the downtown area through June 2016. The permit fee waiver is one of a number of efforts the City is taking to promote downtown revitalization.

Panhandling

A number of members of our community expressed concerns about panhandling at our June 16th City Council Meeting. The City adopted a panhandling law in 2008, and City staff will present an overview of this law at Council's regularly scheduled meeting on July 21st that begins at 7PM at City Hall.

Downtown Clean Up

The Chamber of Commerce is holding a downtown litter clean-up on July 8th from 5 to 7 p.m. The Chamber is planning a second clean-up event in the first half of August. If you are interested in helping out, please contact:

- Una Wirkebau, Chamber Director at (360) 794-5488, director@monroewachamber.org.
- Carlina Morris, Ambassador Coordinator at (360) 863-2966, Carlina@carlinamorris.com.

Year to Date Comparisons

On the previous page are some key indicators of economic strength. These are “year-to-date” comparisons of what the City received in 2014 to 2015 as of May 31st. I will update these figures monthly in Monroe This Week.

The following is a very general summary of these revenues and what the funds can be used for.

1. *Sales Tax Revenues.* These are a portion of taxes that you and I pay when we buy things in Monroe. These revenues benefit our General Fund, which includes funding for most of our services including police, parks, administration, and community development. Sales tax revenues are up nearly 11% compared to this time last year (this is does not include the 0.2% sales tax for roads).
2. *Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) Revenues.* When property is sold an excise tax is paid. The City can use these funds for capital projects, like improvements to city roads and parks. REET is up nearly 22% compared to this time last year indicating an improving housing market.
3. *Lodging Tax Revenues.* These are taxes paid by people staying in our hotels and motels. The lodging tax revenues to date are essentially the same as in 2014. These funds are used to promote and hold events in Monroe.
4. *Business License Revenues.* These are the fees business owners pay for business licenses. The business license revenues are essentially the same as in 2014. These funds benefit the General Fund.
5. *Building Permit Revenues.* These are the fees applicants for building permits pay. Building permits fees are up 152% compared to this time last year. This is mainly a result of an increase in permit applications for new homes. These funds benefit the General Fund.
6. *Planning Revenues.* These are fees applicants pay for developments like subdivisions, special environmental permits, conditional use permits, and site plan reviews. Planning revenues are up significantly this year compared to this time last year. This is mainly a result of an increase in applications for residential subdivisions. These funds benefit the General Fund.