



# MONROE THIS WEEK

Edition 3 January 22, 2016



**Mayor**

*Geoffrey Thomas*  
[gthomas@monroewa.gov](mailto:gthomas@monroewa.gov)

**Councilmembers**

*Kevin Hanford*  
*Patsy Cudaback*  
*Jeff Rasmussen*  
*Jim Kamp*  
*Ed Davis*  
*Jason Gamble*  
*Kirk Scarboro*  
[councilmembers@monroewa.gov](mailto:councilmembers@monroewa.gov)

**City Hall**

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

**Appointment Openings**

*No Openings At This Time*

**Job Openings**

*Engineering Administrative Specialist*

**Events this Week**

- 1/23 Elite Training Academy  
Ribbon Cutting,  
202 N. Lewis St  
11AM*
- 1/26 City Council Meeting,  
Council Chambers,  
City Hall,  
7PM*
- 1/31 Officer Jayme Biendl  
Memorial Run,  
Sky River Park,  
10AM*

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

## Be In The Know!

### SR522 Update

Staff, Council, our lobbyists, and I have been busy working on making changes to jump start improvements to SR-522. This week, we developed a promotional flyer which includes logos from a number of organizations which support improvements to SR-522. In just one day, we have received logos to show support from the following:

City of Bothell, City of Duvall, Evergreen Speedway, Everett Community College, Economic Alliance of Snohomish County, SCCIT, Community Transit, Monroe Fire District No. #3, Monroe Police Department, Monroe Chamber of Commerce, Real Deals, The Dashing Dutchman, and Downtown Monroe Association. We look forward to many more organizations, businesses, and cities joining in and thank everyone for their support!!!!

### State Audit Report

On January 12th the State Auditors presented their final audit report for fiscal year 2014 to the City Council. They reported an unqualified audit for both financial reporting and compliance with regulations and laws. They also reported the city had cleared up all items from previous audits, and that staff was very accommodating to work with. The state mandated audits are provided to demonstrate good stewardship of public funds.

**City of Monroe**  
**Year-to-Date Comparisons**

*The following are year-to-date comparisons*

**Sales Tax Revenues**

'14 to 12/31/14: \$3,617,210

'15 to 12/31/15: \$4,064,056

**UP \$446,846 or 12.35%**

**Real Estate Excise Tax**

'14 to 12/31/14: \$494,082

'15 to 12/31/15: \$775,207

**UP \$281,125 or 56.90%**

**Lodging Tax Revenues**

'14 to 12/31/14: \$65,661

'15 to 12/31/15: \$70,274

**UP \$4,613 or 7.03%**

**Business License Fees**

'14 to 12/31/14: \$48,049

'15 to 12/31/15: \$48,886

**UP \$836 or 1.74%**

**Building Permit Revenues**

'14 to 12/31/14: \$180,017

'15 to 12/31/15: \$311,092

**UP \$131,075 or 72.81%**

**Planning Fee Revenues**

'14 to 12/31/14: \$50,595

'15 to 12/31/15: \$61,665

**UP \$11,070 or 21.88%**

**New House Permits**

'14 to 12/31/14: 17

'15 to 12/31/15: 60

**UP 43 units or 253%**

**Multi-Family Permits (# units)**

'14 to 12/31/14: 46 units

'15 to 12/31/15: 4 units

**DOWN 40 units or -91.3%**

**Building Division Inspections**

'14 to 12/31/14: 1,548

'15 to 11/30/15: 1,713

**UP 165 or 10.7%**

**East Monroe**

On January 20, 2016 the Growth Management Hearings Board (GMHB) held a hearing on whether or not actions taken by the City of Monroe comply with the GMHB's 2014 decision and Order invalidating the City's 2013 approval of the East Monroe Comprehensive Plan map amendment and rezone. The City's approach to compliance included the preparation of additional environmental review and re-adoption of the Comprehensive Plan map amendment and rezone ordinances. The East Monroe Comprehensive Plan map amendment and rezone pertains to approximately 43 acres of property located in the eastern portion of the City of Monroe, north of the Skykomish River along the north side of State Route 2. The GMHB is a State body that hears appeals on matters related to a local government's compliance with the Growth Management Act (GMA). The GMHB decision on whether the City complied is anticipated by March 3, 2016.

**Chamber of Commerce Board**

Monthly, I meet with the Monroe Chamber of Commerce Board to stay plugged in to some of the issues businesses are facing in our community and to coordinate various efforts to help promote Monroe. During our meeting yesterday, we discussed the installation of wayfinding signs, advocacy of SR-522, and some of the events which are coming up, including a ribbon cutting at Elite Training tomorrow. Our Chamber does a great deal to support our community from serving as a visitor's center, to promoting Monroe, to advocating for local businesses. Thank you to all our Boardmembers for their service; I look forward to 2016!

**Snohomish County Cities**

Councilmembers Gamble, Kamp, Rasmussen, and Scarboro, and I attended last night's Snohomish County Cities meeting last night. Snohomish County Cities (SCC) is an organization of cities and towns in our County that focuses advocacy efforts for the County's cities and towns. The monthly meeting provides an opportunity for elected officials to discuss issues their communities are facing. For Monroe last night, one of the topics we discussed with other cities and towns was the need to make improvements to SR-522. In addition to being a forum for advocacy, SCC is the group that elects representatives from Snohomish County to serve on various regional boards and committees. It was a pleasure having so many representatives from Monroe present at this meeting. Thank you!

## **Puget Sound Regional Council – Economic Development Committee**

At last night's Snohomish County Cities meeting, I was elected to serve as SCC's representative on the Puget Sound Regional Council – Economic Development Committee. The Puget Sound Regional Council is a body who influences land use and infrastructure planning in the Puget Sound area. Included in their scope of work is funding for infrastructure projects and programs. The Economic Development Committee is focused on attracting, promoting, and retaining businesses and employment opportunities in our region. I look forward to representing Monroe and our Snohomish County Cities on this important committee.

## **Economic Alliance of Snohomish County**

The Economic Alliance of Snohomish County is an organization which attracts businesses to communities around Snohomish County. Last week, I provided a tour of Monroe to representatives of the Economic Alliance of Snohomish County. We toured the Fryelands, new homes being built at Eaglemont off Chain Lake Road, the manufacturing/industrial park, and downtown. The purpose of the tour was to share the variety of housing, business, and manufacturing opportunities that we offer in Monroe. During the tour, I explained how Monroe is situated at a transportation hub with SR-522 and SR-203 joining with US2, which connects Monroe to Everett, the Eastside/Seattle, I-90, and Eastern Washington. We discussed how critical it is that resources are available to improve SR-522 to support both local commuters and businesses, and also statewide travel from I-5 to Eastern Washington. I thank the Economic Alliance of Snohomish County for advocating for Monroe and look forward to working more closely with them to attract businesses and manufacturers to our city.

## ***Council Updates!***

### **Council Committees**

Council committees meet about monthly and are open to the public. Committees are made up of up to three Councilmembers. Council assigns policy and budget-related topics to committees to facilitate more detailed review of those topics. The following assignments were made:

**Finance and Human Resources Committee:**  
Councilmembers Cudaback, Hanford, and Gamble.

***(Committees continued)***

**Legislative Affairs Committee:** Councilmembers Hanford, Davis, and Kamp.

**Transportation and Planning, Public Works, Parks and Recreation, and Public Safety Committee (aka “P4 Committee”):** Councilmembers Scarboro and Rasmussen (there is one vacancy on this committee)

**French Creek Flood Control District Joint Board**

The City of Monroe has one representative on this flood control district. The flood control district is responsible for maintaining the drainage ways and levees in the French Creek basin. The City pays about \$90,000 per year toward the maintenance of these facilities. The facilities help keep water from flooding into the Fryelands. Thank you, Councilmember Kamp, for stepping up again to serve the City on this Board!!

**Community Transit Board**

The Community Transit Board reviews and approves policies, budgets, and other issues for our Community Transit bus system. The Board is made up of representatives from parts of Snohomish County in the Community Transit District. Mayor Pro Tem Cudaback and Councilmember Scarboro attended yesterday’s Board meeting, during which appointments were made for this year’s board members. Mayor Pro Tem Cudaback was appointed yesterday evening to the second alternate position on the Community Transit Board. She was appointed by representatives from a number of other cities, towns, and the County. It is awesome having representation at these meetings!!