



MONROE THIS WEEK

Edition 13 April 1, 2016

Mayor

Geoffrey Thomas
gthomas@monroewa.gov

Councilmembers

Patsy Cudaback
Kevin Hanford
Ed Davis
Jason Gamble
Jim Kamp
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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

Maintenance Person II
Public Works Maint. Worker II
Senior Engineer – Development Review
Senior Planner

Events this Week

- 04/02** *SVLL Jamboree, Rotary Field, 372 Sky River Pkwy, 9AM-5PM*
- Opening Night @ Evergreen Speedway, Evergreen Speedway, 6PM*
- 04/05** *City Council Finance and Human Resources Committee Meeting, City Hall, 6PM*
- City Council Meeting, Council Chambers, City Hall, 7PM*
- 04/07** *Lake Tye Park Skatepark Groundbreaking, Lake Tye Park, 4:30PM*

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!

Take the Next Step

Tuesday, March 29, 2016, I joined with Monroe Rotary to serve food at "Take the Next Step," a community resource center in town. About 40 or so people were served that evening. After serving the meal, I talked with someone about the challenges homeless individuals face. I truly appreciate everything agencies and non-profits in the Monroe area do to help people in need in our community.

Snohomish and King County Cities Meet

Wednesday, March 30, 2016, I attended a joint meeting of the Snohomish County Cities organization and Suburban Cities Association (King County). These meetings are important networking opportunities to discuss and advance issues of shared concern. I met with and thanked a number of councilmembers and mayors of other cities as well as representatives from other organizations for their support to improve SR-522 in this last legislative session. During the meeting, five legislators responded to questions about the legislative session that just ended. The legislators seemed to agree the budget for the 2017 legislative session will be a difficult one to balance. They cited funding of Washington's education system as a significant budget issue.

City of Monroe Year-to-Date Comparisons

The following are year-to-date comparisons

Sales Tax Revenues

'15 to 3/31/15: \$973,181

'16 to 3/31/16: \$1,100,427

UP \$127,246 or 13.08%

Real Estate Excise Tax

'15 to 3/31/15: \$159,109

'16 to 3/31/16: \$205,780

UP \$46,671 or 29.33%

Lodging Tax Revenues

'15 to 3/31/15: \$10,441

'16 to 3/31/16: \$13,813

UP \$3,371 or 32.29%

Business License Fees

'15 to 3/31/15: \$13,344

'16 to 3/31/16: \$14,221

UP \$877 or 6.57%

Building Permit Revenues

'15 to 3/31/15: \$82,947

'16 to 3/31/16: \$85,216

UP \$2,269 or 2.74%

Planning Fee Revenues

'15 to 3/31/15: \$9,090

'16 to 3/31/16: 7,625

DOWN \$1,465 or -16.12%

New House Permits

'15 to 3/31/15: 21

'16 to 3/31/16: 19

DOWN 2 units or 9.5%

Multi-Family Permits (# units)

'15 to 3/31/15: 13

'16 to 3/31/16: 4

DOWN 9 units or 69.2%

Building Division Inspections

'15 to 3/31/15: 398

'16 to 3/31/16: 420

UP 22 or 5.5%

Puget Sound Regional Council Meeting

Thursday, March 31, 2016, I attended the PSRC General Assembly meeting. Among a number of other functions, the PSRC awards grants for transportation and other capital projects. I thanked representatives at the meeting for their support to improve SR-522 in this last legislative session. PSRC received an update on the new regional economic strategy and setting economic strategy priorities. These are issues I will be working with as a Snohomish County Cities' representative on PSRC's Economic Development District.

Lake Tye Skate Park

The much anticipated construction phase of Lake Tye Park skate park improvements is here! Grindline Skateparks will begin construction at the start of April 2016 with an anticipated completion of July 2016. You are invited to join us for a ground-breaking ceremony on Thursday, April 7, 2016 at 4:30 pm in front of the skate park.

The new skate park will be a significant improvement to Lake Tye. It will create a better facility for skateboarders to learn and improve their skills. Thank you to our Monroe City Councilmembers and the State of Washington for investing in this valuable community asset. During construction the skate park will be closed, however, adjacent park amenities such as the boat launch, lake-trail loop and beach area will remain open to the public. The total project cost is estimated at \$270,000, which includes \$120,000 in awarded funds through the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Grant.

Egg Hunt

The City of Monroe had a very successful egg hunt again this year. The weather was absolutely beautiful and well over a thousand people showed up. THANK YOU to all our community partners who helped make this happen through their generous donations and volunteer support, city staff, and City Council. I look forward to next year's egg hunt... or shall we call it an egg scramble?

Lake Tye Playground Maintenance

Parks and Recreation Department staff will be adding new safety-engineered wood surfacing and improving the underlying drainage system of the playground at Lake Tye Park this month. During this work, portions of the playground will be closed-off to use for your safety. We appreciate your patience and look forward to the benefits of the maintenance repair for this heavily-used play area.

Council Updates!

Downtown Parking

Last week, City staff installed the new parking limit signs. If you are a resident in downtown, you may apply for a downtown resident parking permit by contacting City Hall at 360-794-7400. I have been contacted by two employees in downtown expressing concern about the parking time limit and will be talking with Council on April 5, 2016, about alternatives which could better accommodate the parking limit needs for downtown employees. Stay tuned for updates.

Fireworks

Last year, Council requested the opportunity to discuss the City's fireworks regulations. After some discussion, Council requested that the issue be brought back for discussion in early 2016. The fireworks regulation is on Council's April 5, 2016, agenda for a presentation of the City's and State's fireworks regulations.

Project Updates!

Tjerne PI SE Extension Update

Asphalt is being laid, sidewalks are going in, and the signal lights are working. The road is closer to being drivable!

