



MONROE THIS WEEK

June 3, 2016 Edition No. 22

Mayor

Geoffrey Thomas
gthomas@monroewa.gov

Councilmembers

Patsy Cudaback
Kevin Hanford
Ed Davis
Jason Gamble
Jim Kamp
Jeff Rasmussen
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City Hall

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

Appointment Openings

[Planning Commission](#)

Job Openings

[Construction Inspector](#)
[Customer Service Specialist](#)
[Senior Engineer – Development Review](#)
www.monroewa.gov/jobs

Events this Week

- 06/04** Touch – A – Truck,
Monroe Christian
School,
10AM – 4PM
- Miracle League Games,
Rotary Field,
8AM-2PM
- 06/04** Relay For Life,
-
Monroe High School
06/05 10AM – 10AM
- 06/07** Tip-A-Cop, Adam's
Bistro, 104 N. Lewis St,
5PM-9PM
- City Council Finance
and Human Resources
Committee Meeting,
City Hall, Permit Center,
6PM
- City Council Meeting,
City Hall, Council
Chambers, 7PM

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!

PSRC Economic Development District Meeting

On Wednesday, June 1, 2016, I attended the Puget Sound Regional Council's Economic Development District meeting. I serve as the representative for Snohomish County Cities and the City of Monroe. This was their quarterly meeting and the discussion topic was a continuation of the PSRC's update of its regional economic development strategy. The regional economic development strategy will be used to identify economic strengths and opportunities in the Puget Sound region, identify areas that need improvement to support those economic strengths and opportunities, and develop policies and strategies which can be implemented from the city to county to regional to statewide level to support sustainable economic development and growth. This regional-level plan will influence decision-making on transportation, land use, promoting areas for economic development, workforce development, and education at the county and city level. The draft update is now expected to be released in January 2017 for public comment.

Our primary focus was to discuss the overarching "strategy objectives." There are six "strategy objectives," which are currently drafted as:

1. Show alignment of economic development efforts throughout the region and across all sectors.
2. Nurture economic development with high impact.
3. Inform the economic development context for plans in land use, transportation, environmental and all other quality of life aspects.

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

The following are year-to-date comparisons

Sales Tax Revenues

'15 to 5/31/15: \$1,601,592

'16 to 5/31/16: \$1,775,685

UP \$174,093 or 10.87%

Real Estate Excise Tax

'15 to 5/31/15: \$187,640

'16 to 5/31/16: \$375,594

UP \$187,954 or 100.17%

Lodging Tax Revenues

'15 to 5/31/15: \$18,679

'16 to 5/31/16: \$23,437

UP \$4,758 or 25.47%

Business License Fees

'15 to 5/31/15: \$21,069

'16 to 5/31/16: \$20,879

DOWN \$190 or -0.90%

Building Permit Revenues

'15 to 5/31/15: \$135,163

'16 to 5/31/16: \$202,753

UP \$67,590 or 50.01%

Planning Fee Revenues

'15 to 5/31/15: \$47,740

'16 to 5/31/16: \$36,290

DOWN \$11,450 or -23.98%

New House Permits

'15 to 5/31/15: 35

'16 to 5/31/16: 52

UP 18 units or 52.9%

**19 permits issued in May 2016 alone*

Multi-Family Permits (# units)

'15 to 5/31/15: 13

'16 to 5/31/16: 4

DOWN 9 units or -69.2%

Building Division Inspections

'15 to 5/31/15: 712

'16 to 5/31/16: 764

UP 52 or 7.3%

(PSRC continued)

4. Support regional marketing and business recruitment needs and opportunities.
5. Collaborate with leaders in workforce development, higher education, and business climate to support, retain, and expand the region's economic base.
6. Address equity throughout the entirety of the plan and process.

As we went over these, I made comments to reinforce the importance that cities like Monroe have in contributing to the regional economy. I talked about how we, and cities like Monroe, have manufacturers and businesses that sell products outside of the Puget Sound region and build parts that are shipped within the region to complete products which are sold outside our region (e.g. manufacturing aircraft parts that are shipped to Boeing).

I talked about housing affordability and quality-of-life in cities like Monroe that help our region retain employees, and employers that contribute to the regional economy. I reinforced the importance of looking beyond the metropolitan area, to cities like ours as integral in supporting regional economic success. I also emphasized my concerns the strategy that is approved should not be a reason for our comprehensive plan, transportation plan, or grant applications for road projects to be denied by governmental or non-governmental organizations (like the Puget Sound Regional Council).

Lastly, I emphasized the importance of building out our transportation network, especially in connecting our cities to the metropolitan area, and I specifically mentioned SR-522.

The next quarterly meeting will be in the fall. For more information about the Economic Development District, click [here](#).

Local Business Tours! Natural Factors and Research International

Quarterly, representatives from the Monroe Chamber of Commerce, Everett Community College, Economic Alliance of Snohomish County, and the City of Monroe, tour local manufacturers and businesses in our community. On Thursday, June 2, 2016, we toured Natural Factors and Research International.

Natural Factors produces natural vitamin supplements, which they sell worldwide. They employ over 150 people and have room in their building on Fryelands Boulevard to expand. They own farm land on the west side of Lake Tye and plan on growing crops for use in their vitamin supplements.

(Tours Continued)

Their manufacturing building in Monroe was the first LEED certified manufacturing building in the State of Washington and the only LEED certified building in Monroe. They are certified at the “Gold” level. LEED certification is awarded to building projects that meet certain standards for environmental stewardship and sustainability. I really enjoyed the tour and look forward to Natural Factors expanding here in Monroe. For more information, check out their website at www.naturalfactors.com

Research International develops equipment which can be used to sense biological, aerosol, and other chemical agents in our environment. Their products are used worldwide and are used to identify threats to human health and safety. They employ over 30 people at their facility, which is also the home of The Saaski Art Gallery. For more information about Research International, check out their website at www.resrchintl.com

For more information about The Saaski Art Gallery, check out their website at <http://www.art-merchant-intl.com>

Thank you to everyone for the tours of their facilities and for sharing with us about how your businesses compete regionally and globally. We truly appreciate having you in our community. Thank you to the Economic Alliance of Snohomish County for scheduling these tours this week.

Veterans Memorial Groundbreaking

On Thursday, June 2, 2016, our community held a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Veterans Memorial Monument, which will be installed at Lake Tye Park. Over 75 people attended this event. The memorial is being built after students at Park Place Middle School delivered presentations about the lives of the service men from the Monroe area who fell during World War II. Their names were once to be included on a memorial that had fallen into disrepair. The students' presentations brought to light the need to replace this memorial with a new one in a more prominent location. The American Legion Arthur Kincaid Post 58 stepped forward and, working with the Monroe School District and City of Monroe, is leading the installation of a new Veterans Memorial at Lake Tye Park. Boy Scout Sam Thomas will be tackling this memorial as his Eagle Scout project. We are grateful for everyone involved in bringing this memorial to our community. It is expected to be completed by Veterans Day 2016.

For more information or to contribute to this memorial, contact Larry “Woody” Woods at 360-793-1363.

Memorial Day

On Memorial Day, I attended the American Legion's remembrance ceremony at the cemetery on Old Owen Road. Over 60 people attended this ceremony. We reflected upon and gave thanks for the service of the men and women who have fallen in protecting and preserving our country. I delivered the address, which you may read [here](#). As we go about our daily lives, let us honor their legacy in our words and our actions. We are forever grateful for their service and their legacy.

Safety Reminder!

The weather is heating up and this weekend is supposed to be beautiful and hot! Before families head down to the water to cool off, it is important to check to see if your life jackets fit properly for the whole family. Drowning is the leading cause of injury-related death among children ages 1-4, but it is recommended that adults wear life jackets too. Monroe Fire wants to remind families of our life jacket loaner program! Families can visit Fire Station 31 at 163 Village Court to check out a life jacket before they go to the water. For more swimming safety tips, visit:

www.safekids.org/safetytips/field_risks/swimming-and-water