



MONROE THIS WEEK

August 19, 2016 Edition No. 33

Mayor

Geoffrey Thomas
gthomas@monroewa.gov

Councilmembers

Patsy Cudaback
Kevin Hanford
Ed Davis
Jason Gamble
Jim Kamp
Jeff Rasmussen
Kirk Scarboro
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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 Vacancies

Job Openings

Senior Engineer – Development Review
Planning Tech Part-Time
www.monroewa.gov/jobs

Events this Week

- 08/12 Movies Under the Moon, "Jurassic World"
Lake Tye Park, 8-10PM
- 08/21 Summer Beats Half-Marathon and 10K,
Lake Tye Park,
730AM-1230PM
- 08/23 City Council Meeting,
City Hall, Council
Chambers, 7PM
- 08/24 Farm To Table Farmer's
Market, Lake Tye Park,
3-8PM
- 08/25 Opening Day at the
Evergreen State Fair,
Evergreen State
Fairgrounds,
10AM-10PM
- 08/27 Monroe Fair Days
Parade, Main Street,
11AM-1PM

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!

Legislative Priorities

Last week, Council approved the City's legislative priorities for the 2017 State legislative session. These are the primary issues that we will be working on with our representatives at the County, State, and Federal levels of government next year:

- **SR 522:** Allow *Connecting Washington* transportation investment package funds allocated for SR522 pre-engineering and design to be available earlier, and allocate \$300,000 to perform practical design assessments of the SR522 Interchange and Widening projects, in order to produce updated design concepts and accompanying design and construction estimates.
- **Lake Tye Park Athletic Fields:** Fund installation of all-weather multi-purpose fields for Lake Tye Park, for joint use by the City of Monroe Parks & Recreation Department and the Monroe School District.
- **Main Street Program Funding:** Revitalize Washington communities and small downtown businesses struggling to return from the recession by expanding funding for the Main Street Program to allow all eligible cities to receive the minimum funding allowed.
- **Fiscal sustainability:** Protect shared-revenue streams (Liquor revenues, Marijuana taxes, etc.) necessary for essential city services; and, programs cities rely upon (Basic Law Enforcement Academy, Municipal Services and Research Center, etc.).

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

The following are year-to-date comparisons

Sales Tax Revenues

'15 to 7/31/15: \$2,255,137

'16 to 7/31/16: \$2,502,888

UP \$247,751 or 10.99%

Real Estate Excise Tax

'15 to 7/31/15: \$345,565

'16 to 7/31/16: \$509,334

UP \$163,769 or 47.39%

Lodging Tax Revenues

'15 to 7/31/15: \$29,285

'16 to 7/31/16: \$37,826

UP \$8,541 or 29.17%

Business License Fees

'15 to 7/31/15: \$28,515

'16 to 7/31/16: \$27,330

DOWN \$1,185 or -4.16%

Building Permit Revenues

'15 to 7/31/15: \$205,841

'16 to 7/31/16: \$418,462

UP \$212,621 or 103.29%

Planning Fee Revenues

'15 to 7/31/15: \$80,697

'16 to 7/31/16: \$61,200

DOWN \$19,497 or -24.16%

New House Permits

'15 to 7/31/15: 39

'16 to 7/31/16: 75

UP 36 units or 92.3%

**16 issued in July '16; 2 in July '15*

Multi-Family Permits (# units)

'15 to 7/31/15: 13

'16 to 7/31/16: 4

DOWN 9 units or -69.2%

Building Division Inspections

'15 to 7/31/15: 1,044

'16 to 7/31/16: 1,217

UP 173 or 16.6%

(Priorities Continued)

We are transmitting this list of priorities to our representatives this week. We will keep you posted as things progress through the 2017 session.

Roundabout on West Main

Washington State's Department of Transportation completed the roundabout on the north side of SR522 on West Main Street about a year ago. To date, the landscaping has not been completed and what has been done has not been maintained. The State is responsible for completing the landscaping and then maintaining it for two years. At the end of two years, the City of Monroe will take over the maintenance.

The roundabout is a gateway to our community. Residents pass by it daily and people attending events in town drive through the roundabout. It is an eyesore and an embarrassment in its current condition.

Earlier this week, I sent a letter to the State expressing our community's concerns about the condition of this roundabout. I am hopeful that the landscaping will be completed and repaired in the upcoming weeks and that the two-year maintenance will be completed. I will provide an update when the work is underway or completed.

Official City Bird!!

At the Tuesday, August 16, 2016, City Council meeting, Councilmembers declared the Vaux's Swift the official bird for the City of Monroe. Tens of thousands of Vaux's Swifts migrate through Monroe annually, using the chimney at Frank Wagner as a stopping point in the spring and the fall. In any given night during the migration, up to 20,000 Vaux's Swifts use the chimney to rest.

For the last eight years, the Pilchuck Audubon Society, Vaux's Happening, Monroe School District, and City of Monroe have hosted an annual "Swift Night Out" for the community in September drawing people from all over the region to learn about the Vaux's Swift and watch them as they spiral into the chimney at sunset to rest for the evening. The chimney is one of the largest refuges for the Vaux's Swifts in North America. Adopting the City Bird as the Vaux's Swift underscores the unique connection this species has to our community.

It was a pleasure having representatives from the Pilchuck Audubon Society and Monroe School District as well as having Mr. Kevin Pattelle (*who is developing the Vaux's Swift sculpture for downtown*) present to receive copies of the proclamation.

(Swift Continued)

Thank you to our Council for adopting this designation for the Vaux's Swift.

Skate Park Grand Opening

We had a very successful and well-attended grand opening of Monroe's Blade and Board Park at Lake Tye, Saturday, August 13, 2016. I appreciate all the work that was done to bring this together from design to construction. Grindline, the company that constructed Monroe's Blade and Board Park, did a stellar job bringing things together by Friday afternoon. THANK YOU!!!!

Movies Under the Moon

Premiering **TONIGHT, Friday, August 19, 2016, at Lake Tye Park, will be *Jurassic World***. Come early for activities for the whole family. The movie is set to begin at dusk. Thank you to our sponsors for the great line-up:

- Monroe Parks and Recreation
- Monroe Arts Council
- Monroe Concert Band
- Monroe Boys & Girls Club
- Monroe YMCA
- Republic Services

Spiral Slide Replacement at Sky River Park

This week Parks & Recreation Department staff replaced the damaged spiral slide at the Sky River Park playground. We are happy to have a new slide in service there for children to enjoy!



Photo – Parks staff Mike Thomas and Tyler Reeves pouring the concrete footing for the new spiral slide.