



MONROE THIS WEEK

May 29, 2020 • Vol 6/Edition 20

WASHINGTON'S PHASED APPROACH

Modifying Physical Distancing Measures as we Reopen the State



Phase 1



Phase 2



Phase 3



Phase 4

Thank you for reading Monroe This Week.

This week's edition provides details on Snohomish County's application for a variance to advance to Phase II, new Safe Start Washington guidelines and COVID-19 case count data, a well-deserved retirement for a Monroe police detective, scholarships awarded by the Monroe Police Department, and recognition of a wonderful local small business.



Please contact me with any and all feedback regarding the articles below. I can be reached at gthomas@monroewa.gov.

Yours in Service,

Mayor Geoffrey Thomas

**CITY MAYORS, COUNTY LEADERS ADVOCATE FOR
ADVANCEMENT TO PHASE II**

Today I joined fellow [Snohomish County mayors](#) in requesting Governor Inslee consider approving our community to move forward to Phase II. Approval of this request will allow for a limited reopening of our local businesses and public spaces, and an opportunity for residents to return to some of the activities that make our community a great place to live, work and play. I thank the Snohomish County Council and the Snohomish County Board of Health for taking action to support this request. All parties have been thoughtful in evaluating the conditions on the ground to ensure this request is being made at the appropriate time.



Today, Governor Inslee announced updated criteria for counties to advance to Phase II. In an afternoon press conference, the Governor announced that the Stay Home/Stay Healthy Order will end at midnight on Sunday. It will be replaced by a new Proclamation by the Governor, based on the Safe Start Washington Plan, that will allow more businesses to open and afford increased flexibility to local counties. The updated criteria includes the metric for counties to have 25 or fewer cases per 100,000 residents in a 14-day period; the most recent 14-day metric for Snohomish County was 29.4 cases. In today's press conference, the Department of Health indicated that variance applications will be reviewed in a matter of days after submission.

I join my fellow mayors and County-elected colleagues in strongly supporting the variance application and encourage the State to act quickly to move us into Phase II. Our businesses and residents have sacrificed greatly to slow the spread of COVID-19 and put us on a path to recovery. Thanks to the great work of local health professionals, and the County's allocation of financial resources toward Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), testing, contact tracing, and an isolation and quarantine facility, we are ready to respond to a resurgence of the virus.



I continue to encourage residents and employers to reach out not just to local community leaders, but also to state and federal representatives and to our Governor to express your thoughts about COVID-19 and our communities' recovery.

We look forward to the governor's response to today's request, and stand ready to provide updates as we receive them. We'll get through this together. We look forward to reopening of our community together. We are **#MonroeStrong**.

SAFE START WASHINGTON GUIDELINES

While the County prepares its application for a Phase II variance, it is important for local businesses to be mindful that our area is still in Phase I. On Tuesday, May 26, the



Department of Labor & Industries released [emergency rules](#) pertaining to businesses operating in violation of the Safe Start Washington guidelines. For more information on Washington's Phased Approach for recovery, visit the [Safe Start Plans](#) website.

HEALTH DISTRICT COVID-19 CASE COUNT DATA

The Snohomish Health District updates COVID-19 case count information on its [website](#). The latest data shows county-wide there were 29.4 cases per 100,000 people during the preceding two weeks. The target established today by the Governor's Office to move to Phase II is less than 25 cases per 100,000 residents in a two-week period.



LONG-SERVING POLICE DETECTIVE RETIRES

After over 26 years of service to our community, Detective Tim Buzzell retired today. In his time with the Monroe Police Department, Detective Buzzell served the community as a Patrol Officer, DARE Officer for Elementary and High Schools, School Resource Officer, Head of a Youth Explorer program, Reserve Academy Instructor, Honor Guard Member, Field Training Officer, Background Investigator, Arson Investigator, and Detective. He also created and managed a Juvenile Diversion Program, and was the lead detective on the Brinks Robbery of 2008, during which he was interviewed by ABC News for the 20/20 feature "Catch Me If You Can"; and catch them he did! I congratulate Detective Buzzell on his much-deserved retirement, and thank him sincerely for his service to the Monroe community. The knowledge and experience gained throughout his career will be truly missed.



POLICE DEPARTMENT AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS TO THREE MONROE GRADUATES

The Monroe Police Officer's Association awarded scholarships to three members of the Monroe High School graduating class of 2020. Victoria Henderson, Connor Pitts, and Kai Robertson were each awarded a \$1,000 scholarship. The City of Monroe and the Monroe Police Department are proud of all of the 2020 graduating class, and wish Victoria, Connor, Kai, and their classmates the very best in their future endeavors.



LOCAL FIRM NOMINATED FOR BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Seattle Business Magazine has nominated **Toolcraft**, a Monroe-based manufacturer of precision tools, as Small Manufacturing Company of the Year. Founded in 1990, Toolcraft produces custom tools, jigs, and fixtures for big shops. Winners will be announced at the Washington Manufacturing Awards, to be held later this year. The Washington Manufacturing Awards recognize companies making important progress in productivity, growth and innovation. I would like to congratulate Toolcraft for this prestigious and well-deserved nomination!



UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the June 2, 2020 Study Session meeting of the Monroe City Council is cancelled. The next scheduled meeting of the City Council is Tuesday, June 9, 2020, and will be held via the Zoom remote meeting platform. Participation information will be posted with the June 9 agenda.

[Council Agendas/Minutes](#)

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS



Councilmember
Kevin Hanford



Councilmember
Patsy Cudaback



Councilmember
Jeff Rasmussen



Councilmember
Heather Rousey



Councilmember
Ed Davis



Councilmember
Jason Gamble



Councilmember
Kirk Scarboro

Have a question for your Councilmembers?
Contact them at councilmembers@monroewa.gov

