



MONROE THIS WEEK

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 EvergreenHealth Monroe
Foundation



Thank you for reading Monroe This Week.

This week's edition provides details on the City's receipt of the 2020 Dr. Joseph Feek Community Service Award, the second round of the Working Washington Small Business Emergency Grant, tonight's Swifts Night In virtual event, a national recognition for a City staff member, the launch of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan update, the synthetic field construction project at Lake Tye Park, and the City's acquisition of new park land in the North Hill area.



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 HONORED TO RECEIVE 2020 DR. FEEK AWARD

2020 has been a trying year across our country and across the globe. While our Monroe community has not been immune to these challenging times, our community has met the challenge of the road put before us. And we, as a community, will continue to persevere – to support one another in times of need, and to bring out the best in one another.



This week, the [EvergreenHealth Monroe Foundation](#) recognized the [City of Monroe](#) with the 2020 Dr. Joseph Feek Community Service Award “for the tireless work ... done this last year navigating this pandemic and helping those” in our Monroe community. I thank the EvergreenHealth Monroe Foundation for recognizing the City of Monroe with the 2020 Dr. Feek Award.

The recognition caused me to pause and give thanks for the talented and thoughtful people we have working for the City, for a supportive community of residents, businesses owners, and non-profit organizations, and for an engaged and caring City Council. It is a blessing to bear witness to the good that we have all done during these troubling times. From my heart to yours, thank you. #LoveMonroe

I am also appreciative of and recognize the contributions from our state and federal elected officials, who care deeply about Monroe. Earlier this year, our federal leaders had the foresight to approve the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act; it was partly because of the essential funds received through the CARES Act that the City has been able to implement programs and policies to help local businesses, residents, and those in need.

I was gratified to accept the award from Bridgett Edgar, Chair of the [2020 Blue Jeans and Boots Gala](#). Hosted by the EvergreenHealth Monroe Foundation, the gala is the function at which the Dr. Feek Award is annually bestowed. Due to COVID-19, this year's gala has transitioned to a virtual format. All proceeds from the virtual gala will support critical needs and emergency preparedness of the EvergreenHealth Monroe Medical Center.

If you would like, please see [the video](#) of the award ceremony.

WORKING WASHINGTON SMALL BUSINESS EMERGENCY GRANT OPENS MONDAY

In last week's edition of [Monroe This Week](#), I shared that [Economic Alliance Snohomish County](#) (EASC) will be administering a second round of the Working Washington Small Business Emergency Grant, and that applications were expected to open in mid-September. This week, EASC announced that applications will be accepted beginning on Monday, September 21 at 9:00 a.m.; the application cycle will be open for seven calendar days or until 1,000 completed applications are received, whichever occurs first.

A total of \$580,000 will be awarded countywide; up to 100 grants will be issued, with a maximum per grant of \$10,000. Eligible applicants will be for-profit businesses of 20 or fewer employees, located within Snohomish County, which have experienced a revenue loss of at least 25% directly attributable to COVID-19. Grants will be awarded in two amounts: \$5,000 for firms with 10 or fewer employees, and \$10,000 for firms with 11-20 employees, as of the date of application. Companies which were awarded grants of \$5,000 or more from Working Washington Small Business Emergency Grant Round 1 are not eligible for Round 2. For details on eligibility, exclusions, application preparation, and to submit an application, visit the EASC [grant website](#).



Washington State
Department of
Commerce

PILCHUCK AUDUBON SOCIETY PRESENTS SWIFT NIGHT IN

For many here in Monroe, the transition from summer to fall is a time for gathering around the old chimney at the Frank Wagner Elementary School to watch the dazzling display of migrating Vaux's Swifts. Each year, thousands of Vaux's Swifts use the chimney as a roosting stop on their migratory journeys, both north and south. For several years, the [Pilchuck Audubon Society](#) has been hosting a Swifts Night Out event, where the community gathers at the school to observe those magnificent birds filing into the roost. Just as the swifts have adapted to use chimneys in place of old growth trees, this year's event has adapted as well. Swift Night In will be held [via Zoom](#) tonight, September 18, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Beloved swift expert Larry Schwitters will be presenting an update on the [Vaux's Happening](#) project and where he sees it going in the future.



CITY STAFF MEMBER RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD

On Monday, September 14, the [American Public Works Association](#) (APWA) awarded its 2020 Young Leader of the Year Award to Tyler Christian. Mr. Christian is currently a



Management Analyst with the City of Monroe, a position he started in March; prior to this role, Tyler served as a Water Quality Specialist in the Public Works Department.

As stated in his nomination, Tyler has "demonstrated dedication and a high level of leadership with APWA, both at the State and National level." Appointed to the APWA Young Professionals National Committee in 2019, Tyler has mentored several students through the [APWA Washington Chapter's](#) student outreach network, advised APWA student chapters at WSU-Everett and Everett Community College, and supported student chapters at the University of Washington and Seattle University. As Public Works Director Brad Feilberg stated, Tyler's 2019 appointment put Monroe in the national spotlight of a highly regarded organization consisting of roughly 30,000 members from the public works industry. This year's award is a reflection of Tyler's positive and ongoing representation of the City of Monroe. Congratulations, Tyler!



CITY KICKS-OFF PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN UPDATE

The City of Monroe has kicked-off our Parks, Recreation & Open Space (PROS) Plan Update with our contracted consultant firm MIG, and are now entering the inventory and assessment phases. The entire planning process has four phases: Inventory, Assessment, Strategies, and Action Plan, and is expected to be completed in December 2021.

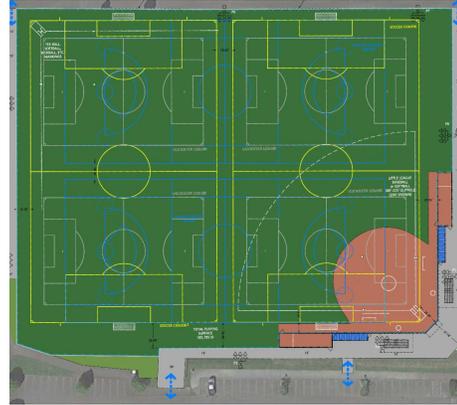


The purpose of the PROS plan is to provide long-term guidance in planning the City's future, identifying ways that parks, facilities, trails, and programs can enhance community livability, meet the needs of new growth, increase economic impacts, protect trees and other natural resources, and maximize the City's investments for its residents. Washington's Growth Management Act (GMA) requires local governments develop and adopt comprehensive plans that include a parks and recreation element; the PROS Plan serves as the city's parks and recreation element.

MIG have been collecting inventory information, background, and planning documents, and are creating a GIS parks, trails, open spaces and facilities base map. On Monday, September 14, MIG conducted an introductory project goals and SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) Analysis in a joint [Planning Commission/Parks Board meeting](#), and throughout the week staff has led the consultants on a physical tour of our parks and trails. This will be followed by individual Stakeholder and Key Leader video conference interviews, to be scheduled within approximately four weeks. There will be several additional public outreach and survey opportunities to ensure we get our community's important input to shape the priorities of the plan.

LAKE TYE PARK LIGHTED SYNTHETIC FIELDS PROJECT TO PROCEED

At its August 25 [Regular Business Meeting](#), the City Council approved the 2020 Budget Amendment, which addresses the revenue impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of the amended budget, Parks Department staff are set to proceed with the Lake Tye Park Lighted Synthetic Fields project. This work will improve the capacity, diversity of use, and accessibility of two fields at our signature community park. Changing the fields' surface and adding lights will extend play for more games and practice hours in all types of weather throughout the year. Historically, the fields have been unusable October through March, and parts of April, May and September, due to worn turf degradation, shortened daylight hours, clay infield saturation, and poor field drainage from seasonal rain events and the aged drainage system. Work will begin on-site in late fall 2020, and is targeted to be completed by the end of summer 2021. The project is funded in part with \$1,300,000 in awarded state and county grants. Please visit the City [webpage](#) for more information and updates about this project.



NORTH HILL AREA PARK LAND ACQUISITION

After years of searching for prime North Hill parkland, the City Council has authorized me to sign a Purchase and Sale Agreement and Right of First Refusal on behalf of the City, to acquire park land in the North Hill area. The future park will serve the City's most rapidly growing area, which is currently suffering from park land deficit and has been a park land acquisition priority for over 16 years. After acquisition, the property will be an undeveloped public park site, with short-term limited public pedestrian access and recreation opportunities such as soft surface walking trails, open play areas, view benches, and an off-leash area. An aerial drone photograph of the North Hill Property is inset. Please visit the City [webpage](#) for more information and updates about this project.



UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

The City Council will meet in a Regular Business Meeting on Tuesday, September 22, 2020. The meeting will be held via the Zoom remote meeting platform and participation information will be posted with the September 22 agenda, which can be accessed by clicking the button below.

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS



Councilmember
Patsy Cudaback



Councilmember
Kevin Hanford



Councilmember
Ed Davis



Councilmember
Jason Gamble



Councilmember
Jeff Rasmussen



Councilmember
Kirk Scarboro



Councilmember
Heather Rousey

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

