



MONROE THIS WEEK

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Thank you for reading Monroe This Week.

This week's edition includes a personal message to the Monroe community, and provides details on the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday, an Emergency Executive Order authorizing temporary outdoor dining areas, openings in the City staff and on City Boards and Commissions, PPE Safe Start Kits available for local businesses, grant awards from the second round of the Community Relief Grant, a financial assistance program available to the aerospace industry, and the JVM Garden Annual Report.



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

A PERSONAL MESSAGE TO OUR COMMUNITY

These are painful times. Through all this, I've witnessed a community coming together; I've witnessed residents and business owners helping other residents and business owners; I've witnessed a City Council supporting our staff, supporting you, and supporting me; and I've witnessed people putting themselves at risk to make certain that our supply chain stays intact. Painful times, yes, but a time of people rolling their sleeves up to help one another.



Throughout 2020, the City of Monroe has provided assistance to our business community. Our Economic Development Specialist, James Palmer, has been crucial in getting timely, relevant, and accurate information to you despite almost daily changes in State rules and guidance. Further, he has been instrumental in helping Monroe businesses navigate through grant and loan applications. I am thankful for his work to our community throughout this year, and as his service continues. Thank you, James.

When our elected leaders in DC agreed to provide funding through the CARES Act, the City of Monroe delivered grant funds directly to our community, with over \$150,000 to businesses, over \$170,000 to residents, and over \$190,000 to service providers in Monroe. In all, approximately 2/3 of the funds the City of Monroe received became direct financial grants to Monroe businesses, residents, and service providers impacted by the response to limit the spread of COVID-19. The remaining funds contributed to updating information systems and PPE at the City, to ensure that our staff could still provide services to our community. A graphical breakdown of CARES Act funds usage is available [here](#).

I thank our City staff for the work they have done to get all of the funding out the door to support our community, and I thank our City Council for their support in choosing a path to help our community in this way.

Despite the sacrifices we all made earlier this year, we find ourselves being required to make sacrifices again as case counts and hospitalizations are on the rise. At the City, as we have been doing throughout 2020, we will continue to provide the best support we can to our residents, businesses, and service delivery organizations. We will continue reaching out to you and inviting you to reach out to us. For our business community, this means continued

coordination through our Chamber of Commerce, James Palmer, our staff, and elected officials.

While these are dark times for many of us, there is a light that shines in that darkness. The light I see is the love and support that I have witnessed throughout this year. I thank everyone choosing to live and work in Monroe for being that light.

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY NEXT THURSDAY

Next Thursday, November 26, is the annual Thanksgiving holiday. Originating as a festival to celebrate the main harvest of the season, the first formal recognition of a national day of thanksgiving came in the form of a National Proclamation issued by the First Continental Congress in 1777. In 1942, the two houses of the federal Congress passed a joint resolution fixing the now-traditional date as the fourth Thursday of November. Over time, Thanksgiving has evolved into a day to pause and to reflect.



2020 has been a difficult year. Through all the uncertainty we have faced this year, I remain thankful for our awesome community. While a difficult year, Monroe has grown stronger together, and as we work through the challenges at hand, we look forward to the future. I extend my warmest wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving to all Monroe residents.

The Snohomish Health District has published a [flyer](#) with helpful tips for celebrating a socially-distanced Thanksgiving.

EMERGENCY ORDER ALLOWS FOR OUTDOOR DINING

On Wednesday, November 18, I issued an Emergency Executive Order authorizing Monroe restaurants to establish outdoor dining areas in up to two adjacent public parking spaces. Restaurants that would benefit from establishing such an area may submit a Sidewalk Use Permit application. This Order also waives City permit fees for this use. For restaurants considering establishing an outdoor dining area, there are [state guidelines](#) pertaining to the type of allowed outdoor structures. Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue also limits heaters in such outdoor structures to electric infrared.



Please visit the [Sidewalk Use Permit webpage](#) for further information. Questions? Contact the Community Development Department at

LandUse@MonroeWA.gov, or (360) 863-4501.

The City will have a limited supply of barricades available. Permit recipients will be contacted by the City to schedule installation.

If you are thinking about lunch or dinner, please remember our Monroe restaurants, dine outside where available, or order takeout or delivery. Shop Local, Shop Monroe. #LoveMonroe

The full text of the Order is available [online](#).

CITY RECRUITING FOR DEPUTY CITY CLERK, BOARD AND COMMISSION MEMBERS

Come join our team! The City of Monroe is recruiting for a Deputy City Clerk. This position will perform administrative duties of the City Clerk's office, act as Public Records Officer and administer the City's records management program, and function as assistant to the Mayor and Finance Director/City Clerk. Prospective applicants are invited to review the [job posting](#) and apply online.



If you're not in the job market, but interested in other ways to be involved in the community, the City is seeking applicants to fill a few open positions on various [Boards & Commissions](#). Currently, there are [vacancies](#) on the Economic Development Advisory Board, Ethics Board, Park Board, Planning Commission, and Salary Commission. First review of applications is November 25. Apply now, we're excited to meet you!



COUNTY OFFERING SAFE START KITS TO SMALL BUSINESSES

Snohomish County has begun offering [Safe Start Kits](#) to help small businesses throughout the County with personal protective equipment (PPE) needs. Kits will include masks, thermometers, hand sanitizer, and gloves. The [Monroe Chamber of Commerce](#) will be distributing the kits locally. Businesses in need of a PPE kit may contact the Chamber at (360) 794-5488.



CITY ANNOUNCES COMMUNITY RELIEF GRANT AWARDS

At its October 13 meeting, the Monroe City Council approved a second round of the Community Relief Grant, which provides financial assistance to Monroe non-profit organizations that serve our community's most vulnerable residents. Applications were accepted between October 14 and October 28. A review

committee was formed, consisting of City staff and representatives of service providers that did not apply to the grant. This committee reviewed the applications received and made award recommendations to the City Council, which were approved at the Council's November 10 meeting. In all, nine local service providers received grants. A breakdown of recipient agencies and awards can be found [here](#). I would like to extend my thanks to the committee, and to the recipient agencies for their continued support of our community.



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR AEROSPACE INDUSTRY

After Boeing's announcement that they are moving the 787 Dreamliner production to South Carolina, many local aerospace suppliers may be wondering if they will be affected and how they can mitigate such an impact.



The Washington State Department of Commerce is working with the Small Business Administration to help aerospace manufacturers develop new markets by providing funds to help promote exports. Export Vouchers, funded by the U.S. Small Business Administration's State Trade Expansion Program (STEP), reimburses eligible export expenses up to \$6,000, depending on the expense. Economic Development Specialist James Palmer detailed the activities eligible for STEP Vouchers, and reimbursement levels, in the [November Monroe Business Newsletter](#). If your business qualifies, you may receive up to the maximum allowed for that activity, or a lesser amount. Awards are granted based on committee review of your export [voucher application](#).

JULIA V. MORRIS GARDEN ANNUAL REPORT

The Julia V. Morris Centennial Garden harvested 2,288 pounds of produce in 2020 for the Sky Valley Food Bank; that is a monetary value of \$11,408. In addition, volunteers were able to get the fence painted and built new compost bins.

Named after Food Bank founder Julia V. Morris, the JVM Garden is dedicated to growing fresh vegetables for the Food Bank, and to providing a place for community members to gather to learn and share the joys of gardening.



Thank you to all the donors and volunteers who made this possible and for helping our community! View the full Annual Report [here](#).

UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

The November 24, 2020 City Council Meeting is CANCELLED.

The City Council will meet in a Regular Study Session Meeting on Tuesday, December 1, 2020. The meeting will be held via the Zoom remote meeting platform, and participation information will be posted with the December 1 agenda.

Council Agendas/Minutes

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



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