



MONROE THIS WEEK

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Thank you for reading Monroe This Week.

This week's edition includes details on Governor Inslee's extension of COVID-19 guidelines and expansion of a state grant program, results of the 2020 Monroe Business Survey, a reminder of the two local grant programs currently open, notice that the City is discontinuing passport services, opportunities to donate live Christmas trees to Monroe parks, an announcement of the next Bloodworks Northwest Pop-up event, and a recap of the Lake Tye Park All-Weather Fields virtual groundbreaking.



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

GOVERNOR EXTENDS CURRENT GUIDELINES AND ANNOUNCES EXPANDED GRANT PROGRAM

On Tuesday, December 8, Governor Jay Inslee announced an extension of the current COVID-19 guidelines; the guidelines were initially announced on November 15 for a period of four weeks. Currently, restaurants and bars are closed to indoor dining, and outdoor dining is limited to a table size of five patrons; fitness centers and gyms are similarly closed for indoor operations, and outdoor activities limited to no more than five people; and religious services are limited to 25% occupancy or no more than 200 people, whichever is less. As of this week, those guidelines are now in place through January 4, 2021.



Working Washington 3

As part of his December 8 announcement, Governor Inslee announced an expansion of the third round of the Working Washington Small Business grant program, which is now making available \$100 million to Washington businesses. In this third round, grants of up to \$20,000 will be issued, prioritized for small businesses with annual revenues of \$5 million or less in 2019, and businesses in the sectors that are most impacted by the recent public health measures or sectors that have experienced significant, cumulative impacts; examples include:

- Full-service restaurants
- Fitness centers
- Bowling alleys
- Music and event venues

The state Department of Commerce is administering the Working Washington grant. More information and the application portal can be found on Commerce's [website](#).

MONROE BUSINESS SURVEY RESULTS PUBLISHED

This week the City published the results of the 2020 Monroe Business Survey. Based on the survey results, the Monroe business community appears cautiously optimistic. Over 80% of respondents describe their business as either stable or growing, and nearly 70% do not currently plan to reduce staff. However, as it has in almost every aspect of life, COVID-19 has impacted businesses locally. Nearly 70% have incurred increased costs related to COVID-19, and over 70% have experienced a decline in revenues or income compared to 2019. Results and selected responses can be found [here](#).



REMINDER: CHAMBER ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR BUSINESS GRANTS

As I shared in last week's edition of [Monroe This Week](#), the City has partnered with the Monroe Chamber of Commerce for a third round of the Small Business Relief Grant. The Chamber will administer this round, receiving all applications and issuing grant payments. The City has allocated \$40,000 to this grant program, to assist businesses with expenses incurred between March 1, 2020 and November 30, 2020. Grants are anticipated to be awarded between \$1,000 and \$5,000. Applications are due by 3:30 p.m. on December 15.



Additionally, the City has partnered with Snohomish County and the Monroe Chamber of Commerce on the Small Business Relief Supplemental Grant. Snohomish County has allocated \$112,696 from its own CARES Act allocation to this program. Eligible businesses will primarily be those that have NOT previously received a grant from the City. Any remaining balance may be distributed to previous recipients for any unfunded amount up to \$5,000. Prior recipients of City grants need not apply again; any such awards may be issued on the merits of the previous application. Previous recipients of County-issued grants are not eligible for awards through this Supplemental Grant. Applications are due by 3:30 p.m. on December 17.

Additional information and application packets for these grants are available on the Chamber of Commerce's [website](#). If you have questions about either grant or the application packet, please contact Janelle Drews at the Monroe Chamber of Commerce at (360) 794-5488 or Director@ChooseMonroe.com. You may also contact City of Monroe Management Analyst Rich Huebner at (360) 722-1684 or RHuebner@MonroeWA.gov.

CITY TO DISCONTINUE PASSPORT PROCESSING

Although the City does not currently process passports due to COVID-19 restrictions, the City recently reviewed its overall passport processing program and has determined that it will no longer offer this service once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. This decision was made for several reasons. Passport processing requires a face-to-face meeting between a City staff member and the applicant to review and certify paperwork. Due to spacing issues, this process is difficult to complete in a socially distanced manner. Each passport application can take approximately 30 minutes to process, which can impact the City's ability to provide other direct customer service to its residents. A program review



showed that a majority of applicants for passports were not residents of the City. For our residents who are looking for a local option to apply for a new passport, the Monroe branch of the United States Postal Service continues to [process passports](#). They can be reached at 877-487-2778.

DONATE A LIVE CHRISTMAS TREE TO YOUR LOCAL PARKS

If you purchase a living Christmas tree in a container, and you don't intend to plant it on your own property, you may donate it to our local Monroe parks so that everyone can enjoy it for years to come. Our living Christmas tree program allows residents who use living Christmas trees to donate suitable trees to the City for planting in our parks and open spaces after the holidays. Call the Parks & Recreation office at (360) 863-4559 for information on how to donate your potted living Christmas tree.



You may find suitable living Christmas trees for sale at the following local area businesses:

Fred Meyer - 18805 St Route 2, Monroe; 360-805-1996

Pine Creek Farms and Nursery - 23225 Sofie Rd, Monroe; 360-863-8866

Falling Water Gardens - 17516 WA-203, Monroe; 360-863-1400

BLOODWORKS NORTHWEST HOSTING END OF YEAR POP-UP BLOOD DONATION EVENT

As I mentioned in last week's edition of [Monroe This Week](#), Bloodworks Northwest is planning monthly Pop-up Blood Donation

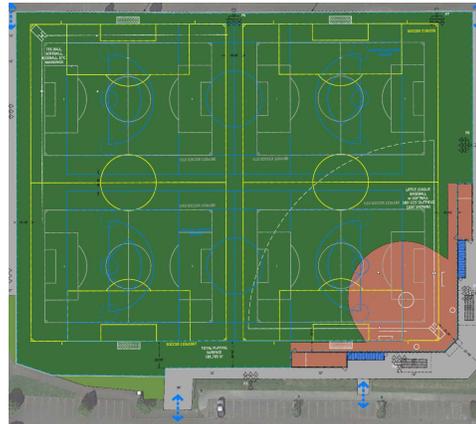


events here in Monroe. These monthly events are planned to ensure a safe supply level and avoid chronic shortages. Bloodworks Northwest has recently seen an increase in usage, but a decrease in donations and donors showing up for scheduled donations. Recently, hospital transfusion needs have increased more than 8%, which is the equivalent of approximately 300 units per week.

St. Mary of the Valley Catholic Church will host the upcoming Pop-up event on December 28 and January 2. Donation appointments can be made [online](#). If you're not able to make either of the upcoming dates, please consider making an appointment for the events coming up in late January and late February. Online appointments can also be made for these dates at the link above.

CITY CELEBRATES SUCCESSFUL LAKE TYE PARK PROJECT VIRTUAL GROUNDBREAKING

Yesterday, December 10, the City of Monroe celebrated the groundbreaking of the Lake Tye Park All-Weather Fields Project. State Representative Carolyn Eslick, County Councilmember Sam Low, City Councilmember Jason Gamble, and Sky Valley Little League Vice President Chad Pettis joined me for the socially distanced event. I am grateful to the Monroe City Council for the investment of time, resources and funding to make this project happen, and to Representative Eslick, Councilmember Low, and the Sky Valley Little League for funding assistance provided by the state, County, and Little League. I also want to recognize Monroe Parks and Recreation Director Mike Farrell for leading this project from conception to construction. Each of my fellow attendees spoke of the importance of this project to youth sports in Monroe and throughout the Sky Valley. The City hopes to hold a ribbon cutting ceremony next summer, upon completion of the project, that will hopefully be able to be open to the entire community. For more information on this important project, please visit the Parks Department's capital projects [webpage](#).



UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

Meetings of the Monroe City Council have been CANCELLED through the end of the year. The City Council will next meet in a Regular Business Meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 2021.

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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