



MONROE THIS WEEK

December 18, 2020 • Volume 6/Edition 48



Thank you for reading Monroe This Week.

This week's edition includes wishes for Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year, details on the Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan Survey, the City's support for outdoor business activities, Heritage Tree nominations, the Shop with a Cop program, the Monroe Chamber of Commerce's shop local program, an update on the City's public defense social worker grant, and the Jayme Biendl Memorial Virtual 5K.



This is the final edition of Monroe This Week for 2020. See you in 2021!

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

HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

Next week we enter the holiday season. While 2020 has been a very difficult year, through it all, I have witnessed a community coming together and helping each other. Our community has

grown stronger together. Through the difficult times we've faced this year, there has been a light shining through, and that is the love and support that I have witnessed throughout the year. I am truly thankful for this wonderful community, and I thank everyone choosing to live and work in Monroe for being that light. I wish all Monroe residents a very Happy Holidays and Happy New Year.



PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE (PROS) PLAN SURVEY LAUNCHES

The City of Monroe is preparing an update to our long-range plan for our community's park, recreation, and open space system. We would like your help determining what types of park facilities and programs are needed to meet the recreation needs of our growing community.

Please encourage your friends and neighbors to take this short survey. At the end of the survey, we'll connect you to additional information about the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan, and share ways you can continue to be involved in the planning process. We believe resident involvement during this long-range plan update process will benefit from widescale participation, and the outcome has the potential to positively impact our schools, families and businesses. Your contribution will help shape the future of your parks!

By completing the entire survey, you are eligible to be entered in a prize drawing for a one of two \$50 gift cards. Further details and the survey are available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). Thank you in advance for your support!



CITY COUNCIL ENCOURAGES OUTDOOR BUSINESS ACTIVITIES

The City Council wishes to encourage business activity consistent with applicable Stay Safe – Stay Healthy requirements. This includes, without limitation, the requirements of Proclamation 20-25.8. To make gyms, fitness facilities, restaurants, taverns and other food and beverage establishments safer and more viable to operate, opportunities are available to leverage private and public space to be



used as additional outdoor areas for fitness classes and dining activity while maintaining applicable social distancing requirements. The Council believes that allowing fitness facilities and gyms to temporarily expand their fitness classes onto privately-owned parking facilities, where they may not otherwise be permitted by City code, will support the Governor's Stay Safe – Stay Healthy plan, encourage compliance with social distancing requirements, and promote business operation and economic recovery. These efforts and programs also maintain a focus on core public safety principles.

An [emergency ordinance](#) was adopted at the December 8, 2020 Council meeting and is effective as of December 16, 2020 to allow temporary uses with certain restrictions and guidelines. The permit application can be found on the City's [website](#).

HERITAGE TREE NOMINATIONS

The end of the year is approaching, which means there is still time to get in your 2020 Heritage Tree Nomination. The Heritage Tree Program encourages residents of all ages to seek out significant trees within the City limits and nominate them for recognition. The nomination deadline is December 31, to allow the [Park Board](#) to review the nominations, select the winners and make the award announcement to commemorate Earth Day and Arbor Day 2021.



You can nominate a new Heritage Tree by submitting a [nomination form](#).

SHOP WITH A COP PROGRAM STILL ON

'Tis the season to Shop with a Cop. The program is still on this year, just not in the traditional large group format. This year, individual Monroe Police Officers are meeting families for shopping trips at the Monroe Walmart store. Pictured is the first of our families this year, with some very happy kids escorted by officers Lether and Munnich. Thank you to the Monroe Police Officers Association for adapting and continuing this wonderful program, and to the Monroe Walmart for hosting!



MONROE CHAMBER ENCOURAGES SHOPPING LOCAL

The Monroe Chamber of Commerce wants to reward residents for shopping at local small businesses this holiday season. Shoppers who spend \$25 or more at a local business may enter for the chance to win any of three gift baskets worth \$250, \$100, and \$50. Participation is simple: drop off at the Chamber's office a receipt from any local business in Monroe showing you spent \$25 or more, and get one entry into the gift basket drawing! If you have any questions, please contact Janelle Drews at the Monroe Chamber of Commerce at (360) 794-5488 or Director@ChooseMonroe.com.



PUBLIC DEFENSE SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM UPDATE

At this time last year, I shared here in [Monroe This Week](#) that the City Council had accepted grant funding which will provide additional social work services for the public defense team. This two-year grant, awarded to the City from the Office of Public Defense, enabled the public defense team to provide support with client court obligations, such as assessment, treatment, housing, and community service. In the past six months, the public defense team's social worker has assisted approximately 65



individuals with services and assistance to get and remain in compliance with their cases. This work has been especially important throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The City looks forward to continuing to offer this program in 2021.

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR JAYME BIENDL MEMORIAL VIRTUAL 5K

This January, the Jayme Biendl Memorial 5K Run/Walk goes virtual. Held annually, this family-friendly event supports our fallen law enforcement officers and remembers correctional officer Jayme Biendl. Adapting to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 event will be held virtually over two days, January 23rd and 24th, with participants encouraged to run or walk on new trails, either individually or with those within their households. [Registration](#) is now open, and all participants registered by January 4 will receive a race t-shirt, race bib, swag bag, and more surprises. Race organizers look forward to seeing participants socially-distanced selfies and race pictures.



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



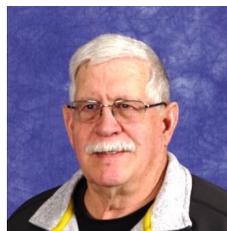
Councilmember
Ed Davis



Councilmember
Jason Gamble



Councilmember
Jeff Rasmussen



Councilmember
Kirk Scarboro



Councilmember
Heather Rousey

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



12/18/2020

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