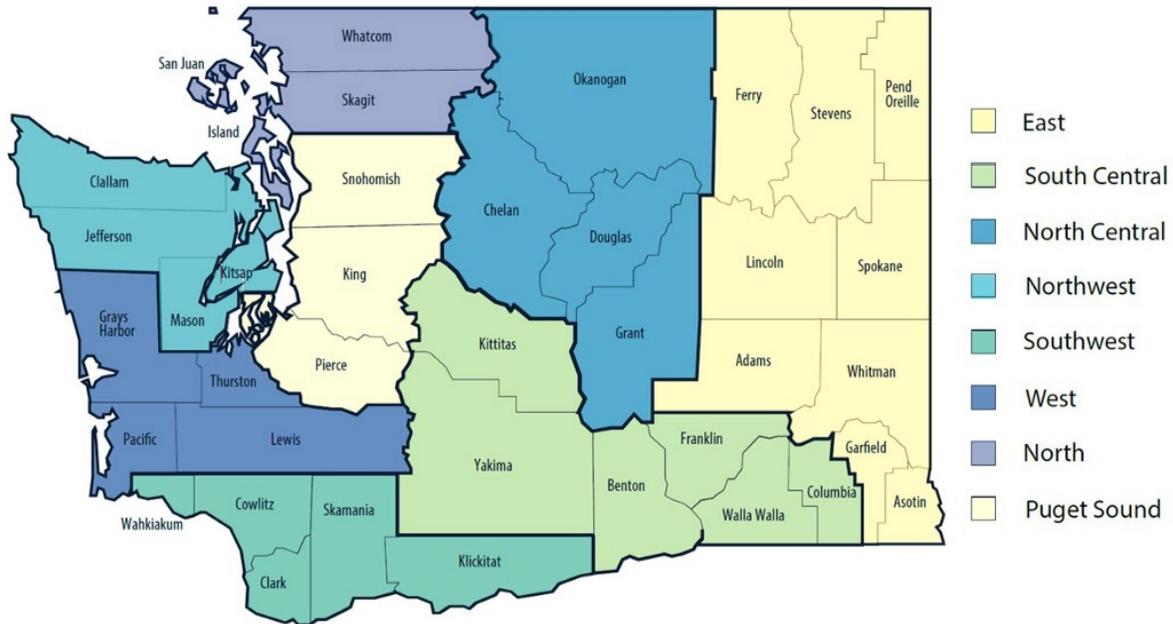




MONROE THIS WEEK

January 8, 2021 • Volume 7/Edition 1



Thank you for reading Monroe This Week.

This week's edition includes details on Governor Inslee's new phased recovery program, the upcoming deadline for the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan survey, business and resident assistance programs enacted in the last two months of 2020, the Monroe School District free meal programs continuing through June 30, and the Snohomish Conservation District's Annual Plant Sale.



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 ANNOUNCES "HEALTHY WASHINGTON -- ROADMAP TO RECOVERY"

Earlier this week, Governor Jay Inslee announced the "[Healthy Washington -- Roadmap to Recovery](#)". This new phased recovery plan will begin on January

11. Counties in Washington will be grouped into eight regions, based mostly on Emergency Medical Services (EMS) regions used for evaluating healthcare services (a map of the regions is included above). All regions will start in Phase 1, and counties within each region will shift between phases collectively. Snohomish County has been placed in the "Puget Sound Region" with King and Pierce counties.



To advance to Phase 2, regions must meet all four of the following benchmarks:

- Decreasing trend, of at least 10%, in two-week rate of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population.
- Decreasing trend, of at least 10%, in two-week rate of new COVID-19 hospital admission rates per 100,000 population.
- Total ICU occupancy, including both COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 cases, of less than 90%
- COVID-19 test positivity rate of 10% or less.

In order to stay in Phase 2, regions must maintain at least three of the four above benchmarks, with the first two benchmarks considered met if the cases and hospital admission rates remain flat from the time of advancement. Metrics for each region will be updated each Friday, and any change in phase will occur the following Monday. Metrics for advancement to Phases 3 and 4 will be announced on Monday, January 11.

DEADLINE FOR PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE (PROS) PLAN SURVEY NEXT WEEK

As I shared last month in [Monroe This Week](#), the City 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 take the short Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan survey by January 15, and encourage your friends and neighbors to do so as well. By completing the entire survey, residents are eligible to be entered in a prize drawing for one of two \$50 gift cards. Further details and the survey are available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

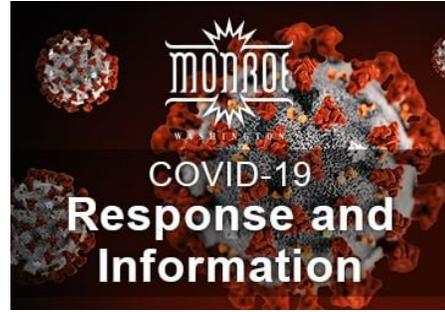
At the end of the survey, we'll connect you to additional information about the PROS Plan, and share ways you can continue to be involved in the planning process. We believe resident involvement during this long-range plan update process will benefit from widescale participation, and the outcome has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

Thank you in advance for your support!



OVER \$260,000 DISTRIBUTED IN LAST TWO MONTHS OF 2020 TO ASSIST RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES

Last year the City announced partnerships with [Take the Next Step](#) and the [Monroe Chamber of Commerce](#) to provide residents and businesses with rental and mortgage assistance. The City allocated \$72,000 in CARES Act funds to the resident assistance program. Take the Next Step received and reviewed all program applications, and worked directly with applicants to verify eligibility. Through the diligent work of Take the Next Step's team, the impact of this program was felt by many in our community:



- \$72,530.52 disbursed in rental assistance (Take the Next Step covered the last \$530.52)
 - 94 months of rent were paid
 - 2.7 months average
 - \$2,071 average assistance
- 35 families, representing 116 individuals, remain safely in their homes

Additionally, the Monroe Chamber of Commerce partnered with the City to distribute to Monroe businesses: \$44,000 of City CARES Act funds in rental and mortgage assistance; \$40,000 of City CARES Act funds in a 3rd Round of the Small Business Relief Grant; and \$112,696 of Snohomish County CARES Act funds in additional business grants (more on this program in the next article below). Due to the Chamber's efforts, grants of between \$1,500 and \$5,000 were awarded to 12 local businesses from City CARES Act funds.

I extend my sincere thanks to Take the Next Step's Co-Executive Directors Laron Olson and Sarah Lunstrum, to Monroe Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Janelle Drews, and to their respective teams. These programs were made possible due to these partnerships and the many hours of work dedicated to them by these agencies.

COUNTY DEDICATES OVER \$110,000 TO SUPPORT MONROE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

Late last year, Snohomish County dedicated a portion of its CARES Act funds to local cities, to supplement business grant programs. Approximately \$2.5 million was allocated to cities on a per capita basis, with \$112,696 awarded to the City of Monroe. With these funds, grants of up to \$5,000 were made available to businesses that had not received a prior County grant. Businesses that had received a prior City grant were eligible for grants of up to the amount unfunded in the previous award; for example, a recipient of a prior City grant of \$3,000 was eligible for up to \$2,000 under the County guidelines.



Due to the efforts of Snohomish County, City staff, and the Monroe Chamber of Commerce, grants of between \$1,000 and \$5,000 were awarded to 28 Monroe businesses.

I extend my sincere thanks to the Snohomish County Council for allocating these funds to Monroe, to County Executive Dave Somers and his staff for administering the program, and to Monroe Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Janelle Drews for her partnership with the City to ensure these funds were distributed.

SCHOOL DISTRICT FREE MEAL PROGRAM CONTINUES THROUGH JUNE 30

Daily free meals will continue to be provided by the Monroe School District through June 30.

Student lunches are available for pickup at all elementary schools, Monday-Friday, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. daily. These meals are free for all children under age 18; children do not need to be present at pick-up. Each grab-and-go bag contains lunch and a breakfast for the next day. You can view daily or weekly menus [here](#).



If you can't make it to the daily lunch pick-ups, the School District also has a 5-Day Meal Kit option. Families that would like to participate in the Meal Kit Program can submit an [online form](#) (one per family). Meal kits are available by pre-order only; the order form opens at 6:00 p.m. each Wednesday for the following week, and closes each Friday at 8:00 a.m. Online ordering helps the District's food service team plan and prepare enough meal kits. Program participants will receive a reminder email (and text message, if opting-in to receive district text messages) on the day they signed up for pick-up.

Learn more about these free meal programs [here](#).

ANNUAL PLANT SALE NOW OPEN

The [Snohomish Conservation District's](#) Annual Plant Sale is now open. This year's sale is a preorder and drive-through pick-up event only. Preorders are now open and will close on February 10; pick-up dates are Saturday and Sunday, February 27 and 28, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Evergreen State Fair Park. All of the 75 species of available native plants can be found on the Plant Sale [website](#). Questions can be directed to scdplantsale@snohomishcd.org or (425) 335-5634.



UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

The City Council will meet in a Regular Business Meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 2021. The meeting will be held via the Zoom remote meeting platform and participation information will be posted with the January 12 agenda, which can be accessed by clicking the button below.

[Council Agendas/Minutes](#)

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS



Councilmember
Patsy Cudaback



Councilmember
Kevin Hanford



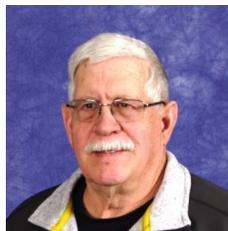
Councilmember
Ed Davis



Councilmember
Jason Gamble



Councilmember
Jeff Rasmussen



Councilmember
Kirk Scarboro



Councilmember
Heather Rousey

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



City of Monroe | (360) 794-7400 | 806 West Main Street, Monroe, WA 98272

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