MONROE THIS WEEK

February 12, 2021 • Volume 7/Edition 6

Thank you for reading Monroe This Week.

This week's edition includes details on Presidents Day 2021, a recent increase in cyber attacks, job openings with the City of Monroe, a public hearing scheduled for February 23, an upcoming Bloodworks Northwest Pop-Up Donation event, a fire safety reminder from Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue, a Monroe High School alum debuting Sunday on American Idol*, and tomorrow's drive-thru food drive.*

*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

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15 IS PRESIDENTS DAY

This Monday, February 15, we recognize the federal holiday of Presidents Day. Originally enacted to recognize and celebrate George Washington's birthday, the day now commonly recognized as Presidents Day was established in 1879 as February 22. On January 1, 1971, the Uniform Monday Holiday Act shifted the holiday to the third Monday in February, which can land between the 15th and 21st days of the month. Originally established as "Washington's Birthday", the day has become known colloquially - and officially in over 20 states - as Presidents Day to honor President Abraham Lincoln as well. I wish all residents of Monroe a very Happy Presidents Day.

TIPS TO PROTECT YOURSELF WITH CYBER ATTACKS ON THE RISE

Last year brought significant changes to our world. Unfortunately, one in particular has been an increase in cyber attacks. Experts predict twice as many cyber attacks in 2021 than in 2019; just this week, the City **learned** of a possible data breach related to our third party utility billing vendor, Automatic Funds Transfer Services, Inc. With cyber security threats on the rise, here are ten tips to stay cyber aware:

1. Keep your software up-to-date
2. Use anti-virus protection and firewall
3. Use strong passwords and a password management tool
4. Use two-step or multi-factor authentication
5. Learn about phishing scams, and be suspicious of emails, phone calls, and flyers from unknown sources
6. Protect your sensitive Personal Identifiable Information
7. Use mobile devices securely
8. Back-up your data regularly
9. Limit your use of public wi-fi
10. Review your online accounts and credit cards regularly for fraudulent charges

If you are the victim of a cyber attack, here are some steps to take:

1. Change your passwords to all online accounts
2. Cancel any unauthorized or compromised credit/charge accounts
3. File a report with your local law enforcement agency
4. Contact a credit agency and request a fraud alert be placed on your credit report

CITY RECRUITING FOR A RECORDS MANAGER, THREE OTHER POSITIONS

The City of Monroe recently announced that it is recruiting for a Records Manager for the Monroe Police Department. This position provides supervisory tasks in the administrative division and/or specialty units of the police department, including first line supervision, assigning and reviewing work production, coordinating activities and workloads, and special projects as assigned by the Chief of Police. Minimum qualifications for the position include, but are not limited to:
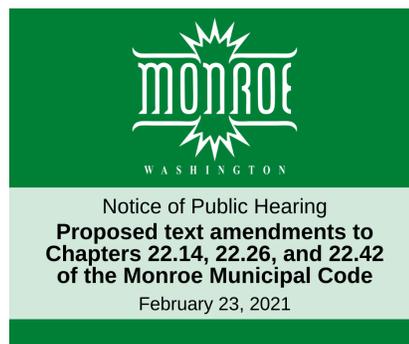
- High School diploma or GED required. AA degree preferred.
- Three years supervisory experience in criminal justice, including public records.
- Knowledge of the entire police department operation including community resources to which the department refers.
- Within six months of appointment, must complete First Level Supervision through the WSCJTC.

Additionally, the City is actively recruiting for a City Clerk, Senior Parks Planner, and a Lateral Police Officer. Prospective applicants are invited to review these **job openings** and apply online.

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED FOR NEXT TUESDAY'S CITY COUNCIL MEETING

This week, the City issued **notice** that on Tuesday, February 23, 2021, at approximately 7:00 p.m., during the City Council Meeting, a public hearing will be held to consider proposed text amendments to Chapters 22.14, 22.26, and 22.42 of the Monroe Municipal Code. The proposed amendments, if enacted, would revise the Monroe Zoning Map and the North Kelsey Development Plan Design Guidelines to

Notice of Public Hearing
Proposed text amendments to Chapters 22.14, 22.26, and 22.42 of the Monroe Municipal Code
February 23, 2021

allow stand-alone multi-family residential development.

A public comment period will be available during the public hearing, and anyone may provide public testimony during that period. Written comments can also be submitted by emailing Becky Hasart, Finance Director/Interim City Clerk, at **BHasart@MonroeWA.gov**, and must be received prior to the public hearing. For additional information, please contact the Community Development Department at (360) 863-4501.

BLOODWORKS NORTHWEST HOSTING POP-UP BLOOD DONATION EVENT

Bloodworks Northwest is hosting a Pop-Up Donation event in Monroe, February 22 and 23, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Donors at the event will be automatically entered into a drawing to win a new car, and all donated blood will be screened for COVID-19 antibodies. There are approximately 30 donations spots still available, so make your **online appointment** today.

FIRE SAFETY REMINDER FROM SNOHOMISH REGIONAL FIRE & RESCUE

We are still in the midst of winter and this time of year we see a spike in fire calls. Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue wants to remind you to be fire smart! Remember to keep a 3-foot parameter around any heat source, always plug heat-producing appliances directly into the wall outlet, and only plug one appliance into a wall outlet at a time. Additionally, make sure your home has properly working smoke detectors and close your bedroom doors before you go to bed at night.

For more information visit **www.SRFR.org**, or contact Public Information & Education Officer Heather Chadwick at **hchadwick@snofire7.org** or (360) 282-3962.

MONROE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE DEBUTS SUNDAY ON *AMERICAN IDOL*

As I shared in a recent edition of *Monroe This Week*, Monroe High

School's own Benson Boone will be a contestant on the new season of _American Idol_. The upcoming 19th season will begin airing on Sunday, February 14. Tune in to follow his journey, support him, and vote for him along the way!

EVERGREEN SPEEDWAY HOSTING DRIVE-THRU FOOD DRIVE TOMORROW

As I shared in a recent edition of _Monroe This Week_, tomorrow, Saturday, February 13, area residents will have the opportunity to support the **Sky Valley Food Bank** and take a spin on the **Evergreen Speedway** racetrack! **Ragnarok's Garage** is sponsoring a drive-thru food drive from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Speedway. Any food donation comes with the opportunity to drive your car through the Auto X Course. On-track participants will be required to sign a liability waiver before driving on the track surface. Most requested items from food bank patrons are:

- Canned vegetables and fruits
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Tuna and canned meats
- Canned soups, stews and chili
- Canned tomatoes, paste, and sauce
- Canned beans (all types)
- Oatmeal and cereal
- Pasta and rice
- Masa corn flour

- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Feminine hygiene products
- Diapers and baby wipes
- Dish and laundry soap
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Bath soap
- Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Gift cards

UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

The City Council will meet in a Regular Study Session Meeting on Tuesday, February 16, 2021. The meeting will be held via the Zoom remote meeting platform and participation information will be posted with the February 16 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**

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