



MONROE THIS WEEK

April 9, 2021 • Volume 7/Edition 14



DISTRACTED DRIVING AWARENESS MONTH

Thank you for reading Monroe This Week.

This week's edition includes details on the City's new Agenda Center, the City's upcoming recognition of Arbor Day/Earth Day and receipt of a Tree City USA Growth Award, a Distracted Driving Month message from the Monroe Police Department, the closure today of the Working Washington Small Business Relief Grant, updated travel restrictions for our state, and free virtual home fire education calls offered by the American Red Cross.



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

CITY AGENDA CENTER GETS NEW LOOK

This week, the City unveiled a new [Agenda Center](#). This new site makes agendas and minutes (once approved) easily accessible for all meetings of the City Council and City Boards and Commissions since January 1, 2021; a calendar of upcoming meetings is also available. On this new page, a dedicated section is available for each type of meeting, with links to up to three most recent meetings. Clicking on the meeting header will take website visitors to a dedicated page with all documents for that meeting type. Video recordings of meetings will be added to this new page in the near future.



The City has retained its previous Agenda Center as an [archive](#), where agendas, minutes, and recordings of past meetings are available for public access.

Please feel free to contact the City's Management Analysts with any questions about the new Agenda Center: Rich Huebner - RHuebner@MonroeWA.gov, or Tyler Christian - TChristian@MonroeWA.gov.

CITY TO COMMEMORATE ARBOR DAY AND EARTH DAY, RECEIVES TREE CITY USA GROWTH AWARD

On Friday, April 30, at 1:00 p.m. I will host a tree planting ceremony at Lake Tye Park, in compliance with the requirements pertaining to social gatherings in Governor Inslee's Healthy Washington – Roadmap to Recovery Plan. The event will be recorded live through the City's Facebook page. During this event, the City will be recognized as a 3-Year [Tree City USA](#), and also receive a [Growth Award](#) for this year. The Tree City USA Growth Award is presented by the Arbor Day Foundation to participating Tree City USA communities that demonstrate higher levels of tree care and community engagement during the calendar year. The Growth Award recognizes major milestones and annual activities in five categories that



combine to build sustainable community forestry programs over the long term. The City of Monroe is receiving the Growth Award for creating and implementing a community [Heritage Tree Program and Living Christmas Tree Donation Program](#). I would like to thank the [Arbor Day Foundation](#), our [Monroe City Council](#), [Park Board](#), and community members who have supported our efforts in care of and sustaining our public trees.

APRIL IS DISTRACTED DRIVING AWARENESS MONTH

As we recognize the month of April as national Distracted Driving Awareness Month, the [Monroe Police Department](#) reminds residents it is a good time to regroup and take responsibility for the choices we make when we're on the road. Follow these safety tips for a safe ride, and remember **#TogetherWeGetThere**:



- Need to send a text? Pull over and park your car in a safe location. Only then is it safe to send or read a text.
- Designate your passenger as your “designated texter.” Allow them access to your phone to respond to calls or messages.
- Do not scroll through apps, including social media, while driving.
- Cell phone use can be habit-forming. Struggling to not text and drive? Put the cell phone in the trunk, glove box, or back seat of the vehicle until you arrive at your destination.

WORKING WASHINGTON GRANT CLOSES TODAY

As I shared in a recent edition of [Monroe This Week](#), the state Department of Commerce is accepting applications to Round 4 of the Working Washington Small Business Relief Grant; this grant closes today, April 9 at 5:00 p.m.



Working Washington Round 4 offers grant relief funds to small for-profit businesses, especially those that were required to close due to public health and safety measures. Priorities for funding are:

- Businesses required to close.
- Businesses with lost revenue as a result of closure.
- Businesses with added expenses to maintain safe operations.
- Equitable distribution of grant funds across the state and to businesses owned and operated by historically disadvantaged individuals.

For additional information, technical support, and to apply, visit the [Round 4 webpage](#).

GOVERNOR UPDATES TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

On Tuesday, April 6, Governor Jay Inslee issued [Proclamation 20-83](#) which updated Washington's travel restrictions to match Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines. These guidelines apply to international, domestic, and intrastate travel. When planning a trip, Washingtonians are encouraged to review the CDC's [COVID-19 Travel page](#). Here you'll find current guidelines, safe travel ideas, a trip planner, travel recommendations by destination, and more.



RED CROSS OFFERING FREE VIRTUAL HOME FIRE EDUCATION CALLS

Home fires claim seven lives every day, but you can help change that. The American Red Cross invites you to join the Northwest Region Home Fire Campaign, and pledge to keep your family safe. This spring, Red Cross volunteers are offering virtual home fire education calls. These virtual calls are easy, informative, and take 20 minutes or less. You'll discuss the most common causes of home fires, how to create a home fire escape plan, how to test your smoke alarms, and additional local hazard information. Visit the [Campaign website](#), and click "learn more and request an appointment" to register.



UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

The City Council will next meet in a Regular Business Meeting on Tuesday, April 13, 2021. The meeting will be held via the Zoom remote meeting platform and participation information will be posted with the April 13 agenda, which can be accessed by clicking the button below.

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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