



MONROE THIS WEEK

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Thank you for reading Monroe This Week.

This week's edition includes an important message about utility bills, a reminder of today's boards, commissions, and committees application deadline, the Monroe Police Department's efforts in the Cellphones for Soldiers Drive, a reminder of the lodging tax grant application deadline next Friday, how you can help prevent holiday package theft, and the local recognition of America Recycles Day.



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

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE CITY OF MONROE

With the expiration of the Governor's moratorium on utility late fees and shutoffs, the City Council has taken steps to help those customers that may need additional time to bring their accounts current to avoid shut off of their services.



The City took the following steps to help customers who are behind on their bills:

- Allow payment arrangements which can go through December 2022;
- Suspend late fees for those amounts incurred prior to October 31, 2021 that are subject to a payment arrangement made by November 30, 2021. In order to continue to have the late fees waived, the customer must stay current on the agreed upon payment arrangement; and
- Suspend shut offs for nonpayment of utility bills until the January 2022 cycle.

If you are behind on your bill, contact the City as soon as possible at (360) 794-7400. A list of partners that may be able to help you with your bill can be found on the City's [utility_page](#).

FIRST REVIEW OF CITY BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, & COMMITTEES APPLICATIONS BEGINS TODAY

As I've shared recently here in *Monroe This Week*, the City has openings on multiple Boards, Commissions and Committees. Today is the deadline for first review of applications for appointment. If you're interested in serving and would like to be considered in the first review, please submit your application today. Instructions for submitting are included in the application, which can be found on the City's Boards, Commissions, and Committees [vacancies](#) page. Current vacancies include:



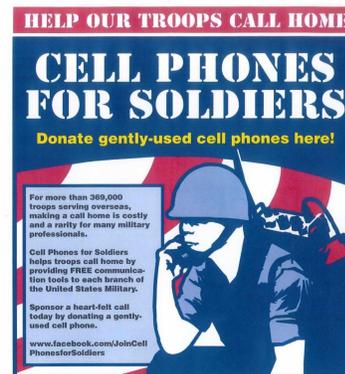
- 2 - Economic Development Advisory Board (4-year term ending 12/2025)
- 4 - Community Human Services Advisory Board (4-year term ending 12/2025)
- 4 - Ethics Board Member (two 3-year terms ending 12/2023; two mid-term vacancies ending 12/2022)
- 4 - Salary Commission (two 3-year terms ending 12/2023; two mid-term vacancies ending 12/2022)
- 1 - Park Board (4-year term ending 12/2025)
- 1 - Planning Commission (4-year term ending 12/2025)
- 1 - Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (membership reviewed annually)

For more information on the duties of each board, commission, or committee please visit our [Boards, Commissions, and Committees](#) page. More

vacancies are anticipated to open in January.

MONROE PD JOINS CELLPHONES FOR SOLDIERS DRIVE

The [Monroe Police Department](#) is proud to join with Cell Phones for Soldiers as a donation drop-off site. They are able to accept all makes, models and conditions of cell phones, smartphones, MP3 Players and Tablets. The donations are converted into calling cards for free talk time for deployed soldiers. Please feel free to bring in your donations to the Monroe Police Department, Monday - Friday (excluding legal holidays) from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For your protection, please restore the phones to the factory setting and remove SIM and SD cards. If you have any questions, please contact the Monroe Police Department at (360) 794-6300.



DEADLINE FOR LODGING TAX GRANT APPLICATIONS NEXT FRIDAY

The deadline for applications for a City of Monroe lodging tax grant is coming up. Applications are due no later than 4:30 p.m. **next Friday**, November 19, 2021. For further details and to download the application, please visit [our website](#).



To be considered for funding, the request must be used for one of the following activities, as specified in [Chapter 67.28.1816](#) of the Revised Code of Washington:

- Tourism marketing;
- Marketing and operations of special events and festivals designed to attract tourists;
- Operations of tourism-related facilities owned or operated by nonprofit organizations as defined by the IRC 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(6).

Verification of nonprofit status will be required. Priority consideration will be given to applications that feature events scheduled from January through June 2022, and that promote tourism activities during the same period.

A second application cycle is anticipated to open next spring for events and activities taking place from July through December 2022.

HELP PREVENT PACKAGE THEFT

With the holidays around the corner, officers from the **Monroe Police Department** will be patrolling our neighborhoods more frequently, to help deter theft. Here are a few things you can do to protect yourself and your belongings:



- Track your packages online
- Select a preferred delivery time
- Promptly remove packages after delivery
- Utilize Amazon Hub Lockers
- Select a more secure mailing address
- Put a hold on your mail if you are on vacation
- Make home surveillance cameras visible

If you or anyone you know observes any suspicious activity, remember to report it to 911 as soon as possible.

CITY RECOGNIZES AMERICA RECYCLES DAY

When it comes to recycling, everyone has a part to play. On Monday, November 15, I invite you to join me in celebrating America Recycles Day.



Why should we recycle? First off, it's good for the economy. The recycling industry accounts for about 681,000 jobs and \$37.8 billion in wages each year. It also helps reduce landfill waste. About 32% of municipal solid waste is recycled. So by recycling, we're cutting down on waste by about a third! Another plus is that it helps conserve resources. Creating something out of recycled plastic uses 65-88% less energy than making it from new plastic. Returning your plastic bags from the grocery store also keeps them from ending up in our oceans. Lastly, recycling is simple! Recyclables include clean cardboard, paper, metal cans, and plastic bottles and jugs.

Working together this America Recycles Day - and every day - we can make sure recyclable materials don't end up in our lakes and landfills.

UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

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

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



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