



# MONROE THIS WEEK

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*Thank you for reading Monroe This Week.*

*This week's edition includes details on our local recognition of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the election of our new Mayor Pro-Tem, the selection of Council committee members, an invite to the North Hill Area Park Design Workshop, the Sky Valley Food Bank End of Year Recap, and Monroe's 119th birthday*



*Please contact me with any and all feedback regarding the articles below. I can be reached at [GThomas@MonroeWA.gov](mailto:GThomas@MonroeWA.gov).*

*Yours in Service,*

*Mayor Geoffrey Thomas*

## CITY RECOGNIZES MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

On Tuesday I issued a [Proclamation](#) recognizing Monday, January 17 as Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. challenged Americans to make freedom a reality for all, and to believe each of us is created equally. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day was proposed in the federal congress on August 2, 1983, signed into law on November 2, 1983, and first celebrated on January 20, 1986. Celebrated annually on the third Monday of January, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day pays tribute to the life and legacy of Dr. King and his contributions to our nation. I encourage Monroe residents to read the full text of the Proclamation, and to remember and reflect on the profound contributions of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



## CITY COUNCIL ELECTS MAYOR PRO TEM

At its [January 11, 2021 Regular Business Meeting](#), the Monroe City Council unanimously elected Councilmember Jason Gamble as Mayor Pro-Tem for 2022. Pro Tem, short for Pro Tempore, is a Latin phrase that translates to "for the time being". Each year, the City Council elects one of its members to the position of Mayor Pro Tem, who will serve as Presiding Officer during any time in which I may be absent from a Council meeting. The Mayor Pro Tem may also sign official documentation on behalf of the City that I may request and that the City Council approves. I congratulate Councilmember Gamble on his election, and thank him for his willingness to serve.



## CITY COUNCIL SELECTS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

On Tuesday, January 11, Councilmembers also selected members for [Council Committees](#). The Council maintains four committees, each of which is made up of three members. The committees and their members are:



- Finance and Human Resources Committee
  - Councilmembers Davis, Gamble, and Scarboro
- Legislative Affairs Committee
  - Councilmembers Fisher, Fulcher, and Hanford
- Public Safety Committee
  - Councilmembers Fisher, Fulcher, and Scarboro
- Transportation/Planning, Parks & Recreation, and Public Works (P3) Committee
  - Councilmembers Davis, Fisher, and Kinney

The purpose of these committees is to formulate policy recommendations and gather policy information for the City Council in order to provide for more efficient and effective use of City Council meeting time. I thank these Councilmembers for their continued service to the Monroe community, and their willingness to serve on these committees.

## NORTH HILL AREA PARK DESIGN WORKSHOP

The City of Monroe welcomes all residents to participate in the design workshop for the North Hill Area Neighborhood Park on Wednesday, January 26 at 6:00 p.m. This collaborative, online event will include an overview of the existing site conditions and help the City determine what amenities and features to include in the park design. This new park will be located at the southwest corner of 134th Street SE and 191st Avenue SE.

The City purchased the five acres of land last year to develop a park to serve the surrounding neighborhoods. The land was formerly owned by the Trombley family. Isadore and Grace Trombley moved to Monroe from Michigan in 1910 and homesteaded the North Hill area. Portions of the original homestead were sold off over the years. However, descendants of Isadore and Grace envisioned this area as a city park. They approached the City with the idea and in 2021 the City purchased the land. For more information, view the North Hill Area Neighborhood Park story at this [link](#).



RSVP today by scanning the QR code on the above image or by clicking [here](#).

## SKY VALLEY FOOD BANK DISTRIBUTES OVER 950,000 POUNDS OF FOOD IN 2021

The [Sky Valley Food Bank](#), which has served area residents since the late 1970s, distributed over 950,000 pounds of food throughout 2021. Thanks to volunteers putting in over 14,000 hours, the Food Bank served 15,056 families during the year.

They are currently holding indoor markets on Tuesdays from 3:00 to 5:00 pm and Thursdays from 9:00 to 11:00 am. You must have an appointment to shop, but food is distributed freely at no charge. You need to wear a facial covering and bring your own boxes or bags. If you do not feel comfortable shopping indoors, or would prefer to pick up a pre-



packed box of food, you may come to their Wednesday drive-through service instead. You must have an appointment to pick up a box, and you cannot receive a box if you are using their indoor market. Appointments can be made in advance by visiting the "[Find Food](#)" section of the Food Bank's website.

## MONROE'S 119TH BIRTHDAY

A couple of weeks ago, Monroe celebrated its 119th birthday. With a population of 325, Monroe was incorporated on December 20, 1902. Within 7 years, the population would increase to over 1,500. Although there was an earlier settlement near the Skykomish River at Park Place, it was just a general store and a few farms. We can thank Henry McClurg, who settled in the area in the 1860s, for our city's name. He was an admirer of President James Monroe, and since the post office at that time would not accept two word names, Monroe was chosen. Here we are, 119 years later, with a population of almost 20,000 and more houses being built every day. The picture below from the historical society shows Monroe as a "sea of stumps" in 1893.



## UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

The City Council will next meet in a Regular Study Session Meeting on Tuesday, January 18, 2022. The meeting will be held via the Zoom remote meeting platform. Participation information will be posted with the January 18 agenda, which can be accessed by clicking the button below.

[Council Agendas/Minutes](#)

## CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS



Councilmember  
Kevin Hanford

Councilmember  
Ed Davis

Councilmember  
Jason Gamble



Councilmember  
Kirk Scarboro



Councilmember  
Heather Fulcher



Councilmember  
Tami Kinney



Councilmember  
Kyle Fisher

Have a question for your Councilmembers?  
Contact them at [councilmembers@monroewa.gov](mailto:councilmembers@monroewa.gov)



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