



MONROE THIS WEEK

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Thank you for reading Monroe This Week.

This week's edition includes details on the local recognition of Black History Month; new gateway and wayfinding signs coming soon; an invitation to participate in the 2021 Monroe Business Survey; remaining openings on City Boards, Commissions, and Committees; a notice that the City of Monroe is not affiliated with DOXO.com; the City actively recruiting for open positions; a recap on the 10th annual Jayme Biendl Run; and information on the new mass testing site for COVID-19 at the Evergreen State Fairgrounds.



Please contact me with any and all feedback regarding the articles below. I can be reached at GThomas@MonroeWA.gov.

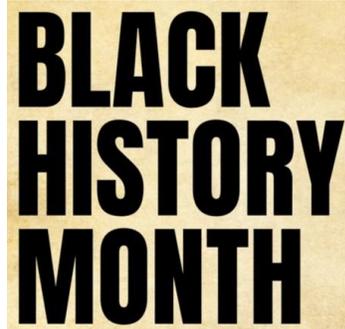
Yours in Service,



Mayor Geoffrey Thomas

CITY RECOGNIZES NATIONAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH

This week I issued a [Proclamation](#) recognizing the month of February as National Black History Month. Work toward an official recognition of Black and African American history began in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson. Using the foundation laid by Woodson, Black United Students and Black educators at Kent State University founded Black History Month in 1970; beginning in 1976, every president has declared the month of February as “Black History Month”. Black and African Americans have made innumerable contributions that have enriched America and indeed the lives of every American, while experiencing and enduring the inhumanity of injustices and inequities, not just from societal and institutional biases and racism rooted in white supremacy, but also from other Americans. As Mayor, I call upon each of us, with humility and love for one another, to take action for true reforms in ourselves, our community, our culture, and our institutions.



I invite you to read the full text of the Proclamation, and to actively support the abolishment of injustice and inequities that Black and African Americans still experience and endure today.

NEW GATEWAY AND WAYFINDING SIGNS COMING SOON

The City is getting ready to break ground on two new gateway signs. The first will be installed at the roundabout at State Route 522 and the west end of Main Street. The sign will be approximately 30 feet long and 10 feet tall. The sign depicts Monroe’s location at the foot of the Cascades, and features the distinctive Bearcat “M”, with a river rock base. A second, smaller matching sign will be installed at Lewis Street Park, welcoming travelers crossing the Lewis Street bridge as they enter Monroe. The historic wood signs at each location will be relocated to make way for the new signs.

The gateway signs are part of a series of new monument and wayfinding signs that will be installed over the next two years starting this spring. Everything will

match and be cohesive across Monroe. This is part of a long-term plan to replace a variety of aging signs with a new cohesive system to help residents and visitors find their way around our community. The new wayfinding signs will be installed along US-2, Main Street, Chain Lake Road, Kelsey Street, 179th Avenue, and Fryelands Boulevard. A series of similar signs are planned for City parks.

The sign designs were based on community feedback, and input from the City's Economic Development Advisory Board. You can see the final designs [here](#), and find more information about the gateway and wayfinding signs by visiting the City's [website](#).



2021 MONROE BUSINESS SURVEY NOW OPEN

If you own or operate a business in Monroe, please take the 2021 Monroe Business Survey. Open to Monroe business owners and managers, your participation is very important. Businesses and residents have faced and continue to face unprecedented challenges brought on by COVID-19; the survey helps zero in on the impacts of these issues. Survey results will be presented to the City Council at its March 15, 2022 Study Session meeting and then published to the City's website. Results will assist the City Council and myself to craft policies and programs aimed at supporting local businesses. **No personal or contact information will be included in the published results, and all questions are optional.** The survey has been streamlined to focus on essential data and will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. If you are a local business owner or manager, please [take the survey](#) today! The deadline for responses is February 28, 2022.



OPENINGS REMAIN ON CITY BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES

Looking to serve the community you live in? The City is recruiting for applicants to a few remaining vacancies on Boards, Commissions, and Committees. Current vacancies include:

- 1 - Community Human Services Advisory Board (4-year term ending 12/2025)
- 1 - Economic Development Advisory Board (1 mid-term vacancy ending 12/2024)
- 5 - Ethics Board (two mid-term vacancies ending 12/2023; two mid-term vacancies ending 12/2022); one 3-year term ending 12/2024
- 3 - Salary Commission (one mid-term vacancy ending 12/2023; one mid-term vacancy ending 12/2022; one 3-year term ending 12/2024)
- 1 - Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (per [RCW 67.28.1817](#): membership is reviewed annually, and membership eligibility applies)



The **Community Human Services Advisory Board** advises the City on the implementation of the Homelessness Policy Advisory Committee recommendations, and on programs and policies to respond to those experiencing homelessness and adversely affected by crisis; the **Economic Development Advisory Board** recommends priorities and means to monitor progress on economic development goals; the **Ethics Board** investigates, conducts hearings, and renders advisory opinions concerning accusations against city officials of violations of ethics or conflicts of interest; the **Salary Commission** sets the salaries of the elected officials of the City of Monroe; and the **Lodging Tax Advisory Committee** reviews grant applications and makes recommendations to the City Council regarding allocation of local lodging tax funds.

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

DOXO.COM BILL PAYING SERVICE NOT AFFILIATED WITH THE CITY OF MONROE

It has come to our attention that when doing an internet search to pay your City of Monroe utility bill, one of the first results listed is a company called DOXO. Be advised that DOXO is not affiliated with the City of Monroe. It appears that when DOXO takes your payment, they then mail a check to the City. This causes a delay between when you pay and when you are credited for the payment. Depending on the delay, this may cause you to incur late fees and/or possibly have your water shut off.



The City recognizes that you have a number of options on how you can pay your utility bill. If you choose to pay a fee based service such as DOXO, be advised that you will need to allow enough time for mailing purposes, similar to if you use your bank's bill paying service.

If you would like to make your payment by credit card online, we recommend using our [online payment portal](#) where the service is free. Be sure to double check the web address of any payment site you use for the correct address before entering your credit card number. If you prefer, you can also pay by phone without a fee, by calling City Hall directly at 360-794-7400.

CITY ACTIVELY RECRUITING FOR MULTIPLE POSITIONS

Looking to serve the community you live in? The City of Monroe has a few positions open including Public Works Operations & Maintenance Site Lead and Lateral Police Officer. Please visit our [employment opportunities page](#) for more information, to review the required job qualifications of each position, and to apply.



10TH ANNUAL JAYME BIENDL RUN

On Sunday, January 23, the community gathered at Sky River Park to participate in the 10th annual Jayme Biendl Memorial Run. This event honors the life of Jayme Biendl, a Corrections Officer who was killed by an inmate at the Monroe Correctional Complex almost 11 years ago, on January 29, 2011. In the years that have followed, this annual event has allowed Jayme's family, friends, and coworkers to gather and honor Jayme. The event is planned through a partnership of organizations and residents, including the [Behind the Badge Foundation](#), the City of Monroe, the Washington State Department of Corrections, and the [Monroe Police Department](#).



NEW COVID-19 MASS TESTING SITE OPEN DAILY

The new COVID-19 testing site for Snohomish County opened this past weekend at the Evergreen State Fair Park. The site is being held in partnership with the Snohomish Health District, Washington State Department of Health (DOH), and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The site is open from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. seven days a week. Appointments are now available with additional days to be added on a rolling basis.

Registration is strongly encouraged and can be done online [here](#) and by clicking on Washington.

With nearly 12,000 new cases reported last week, Snohomish County has surpassed the 100,000 mark since the first case was identified two years ago today. The recent surge has maxed out testing capacity, with most pharmacies and healthcare providers booking days and weeks out. This site will be able to do 1,000 tests per day.

For Snohomish County residents with limited or no internet access, the Health District’s call center can be reached at 425-339-5278 and is open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays (closed weekends and holidays). Staff can help people register for testing appointments if any are available. If testing is full, additional testing resources are listed on the Snohomish County Health District’s [website](#).

UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

The City Council will next meet in a Regular Study Session Meeting on Tuesday, February 1, 2022. The meeting will be held via the Zoom remote meeting platform. Participation information will be posted with the February 1 agenda, which can be accessed by clicking the button below.

Council Agendas/Minutes

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS



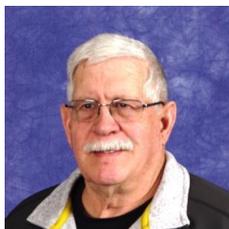
Councilmember
Kevin Hanford



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



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