



MONROE THIS WEEK

May 20, 2016 Edition No. 20

Mayor

Geoffrey Thomas
gthomas@monroewa.gov

Councilmembers

Patsy Cudaback
Kevin Hanford
Ed Davis
Jason Gamble
Jim Kamp
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Kirk Scarboro
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City Hall

806 West Main Street
Monroe, WA 98272
Phone: 360.794.7400
Open 8AM – 5PM, M-F

Appointment Openings

Planning Commission

Job Openings

Construction Inspector
Parks Maintenance Person
Public Works O&M Seasonal
Laborer
Senior Engineer – Development
Review
Seasonal Parks

Events this Week

- 05/20 MHS Girls District
Softball Tournament,
Sky River Park, 3-6PM
- 05/21 Miracle League Games,
Rotary Field,
8AM-2PM
- 05/22 ACS "Bark For Life" 5K,
Lake Tye Park,
8AM-4PM
- 05/24 City Council Meeting,
City Hall, Council
Chambers, 7PM
- 05/26 Main St. Café Ribbon-
Cutting, 107 W. Main St,
4:30-5:30PM

From the Office of Mayor Thomas

To highlight some of the things going on in our community, I am writing this weekly city update, "Monroe This Week. If you have any suggestions or questions regarding "Monroe This Week" or the stories below, please contact me at GThomas@MonroeWa.gov.

Yours in Service,

Mayor Geoffrey Thomas

Be In The Know!

Monroe Public Schools Foundation

On Friday, May 13, 2016, I had the pleasure of participating in Monroe Public Schools Foundation's annual fundraiser auction. The auction was well-attended and generated around \$100,000 that will support students and teachers in our school district. Great job everyone!!!

Flowers for Downtown Hanging Baskets, Planter Pots, Main and Lewis Street Islands

The City of Monroe extends sincere appreciation and thanks to the following businesses and organizations from our community who graciously stepped forward again this year to achieve the flowering landscape for our signature islands, downtown planter pots, and hanging flower baskets that welcome visitors and residents alike along Main Street and Lewis Street in the heart of Monroe. Total value for these donations and volunteer labor exceeds \$2,500. The flowers will be installed over the course of the next couple of weeks.

Downtown Hanging Baskets

- Monroe Garden Club - \$500 donation to City for the flower program and for planting the flowers in the hanging baskets.
- Pine Creek Nursery for supplying the hanging basket flowers at a discount.
- Monroe Lowes for supplying the potting soil at a discount.

**City of Monroe
Year-to-Date Comparisons**

The following are year-to-date comparisons

Sales Tax Revenues
'15 to 4/30/15: \$1,273,332
'16 to 4/30/16: \$1,418,456
UP \$145,124 or 11.40%

Real Estate Excise Tax
'15 to 4/30/15: \$188,998
'16 to 4/30/16: \$297,317
UP \$108,315 or 57.31%

Lodging Tax Revenues
'15 to 4/30/15: \$14,384
'16 to 4/30/16: \$18,403
UP \$4,019 or 27.94%

Business License Fees
'15 to 4/30/15: \$16,948
'16 to 4/30/16: \$17,913
UP \$964 or 5.69%

Building Permit Revenues
'15 to 4/30/15: \$105,764
'16 to 4/30/16: \$132,110
UP \$26,346 or 24.91%

Planning Fee Revenues
'15 to 4/30/15: \$34,000
'16 to 4/30/16: \$12,766
DOWN \$21,235 or -62.45%

New House Permits
'15 to 4/30/15: 25
'16 to 4/30/16: 33
UP 8 units or 32%

Multi-Family Permits (# units)
'15 to 4/30/15: 13
'16 to 4/30/16: 4
DOWN 9 units or -69.2%

Building Division Inspections
'15 to 4/30/15: 570
'16 to 4/30/16: 584
UP 14 or 2.5%

(Flowers continued)

Downtown Planter Pots

- Republic Services - \$500 donation to City for the flower program.
- Greenbank Gardens for supplying the flowers for the downtown planter pots at a discount.
- Downtown Monroe Association for planting the flowers in the planter pots.

Main and Lewis Street Islands/Landscape Ends

- Monroe Reformatory for growing 3,000 flowers from seed and installation by offender work crew.

Thank you to everyone who donated and contributed!!

Seeking Applicants For City of Monroe Planning Commission

The City of Monroe is currently seeking applicants to fill the following vacancy on the Monroe Planning Commission -- one opening to fill a vacant position with the term ending December 31, 2019. Planning Commission members are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council. For more information and an application, [click here](#).

Council Updates!

Council to Consider Selecting Outdoor Sculpture for Downtown

I am excited to report that the City received five proposals for sculptures in downtown!! The proposals were from Kevin Petelle, Leon White (submitted two proposals), Vincent Cavanaugh, and Lance Carleton. All the proposals would bring more interest and draw to our downtown and I thank every one of the artists for their proposals.

The City's Art Selection Committee, comprised of representatives from the Monroe Art Council, Monroe Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Monroe Association, Monroe City Council, Planning Commission, Park Board, and City staff, recommend the City select Kevin Petelle's proposal entitled "Wagner Swifts." The sculpture concept is a metal sculpture of the Frank Wagner chimney with Vaux Swifts swirling into the chimney. The sculpture would stand approximately ten feet tall. The Art Selection Committee's recommendation of "Wagner Swifts" will be presented to Council at the May 24, 2016, Council meeting. If Council approves the recommendation, it is our goal to have the work installed by November 23, 2016. Stay tuned!!!

Council Discussing Smoking/Vaping in City Parks

At the May 24, 2016, City Council meeting, Council will be discussing the issue of smoking and vaping in our City Parks. In 2003, Mayor Donnetta Walser issued a proclamation supporting the “For Our Kids-Tobacco Free Parks” education program. The recommendation is to expand this initiative to address vaping in parks.

Council to Consider Extending the Downtown Fee Waivers

In 2015, Council authorized a fee waiver program for certain permit applications in downtown to encourage downtown revitalization. Since last year, a number of business owners have taken advantage of the program, which has saved them nearly \$10,000 in total. On May 24, 2016, Council will consider extending this program one more year.

Project Update!

Tjerne Pl. SE Extension

We are excitedly awaiting the opening of Tjerne Place SE. The contractor, Trimaxx, has done an amazing job working through the winter with the rain and the cold to make this road happen, and they are way ahead of schedule. Thank you Trimaxx! The road will be open soon, as we are waiting for the final testing to be done on the signal box, and we are expecting the road to be open sometime in June. Thank you all for your patience!

