



MONROE THIS WEEK

April 10, 2020 • Vol 6/Edition 13

Just because we're
social distancing
doesn't mean we
can't be social.



Thank you for reading Monroe This Week.

In this week's edition, you'll learn about our community's continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic, ways to support our community and your fellow citizens during Stay Home/Stay Healthy, and new programs to support our small business community.



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

Yours in Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G. Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mayor Geoffrey Thomas

CITY HOSTING COVID-19 VIRTUAL TOWN HALL

In collaboration with city staff and the Economic Development Advisory Board, I will be hosting a Virtual Town Hall on Tuesday, April 14. Beginning at 6:00 p.m., the Town Hall will address a range of matters related to COVID-19. Hosted on the Zoom platform, and open to all, the Town Hall will provide details on the CARES Act federal stimulus bill, as well as the [Working Washington Small Business Grant](#) discussed below. To join the meeting, please follow this [link](#); if prompted, the meeting ID is 469 580 643 and the password is 021595. If you'd prefer to participate by phone, feel free to use the call-in phone number: (253) 215-8782.



To ensure that the City of Monroe is best positioned for a post-COVID-19 recovery, the [Economic Development Advisory Board](#) will begin meeting weekly. These additional meetings, held digitally on Thursday mornings at 8:00 a.m. on the Zoom platform, will provide the EDAB a forum to review new state and federal programs focused on COVID-19 relief and advise the city on plans to implement such programs. If you're interested in attending the virtual EDAB meetings, visit monroewa.gov weekly for the meeting link.

SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT PROGRAMS SEE STRONG EARLY RESPONSE

Governor Jay Inslee and the state's Department of Commerce announced new joint programs aimed at mitigating the economic impacts of COVID-19. Recognizing



the intense economic recovery work anticipated, the governor announced the [Working Washington Small Business Grant](#), through the Governor's Strategic Reserve Fund, which will provide up to \$10,000 for small businesses under 10 employees. The city issued a notice on Thursday, April 9 that the application deadline for this grant was the following day at 12:00 noon. Several Monroe businesses have applied, and we will be discussing the next steps of the application review process during next Tuesday's Virtual Town Hall.

The Working Washington Small Business Grant will be administered by the Washington State Department of Commerce, which is also offering [business resiliency assistance](#) through partnerships with organizations that serve economically disadvantaged communities across the state.

Governor Inslee also announced that [forgivable loans](#) are available through the federal Small Business Administration to support small business, non-profits, independent contractors, and self-employed individuals. For more information, visit sba.gov.



U.S. Small Business Administration

CITY SEEKING UPLIFTING STORIES AND ACTS OF KINDNESS

The City of Monroe would like to highlight uplifting stories and acts of kindness taking place in our community during the COVID-19 pandemic. These can be stories of uplifting experiences or acts of kindness you've experienced, performed, or witnessed.

**ACTS OF
KINDNESS**

We plan to showcase these stories through social media platforms, so for each story, we're asking for a brief written statement describing the act or experience, including who did it and what they did, as well as a photo or short video of the person(s) involved in the story or something that represents the act.

A couple of examples to illustrate the types of stories we're seeking:

- A local car dealership who loaned vans to help deliver food to people in need; this story example would include a photo of the dealership owner and/or the vehicles loaned.
- Neighbors being extra friendly during these times, while practicing appropriate social distancing tactics; photo examples would be neighbors waving across fences or streets, or from their porches/patios.

To submit stories you've witnessed or experienced, or with any questions, please email Rachel Adams at radams@monroewa.gov.

We may be at home alone or out practicing social distancing, but we are not alone. We are one community – together. **#LoveMonroe**

STAY ENGAGED WITH ELDERLY LOVED ONES DURING STAY HOME/STAY HEALTHY

Social distancing may put older adults at greater risk of depression and anxiety. With technology, we're not "social distancing" as much as "physical distancing" - we still need to be social. Check out our latest [video](#) for ways to stay engaged with our older loved ones and deliver happiness from a distance.



NEED HELP? SERVICE PROVIDERS OFFER CONTINUED ASSISTANCE DURING STAY HOME/STAY HEALTHY

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, Monroe service providers have adapted the format of their services, while continuing to provide

exemplary support for Monroe families. If you, your family or friends are in need of assistance during these unprecedented times, please visit the city's [COVID-19 Additional Resources](#) page for a full list of services providers offering support to our community.



In order to maintain the high level of assistance currently offered, many of the providers are in need of support from members of the community able to do so; [Cascade Community Church](#), [St. Vincent de Paul](#), [Take the Next Step](#), and [Volunteers of America](#) are especially in need of donations of money, food, diapers, and wipes. Those able to donate are encouraged to contact any of these worthy causes to arrange your donation while maintaining appropriate social distancing. Phone numbers and web links for these and other providers are included on the Additional Resources page linked above.

There are also community-focused resources online to support you, your families and friends during this time:

- [City of Monroe](#): COVID-19 Response and Information, including a video I produced in cooperation with the Monroe Chamber of Commerce encouraging support of local businesses.
- The City has also been posting regular updates to our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages.
- [Monroe Chamber of Commerce](#): Listing of restaurants providing take-out and/or delivery options.

IMPORTANT SKILLS DURING STAY HOME/STAY HEALTHY

As several of the articles in this week's newsletter highlight, safety and resiliency are vital during this

Global Resilience Institute at Northeastern University

period of Stay Home/Stay Healthy. To support this important consideration, Northeastern University's [Global Resiliency Institute](#) is offering ten online "How-To" courses, free of charge. These courses share important tactics and skills we can all implement to ensure the health and safety of our families, friends and community.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

The April 14, 2020 City Council Business Meeting and the April 21, 2020 City Council Study Session have both been CANCELLED.

The next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via the Zoom remote meeting platform. Participation information will be posted with the April 28th agenda.

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS



Councilmember
Kevin Hanford



Councilmember
Patsy Cudaback



Councilmember
Jeff Rasmussen



Councilmember
Heather Rousey



Councilmember
Ed Davis



Councilmember
Jason Gamble



Councilmember
Kirk Scarboro

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

