



MONROE THIS WEEK

October 16, 2020 • Vol 6/Edition 40



Thank you for reading Monroe This Week.

This week's edition provides details on my 2021 Recommended Budget, upcoming public hearings on the 2021 Budget, a second round of the Community Relief Grant, a name change for our local Fire District, tomorrow's Downtown Sidewalk Sale event, a reminder of the City's #WeAreMonroeWA communications campaign, and a wonderful donation received by the Sky Valley Food Bank.



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 blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Thomas'.

Mayor Geoffrey Thomas

2021 RECOMMENDED BUDGET PUBLISHED

At the October 13, 2020 **Regular Business Meeting** of the Monroe City Council, I presented my **2021 Recommended Budget** for the City of Monroe. The 2021 Recommended Budget is built to deliver city services through a period of uncertainty, while investing in programs that reduce redundancy, improve efficiency, and increase responsiveness. Developing the 2021 Recommended Budget began with considering the state of the 2020 Budget, which was built on a set of conservative estimates in preparation for an economic downturn. While it was built with this framework in mind, no one could have predicted the challenges presented by



COVID-19 when the 2020 Budget was adopted. The city has weathered this time of uncertainty both because my administration and City Council prepared for a potential economic downturn in 2020, and also because when conditions became clear that our nation was entering a very unique time of uncertainty, I worked with my administration and City Council to reduce costs in 2020.

2020 has been a difficult year. I'm thankful for our awesome community, for the support and leadership we have from our Councilmembers, and for the talented and caring City staff who help navigate these interesting times. While a difficult year, Monroe has grown stronger together. As we work through the challenges at hand, we're looking to the future with the 2021 Budget. Please take a moment to peruse the [2021 Recommended Budget](#) and my [2021 Budget Message](#). Council and I welcome your thoughts.

SECOND AND FINAL BUDGET HEARINGS SCHEDULED

As I shared in last week's edition of [Monroe This Week](#), the City has issued [notice](#) that a public hearing regarding the 2021 City of Monroe Budget will be held on Tuesday, October 20 at 7:00 p.m. This will be the second public hearing on the 2021 Budget. The [2021 Mayor's Recommended Budget](#) is available for public review on the [City's website](#), and at Monroe City Hall: 806 W.

Main Street, Monroe, WA, 98272. Residents who prefer to review a hard copy of the budget document will need to make an appointment in advance by calling the City's Customer Service Center at (360) 794-7400.

Yesterday, October 15, 2020, the City issued [notice](#) that the third and final public hearing regarding the 2021 City of Monroe Budget has been scheduled. This hearing will be held on Tuesday, October 27, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

A public comment period will be available during both public hearings, and anyone may provide public testimony during that



period. Written comments can also be submitted by emailing Becky Hasart, Finance Director/City Clerk, at BHasart@MonroeWA.gov, and must be received prior to the public hearing. Ms. Hasart may also be contacted via email or by phone at (360) 863-4518 for additional information.

The public hearing will be held via the Zoom remote meeting platform:

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89536855135>

Call in: (253) 215-8782

Meeting ID: 895 3685 5135

CITY ANNOUNCES SECOND ROUND OF COMMUNITY RELIEF GRANT

On Wednesday, October 14, the City of Monroe announced a second round of the Community Relief Grant. This second round will make available \$50,000 for Monroe non-profit organizations that serve our community's most vulnerable residents. Grants are anticipated to be awarded between \$5,000 and \$10,000.



As we continue to work through the COVID-19 pandemic, our highest priority remains getting our entire community up and running as quickly as possible and as safely as possible. Providing continued assistance for local non-profit agencies to provide basic services and meet the increased needs of Monroe's most vulnerable residents will help get us there.

Guidelines, eligibility information and the application for the Community Relief Grant can be found [here](#). Applications are due by 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 28. As detailed in the application packet, applications may be submitted via email, or mailed to City Hall.

LOCAL FIRE DISTRICT ANNOUNCES NAME CHANGE

On October 10, 2020, Snohomish County Fire District 7 officially became Snohomish Regional Fire and Rescue.

In October 2016, Monroe Fire District 3 merged into Snohomish County Fire District 7. During the 2019 August Primary Election, voters in Lake Stevens approved a merger with Snohomish County Fire District 7 by almost 80 percent. The two fire districts officially merged January 1, 2020.



From the beginning of merger discussions, the idea of renaming the fire district to represent the communities served by the newly merged districts has been at the forefront of many meetings. Bonding to the Snohomish County area and highlighting regional partnerships has been a long-standing value of both districts.

The merger between the fire districts has already improved service to the communities. Most notably in firefighter training, efficiencies in administrative services, and importantly, an increase in the fire district's ability to respond to large-scale emergencies like COVID-19.

While the district's name may have changed, its dedication to providing the highest level of service to our communities has not. Snohomish Regional Fire and Rescue is proud to continue to serve the Monroe community.

DOWNTON SIDEWALK SALE TOMORROW

Tomorrow, October 17, business retailers across the downtown core will move their inventory out into the fresh air for a [downtown-wide sidewalk sale](#) from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This event is intended to allow shoppers the opportunity to safely and responsibly shop and support some of their favorite local businesses, while enjoying a variety of discounted merchandise and other promotions.



Visitors will have the opportunity to stroll through downtown while patronizing local shops and boutiques. Tables with sale items will be placed in front of businesses, along with goodies and other great deals. Food vendors will be on

site, and the Chamber of Commerce will be distributing free tote bags.

Shoppers are asked to please wear facial coverings and remain six feet apart.

CITY SEEKS STORIES OF ACTS OF KINDNESS

As I shared in a July edition of [*Monroe This Week*](#), the City has launched a communication campaign entitled #WeAreMonroeWA. The goal of #WeAreMonroeWA is to elevate commonalities and shared values among Monroe residents, spark connections, and ultimately cultivate empathy that is grounded in shared humanity rather than circumstances. Similar to [Humans of New York](#), #WeAreMonroeWA features stories about the people who make Monroe the amazing community it is. Because we are all Monroe.



#WeAreMonroeWA

The initial focus of the #WeAreMonroeWA campaign is to spotlight acts of kindness and fun, highlighting the best of Monroe in these unprecedented times. Have a story to share? Email WeAreMonroeWA@MonroeWA.gov, or text (360) 722-1684. Please include a photo with your story submission, and if it is about a specific person, their contact information so the City can get their permission to share the story. For uplifting stories about our community, please follow the [WeAreMonroeWA Facebook page](#).

FRED MEYER SUPPORTS SKY VALLEY FOOD BANK

Earlier this week, the [Sky Valley Food Bank](#) took possession of their brand new 2020 Isuzu box truck. The first place the Food Bank team took their new vehicle was the Monroe Fred Meyer store. Why? Because Fred Meyer purchased the vehicle and donated it to the Food Bank. The City of Monroe extends sincere appreciation to Fred Meyer for its support of an important community service organization!



UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

The City Council will meet in a Study Session and Business Meeting on Tuesday, October 20, 2020. The meeting will be held via the Zoom remote meeting platform and participation information will be posted with the October 20 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 Rousey

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

