



MONROE THIS WEEK

October 9, 2020 • Vol 6/Edition 39



Thank you for reading Monroe This Week.

This week's edition provides details on a free flu shot event happening tomorrow, a US-2 trestle replacement survey, the 2021 City Budget second public hearing, the free and reduced-price school meal program, the K-12 Internet Access Program, a reminder about the 2020 Monroe Business Survey, and a lost animal rescued by the Monroe Police Department.



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



Mayor Geoffrey Thomas

GET YOUR FLU SHOT TOMORROW, FREE OF CHARGE

Sea Mar Community Health Center

and Molina Healthcare are working together to provide free flu shots to uninsured adults and children here in Monroe. Tomorrow, Saturday, October 10, Sea Mar will be hosting a Free Flu Shot Event from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at their clinic at 17707 W. Main Street. Registration is preferred, but walk-ins are welcome. While focused on uninsured residents, insured individuals are also welcome. A Sea Mar Community Resource Navigator will be available to answer any questions regarding Basic Food, Health Insurance, Sea Mar services, and community resources. To register for your free flu shot, please call Sea Mar at (855) 289-4503.



STATE SEEKING RESIDENT INPUT ON TRESTLE FUTURE

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is analyzing

the future of the westbound US-2 trestle. With the significant population growth recently in Snohomish County, the westbound trestle is busier and more congested. As stated by WSDOT, the existing structure does not have enough lanes to handle current usual daily needs or future traffic demands, and a lack of dedicated HOV or other managed lanes give travelers no incentive to use modes of transportation other than individual vehicles.



A panel of traffic engineers, transit experts, and land use planners, along with elected representatives, studied more than 40 replacement concepts. Two concepts emerged as the most feasible and were selected for additional evaluation:

1. A new four-lane trestle, with three general purpose lanes and an HOV lane for carpools and buses. (pictured above)
2. A new trestle with three general purpose lanes, one of which becomes a short HOV/bus bypass lane at the I-5 interchange. (pictured at right)



WSDOT is seeking public input on the replacement options, as well as funding options. As the trestle is the only direct highway link between the Sky Valley and I-5, it is important that the voices of Monroe residents are heard. Please consider taking the approximately eight-minute survey, which is available in English, Spanish, and Russian; the survey is open until October 16. More information and the survey itself can be found [here](#).

2021 CITY BUDGET SECOND PUBLIC HEARING

Today, October 9, 2020, the City issued [notice](#) that a public hearing will be held on Tuesday, October 20 at 7:00 p.m. regarding the 2021 City of Monroe Budget. This will be the second public hearing on the 2021 budget. As I shared in a recent edition of [Monroe This Week](#), the first public hearing will be this coming Tuesday, October 13, also at 7:00 p.m., during which my recommended budget will be presented to the City Council. The 2021 Recommended Budget will be available for public review beginning on October 14, 2020 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 will need to make an appointment in advance by calling the City's Customer Service Center at (360) 794-7400.



A public comment period will be available during the public hearing, 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; written comments 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

APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE MEAL PROGRAMS

As the economic impacts of COVID-19 continue, more families have taken advantage of free and reduced-price meals provided by school districts. Due to waivers granted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), school districts in Washington were able to provide such programs to all children aged 0-18, or older if enrolled in the K-12 school system. However, these waivers are currently



only available through December 2020, and many students will still need access to free or reduced-price meals from their school. The [Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction](#) in our state strongly encourages families to complete a School Meal Application. This application determines a student's eligibility for free and reduced-price meals. The application process is simple and confidential, and there is no citizenship requirement for participation; immigration status is not requested or disclosed. All households with students in grades K-12 received an application packet at the beginning of the school year, and applications can also be submitted [online](#); details on eligibility criteria can also be found at that link. Applications for free and reduced-price meals can be submitted at any time during the school year. Households that experience a change in income due to job loss or other circumstances are encouraged to apply.

INTERNET ACCESS AVAILABLE FOR K-12 FAMILIES

The [Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction](#) (OSPI) is helping to make internet access



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

available to the homes of low-income K-12 students. OSPI recently entered into contracts with internet providers Comcast, Zply Fiber, and Presidio as part of its K-12 Internet Access Program. Through this program, OSPI will be able to provide internet access to up to 60,000 students and their families, to ensure students have the tools needed for online learning. This program is available to students whose families are low-income and are not currently connected to the internet. Once enrolled, internet access will be provided to the family through the end of the 2020-21 school year. For eligibility criteria, questions and answers, and to apply, visit the [program website](#).

REMINDER: 2020 MONROE BUSINESS SURVEY OPEN

The 2020 Monroe Business Survey is currently open. Monroe business owners and managers are encouraged to participate; this year, participation is more important than ever. Businesses and residents are facing unprecedented challenges brought on by COVID-19, such as shut downs, drop in consumer demand, travel restrictions, and more; the survey helps zero in on the impacts of these issues. Survey results will assist the City Council and myself to craft policies and programs aimed at relief and support. The survey will take approximately 25 to 30 minutes to complete. Results will be published on the [City's website](#) following completion of the survey. No personal or contact information will be included in the published results, and all response data is protected. If you are a local business owner or manager, please [take the survey](#) today!



BABY KANGAROO HOPS AWAY FROM OWNER,

RECOVERED BY MONROE POLICE

At approximately 6:00 a.m. on the morning of Tuesday, October 6, the Monroe Police Department received a call reporting a lost baby kangaroo. Jack, a red kangaroo joey (the term for a baby kangaroo) purchased from a kangaroo farm in Arlington, was brought to Monroe by its owner, who was visiting a friend. That morning, Jack hopped away while out to use the bathroom. Monroe Police utilized its drone to search for Jack, but were unsuccessful and began a door to door search. Jack was located in the early afternoon hours in a nearby carport. Exotic animal experts assisted to corral Jack and administer calming medication. Monroe's Animal Control Officer transported Jack to an animal hospital in Fall City for treatment. Police Chief Jeff Jolley briefed the City Council on the department's effort that evening at the Council's [Study Session Meeting](#). The Council and I extend our sincere thanks to Chief Jolley and his team for their swift response and treatment of this frightened animal.



UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

The City Council will meet in a Regular Business Meeting on Tuesday, October 13, 2020. The meeting will be held via the Zoom remote meeting platform and participation information will be posted with the October 13 agenda, which can be accessed by clicking the button below.

[Council Agendas/Minutes](#)

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS



Councilmember
Patsy Cudaback



Councilmember
Kevin Hanford



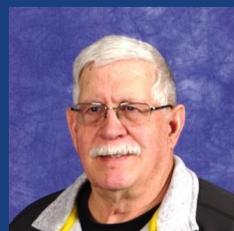
Councilmember
Ed Davis



Councilmember



Councilmember



Councilmember



Councilmember

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

