



MONROE THIS WEEK

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MAY THE FOURTH
OF EARTHQUAKE EARLY WARNING
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Thank you for reading Monroe This Week.

This week's edition includes details on the City's position on Senate Bill 5476, the City's request for federal Community Project Funding, the Spring/Summer 2021 edition of the Choose Monroe magazine, an Earth Day Shoreline Cleanup event, the ShakeAlert Earthquake Early Warning System, the First Annual Wiggly Walk, and a save the date for Monroe's first annual PRIDE event.



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 REQUESTS STATE LEGISLATURE MAINTAIN LEGAL CONSEQUENCES FOR DRUG POSSESSION

Earlier this year, the state Supreme Court issued a ruling in the case of [State v. Blake](#), which declared unconstitutional Washington's strict liability drug possession statute. This statute had criminalized the unintentional, unknowing possession of controlled substances without a prescription. Addressing the decision, a bill has been proposed in the state senate, [SB 5476](#), would define the possession of controlled substances at or below established amounts as legal for personal use. This week, the City sent a letter to our 39th District legislators - Representatives Carolyn Eslick and Robert Sutherland, and Senator Keith Wagoner - as well as the members of the Senate Rules Committee and House Public Safety Committee, requesting the legislature maintain legal consequences for the possession of controlled substances below the felony level.



To be clear, the City of Monroe has had several positive outcomes where people have accepted treatment for chemical dependency as an alternative to legal penalties, and the City supports a comprehensive approach to address issues related to homelessness, poverty, chemical dependency, mental health, behavioral health, and other issues. Further, the City agrees that there needs to be better ways to help people enter into a path of treatment. We also recognize that people frequently refuse assistance for treatment when it is offered, and that our social services system does not adequately recognize and provide a path for involuntary treatment from chemical dependency when it is clearly adversely affecting someone's health and wellbeing. When voluntary and involuntary treatment options do not work, it is a consequence within the legal and court system that frequently leads someone down the path of treatment and recovery.

The full text of the letter is available [here](#).

CITY REQUESTS FEDERAL FUNDING SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS

The City recently responded to an invitation from [Representative Suzan DelBene](#) to submit requests for Community Project Funding.

Members of Congress have the opportunity this year to request Community Project Funding for projects in the local communities in the member's district. Community Project Funding awards will utilize the Congressional Member's deep, first-hand understanding of the needs of their district to help local communities complete important public infrastructure projects. In its request, the City requested funds for the following four projects:



1. State Route 522 Widening and Interchange
2. Cadman Park Development
3. Railroad Crossing Improvements
4. Municipal Campus Improvements

I thank Representative DelBene for the invitation to request Community Project Funding, and for her great support of Monroe in the federal Congress.

CHOOSE MONROE MAGAZINE DELIVERED TO MONROE RESIDENTS TODAY

The Spring/Summer 2021 issue of the Choose Monroe magazine will be arriving in the mailboxes of Monroe residents today! In this edition, readers will find details on farm-to-table produce, as well as local outdoor recreation, adventures, and camping/rv-ing. Not a Monroe resident? Not a problem! Copies will be available at several of your local businesses, the Monroe Visitor Information Center, and at the Informational Stacker at Lake Tye Park.



SHORELINE CLEANUP HAPPENING THIS EARTH DAY

[Snohomish County Marine Resources Committee](#) and [WSU Extension Snohomish County](#) are hosting a Shoreline Cleanup on April 22 in



commemoration of Earth Day. Residents are encouraged to grab a bag and pick up litter from a local shoreline any time before Earth Day, which is on April 22. Whether you choose a location along Puget Sound, a river, or a lake, you will be helping to reduce the amount of plastic and other litter in our local waterways. On Earth Day, litter can be brought to any of five disposal and sorting locations. Volunteers will be on-site at each location from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. to collect and sort litter, to better understand how it affects our environment. Monroe's disposal and sorting location is [Fairfield County Park](#)

at 15532 Fryelands Blvd SE. More details and additional disposal and sorting sites can be found [here](#).

EARLY EARTHQUAKE WARNING SYSTEM COMING MAY 4

On Tuesday, May 4, the ShakeAlert Earthquake Early Warning system [will go live in Washington](#). Rollout in Washington will complete the implementation of this new technology along the entire West Coast. It's important to note that ShakeAlert is not an earthquake prediction system; it detects earthquakes that have already begun, rapidly estimates the shaking they will create, and sends an alert to areas which will receive shaking. Alerts will be sent over the commercial cellular systems. To check that your mobile device has emergency alerts activated, follow [these steps](#).



CITY SPONSORING FIRST ANNUAL WIGGLY WALK

Grab your furry friends and join us at the [First Annual Wiggly Walk](#). All well behaved, friendly dogs (and their people) are welcome to walk, wag, shop and eat through Sky River Park on Saturday, June 26. The City is sponsoring the event in partnership with the [Monroe Chamber of Commerce](#) and [Beck's Place](#).

The Wiggly Walk will feature pet friendly vendors, a food truck, doggy kissing booth and more; a pet food donation drive will also be taking place. Proceeds will benefit Beck's Place, which provides animal and human support services to low-income families in order to enable them to stay together with their pets. If you're not able to attend the Wiggly Walk, donations can be made directly to Beck's Place, which is in need of non-expired animal food and dog leashes.



SAVE THE DATE: FIRST ANNUAL MONROE PRIDE EVENT SET FOR JUNE 27

The Monroe Equity Council has announced it will be hosting Monroe's first annual PRIDE event on Sunday, June 27 at Sky River Park. The Equity Council is currently seeking volunteers, sponsors, and vendors. To contact the Equity Council about participation opportunities, and for future event announcements, visit the Equity Council's [Facebook page](#).



UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

The City Council will next meet in a Regular Study Session Meeting on Tuesday, April 20, 2021. The meeting will be held via the Zoom remote meeting platform and participation information will be posted with the April 20 agenda, which can be accessed by clicking the button below.

[Council Agendas/Minutes](#)

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS



Councilmember

Councilmember

Councilmember

Patsy Cudaback

Kevin Hanford

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



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