



MONROE THIS WEEK

May 14, 2021 • Volume 7/Edition 19



Thank you for reading Monroe This Week.

This week's edition includes details on the 2021 State of the City Address, the City seeking input in the use of American Rescue Plan Act funds, the draft Housing Action Plan being made available for public comment, the return of the City's flowering landscapes, our local recognitions of National Law Enforcement Recognition Week and Public Works Week, and a new tool to help you plan ahead for any emergency.



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

STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS: WHY WE #CHOOSEMONROE

On Tuesday, May 11, I presented the 2021 State of the City Address to the Monroe Chamber of Commerce. In the presentation, I provided updates on early 2020 City Operations; the impacts of COVID-19 and the City's ongoing response; legislative advocacy; maintaining essential City services; upcoming projects; and COVID-19 recovery, reconnecting, and building resiliency.



We've done a lot as a community and as a City in the last year. I am grateful for so many people who have come together during a unique time to not only meet unprecedented challenges, but also to continue doing the business of our City - this is why we **#ChooseMonroe** to live, work, and recreate. The presentation I shared during the address is available [here](#).



CITY SEEKING INPUT ON USE OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), enacted earlier this year, provides funds to cities to support recovery from COVID-19. The City of Monroe is currently developing a plan to utilize its ARPA funds, and we are seeking input from the local community. There are three categories of allowable uses of ARPA funds:



1. Response to COVID-19
2. Public Health Response
3. Economic Recovery

In addition to these categories, the City of Monroe anticipates awarding funds for projects and programs that meet three strategic priorities:

1. **Supporting Recovery:** People and businesses are hurting. Businesses need capital to reopen doors, and people need assistance with rent,

mortgage payments, utilities, and skills development to match them to available jobs.

2. **Reconnecting Community:** COVID-19 has forced us into social distancing, isolation and quarantine. These conditions may foster widespread anxiety and loneliness in our community. However, they've also made the need for socially connected, vibrant public spaces, such as city parks, and community events obvious to everyone.
3. **Building Resiliency:** Investment in critical infrastructure is particularly well-suited for use of ARPA funds because it is a non-recurring expenditure that can be targeted to strategically important long-term assets that provide benefits over many years. When we invest in resiliency and build stronger systems, we can save more in reactive response when disaster strikes.

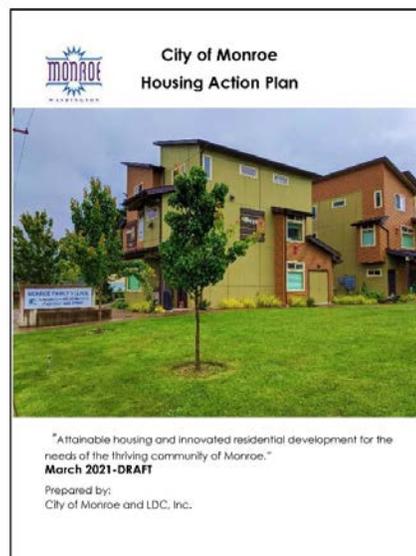
To help us determine the projects and initiatives to which we dedicate APRA funds, the City has engaged with stakeholders across industry sectors, and we've asked:

1. What programs can we invest in to help our most needy residents and businesses?
2. What activities, events, and programs can we support to bring children, seniors, and others isolated during the pandemic back into public spaces?
3. How can the city use funding to support the arts, and performance venues closed during the pandemic?
4. What have we learned from COVID-19, and how can we be better prepared for the future?

I invite you to email me at GThomas@MonroeWA.gov with suggestions or questions.

DRAFT HOUSING ACTION PLAN (HAP) AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The City of Monroe has completed the public draft of the City's Housing Action Plan (HAP), which is now available for public comment. The goal of the HAP is to promote housing diversity, affordability, and opportunity for all income levels. The proposed housing strategies in the HAP were derived from the data obtained from the Housing Needs Assessment, Stakeholder Advisory Committee, Planning Commission, Community Human Services Advisory Board, and public comments. The City received a grant from the Department of Commerce to aid in this endeavor.



We want to hear from you! Visit the [HAP project page](#) to review the document and make comments.

The City is excited to draft this very important document to address the affordable housing crisis. Your comments are always welcome. For more information on this project or to provide comments, contact Anita Marrero, Senior Planner, at (360) 863-4513 or AMarrero@MonroeWA.gov.

FLOWERING LANDSCAPE RETURNS, THANKS TO THE SUPPORT OF MANY

Several Monroe businesses and organizations from our community graciously stepped forward again this year to help the City achieve flowering landscape throughout the City. Through their donations and volunteer hours, we are able to provide beautifully landscaped islands, planter pots and hanging baskets around town. These help to provide a warm welcome to visitors and residents alike.



Total value for these donations and volunteer labor exceeds \$2,500.

I would like to extend the sincere appreciation of myself, Parks & Recreation Director Mike Farrell, and the Monroe Parks Board to the following:



Downtown Hanging Baskets

- Monroe Garden Club: \$300 donation to the City for the flower program and for planting the flowers in the hanging baskets.
- Pine Creek Nursery for supplying the flowers for the hanging baskets at a discount.
- Monroe Lowes for supplying the potting soil at a discount.

Downtown Planter Pots

- Republic Services: \$500 donation to the City for the flower program.
- Downtown Monroe Association and Teresa Willard, Keller Williams Realtor, for planting new flowers in the planter pots.

Main & Lewis Street Islands Landscape Ends

- Monroe Reformatory for growing 3,000 flowers from seed to be installed in June by work crew.

CITY OBSERVES NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT RECOGNITION WEEK

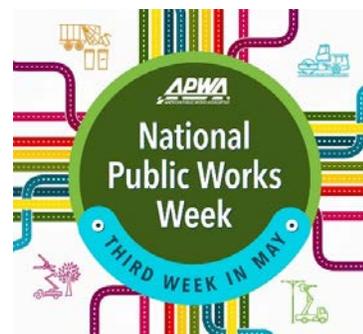
This week I issued a [Proclamation](#) recognizing May 9-15, 2021 as National Law Enforcement

Recognition Week. I am thankful for every person serving within our Monroe Police Department. They serve and protect our community every minute of the day, and every day of the week. Amid the challenges of 2020 to today, our family of officers, staff, and leadership have demonstrated and continue to model compassion, resilience, professionalism, and integrity. I encourage you to read the full text of the Proclamation, and I ask residents and employers to join me in thanking our law enforcement personnel who serve in our community, and in honoring and remembering fallen law enforcement and their families.



CITY TO RECOGNIZE NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK

This week I issued a [Proclamation](#) recognizing May 16-22, 2021 as [Public Works Week](#). Marking the 61st annual celebration, Public Works Week honors our local professionals whose careers focus on infrastructure, facilities and services that are of vital importance. These civic and private sector engineers, project managers and their teams help ensure sustainable and resilient communities. “Stronger Together,” the theme for Public Works Week 2021, encourages all Americans to think about the role public works plays in creating great places to live. Here in Monroe, these dedicated professionals contribute greatly to the public health, high quality of life and well-being of our families and our neighbors; the City of Monroe is appreciative of the essential employees of our Public Works Department, who have maintained a high level of customer service, and a commitment to public safety and operable utilities and infrastructure throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. I encourage you to read the full text of the Proclamation, and next week join the [American Public Works Association](#) and our local government agencies in paying tribute to our public works professionals.



PLAN AHEAD FOR EMERGENCIES

Over 80% of calls made to 9-1-1 come from mobile phones. While mobile phones can be an important public safety tool, they can also create unique challenges for emergency responders. When you dial 9-1-1 from a mobile phone, in most cases, the 9-1-1 call taker has very little information to help you – only your phone number and a very general sense of your location. This may not help in an emergency when seconds count, particularly if you or your loved ones have medical conditions, or if there is a fire. [Smart 911](#) can help save precious seconds in emergency situations. Smart 911 allows residents to provide the additional details that 9-1-1 call



Smart911TM

takers may need in order to assist them during an emergency. With Smart 911, anytime you make an emergency call from a phone registered with your Safety Profile, the 9-1-1 system recognizes your phone number and automatically displays your profile on the screen of the call taker who receives your call. At a time when you may be panicked, unable to communicate, or it could be unsafe to communicate, Smart 911 ensures that the details you would need to tell 9-1-1 are immediately available in the event you cannot verbally provide them. Smart 911 utilizes the highest standards in physical and computer security technologies, and conducts regular audits to ensure all information held in Smart 911 is kept secure and only made available to 9-1-1 and emergency responders.

UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

The May 18, 2021 Monroe City Council Study Session Meeting has been CANCELLED. The Monroe Transportation Benefit District Board (TBDB) will hold a **Special Meeting** on the evening of May 18 at 6:00 p.m.

The City Council will next meet in a Regular Business Meeting on Tuesday, May 25, 2021.

Both the May 18 TBDB Special Meeting and the May 25 City Council Meeting will be held via the Zoom remote meeting platform. Participation information for both meetings will be posted with the respective agendas, which can be accessed by clicking the button below.

Council Agendas/Minutes

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS



Councilmember
Patsy Cudaback



Councilmember
Kevin Hanford



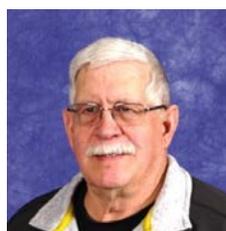
Councilmember
Ed Davis



Councilmember



Councilmember



Councilmember



Councilmember

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



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