



# MONROE THIS WEEK

March 18, 2022 • Volume 8/Edition 11



*Thank you for reading Monroe This Week.*

*This week's edition includes my statement condemning the recent hate speech found in Monroe; details on joining one of the City's Boards, Commissions, or Committees; how to find help through the Sky Valley Resource Guide; recent funding for updates to SR522; the Monroe Equity Council's announcement of the second annual PRIDE event; and Fred Meyer's recent efforts to help out 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](mailto:GThomas@MonroeWA.gov).*

*Yours in Service,*



*Mayor Geoffrey Thomas*

## STANDING AGAINST RACISM AND HATRED

Racist hate speech was found scrawled across property in Monroe last Friday, March 11. The [Monroe Police Department](#) is now investigating.



I outright condemn the white supremacist message conveyed in this hate speech. I outright condemn those cultural norms and philosophies that some people use to bully, abuse, and subjugate other people.

The ideal that “We the People” have natural rights to “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness” means ALL people have these natural rights – not just people of one identity. The ideal that we are to “love our neighbor” means we should show love to ALL our neighbors – not just people of one identity. Together, we must both uphold and surpass these ideals – to do otherwise, including to allow racist hate speech to go unanswered, is to oppose some of the most cherished truths that we claim as Americans, but moreover that we must claim as human beings.

Our city stands against racism and hatred. In 2020, the City Council and I collectively expressed this in a [joint statement](#). Every day, we are working to improve and to place these words into action.

People of every race, gender, gender identify, religion, culture, and other lived experiences are welcome in Monroe. As a city, we will take all steps necessary to ensure that Monroe is a safe place for everyone to call home and for everyone to know they belong.

If you have any information related this matter, please contact the Monroe Police Department at **360-794-6300**.

## SERVE ON A BOARD, COMMISSION, OR COMMITTEE

As I've shared recently here in *Monroe This Week*, the City has openings on multiple Boards, Commissions and Committees. Are you looking for ways to serve the community

you live in? We currently have the following vacancies:

- 1 - Economic Development Advisory Board (4-year term ending 12/2025)
- 3 - Salary Commission (two 3-year terms ending 12/2023; two mid-term vacancies ending 12/2022)
- 2 - Park Board (4-year terms ending 12/2025)
- 1 - Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (membership reviewed annually)



For more information on the duties of each board or commission, please visit our [Boards, Commissions, and Committees](#) page. To apply, please visit our Boards, Commissions, and Committees [vacancies](#) page. More vacancies are anticipated to open in January.

## CITY PROVIDES COMMUNITY RESOURCE FLYER

Are you in need of help? Many of our community members are feeling squeezed by rising costs. The City has created a list of resources featuring local non-profit service providers that can connect you with:

- Food
- Housing and shelter options
- Addiction treatment
- Mental health support
- Crisis hotlines
- Domestic violence support
- Pet care
- Other services



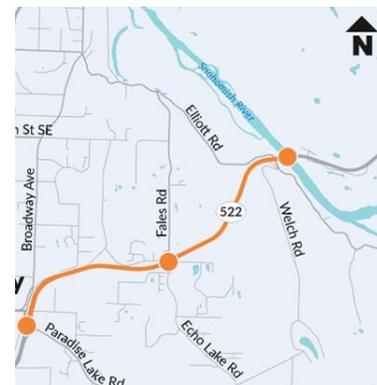
#WeAreMonroeWA

You can view the Sky Valley Resource Guide [here](#), or find more support on our [Human Services page](#).

## MOVE AHEAD WASHINGTON PACKAGE PROVIDES \$10 MILLION IN FUNDING FOR SR522

The Move Ahead Washington transportation budget package was recently approved by the Legislature. The package includes an additional \$10 million dollars in funding to continue working on the design and finish SR522.

While there is still a funding gap between what is needed to fix SR522 between Paradise Lake Road and the Snohomish River, the legislature's support during this most recent session is another step in



the right direction. In mid-February, the City Council and I sent a letter to Senators Brad Hawkins, Marco Liias, John Lovick, and Curtis King expressing the community support for the \$10 million in allocated funds, and to request the funding gap be closed in the future so that additional lanes can finally be added to SR522.

#### **Finish SR522 Project Funding History:**

2017-2019 – \$750,000 traffic analysis and design work

2019-2021 – \$12.8 million environmental impact analysis, right of way property acquisition, additional design analysis

2021 – \$10 million for right of way property acquisition

2022 – \$10 million for tasks not yet identified by the Legislature

**Funds Committed Thus Far – \$33.55 million**

**Total Project Estimate – \$157 million**

To learn more about the SR522 project please visit the [WSDOT web page](#).

## **SAVE THE DATE: SECOND ANNUAL MONROE PRIDE EVENT SET FOR JUNE 12**

The Monroe Equity Council has announced it will be hosting Monroe's second annual PRIDE event on Sunday, June 12 from 12:00 - 4:00 p.m. at Sky River Park. The Equity Council is very excited to bring this event back and will be seeking volunteers, sponsors, and vendors soon. To contact the Equity Council about participation opportunities, and for future event announcements, visit the Equity Council's [Facebook page](#).



## **NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS**

The Sky Valley Food Bank would like to send a huge thank you to [Fred Meyer](#) here in Monroe for holding a massive food drive for them. In just one weekend, they collected over 1,800 pounds

of non-perishables that the Food Bank desperately needed for their shelves. It took three van trips to collect it all, and filled up the entire warehouse sorting area. Volunteers were thrilled to see such an abundance to sort through, and the Food Bank's customers now have a wonderful selection to choose from. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this drive, and another special thank you to Fred Meyer and the Sky Valley Food Bank for being such wonderful community resources and partners.



## UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

The City Council will next meet in a Regular Business Meeting on Tuesday, March 22, 2022. The meeting will be held in a hybrid format; members of the public may participate in Monroe City Council meetings both in-person at City Hall and remotely via the Zoom remote meeting platform. Participation information will be posted with the March 22 agenda, which can be accessed by clicking the button below.

[Council Agendas/Minutes](#)

## CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS



Councilmember  
Kevin Hanford



Councilmember  
Ed Davis



Councilmember  
Jason Gamble



Councilmember  
Kirk Scarboro

Councilmember  
Heather Fulcher

Councilmember  
Tami Kinney

Councilmember  
Kyle Fisher

Have a question for your Councilmembers?  
Contact them at [Councilmembers@MonroeWA.gov](mailto:Councilmembers@MonroeWA.gov)



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