



MONROE THIS WEEK

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Thank you for reading Monroe This Week.

This week's edition includes details on the new Municipal Campus flag plaza, local recognition of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, Comprehensive Plan amendment requests now being accepted, the return of flowering landscapes around the city, the local recognition of Building Safety Month, a recap of last week's Arbor Day and Earth Day celebration and the Battle of the Badges charity softball game, the local recognition of National Day of Prayer, Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue's adult and senior safety class next Wednesday, the Monroe Community Senior Center's Spring Craft and Vendor Fair tomorrow, and a summary of the May 3 City Council meeting.



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

CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY ON MUNICIPAL CAMPUS FLAG PLAZA

Construction for the new flag plaza at the Monroe Municipal Campus is underway. The new gathering area in front of Monroe City Hall will include three 35-foot flagpoles with lighting that will bring the City's flag displays into compliance with applicable rules and codes. Additional benches and an outdoor gathering space will be constructed as a part of the completed project. The United States, Washington, and City of Monroe flags will be predominantly displayed year-round. Flags signifying annual celebrations, acknowledging special events, or in support of veterans and remembrance of those that have served will be displayed throughout the year.



CITY RECOGNIZES ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

At the May 3 Regular Study Session Meeting of the Monroe City Council, I issued a [Proclamation](#) recognizing the month of May as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month has been observed in the United States since 1978. Approximately 50 ethnic groups, speaking over 100



languages with over 1,000 dialects, make up the Asian and Pacific Islander community. It is crucial that *We The People* remember that Americans' history and America's experience would not have been realized but for the contributions of people from all different races, cultures, genders, religions, economic classes, and lived experiences, and we are a better people and a better community as a result of the lived experiences that residents and fellow Americans of Asian and Pacific Islander ancestry share with our diverse nation.

I invite you to read the text of the Proclamation, and I call upon everyone to:

- Listen to voices of Americans of Asian and Pacific Islander ancestry
- Honor the legacy and memory of their ancestors, who contributed to the communities we live in today and connected our country from sea to shining sea
- Acknowledge the injustices that have injured and continue to injure Americans of Asian and Pacific Islander ancestry both today and within our nation's history
- #StopAsianHate by condemning and confronting prejudice, bigotry, and violence against residents and fellow Americans of Asian and Pacific Islander ancestry
- Love our neighbors by working to and realizing liberty and justice for all people

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED

The City of Monroe is now accepting "Citizen-Initiated" requests to amend the City of Monroe 2015-2035 Comprehensive Plan. The amendments will be considered as part of the City's 2022-2023 Plan amendment cycle. The deadline for submitting Comprehensive Plan amendment requests for this amendment cycle is **5:00 p.m., Friday, July 29, 2022.**



The comprehensive plan evaluates growth and land use changes for the city on a 20-year planning horizon and represents the primary framework for policy formulation and decision making over time. This will be the only opportunity for plan amendment requests to be considered during the 2022-2023 Comprehensive Plan amendment cycle. The 2022-2023 plan amendment cycle is anticipated to conclude with final City Council action before or during July 2023. Please visit our [Comprehensive Plan Amendments page](#) to fill out a request and more information.

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.

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

- [Downtown Monroe Association](#) and Teresa Willard for planting new flowers in the planter pots
- [Lowes](#) for supplying the potting soil
- [Monroe Garden Club](#) for their donation to the City's flower program and for planting the flowers in the hanging basket
- [Monroe Reformatory](#) for helping to plant the flowers
- [Pine Creek Nursery](#) for supplying the flowers for the hanging baskets at a discount
- [Republic Services](#) for their donation to the City's flower program



MAY IS BUILDING SAFETY MONTH - CITY RECOGNIZES IMPORTANCE OF SAFE BUILDINGS

Here in Monroe, we recognize that our growth and strength depends on the safety and economic value of our homes, buildings, and infrastructure. These buildings serve our residents, both in everyday life and in times of natural disaster, and our confidence in the structural integrity of these buildings that make up our community is achieved through the great work and devotion of diligent professionals. The City of Monroe is especially appreciative of our building and planning professionals, who have maintained a high level of customer service and commitment to public safety throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

The theme of Building Safety Month 2022 is “Safety for All: Building Codes in Action”. The International Code Council has designated each week of May as a different building safety theme to help raise awareness. This week's theme is Energy and Innovation. Energy fuels our lives; yet, energy use and associated greenhouse gas emissions can pose significant challenges to communities, homeowners and renters, and business owners. For example:

- Americans currently spend more than \$200 billion annually on energy bills
- Energy use impacts housing affordability. Low-income households spend three times as much on energy bills as higher

income households

- Globally, buildings and building construction sectors combined are responsible for over one-third of global final energy consumption and nearly 40 percent of total direct and indirect CO2 emissions

Building energy codes are at the core of improving energy efficiency and resiliency in the built environment. These codes contribute to the health, safety and welfare of communities and their residents by reducing energy bills, improving occupant and community health, enhancing resilience from natural and man-made hazards, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

This week I issued a [Proclamation](#) recognizing the month of May as Building Safety Month. I encourage you to read the full text of the Proclamation and check out the ICC's resources for the week including their [10 Important Tips To Remember for Energy Efficient Homes](#).



SUCCESSFUL ARBOR DAY & EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

Thank you to everyone who joined me last Friday for a sunny Arbor Day and Earth Day Celebration at Lake Tye Park.

The City of Monroe recognizes the benefits of its urban forests for improving air and water quality, providing vegetative buffers to development, producing habitat for wildlife, and generally enhancing the quality of life. We proudly celebrate Monroe as a 4-Year Tree City USA.



Mrs. Tenney's 3rd grade class from Fryelands Elementary helped me plant a Pacific Sunset Maple which was donated by a Group of Gardening Friends in honor of the [Monroe Garden Club](#). We look forward to watching the tree grow in the years to come.

Imagine Monroe aspires that the City of Monroe is and will continue to be a "lively center surrounded by nature... A place of beauty..." where our "parks, waterways, and environment are healthy and accessible for everyone to enjoy...", where "we strengthen connections through gathering spaces" that create "a safe place for all" to call home and to belong. Our annual

celebrations of Arbor Day and Earth Day, as well as our ongoing Tree City USA status, support this community aspiration.

A BATTLE OF THE BADGES FOR THE BOOKS

This past Sunday, the [Monroe Police Department](#) “Battled for the Badge” against [Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue](#) in support of [Big Heart Big Smile Foundation](#), created in memory of an amazing 6-year-old girl, Kaci Edelbrock. The game was an exciting one, but in the end our Police Officers topped the Firefighters by a score of 16-12. Our very own, Sgt. Jake Carswell, was awarded Team MVP. Chief of Police Jeff Jolley and Fire Chief Kevin O’Brien captained both their teams for the event. Both kicked off the ceremonies with an opening pitch. A special thanks to Dave Sivewright (Freedom Runner) who posted the colors for the event.



CITY RECOGNIZES NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

The last year has been difficult for so many. People have lost jobs and businesses, families and friends. Divisions among people and communities have become more prominent and painful. It has been a year of hurt and sorrow for many.



On May 3, I issued a [Proclamation](#) recognizing National Day of Prayer. On National Day of Prayer, I asked every resident to remember and honor people we have lost, and give thanks for the many people who have helped us through this difficult year. I called upon every resident to pray for, and actively seek to develop and enhance Love, Unity, Understanding, and Peace with one another, within our community, and across our country. With Love, Unity, Understanding, and Peace, we will build one another up on our road to recovery, and build ourselves as a stronger country and a stronger people.

SRFR'S ADULT & SENIOR SAFETY CLASS WEDNESDAY

There are still spots available in Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue's next Adult & Senior Safety class, Aging in Place, on **Wednesday, May 11th at 6:00 p.m.** Learn about falls prevention, medication safety, and fire safety! Sign up today on their [website](#).



MCSC'S CRAFT & VENDOR FAIR TOMORROW

The Monroe Community Senior Center is holding a Spring Craft & Vendor Fair tomorrow from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Open to the public with free parking and admission, this is a great way to spend your Saturday. There will be something for everyone including gifts, crafts, plants, homemade decor, fashion, jewelry and more!



MAY 3 CITY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

City Administrator Deborah Knight reported:

- Governor Inslee has rescinded Resolution 20-28 related to in-person public meetings and in-person public records requests effective June 1, 2022, and said that staff is working on transition plans including preparing for boards and commissions to go to hybrid meetings.
- Rail service delays are impacting municipal solid waste disposal, and staff is looking at contingency plans if this affects our collector's ability to collect waste from our residents.
- New gateway signs are scheduled to be installed at the W. Main Street roundabout and Lewis Street Park during the week of May 23.
- Provided a breakdown of ARP applications and amounts requested by project category.
- Requested a motion to cancel the May 17 Study Session meeting. Council made and approved the motion.



Announcements/Presentations:

- I distributed copies of a Proclamation recognizing May 8 as **Mother's Day**, and stated that I also issued proclamations for **National Correctional Officers and Employees Week**, **Professional Municipal Clerks Week**, and Building Safety Month.
- Senator Keith Wagoner & Representative Carolyn Eslick provided a legislative update and spoke to bills that passed and failed, including

but not limited to: police reform, the state budget, climate impacts, mental health, and the Long-Term Care Act.

- Trevor Justin, with the City's contracted legislative lobbyist firm Strategies 360, gave an update on the 2022 Legislative Session, focusing on Monroe's legislative priorities of #Finish522, park funding, police reform, and culvert/fish barrier removal.

Discussion Items:

- Public Works Director Jakeh Roberts gave a presentation on proposed amendments to [Chapter 12](#) of the Monroe Municipal Code, which would remand Right of Way variances to the Hearing Examiner, which is in line with other sections of code related to variances.

UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

The City Council will meet in a Regular Business Meeting on Tuesday, May 10, 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 May 10 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



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