



MONROE THIS WEEK

October 7, 2022 • Volume 8/Edition 40

OCTOBER

A pink awareness ribbon is positioned over the letter "O" in the word "OCTOBER". The ribbon is tied in a loop and has a soft shadow beneath it.

Thank you for reading Monroe This Week.

This week's edition includes details on the release of my 2023-2024 Recommended Budget, retirements and promotions in the Monroe Police Department, the kickoff of the US-2 Shared Path Project, added safety measures in City parks, National Walk, Bike and Roll to School Day next week, the Future of Arts and Culture Projects Resident & Visitor Survey, Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue's Open House next weekend, the recognition of October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and a summary of the October 4 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

MAYOR'S 2023-24 RECOMMENDED BUDGET RELEASED

It is with great pleasure that I announce that the 2023-2024 Mayor's Recommended Biennial Budget is now available for review. This document is the culmination of a significantly collaborative and inclusive process that included our City Council, the Planning Commission, the Park Board, the Economic Development Advisory Board, the Community Human Services Advisory Board, and City staff at all levels of the organization. If you are interested in reviewing this document, you can download it from our website [here](#). If you would like to share your thoughts on the 2023-2024 Recommended Budget, the next public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, October 11 at 7:00 p.m. during the City Council's meeting.



City of Monroe
2023-2024 Mayor's
Recommended Budget

RETIREMENTS & PROMOTIONS IN THE MONROE PD

At the October 4 City Council meeting, Police Chief Jeff Jolley recognized K9 'Sam', who retired from service effective September 1, 2022. Since graduating the Pacific Coast K9 School in Custer, WA in 2017, K9 'Sam' has been partnered with Officer Devin Tucker. Specialized in narcotics detection, K9 'Sam' has provided narcotics applications to many law enforcement agencies across the Puget Sound. Considered their most notable application, in May of 2020, K9 'Sam' helped detect more than 2 kilos of heroin, over 900 fentanyl pills, and over 1,000 grams of meth. A search warrant in the case yielded an additional \$22,000 in cash as well as two firearms. K9 'Sam' has served the community of Monroe with honor and dedication. In retirement, K9 'Sam' will continue to reside with Officer Tucker, maintaining their companionship and loyal bond for years to come.



The Monroe Police Department is pleased to announce the promotion of Derrick Lether to the position of Sergeant. Also at Tuesday's City Council Meeting, our Municipal Court Judge, Jessica Ness, officiated a swearing-in ceremony for Sergeant Lether, witnessed by Chief Jolley, members of the Monroe Police Department past and present, as well as the friends and family of Sergeant Lether. Sergeant



Lether began his career with the City of Monroe in 2013, hired as a police officer. He has served in many capacities to include Patrol, FTO, sUAS Pilot, Fleet Management, EVOG and SWAT. Sergeant Lether has distinguished himself as a community leader, helping plan and coordinate a number of events benefitting community members and charitable causes in Monroe and beyond. Most recently, his efforts coordinating our wellness initiative have demonstrated his commitment to the health and longevity of all department members and their families. The City of Monroe is fortunate to consider Sergeant Lether one of its own, and we are grateful for his continued service of leadership. Congratulations, Sergeant Lether!

US-2 SHARED PATH PROJECT BEGINS

The US-2 Shared Path project kicked off this week! The project includes the construction of a paved path along the north side of US-2, from 179th Avenue SE to Cascade View Drive. Construction will occur in phases into 2023 due to supply chain challenges.



- Phase 1 will include sidewalk and fencing construction, coming to completion in late November
- Phase 2 will include the sidewalk lighting and pedestrian bridge slated to begin installation in May of 2023

The City does not anticipate traffic detours or lane closures related to this project. Please visit [our website](#) for more information on the project.

ADDITIONAL SAFETY MEASURES FOR OUR PARKS

The Monroe [Parks & Recreation](#) and [Police](#) Departments have partnered to install Public Video Systems (PVS) at Lake Tye Park, Sky River Park and Lewis Street Park. The purpose of the PVS is to observe park spaces and leverage this technology to provide an additional layer of safety to our community, protect our public park facility investments, and ultimately, create a safe place for all. The Monroe City Council authorized funding to purchase and install camera pods at these locations and approved [Resolution #2022-003](#), adopting a public video system policy. The policy applies to the use of the City of Monroe's PVS deployed in public parks, on public streets or other City-owned property, such as City Hall and the Public Works Facility. The PVS are video cameras that can continuously or periodically capture areas of and activities on public streets and parks that are open and visible to the public in which individuals do not have a reasonable expectation of privacy.



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To maintain an informed community, the City of Monroe will list information about the PVS and the general locations of the cameras on its [website](#). We will also install appropriate signages to reasonably inform the public that a

video recording program is in use. The first camera is installed at Lewis Street Park, and the remaining cameras will be installed over the next few months.

NATIONAL WALK, BIKE AND ROLL TO SCHOOL DAY

The [Monroe Police Department](#), [Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue](#), and City of Monroe [Parks & Recreation Department](#) will be helping Fryelands Elementary and Frank Wagner Elementary celebrate National Walk, Bike and Roll to School Day on Wednesday, October 12! Students will meet at one of the locations listed below to enjoy a quick snack and then walk together to school at 8:30 a.m. with their families, police officers, firefighters, and school officials.



Fryelands Elementary Locations are:

Corner of 156th Street SE and 165th Avenue near Lords Lake
Corner of 171st Ave SE and 154th Street SE (southeast side)
Corner of 166th Avenue SE and 154th Street SE
Park located at the corner of Van and Wales streets

Frank Wagner Elementary Locations are:

Corner of North Kelsey Street and West Main Street
Corner of West Columbia and Dickinson streets

During the event, our public safety partners will remind students to walk safely using streets with sidewalks or wide shoulders and to take advantage of crosswalks with pedestrian lights and/or crossing guards when determining walking routes. Families are encouraged to join in the walk to become familiar with their child's route to school. In the event a student is late coming home from school, knowing this route is helpful in quickly locating a child.

FUTURE OF ARTS RESIDENT & VISITOR SURVEY

Are you a resident that craves more craft foods, beverages, handcrafted items, and fine arts close to home? Are you a visitor who seeks out live music and cultural events in local communities? Snohomish County is looking for input on preferences for arts and culture experiences, activities, and community spaces to identify economic growth opportunities across the county through December 2022. Residents, cultural workers, businesses, and those who are interested in Snohomish County arts and culture are urged to speak out, get involved, and influence change. Click [here](#) to get started on the Future of Arts and Culture Projects Resident & Visitor Survey today.



SNOCOARTS.ORG



You can also learn more about the Snohomish County Arts Commission [here](#).

SRFR OPEN HOUSE NEXT SATURDAY

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of Fire Prevention Week (FPW) next week, [Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue](#) is teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association to host their annual Open House next Saturday, October 15 from 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. at Station 31 in Monroe (163 Village Court). This event will feature station tours, informational booths, badge pinning, an auto extrication demo, and many more fun activities for kids and adults.



This year's FPW campaign, "Fire won't wait. Plan your escape," works to educate about simple but important steps you can take to keep yourself and those around you safe from home fires. Here are some key escape planning tips:

- Make sure your plan meets the needs of all your family members, including those with sensory or physical disabilities
- Smoke alarms should be installed inside every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of your home. Smoke alarms should be interconnected so when one sounds, they all sound
- Know at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows open easily
- Have an outside meeting place a safe distance from your home where everyone should meet
- Practice your home fire drill at least twice a year with everyone in the household, including guests. Practice at least once during the day and at night

I encourage everyone to attend the open house to learn about the fire department and meet some of the men and women that serve our community with SRFR.

OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Breast Cancer Awareness Month is an annual international health campaign organized by major breast cancer charities to increase awareness of the disease and to raise funds for research into its cause, prevention, diagnosis, treatment and cure. According to the [American Cancer Society](#), breast cancer is the most common cancer in American women, except for skin cancers. The average risk of a woman in the United States developing breast cancer sometime in her life is about 13%, and although significantly less common, men are also susceptible to developing breast cancer. Thanks to treatment advances, this number has gradually decreased over the past few years, however, is important to note that we still have a lot of ground to cover in fighting this disease.



I encourage all residents to learn more about breast cancer this month and how we can celebrate and support those battling the disease, their loved ones, and our medical professionals.

OCTOBER 4 CITY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

The City Council met in Regular Study Session Meeting on Tuesday, October 4. The following items were discussed and acted upon during the meeting:



Announcements/Presentations:

- Matthew Campbell, Sky Valley Food Bank Director, spoke about his work in food relief and gave an update on statistics and programs the Food Bank offers as well as how the Food Bank changed their programming throughout the pandemic to meet community needs. Mr. Campbell shared statistics year over year and said that community needs have greatly increased in the past few years. He spoke about meeting with community leaders and other service providers and about the impacts of food cost increases and gave an update and overview of their upcoming expansion project.

City Administrator Deborah Knight:

- Reminded Council that the October 11 Legislative Affairs Committee meeting has been moved to October 18
- The Finance/Human Resources Committee meeting for October 18 has been cancelled
- Gave kudos to Becky Hasart, Greg Piland, Rich Huebner, and department directors for their work on the 2023-2024 Mayor's Recommended Budget

In my report:

- I discussed recent meetings and events I have attended, including: a Snoqualmie Valley Governments Association meeting, the Snohomish County Cities (SCC) dinner, a talk with a class from a local school, and a talk with members of a local church
- Reported that SCC is looking to put together a public safety coalition and a request to participate and provide funding will come to Council in the future

Discussion Items:

- The current Community Human Services Advisory Board (CHSAB) has eleven (11) members and staff is asking Council to consider reducing the number to seven (7). Deborah Knight explained that due to the number of vacancies on the board, it has recently become difficult to hold a meeting due to a lack of quorum. There was general consensus from Council to draft a resolution to amend the number of board members.
- Rich Huebner explained that staff received a request to create a process through which American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) awardees could submit a request to change the scope of their project/program, as

long as the ultimate goal of the initial application remained the same. Rich reviewed a proposed process to allow for change in scope and the pros and cons of two options related to reviewing the requests, including setting a specific deadline for all request and reviewing requests on an as-needed rolling basis. After discussion, Council expressed support for creating a process to allow for change in scope requests and asked staff to look at how other cities are reviewing requests and bring back a proposal, which could be a hybrid of the two options, for review.

UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

The City Council will next meet in a Regular Business Meeting on Tuesday, October 11. 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 October 11 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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