



MONROE THIS WEEK

February 10, 2023

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

This week I issued a [Proclamation](#) recognizing the month of February as National Black History Month. Work toward an official recognition of Black and African American history began in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson. Using the foundation laid by Woodson, Black United Students and educators at Kent State University founded Black History Month in 1970, and beginning in 1976, every president has declared the month of February as "Black History Month". Black and African Americans have made profoundly significant contributions that have enriched America and the lives of every American while experiencing and enduring the inhumanity of injustices and inequities from societal and institutional biases, classism, and racism that are rooted in exploitive systems. I am thankful for and celebrate the historic and continuing actions of those who have fought against oppression and for equity, dignity, inclusion, and liberty for all. The City of Monroe is working to advance inclusive and equitable policies and practices that ensure that the City is a place where every person feels at home and every person belongs. As Mayor, I call upon each of us, with humility and love for one another, to learn about the difficult truths of the history and present day lives of Black and African Americans and to celebrate their contributions.



I invite you to read the full text of the Proclamation, and to commit to take actions in our own lives to honor the memory and vision of Black and African

Americans who were imprisoned, killed, and brutalized for their efforts to demand dignity and liberation for all.

This week's edition of *Monroe This Week* features an update on #Finish522 and details on upcoming road reconstruction, how you can impact the future of Monroe, the graduation of a Monroe Municipal Community Court participant, transportation provided by the Monroe Community Senior Center, and incentives from the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency.

Please reach out to me with what may be on your mind about and for Monroe. I can be contacted at GThomas@MonroeWA.gov.

Yours in Service,



Mayor Geoffrey Thomas

UPDATE ON #FINISH522

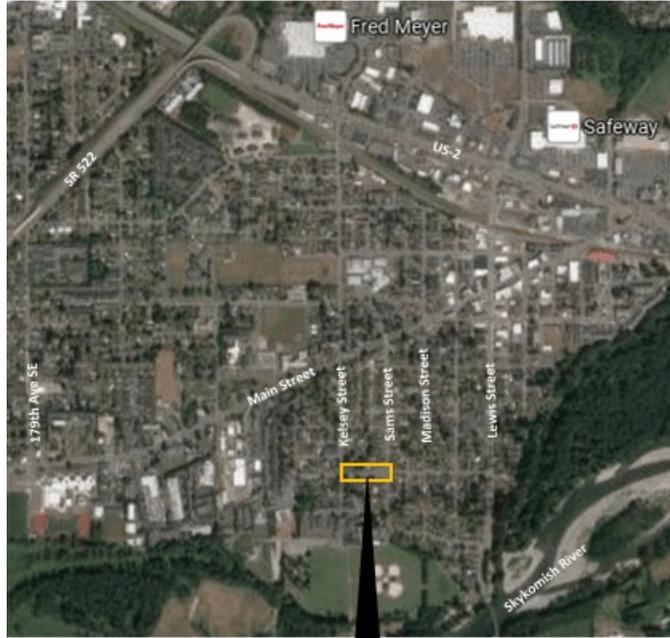
Finishing the widening and replacing the stoplight on SR-522 at Paradise Lake Road is important to residents and employers in Monroe and surrounding communities from the City of Duvall, Maltby, the City of Snohomish, to Stevens Pass and beyond. We are asking the State Legislature to amend Governor Inslee's proposed budget, and keep previous commitments to accelerate funding from 2033-2035 and 2024-2025. We are also working with our legislators in the 12th Legislative District and legislators representing Bothell, Maltby, Clearview, Snohomish, and Duvall to develop a schedule with funding to finish SR-522.



If you want to share your thoughts about SR-522, please contact your legislator to let them know why it is important for you that the State #Finish522. You can find your district and legislature contact information [here](#). More information from the State Department of Transportation regarding the project can be found [here](#).

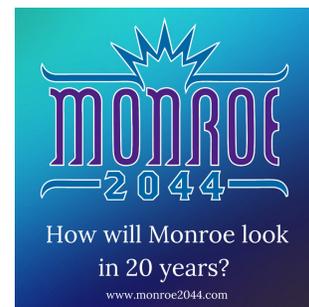
POLISHING UP THE CITY: ROAD RECONSTRUCTION

A block of Powell Street (between Kelsey St. and Sams St.) will be reconstructed this spring. This includes new pavement, curb, and sidewalks, as well as storm drainage, sewer, and water utility upgrades! The City is currently soliciting for contractor bids to perform the work; bidding information can be found [here](#). We anticipate construction to begin in April and finish in June. For more information, please visit the project page on our [website](#).



HELP CREATE THE BLUEPRINT FOR THE FUTURE OF MONROE

As I've mentioned in recent editions of *Monroe This Week*, the City of Monroe is asking community members to work together to create a visionary blueprint for the future of our city. The 2044 Comprehensive Plan will analyze population and employment growth, housing, transportation, parks, the environment, and many other features to guide development and decision-making in the future.



Input from the community is essential to the development of the vision, goals, and policy statements. We invite you to participate in this community-wide discussion to help us update existing policies, create new policies, and create actions for a wide range of topics. This process represents an opportunity for the business community and residents, regardless of income, education, ethnicity or race to share their ideas for the future of Monroe, both in terms of near-term actions and a long-term vision.

The Comprehensive Plan touches many topic areas like where and how housing can be built, where new commercial businesses or centers are needed, how the road network can better accommodate vehicles, cyclists, and pedestrians, how parks can be enhanced, how critical services and infrastructure can be improved, and how shorelines and other critical resources can be protected. For more information or to get involved, please visit www.monroe244.com.

REDUCING CRIME ONE GRAD AT A TIME

On Feb. 3, 2023, the Monroe Municipal Court honored a Community Court graduate. Congratulations to the graduate and thank you to everyone who attended and provided support throughout their journey.

The Monroe Municipal Community Court (MMCC) is a collaborative, problem solving, and community focused approach to respond to low-level quality of life crimes. Through a collaborative effort between the Monroe Municipal Court, City Prosecutor, Monroe Public Defenders, Monroe Police Department, and community service providers, MMCC seeks to provide social services to individuals, reduce crime, hold participants accountable, save taxpayer money, and increase public confidence in the local criminal justice system.

The MMCC was made possible by a \$158,779 grant in 2021 from the Washington State Office of Administrative Courts. I encourage you to listen to the court in action [here](#).



MCSC PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION TO RESIDENTS

Do you need a ride around Monroe? Are you 60 or older? This service may be perfect for you! The Monroe Community Senior Center offers door-to-door transportation every Thursday for shopping, medical appointments, and other activities. The cost is just \$1.50 per stop. Call **360-794-6359** today to find out if you are in the service area and learn more about the program.



INCENTIVES TO KEEP THE AIR CLEAN

If you feel like it might be time to lose the old flame

and upgrade to a cleaner (and easier) heating alternative, here's some further incentive:

- The Puget Sound Clean Air Agency will give all qualifying Puget Sound residents \$350 to remove and recycle their current wood-burning stove or fireplace insert.
- Snohomish County residents can also qualify for a \$1,500 - \$2,000 incentive to help replace wood-burning stoves or fireplace inserts with clean heating alternatives.



Just imagine, there will be no more clunky piles of wood lying around, no more hauling and splitting! Plus, some clean heating alternatives include AC that can cool you on hot summer days! I invite you to learn more [here](#).

UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

The City Council will next meet in a Regular Business Meeting Feb. 28. The meeting will be held in a hybrid format; members of the public may participate in Monroe City Council meetings either in-person at City Hall or remotely via the Zoom remote meeting platform. Participation information will be posted with the Feb. 28 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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