



MONROE THIS WEEK

February 24, 2023



Last week, I visited our legislators in Olympia with City Councilmembers Jason Gamble, Heather Fulcher, and Tami Kinney. We met with State Senators Brad Hawkins, John Lovick, and Keith Wagoner, and State Representatives Mike Steele, Keith Goehner, Carloyn Eslick, and Sam Low. We also met with other city elected officials, including cities in the 12th Legislative District (LD), 39th LD, and 45th LD.

While attending the Association of Washington Cities Legislative Action Days conference, where we learned about proposed legislation that could affect the city, we also lobbied State Legislators. Our primary focus was to advocate for the City of Monroe's [Legislative Priorities](#).



One of the primary items we advocated for was to preserve funding in the State Transportation Budget for SR-522. While lobbying to preserve funding, we discussed the need to fully fund improvements to #Finish522. Our advocacy efforts around SR-522 and also US 2 were joined by other cities from the 39th, 12th, and 45th LDs and included the cities of North Bend,

Carnation, Duvall, and Sultan. The legislators are continuing to work on proposed bills, including our requests around SR-522. Staff and I will provide updates as the legislative session progresses.

I encourage people to reach out to their legislators to share their concerns about SR-522, US 2, and any other legislative issues. You can find out who your legislatures are [here](#).

This week's edition of *Monroe This Week* features details on:

- The Annual Community Egg Hunt
- The Healthy Living Issue of the Choose Monroe magazine
- A petiquette reminder for Wiggly Field
- How ARP funds are helping residents secure sustainable independence
- The 2023 Music in the Park artist lineup

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

COMMUNITY EGG HUNT RETURNS

I am happy to announce the 26th Annual Community Egg Hunt will be returning to Lake Tye Park on April 8. Pre-event activities begin at 9:00 a.m., and the hunt begins at 10:00 a.m. Ages 10 and under are welcome to hunt, please bring your own basket. Fields are organized by age group, each field hunts one at a time and the start times will be announced by the DJ.



We will be adding a 5th field this year that is available for kids with cognitive and/or physical disabilities that may need adult help. The City of Monroe thanks our community partners in making the Community Egg Hunt event more accessible and fun for children of all abilities.

NEW CHOOSE MONROE HEALTHY LIVING ISSUE OUT

A local's guide to everything Monroe, featuring adult fitness options and where to shop for your gardening needs. Read the most up-to-date news from organizations such as [Evergreen Health Monroe](#),

[Monroe Library](#), and [Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue](#). Learn about the Julia V. Morris Food Bank Garden and how two programs awarded American Rescue Plan funding are helping families in need. All City of Monroe residents receive a copy in the mail. They will also be available at various locations throughout Monroe such as the visitor center, local businesses, the library, City Hall and more. You can also read the issue [online](#).



WIGGLY FIELD PETIQUETTE REMINDER

We are thrilled the community enjoys our Wiggly Field Dog Park. We'd like to remind you of the park rules so that it remains a safe and friendly place for both you and your furry friends. Please review our [Off-Leash Dog Park Rules](#) and remember to always be respectful of others.



ARP FUNDS HELP RESIDENTS SECURE SUSTAINABLE INDEPENDENCE

In this week's edition of *Monroe This Week*, I would like to call attention to how American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act funds have gone to help a local non-profit organization. As a recipient of ARP funding in the amount of almost \$28,000, The Hand Up Project (THUP) and St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) opened [Respite Monroe](#) - a refuge for Monroe families. The results were unprecedented. Respite's mission has been to affirm every person's inherent value - regardless of circumstances. This means each person must make the decision for a better life themselves; it cannot be made for them. This simple yet profound insistence is driving unparalleled results.



Respite is outperforming state and national numbers in every metric. Where entrants to shelters across the state secure permanent housing 33% of the time, that number jumps to 50% at Respite. The US Department of Housing and Urban Development's guidelines note that securing permanent housing usually takes a year. However, Respite has secured permanent housing for clients in 120 days. This means families entering Respite are significantly more likely to become independent. Respite accomplishes this by addressing foundational elements of sustainable independence, employment, mental health, and substance use treatment. As a result, Respite has secured

employment for 70% of clients. Additionally, every client needing mental health or substance use treatment has secured and completed treatment. Respite takes pride in the fact that they can reach families through compassion while remaining efficient in their operations.

Thank you Respite for taking bold steps to make a difference in our community. I will continue to share stories of how ARP funds are impacting our community in future editions of *Monroe This Week*. You can read a full article on Respite in our new Choose Monroe issue [here](#).

SUMMER MUSIC IN THE PARK LINEUP ANNOUNCED

The [Monroe Chamber of Commerce](#) has announced the lineup for this year's [Music in the Park](#) series. Taking place every Friday in July at Lake Tye Park, these free events will feature food trucks, a cocktail garden, and live music. Bring your lawn chairs, blankets, and dancing shoes because this is the party of the year and we are so excited to welcome it back. The lineup is as follows:

Artists:

- July 7: Soul Searching Band (soul/disco/rock)
- July 14: TBD
- July 21: Brickhouse
- July 28: Hair Nation (rock)

Food trucks and beverages will be announced at a later date.

The beer garden and food trucks will open each week at 6:00 p.m., and the music starts at 7:00 p.m.



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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