



MONROE THIS WEEK

April 14, 2023



On Tuesday, April 11, I delivered the State of the City Address to the Monroe Chamber of Commerce. A copy of the slide presentation can be found on the City's website [here](#).



In the address, I provided updates on Imagine Monroe and how the City is working to ensure that in Monroe, everyone feels at home, and everyone feels they belong. Other highlights of the address include the City's fiscal position, how we are supporting locally owned businesses, creating strong community connections, and expanding choices for work, dining, shopping, and activities.

I thank our City staff for all the work they do to support our community, our Council, and me. Without their dedication, passion, and work, we would not be as strong, connected, and successful as we are today.

I hope you all enjoy this week's edition of Monroe This Week which features:

- A recap of the #Finish522 Community Summit
- The local recognition of Earth and Arbor Days
- Details on the Blueberry Children's Park Playground Renovation Open House
- A message of appreciation to Snohomish County 911
- A save the date for Kaci's Annual 5K Run/Walk

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,



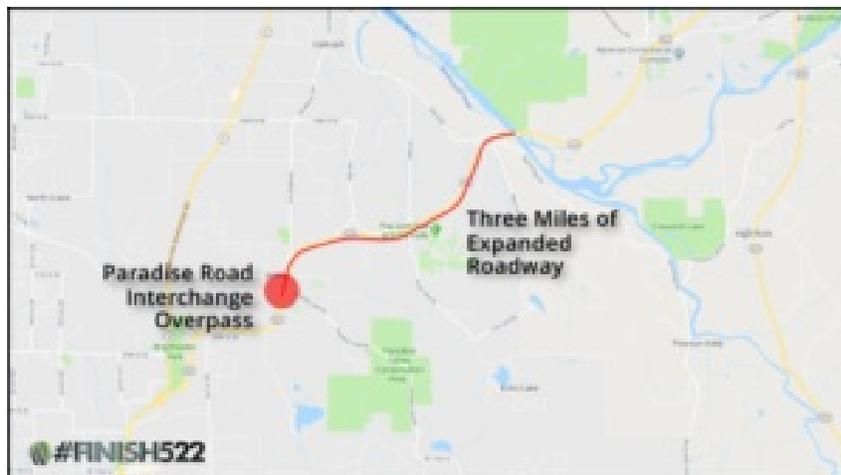
Mayor Geoffrey Thomas

RECAP: #FINISH522 COMMUNITY SUMMIT

On Wednesday, April 12, the City of Monroe hosted the #Finish522 Community Summit. Our community came together to hear from Curt Winningham from the Washington State Department of Transportation who provided an update on the status of State Route 522. I was happy to have 28 people attend the WSDOT update both remotely and in person. During the update, residents asked questions and provided insightful comments, which we will add to the #Finish522 website in addition to the WSDOT presentation soon.

Curt Winningham informed attendees that the estimated construction cost to finish 522 is \$257,000,000 and that while funds have not been earmarked for construction, \$32,870,000 has been authorized for preliminary engineering and right-of-way acquisition. Thank you, Curt Winningham, for taking the time to come out and present to our community. As we approach the end of April, we will provide another update on the status of SR 522 when the State legislative session ends.

Share your thoughts about finishing 522 by contacting your state legislators. Please click [here](#) for more information.



CITY RECOGNIZES EARTH & ARBOR DAYS

This week I issued a [Proclamation](#) recognizing April 22 as Earth Day and April 28 as Arbor Day. 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 health 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. 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.



The [Monroe Park Board](#) initiated a Heritage Tree Program to increase public awareness and appreciation of Monroe’s heritage and Pacific Northwest character. In 2018, I initiated a Living Christmas Tree Program to offer the opportunity for residents to donate their used, living Christmas trees for planting in Monroe’s parks and open spaces. The Arbor Day Foundation recognized the City of Monroe as a Tree City USA in 2019, and this will be the fifth consecutive year the City of Monroe has been recognized as a Tree City USA. In addition, in 2021, the Arbor Day Foundation awarded the City of Monroe a Tree City USA Growth Award.

The public is invited to an Arbor Day and Earth Day Celebration at 1:15 p.m. on April 28. I will host a tree planting ceremony at Lake Tye Park to recognize the importance of preserving our natural resources. Two Fifth Grade Classes from Fryelands Elementary School will assist in the planting of a willow tree, donated by the [Monroe Garden Club](#).

BLUEBERRY CHILDREN'S PARK PLAYGROUND RENOVATION OPEN HOUSE

The City of Monroe [Parks Department](#) & [Parks Board](#) are hosting an open house on Thursday, April 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers (806 West Main Street, Monroe, WA). Please join as the department displays playground options for the update to Blueberry Children’s Park. Attendees will vote on their favorite option.



Upon completion of the stormwater retention project within the park by the Public Works Department, the Parks Department will be completing playground improvements to Blueberry Children’s Park. Funding for this project is supported by the City’s CIP Funds and a Snohomish County Grant. This project is tentatively scheduled to start by the end of Summer 2023.

For those unable to attend in person, the meeting will be live on Zoom:

Questions? Please contact Makenna Ohlsen, Parks Admin Assistant at MOhlsen@MonroeWA.gov or **360-863-4559**.

El Departamento de Parques y la Junta de Parques de la ciudad de Monroe harán una presentación abierta al público el jueves 20 de abril a las 7:00 p.m. en las Salas del Ayuntamiento (806 West Main Street, Monroe, WA). Lo invitamos a la muestra de las opciones para la mejora del área de juego del Blueberry Children's Park. Los asistentes votarán por su opción preferida.

Una vez que el Departamento de Obras Públicas termine el proyecto de retención de agua pluvial dentro del parque, el Departamento de Parques hará mejoras en el área de juego del Blueberry Children's Park. Este proyecto es financiado por los fondos CIP (Capital Improvement Program) de la ciudad y un subsidio del condado de Snohomish. Se prevé que el proyecto empiece a fines del verano de 2023.

Para aquellos que no puedan asistir en persona, la reunión se transmitirá en vivo por Zoom:

ID de la reunión: 724 099 9919 / Contraseña: 2022

¿Tiene alguna pregunta? Comuníquese con Makenna Ohlsen, Secretaría de la Administración de Parques a MOhlsen@MonroeWA.gov o **360-863-4559**

MONROE PD SHOWS APPRECIATION FOR SNO911

This week, April 9 to 15, is Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. At the [Monroe Police Department](#) (MPD), they rely on the vital lifeline between first responders and the community provided by [Snohomish County 911](#). They not only provide 911 call intake and dispatch services, but also support the department's in-car CPUs and dispatch software.



The Police Department would like to take a moment to recognize two of Snohomish County 911's dispatchers, Cosmina Muresan and Amy Chavez, who participated in their Community Academy this past year. Their commitment to the department and their interest in learning more about law enforcement operations is exactly why we appreciate our dispatchers so much.

MPD extends their heartfelt appreciation to all the employees at SNO911 who support them so much.

SAVE THE DATE: KACI'S ANNUAL 5K RUN/WALK MAY 7

The idea behind [Kaci's Annual 5k Run/Walk](#) was to bring the community together, be outside and run in memory of Kaci Edelbrock. Kaci herself never stopped.

She was such a spirited girl that was constantly on the go trying to keep up with her older brothers and their friends. The **Big Heart Big Smile Foundation** was created by Kaci's mom and dad to incorporate more activities to benefit the Monroe community and to keep their daughters name alive. The Kaci 5K invites all families to run/walk with babies in strollers and dogs on leashes, Kaci would have wanted everyone to be included. Proceeds raised help fund a Monroe High School scholarship and the goal is to keep this activity and scholarship going until Kaci would have graduated in 2030. Please save the date of May 7 and come to Lake Tye Park at 9:00 a.m. to support this cause.



Sign up for this year's event [here](#).

UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

The April 18 City Council Study Session Meeting has been CANCELLED. The City Council will next meet in a Regular Business Meeting on Tuesday, April 25. 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 April 25 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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