



MONROE THIS WEEK

June 9, 2023



I hope you all enjoy this week's edition of Monroe This Week which features details on the City's AA bond rating, the launch of our new Mobile Mental Health Program, the TBD tax renewal proposition, how ARP funds are supporting childhood development, the return of the Summer Block Party, and more fun events in Monroe this weekend.



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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Geoffrey Thomas". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Mayor Geoffrey Thomas

AA RATING MOVES MUNICIPAL CAMPUS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FORWARD

I am pleased and proud to announce that the City has received a AA Rating from the Standard & Poor's (S&P) Global Ratings for the issuance of Limited Tax General Obligation (LTGO) Bonds for the remodel of City Hall and Municipal Court. D.A. Davidson & Co. (Seattle, WA) is serving as the bond underwriter and will assist the City in allowing local investors to purchase tax-exempt bonds which are expected to have favorable interest rates due to the AA rating. Persons interested in purchasing should contact Monroe's Finance Director Becky Hasart at 360-794-7400 or BHasart@MonroeWA.gov by Monday, June 12 at 4:30 p.m.



In March, the City Council unanimously approved pursuing LTGO Bonds – also known as councilmanic bonds – for approximately \$15.27 million to fund the remodel of the [Administrative Wing of the Municipal Campus](#). Councilmanic Bonds commit the City to pay the debt within existing revenues. Revenue sources include the first quarter Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) and utility revenues over the next 35 years. REET is restricted to capital uses and utility revenue will support a portion of the remodel associated with staffing use. Councilmanic bonds are not voter-approved nor are they a property tax increase.

City Councilmembers and I have long supported improvements to our municipal campus to create a sense of belonging, provide better access, and support delivery service to our growing community and customers. We are extremely proud that our careful and conscientious financial planning is funding the construction costs using existing revenue sources.

In the coming weeks, we will be communicating more details about the remodel of City Hall and Municipal Court and the temporary relocation of city personnel. We will continue to serve you at these temporary locations as we do at our current location and thank you in advance for your patience as we temporarily transition.

For details about the opportunity to purchase tax-exempt bonds, read the [News Release](#). For updates about the Municipal Campus Improvements Project, click [here](#).

NEW MOBILE MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM LAUNCHES

I am thrilled to announce the launch of our new Mobile Mental Health Program in collaboration with [Volunteers of America](#) (VOA). Through this program we are introducing a groundbreaking initiative based out of the Sky Valley Resource Center in Sultan. This is a significant step forward in addressing the pressing mental health needs of our community.

The Mobile Mental Health program aims to provide timely support to individuals experiencing acute mental or behavioral health crises that demand immediate intervention from first responders and social service resources. We understand that our current system, reliant on contacting a Snohomish County Designated Crisis Responder, has involved lengthy wait times, hindering our first responders' ability to assist those in crisis. The goal is to reduce this wait time and get people experiencing an acute crisis the help they need immediately.

With the arrival of Jessi Beyer, MA, and the program's launch date of June 1, 2023, we are now taking the important steps to empower our first responders with the necessary tools to address incidents involving underlying behavioral health issues. Jessi will be stationed at the [Monroe Police Department](#) on Fridays and Saturdays from 2:00 p.m. to midnight, ready to provide vital assistance upon request by law enforcement. If you are reporting a situation involving a person experiencing a mental or behavioral health crisis, please call 911 or 988, and ask for MHP31 to be deployed in co-response.

I would also like to again express our deepest gratitude to Snohomish County, the [Association of Washington Cities](#), and Suzan DelBene's Community Project Funding for their support in funding this program. We also extend our thanks to our partners at the City of Sultan, VOAWW, [Snohomish Regional Fire and Rescue](#), [Sultan Fire District 5](#), Monroe Police Department, and the Snohomish County Sheriff's Department. Together, we are building a stronger and more compassionate community where everyone feels at home, and everyone feels they belong.



CITY SEEKS TBD SALES TAX RENEWAL IN NOVEMBER

The [Monroe Transportation Benefit District](#) unanimously approved a

resolution this week that places a ballot measure to renew a 0.2% sales tax on the Nov. 7 General Election. In 2014, Monroe voters approved the 10-year collection of sales tax to fund road improvements within the city. Collection began in 2015 and more than \$8.1 million has been invested in roadway and sidewalk improvements, pothole repair, pavement preservation and transportation demand management. The upcoming ballot measure is a renewal of the existing level of sales tax collection; it does not increase the tax.



Transportation Benefit Districts (TBD) are governed by state law (**RCW 36.73**.) A TBD is an independent taxing district that can raise revenue for specific transportation projects, usually through vehicle license fees or voted sales taxes. For Monroe, its TBD revenue is from sales tax. Funding can support the construction, maintenance, and operation costs associated with projects such as road resurfacing or reconstruction and sidewalk repairs.

As a separate taxing district from the city, the Monroe TBD is governed by a Board that meets up to two times a year to review revenues received, set its budget, and approve projects that will be funded by the TBD sales taxes. Monroe's TBD is comprised of City Councilmembers but it functions separately from the City Council.

There are certain filing requirements with Snohomish County to have a proposition measure placed on the ballot. In the coming weeks, committees will be formed to draft "pro" and "con" statements to appear in the Voter's Pamphlet. For updates, please visit the [TBD webpage](#).

ARP FUNDS SUPPORT CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

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 the Boys and Girls Club here in Monroe. The Boys and Girls Club was awarded \$14,975.00 which they used for scholarships to sponsor kids in their Boys and Girls Club. The Boys and Girls Club gave 36 summer childcare scholarships which resulted in 160 children being served, with 1,980 hours of mentoring, educational and recreational programming being delivered. 36 sport program scholarships were also given out serving 36 children with 1,512 hours of fitness and mental health support being delivered. Additionally, 1,188 healthy snacks and meals were provided because of this award. Our community's children are a worthwhile investment. The work that the Boys and Girls Club is doing will have a lasting impact on these children. I am proud of this valuable initiative, and I look forward to sharing more stories of how ARP funds are making a positive impact in the community.



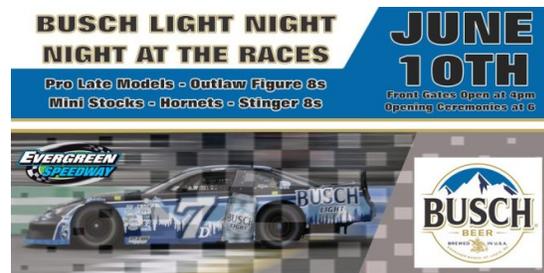
SUMMER BLOCK PARTY RETURNS

Summer is here and it's time to celebrate! Mark your calendars because the most sizzling event of the year is coming up on June 23. The **Monroe Chamber of Commerce's** Summer Block Party will take place on East Main Street from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. They'll have everything you need to have a blast - from live music performances to delicious food and drinks, exciting games, and much more. Don't miss out on the ultimate summer experience!



A WEEKEND FULL OF EVENTS

There are a bunch of fun events happening in Monroe this weekend. From jaw-dropping performances at the **Jordan World Circus**, a celebration at **Monroe Pride**, to a live performance by the **Pilchuck Boyz** at **Route 2 Taproom**, there's something for everyone. If you're looking for some high-speed action, don't forget to check out Busch Light Night at the Races and Open Drift at **Evergreen Speedway**. Don't miss out on all the excitement, gather your friends and family and choose Monroe for an unforgettable weekend!



UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

The City Council will next meet in a Regular Business Meeting on Tuesday, June 13. 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 June 13 agenda, which can be accessed by clicking the button below.

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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