



# MONROE THIS WEEK

June 30, 2023



— ☆ ☆ ☆ —  
**4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY**  
— ☆ ☆ ☆ —  
**INDEPENDENCE DAY**

*This week, I issued a [Proclamation](#) recognizing July 4, 2023 as Independence Day. On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress declared the original thirteen American colonies as free, united and independent states. This Declaration of Independence followed a vote of the Congress two days prior to approve a resolution of independence. America has been called the Great Experiment, as the democratic form of government established by the newly free nation was and is the first of its kind.*



*This Fourth of July, please celebrate Independence Day. Please get together with one another – with family, friends, and neighbors. Given the summer heat, please consider using alternatives to personal fireworks and, if you use them, only use legal fireworks. Be safe and have a happy Independence Day!*

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

- *Fourth of July safety tips*
- *Municipal Campus Improvement Project updates*

- *The Downtown Community Survey*
- *The summer edition of the Choose Monroe magazine*
- *The Advanced Certificate of Municipal Leadership from AWC*
- *Protecting older adults from financial fraud*

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

Yours in Service,



Mayor Geoffrey Thomas

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## JULY 4 SAFETY TIPS

I wish all residents a happy Fourth of July and have provided some tips for celebrating safely below:

- Remember that your pets may not be a fan of fireworks. Please protect them from the noise and commotion.
- Out of an abundance of caution and to protect our community's investment, the Lake Tye Synthetic Turf Fields will be locked promptly at 5:00 p.m. on July 4. The fields will re-open July 5.
- Discharging fireworks on City property – particularly our parks and parking lots – is illegal.
- Emergency dispatchers are extremely busy on this holiday. Help them out by calling 9-1-1 only to report fires and serious injuries caused by fireworks. All other fireworks-related incidents should be reported to the non-emergency line at 425-407-3999.



A reminder that City administrative offices will be closed Tues., July 4 so that our staff can celebrate. Visit our [fireworks webpage](#) to learn more about fireworks in Monroe.

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## MUNICIPAL CAMPUS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UPDATE

Residents in and just outside of Monroe were mailed [important information](#) about the remodel of our [Municipal Campus Administrative Wing](#) and the temporary relocation of City Hall and Municipal Court.

Monroe's population has increased in recent years and our infrastructure, such

as roads and facilities, need to meet increased demand for City services.

Monroe's master plan of its **Municipal Campus** – City Hall, Municipal Court, Public Works, and Police Department – has been underway since 2008. A 2008 campus study identified space and operational deficiencies for City departments providing public services.



The Municipal Campus Improvements Project was funded as early as 2016 by the City Council to be completed in three phases. The initial phase provided for improvements to the Public Works and Parks and Recreation facilities. The second phase includes the remodel of City Hall and Municipal Court. The third phase will improve the Police Station.

City services have occupied the campus currently located on West Main Street since 1977. The buildings have not had significant upgrades in over 30 years, which now present life-safety and accessibility deficiencies. With the remodel, building system improvements will include, fire protection and seismic upgrades, energy efficiency, and network upgrades. City Hall interior improvements to enhance the customer experience and accessibility include new Council Chambers, a secure customer service window, foyer, and counter areas. Outside improvements include increased parking, native landscaping, and pathways connecting pedestrians to West Main Street. As part of the remodel, Municipal Court will be relocated between City Hall and Police Station, in the Justice Wing of the campus.

Starting in mid-July through August, City Hall and Municipal Court will be relocating to temporary locations. City Hall's temporary location will be 14841 179<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, Suite 320; Municipal Court will temporarily relocate to our Public Works/Parks & Recreation building located at 769 Village Way; City Council meetings will be temporarily held at the Monroe School District Admin Building, 14692 179<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE.

Construction to remodel the Administrative Wing is expected to begin in late summer and take up to 24 months to complete.

We are committed to keeping you information of this project. I will keep you updated on the transition of City services from the current campus to the temporary locations, construction updates, and other pertinent information. There is extensive information on the **City's website**, and updates will be posted on the **City's Facebook**.

Please stay informed and encourage your family, friends, and neighbors to do the same.

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## **TAKE THE DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY SURVEY TODAY!**

Have you visited Monroe's Historic Downtown lately? Do you shop or eat

there? Is there something that you would like to see downtown that would make it perfect? By filling out the City's [Downtown Community Survey](#), you can tell us how you feel about Monroe's Main Street area. Responses to this survey will help inform the City's policy direction as it strives to ensure that our Historic Downtown can be a place for businesses to succeed and for main street culture to thrive.



## CHOOSE MONROE SUMMER EDITION OUT NOW

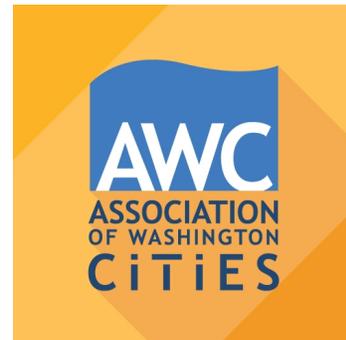
Looking for some exciting plans to make the most of this summer? Look no further than the latest edition of the Choose Monroe magazine, which was recently mailed out to households earlier this week. Packed with a plethora of fun-filled activities and events for all ages, this summer's edition is sure to keep you and your family entertained throughout the school break.



## CERTIFICATE OF MUNICIPAL LEADERSHIP

I recently earned an Advanced Certificate of Municipal Leadership from the [Association of Washington Cities](#) (AWC). AWC's Certificate of Municipal Leadership program recognizes city and town elected officials for accomplishing training in five core areas:

- Roles, responsibilities, and legal requirements
- Public sector resource management
- Community planning and development
- Effective local leadership
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion



AWC serves its members through advocacy, education, and services. Founded in 1933, AWC is a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan corporation that represents Washington's 281 cities and towns before the state legislature, the state executive branch, and with regulatory agencies. AWC also provides training, data and publications, and programs such as the AWC Employee Benefit Trust, AWC Risk Management Service Agency, AWC Workers' Comp Retro, AWC Drug and Alcohol Consortium, and AWC GIS Consortium. Through their Advanced CML program, AWC is providing elected officials with the knowledge we need to effectively operate within the law, plan for the future, secure and manage funds, foster strong relationships, and work to build more equitable communities.

To earn the Advanced Certificate of Municipal Leadership, I completed more than 60 hours of training and demonstrated local community service.

I am so honored to have been in office for 3 terms, and I strive everyday to create a community where "everyone feels at home, and everyone feels they belong."

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## PROTECTING OLDER ADULTS FROM FINANCIAL FRAUD

The Monroe Police Department recently received a report of fraud targeting an older adult who fell victim to a cryptocurrency scam, resulting in the loss of thousands of dollars. Unfortunately, these types of scams are common and specifically target older adults, exploiting their vulnerabilities and trust to gain access to their finances and assets.



To educate our community about these frauds, please visit our [financial fraud page](#). If you're a community member or represent an organization interested in a presentation on this topic, reach out to the Police Department at **(360) 794-6300**.

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## UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

The City Council will next meet in a Regular Business Meeting on Tuesday, July 11. 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 July 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](mailto:Councilmembers@MonroeWA.gov)



City of Monroe | (360) 794-7400 | 806 West Main Street, Monroe, WA 98272

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