



MONROE THIS WEEK

September 1, 2023



HAPPY LABOR DAY!

This coming Monday, September 4, is the annual Labor Day holiday. Observed on the first Monday of September, Labor Day is a federal holiday to honor and recognize the contributions of the American workforce to the development and achievements of the United States.



*Beginning in the late 19th century, as labor movements grew, trade unionists proposed there be a day set aside to celebrate labor. I have issued a **Proclamation** recognizing Labor Day here in the City of Monroe. This Labor Day, we acknowledge the necessary and valuable contributions of labor organizations which form the foundation of our community and nation.*

One of many examples of the contribution of skilled labor to the Monroe community is our own City staff. The City of Monroe values the partnership between the Teamsters Local Union No. 763 and the Monroe Police Officer's Guild. This Labor Day we celebrate and give thanks for these and all American workers.

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

details on:

- *The Municipal Campus Improvement Project*
- *Changes to the Monroe Police Department Blotter*
- *The upcoming TBD tax renewal*
- *The completion of the US-2 bike path*
- *The local recognition of Hydrocephalus Awareness Month*

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

MUNICIPAL CAMPUS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT APPROACHES NEW PHASE

All City department and Municipal Court staff are no longer housed at the Administrative Wing of the **Municipal Campus**, located at 806 W. Main Street. City Hall, where court services were provided, is now closed to the public. Temporary City Hall is located at 14841 179th Avenue SE, Suite 320 and Monroe Municipal Court is temporarily located at 769 Village Way.



This month, bid solicitations will be due to the City from qualified contractors interested in the Administrative Wing remodel project. Bids will be reviewed by staff and one company will be selected to be awarded the contract. In October, the City Council will be presented with contract for award. It is anticipated that construction to remodel the building will begin in late October and take up to two years to complete.

The vision of the Municipal Campus Improvement Project is to create a place of belonging, provide better access to the campus, and support service delivery to our community and customers. The City Council and I are proud of the financial planning that went into this project as it is funded within our existing budget and does not involve a property tax increase.

We've published an **[informational handout](#)** on the background and funding of the project. Please take a few minutes to learn how the remodeled City Hall and Monroe Municipal Court will provide you with a much better experience.

MONROE POLICE DEPARTMENT BLOTTER UPDATE

We know crime information is important to the community and our Police Department is committed to providing updates on a regular basis. The Monroe Police Blotter is a popular source of crime information that has been shared daily on their [Facebook page](#).



Starting Sept. 6, our Police Department is switching to providing calls for service incident reports on a weekly basis, instead of on a daily basis. Each Wednesday, a week's worth of reported incidents (from the previous seven days) will be posted to the City's webpage, with a direct link posted to the Police Department Facebook page. Content will be enhanced to include case numbers, types of calls, locations, and brief one to two-sentence summaries.

An additional crime information tool that is available to you is the [Community Crime Map](#). This tool offers a more comprehensive listing of data related to Monroe police calls by entering a specific address.

UPCOMING TBD TAX RENEWAL

The Monroe Transportation Benefit District (TBD) is asking voters to renew its sales tax collection on the November 7, 2023 election. The TBD is a separate taxing district that collects 0.2% sales taxes (2 cents for every \$10 spent) to fund transportation improvements within the City of Monroe.



The current TBD sales tax expires at the end of 2024. The renewal, which does not increase the sales tax, would run for an additional ten years, starting in January 2025. The TBD sales tax generates approximately \$1.4 million to \$1.5 million each year for transportation improvements:

- Between 2016 and 2022, more than 34 centerline miles of roadway have been paved;
- Between 2016 and 2022, close to 200 curb ramps have been upgraded to accessibility standards;
- Since 2014, approximately \$8.1 million has been invested in road improvements, annual paving, accessibility curb ramps, etc.;
- Powell Street reconstruction was completed in 2023.

The TBD renewal is not a property tax but a sales tax renewal. The current 9.4% sales tax rate in the City of Monroe would not change. As a sales tax and not a property tax, everyone-residents, employees, visitors-who shop in Monroe contributes funding for Monroe's streets and sidewalks.

For more information about Monroe's Transportation Benefit District, go to [monroewa.gov](#) or contact Becky Hasart, Finance Director for the City of Monroe and the TBD, at **360-863-4518** or bhasart@monroewa.gov.

CITY CELEBRATES COMPLETION OF US-2 BIKE PATH

The City of Monroe was proud to celebrate the completion of the Evergreen State Fair Park and US-2 bike path with our community members and partners last Friday at the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Special thanks to community member Rosie for being instrumental in the conceptualization of this project! The City was glad to have you cut the ribbon for this trail.

The City also thanks our State and County partners: Senator Brad Hawkins, Representative Mike Steele, Representative Keith Goehner, County Council Member Sam Low, and the Fair Advisory Board.



CITY RECOGNIZES HYDROCEPHALUS AWARENESS

On August 22, I issued a [Proclamation](#) recognizing September as Hydrocephalus Awareness Month. Hydrocephalus is primarily characterized by excessive cerebrospinal fluid on the brain that results in abnormal widening of the spaces in the ventricles, which creates harmful pressure and can be fatal if left untreated. There is no cure for Hydrocephalus, and the only treatment is brain surgery; many individuals require multiple surgeries throughout their lives to remain well. Hydrocephalus affects approximately one million Americans in every stage of life, from infants to the elderly. One out of every one thousand babies are born with hydrocephalus, making it as common as Down's Syndrome, and more common than spina bifida or brain tumors; it is the most common reason for brain surgery in children. I encourage all residents to read the Proclamation, and to join the City Council and myself in this worthy observance.



UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

THE SEPTEMBER 5 CITY COUNCIL MEETING HAS BEEN CANCELLED. The City Council will next meet in a Regular Business Meeting on Tuesday, September 12. The meeting will be held in a hybrid format; members of the public may participate in Monroe City Council meetings either in-person at our [temporary location](#) or remotely via the Zoom remote meeting platform. Participation information will be posted with the September 12 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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