



MONROE THIS WEEK

March 15, 2024



City Councilmembers Tami Beaumont, Kevin Hanford, and Jacob Walker were in the District of Columbia this week to advocate for funding with federal elected officials to support three City projects – improving railroad crossings for safety and congestion; a new facility serving the Monroe Municipal and Therapeutic (Community) Court; and a police facility that meets current standards. During the trip, Councilmembers met with Congresswoman Suzan DelBene, and representatives from Senator Maria Cantwell and Senator Patty Murray’s offices. The trip was part of the City’s efforts to raise awareness and funding for priority City projects. The City plans to submit funding applications for Fiscal Year 2025 Congressionally Directed Spending for the three priority projects. Applications are due in April. The City was previously awarded grant funding through the program to support a mobile mental health professional to respond with police and fire to people experiencing acute mental, behavioral health, and substance abuse disorder issues. During the meetings, Councilmembers Beaumont, Hanford, and



Walker thanked Senators Cantwell and Murray, and Congresswoman DelBene for their ongoing support of the Monroe community.

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

- Additional funding for #Finish522
- Input wanted for a new playground structure
- The Trails Master Plan Open House #2
- A reminder about updated building codes
- A free federal tax filing option
- A summary of the March 12 City Council meeting

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

#FINISH522 RECEIVES ADDITIONAL FUNDING IN STATE TRANSPORTATION BUDGET

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Governor Inslee, Senator Brad Hawkins, State Representatives Mike Steele and Keith Goehner of the 12th Legislative District, Representative Sam Low, and Senator Marcos Liias for their support and dedication to the SR 522 Interchange and Widening Project. The Final 2024 Supplemental Transportation Budget, passed last week on March 7, maintains identical funding and timing as proposed by the Governor last December, totaling \$34.6 million. This commitment, \$1.0 million higher than previously authorized, underscores a crucial step towards addressing transportation needs in our community. Click [here](#) for more information.



GIVE INPUT ON PLAYGROUND OPTIONS FOR CURRIE VIEW PARK

Community input is wanted on two proposed concepts for new playground structures at [Currie View Park](#). The Park Board invites you to attend its March 21 meeting

to share your preferred option. The meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. and will be held in the Public Works/Parks Building located at 769 Village Way. Additionally, it will be held via Zoom. To view the staff report, including the renderings, visit the [Meetings and Agenda webpage](#) after March 14.



The Parks and Recreation Department is replacing the aging playground at Currie View Park with new play structures that have ADA accessible surfacing. The new structures are anticipated to be installed this summer.

Currie View Park is a 4.3-acre neighborhood park located at 17260 153rd Street, within the Currie View neighborhood. Designed to be a family-oriented neighborhood park with children's play equipment and a small basketball court, it includes an approximately 3-acre grass play area for pick-up games and practices.

TRAILS MASTER PLAN OPEN HOUSE #2

We need your input! Attend the second Parks & Recreation Trails Master Plan Open House Thursday, April 4 from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at Park Place Middle School. The Monroe Parks and Recreation Department is creating the City's first Trails Master Plan. The new plan will establish a framework for improving, growing, and maintaining Monroe's network of trails over the next two decades. The Trails Master



Plan will help guide City decision-making, set priorities, and direct the use of resources so that Monroe has a great trails system for all to enjoy. At this meeting the department will be sharing proposed trail networks, connections, and safety improvements. Help us to shape our future trails by sharing your thoughts and ideas on these proposals. Pizza and refreshments will be provided.

View complete details on the Trails Master Plan project [here](#).

UPDATED BUILDING CODES TAKE EFFECT TODAY

Effective today, cities and counties will implement the [2021 editions of the Washington State Building Codes](#). Completed building permit applications received by our Permit

Center prior to today, will be vested, and reviewed for compliance under the 2018 codes. Completed building permit applications received on or after March 15, will be reviewed for compliance under the 2021 editions. For a list of the Washington State Building Codes visit our [Permitting webpage](#).



You may be considering a home improvement project such as a new deck, addition, or remodel and have questions about building permit requirements, the application process, and inspections. If so, you are encouraged to read the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (FAQs) about building permits prior to applying. Building permit application forms are available online ([Residential Building Permit](#)) ([Commercial Building Permit](#)), at City Hall, and by email or mail.

For questions or to request application forms, reach out to our Permit Center staff at **360-863-4501** or building@monroewa.gov. Our Permit Center business hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Wednesday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The Permit Center is closed 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. for lunch.

FREE FEDERAL TAX FILING OPTION LAUNCHES

Congresswoman Suzan DelBene has launched the Direct File pilot, enabling eligible residents to file their taxes online for free with the IRS. The pilot, funded by the Democrats' Inflation Reduction Act, has been successfully tested in 12 states, including Washington, and is now available to approximately 1.1 million residents. Taxpayers can use Direct File to complete their returns before the April 15 deadline.



Direct File simplifies the tax filing process and provides support through live chat with IRS representatives. Eligible taxpayers must meet specific criteria, including reporting income from jobs generating a Form W-2, claiming tax credits, and living in the same state for the entire year.

Interested taxpayers can check eligibility and access Direct File [here](#), while those who don't qualify can use Free File on IRS.gov, providing free software for taxpayers with an Adjusted Gross Income of \$79,000 or less in 2023.

MARCH 12 CITY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

The City Council met in a Regular Business Meeting on Tuesday, March 12. The following items were discussed and acted upon during the

meeting:

Consent Agenda – Items considered routine and approved by one vote:

- February 2024 payroll claims
- Accounts payable claims through March 6, 2024
- City Council meeting minutes of Feb. 20 and Feb. 27, 2024
- Accept the project with Ferguson Enterprises for the Advanced Metering Infrastructure Project Contract Number 2023-063 and begin the 45-Day Lien Period; and authorize release of retainage bond upon filing of Notice of Completion and receipt of State of Washington releases
- Accept the grant funding from the Washington State Department of Commerce; authorize the Mayor to approve the 2024 Local and Community Projects Program for the Municipal Campus/Therapeutic Court Project
- Award the Strawberry Lane Water Main Replacement Project construction contract in the amount of \$730,359.87 to RAW Land Construction LLC; authorize the Mayor to sign the construction contract No. 2024-022



Staff Reports:

- City Clerk
- Parks

Mayor/City Administrator Reports:

- Jodi Wycoff (on behalf of Deborah Knight) said there was no business on the 3/19 Study Session agenda and requested a motion to cancel the meeting. Jodi also asked members of the Finance/Human Resources Committee if they wanted to meet or cancel that meeting as well. Council voted to cancel the Study Session and Committee meetings for 3/19/24.
- I reported on recent events I've attended and said that the mural concept for the new Council Chambers will be presented at the 3/26 meeting

UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

The March 19 City Council Study Session Meeting has been CANCELLED. The City Council will next meet in a Regular Business Meeting on Tuesday, March 26. 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](#) (Monroe School District Administration Building, 14692 179th Ave SE) or remotely via the Zoom remote meeting platform. Participation information will be posted with the March 26 agenda, which can be accessed by clicking the button below.

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS



Councilmember
Kevin Hanford



Councilmember
Jacob Walker



Councilmember
Jason Gamble



Councilmember
Kirk Scarboro



Councilmember
Heather Fulcher



Councilmember
Tami Beaumont



Councilmember
Kyle Fisher

Have a question for your Councilmembers?
Contact them at Councilmembers@MonroeWA.gov



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