

## Proclamation



### ***Recognizing Earth Day & Arbor Day***

**WHEREAS**, Earth Day is celebrated on April 22, 2024, and Arbor Day on April 26, 2024, and both days are times to recognize the importance of preserving our natural resources; and

**WHEREAS**, *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 healthy 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; and

**WHEREAS**, 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; and

**WHEREAS**, the Monroe Park Board initiated a Heritage Tree Program to increase public awareness and appreciation of Monroe's heritage and Pacific Northwest character; and

**WHEREAS**, I have initiated a "Living Christmas Tree Program" in 2018 to offer the opportunity for residents to donate their used, living Christmas trees for planting in Monroe's parks and open spaces; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2019, the Arbor Day Foundation recognized the City of Monroe as a Tree City USA; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2021, the Arbor Day Foundation awarded the City of Monroe a Tree City USA Growth Award; and

**WHEREAS**, students of Wendy Fuller's 3rd grade class from Frylands Elementary School will assist in the ceremonial planting of a Red Oak (*Quercus Rubra*) Tree, donated by Monroe Garden Club, on Friday afternoon, April 26, 2024 at 1:00pm.

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Geoffrey Thomas, Mayor of the City of Monroe, do recognize

April 22, 2024, as

***Earth Day***

and April 26, 2024 as

***Arbor Day***

And for the month of April, the Tree City USA flag will be flown under the City of Monroe flag at Unity Plaza on the municipal campus and I invite residents, employers, and visitors, in our community to join me in recognizing the importance of preserving and enhancing our natural environment.

Geoffrey Thomas, Mayor