



MONROE THIS WEEK

April 19, 2024

Administrative Professionals' Day



I issued a Proclamation recognizing next Wednesday, April 24 as Administrative Professionals Day. This day has been celebrated under various names since the end of World War II. Administrative professionals are essential to the day-to-day functioning of businesses, governments, educational institutions, and other organizations across the United States and around the world. The work of these individuals today requires advanced knowledge and expertise in many different areas and can often go unrecognized as much of it is performed behind the scenes. Every Monroe employee and governing official depends on the assistance, expertise, knowledge, and dedication of its administrative professionals to effectively serve the people of the City and make sure our customers are able to access the services they rely on. I invite you to read the full text of the Proclamation [here](#), and join me in thanking these employees at the City and throughout Monroe for their work and contributions to the community.



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

- *The local recognition of Arbor Day and Earth Day*

- *Miracle League*
- *The 2023 Human Services Annual Report*
- *A thank you to volunteers*
- *A summary of the April 16 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

EARTH DAY & ARBOR DAY

I also issued a [Proclamation](#) recognizing April 22 as Earth Day and April 26 as Arbor Day. 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. 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.



The [Monroe Park Board](#) initiated a Heritage Tree Program to increase public awareness and appreciation of Monroe’s heritage and Pacific Northwest character. In 2018, I initiated a Living Christmas Tree Program to offer the opportunity for residents to donate their used, living Christmas trees for planting in Monroe’s parks and open spaces. The Arbor Day Foundation recognized the City of Monroe as a Tree City USA in 2019, and in 2021, the Arbor Day Foundation awarded the City of Monroe a Tree City USA Growth Award.

Reminder to join me next Friday at 1:00 p.m. on the east bank of Lake Tye for an Arbor Day and Earth Day Celebration. I will be leading the planting of a Red Oak donated by Monroe Garden Club.

MIRACLE LEAGUE: A PLACE FOR EVERYONE TO PLAY

Beginning on April 20, 2024 and every Saturday this spring, athletes from all over the county will gather to play Miracle League

Baseball at the Monroe Rotary Field. This year's kick off will mark the 25th anniversary of Miracle League Baseball.

Miracle League programs are designed for individuals with diverse abilities requiring assistance to play the game. This program is adapted to be an inclusive, stress-free, non-competitive game where everyone plays and everyone finds success. All Miracle League athletes are partnered with a



volunteer buddy to help them compete. Buddies help the athletes hit the ball, run the bases, and play defense in the field. Parents and guardians are encouraged to sit in the stands and watch and cheer for their player.

Miracle League programs, administered by the YMCA, are free and open to the public. Volunteers come from all over to support his program, including from the YMCA, City of Monroe Police and Parks Departments, the Monroe Rotary, and the Monroe Kiwanis Club.

Opening Day of this season is Saturday, April 20, 2024 with the first game beginning at 9:00 a.m. at Monroe Rotary Field. The Monroe/Sky Valley YMCA will be hosting the 25th anniversary celebrations that same day beginning at 10:00 a.m. The Y invites the community to come out to Miracle League Opening Day for food, fun, and lots of baseball and smiles. Come enjoy some fun baseball that epitomizes Imagine Monroe – where everyone feels at home and everyone feels they belong.

2023 HUMAN SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT

At the April 2 City Council Study Session, Human Services program staff and a panel of local service providers presented the [2023 Human Services Annual Report](#). The report is a vital tool for the City Council, Community Human Services Advisory Board, Human Services program staff and our partner agencies in that it tracks progress of recommendations made in 2020 by the Homeless Policy Advisory Council.



#WeAreMonroeWA

Recommendations address housing, mental health, homelessness prevention, data collection, policy, budget and more. The report gives us the opportunity to look back at our collective accomplishments and look forward to our goals. Key achievements last year include:

- **Funding support:** Secured state and federal funding to support human services programs (\$850,000) and allocated the City's portion of SHB1406 funding toward rental assistance (\$70,000).
- **Essential services funding:** Provided/administered funding to local non-profits through the American Rescue Plan (\$1+ million) and city budget (\$300,000) to support housing with wrap-around services.
- **Emergency shelter:** Coordinated cold weather shelter operations and provided emergency housing to Monroe families through the Monroe Family

Respite Program.

- **Informational materials:** Produced the [Community Resource & Support Guide](#), [Frequently Asked Questions about Trespassing, Panhandling & Unlawful Camping](#) and [Community Human Services Advisory Board brochure](#).

The City Council and I were pleased to have the opportunity to hear directly from representatives of the many local service providers, programs, and City employees involved in the continuum of care. Thank you to those who participated in sharing your stories of hope and how you are making a difference in Monroe. Please watch the presentation by clicking [here](#) (advance to start at 2:50).

To view the full report, please visit our [Human Services page](#). If you are interested in serving on the Community Human Services Advisory Board, visit our "[Vacancies](#)" webpage.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

The week of April 21 - 27 is National Volunteer Week. The City organization is supported by many volunteers who give their time and talents to create a sense of community. Neighbors and business representatives serve on [commissions, boards, and committees](#). Groups and individual volunteers participate in our community events such as the Arbor and Earth Day tree planting and provide support at our Monroe Community Egg Hunt. Community volunteers also support [local human service agencies](#) to help those who seek basic needs like housing, food, and mental/medical treatment.



If you are a volunteer, thank you for connecting with your community in such an important way. If you know a volunteer, be sure to thank them. And if you'd like to volunteer for the City, visit [MonroeWA.gov](#) and search "volunteer" to find the right fit. To be notified of volunteer opportunities, [sign up here](#).

APRIL 16 CITY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

The City Council met in a Regular Study Session Meeting on Tuesday, April 16. The following items were discussed and acted upon during the meeting:

Announcements/Presentations:

- [2023 Legislative Session Recap](#) Luke Esser, Government Relations consultant, provided an overview of the 2023 Legislative Session including initiatives that were brought forward and results related to items on the City's Legislative Agenda



Discussion Items:

- Monroe 2044 - Draft Housing Chapter Kate Tourtellot, Planning Manager, reviewed the first draft of the Housing Chapter of the 2044 Comprehensive Plan Update and highlighted policy decisions that will need to be made to meet the requirement for a variety of housing options to accommodate all income levels while mitigating displacement. Ms. Tourtellot reviewed the sections of the draft chapter and requested Council to review and provide feedback.

Mayor/Administrative Reports:

- City Administrator Deborah reminded Council of upcoming meetings and community events and highlighted one staff member for their customer service efforts.
- I reported on a recent meeting I attended.

UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

The City Council will next meet in a Regular Business Meeting on Tuesday, April 23. 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 April 23 agenda, which can be accessed by clicking the button below.

[Council Agendas/Minutes](#)

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



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

[Unsubscribe aedwards@monroewa.gov](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by aedwards@monroewa.gov powered by



Try email marketing for free today!