



MONROE THIS WEEK

August 30, 2024



HAPPY LABOR DAY



Earlier this week, I issued a **proclamation** recognizing September 2, 2024 as Labor Day. Established in 1894 and celebrated on the first Monday of September, Labor Day is a federal holiday that allows us to give thanks to American workers and the labor movement. The City of Monroe has long valued our partnerships with the Teamsters Local Union No. 763 and the Monroe Police Officer's Guild. This Labor Day, we acknowledge the valuable contributions of labor organizations and the American worker towards building our nation. City administrative offices will be closed on Mon. Sept 2.



In another **proclamation**, I declared August 31, 2024 as International Overdose Awareness Day. This day provides an opportunity for our community to stand beside those who have lost loved ones to an overdose and to support those who have a substance abuse disorder and are diligently working towards recovery. I am grateful that there are several facilities in Monroe that provide services for substance abuse including the Recovery Center at Evergreen Health Monroe, Ideal Options, Sea Mar, and Conquer Clinics. I encourage Monroe residents to join me in continuing to cultivate a culture of caring and enhanced engagement around addiction and substance abuse.

In this week's issue of Monroe This Week:

- *New Blueberry Children's Park playground*
- *Understanding property taxes*
- *Back-to-school safety tips*
- *Roadway Safety Community Meetings*

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

NEW BLUEBERRY CHILDREN'S PARK PLAYGROUND

Last week, I had the pleasure of attending the ribbon cutting for the newly installed playground at Blueberry Children's Park. The new equipment includes features that intentionally break down physical/social barriers and encourage multi-generational play. Additionally, the new play area is nearly 50% larger than the previous play area at the park.

Thank you to the Monroe City Council, Park Board, Planning Commission, and Snohomish County Councilmember Sam Low for supporting this project and providing new opportunities for those of all ages and abilities to play.



A DIVE INTO YOUR PROPERTY TAXES

Property taxes can be complicated to understand. Below are some quick questions and answers to help better understand how they relate to the City of Monroe.

How are property taxes determined? Property taxes are based on the value of the property and which tax district it's located in. Tax districts in Monroe include Snohomish Regional Fire District, Monroe School District, Snohomish School District, Sno-Isle Library District, Hospital District, the City of Monroe, Snohomish County, and Washington State. Each tax district receives a portion of the property taxes you pay. Of every \$1.00 you pay on property taxes; 11 cents goes to the City of Monroe.

How are property values assessed? Property values are determined by the Snohomish County Assessor's office. Each year, the Snohomish County Assessor determines every property's fair market value. The Assessor looks at the land itself – its size and location – as well as the buildings and other improvements on it. They also compare it with similar properties and recent sales in the area. Learn more about how property values are assessed at <https://snohomishcountywa.gov/Assessor>.

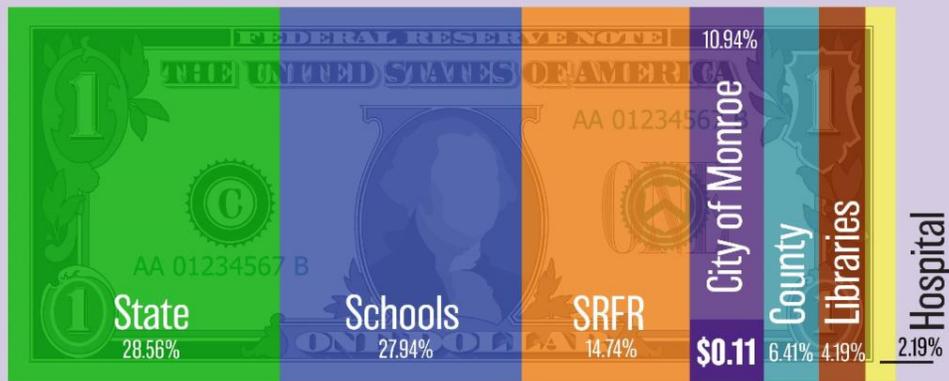
What do I pay for city services? About 11% of your property taxes go to the City of Monroe. This funds city services like police, parks and street maintenance, administration, special events, and more. The median home in Monroe is valued at about \$590,000. The owner of a \$590,000 home will pay about \$4,582 in property taxes this year, with about \$504 of that for city services. The largest portion of the tax bill - 29% or \$1,329 is paid to Washington State. The School District collects approximately 28% or \$1,283. The Fire District portion is 15% or \$687 of the total bill. Other taxing districts (County, Library, and Hospital) collect the remaining 17% or \$779.

For more about property taxes in Washington State, view the Department of Revenue's **Homeowner's Guide to Property Tax**.

City of Monroe

Where do your property tax dollars go?

State of Washington	\$0.29	28.56%
Monroe School District No. 103	\$0.28	27.94%
Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue	\$0.20	14.74%
City of Monroe	\$0.11	10.94%
Snohomish County	\$0.06	6.41%
Sno-Isle Libraries	\$0.04	4.19%
Public Hospital #1	\$0.02	2.19%



MonroeWA.gov

TEACHING MOMENTS FOR BACK-TO-SCHOOL SAFETY



The first day of school for the Monroe School District is Wed., Sept. 4. While it's likely families are busy buying school supplies and clothes and getting an end-of-summer vacation in, it's important to be thinking and talking about back-to-school safety.

Whether you are walking, biking, driving or taking the bus to school, you should always be aware of your surroundings and not be distracted, especially by cell phones. Here are

some great tips we've gathered from safety agencies, like the **National Safety Council** and **National Highway Traffic Administration**:

School bus safety

- Stand at least 10 feet from curb waiting for the bus
- Wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before boarding
- Sit facing forward when riding on the bus

- Look both ways before exiting the bus

Walking to school

- Walk on the sidewalk if available; if no sidewalk, walk on the edge of the roadway toward traffic
- Look left, right, and left again before crossing the street or in a crosswalk
- Activate crosswalk indicators and wait for the appropriate time to cross the street
- Make eye contact with drivers

Biking to school

- Wear a proper fitting helmet
- Dismount before crossing the street
- Ride in the same direction as traffic
- Ride in single file

Driving to school

- Slow down; keep to 20 MPH in school zones
- Stop for school buses; it's the law
- Follow crossing guard instructions
- Wear seatbelts at all times when driving
- Stay off the phone

Returning to school can bring on anxiety. A good place to find mental health resources is Wa211.org.

Thanks for keeping safety at the top of your mind. Best wishes to all of Monroe's students for a healthy school year.

ROADWAY SAFETY COMMUNITY MEETINGS

The Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) is working on a Regional Safety Action Plan to reverse the trend of increasing roadway deaths and serious injuries in the Puget Sound region. The PSRC is requesting community input. Please consider joining PSRC for their upcoming community meeting at Everett Station. The event will have food, entertainment and interactive ways to share your insight on traffic safety needs in our area. The meeting focusing on the Snohomish County area will be held on Tuesday, October 1, from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. [**Click here to learn more and RSVP.**](#)



Puget Sound Regional Council

UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

In observance of Labor Day, there will be no City Council meeting on September 3, 2024. The next City Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 10, 2024. To view the meeting agenda, click the button below. City Council meetings are re-broadcasted on the **City's YouTube Channel (@MonroeWA)**.

[Council Agendas/Minutes](#)



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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