



MONROE THIS WEEK

September 6, 2024



Next week, I will issue a **proclamation** recognizing the month of September 2024 as Hydrocephalus Awareness Month. Hydrocephalus is a neurological condition, affecting nearly one million Americans, that occurs when an excessive amount of cerebrospinal fluid builds up in the brain's ventricles, causing pressure to increase on the skull. The condition can be fatal if left untreated.

Currently, no cure exists for Hydrocephalus and the only treatments available require brain surgery. Today, Hydrocephalus remains the leading reason for brain surgery for children.



Please join me in extending appreciation for the **National Hydrocephalus**

Association who, in conjunction with local chapters, professionals and community organizations, have sought to increase public awareness surrounding hydrocephalus and the needs of those diagnosed with the condition.

In this week's issue of Monroe This Week:

- 2025-2026 Biennial Budget Updates
- Police Department Facility Assessment
- New Illuminated Crosswalk Signs
- Elections Explained Event
- Upcoming Weekend Events
- Monthly Business Newsletter

Please reach out to me with what may be on your mind about and for Monroe. I can be contacted at [**GThomas@MonroeWA.gov**](mailto:GThomas@MonroeWA.gov).

Yours in Service,



Mayor Geoffrey Thomas

ADOPTION PROCESS UNDERWAY FOR CITY'S 2025-2026 BIENNIAL BUDGET



**2025-2026
Biennial Budget**



Mayor Thomas, the City Council, and staff started work on the 2025-2026 Biennial Budget in January by reviewing the City's **Imagine Monroe Vision Statement, strategic priorities** and community input. The 2025-2029 Strategic Priorities and five-year Strategic Plan were further refined at a City Council workshop on April 30, 2024. The draft 2025-2029 Strategic Priorities are built around Imagine Monroe and identify investments

in public safety, financial sustainability, city parks, neighborhoods, facilities, and infrastructure.

Mayor Thomas and City staff are preparing the Mayor's 2025-2026 Recommended Budget. The budget identifies the revenues and expenditures needed to provide city services and achieve the goals identified in the draft 2025-2029 strategic priorities. The budget is both a financial plan and a policy document, making it one of the most important documents prepared by the city. In the coming months, the City Council will consider the Mayor's recommended budget and how it achieves the Council and community's

short- and long-term goals. The City Council is required by state law to adopt a balance budget by December 31, 2024.

The 2025-2026 Recommended Budget is scheduled for public release on October 11, and discussion at City Council meetings on Tuesday, October 15, October 22, November 12, and November 19. Council meetings are held at the School Administration Building located at 14692 179th Ave SE, Monroe. Meetings begin at 7 PM. Meeting agendas are posted on the **Meeting & Agenda portal** on the Friday before the Tuesday meeting.

If you have specific comments, you can address the City Council in person during the public comment period at the beginning of the meeting or submit written comments. Written comments emailed to **cityclerk@monroewa.gov** and received by 4 p.m. the day of the meeting will be distributed to the City Council. Written comments can also be mailed to Monroe City Council, 14841 179th Ave. SE, Suite 320, Monroe, WA 98272.

POLICE DEPARTMENT FACILITY ASSESSMENT FINAL REPORT COMPLETE; ADDITIONAL STUDY UNDERWAY

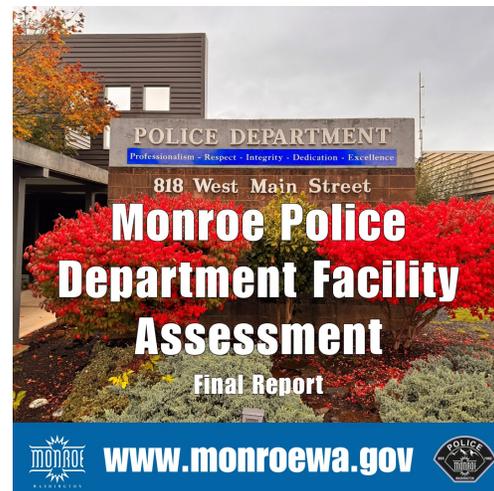
In July, the City Council accepted the **final Police Department Facility Assessment Report** and authorized additional study of potential expansion on the Municipal Campus and/or land acquisition off-site. Last summer Mackenzie, Inc. was hired to conduct analysis of space and function deficiencies in the Police Department that were identified in a 2019 campus evaluation. Specifically, Mackenzie was to address:

- Inadequate victim and witness interview and intake areas;
- Undersized training space for officers and professional staff;
- Deficient security; and
- Misalignment of workspaces.

Mackenzie evaluated the building's conditions (interior and exterior) and interviewed staff to understand the functionality (space and programming needs, interdepartmental coordination and public access needs) of the department. The project team toured public safety buildings to glean best features and practices for public safety essential buildings. Taking in what they learned from these two steps, Mackenzie evaluated the expansion of the Department within the current Municipal Campus site as well as five off-campus locations.

Key findings:

- Evaluation of the space needs program determined that a facility of approximately 27,800 square feet would be necessary to both right size the building to current needs and to allow for 20- year growth of the Police Department. The current size of the building is 9,500 square feet.



- Facility is not in compliance with current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) code and does not meet building code requirements for an essential facility.
- Evidence room is not temperature controlled and does not have fire protection.
- Lack of visual and audio privacy throughout the facility.
- Juveniles and victim Interview rooms are located within secure areas.
- Security vulnerabilities present risk to visitors and staff.
- The existing parking infrastructure cannot accommodate the police vehicle fleet, employee vehicles, and customer parking spaces.

The City Council authorized additional study of expanding into the Public Works/Parks & Recreation building as well as looking at sites in Monroe outside of the Municipal Campus. More information is available on the **[Municipal Campus Improvement Project webpage](#)**.

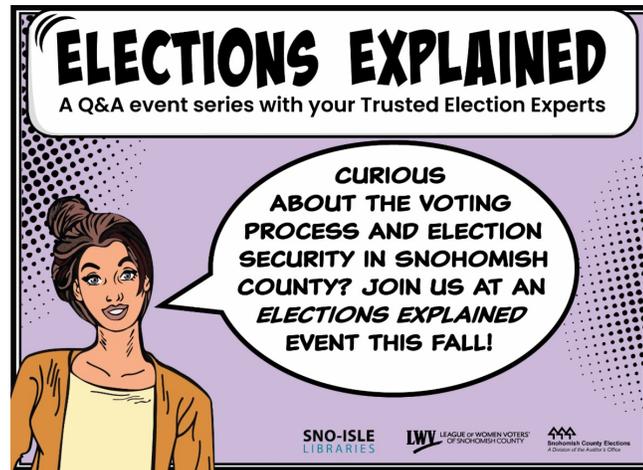
CITY INSTALLS NEW ILLUMINATED CROSSWALK SIGNS

I am excited to announce that our Public Works Department is beginning to install new illuminated crosswalk signs at six locations throughout the city. These traffic control devices, called Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB), are designed to enhance driver awareness and increase pedestrian safety. Locations will include West Main St., North Kelsey St., and Fryelands Blvd.



ELECTIONS EXPLAINED FREE EVENT OFFERED AT MONROE LIBRARY, SEPT. 7

Are you curious about the voting process and election security in Snohomish County? Get the answers to all your elections-related questions about voting procedures, ballot processing, election security, and more straight from the experts themselves.



Snohomish County Auditor Garth Fell and Snohomish County Elections will share insights into the elections and voting process ahead of the 2024 Presidential Election. This is your chance to engage directly with the people responsible for administering elections in the county, so don't miss out on this opportunity to learn more about the process.

A free event is being offered at Monroe Library on September 7, from 12 to 1 p.m. Registration is encouraged but not required. **[Register and learn more here.](#)**

UPCOMING WEEKEND EVENTS

I'm happy to say that our summer weather is hanging on for us to enjoy yet another weekend full of events in Monroe! Lake Tye, Sky River Park and Frank Wagner Elementary will all be hosting events this weekend.



Saturday, September 7:

- R/C Unlimited's Model Boat Racing, Lake Tye, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Belonging, Sky River Park, 12-6 p.m.
- Swift Night Out, Frank Wagner Elementary School, 4:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 8:

- R/C Unlimited's Model Boat Racing, Lake Tye, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
- RBO Color Walk, Sky River Park, 8 a.m.



SEPTEMBER MONTHLY BUSINESS NEWSLETTER



Each month our Economic Development Office publishes the Monroe Business Newsletter about our efforts and regional and state initiatives to recruit, retain and expand businesses in the City of Monroe. Each edition is shared with more than 3,300+ subscribers. To receive “Monroe Business,” via email, sign up [here](#).

The September edition of “Monroe Business” was just published and features:

- Upcoming Small Business Webinars
- Guide for Dealing with Retail Crime and Safety
- Washington State 'Bizfair'
- North Puget Sound Business Builder Expo
- Government Contracting Certification and Assistance
- And more...

[Read more here.](#)

UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

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



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

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