



# MONROE THIS WEEK

September 13, 2024

A decorative border of colorful flowers and leaves in shades of orange, red, yellow, and teal surrounds the central text.

**HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH**  
**SEPTEMBER 15 - OCTOBER 15, 2024**

Next week, I will issue a **Proclamation** recognizing September 15 through October 15 as Hispanic Heritage Month. In 1988, the United States Congress adopted a resolution recognizing September 15 through October 15 as Hispanic Heritage Month, celebrating the culture and traditions of Spanish-speaking residents. September 15 is the anniversary of independence for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua; September 16 is the anniversary of

independence for Mexico; and September 18 is the anniversary of independence for Chile.

Our Hispanic community brings a rich cultural heritage representing many countries, ethnicities, and religious traditions that are interwoven into the fabric of America, and has a profound influence on our city and country. I encourage all residents to read the **Proclamation** to learn more about the rich Hispanic culture, traditions and history, and to celebrate the contributions that have been made to our country and our community by Hispanic Americans.



La próxima semana, voy a publicar una **Proclamación** reconociendo del 15 de septiembre al 15 de octubre como el Mes de la Herencia Hispana. En 1988, el Congreso de los Estados Unidos adoptó una resolución reconociendo el mes de la Herencia Hispana del 15 de septiembre al 15 de octubre, celebrando la cultura y las tradiciones de los residentes de habla hispana. El 15 de septiembre es el aniversario de la independencia de Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras y Nicaragua; El 16 de septiembre es el aniversario de la independencia de México; y el 18 de septiembre es t y el 18 de septiembre es el aniversario de la independencia de Chile.

Nuestra comunidad hispana trae una rica herencia cultural que representa a muchos países, etnias y tradiciones religiosas que están entrelazadas en el tejido de Estados Unidos, y tiene una profunda influencia en nuestra ciudad y país. Animo a todos los residentes a leer la **Proclamación** para aprender más acerca de la rica cultura, tradiciones e historia hispana, y para celebrar las contribuciones que han hecho a nuestro país y a nuestra comunidad por hispanoamericanos.

*In this week's issue of Monroe This Week:*

- *Fair Day Parade Thank You*
- *Proposition 1 Information*
- *City's 2023 Clean Audit*
- *Lodging Tax Grant Applications*
- *Disaster Preparedness*
- *Seattle Spartan Trifecta*

*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,*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Thomas'.

*Mayor Geoffrey Thomas*

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**FAIR DAYS PARADE - THANK YOU**



Last month, we observed the kickoff to the Evergreen State Fair during the Fair Days Parade. Thank you to everyone who joined me in celebrating our community. Although it was one of the wettest parades in Monroe's history, I appreciate the dedication of the Chamber of Commerce and Community Organizations, who worked to

make the event a success and highlighted Monroe as a welcoming place for all.

Additionally, I wanted to extend thanks to the City's Public Works and Police departments for making it one of the safest parades in our history. Specifically, I want to extend a special thank you to Dustin Harvie from the Public Work's Operations and Maintenance division and Sergeant Chuck Fuller from the Police Department for their hard work and planning. Their coordination between multiple departments, jurisdictions, and organizations allowed this year's parade to run smoothly and effectively.

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## WHY PROPOSITION 1?

You may be wondering why the City is seeking **Proposition 1**, that, if approved by Monroe voters, would provide dedicated funding to support parks maintenance and public safety services. Several factors have contributed to the City Council adopting the ordinance to place Proposition 1 on the November General Election ballot.



## Monroe's Proposition 1

Parks & Public Safety Levy

The Monroe community has consistently expressed that quality parks and recreation activities and community safety are high priorities. The population and job growth in Monroe has created demand for more park amenities, recreation opportunities, crime prevention, nuisance abatement, and animal control. Essential city services, including parks maintenance and public safety, are funded primarily through property and sales tax revenue. The City's levy rate paid by property owners has fallen from \$1.09/\$1,000 assessed value (AV) in 2021 to \$.86/\$1,000 AV in 2024. Moreover, sales tax revenues are not keeping pace with inflation and are expected to be below 2022 levels. Additionally, City operating costs have continued to increase due to inflation.

The cost to operate the city continues to increase faster than revenue. By state law, the property taxes collected by the City cannot increase more than 1% per year without a vote of residents. That's regardless of how much property values increase.

As the process to adopt the 2025-2026 Biennial Budget got underway, the City Council considered alternative revenue sources to ensure a budget that is balanced and responsive to community needs is achieved. If approved, Proposition 1 would set Monroe's property tax levy rate at \$1.08 per \$1,000 of assessed value (AV).

I encouraged you to read more details about Proposition 1 prior to the November 5 general election at [Monroewa.gov/Proposition 1](https://monroewa.gov/Proposition1) and in our [Frequently Asked Questions](#). Please contact the City at 360-794-7400 or [cityclerk@monroewa.gov](mailto:cityclerk@monroewa.gov) should you have specific questions.

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## CITY RECIEVES CLEAN 2023 AUDIT



I am pleased to announce the City of Monroe received clean financial and Federal single audits with no findings from the **Office of the Washington State Auditor** (SAO). At the conclusion of their audit, SAO noted that for the areas reviewed “The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards...”

For more information on the process, findings or to view the audit reports, [click here](#).

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## CITY TO BEGIN ACCEPTING 2025 LODGING TAX GRANT APPLICATIONS ON SEPT. 16

The City of Monroe will begin accepting applications for 2025 lodging tax grants on Monday, September 16, 2024. Applications will be due no later than 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 9, 2024. For further details and to download the application, please visit [our website](#).



To be considered for funding, the request must be used for one of the following activities, as specified in **Chapter 67.28.1816** of the Revised Code of Washington:

- Tourism marketing;
- Marketing and operations of special events and festivals designed to attract tourists;
- Operations and capital expenditures of tourism-related facilities owned or operated by a municipality or public facilities district. Applicable only to municipalities and public facility districts;
- Operations of tourism-related facilities owned or operated by nonprofit

organizations as defined by the IRC 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(6). Proof of nonprofit status will be required.

Priority consideration will be given to applications that feature events scheduled from November through April, and that promote off-season tourism.

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## DISASTER PREPAREDNESS RESOURCES

**September is National Preparedness Month** and you'll likely be seeing a lot of information in the media and online about how best to prepare yourself, your family, home, workplace, and car. Disasters and emergencies can happen anytime and at any place. So just how prepared are you?

Monroe is vulnerable to natural, manmade and other disasters that could affect daily living for a short time or an extended period. Monroe's Emergency Management Office is responsible for the planning efforts to mitigate potential hazards and prepare for them. The Office is also responsible for coordinating its local response to emergencies and disasters and to help the community recover from them. Monroe residents and businesses also have responsibility to be prepared for a disaster like an earthquake or an emergency like a fire.

Please check out our updated **Emergency Management** webpages for resources in understanding potential hazards, putting together an emergency supplies kit, preparing your business, and staying informed during a disaster event.

The graphic features the Monroe Washington logo on the left. The main text reads "Emergency Preparedness Starts with You" above "be prepared." in large white letters on a blue background. Below this are three circular icons: a house with an arrow pointing right, a red backpack with supplies, and a smartphone with a radio. Each icon has a corresponding label in a purple box: "MAKE A PLAN", "BUILD A KIT", and "BE INFORMED". The website "MonroeWa.gov" is at the bottom right.

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## SEATTLE SPARTAN TRIFECTA RETURNS THIS WEEKEND

Seattle Spartan returns to

Sky Meadows Park, outside Monroe up Tester Road this Saturday, Sept. 14, and Sunday, Sept. 15. This event includes the Pan American Championship which elite athletes from across the Americas will compete in Beast Championship heats.



Traffic Advisory: While hosted outside City limits this event may affect the traffic on the west end of town, particularly the Tester Road roundabout. Thank you for your patience and understanding. This event brings in a lot of visitors to our community. Let's give them a warm welcome.

Learn more about the event at <https://bit.ly/4eiOE3D>

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## UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

The next City Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 17, 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](mailto:Councilmembers@MonroeWA.gov)



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