



MONROE THIS WEEK

December 20, 2024



With the end of the year just around the corner, I take a moment to reflect on what we achieved together this past year. A snapshot of our accomplishments in 2024 include:

Access to Parks and Healthy Waterways – *The city is invested in making our parks a community asset. This year we updated Blueberry Children’s Park, constructed new pickle-ball courts at Sky River Park, resurfaced the tennis courts at Lake Tye, and completed the city’s first trails masterplan.*



Support Local Businesses and Products – *Our business community is the backbone of our local economy. The city continues to highlight local businesses in the Choose Monroe Sky and Sno magazines. This year we added a Westcoast add campaign, funded through a Port of Seattle grant, to promote Monroe as a [basecamp](#) for winter recreation.*

Support Regional Connections – In August, I met with state DOT and elected officials to secure support to #Finish522. The City Council and I continue to advocate with state and federal officials for needed projects and policies beneficial to Monroe while expressing concern about policies with negative impacts to the community. We continue to advocate and support widening State Route 522 to 4 lanes between High Bridge and the Paradise Lake Rd. intersection.

Friendly and responsive – In the first half of 2024, the city completed a cross-department assessment of its land use and building permit tracking software and workflow. The assessment resulted in a selection process to purchase and implement a new software system in 2025. The outcome will be improved transparency and information for permit applicants while boosting staff efficiency.

Strengthen Connections – We continue to invest in projects to improve bike and pedestrian safety. In August our public works department installed rectangular rapid flashing beacons at four busy crosswalks to support safe travel for bikes and pedestrians throughout the city. We secured additional grant funding to improve additional crosswalks throughout the city in 2025. For community events, this year the city's Music in the Park summer concert series, hosted by the Monroe Chamber of Commerce, attracted over 10,000 area residents to Lake Tye making 2024 the largest and most successful concert series in Monroe's history.

Ensure a Safe Place for All – In November, the Monroe Police Department achieved accreditation status through the [Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs](#) (WASPC). To earn accreditation, the Department successfully demonstrated compliance with over 140 standards covering all aspects of managing and operating a law enforcement agency in the State of Washington. Also in 2024, the city partnered with local non-profit service providers to serve the most vulnerable members of our community. This includes funding for the city's embedded social worker, community service officer, peer support, and domestic violence advocate.

These projects would not have been possible without the support of our incredible community and city staff. Thank you to all residents, visitors, businesses, and city staffers for continuing to contribute and work towards [Imagine Monroe](#). I am thankful for all you do for our community and look forward to our future accomplishments in 2025.

I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season and a happy New Year. The next Monroe This Week newsletter will be issued on January 10, 2025.

This week's issue of Monroe This Week features:

- Upcoming City Hall Holiday Hours
- Christmas Tree Recycling Event
- Caring for Monroe's Waterways
- Holiday Crime Prevention Tips

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

LIMITED CITY HALL HOURS ON DEC. 24-25 AND JAN. 1



**City Offices
Closed**

in observance of the Christmas &
New Year's Day holidays



Tues., Dec. 24 @ 12 p.m.,
Wed., Dec. 25 and Wed., Jan 1

City administrative offices will be closed for the Christmas holiday on Tuesday, Dec. 24 starting as 12 p.m. and closed all day on Wednesday, Dec. 25. City offices will reopen on Dec. 26 at 8 a.m.

In observation of the New Years Holiday, City administrative offices will be closed all day on Wednesday, Jan. 1.

If you have a fire, police or medical emergency, please call 9-1-1.

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING EVENT RETURNS

Thank you Monroe Boy Scout Troop 148 for hosting its free Christmas Tree Recycling Event Jan. 4 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Evergreen Speedway (14405 179th Ave SE). This is a great way to properly dispose of your tree. Thank you to all those who help to run this free community event. Email monroetroop148@gmail.com with questions.



CARING FOR MONROE'S WATERWAYS: WOODS CREEK & LAKE TYE



Throughout the year, our Environmental Services staff collect samples from several waterways in Monroe – including Woods Creek and Lake Tye. Samples are tested for healthy water temperatures and levels of dissolved

oxygen and fecal coliform. As a requirement of a state permit, we report our findings to the Department of Ecology. Vince Bertrand, our Environmental Services Coordinator, explains more in this video: on the City's YouTube Channel (@MonroeWa): <https://youtu.be/npMIO2zlx80>.

HOLIDAY CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

As much as we've seen the character Grinch lately and are reminded how he tried to steal Christmas from the Whos of Whoville, we offer you some tips to prevent real life Grinches from doing the same to you.



- Be extra vigilant about securing your home or business. Lock doors, windows, and garages.
- Leave a light, radio, or TV on when you are away.
- Always lock your car and remove valuables.
- Always verify the identity of anyone who comes to your door.
- Never give personal information (e.g. date of birth, social security number, bank account number) over the phone or in email.
- Shop online from secure and trusted websites. Be aware of bogus gift offers.
- Schedule deliveries when someone is available to receive them. Pick up delivered packages promptly. Ask a trusted friend to retrieve it or receive it.
- Mail checks, gift certificates, and presents from inside the post office.

Networking with your neighbors to keep an eye out for one another is a great crime prevention technique. Visit our Police Department webpage for more [crime prevention tips](#) and to learn how to form a [Neighborhood Block Watch](#). Please remember to call 9-1-1 to report suspicious activity.

UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

The next City Council Meeting is currently scheduled for Tues., January 14, 2024 at 7 p.m. To view the meeting agenda, click the button below. City Council meetings are re-broadcasted on the [City's YouTube Channel \(@MonroeWA\)](#). To learn how to provide public comment to the Mayor and City Council, click [here](#).

[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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