



MONROE THIS WEEK

February 28, 2025



Women's HISTORY MONTH

MARCH 2025



On Tuesday, February 25, I issued a [proclamation](#) recognizing March as Women's History Month and March 8, 2025 as International Women's Day. These two recognitions serve to celebrate the achievements of women from all backgrounds and lived experiences. It is because of the strength, compassion, leadership, ingenuity, advocacy, and contributions of women that we are made a better people and community. I invite you to join me this next month in learning more about the contributions of women throughout history and taking actions to remove inequities that continue to limit women from realizing the full extent of liberty.



This week's edition of Monroe This Week features:

- Parks Director Mike Farrell Retires
- Councilmember Fulcher Receives Leadership Certificate
- Human Services Annual Report Published
- Seasonal Parks Employment Openings Available
- Fiber- Installation Happening in Frylands Neighborhood

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

LONG-TIME PARKS DIRECTOR, MIKE FARRELL, RETIRES

Today, February 28, we wish farewell to our Parks Director, Mike Farrell. Mike built his parks career from the ground up. Starting out as a part-time maintenance aid while attending California State University, Mike worked his way up to becoming the Parks Supervisor for the City of Sammamish in 2001. During his time as a supervisor, he completed his masters in Public Administration from the University of Washington in 2002. The following year, he moved to Indiana to further his career as a Parks Director.



We welcomed Mike and his family back to Washington in 2005 when he became the City of Monroe's first Parks Director. Over his 19-year tenure with the City of Monroe, Mike has played a transformative role in creating our current parks system. Today, Monroe's Parks Department includes 13 full-time employees with an additional 6 seasonal workers each summer.

Mike had many memorable accomplishments throughout his journey with the City of Monroe, including the development of Wiggly Field Off-Leash Dog Park, Miracle League Field, Lake Tye's Skate Park, Lake Tye Synthetic Fields, and the acquisition of Trombly Hill Park. To say he has seen Monroe through it all is an understatement.

Mike's leadership has directly contributed to [Monroe's identity](#) as "a lively

center surrounded by nature, a place of beauty and goodwill” where “our parks, waterways, and environment are healthy and accessible for everyone to enjoy.”

Join me in thanking Mike for his years of service. You can read my full proclamation honoring Parks Director Mike Farrell [online](#).



COUNCILMEMBER HEATHER FULCHER EARNS MUNICIPAL LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATE



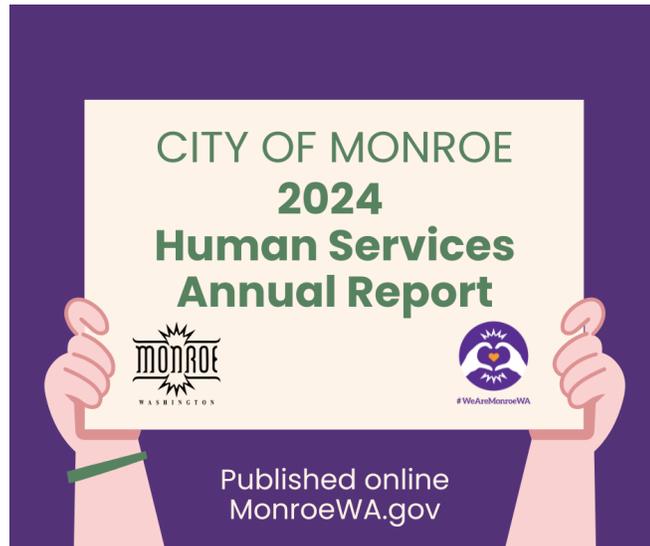
I extend a heartfelt congratulations to Councilmember Heather Fulcher for earning her Certificate of Municipal Leadership from the Association of Washington Cities. This achievement highlights Councilmember Fulcher's ongoing dedication to expanding her expertise in municipal leadership and her commitment to serving our community.

To obtain this certificate, an elected official must complete more than 30 hours of training, including in municipal topic areas such as:

- Roles, responsibilities, and legal requirements
- Public sector resource management
- Community planning and development
- Effective local leadership
- Diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging

HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS FEATURED IN ANNUAL REPORT

This week Human Services staff presented their [annual report](#) to the City Council. This report details many of the programs and services funded and supported by the City to enhance the continuum of care for vulnerable populations in and around Monroe. Some key highlights from 2024 include:



- Managed over \$1.5 million in grants, investing in critical programs for mental health, therapeutic services, and housing assistance in partnership with local nonprofits.
- Allocated \$300,000 in City funds for housing and wraparound services which aided 52 families; 32 of whom transitioned to permanent housing.
- Provided \$20,000 of additional funding for mental health sessions for underserved individuals and Monroe school district families through Take the Next Step's Family Resource Center, impacting more than 340 family members in the community.
- Responded to hundreds of requests through our Peer Support and Case Management Specialists, who aid residents with basic needs and connections to services, including helping 77 clients obtain permanent housing.
- Leveraged state funds for emergency housing and rental assistance to permanently house an additional 13 households and aiding 33 families with rental assistance.
- Continued the Mental Health Co-Response and Embedded Social Worker programs that deploy alongside first responders to connect persons experiencing homelessness, behavioral health crises, mental illness, substance abuse, and financial struggles to the resources they need.

Much of this work is in partnership with local and regional human services providers and we are grateful for their continued efforts. To learn more about Human Service programs and resources, please visit <http://monroewa.gov/655/Human-Services>.

CITY HIRING SEASONAL PARKS STAFF



Looking for a seasonal gig? The City's Parks and Recreation Department is hiring for various positions that can last up to 4 months. Earn a competitive hourly rate ranging from \$22 to \$26, depending on your experience.

Your responsibilities will include typical maintenance duties like mowing, raking, weeding, and some janitorial tasks to keep our parks in top shape. To be eligible, you must be at least 18 years old, hold a valid Washington State driver's license, and have an acceptable driving record, as some positions require the use of City vehicles. Interested? Visit the City's [website](#) for more

details and to apply. Take the first step towards a rewarding seasonal opportunity!

La Ciudad de Monroe desea contratar personal para varios puestos de trabajo de temporada en el Departamento de Parques (Parks). La duración de los contratos de los puestos de trabajo podría ser de hasta cuatro 4 meses. El pago por hora es de US\$22-26 dependiendo del nivel de experiencia. Las funciones típicas para los puestos de trabajo en el Departamento de Parques incluyen el mantenimiento de los terrenos e instalaciones, incluyendo cortar el pasto, rastrillar, desherbar y realizar servicios de limpieza. Requisitos mínimos: Debe tener por lo menos 18 años de edad. Estos puestos de trabajo requieren el uso de vehículos del municipio. Los candidatos deberán poseer una licencia válida de conducir del Estado de Washington y tener un expediente de conducción aceptable. Para obtener más información y para presentar una solicitud de trabajo, por favor visite [el sitio web](#) de la Ciudad.

ZIPLY FIBER INFRASTRUCTURE INSTALLATION IN FRYELANDS NEIGHBORHOOD

You may have noticed these signs in the Fryelands neighborhood. Ziplly Fiber is currently working in the Fryelands, installing infrastructure for its fiber-optic network. If you have any questions about this work, please contact Ziplly Fiber at newfiber@ziplyfiber.com. You can find more information by visiting ziplyfiber.com/new-fiber-locations/Washington/Monroe or provide feedback directly to Ziplly at ziplyfiber.com/construction-feedback.



UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

The next City Council Meeting is currently scheduled for Tues., March 11, 2025 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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