

MONROE THIS WEEK

June 13, 2025



I recently issued a [proclamation](#) recognizing June 19, 2025 as Juneteenth – the oldest known celebration commemorating the end of the enslavement of Black and African Americans in the United States. Juneteenth offers us an opportunity to celebrate the countless contributions that Black and African Americans have made to enrich the lives of every American as well as reflect on our nation’s promise of providing the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness to all. On this day, we further recognize the profound impact that Black and African Americans have had on our own community, helping us create a safe



place for all, where everyone feels at home and everyone feels they belong. I encourage everyone in our community to learn more about Juneteenth and to take part in the Juneteenth celebration on Saturday, June 14, 2025, at Galaxy

Theater.

Please note that City administrative offices will be closed in observation of Juneteenth on Thursday, June 19, 2025.

This edition of Monroe this Week features:

- *Flowers in Monroe*
- *Fireworks FYI*
- *Water Confidence Report*
- *Search for Photos of Past Monroe Mayors*
- *Final Festival Lot open House - June 18*

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

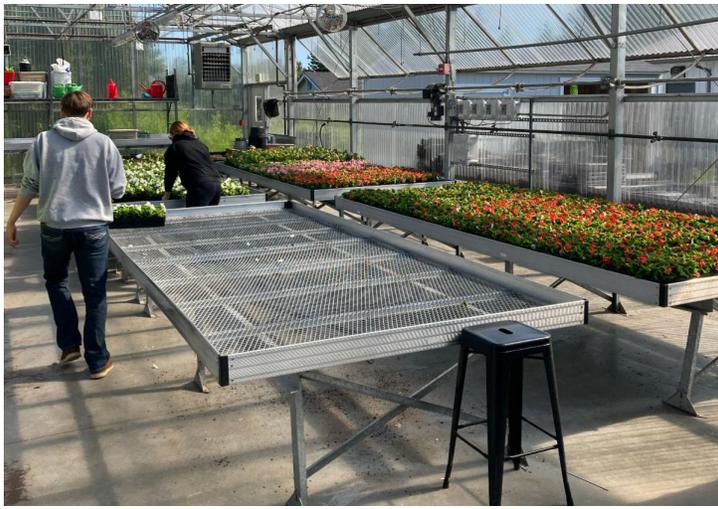
FLOWERS, FLOWERS, AND MORE FLOWERS!

Downtown Hanging Baskets: A huge thank you to the following businesses and organizations from our community who graciously stepped forward again this year to help beautify our city:

- **Monroe Garden Club:** a monetary donation to the city for the flower program and for the 7 volunteers who helped to plant the flowers in our 66 downtown hanging baskets
- **Pine Creek Farms and Nursery** supplying the flowers for the hanging baskets
- **Republic Services:** a monetary donation to the city for the flower program



Then we can't forget a thank you to our Parks Department staff for helping with the planting, installation, and maintenance of the baskets. In the summer season, staff will spend 3.5 - 4 hours every few days (depending on weather) just to water Main Street.



City Medians: This spring, 110 Plant Biology students at Monroe High School in collaboration with the city, engaged in a hands-on project that combined classroom learning with real-world impact. In April, students received begonia plugs, which they transplanted into 4-inch pots. Over the following weeks, they cared for the plants by watering them, monitoring

for pests and disease, and maintaining healthy growing conditions. This experience allowed students to apply plant biology concepts in a practical setting while contributing to the city's beautification projects.

As a secondary focus, students also conducted a small study comparing two begonia varieties: Hula and Ambassador. While the main goal remained plant care, this comparison allowed students to explore whether the Hula variety's mounded, spreading habit could provide more ground coverage than the compact, upright Ambassador series. If the Hula variety performs well in the ground this summer, it could help the city and the program: reduce the number of plastic containers used, lower soil usage, and save time during planting.

These findings could support more sustainable practices for both student projects and municipal landscaping. This project exemplifies the power of school-community partnerships, giving students a meaningful role in local projects while developing real-world horticultural skills.

FYI'S FOR FIREWORKS

The City of Monroe joins its public safety partners in encouraging you to celebrate Independence Day safely and reminds Monroe residents:

- The sale of consumer fireworks (e.g., Roman candles, rockets, sparklers, firecrackers) is allowed within city limits from July 1 through July 4 from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.
- The discharge of consumer fireworks is allowed within city limits on July 4 from 9 a.m. to midnight.



- The discharge of fireworks on city property, including parks, parking lots and sidewalks, is against the law. Discharging fireworks on school-owned property and county, state, and federal parkland is also illegal.
- Call 9-1-1 to report a fire caused by fireworks, injury from fireworks or the illegal making of fireworks.
- Call Snohomish 911's non-emergency line at 425-407-3999 to report the illegal discharge, discharge outside the allowed hours and lighting fireworks in a banned area.

Please consider alternatives to igniting fireworks (e.g. glow sticks) to "light up" your July 4 celebration this year. For safety tips, please visit our [fireworks webpage](#).

2024 WATER CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT NOW AVAILABLE

The City of Monroe's [2024 Water Consumer Confidence Report](#) is now available online. This annual report provides important information about the quality, sourcing, and safety of your drinking water. We are happy to announce that Monroe's water continues to meet or exceed all state and federal drinking water standards. Thank you to our water quality staff for your dedication to ensuring Monroe receives clean, safe, and great tasting drinking water.



SEARCH CONTINUES FOR PHOTOS OF PAST MONROE MAYORS

We are still searching for photos of the following Monroe mayors for a special display. It'd be great to "crack the case" with photos of former Mayors **Benjamin L. Monck** (1907-1908) and **Reed I. Case** (1928).

And it would be grand to have better quality photos of:

- Nicholas P. Heintz (1903-1904, 1914-1918)
- William J. Williams (1905-1906)
- John A. Vanasdlen (1911-1913)
- Harry T. Bennett (1941-1948)
- Robert H. Follis (1958-1961)

Our thanks to the Irvin Faussett family for sharing a photo with us. If you have any photos or know someone who might, please contact our City Clerk's

City of **MONROE** WASHINGTON

WANTED

MONROE MAYOR MYSTERY HUNT



 <p>NICHOLAS P. HEINTZ 1903-1904, 1914-1918</p>	 <p>WILLIAM J. WILLIAMS 1905-1906</p>	 <p>JOHN A. VANASDLEN 1911-1913</p>
 <p>JOHN J. CRETNEY 1929-1933</p>	 <p>HARRY T. BENNETT 1941-1948</p>	 <p>ROBERT H. FOLLIS 1958-1961</p>

WANTED Missing!

REED I. CASE
1928

BENJAMIN L. MONCK
1907-1908

We Need Your Help!

We are working with the Monroe Historical Society on this project and would appreciate hearing from anyone who might have these photos! Please contact our City Clerk's Office at 360-794-7400 or cityclerk@monroewa.gov by Friday, June 27.

FINAL DOWNTOWN FESTIVAL LOT OPEN HOUSE - WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18

DOWNTOWN MONROE FESTIVAL LOT

Share your vision with us on June 18, 2025:

- Open House, 12 -1 p.m., 201 W. Main St. (former Union Bank building)
- Monroe Farmers Market, 3-7 p.m., Galaxy Theater parking lot



City of **MONROE** WASHINGTON

Project Info:
MonroeWA.gov/FestivalLot

There's still time to share your ideas for the future **Downtown Festival Lot!** Our last Open House will be held this **Wednesday, June 18, at 12 p.m.** at the former Union Bank building, 201 West Main Street. Stop by to speak with city staff, ask questions, and provide your input in person.

If you can't attend, you can still participate by visiting us at the Farmers Market on June 18 from 3-7 p.m or by completing our quick **online questionnaire** by June 30. It only takes about 10 minutes and is a great way to ensure your voice is heard.

Help us shape the future of Downtown Monroe!

UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

The next City Council Meeting is currently scheduled for Tues., June 24, 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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