

MONROE THIS WEEK

June 27, 2025



Nearly 249 years ago, the Declaration of Independence was ratified by delegates from the original thirteen colonies, establishing the foundational values that would guide and sustain our nation. On **Independence Day**, we celebrate the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness outlined by the Declaration of Independence and the continued effort of countless individuals to preserve and expand these rights to everyone throughout our community. Please join me this July 4 with friends, family, and neighbors, to celebrate Independence Day. Please read my message in this newsletter for reminders on how to stay safe on the fourth of July. Be safe and have a happy Independence Day!



Please note that city administrative offices will be closed on Friday, July 4, 2025 in observance of Independence Day. In addition, due to the holiday, Monroe this Week will not be published next week.

This edition of Monroe this Week features:

- Blue Bullfrog Found in Monroe
- July 4 Safety Reminders
- Midsummer Renaissance Faire
- Storm Drain Survey
- Public Initiated Comprehensive Plan Amendments

- Community Development Closed July 8-10

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

RARE BLUE BULLFROG SIGHTED IN MONROE



Monroe locals recently spotted a blue bullfrog residing in the city.

A blue bullfrog is a anomaly caused by a genetic mutation called axanthism, which prevents the frog from producing yellow pigment. In green frogs, the lack of yellow pigment allows the remaining blue pigment to be more visible, painting the frog with a vibrant blue color.

Blue bullfrogs are incredibly rare and are found in as few as one in a million bullfrogs. The odds of finding a blue bullfrog in the wild are only **0.003%** !

FIREWORKS IN MONROE; WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

If you are planning a July 4th celebration that involves consumer fireworks (Roman candles, sparklers, firecrackers), please remember:

- You can buy consumer fireworks July 1-4 from 9 a.m.-11 p.m.
- You can discharge consumer fireworks on July 4 from 9 a.m. to midnight.
- You cannot discharge fireworks in city parks, including parking lots, as it is against the law.
- The synthetic turf fields at Lake Tye Park will be locked promptly at 5 p.m. on July 4 and will re-open the following morning.
- Call 9-1-1 to report a fire or serious injury caused by fireworks.
- Call 425-407-3999 to report non-emergencies such as the discharge of fireworks outside the restricted time or in a banned area.



View this [informational flyer](#) or visit our [Fireworks webpage](#) for more information. Have a safe holiday.

WA MIDSUMMER RENAISSANCE FAIRE RETURNS TO SKY MEADOWS



The return of the **Midsummer Renaissance Faire** promises an unforgettable journey into the past with new attractions, expanded entertainment, and even more opportunities to experience the magic of the Renaissance. Set in the enchanting village of Merriwick, a

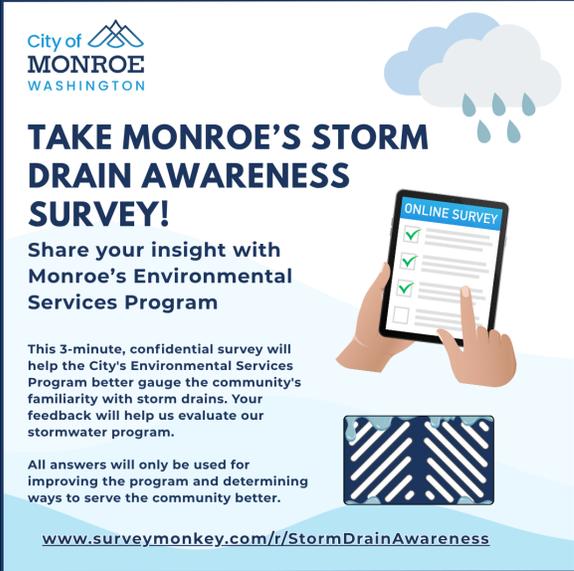
fictional English town under the rule of Queen Elizabeth I, the Faire invites guests to immerse themselves in a world of knights, nobles, and mythical creatures alike. With thrilling jousts, artisan markets, live performances, and interactive experiences, the Faire is a celebration of history, creativity, and community.

Tickets are sold online only in advance, no tickets will be sold at the gate. Please be aware of increased traffic throughout the city, in particular the Tester Road roundabout. This event welcomes 15,000+ attendees each weekend. For more information, visit [washingtonfaire.com](http://www.washingtonfaire.com).

DATES: Saturdays & Sundays for 5 weekends in July & August 2025:

- July 19-20
- July 26-27
- August 2-3
- August 9-10
- August 16-17

ONLINE SURVEY: WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT STORM DRAINS?



City of
MONROE
WASHINGTON

TAKE MONROE'S STORM DRAIN AWARENESS SURVEY!

Share your insight with Monroe's Environmental Services Program

This 3-minute, confidential survey will help the City's Environmental Services Program better gauge the community's familiarity with storm drains. Your feedback will help us evaluate our stormwater program.

All answers will only be used for improving the program and determining ways to serve the community better.

www.surveymonkey.com/r/StormDrainAwareness

Our Environmental Services Division is interested in learning how much Monroe city residents and businesses know about storm drains. Do you have one near your home or business? Have you noticed a clogged storm drain in your neighborhood? Please take a quick confidential online survey at

surveymonkey.com/r/StormDrainAwareness and share with us what you know about storm drains. Input will help us with our Adopt-A-Drain program. The **survey closes July 18.**

This is an exciting new program for the City, and we hope you take part in caring for Monroe's water quality. Contact April Hardy, Environmental Program Analyst, Public Works Department at ahardy@monroewa.gov or 360-863-6100 to learn more.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: PUBLIC-INITIATED AMENDMENTS ACCEPTED THROUGH JULY 31

The City's [2024-2044 Comprehensive Plan](#) sets goals and objectives for Monroe to grow in a way that best represents the community's priorities. The document is dynamic and changes over time because Monroe does the same. We have an annual process, which is required by the State Growth Management Act, that allows

the Planning Commission and the City Council to consider amendments to the Comprehensive Plan. One type of amendment is a public-initiated request.

Public-initiated Comprehensive Plan Amendment requests can propose changes to:

- Goals, policies and implementation measures
- Future land use map
- Urban Growth Boundary
- An element of the Comprehensive Plan
- Technical corrections

Individuals, property owners, and neighborhood organizations interested in proposing a change are required to [complete and submit an application](#) by Thursday, July 31, 2025 (5 p.m.) to Amy Bright, Planner, Community Development Department at abright@monroewa.gov.

For the 2025-2026 amendment process, public-initiated amendment requests, as well as amendments necessary to comply with new state Growth Management Act laws, are expected to be presented to the City Council at a public hearing in September to set the Docket. In the fall, city staff will evaluate requests and present them to the Planning Commission which will host a public hearing and forward its recommendations to the Council in spring 2026.

Even if you are not an applicant proposing an amendment, you are encouraged to attend these meetings as they are your opportunity to stay informed about our Comprehensive Plan. Visit our [Comprehensive Plan Amendment webpage](#) for more information.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT CLOSED FOR TRAINING; JULY 8-10

We're excited to launch a **new permit software program** later this year that will enhance the electronic permit application process, GIS capabilities, and staff review time for planning and building permits. With any new software program, testing and training are needed to ensure a "bug-free" launch. The Community



PUBLIC-INITIATED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENTS



APPLICATIONS DUE JULY 31, 2025



Department, including permitting, building, and planning, will be closed Tuesday, July 8 through Thursday, July 10 to test the new software program and train employees.

To give the testing and training our undivided attention, Community Development, including the Permit Center, will be closed to walk-in customers. Voicemail and email

responses will be limited; expect responses to take longer than usual. Electronic permit applications can still be emailed respectively to building@monroewa.gov or landuse@monroewa.gov and will be processed, as is our standard, in the order received starting on Friday, July 11. Visit our [Permitting webpage](#) for instructions.

Inspection services will not be impacted during the closure. Visit our [Inspection webpage](#) for information on requesting one.

The new permitting software system will provide a more user-friendly experience for applicants and staff. We appreciate your understanding about the closure to test the software and train staff.

UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

The next City Council Meeting is currently scheduled for Tuesday, July 8, 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



Councilmember



Councilmember

Kevin Hanford

Jacob Walker

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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