

# Community News

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## Monroe Community Events – Mark Your Calendar!

**NAME: Town Hall: What is Monroe's Economic Direction?**

DATE/TIME: Saturday, April 1, 2023 (11AM to Noon)

LOCATION: Monroe Community Center, 605 Main St.

DESCRIPTION: Presentation, snacks, then a group discussion.

**NAME: Town Hall: What is the future of Monroe's Parks?**

DATE/TIME: Saturday, April 15, 2023 (11AM to Noon)

LOCATION: Monroe Community Center, 605 Main St.

DESCRIPTION: Presentation, snacks, then a group discussion.

**NAME: Earth Day Recycle Re-Sale**

DATE/TIME: Sat. April 22, 2023 (9AM to 4PM)

LOCATION: Willamette Grange; 27555 Greenberry Rd.

DESCRIPTION: Free entry to Multi-Family Yard Sale;

Refreshments available, historic displays; music

Contact: 541-609-8335

**NAME: Long Tom River Renewal Project Open House**

DATE/TIME: Sat. April 29, 2023 (1:00 to 4:00PM).

LOCATION: Monroe Community Library, 380 N 5<sup>th</sup> St

DESCRIPTION: Information on the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers feasibility study and recommended modification to the Monroe Dam on the Long Tom River. There will be stations set up to address key aspects of this project, including next steps, project partners and community considerations. Monroe residents and community members can visit and ask questions about the impact of this project.

**NAME: Old Mill Dinner and Auction (Monroe Relief Nursery)**

DATE/TIME: Sat. May 6, 2023 (5:00 PM)

LOCATION: CH2M HILL Alumni Center, Corvallis

DESCRIPTION: This gala evening will feature dinner, silent and live auctions, and exciting opportunities to bid high and help build bright futures for kids including the Monroe Relief Nursery.

**NAME: Monroe Health & Safety Fair and soccer clinic.**

DATE/TIME: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 (4:00 – 6:00PM)

LOCATION: Monroe High School gym and field

DESCRIPTION: Free family event to promote health and safety education to our student, parents and the community. Door prizes, activities for kids, and snack food. Learn about wildfire and emergency preparedness, meet first responders, and more.

**NAME: Grubby Gardening**

DATE/TIME: Sat. May 13, 2023 (10:00AM-2:00 PM)

LOCATION: Willamette Grange; 27555 Greenberry Rd.

DESCRIPTION: Free: Garden Educational Presentations; Kids Plant a Free Container Garden to Take Home; Garden Starts/Mother's Day Flowers available; Craft Sale; Treats.

**NAME: Monroe Classic Car Show**

DATE/TIME: Sat, May 20, 2023 (10AM-4:00PM)

LOCATION: Monroe Arts Association, 175 S. 5th Street

DESCRIPTION: Free fun family event for local classic car enthusiasts to gather with their vintage (pre-1980), custom, or rare automotive models, showcase their restorations, and relive the past while supporting our community.

**NAME: Monroe Farmers Market**

DATE/TIME: Every Thursday May 25 – Oct 5, (4:00 – 7:00PM)

LOCATION: Near the Monroe High School Baseball Field

DESCRIPTION: The market offers a place for local growers and artisans to connect with the community to sell produce and handmade goods.

**NAME: Bees and Trees**

DATE/TIME: Sat. June 3, 2023 (10:00AM to 2:00 PM)

LOCATION: Willamette Grange; 27555 Greenberry Rd.

DESCRIPTION: Free family event. Learn about bees and how we can help them by planting trees and other plants. Honey Bee and Native Bee Specialists, Arborist, Family friendly activities, displays, Flowers starts, Music, Treats, Craft Tables

**NAME: 2023 Monroe Festival**

DATE/TIME: Saturday, June 24, 2023 (10AM to 6PM)

LOCATION: 605 Main Street & Monroe Community Library

DESCRIPTION: This is the City of Monroe's third annual festival to celebrate all things Monroe! Neighbors, friends, and visitors from all over the Willamette Valley come together for a day of sipping wines and brews, perusing and purchasing unique goods from our local artisans and crafters, sampling delicious cuisine from area food trucks, listening to live music, riding a trolley on a historic tour, and enjoying family fun activities – all while celebrating Monroe's heritage, environment, and culture. This year's festival has a railroad theme to celebrate the 110th Anniversary of Southern Pacific Railroad driving the last spike in Monroe. For more info, visit: [monroefestival.org](http://monroefestival.org)

**NAME: Monroe Community Library 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party**

DATE/TIME: Saturday, June 24, 2023 10AM to 6PM

LOCATION: Monroe Community Library

DESCRIPTION: Free family event with festive activities all day to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the library grand opening.

Visit the new SoBAC website: [www.SoBAC.org](http://www.SoBAC.org)  
for updates or additional details. Check it out!

## Take the Faster Internet Oregon speed test!

The Faster Internet Oregon speed test campaign is a statewide broadband mapping effort for Oregonians to report Internet speeds or a lack of connection at home.

The Faster Internet Oregon project will provide decision-makers with data that will:

- Identify Oregon homes that lack high-speed Internet;
- Clarify which households don't have an Internet connection and why;
- Provide cost estimates and assess competitive viability of a variety of technical solutions for areas with identified gaps.

This campaign will help secure infrastructure funding across the state and ensure the funding is equitably allocated so that everyone has access to fast, affordable Internet service.

Please help us identify Oregon's areas with the greatest need for high-speed broadband by using this link: [www.FasterInternetOregon.org](http://www.FasterInternetOregon.org). It takes less than 1 minute!

# Protect People. Change Lives.

Contributed by Benton County Commissioner Xan Augerot

The Board of Commissioners sponsored a 2018 assessment that looked at all aspects of the justice system from first encounter with law enforcement to court, jail and release back to the community. We learned that our system had adapted to cope with the smallest jail per capita of any Oregon County. Officers cite many people in the field and never book them and deputies are forced to release others from jail early. The space squeeze also eliminated any mental health, substance use or other educational programming from the jail. We chose a solution that increases preventative treatment and increases accountability for crimes committed.

Phase 1 includes a Mental Health Crisis Center (Corvallis) and a new Courthouse with District Attorney's Office, funded by county, state, and federal dollars. Phase 2 is on the ballot on May 16th. We chose to locate all community safety facilities on a single site with the new Courthouse (north of downtown Corvallis) to minimize operational costs. The \$110 million bond measure will:

- Co-locate the Sheriff's Office with the jail to provide operational efficiency and staffing back-up for both Patrol and Corrections.

- Provide up to 120 beds in a jail with spaces to handle the needs of adults in custody, with mental health, wellness, and educational support.
- Expand Children & Families Mental Health services to provide crisis and routine care to children and youth – investing up front in healthy families.
- Co-fund a homelessness navigation center in Corvallis, creating a one-stop resource center providing vital services and shelter to unhoused community members.
- Provide an Emergency Operations Center with essential communications tech and meeting space to serve all county residents in the event of wildfire, floods, & other emergencies, as well as for regular training needs.

With this investment, we will be able to hold offenders accountable for their offenses locally, rather than transporting them to Dallas or The Dalles. We will have more room, so law enforcement no longer has to cite people in the field and cross fingers that they will appear in court for their hearings. And we will help people with mental health and housing needs up front, so they are less likely to become involved in our legal system. For more info, visit [bentoncountyjustice.org](http://bentoncountyjustice.org) or vote [YESon2-140.com](http://YESon2-140.com).

## What is Firewise? Residents Reducing Wildfire Risk

Firewise is a national program helping residents reduce wildfire risks. Communities like ours join Firewise by forming a local committee to help neighbors learn the best ways to protect against wildfire. None of us is alone in this. Lowering the risk for ourselves lowers the risks for our neighbors as well.

**How does Firewise help?** Firewise helps by providing information. They provide pamphlets, videos, checklists, and a vast amount of material on their website at: [www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/Firewise-USA](http://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/Firewise-USA). Firewise information includes things you can do when building a new home or changing your landscape design, and simple things every resident can do around their home and yard on a regular basis, including the latest "lessons learned" from

the most recent Oregon fires. It provides information about how to plan for your livestock, your pets, and how to get your kids involved.

**What is happening in Oregon?** In Oregon, the State put wildfire front and center in its funding priorities. The State's goal is to help individuals and communities be prepared. The State sees the existence of Firewise Communities as a way to help meet that need. The State targets some funding for Firewise Communities because those communities are working toward the same goals. State funds already helped individuals here. More funding may become available after the current legislative session. Stay tuned!

**What is happening here?** The South Benton Firewise Community got started just before the pandemic. The community is officially recognized by the national



Firewise organization. You can visit and friend the South Benton Firewise Community page on Facebook to get regular tips. Also, come see us in person at the **Wednesday, May 10 Monroe Health and Safety Fair from 4 – 6 at Monroe High School**: great kid activities, ask questions, tell us your concerns, become a member of the Firewise community, useful information. See you there!



SoBAC

Friend us on [Facebook@SouthBentonAdvisoryCommittee](https://www.facebook.com/SouthBentonAdvisoryCommittee) and send us email at [sobac.info@gmail.com](mailto:sobac.info@gmail.com). We'd love to hear your feedback and ideas for future community news stories.

