

# Community News

Published by South Benton  
Advisory Committee,  
United Way of Linn, Benton,  
and Lincoln Counties



## Connecting local folks with local needs

The Community News Fall issue (Oct, Nov, Dec edition) will focus on local non-profits and opportunities for local year-end giving. If you want your organization listed, please email the info to [sobac.info@gmail.com](mailto:sobac.info@gmail.com)

Include:

- \*Organization name and brief description.
- \*Specific need or on-going projects
- \*Contact information.
- \*Website if you have one.

## Community Calendar

July 12, Veteran Services Officer Visit, 1-4pm, Monroe

July 15, 2023, Christmas in July! Monroe

July 19, 2023, Taste of Tri-County & Business Expo in Monroe

July 29, Blueberry Bash, 10-2 pm, Willamette Grange

August 16, Back to School program, Keppi Nak-Nak Commons, 541-753-1420 to register

August 19, 100 Years Celebration, 1-5 pm, Willamette Grange

August 2023 (TBD), Movie Night at the MCC

September 9, 2023, First Responders Park Celebration

September 15, Movie Night, 7-10 pm, Willamette Grange

Monroe Farmers Market will be held on Thursdays from 4:00-7:00 pm on Hwy 99W across from the library, right by the high school baseball field. The season will run from May 25 to October 5.

## Community Wildfire Risk Reduction in the Monroe Rural Fire Protection District

Monroe Rural Fire Protection District (MRFPD) provides leadership and commitment to help everyone in our community reduce their risks from wildfire. Fire Chief Chris Barnes brings a wealth of experience, knowledge, and passion to his role as leader of our district after serving as Division Chief for Mohawk Valley Rural Fire District during the 2020 Holiday Farm Fire, one of the largest in Oregon's history.

The Monroe Fire District was recently awarded a Community Wildfire Risk Reduction grant from the Office of the Oregon State Fire Marshal, as part of Senate Bill 762. This bill provided more than \$220 million to help Oregon modernize and improve wildfire preparedness through three key strategies: creating fire-adapted communities, developing safe and effective response, and increasing the resiliency of Oregon's landscapes. Starting in about late July or early August of this year, the grant will enable the Monroe District to offer a \$100 voucher to each resident who participates in wildfire risk home assessment, with no limitations on how the voucher can be spent.

How does this help? Chief Barnes notes that "Our goal is to reach all of our community members by providing something in return for allowing us to come to their home. The information we gather enables the Fire District to identify wildfire risks and helps residents reduce those risks."

As a result, Monroe's first responders gain valuable information on wildfire risks specific to individuals and to our local community. Residents who participate receive the \$100 voucher as well as information on mitigating their risks. And the face-to-face component means that our local residents and local first responders are working together to help reduce risks and create a fire-adapted community.

Everyone in the 134 square mile Monroe Fire District is welcome and encouraged to request a visit from one of our local first responders for a wildfire risk home assessment. To participate in the incentive program later this summer, watch for additional details on the district website at: <https://www.monroerfpd.org/> or like them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/MonroeRFPD/> to keep up with their latest news.

## Getting to Know the Monroe Relief Nursery



Old Mill Center for Children and Families Relief Nursery has actively served families in Monroe and the surrounding communities since 2011. The satellite site in Monroe officially opened in 2020. This site was built upon strong partnerships with community members, agencies and businesses in the Monroe area.

The need for support systems that serve families and children is present within each community in Oregon; families in Monroe and the surrounding communities are no different. The satellite site housed in Monroe allows these services to be accessed easily for families in the area, accessed in the community in which they live.

All families need a system of support, a village. The Relief Nursery strives to provide that village while helping families build their own personal systems of support. The flexible, individualized model of the Relief Nursery allows caring, skilled staff members to meet each family's needs in unique ways that target specific

struggles being experienced by each family.

We have solid partnerships with community agencies such as the Health Department, Early Intervention, the Monroe Library, The South Benton Food Pantry, and the Monroe School District. Staff provide support in families' homes, where real life is happening and real struggles can be addressed. Many of the South Benton County families served by the Relief Nursery have children that attend the therapeutic classroom, located at the Monroe Grade School, where children are immersed in a loving, fun learning environment that teaches social skills, adaptive skills, self-regulation and self-advocacy. Please reach out to Old Mill Center for more information: 541-757-8068 <https://www.oldmillcenter.org/programs-services/relief-nursery/>

One local resident summed it up: "Relief Nursery has been amazing and helped our family a lot! RN helped support our family as we went through a hard period of life. We cannot thank them enough."

## Monroe Farmer's Market is Back! Every Thursday from 4:00 to 7:00



Monroe Farmer's Market has returned to serve the community for the 2023 season after taking a hiatus during the pandemic. Market days are Thursday evenings from 4:00 to 7:00 pm and is a source for locally-made arts and edibles — including seasonal produce, plants, felted art, music and more. The market is located across from the library beside the high-school baseball field where it provides ideal access to travelers on Oregon Route 99W. Many customers come from the wider Monroe area for a weekly appointment to catch up with local vendors and restock on fresh food and a feeling of community.

As a grassroots organization, the market is a volunteer-led and looking for local vendors with initiative to help shape the direction of the project. Questions or interest from potential vendors may find answers at [market97456@gmail.com](mailto:market97456@gmail.com) or through the [Monroe Farmers Market page on Facebook](#).



Friend us on **Facebook@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.

