

# CHEESE DAYS 2022

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## Organizers: Cheese Days 2022 was safe, successful



Photos for the Times: Sarah Sabatke  
Wedgie, Cheese Days mascot, celebrated their 10th birthday and waves from a float during the Children's Parade.

By Gary Mays  
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MONROE — Cheese days 2022 was a successful and safe event enjoyed by thousands from places near and far, officials said — a week after the event's three-day run in downtown Monroe.

"I would just like to say I think we had a wonderful, wonderful Cheese Days in Monroe without any incidents," Mayor Donna Douglas told the city council last Monday during its first meeting after the event.

And that sentiment was echoed later by Police Chief Fred Kelley, who said a beefed-up security posture served its purpose and the event managed to avoid any major incidents. Nice weather also contributed to the calm atmosphere in the crowds, he added.

"If you look at the size of the event, it's really just a busy weekend for us," Kelley said, adding that the department did have a few disturbances, drunk-driving arrests and other minor incidents.

But he said those incidents were extremely small given the size of the crowd. He credits the safety of the event to a security analysis conducted beforehand to develop a plan for the event. And that plan meant plenty of officers on the street, including some with long guns.

The long guns were a testament to awareness from recent, high-profile shootings and violence at public events in Waukegan and Highland Park, Illinois. "We've always had them before, the difference is that now they are just more visible," he said of the weapons.

Kelley praised his officers and those from a number of area departments who lent a hand to provide Cheese Days

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to everyone for all the support in helping make  
**Cheese Days 2022**  
a huge success!

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