



# MONROE THIS WEEK

January 20, 2023



*Last week, I attended "City Action Days" in Olympia hosted by the Association of Washington Cities (AWC). During the meeting, we discussed the AWC's legislative agenda which can be found [here](#). The agenda is consistent with the City's legislative agenda, which can be found [here](#). I joined AWC staff and several Washington State mayors in meeting with Governor Inslee. We discussed affordable housing, homelessness, chemical dependency, and law enforcement. While we primarily focused on the AWC's legislative agenda, I was able to briefly discuss tools we need to better address affordable housing, with a focus on incentivizing market rate, affordable, "missing middle" housing. I was also able to briefly explain the need for infrastructure, like the State prioritizing highways between cities, for example completing SR-522, and expanding programs that help cities expand sewer and water utilities at lower costs, to support population growth and higher densities.*



I am hopeful that the legislature will address some of our concerns and the City's staff, council, consultants, and I will continue monitoring and speaking on bills that would affect our community.

This week's edition includes details on the City's branding efforts, a new environmental protection program for businesses, sidewalk maintenance, VOAWW's cold weather shelter program, and the return of the Monroe Farmers Market.

Please reach out to me with what may be on your mind about and for Monroe. I can be reached at [GThomas@MonroeWA.gov](mailto:GThomas@MonroeWA.gov).

Yours in Service,



Mayor Geoffrey Thomas

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## THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK: BRANDING EFFORTS STILL UNDERWAY

As I've mentioned in recent editions of *Monroe This Week*, the City is in the process of updating its logo, brand, and tagline to be consistent with *Imagine Monroe*, the City's new vision statement. This process started with a survey that has been circulated amongst our businesses, residents, and visitors.



The branding survey closed on Friday, Jan. 13. There were 1033 surveys taken with 664 of those completed. Of these survey respondents, 34 participants did identify as Hispanic/Latina/Latino, which supports our efforts to reach out to as many diverse voices as possible. Next steps include analyzing the survey responses and facilitating focus groups with local businesses no later than the beginning half of March. Thank you to everyone who took the survey and stay tuned for more information.

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## NEW POLLUTION PREVENTION PROGRAM FOR BUSINESSES

A new program to reduce and even eliminate stormwater pollution is being implemented for some Monroe businesses. The stormwater division of Public Works will be conducting business site visits in 2023 to promote the prevention of pollutants (trash, sediment, grease, oil, paint, detergents, etc.) from coming into contact with stormwater before it



enters the city's stormwater drainage system. Water entering the city's stormwater drainage system discharges into local streams, lakes, groundwater, and ultimately Puget Sound. Businesses will be contacted prior to the site visit.

This new program is a directive by the Washington State Department of Ecology and requires that the City inspect certain business activities that may pose a threat to stormwater and aquatic habitat. Examples of activities that the City will be looking at include oil and chemical spill clean-up procedures, maintenance of dumpster areas, and proper storage of pollutant generating materials. The goal of the program is to provide education and technical assistance to businesses to better protect public resources.

For additional information about the program, please contact Vince Bertrand, NPDES Coordinator at [VBertrand@MonroeWA.gov](mailto:VBertrand@MonroeWA.gov). Community members can anonymously report polluting activities, 24-hours a day/7-days a week, by calling 425-239-0189 or on our [website](#).

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## UNIQUE MACHINE CLEANS DOWNTOWN SIDEWALKS

Did you know that Monroe has over 225,000 square feet of porous concrete sidewalks installed in downtown? Over the last week, Public Works crews have performed annual maintenance to the city's porous concrete installations. And thanks to a stormwater grant from the State Department of Ecology, maintenance of these sidewalks is done with a special cleaning machine (pictured to the right).



Porous concrete is an environmentally friendly method of paving as it provides a water quality benefit. This material assists in filtering stormwater and providing water retention during rain events.

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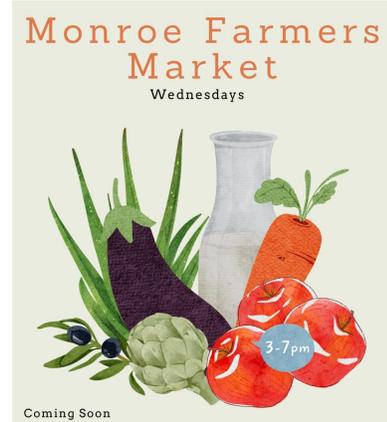
## COLD WEATHER SHELTER OPEN THROUGH MARCH 15

As winter is not officially over, it's possible that cold weather may pay a visit again. When the temperature drops below 34 degrees, the Monroe Cold Weather Shelter will open for unhoused persons who need a warm and safe place to sleep. The shelter is located at the New Hope Fellowship Church located at 1012 W. Main Street, and is managed by [Volunteers of America Western Washington](#). Volunteers are needed to support this important community service. I encourage you to sign up today on the VOAWW's [volunteer page](#).



# MONROE FARMERS MARKET RETURNS MAY 31

A community favorite returns! Earlier this month, the [Monroe Chamber of Commerce](#) announced the Monroe Farmers Market opens May 31. It will feature fresh produce, artisan products, and crafts. The season runs every Wednesday through Sep. 27, with the last market being a harvest market. All markets will take place in the parking lot of Galaxy Theatres in the North Kelsey area from 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. If you're interested in being a vendor, applications are now open and can be found [here](#).



## UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

The City Council will next meet in a Regular Business Meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 24. The meeting will be held in a hybrid format; members of the public may participate in Monroe City Council meetings either in-person at City Hall or remotely via the Zoom remote meeting platform. Participation information will be posted with the Jan. 24 agenda, which can be accessed by clicking the button below.

[Council Agendas/Minutes](#)

## CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS



Councilmember  
Kevin Hanford



Councilmember  
Ed Davis



Councilmember  
Jason Gamble



Councilmember  
Kirk Scarboro



Councilmember  
Heather Fulcher



Councilmember  
Tami Kinney



Councilmember  
Kyle Fisher

Have a question for your Councilmembers?  
Contact them at [Councilmembers@MonroeWA.gov](mailto:Councilmembers@MonroeWA.gov)



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