



# MONROE THIS WEEK

February 7, 2025



FEBRUARY

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

2025



Next week I will issue a [proclamation](#) recognizing February 2025 as National Black History Month. Throughout American history, Black and African Americans have made significant contributions to the United States, enriching the lives of every American. I am thankful for and celebrate the historic and continuing actions of Black and African Americans who have worked to actualize our country's founding vision against oppression and for justice, equality, and liberty for all.



Please join me this month in learning more about Black and African American history. Thank you for continuing to work with me to [Imagine Monroe](#), creating a safe place for all, where everyone feels at home

and everyone feels they belong.

Monroe This Week features:

- *Monroe Five-Year Strategic Plan*
- *February Business Newsletter*
- *City's Response to the Winter Storm*
- *Winter Warmth Tips*

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

*Yours in Service,*



*Mayor Geoffrey Thomas*

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## **CITY COUNCIL ADOPTS FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN**

At the Jan. 16 City Council Meeting, the City Council formally adopted its [\*\*2025-2029 Strategic Plan\*\*](#).



The Five-Year Strategic Plan helps the city prioritize and organize projects with an observable and trackable timeline. In doing so, the plan guides near-term progress towards achieving Monroe's long-term vision identified in [\*\*Imagine Monroe\*\*](#) and the [\*\*City's Strategic Priorities\*\*](#) - bridging the gap between 'where we are now' and 'where we want to be.'

Our Strategic Priorities include:

- Accessible parks and healthy waterways
- Support local businesses and products
- Build regional connections
- Be friendly and responsive
- Strengthen local connections
- Ensure a safe place

View five-year Strategic Plan for the [\*\*list of multi-year projects\*\*](#) that aim to bring us closer to achieving our Strategic Priorities.

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# FEBRUARY EDITION OF MONROE BUSINESS NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED ONLINE

This month's edition of Monroe Business Newsletter features many opportunities for networking, learning, and tools to build your business. Please [read our February edition](#) that showcases two local businesses in our West Main Gateway neighborhood, lists free training, workshops and networking, and includes links to resources to help your business grow and thrive.



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## CITY'S RESPONSE TO THIS WEEK'S WINTER STORM

This week's snow is a reminder that we all should be prepared to respond to severe weather events. Prior to the winter storm, our Public Works crews applied anti-icer on major roadways to minimize freezing. Once the snow began to accumulate, they initiated priority route snow removal – addressing roads providing access to emergency services (e.g. police station, fire station, hospital, City Hall), main arterial roads, collector roads, and known high risk hills and curves as priority. We encourage you to familiarize yourself with our [Snow Priority Route Map](#).



Below freezing nighttime temperatures are forecast to continue. Our partnership with [Volunteers of America - Western Washington](#) (VOA-WW) and [Snohomish County](#) provides for [Cold Weather Shelters](#) at two local churches (one in Monroe, the other in Snohomish) when the temperature at night is forecast to be below 34 degrees and there is adequate staffing. We post shelter openings on our [City Facebook page](#) and send alerts to [subscribers via City News](#). If you are interested in volunteering to support VOA-WW, please [watch this training video](#) and email [volunteer@voaww.org](mailto:volunteer@voaww.org).

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## WINTER WARMTH TIPS

When it's freezing outdoors,  
stay inside if possible.  
Bring your pets inside too!

Ready ✓



While we may not be experiencing extreme cold weather like some communities in the country, it's still cold. Here are some tips to keep warm and safe.

- **Your home** - Prepare your home to keep out the cold with insulation, caulking and weather stripping. Learn how to keep pipes from freezing. Install and test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors with battery backups. Open blinds on south-facing windows to capture sunlight and close

them at night to keep the heat in. Only use generators and grills outdoors and away from windows. Never heat your home with a gas stovetop or oven.

- **Your body** - Dress in layers and shield exposed skin areas with a hat, gloves, coat, scarf, etc. Minimize time outside. Know the signs of frostbite and hyperthermia and get inside a warm place. Stay hydrated. Don't overexert yourself.
- **Your car** - Create an emergency supply kit for your car. Include jumper cables, sand, a flashlight, warm clothes, blankets, bottled water and non-perishable snacks. Keep a full tank of gas.

Please visit our [Emergency Preparedness Resources webpage](#) to learn more how to prepare for most disasters.

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## UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

The next City Council Meeting is currently scheduled for Tues., February 11, 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  
Kevin Hanford



Councilmember  
Jacob Walker



Councilmember  
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](mailto:Councilmembers@MonroeWA.gov)

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