

# MONROE THIS WEEK

November 21, 2025



*As we approach Thanksgiving (Nov. 27) and Native American Heritage Day (Nov. 28), I invite our community to slow down, reflect, and share gratitude with the people who brighten our lives. This season reminds us of the importance of connection - including gatherings with friends, family, and neighbors.*

*I remain deeply grateful for the people of Monroe and our continued push to actualize the vision laid out in [Imagine Monroe](#). Your resilience, kindness, and willingness to look out for one another make our community stronger. Because of you, Monroe continues to move forward with optimism and purpose. Thank you for being an essential part of what makes Monroe such a special place to call home. Please have a safe, restful, and meaningful holiday weekend.*



*City administrative offices will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 27, and Friday, Nov. 28, in observation of the federal holiday. Please note there will be no*

Monroe This Week published next week.

Thank you for reading Monroe This Week. This week's edition features:

- *Utility Rates*
- *Bird Flu*
- *Light Up Monroe*
- *Interactive Development Map*

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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## COUNCIL APPROVES UTILITY RATE CHANGES EFFECTIVE JAN. 1, 2026



After careful consideration given at recent meetings on utility rate adjustments, at this week's meeting the City Council approved the Mayor's proposal to increase Monroe's water rate and to implement a new stormwater utility tax. Earlier this year, the Everett City Council approved water rate increases after Monroe had adopted its 2025–2026 Biennial Budget

with a 3.8% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) water rate increase. Because Monroe purchases its water from Everett, we are now faced with passing on Everett's water rate increase of 7.2% to our rate payers. The new 10% stormwater utility tax on gross receipts was approved in late 2024 with the adoption of our budget and will support the core services provided by the utility.

Utility rate adjustments take effect on Jan. 1, 2026, and are an estimated increase of \$7/month for a single-family residential customer. Please read more in our Utility Rate Fact Sheet ([English](#)) ([Spanish](#)). Customers who use more water may see a higher total increase based on their usage. Low-income senior citizens and low-income disabled residents may be able to

receive discounts for qualifying utility accounts. Please reach out to our [Utility Billing Division](#) should you have questions about your utility bill.

Our utility rates cover all costs (e.g. operations, maintenance, capital investment, debt service) associated with providing [water](#), [sewer](#), and [stormwater](#) services to Monroe homes and businesses. Rates are established for these utility services based on what is necessary to ensure the continued reliability and quality of the services we provide. We have worked to minimize rate increases over the years. We are always committed to safeguarding the health of our drinking water and waterways and managing stormwater and wastewater safely.

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## BIRD FLU PRESENT IN MONROE

The City of Monroe received confirmation from the [Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife \(WDFW\)](#) that a Mallard duck found at Sky River Park tested positive for the bird flu. WDFW staff removed the sick duck from the park. Several other birds exhibiting symptoms of bird flu have also been removed from Lake Tye.



The Washington State Department of Health has extensive information on avian influenza on its' [website](#). Bird flu viruses are not easily transmissible from birds to people, but without proper hygiene, or if in prolonged contact with a sick bird, the risk increases and the virus can potentially evolve to spread between humans.

If you see a bird exhibiting symptoms of bird flu such as:

- Tilting of head / excessive shaking of head
- Lack of coordination / swimming in circles
- Lethargic movements

Please first [report the sick, injured, or dead bird to WDFW](#) and then notify the Monroe Parks Department at 360-863-4559.

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## LIGHT UP MONROE SUNDAY AFTER THANKSGIVING

Mark your calendars: on the Sunday after Thanksgiving, Nov. 30, at 4 p.m., [Light Up Monroe](#) returns to Travelers Park. The Monroe Chamber of Commerce partners with the city to host this free, family-friendly event. Santa and Mrs. Claus will make an appearance, and there will be live carols, cocoa and fire pits

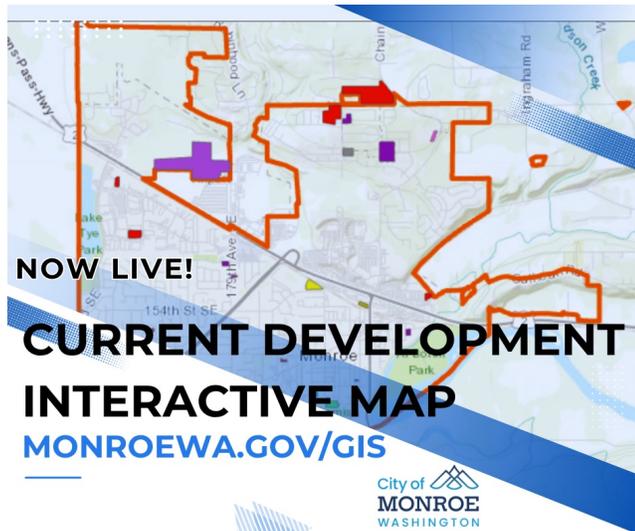


to warm your hands. Enjoy the festivities with neighbors and friends as everyone awaits the tree lighting. Around 5 p.m., I will begin the countdown to the lighting of the tree.

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## INTERACTIVE DEVELOPMENT MAP NOW LIVE

We're excited to share that we've updated our interactive development map so that you can find the status of residential and commercial private development, including land use applications and projects under construction. You may be curious about a proposed plat development in your neighborhood or a commercial building under construction near your business. From the map, you can click on specific projects for details. Check out the map on our GIS platform: [Monroe Developments Map](#). If you have a specific question about a project, reach out to the staff member listed within the project description.



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## UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

The next City Council Meeting is currently scheduled for **Tuesday, December 2, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.** The meeting will be located in the Council Chambers at City Hall at 806 W Main Street. 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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