



Monroe BUSINESS

City of Monroe, Washington
Economic Development Newsletter

February 2024 Newsletter

Support for Small Businesses Available

No matter what phase your business is in - from starting up, growing, to down-sizing - the **Small Business Guide**, created by the State of Washington Commerce Department, is an invaluable resource for your business. This **Guide** covers the following topics: Planning, Start-Up, Payroll, Opening, Management, Growth, Closure, Loan Programs, and more. In addition, the State offers an array of knowledgeable **Small Business Liaisons** who can help you with specialized resources and information.



Plus **FREE workshops** are available, providing essential information and resources to help start and grow your business.



Ever Consider Growing Your Business through Exporting Your Goods or Services?

The Greater Seattle Export Accelerator (GSEA) program is helping regional businesses innovate and grow their business through exporting. An **outstanding lineup of 20 innovative companies** in Snohomish, King and Pierce County received complimentary advanced export training, export advising services, and access to international trade opportunities from local, state, and federal international trade and export service providers.

Greater Seattle Partners (GSP) serves as the region's resource for sophisticated data analytics and research that showcases our region, supports GSP promotion and recruitment initiatives, and summarizes current economic trends to support our partners.

The Washington Department of Commerce Offers an **Export Assistance Center** with specialists who can help you:

Build an Export Plan
Find Export Grants and Loans
Consult with a Trade Specialist
Connect to Resources
Review Success Stories



Fees for Downtown Permits Waived - Deadline Extended till July 20, 2024!

Implementing the Downtown Master Plan, the City has taken action to support private investment in downtown to create an attractive, unique place for people to shop and dine. Part of this support is a temporary Permit Fee Waiver for Downtown projects.

Now is the time to consider investing in projects such as:

Façade restoration
Interior enhancements
Outdoor dining areas
New awnings
Signage upgrades
Exterior illumination
Accessibility improvements
And more!

Contact the Permit Center

building@monroewa.gov
landuse@monroewa.gov
360-863-4501

How About Doing

Business with the State?



State agencies are actively seeking to engage the services of small, diverse, and veteran-owned Washington businesses.

What qualifies as a small, diverse, or veteran-owned business?

- Small business means the primary location is in Washington State and the business has 50 or fewer employees or a gross annual revenue of less than \$7 million.
- Diverse businesses are at least 51% owned by minorities, women, and other under-represented communities.
- Veteran-Owned businesses are incorporated in Washington and must be at least 51% owned by a veteran to qualify for certification.

Learn more about state contracting

- Attend a free, virtual webinar:
State Contracting Opportunities & Open House.
- Get **tips for small, diverse, and veteran-owned businesses.**
- Register in **Washington's Electronic Business Solution (WEBS)**

In partnership with the State of Washington, Bayley Construction is offering a FREE, in-person event to help business get certified as Minority, Women or Veteran-owned Businesses.

Register here.

The banner features a background image of two construction workers in hard hats and safety vests looking at a tablet. The text is overlaid on the image. At the top, it says "OMWBE CERTIFICATION WITH BAYLEY Together WE are Better!". Below that is a blue ribbon with the text "HOW TO GET CERTIFIED and How it Could Help Your Business" and a red button that says "IN PERSON". At the bottom, it lists the event details: "WHEN: FEBRUARY 7, 2024 | 11AM - 1PM" and "WHERE: 8005 SE 28TH STREET MERCER ISLAND, WA 98040". On the left side of the banner is the logo for the Minority Women's Business Enterprise (MWBE) Certified program.

**Annual Reports to DOR
May Be Submitted up to
180 Days Early**



Have you checked to see when your expiration date is?

Check [here](#) to see when your Annual Report is due.

To ensure your business's smooth operation, filing your annual report promptly is crucial. By doing so, you can avoid delinquency fees and prevent the loss of your business. DOR allows you to file your report 180 days before the due date.

They encourage customers to use a calendar reminder every year to get their report in well before to mitigate any risk of delinquency or loss of status/business. This will not affect your expiration date for the next year, your business's expiration day will always remain the last day of the month it first formed, registered, or incorporated. Most Annual Reports update the business's record immediately.

[File Online](#)

Deadline to pay off PPP or EID loans - March 4th!

Business owners who received COVID-era, federal Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) or Economic Injury Disaster (EID) loans of \$100,000 or less have until March 4th to pay those loans off completely before the loans are referred to the US Treasury Department for collections. **Treasury can assess up to a 30% surcharge and has the ability to garnish federal income and/or even wages.** So pay off now!



Pro tip: Pay off each overdue payment individually. Don't pay off outstanding balances as a lump sum.

You may contact Janie Sacco of the SBA for guidance and/or more information at 206.300.3863 or via email at janie.sacco@sba.gov

What Can Small Business Owners Expect in 2024?

Main Street America offers an informative



and insightful [article](#) by Chief Program Officer Matt Wagner, PhD, on current trends and predictions for small businesses for 2024.

Welcome IHOP and Kadhai to Monroe!

January saw the opening of IHOP at 18824 Highway 2 and Kadhai Indian restaurant at 116 East Main Street.

Welcome them both with an upcoming visit!



IHOP offers family-style breakfast, lunch, dinner or late-night eats 24/7. They also offer take-out and delivery.



Kadhai offers "India's finest flavors, delivered with passion!"

A promotional graphic for a luncheon. It features a hand holding a smartphone with various social media icons (envelope, person, speech bubble, camera) floating around it. In the background, a city skyline is visible. Overlaid on the image are several text boxes: "MARKETING STRATEGIES LUNCHEON" in a dark grey box at the top right; "GUEST SPEAKER: Kimberley Lynn" in a smaller dark grey box below it; a portrait of Kimberley Lynn in a circular inset; "The Rock Church February 13th 11:30AM-1PM" in a dark grey box at the bottom right; and the "MONROE CHAMBER of Commerce" logo at the bottom left, which includes a mountain range graphic.

Monroe Chamber Offers Marketing Strategies Speaker at February 13th Luncheon

Come learn about marketing strategies including social media and gain tools to help you **grow your business** in 2024 with Kimberley Lynn. She began her mortgage career in 1994. She has since maintained a successful business on Main Street in Monroe for 12+ years. Kimberley's business objective is to build a thriving referral

network, prides herself on being customer-friendly, and values earning their trust. Her experience includes over a decade of high-volume broker interactions giving her a wide array of involvement regarding marketing accomplishments and challenges.

[Register Here](#)



Chocolate Crawl 2024
BAKED GOODS | VENDORS
SPECIALS & MORE!!

FEB 17

DOWNTOWN MONROE
11AM TO 3PM
CHOOSEMONROE.COM

Monroe Listens Report Your Issue!

The City offers a direct and easy way to send your questions, concerns, requests, and compliments directly to the City staff person who can help you. Potholes, graffiti, fallen tree limbs, drainage problems, etc. Please let us know at **Monroe Listens**.



MAYOR



Geoffrey Thomas

Have a question or comment for Mayor Thomas?
Contact him at GThomas@MonroeWA.gov

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS



Councilmember
Kevin Hanford



Councilmember
Jacob Walker



Councilmember
Jason Gamble



Councilmember
Kirk Scarboro



Councilmember
Heather Fulcher



Councilmember
Tami Beaumont



Councilmember
Kyle Fisher

Have a question or comment for your Councilmembers?
Contact them at Councilmembers@MonroeWA.gov

[Council Agendas/Minutes](#)



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