



# Monroe BUSINESS NEWSLETTER

City of Monroe, Washington

## August 2024



*Register Today!*



### SMALL BIZ DIGITAL TRAINERS

## BOOST YOUR SMALL BUSINESS WEBINAR SERIES



### **Building Your Digital Footprint**

*Thursday, August 22 | 4 p.m. EDT*

Learn how to enhance your online visibility with Google Search & SEO tips.

**[Register Now](#)**

### **Managing Your Online Presence & Developing a Marketing Plan**

*Thursday, September 19 | 4 p.m. EDT*

Discover how to keep your profiles updated and create a winning marketing strategy.

**[Register Now](#)**

### **Cultivating the Entrepreneurial Mindset**

*Thursday, October 17 | 4 p.m. EDT*

Cultivate a growth mindset to better handle challenges and seize opportunities.

**[Register Now](#)**

## How to Master Soft Skills for Small Business Success

Thursday, November 21 | 4 p.m. EST

Boost your productivity with essential tools and skills like Google Workspace, AI, and more.

[Register Now](#)



### Temporary Signs

If you are using or plan to display a temporary sign in Monroe city limits, a no-fee permit is required. Types of temporary signs include: banner, A-frame/A-board, inflatable, stake, freestanding and window/poster. For more information, visit the [City's Temporary Sign webpage](#) and reach out to our Community Development Department at 360-863-4501 or [landuse@monroewa.gov](mailto:landuse@monroewa.gov) for assistance.



Washington State  
Department of  
**Commerce**

### Two New Loan Programs Available!

**Washington Small Business Flex Fund 2**. This Fund helps small businesses and nonprofits access affordable loans. With competitive interest rates and flexible repayment options, the new Washington Small Business Flex Fund 2 is designed to help small businesses and nonprofits access funds to grow and thrive.

### **Owner-Occupied Commercial Real-Estate Loan Program:**

The program is designed to assist small businesses in qualifying for financing and lowering their business risk when undertaking owner-occupied real estate loans. The program benefits small business owners with funding for commercial real estate loans for tenant improvements, construction, purchase or refinance.

[Learn More](#)

Northwest  
**Access**  
Fund



**NW Access is a microlender specifically focused on lending to disabled business owners.**

Their Small Business Support Program is designed to assist potential and existing entrepreneurs in starting, growing, and managing a small business, navigating the gig economy, or managing self-employment income. NW Access assists:

- All disabilities
- All income levels
- Ages 16 and up
- All types of businesses with under 5 employees

They also offer no-cost, one-on-one confidential **business coaching** on a wide range of topics based on individual needs.

[For more information](#)



U.S. Small Business  
Administration

**Small Business Grants, Energy Rebates,  
Contracting Opportunities, and More**

The Small Business Administration (SBA) has launched the new **Investing in America (IIA) Small Business Hub**, an online portal providing industry-specific resources to help small businesses connect with opportunities created under recent federal spending bills. The IIA Small Business Hub includes guides to help more small businesses access **Investing in America** grants, contracts, and market opportunities. It also highlights SBA resources that can help small businesses access the investment capital they need to scale and the certifications they need to qualify for IIA funding.

**[Visit the Hub](#)**



## **Resources for Black-Owned Businesses**

Black-Owned Business Excellence (**BOBE**) is a “for and by” organization with a collaborative of different local minority-owned businesses, organizations, and individuals coming together since 2020 to support, educate, inspire, and elevate businesses that are owned by historically underserved business owners in Washington State.

**[Visit BOBE for more information](#)**



## Check out the Summer Edition of *Choose Monroe Magazine!*

Your live-shop-play local guide to Monroe and vicinity!

[View online version here.](#)



## Small Businesses Can Save Money & Help the Environment

E-Cycle Washington is a free program that makes it easy for small businesses to recycle certain broken or worn-out electronics and save money. Items accepted include:

- TVs
- Computers
- Laptops
- Monitors

- Tablets

To find a nearby collection site, call 1-800-RECYCLE or go to [ecyclewa.org](http://ecyclewa.org). If you have more than 10 electronic items, contact the [Materials Management and Financing Authority](#) at 1-855-674-5871 before taking them to a collection location.

Small businesses may also participate in the program by **becoming a collection site** and **receive compensation** for the electronics collected. If you have questions or are interested in becoming a collector, contact Christine Haun at [christine.haun@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:christine.haun@ecy.wa.gov).

## Energy System Grants for Manufacturers

The federal Office of Manufacturing and Energy Supply Chains (MESC), through its Industrial Assessment Centers (IAC), helps small- and medium-sized manufacturers **save energy, improve productivity, and reduce waste** by providing FREE technical assessments conducted by university-based teams of engineering students and faculty. This program can provide up to **\$300,000 grants** to implement energy-saving recommendations resulting from the assessment. Grants require a **50% cost-share**.

Eligibility:

- Gross annual sales less than \$100,000,000 (based on the manufacturing firm/entity);
- Under 500 employees at the facility site; and
- Annual energy bills of more than \$100,000 but less than \$3,500,000 (based on the manufacturing firm/entity)

[\*\*For more information or to apply for an assessment.\*\*](#)

## Useful Guide for Dealing with Retail Crime and Safety

The Washington Retail Association has compiled a useful *Guide to Navigating Public Safety & Retail Crime*.

[\*\*Peruse the Guide!\*\*](#)



## Guide to Navigating Public Safety & Retail Crime

## Main Street America Offers Series of Insightful Podcasts for Small Businesses



Latest in the series:

*Highlighting Main Street Entrepreneurs*

[Listen in and follow the series.](#)

## On-Going Resources for Small Businesses



No matter what phase your business is in -- from starting up or growing, to down-sizing -- the **Small Business Guide**, created by the State Commerce Department, is an invaluable resource for your business.

The **Guide** covers:



Owning a business is both exciting and intimidating.

If you're looking for local resources, free business templates, e-guides, check-lists, and other

- Planning -- Start-Up
- Payroll -- Opening
- Management -- Growth
- Closure -- Loan Programs
- And more

The State also 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. **Next workshop: May 7, 9am-10am.**

helpful resources for **starting or growing** your enterprise, SCORE Greater Seattle is your destination. SCORE's mentors can assist in putting your ideas into action.

**Tools and resources to help your small business grow - SCORE**



### **Upcoming Events**

Monroe Farmers Market - Wednesdays 3PM - 7PM through Sept 25.

Monroe Fair Days Parade - August 24, 9AM - 1PM

Washington Midsummer Renaissance Faire - 5 weekends from July 19 - August 18, 10AM - 7PM

2024 Evergreen State Fair - August 22 - Sept 2, 10AM - 9PM

**[More information here](#)**



## Local Webinars and Classes

Attend the following FREE small business webinar hosted by Katy Woods, Coastal Community Bank Branch Manager and Certified Coach:

- **Small Business Insurance**, August 29, 1:00 - 2:00PM

[Learn More and Register](#)

## 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\*\*](mailto: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](mailto:Councilmembers@MonroeWA.gov)

Council  
Agendas/Minutes



City of Monroe | (360) 794-7400 | 806 West Main Street | Monroe, WA 98272 US

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