



Monroe
**BUSINESS
NEWSLETTER**

City of Monroe, Washington

November 2025



NORTH PUGET SOUND

**CONTRACTING
CONFERENCE**

BUSINESS-TO-GOVERNMENT EVENT

TRADE SHOW | NETWORKING | WORKSHOPS | SPEAKERS | MATCHMAKING | MORE

The North Puget Sound Contracting Conference is returning to the Lynnwood Event Center this **November 5 - 6!** This premier event connects businesses, government agencies, and prime contractors for unmatched networking and contracting opportunities.

[Click here](#) to learn more and register today!

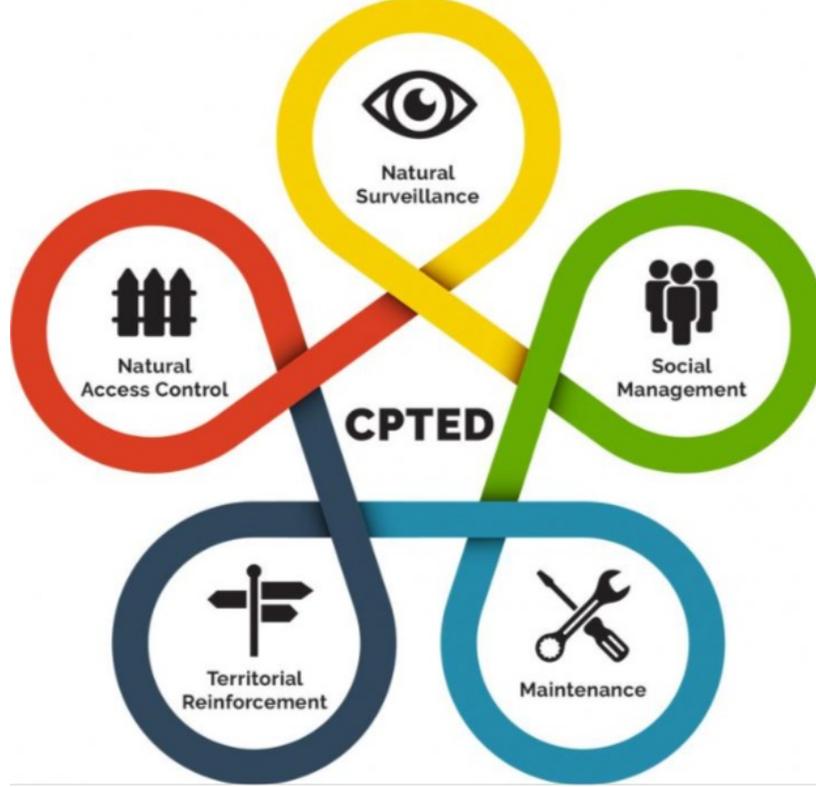


Recursos para Dueños de Negocios y Casas Hispanoparlantes

Resources for Spanish-Speaking Businesses & Homeowners

DOR offers resources for Spanish-speaking businesses and homeowners to help them understand and meet their tax obligations. The following guides are available on our [Información en Español page](#):

- [Guía para pequeños negocios](#) (Small Business Guide): This guide covers tax classifications, deductions, sales tax collection, and record-keeping requirements for new and small business owners.
 - [Construcción](#) (Construction): This guide is specifically for construction industry professionals, addressing the taxes related to their field.
 - [Conserjería y otros servicios de limpieza](#) (Janitorial and other cleaning services): This resource provides tax information for businesses operating in the cleaning industry.
 - [Guía para propietarios acerca del impuesto sobre la propiedad](#) (Homeowners Guide to Property Tax): Information for homeowners on navigating property taxes in Washington state.
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Free Crime Prevention Consultations for Monroe Businesses

The Monroe Police Department is offering businesses FREE **Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)** consultations, performed by our Community Service Officers. CPTED focuses on practical ways to make your business less attractive to criminal activity through thoughtful design and security improvements.

[Click here to schedule a consultation or learn more.](#)

Take advantage of this free resource to help protect your business and enhance community safety!

Small Business Guide

The **Small Business Guide** is broken into six sections, based on your stage of business. Whether you're launching a new business, managing an existing one, or looking to expand, you'll discover valuable information and resources here. The guide offers essential details, links to important resources, and a clear outline of the steps needed to start and run a business in Washington State. The guide is available in multiple languages.





Grants for Small Businesses

Amber Grant for Women awards \$10,000 **monthly** to women entrepreneurs, with an additional \$25,000 annual grant to one of the monthly winners. [Application](#)

The Freed Fellowship awards \$500 **monthly** to small business owners, with the potential for more funding. [Application](#)

The Awesome Foundation awards \$1,000 grants **each month** to individuals and groups looking to fund various projects, including startups and small businesses. [Application](#)

Wish Local Empowerment Program offers **on-going** grants ranging from \$500 to \$2,000 to support Black-owned businesses in growing their operations. [Application](#)



WA Small Business Development Center FREE Training Events for Small Business Owners

LIVE

- **From Passwords to Policies: Small Business Cybersecurity Essentials**, Nov 13, 9am - 12pm (Bellevue); Nov 13, 2pm - 5pm (Shoreline); Nov 20, 9am - 12pm (Lynnwood)
- **Setting Yourself Up to Make a Profit: Costing & Break-Even Analysis**, Nov 13, 1pm - 2pm
- **Introduction to Government Contracting**, Nov 13, 12pm - 1:30pm
- **Cash Discount Merchant Processing**, Nov 24, 1pm - 2pm
- **December Start Simple Course: Business Start-up/Preplanning, Marketing/Sales**, Dec 2 - Dec 11, 6pm - 8pm
 - **Curso en español**, Dec 1 - Dec 10, 6pm - 8pm

NUMEROUS ON-DEMAND SESSIONS



Evergreen BizLink Resource Navigator

The Evergreen BizLink Resource Navigator will connect you and your business with nonprofit resources in your area to help you **grow and thrive**. Use the search tool on their website to search for **customized resources** by location, area of assistance, business stage, business type, industry, demographics, and key words.

For more information or to get started, check out: [EvergreenBizLink.com](https://www.EvergreenBizLink.com)

Useful Guide for Dealing with Retail Crime and Safety

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

Peruse the Guide!



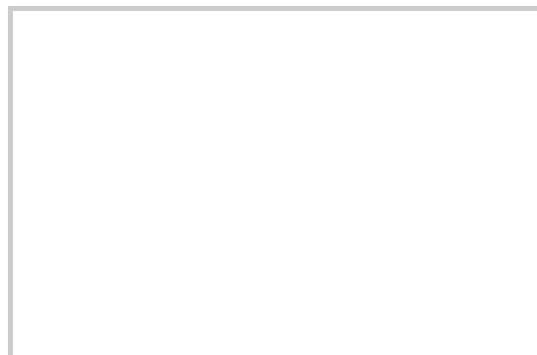
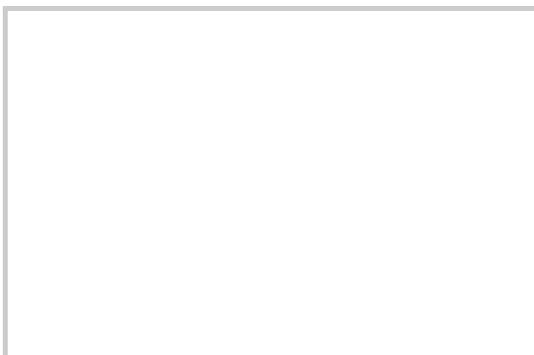
**Guide to
Navigating
Public Safety
& Retail Crime**



Main Street America Offers Small Business Digital Strategies to Grow Your Business

Numerous on-demand training sessions are available on topics related to digital presence, marketing, online sales, analytics, website, and much more. **Visit Main Street America's digital training webpage.**

Monthly Business Profiles
- Downtown Monroe -





Helping Hands Thrift Store

As a Washington-based nonprofit, Helping Hands Ministries International (HHMI) exists to transform lives, empower people, and provide hope. HHMI supports people in need through their nonprofit thrift stores plus their partnerships with other nonprofits serving in the trenches.

In addition to the Monroe Helping Hands Thrift Store, located at **108 W. Main Street**, the organization has shops in Bothell, Snohomish, and Lake Stevens.

The Monroe shop was opened in April 2023, while HHMI's flagship store in Bothell has been serving the community since 1992, all the while supporting underserved families and individuals from our local communities, Peru, and



Monitor Mercantile

Historical home of the former *Monroe Monitor* newspaper at **113 W. Main Street**, Monroe resident Andrew Fegler started the Monitor Mercantile as a pop-up holiday store on October 25, 2024. After overwhelming community support, the shop was rebranded and officially opened as *The Monitor Mercantile* gift shop on Valentine's Day 2025!

The shop specializes in stationery, gifts, and novelty items with a trendy and witty flair -- from a dedicated Taylor Swift section to over 300 different greeting cards and a growing self-care lineup.

Their mission is to curate a fun, kitschy gift shop, prioritizing partnerships with local businesses as well as sourcing products from minority-owned and fair-trade brands.

beyond.

Monroe-based manager Lillian Goering is joined by various staff members and volunteers from throughout the area.

The store specializes in offering lightly used clothing, houseware, home décor, and furniture.

Each week they have Senior Tuesdays (25% off for anyone 55+), Military-First Responder-Teachers Discount on Thursdays, and a surprise Manager Special every Saturday.

Given the regional presence of multiple HHMI thrift stores, the Monroe store enjoys visitors from all over Snohomish and King Counties.

Each month they support a different charity based in Snohomish or King County.

In October all four stores supported Sound Pathways based in Everett. In November, each store is supporting their closest food bank (the Monroe store will be supporting Sky Valley Food Bank).

For more information, visit their [website](#).

The mercantile showcases a variety of independent vendors who contribute by staffing the shop along with one part-time staff member. Andrew says, “our vendors play a big role in keeping the shop thriving.”

Open from Thursday through Sunday, 11am – 6pm, the shop has a broad market appeal, with visitors from as far as Bellingham and other parts of Western Washington – usually drawn by their pervasive Instagram presence.

Travelers on US 2 make a stop in Downtown Monroe just to visit *The Monitor Mercantile*, but that said, the majority of their regular customers come from right here in Monroe.

Look for their *That’s So Festive* reveal weekend, kicking off November 14. They’ll be featuring new vendors, holiday décor, and freebies for all. Until then, their *That’s So Spooky* season runs until November 9.

The Monitor Mercantile proudly collaborates with Monroe Equity Community, the Monroe High School Queer Student Alliance, and Beck’s Place. They’re also putting the finishing touches on a new workshop space and look forward to expanding partnerships with other

local organizations soon.

Visit their [website](#) or follow them on Instagram @themonitormercantile.



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:

- 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.



Owning a business is both exciting and intimidating.

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



Membership in the Chamber brings many advantages for member business. It may include networking opportunities, member benefits and discounts, business support and advice, and the chance to have your views represented at county, state, and national levels through the Chamber's on-going lobbying activity. [Learn more.](#)

Upcoming Events

Monthly Chamber Luncheon - "Pitch on Pitch" - Fast-Paced Business Pitches - November 18, 11:15am - 1pm, Cascade Community Church.

Multi-Chamber Mega Mixer - November 18, 5pm - 7pm

Monday Morning Mingle - Last Monday of each month, 8:30am - 9:30am, November 27, Monroe Coffee Company, 408 W. Main St.

Small Business Saturday - November 29, All Day

Light Up Monroe - November 30, 4pm - 6:30pm

And more...

[More information and events here](#)

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



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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