



Monroe BUSINESS NEWSLETTER

City of Monroe, Washington

October 2025



Cybersecurity Awareness Month

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month, and we're joining the global effort to help everyone "Stay Safe Online." This year, we're highlighting the Core 4 simple steps everyone can take to protect themselves: use strong passwords, turn on multifactor authentication, update your software, and recognize and report scams. Cybersecurity doesn't have to be intimidating—small actions make a big impact. Follow along on social media all month for tips, tools, and activities to boost your online safety.

[Learn more.](#)



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.



U.S. Small Business
Administration

New SBA Loan Program for Small Manufacturers

October is Manufacturing Month, and the US SBA is here to celebrate and support America's small manufacturers. Did you know that 98% of manufacturers in the United States are small businesses? Small manufacturers support more than 5 million jobs and generate \$1 trillion in revenue. With the new Made in America Manufacturing Initiative, the SBA is working to provide resources, improve access to capital, and reduce barriers to help small manufacturers thrive.

7(a) Manufacturer's Access to Revolving Credit (MARC) Loan Program will offer working capital for small businesses engaged in manufacturing (**NAICS** 31-33), specifically designed to provide

maximum flexibility and minimal red tape.

The MARC Program complements the SBA's core 7(a) and 504 loan programs, providing a flexible new line of credit to manufacturers and lenders. MARC Loans can be used in combination with SBA and conventional commercial loans, making it a potent new tool in support of the Administration's effort to reshore American industrial dominance.

**Show
your
Monroe
spirit
with
COMMUNITY
BRAND
BADGES.**



Learn how to request use of a badge at [MonroeWA.gov/brand](https://monroewa.gov/brand)

Community Brand Badges Available for Monroe Businesses

Monroe's new community brand badges are now available for residents, neighborhoods, businesses, and community organizations to enhance Monroe's new brand! Inspired by our [City's vision statement](#), these nine badges feature Monroe's best attributes and are a unique way to celebrate and connect with our Monroe community.

- Imagine Monroe
- Belong Monroe
- Made in Monroe
- Gather Monroe
- Natural Monroe
- Lively Monroe
- Friendly Monroe
- Local Monroe
- Connect Monroe

Whether featured on your business brochure, restaurant menu,

company website, or neighborhood social media page, these badges are a creative way to show your involvement in and support for our community. Learn more at MonroeWA.gov/brand and submit a [usage request form](#). To learn more, contact Liam McKorkle, Executive Department, at lmckorkle@monroewa.gov or 360-794-7400.



New Tool for Loans & Grants Resources!

Finding the right funding can be confusing, but now it's easier. Business.Wa.Gov has launched a new [Loans & Grants](#) tool designed to meet you wherever you are in your business journey.

Whether you are:

- Starting your first business.
- Growing with new staff, customers, or locations.
- Buying an existing business.
- Exporting to international markets.
- Operating in a rural community.
- Driving innovation with new ideas.
- Working on recovery after a setback.

This tool connects you with the right financial resources to keep moving forward. No jargon. No endless searching. Just quick access to state, federal, and local funding program opportunities you need to succeed.

Do you know of a grant program or funding opportunity we should add? Please email us directly at help@business.wa.gov.

Click [here](#) to discover the new Loans & Grants tool on our website!



Construction & Design Open House

Preview 2025-27 Puget Sound projects & network with large, small & DBE contractors.

WSDOT's open house is a free, in-person networking event for contractors and consultants interested in road preservation, construction, fish passage and other projects in King, Snohomish, Skagit, Island and Whatcom counties.

Event Details

- When: Wednesday, October 8, 2025 | 5-7 p.m.
- Where: NW Regional Headquarters | 15700 Dayton Ave. Shoreline, WA 98133
- [Register Here](#)

Questions? Email: contractinginfo@wsdot.wa.gov

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](#)



Wealth of Small Business Resources Available

Revenue-Based Financing Fund (RBF). It's a Pay-As-You-Earn loan that works with the reality of running a small business. Instead of fixed monthly payments, businesses repay based on what they actually make. The Revenue-Based Financing Fund is an alternative to a traditional bank loan, with **repayments that are customized to a business's needs and tailored to the business's net income**. It's especially helpful for seasonal businesses, such as event venues, florists, caterers and tourism-focused enterprise. [Learn more](#).

Small Business Flex Fund 2.

Are you a small business owner with fewer than 50 employees and an annual revenue of less than \$5 million? Are you looking to take your business to the next level? We may have a great solution for you — The Small Business Flex Fund 2. **Learn more.**

Food Biz Academy

Through the Food Biz Academy, **Washington's Small Business Training & Education Center** offers you a competitive advantage. It's FREE, and available **online and on-demand 24/7!** Food Biz Academy just might help you whip up a recipe for success. **Learn more.**

Web Academy

Your 24/7 Storefront: Build Lasting Customer Connections Online! A website is like having a second storefront, one that is open 24/7. With a well-designed online presence, you can build deeper relationships with your customers. Check out the listing of **FREE online on-demand training**, including **Web Academy**.

Partners In Exporting 2025 Series

The Export Finance Assistance Center of Washington (EFACW) provides tailored export training programs developed through strategic partnerships, led by nationally recognized experts in export and international trade. **Learn more.**



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

LIVE

- [Accounting Basics and the Importance of Accounting to your Business](#), Oct 9, 1pm - 2pm
- [Unlocking Global Markets: How Washington Businesses Can Leverage USEACs and SBDCs](#), Oct 23, 10am - 11am

[NUMEROUS ON-DEMAND SESSIONS](#)



Evergreen BizLink Resource Navigator

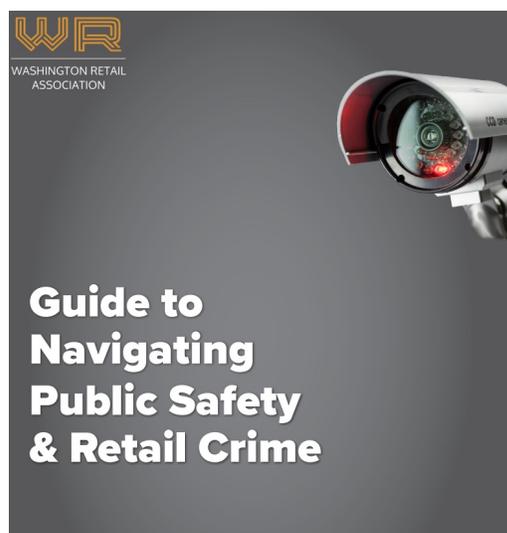
The Evergreen BizLink Resource Navigator will connect you and your business with nonprofit resources in your area to help you **grow and thrive**. Use the search tool on their website to search for **customized resources** by location, area of assistance, business stage, business type, industry, demographics,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

For more information or to get started, check out: EvergreenBizLink.com

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!](#)





SMALL BIZ DIGITAL TRAINERS

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 **- US 2 Commercial Corridor -**



Benjarong Thai

Opened by Monroe resident “Panu” in May 2005, this iconic Monroe Thai restaurant at 19480 US 2 #D1 derives its name from a traditional form of



Mi Tierra

Located two doors down at 19480 US 2, Mi Tierra Mexican restaurant was opened in February 2001 by owners Jesús Magaña and his wife Lulis, born in

hand-painted Thai porcelain.

As Panu says, “we at Benjarong Thai pay the same kind of attention to the delicate balance and fine flavor of our traditional Thai cuisine” as traditional artisans have done with the Benjarong porcelain.

Open seven days a week, Benjarong’s friendly and helpful employees welcome customers from far and wide, with skiers, hikers, and passers-by on US 2 forming a large part of the repeat clientele, along with locals.

Owner Panu remarks that Pad Thai is a staple among customers, but their unique Benjarong curry is also a favorite. More than the standard Thai restaurant fare, Benjarong offers up to 80 choices.

Check out their [website](#) to order online and to contact them for your catering needs.

the states of Michoacán and Zacatecas, Mexico. The restaurant has earned its way into the heart of locals and visitors who love Mexican food. In addition to a steady stream of local regulars, Mi Tierra is a must-stop location for folks traveling through Monroe on US 2.

Always focusing on genuine Mexican dishes and flavors, they've had great success recently with quesabirrias, lengua and carnitas street tacos, and molcajete.

Having just wrapped up its Mexican Independence Day specials in September, Mi Tierra regularly schedules daily specials like Taco Tuesdays, Wing Wednesdays, and Tequila Thursdays.

As their 25th anniversary approaches next February, the Magañas, along with managing son Alexis, look forward to launching major celebratory specials.

The Magañas are regular sponsors of Monroe and Sultan High School football teams.



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.

SCORE

FOR THE LIFE OF YOUR BUSINESS

**Greater
Seattle**

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

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

Monthly Chamber Luncheon - Legislative Exchange - Meet with State Senator and Representatives, October 14, 11:15am - 1pm, Cascade Community Church.

Washington State Evergreen Fall Home Show - October 17-19, 12pm - 4pm

First Hallows Monroe Farmers Market - October 18, 10am - 2pm.

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



Councilmember



Councilmember

Kirk Scarboro

Councilmember
Heather Fulcher

Tami Beaumont

Kyle Fisher

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

[Council
Agendas/Minutes](#)



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