



Monroe BUSINESS NEWSLETTER

City of Monroe, Washington

May 2025



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](#)

Venmo offers \$20,000 grants to small businesses with less than \$50,000 in annual sales. [Application](#)

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

Verizon's Small Business Digital Ready program offers \$10,000

grants to small businesses that complete at least two courses or events through their platform. [Application](#)



U.S. Small Business
Administration

US Small Business Administration Virtual Summit *During National Small Business Week*

The free two-day online event will take place May 6 and 7 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET and **registration is required**.

The virtual summit will feature educational workshops presented by cosponsors, access to federal resources, and networking and mentorship opportunities. Participants will be able to learn about a wide range of topics including manufacturing, digital marketing, cybersecurity and AI, cryptocurrency and online business resources.



Information on Tariffs

The **Washington State Department of Commerce** launched an [online Tariff Information and Resource Guide](#) this week in response to questions and confusion around recently implemented federal tariffs. The new resource includes export-related support from across communities and at the state and federal levels.

The **Seattle Channel** presents a seminar on the local impacts of

tariffs, featuring Port of Seattle Commissioner Sam Cho, Seattle Metro Chamber of Commerce CEO Rachel Smith, and Washington Department of Commerce Assistant Director Grace Yoo. View it [here](#).



Wealth of Small Business Resources Available

Get Access to Capital

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

Monthly "Start Simple" Course *Sign Up Now for June Dates!*

The FREE monthly "Start Simple" Business Course will help you quickly test the feasibility of your business idea. In just four two-hour group sessions, you will learn how to apply business fundamentals to assess the feasibility of your business goals. The course includes FREE access to one of our Business Advisors for one-on-one homework assistance and a final assessment of your completed Start Simple Plan. [Register by emailing Fauzia.Davis@cie-nw.org](mailto:Fauzia.Davis@cie-nw.org)

- [June 4, 4-6pm](#). **Foundation:** Orientation, Readiness Mindset, Personal Finance
- [June 11, 4-6pm](#). **Opportunity Discovery:** Bring Value to Your Target Marketing
- [June 18, 4-6pm](#). **Money In & Money Out:** Projecting Sales & Costs
- [June 25, 4-6pm](#). **Bottom Line:** Projecting Cash Flow & Break Even

Curso en español - comienza 3 de junio, 6 - 8 pm. [Regístrate aquí](#)



Business Resource Navigator

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)



Adopt-a-Planter on Main Street

Join other adopters and sponsor a planter on Main Street to ensure flowers, greenery, and seasonal color in our Historic Downtown Monroe. Thanks go out to the following "early adopters":

- A Different Path
- Better Built Masonry
- SugarBelle Photography
- Garden In Situ
- Monroe Chevron
- Monroe Laundry
- Fairway Mortgage
- EC Gardens

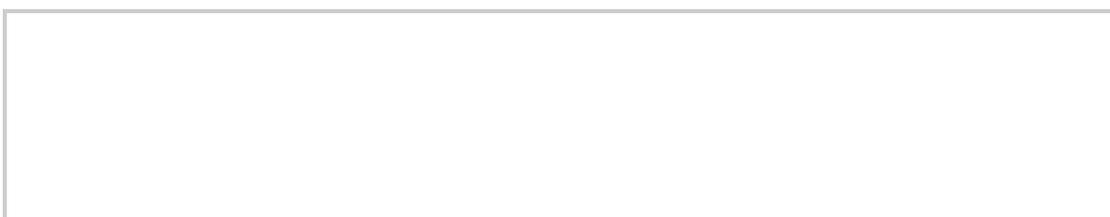
- Dianne and Richard Forth
- Tualco Grange
- Indigo Law PLLC
- Cheri Hurst
- Adkinson Estates Adult Family Home
- Ink It Your Way
- In Memory of Barbara "Grandma B" Rose
- Mayor Geoffrey Thomas

Sign up soon - **there are 15 planters left for "adoption"!** To sponsor, send a check for \$100 to: City of Monroe, Parks & Rec. Dept., ATTN: Shelley Rowe, 806 W. Main St, Monroe 98272. Questions? Email Economic Development Coordinator Patrick Doherty at pdoherty@monroewa.gov



Snohomish County Placemakers Podcast

Join us in an exploration of everything that makes our PNW region a special place to live and visit. Sit in on conversations with Snohomish County thought leaders as we talk about culture, livability, and the ideas that are shaping our community. Listen in [here](#).





Join the First-Ever Monroe Industrial/Construction Businesses Meet-and-Greet

Thursday, May 15, 10:30 - 11:30 AM

Come together to meet City officials and other industrial/construction business owners.

Share updates, information, concerns, suggestions.

Make B-to-B relationships.

"Teen Room" at Monroe YMCA, 14033 Fryelands Blvd SE

AMERICA'S
SBDC
WASHINGTON

READY FOR TAKEOFF: STRATEGIES FOR EXPORT SUCCESS

Join us for a no cost, three-part webinar series designed to help businesses prepare for export success. Whether you're gearing up for the Defense & Security Equipment International (DSEI) trade show in London or looking to expand into global markets, this series will provide practical strategies and expert insights.



Join us for a no-cost, three-part webinar series designed to help businesses prepare for export success. Whether you're gearing up for a trade event or looking to expand into global markets, this series will provide practical strategies and expert insights.

Session 1: Export Planning & Compliance

Join us for the first session in the Ready for Takeoff webinar series, focused on export planning and compliance. You'll learn how to assess your business's export readiness, identify market opportunities, and navigate U.S. export regulations with confidence. Whether you're new to exporting or looking to refine your strategy, this session will help you build a compliant, goal-driven export plan.

May 13 | 1 - 2 p.m.

Register [here](#) for this and subsequent sessions.



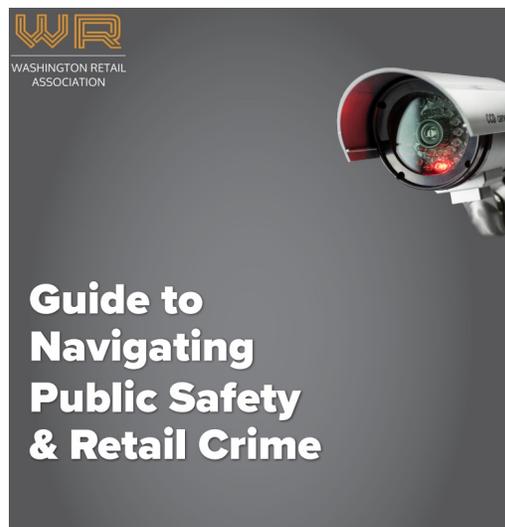
Register Today!

Discount Available to EASC Investors!
Use promo code EASCInvestor10OFF for \$10 OFF admission!

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!





Main Street America Offers Series of Insightful Podcasts for Small Businesses

Latest in the series: Navigating Your Small Business in a Challenging Economy

In this episode, host Matt Wagner discusses the current economic challenges facing small businesses and offers strategies and innovative pivots to better navigate these turbulent headwinds.

Listen to the episode [here](#).

Follow the series.

Monthly Business Profiles *- US 2 Commercial Corridor -*



Les Schwab Tire Center

Prominently located on the south side of the US 2 commercial corridor at 19134 US 2, the Monroe Les Schwab Tire Center is something of a community institution. Serving the Monroe community since



Energy Auto Sales

Just to the east along US-2 from Les Schwab you'll find Energy Auto Sales at 19220 US 2, local specialist in used car sales.

1984, Les Schwab offers much more than tire sales and service.

But before mentioning other products and services, it's amazing to see how many kinds of tires Les Schwab does offer: from car to truck, from industrial to farm vehicles, from lawn & garden to ATVs, and more.

Tire services include alignments, rotations, balancing, seasonal changeovers, and their award-winning FREE tire inspections and flat repair services.

But it doesn't stop there. Les Schwab offers sales and service of brakes, shocks, struts, batteries, and an array of other accessories.

With local management and staff, the Monroe Les Schwab Tire Center is an active member of the Monroe community, sponsoring activities large and small, supporting youth programs, helping families in need, and raising funds for good causes. In fact, Les Schwab Tire Center will be joining KIRO 7 Cares and QFC on May 31st to support Food Lifeline! You can drop off non-perishable food at the Monroe Les Schwab Tire Center. Learn more at [KIRO7.com/fooddrive](https://www.kiro7.com/fooddrive).

Snohomish County local owner Josh Todd has been in business at this location for over six years, offering a wide range of auto brands to folks throughout the Greater Monroe region.

Acquiring product from wholesalers and dealers throughout Western Washington, Energy Auto Sales brings the best in used cars to its local/regional clientele.

While an initial search via [energyautosales.com](https://www.energyautosales.com) may first attract customers, it's a visit to the local business that really cinches the deal – when customers see what they've read online: Energy Auto Sales staff really “take care of their customers.”

Manager Karl Buelow leads a knowledgeable team who take pride in their customer service and attention to detail, telling of numerous occasions when they've been happy to help customers address concerns that might arise even after they drive their new purchase off the lot.

With support to local youth, schools, and activities, Energy Auto Sales is not just a used car lot; they're an integral part of the Monroe community.



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

Chamber Luncheon - Second Tuesday of each month, 11:30am - 1pm. May 13, featuring a seminar on **Social Media Marketing 101** by Benjamin Brittingham of Bedrock Branding.

Monroe Farmers Market - Opening Day May 28, 3pm - 7pm

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](#).





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**



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

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