



Monroe BUSINESS NEWSLETTER

City of Monroe, Washington

September 2025

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



Learn how to request use of a badge at 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.



Going Gold for Childhood Cancer Awareness

We stand in love and solidarity with every child, parent, and family affected by cancer. You are not alone.

This September, let's honor the courage of young warriors and spread hope for brighter tomorrows.

Ways Your Business Can Help:

- Display a gold ribbon or poster in your window
- Share awareness posts on social media



☀️ **MonroeGoesGold** ★



Retailers – Sign up for an Introduction to Sales Tax Webinar

Attend a free webinar to help you understand your sales tax collection and reporting responsibilities. This course will provide a basic overview of how and when to collect sales tax, and how to determine the correct sales tax rate for your sales. We will also demonstrate how to report retail sales using our online portal, My DOR.

Register for the webinar - before they fill up!

WASHINGTON BIZ FAIR
Free resources to start or grow your small business

EXPERT-LED SEMINARS
GUEST SPEAKERS & PANELISTS
FREE BUSINESS RESOURCES EXHIBIT HALL

📅 SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 20, 2025
📍 PIERCE COLLEGE - PUYALLUP
👤 FREE TO ATTEND!

REGISTER NOW!
www.bizfair.wa.gov

A QR code is located at the bottom left of the banner. The right side of the banner shows a photograph of a busy trade show floor with many people and booths.

BizFair is Washington State's largest and longest-running small business resource fair. This free event is open to the public and features no-cost small business resources and education from federal and state agencies and local nonprofit organizations. Throughout the day attendees have the opportunity to visit info tables, business training workshops, and hear from guest speakers and panelists on a variety of business topics including business planning, licensing and registration, tax obligations, marketing strategies, funding opportunities, and more.

- **When: Saturday, September 20, 2025 | 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.**
- **Where: Pierce College | 1601 39th Ave SE, Puyallup, WA**
- For event agenda and registration, visit: **BizFair.wa.gov**.

[Get Tickets](#)

SKY & SNO

Adventure Guide

*Discover the Skykomish and
Snohomish River Valleys and
Venture into the Mountains*

*Indoor and Outdoor
Recreation*



Catch customers as they plan their visit!

From Puget Sound to Stevens Pass, the Sky Valley offers year-round attractions.

The ***Sky & Sno Adventure Guide*** helps visitors make the most of all we have to offer them.

Four-color glossy design to attract visitors to the beautiful Sky Valley and keep them engaged all season long.

Affordable and targeted specifically to your demographic.

Coming this Fall

Indoor and Outdoor Recreation

- Destination wedding venues
- Unique lodging options in the Sky Valley
- Coffee trail
- Farm to table experiences
- Destination events
- ATV/snowmobile suppliers

- Skiing and snowboarding shops
- Snowshoeing ...and more!

Receive exposure throughout the state:

- Local Sky Valley businesses
- Tourism offices and visitor centers
- Hotels and restaurants
- Onboard the Washington State Ferries
- Certified Folder racks and other locations along the I-5 corridor & US 2

Space Deadline: September 12th

Contact Katie Higgins at (206) 914-4248 or Katie@ColibriNW.com

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

NEW

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

- **Profit-Driven Pricing: Mastering the Essentials for Small Business Owners**, Sept 11, 1pm - 2pm

NUMEROUS ON-DEMAND SESSIONS



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



FREE training Sessions on Expanding Your Business through Exporting

The Greater Seattle Export Accelerator (GSEA), a program from Greater Seattle Partners in collaboration with community, state and federal trade organizations, provides complimentary export assistance to small and medium-sized businesses in King, Pierce and Snohomish counties. GSEA offers advanced export training, expert advising and access to international markets.

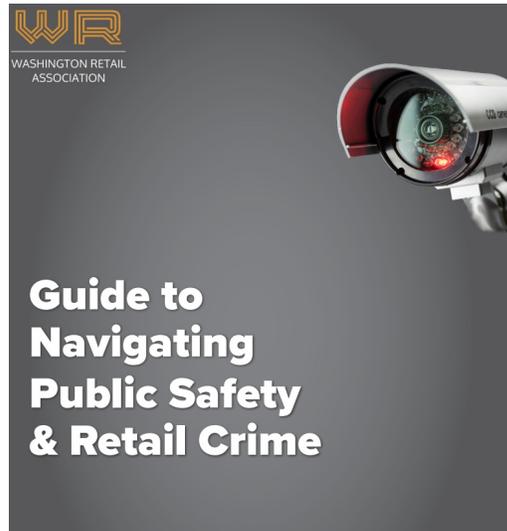
By equipping businesses to grow their exports, GSEA helps increase profits, reduce risk and support job creation across the region.

Apply now.

Useful Guide for Dealing with Retail Crime and Safety

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

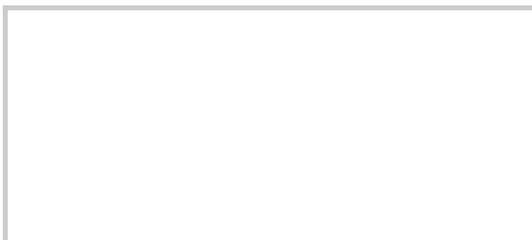
[Peruse the Guide!](#)



Main Street America Offers 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 *- North Kelsey District -*





Vinaccio Coffee

Located at 14751 North Kelsey Street, Suite 101, Vinaccio coffee has served Monroe since 2013 - after its first ten years in Sultan.

Owner Mike Jemmett garnered quite the distinction when in 2003 he started donating coffee to the troops after a customer asked him to ship coffee to a nephew deployed in Iraq. What started small just kept on growing, with free coffee sent to our troops abroad.

Vinaccio sources its coffee from every coffee growing region around the world. While most comes from brokers, a growing percentage comes directly from the farmers, as Mike has developed relationships with growers over the years.

Vinaccio is currently doing



Countryside Sewing & Vacuum

Located nearby at 14957 North Kelsey Street, Lonnie and Carol Trammel have owned and managed Countryside Sewing & Vacuum at this location since 2004.

Assisted by three parttime staffers, Lonnie (seen here) sells new and reconditioned sewing machines and vacuums.

They also offer excellent service and repair, as well as sales of accessories, such as those hard-to-find vacuum bags!

Countryside also offers sewing classes and hands-on instruction to customers on the operation of their new machine.

Monroe residents Lonnie

a fundraiser for the Monroe High School football team. The community can purchase bags of coffee at home games and through the Booster Club. Look for the Monroe Bearcats Facebook page for all the info. Mike says, "100 percent of profits goes to the football team, and I roast the coffee at cost. Go Bearcats!"

Stop in for a delicious coffee beverage, fresh-made sandwich, or fruit smoothie and say hey to barista Ashley and manager Jada, seen here.

and Carol donate their services for local charity auctions - a prime example of the "very caring company" Lonnie says they always try to be.

Pro tip from Lonnie: Keep your machines clean and serviced regularly!



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**



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.

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.

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, September 29, Monroe Coffee Company, 408 W. Main St.

Belonging - Monroe celebrates cultures - 12pm - 6pm, September 6.

Monthly Chamber Luncheon - Speed Networking - 11:45am - 1pm, September 9, Cascade Community Church.

Monroe Farmers Market - Wednesday afternoons through September, 3pm - 7pm.

And more...

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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