



Monroe BUSINESS NEWSLETTER

City of Monroe, Washington

October 2024



Register Today!



SMALL BIZ DIGITAL TRAINERS

**BOOST YOUR
SMALL BUSINESS
WEBINAR SERIES**



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](#)



Join Us for Washington Procurement Connect!

The mission of the Department of Enterprise Services (DES) mission is to strengthen the business of Washington state government for a just and sustainable future.

Director Tara Smith personally invites you to join the first Washington Procurement Connect!

- Tuesday, October 8, 2024, 7:30am - 4:00pm
- Greater Tacoma Convention Center, 1500 Commerce Street, Tacoma, WA 98402
- [Register Here](#)

PROPOSITION

1



PARKS &
PUBLIC SAFETY LEVY



Monroe Voters Consider Levy for Parks and Public Safety Services on November Ballot

In the November 5, 2024, general election, Monroe voters will consider **Proposition 1, Parks and Public Safety Services Levy Lid Lift**, to support investment in parks maintenance and public safety services.

Monroe's growth in recent years has created demand for more park amenities, recreation activities, crime prevention, nuisance abatement, and animal control. And because Monroe residents and businesses value and support the City's parks and public safety services, the City's budget planning process needs to carefully consider how best to provide these quality-of-life services.

The City's operating budget is primarily supported by sales and property tax revenue, both which are in decline. Operating costs are higher due to inflation. **Proposition 1** proposes Monroe's property tax levy rate to be \$1.08 per \$1,000 of assessed value (AV). If approved by a majority of Monroe voters, the approximate \$0.22/\$1,000 AV increase would provide for dedicated funding for parks maintenance and public safety services, including those by the Police Department's Community Services Officer (CSO). Proposition 1, if approved, would cost an average Monroe homeowner about \$10.84 more a month in property taxes paid to the City.

Please visit **MonroeWA.gov/Proposition 1** for more information, including **frequently asked questions**.



Visit bit.ly/DES-SWR for training videos and the application link!

Join the Small Works Roster

Roster process



Qualify

Make sure you: are licensed, bonded, insured, registered with L&I, and have a WA UBI number.



Apply

Complete the Small Works Roster application at des.wa.gov.



Bid

Once approved, agencies will send bid notifications to firms on the roster. Follow the instructions in the email to bid.



Work

Agencies will award the project to the firm with the lowest responsible bid.

What is it?

A list of contractors that:

- is used for public works projects under \$350,000.
- makes it easier for contractors to compete for public works projects.
- helps reduce the cost of bidding small projects.

Contact

- 📍 1500 Jefferson St, Olympia, WA 98504
- 📞 360-407-8128
- ✉ SmallWorks@DES.wa.gov
- 🌐 DES.wa.gov

ADOPT-A-PLANTER!

MAIN STREET

**Your Donation Will Ensure Plants &
Color in Main Street's Planters**

Donate just \$100 per year

Receive:

- **City certificate from Mayor and City Council**
- **Mention in City print and online media**
- **Your Business listed in "Adopt-A-Planter" signage at Main Street Kiosks**

*Make your donation of \$100 by check made out to
"City of Monroe" (mention "Adopt-a-Planter").*

*Send to Monroe City Hall, Attn: Shelley Rowe,
Parks & Rec. Admin. Asst., 806 W. Main St.,
Monroe, WA 98272.*

*For more information, email Patrick Doherty at
pdoherty@monroewa.gov*

The Seattle Times

BEST IN THE PNW

THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE

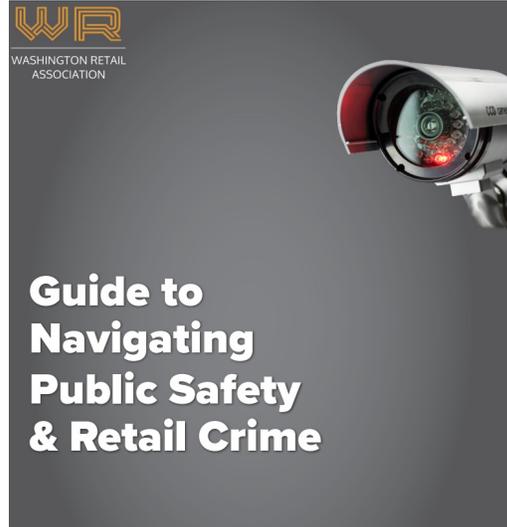
Monroe Businesses Shine in "Best in PNW" Rankings

From Ixtapa Restaurant to Amsberry's Painting, from Cascade Animal Clinic to Black Barrel Vintage - over a dozen local businesses were listed in the Seattle Times "Best in the PNW - People's Choice."

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:

Retail Marketing Strategies from Main Street South Australia

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



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



Owning a business is both exciting and intimidating.

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

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



Upcoming Events

Sky Valley Farm Festival - October 5, 10AM - 4PM

Paint Party - Balloons over Blooms - October 9, 6PM - 8PM

Pickin' at the Barn - Falling Into The Holidays - October 11, 10AM - 4PM

Downtown Trick-or-Treat - October 31, 3PM - 5PM

And More...

[More information here](#)



Local Webinars and Classes

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

- **Money Smart: Business Succession Planning**, October 24, 1:00 - 2:00PM

[Learn More and Register](#)

Mayor Thomas and City Councilmembers Offer Remarks to Downtown Business Owners



October 1, 2024

RE: Downtown Monroe

The City of Monroe and its residents sincerely value our downtown and our business community. On behalf of our community as a whole, we thank you for choosing Monroe as your place to do business.

We are aware of social media posts throughout August and September showing that our existing plans and regulations for downtown may not reflect the Monroe community's vision today.

When the Downtown Master Plan was developed in 2008, our community envisioned a strong, sustainable economy anchored by a healthy, vibrant Main Street. (More information about the master plan can be found at <https://wa-monroe.civicplus.com/730/Resources>). Since the plan was adopted, the City of Monroe has worked in partnership with businesses to achieve this vision, including completing projects such as:

- Widening the sidewalks to encourage walking and window shopping along the street.
- Adding decorative lighting along Main St.
- Installing new planter pots, hanging flower baskets, benches, trash receptacles, cigarette urns and bicycle racks.
- Installing distinctive gateway and wayfinding signs.
- Expanding human services capacity and response.
- Acquiring the Union Bank property to increase downtown parking and develop a future festival lot event space.
- Offering no-cost building and land use permits to encourage improvement and renovation of downtown businesses.
- Installing art sculptures to enhance community and visitor downtown experience.
- Completing a parking study to better understand the dynamics of the existing parking in and around the downtown area.

The city's codes were designed to achieve the vision of a vibrant Main Street, where people can shop, meet friends for coffee or a meal, and admire the charming architecture. Historic buildings are a critical resource that contribute to the character and heritage of Monroe. City codes and policies are intended to preserve that character in order to attract customers and boost business throughout our city.

While the city, building owners, and businesses have made a significant investment into our downtown to realize the community vision that is in code, times change and people's vision for our community shifts. The City of Monroe would like to hear from you to better understand how the city's vision has or has not changed. You can send an email to councilmembers@monroewa.gov or call 360-794-7400. We look forward to hearing from you. Thank you, truly, for all you do to keep our community thriving.

Respectfully,


Geoffrey Thomas, Mayor


Kevin Hanford, Mayor Pro Tem


Jason Gamble,
Councilmember


Kirk Scarborough,
Councilmember


Heather K. Fulcher,
Councilmember


Tami Beaumont,
Councilmember


Kyle Fisher,
Councilmember


Jacob Walker,
Councilmember

City of Monroe
14841 179th Ave SE
Suite 320, Monroe, WA 98272
Phone (360) 794-7400 Fax (360) 794-4007
www.monroewa.gov

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**



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

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