

City Manager's Report

Brian J. Borne, Interim City Manager
Week Ending January 21, 2022

Communications and Tourism

Pete Hovanec, Director of Communications and Tourism

The C-54 Spirit of Freedom arrived at the Charlotte Monroe Executive Airport on Tuesday, January 18th, and will be here for several weeks as it is having some sheet metal work done. The work will be done on the exhibits inside the plane as it is used for a mobile classroom. Airport staff helped to coordinate the arrival and volunteers from Tinker Belle will help in the repairs.

This aircraft is very significant as it is a flying exhibit commemorating the great Berlin Airlift of 1948-1949. In June of 1948, the Soviet Union blocked all road and rail to and from West Berlin, cutting the city off from any outside supplies. These aircraft took off and dropped critical food, clothing, water, medical supplies and other necessities for the more than 2 million residents. These actions went on for more than a year with roughly 200,000 missions providing hope and supplies.



Energy Services

David Lucore, Director of Energy Services

Winter Storm Izzy, Sunday, January 16, 2022

The first major winter storm of the year was predicted to bring ¼” to ½” of ice accumulation and wind gusts of up to 40 mph. This forecast had everyone scrambling to prepare for the worst. Energy Services went through its standard protocol for such an event to be ready to respond to widespread power outages and any potential issue with the natural gas system.

The ice that we received fell in the form of sleet - frozen pellets of ice. The ice collected on roofs and into small dunes blown against buildings and roadways and the power outages predicted did not materialize.

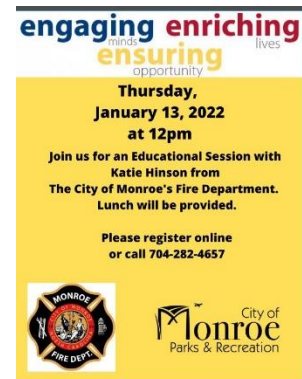
Thankfully, all the preparation turned out to be a drill that did require implementation. At the peak of the storm, there were approximately 40 customer outages in different locations throughout the city. The most significant outage involved a large oak tree that fell on King Street.

Fire

Ron Fowler, Chief, Fire Department

Remembering When Program:

The Fire Department recently partnered with Parks and Recreation to provide an educational program to some of Monroe’s seniors at the Ellen Fitzgerald Senior Center. Members of the Fire Marshal’s Division along with C-Shift Firefighters presented the National Fire Protection Association’s (NFPA’s) Remembering When Program. The group enjoyed an ice breaker round of fun fact questions about each other, while enjoying a catered lunch. The program continued with sharing information on fire safety in the home along with fall prevention messages. Door prizes were also given. This was a fun and educational experience for all!



Annual Fire Apparatus Pump Testing:



Fire Department personnel have completed our annual pump testing of all the department's fire apparatus pumps. The water pumps on the apparatuses, some of which will pump up to 2,000 gpm at 150 psi, are tested to specified pressures and volumes for a defined amount of time. The testing is conducted at the City's Fire Training Grounds where we have a specially designed apparatus testing pit. The testing pit, which was jointly funded and is jointly used by City and County Fire Departments, provides a good setting for testing fire apparatus pumps. It also allows for the recirculation of water, therefore limiting the amount of water used. This testing assures the pumps are functioning properly, which makes us better prepared to mitigate fire emergencies, and provides valuable ISO credit for the City's fire insurance rating.

Parks and Recreation

Ryan Jones, Director of Parks and Recreation

Monroe Aquatics and Fitness Center (MAFC):

Staff is addressing areas of the roof at MAFC that have caused some substantial leaking within the facility. Staff has contacted roofing contractors and those areas will be repaired in the near future.

Summer Camp Registration? Believe it!

The weather may be cold and dreary, but the MAFC Summer Camp 2022 registration is just around the corner.

It's awkward, and inspiring, to think of warm weather events like field trips to Carowinds, creative events such as TP fashion shows or expanding minds and taste buds with food recipes with kids in mind.

Summer camp registration is Saturday, March 5th, at 9:00 am at the MAFC. It is open to active MAFC members. Campers include those MAFC kids who have finished kindergarten all the way to the age of 13.



For questions contact Traci Carpenter. 704.282.4686 or via email at tcarpenter@monroenc.org.

Who's ready for water balloon battles?

Parks Maintenance:

Parks maintenance staff is focusing on mulching parks and wrapping up the bulk of leaf season and continuing the routine maintenance of City parks.

Recreation:

Youth basketball is back in session and youth baseball continues to take registration.

The Belk Tonawanda Phase 1-B Master Plan renovation project bid was accepted and a contract has been awarded to Fairwood Construction. Staff has been working on requisitions for all owner-provided items including splash pad and outdoor fitness equipment. We are awaiting a final rendition of the splash pad, but we have been provided with an artist's rendition of the fitness equipment and it is going to be a beautiful addition to Belk Tonawanda Park. The fitness area will feature a suspension trainer that allows participants the ability to utilize several different exercises with a focus on lower and upper body strength, an accessible hand bike, a stationary bicycle, a sit up bench and a 16 inch and 24-inch step. Staff anticipates having the artist's rendition by the next Manager's update. We are very excited to begin this project very soon!



Community Centers had two events scheduled for Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebrations on Monday, January 17th. Unfortunately, those were postponed due to inclement weather. We are in the process of finalizing dates for rescheduling with our vendors in February.

The Fall/Winter Program guide is now available. Link below:

https://issuu.com/cityofmonroe-parksrec/docs/com-291_programguide_fall_winter21-2d43cc09676ee2

Water Resources

Russell Colbath, Director of Water Resources

Car Recovered from Lake Twitty

A homeowner living in the Village Lake Subdivision adjacent to Lake Twitty failed to set the parking brake on a vintage MG car while performing car maintenance, resulting in the car rolling into the lake. Water Resources staff worked with the owner, divers and wrecking company to successfully recover the car. There were no injuries and no impacts to the lake or the City's drinking water supply. Interestingly, the car passenger compartment and trunk were full of native fish after the car was pulled to the shoreline. The fish were successfully returned to the lake.



Water Resources New Hires, Advancements, and Retirements

Bryan Jones – Career Ladder advancement to Equipment Operator III

New Employees: The following recently retired employees were hired as temporary Construction Inspectors to handle the high volume of residential development projects and City capital improvement work.

Tommy Deese

Greg Crawford

Randy Griffin