

City Manager's Report

Brian J. Borne, Interim City Manager
Week Ending February 4, 2022

Charlotte Monroe Executive Airport
Peter Cevallos, Airport Manager



Airport Runway Closure:

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) will be working on repairing 5,540 linear feet of pavement cracks in the runway, February 14 and 15, from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.. A NCDOT contractor will be out on the runway on both of those days cleaning out the cracks and re-filling them with sealant material so that the pavement can endure. As such, the runway will be closed to all aircraft operations during this period. The necessary advisory has been issued to the FAA and airport users and proper markings and barricades will be deployed during this closure.

This project valued at approximately \$20,000 is at no cost to the City and will provide the necessary upkeep to allow the heavier corporate jet aircraft to continue using our facilities.

Engineering
Sarah McAllister, Director of Engineering

Stormwater Services is launching a Facebook series on Stormwater Infrastructure:

Check out the City's Facebook page for a series of messages called "Stormwater Feature February" to raise awareness of the City's vast stormwater infrastructure. With the federal infrastructure package being sorted out in DC, the term "infrastructure" has been scattered throughout the national news lately, but what is included when we talk about infrastructure? It's common for people to picture things we see and use every day, such as roads and bridges, or our power and water supply. While all of those are critical pieces of our infrastructure, we frequently forget about the equally important parts that are underground or largely unseen, including sewer systems and storm drainage systems. Stormwater Services has created posts that highlight particular stormwater features or fixtures and describe how they fit into our larger storm drainage system.



To learn more about the City's Stormwater Management System, visit <https://www.monroenc.org/Departments/Engineering/Stormwater-Services>

If you suspect stormwater pollution in Monroe, report it to our stormwater hotline at 704-282-4515. Please include the location, date, time and description, such as materials dumped, if known.

New Hires and Promotions:

Alex Luther has been promoted to Crew Leader.

Cameron Howard has been promoted to Street Maintenance Equipment Operator II.

Lucas Croasmun has been promoted to Stormwater Equipment Operator I.

Casey Webber has been hired as a Street Maintenance Worker II.

Retiree and former Street Superintendent Olin Deaton has been hired as temporary labor to help out while the Street Division is trying to fill multiple vacancies.

Fire

Ron Fowler, Chief, Fire Department

Annual Fit Testing and SCBA Certification:



Firefighters have completed our annual OSHA Fit Testing and annual self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) bench testing as part of our Respiratory Protection Program. Firefighters often operate in atmospheres that contain respiratory hazards and these annual activities help ensure firefighter safety and assure compliance with OSHA Respiratory Protection Regulations. Firefighters are fit tested with N 95 masks, half-face respirators and full face SCBA masks to protect them from various respiratory hazards ranging from medical exposures, hazardous chemicals or super heated gases in structure fire situations.

These tests make sure firefighters are wearing correctly sized and proper fitting mask to protect them from outside exposures. The SCBAs themselves also undergo annual testing to assure they are functioning properly.



Promotions:

The Fire Department recently conducted assessment center processes to assess candidates that applied for promotion to engineer and captain. The assessment processes consisted of various exercises including a research project, structured panel interview, apparatus operation, roll play and a fire scene scenario. Each candidate was evaluated on various dimensions by multiple assessors in each exercise and given a consensus score in each dimension. Assessors that participated in the assessments included representatives from Monroe Fire Department and fire personnel from other career fire departments. Following the assessments, the Department's Leadership Team utilized the assessment centers as a tool and considered other relevant factors including past job performance, education, experience, current certifications, seniority, etc. in making promotional recommendations.

As a result of this process, the following Fire Department members have been promoted effective February 5, 2022.

Firefighter Clayton Bradley, Firefighter James Brown, Firefighter Alan Burkitt and Firefighter Jody Frazier have been promoted to Engineer.

Engineer Jacob Helms, Engineer Ben Hinson, Engineer Graham McManus and Engineer Adam Rorie have been promoted to Captain.

Congratulations to these members on their professional accomplishments!

Parks and Recreation

Ryan Jones, Director of Parks and Recreation

Monroe Aquatics and Fitness Center (MAFC):

Work has begun in addressing roof issues at MAFC. The internal drain work has been completed and the resealing work will begin when weather allows.

Swim Lessons are Back at the MAFC!

The MAFC is happy to announce that group swim lessons have resumed! Due to a COVID and staffing issues the group lessons were temporarily suspended. The classes are minimized to four students per class due to COVID restrictions.

Sign up now to reserve your spot in our swim program. All levels welcome. Currently, classes are offered in the evenings during the week. Contact Fitness Director Bonnie Hoag at bhoag@monroenc.org for more information.



Parks Maintenance:

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

Recreation:

Youth basketball regular season has concluded and the end-of-season tournaments have begun. Winchester Community Center will host two end-of-season age group tournaments. Youth baseball continues to take registration.

The Belk Tonawanda Phase 1-B project continues to move forward smoothly! We have received the artist's rendering of the splash pad and it looks GREAT! We are very excited to start the construction of this project. A notice to proceed will be issued once the contract is approved. We will be able to provide an update on a tentative timeline for construction soon.

Please follow the link for the artist's rendering of the future addition to Belk Tonawanda Park.

 [Belk Tonawanda Park Phase 1B NC 36356 VC 3D.pdf](#)

We will be hosting a free community event celebrating Black History Month on Saturday, February 26th at Winchester Community Center from 12 pm – 3 pm. We will have interactive inflatables and bounce houses along with food and other fun activities.

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

Winter Temperatures Bring Water Main Breaks:

Imagine yourself standing in ice cold water, in freezing outdoor temperatures, working on a broken water main while putting on a clamp, tightening bolts ... well you get the picture. Winter means increased water main break activity in the City.



With over 1.6 million feet of water main pipe in Monroe's system, some dating to the late 1930's, maintaining this system in cold weather is a big challenge. Fortunately, due to the proactive asset management plan used in the Water Resources Department, where almost 1% of the water main piping is replaced annually, water main breaks like this have been steadily declining.

Prior to 2005, the system had over 200 breaks per year, but that has been reduced to less than 100 per year due to the proactive replacement program. So the next time you wake up in the morning and pour water for that morning cup of coffee, appreciate the Water Resources Maintenance, Construction, and Water Treatment staff that keep essential water service flowing around the clock and in all types of weather.

Pictured below, water main break flowing on Sutherland Avenue as Water Resources staff arrived on the scene.

Water Resources staff pumping out the excavated repair trench prior to making repairs (right).

