

# **City Manager's Report**

*Brian J. Borne, Interim City Manager*  
*Week Ending February 18, 2022*

## ***Communications and Tourism***

***Pete Hovanec, Director of Communications and Tourism***

### **Dowd Center Theatre Events:**

Now that COVID numbers have drastically reduced the Dowd Center Theatre is looking forward to a busy season of in-house productions as well as rental/third-party events.

Below you will find a partial listing of events and activities through June. Please be advised that these event dates are subject to change:

February 26	Union Symphony Orchestra <i>Union Jazz</i>
March 8	Union County Community Arts Council Presents <i>Jef The Mime</i>
March 9	Union County Community Arts Council Presents <i>Jef The Mime</i>
March 13	Rhythm Dance Company Dance Showcase
March 15	No Limits Dance Company Showstopping Showcase
March 19	Union Symphony: <i>Symphony of Science</i>
March 29	Union County Chamber Elected Officials Reception
April 8	Monroe Art Walk
April 8	James Gregory
April 9	Monroe Art Walk
April 9	Union Symphony: <i>Art, Music, &amp; Film</i>
April 23	The Drifters
April 30	Joe Bob Briggs: <i>How Rednecks Saved Hollywood</i>
May 5-7	<i>Shrek The Musical Jr.</i> (Lanti Performing Arts)
May 14	Red Cross Gala
May 19-21	Acting Out Studios presents End of Year Showcase
May 22	Delta Sigma Theta May Week Celebration
May 28	USO Variety Show
June 10-11	Steps 'N Motion Steps To Pro
June 12-14	No Limits Dance Company Annual Dance Recital

### **South East Conference of Air Shows Appointment:**

After serving as the Vice President of the South East Council of Airshows (SECAS) for the past three years, Communications and Tourism Director Pete Hovanec was elected to serve as the President of the organization at the recent Annual SECAS Education and Resource Summit to lead the organization.

SECAS serves to promote the safe and professional production of air shows through the exchange of information between event organizers, performers and service providers. The organization reaches from Virginia to Florida and from Texas to Illinois, serving the highest concentration of Air Shows in the United States.

## ***Fire***

### ***Ron Fowler, Chief, Fire Department***

#### **NC Fire Chiefs Mid-Winter Conference:**

Fire Department Chief Officers recently attended the NC Fire Chiefs Mid-Winter conference held in Concord, NC. The four-day conference offered a wide variety of items, including certification upgrades, educational sessions, updates from state agencies and associations, a large vendor expo and more. With the close proximity of the conference, several chief officers were able to rotate to sessions of interest while maintaining an appropriate presence in Monroe.

#### **Professional Accomplishments:**

Captain Katie Hinson and Captain Kevin Philemon recently obtained their North Carolina Fire Inspector Level III certification. Level III is the highest level of certification and allows a fire inspector to inspect or conduct plan reviews for any type of occupancy. Captain Hinson and Captain Philemon serve as Assistant Fire Marshals and this certification enables them to inspect any of our large businesses or industries in Monroe.

Division Chief Nick Steffler recently graduated from UNC Charlotte's Fire and Rescue Management Institute. The program included over 75 instructional hours of leadership development training over a four-month period. Courses consisted of a variety of valuable leadership topics. Chief Steffler serves as the fire department's training chief and now joins an alumni network of fire service officers across the southeast who have completed this program.



Congratulations to these members on their professional accomplishments!

***Human Resources Department***  
***Debra C. Reed, Director of Human Resources***

**Employee Service Awards:**

Employee Service Awards were distributed to Department Heads for employees that qualified for the award. Full time employees received a certificate, lapel pin, Target gift card and a \$10 Hilltop Restaurant gift card. Part-time employees received a certificate, lapel pin, and a \$10 Hilltop Restaurant gift card. Department Heads also received a booklet listing all service award recipients. Retirees were mailed a certificate, lapel pin, and \$10 Hilltop Restaurant gift card. A total of 80 full time service awards, 31 part-time service awards and ten retiree service awards were distributed.

***Energy Services***  
***David Lucore, Director of Energy Services***  
***Rob Miller, General Manager of Engineering***

**David Lucore – Retirement:**

David Lucore will be retiring from the City on February 25, 2022 after 33 years of service. David began his career with the City on March 13, 1989 as a Line Technician. Throughout the years, David worked up to the Electric Operations Manager and the Director of Energy Services. Throughout his career, he has led projects that developed the electric system to where it stands today and setup the system for success in the future. These projects include the construction of four substations, upgrades to two other substations, 19 miles of electric transmission line, distribution projects that nearly doubled the electric customer count, and construction/operations of the City's fiber optic system.

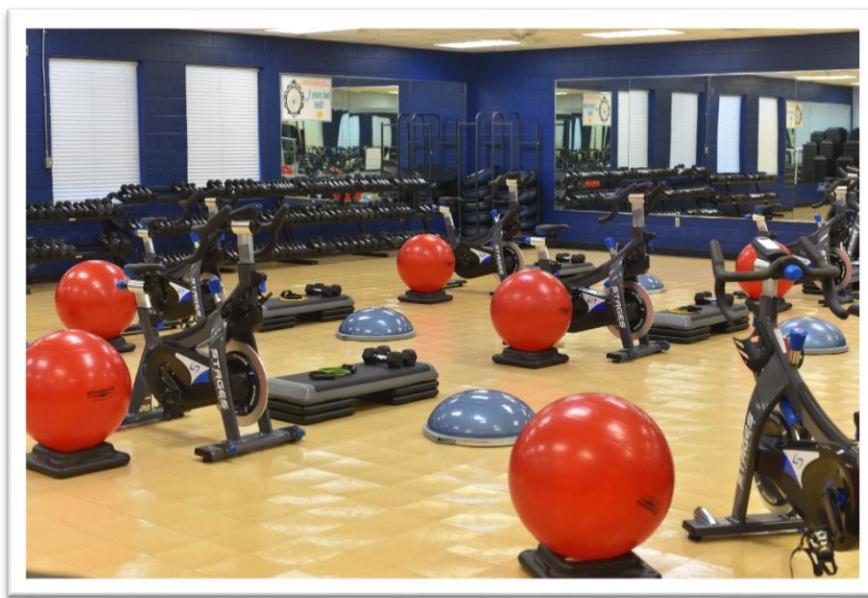
As the Director, David continued his leadership effort to develop the entire department to improve. He focused on developing Standard Operating Procedures for the department and developing the employees and other leaders within the department. David has mentored many people throughout his career. He held a high standard that helped many develop personally and further their careers. Energy Services and the City of Monroe will miss David's leadership, can do attitude, quick wit, and sense of humor. We thank him for his 33 years of service to the City, the energy customers, and our personnel.

***Parks and Recreation***  
***Ryan Jones, Director of Parks and Recreation***

**Monroe Aquatics and Fitness Center (MAFC):**

Group Fitness Instructor continuing Education Workshops and Certifications:

In March 2022, the MAFC will host Interactive Fitness Trainers of America (IFTA). On Saturday, March 5, IFTA Presenters Greg Sims, Gay Gasper and Darise Barron will conduct six workshops. Group Fitness Instructors and Personal Trainers have the opportunity to participate in these workshops to enhance their knowledge in a variety of fitness concepts, ranging from aquatic exercise to yoga to cardiovascular and strength training. On Sunday, March 6, the three IFTA presenters will conduct a Group Fitness Instructor Certification, a Cycle Instructor Certification and a Kickboxing Instructor Certification. The Sunday courses can also be attended for continuing education purposes. By hosting a weekend-long fitness program, MAFC is not only providing opportunities to enhance its fitness employees' knowledge as well as the overall Fitness Department, but is also providing opportunities for other fitness professionals in the greater Charlotte area to visit the MAFC and our City of Monroe. If you would like to learn more, please contact Carrie Hodes at (704) 282-4699.



### **Parks Maintenance:**

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

### **Recreation:**

Another successful youth basketball season is in the books. The City of Monroe had four age group champions in the end of season tournament. All-star practices will begin next week and we are looking forward to bringing home the gold!!! Youth baseball registration has been completed.

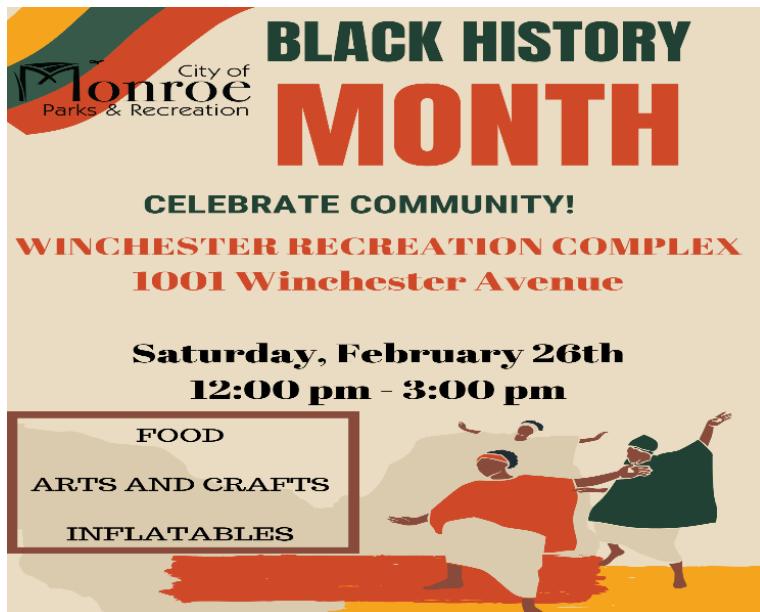
The playground at J. Ray Shute Center will be replaced in the near future.

We are excited to be able to replace this popular amenity.



Community Centers hosted several Valentine's Day themed events that included dancing, games, food and more!

Also, on schedule in February is our Black History Month Celebration of Community that will take place at Winchester Community Center on Saturday, February 26, 2022.



Music on Main is right around the corner and our department is geared up for another outstanding lineup! We have moved Music On Main to Friday night, April – September! See below for the full line up:



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

[https://issuu.com/cityofmonroe-parksrec/docs/com-291\\_programguide\\_fall\\_winter21-2d43cc09676ee2](https://issuu.com/cityofmonroe-parksrec/docs/com-291_programguide_fall_winter21-2d43cc09676ee2)

## **Water Resources**

**Russell Colbath, Director of Water Resources**

### **Monroe's Ongoing Residential Housing Boom**

Monroe is experiencing very positive growth in the residential development area. One of the drivers has been that surrounding jurisdictions, including Union County, Charlotte, and Concord/Cabarrus County, have experienced some restrictions on waste water capacity. A focus for Monroe has been a sustainable, long-term strategy to maintain capacity as growth commitments are made. This has allowed us to capitalize on the opportunity to attract new residential, commercial, and industrial projects as City Council approves these project.

A related benefit has been very positive water/waste water account growth and revenue. The ten-year average for new water/waste water accounts (2009 to 2019) was just under 80 new meter sets per year. For 2019-2020, the average climbed to 300 per year. Going forward, the five-year projection is up to 500 new meter sets per year. This positive account and revenue growth will support the five-year capital improvement plan that identifies over \$95 million dollars of needed improvements. These improvements not only support positive growth, but provide the needed infrastructure to deliver quality/reliable service to all Monroe residents.

Shown below are infrastructure improvements being installed to serve the Simpson Farms subdivision along Secrest Shortcut Road and pre-purchased homes going vertical.



### Water Resources New Hires, Advancements and Retirements:

Brandon Anderson – Career Ladder advancement to Equipment Operator III

Mary Carpenter – Career Ladder advancement to Water Treatment Plant Operator II

### New Employees:

Carter Lindsay – Equipment Operator I, WR Maintenance Division

Nicholas Fatih – Water Treatment Plant Operator I, John Glenn WTP