

# City Manager's Report

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

*Charlotte Monroe Executive Airport*  
*Peter Cevallos, Airport Manager*



*Engineering*  
*Sarah McAllister, Director of Engineering*

**Stormwater Services is spreading the word about illicit discharge:**

Be on the lookout for messages from the Stormwater Services about illicit discharge on the City's Facebook page. The term illicit discharge sounds complicated, but is really not. It refers to anything that makes its way into the storm drainage system that isn't entirely composed of stormwater runoff. Our storm drains and drainage ditches are intended to collect rain, sleet, snow, or hail and transport the water straight into our creeks, streams and lakes without any treatment. Therefore pouring, disposing or dumping of any materials into our storm drains, catch basins, drainage ditches or straight into waterbodies is an illicit discharge.

There are a few permitted discharges that are allowed, such as firefighting related discharges. To learn more about illicit discharges, potential sources and how to prevent illicit discharges, please visit <https://www.monroenc.org/Departments/Engineering/Stormwater-Services/Illicit-Discharge>



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

## ***Fire***

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

### **Fire Department Re-Accreditation:**

The Fire Department is finalizing preparations for our upcoming re-accreditation process. Our accreditation, which is awarded through the Commission on Fire Accreditation International, is granted for a five-year period and we were last re-accredited in 2017. All final documents for re-accreditation have to be submitted by the end of March and our site visit is currently scheduled for the week of May 22<sup>nd</sup>. There is an extensive amount of work involved in making the final preparations to get all necessary documents submitted and Fire Department members are fervently striving to make this happen. The Commission hearing, in which we would go before the Commission to be considered for re-accreditation, is anticipated for August. The date and location has not yet been announced.

### **Monroe Fire Department Summer Camp:**

Firefighters are planning for our annual Monroe Fire Department Summer Camp. Camp 1872, named after Monroe Fire Department's initial organization date, is scheduled for June 14 – 17, 2022. The camp is for youth, ages 14 to 17, and is free. The camp will be held at Monroe's Fire Training Grounds and will allow campers to experience the fire service by participating in various fire service related and team building activities. There are 40 participant spaces available and registration opens in April.



## **Welcome Monroe Firefighter Recruits:**

Monroe Fire Department welcomes six new firefighter recruits to our Fire Department family and to Recruit Class 21. These recruits include two existing City employees who have transferred from other City departments and four new employees. Chad Aldridge and Zack Ross have transferred from the Engineering Department; Caleb Baucom, Jamie Bergen, Elian Paniagua and Ethan Whitley are new hires. They will begin with a five-week Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification program followed by a 14-week firefighter certification school. This is the 21<sup>st</sup> Monroe recruit class held since Monroe Fire Department was re-organized following the separation of Public Safety in 1999. We wish each of these new members the best during their training and throughout their career! More information and invitations will be forthcoming regarding their Recruit Class Graduation Ceremony, which will be held at the conclusion of the training.



## ***Energy Services*** ***Rob Miller, Interim Director of Energy Services***

### **Energy Services Personnel Accomplishments/Promotions**

Lex Hilton completed Level II of Substation Career Development Program

Dusty Furr completed Level II of Substation Career Development Program

Austin Tarlton completed Level IV of the Lineman Career Development Program

Toby Burton was promoted Gas Technician II

Darwin De Los Santos was assigned Interim General Manager of Engineering

Drew Waravdekar was assigned Interim Natural Gas Engineering and Compliance Manager

Rob Miller was assigned to Interim Director of Energy Services

### ***Parks and Recreation***

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

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

The work that had been contracted to address the leaks in a section of the MAFC roof has been completed. We have had a couple instances of rain post completion with zero leaks!!!

MAFC is partnering with Monroe Fire and Police for a 5k race and Kids and Heroes Fun Run! The event will be held on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> and will be open to ages 6 – Adult starting at 9:00 am at the Monroe Aquatics and Fitness Center. Look for QR codes and online sign ups from Queen City Timing soon.

Food trucks will be on site with food for purchase, including a coffee and donut truck for a pre-race carb hit! All participants will receive a free day pass to the MAFC Waterpark to use that day! Contact Traci Carpenter at [tcarpenter@monroenc.org](mailto:tcarpenter@monroenc.org) with questions. #2022MAFCSplashandDash

The Run with a Hero Event will begin at 10:00 am in front of Fire Station #3 and participants will be able to register through the City's website soon. Cut off for registration is April 30<sup>th</sup>. This event is free to children in Monroe community and will include a free lunch and entrance to the MAFC Waterpark after the race for the day. Please contact Katie Hinson at [khinson@monroenc.org](mailto:khinson@monroenc.org) with questions. #runwithaheromonroe



## **Parks Maintenance:**

Leaf season is officially over. This year saw a considerable increase in leaves and maintenance staff did a great job staying on task during a busy leaf season. Attention will start moving towards park mowing as the weather gets warmer. Also, maintenance staff will begin preparing fields for baseball and rental usage.

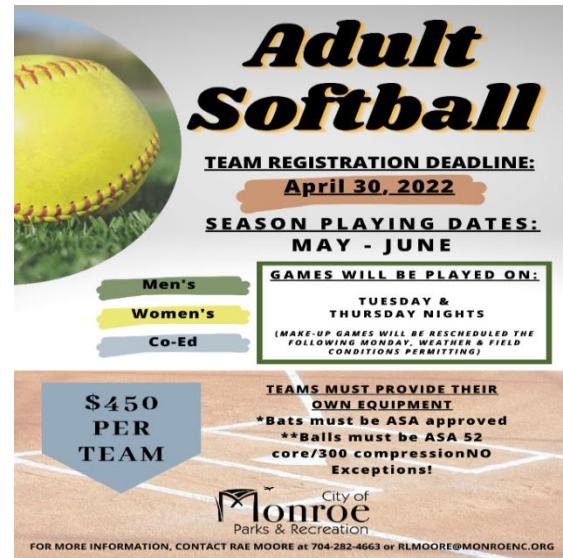
## **Recreation:**

The countywide All-Star Basketball tournament has concluded. There were several competitive games and we are so happy our participants enjoyed another successful basketball season! The first youth baseball practices started this week. Youth baseball plays throughout the county and is sanctioned through the Cal Ripken Youth Baseball Association. All home youth baseball games take place at Sunset Park. The start of baseball season is always a great indicator that Spring has arrived!

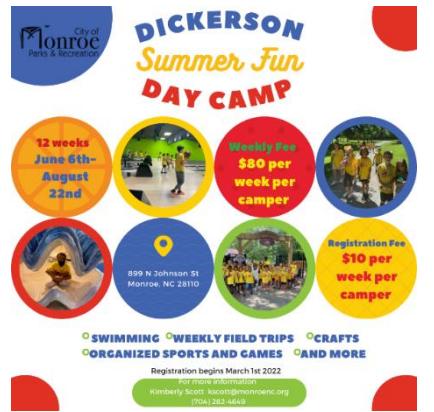
Youth track and field is one of our more popular new programs. Registration is underway for this program. Teams will practice weekly and will compete against two other local athletic associations at three track meets throughout the spring.

Parks and Recreation has planned some awesome opportunities coming up for adult athletics at our beautiful facilities. Adult softball registration began this week. Adult softball takes place at Parks Williams Athletic Complex. We are offering leagues for men, women and a co-ed league!

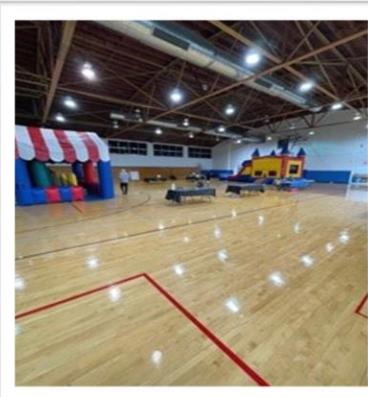
Our department is also providing open pickleball play at Dickerson Tennis Courts! Grab your pickleball paddle and come out and enjoy one of the fastest growing adult sports. Stay tuned for some exciting news regarding tennis programming at Dickerson Recreation Complex.



Summer camp registrations have begun at Dickerson Community Center. Winchester, J. Ray Shute, Old Armory, and Sutton Park are preparing for another summer full of fun activities. The newest edition of the program guide is in edit mode and should be ready very soon!



The Black History Month Celebration of Community Event at Winchester Community Center provided some fun inflatables, free grocery giveaways, music and free food! Members of the community that attended had a great time!



Our Special Event season is quickly approaching. We were so very excited to announce the Music On Main Line Up last month and have received a ton of positive feedback on the line up and the move from Thursday nights to Friday nights. We are equally excited to announce the Classic Car Cruise In Line Up. This event begins in April and continues on the second Friday of the month through October.



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

#### **Water Resources Administrative Team Completes Data Conversion:**

In 2020, the City's IT and Finance Departments were contemplating the difficult task of replacing the antiquated H.T.E. software. They notified all Departments that they would need to convert all merged historical utility records stored in Laserfische into Department specific storage locations as part of this software conversion. With over 20,000 water resources records in this system, Water Resources Administrative staff considered contracting out the task. Ultimately they decided they could tackle it to save money and blend it in with their existing work load.

Fast forward to today, the task has been completed, with 23,265 records converted. The new records configurations will increase efficiency when using historical address file information, and ensure compliance with record retention laws.

Special thanks to Amanda Horne, Administrative Assistant II, Sandra Slifer, Administrative Supervisor, and our dear departed Donna Brock, Administrative Assistant I, for their tireless effort in accomplishing this goal in time for the upcoming Munis conversion! This is an excellent example of how a can-do attitude and teamwork can get a difficult task done, while saving money for our utility customers.

## NCDOT Hayne Street Paving Requires Water Main Relocation:

The NCDOT is paving 2.5 miles of NC 207 (S. Hayne St.) from W. Morrow Street to Stack Road to be completed by early summer of 2022. The Water Resources Engineering and Construction Divisions coordinated the design and relocation of an important city water main as part of the paving project. The construction involved moving the water main out of the paved area and included a difficult creek crossing. Pavement coordination is an important an ongoing task for both City and NCDOT paving projects and any utility work.



Shown: Creek crossing construction and new water main with tracer wire for future electronic location of the main. Also shown, Equipment Operator III Manny Carrillo injecting a chlorine solution into the new main. Every new water main must undergo bacteriological disinfection and pass rigorous laboratory testing before serving water to Monroe customers.



## New Hires, Advancements, and Retirements:

Casey Keziah – Construction Crew Leader II (Transferred from Streets Department)