

City Manager's Report
Brian J. Borne, City Manager
Week Ending August 19, 2022

Administration

Brian J. Borne, City Manager

District Court Upholds Council Decision:

On August 10, 2022, the City of Monroe received notification that District Court Judge Robert J. Conrad denied former City Council Member Angelia James' motion for a preliminary injunction regarding her removal from the Monroe City Council through the Amotion process.

Conrad's ruling upholds the ruling and findings presented during the Amotion proceedings held January 20 and 21, 2022, the subsequent hearing officer report presented to the City Council in March 2022, and the Council's April 7, 2022 hearing resulting in former Council Member James' removal from the Monroe City Council.

"I am satisfied with Judge Conrad's decision in his comprehensive order," said Brian J. Borne, Monroe City Manager. "We continue to operate the City in an efficient and effective manner including the hard work of our Council, despite the open position on Council."

On August 7, 2022, the City learned that James had appealed the decision to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. The next steps would have been for the City Council to fill the Council vacancy; however, the Council has agreed that it will hold those plans until the Fourth Circuit provides clarity.

[Click on this link to view Judge Conrad's denial order:](#)

[Click on this link to view Hearing Officer Valencia McDowell's full report:](#)

[Click on this link to view the City Council Order removing Angelia James:](#)

More information about the James case in the federal courts is available at <https://pacer.uscourts.gov>.

Despite City Council operating with six members, Council has completed significant projects including the approval and adoption of a new Unified Development Ordinance and the approval of a balanced budget without the need for a tax increase. City Council has conducted business at the Council level, Committee level and Staff level without incident during this time.

Another significant milestone also occurred this week as Mayor Marion Holloway signed a Proclamation officially ending the City of Monroe Declaration of Emergency brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic that was effective 5:00 p.m. on August 15, 2022.

"It is no surprise to anyone that these past two years have been very challenging and at times outright scary," said Holloway. "As we continue to emerge and move forward from the challenges caused by COVID-19, I am excited and optimistic that we will continue to overcome and adapt to whatever challenges we face."

Energy Services

Rob Miller, Director, Energy Services

Energy Services, Water Resources and Engineering

The Energy Services, Water Resources and Engineering Departments celebrated 811 with a meal and fellowship. We celebrated the many Staff that work together to keep the utilities safe.

Every few minutes, an underground utility line is damaged because someone decided to dig without first calling 811. Striking a single line can cause injury, repair costs, inconvenient outages and fines. Every digging project, no matter how large or small, warrants contacting 811 by phone or online. Installing a mailbox, building a deck, planting a tree and laying a patio are all examples of digging projects that require a free request at least three days before breaking ground.



Electric Division

Brent Davis started as a Line Apprentice II on August 15, 2022.

Engineering

Sarah McAllister, Director, Engineering

Street Division Projects

The Street Division recently repaired sidewalk along Guild Street from Johnson Street to Onset Place and installed new sidewalk from Onset Place to Icemorlee Street. Please see the before and after pictures below.



Guild Street looking from Onset Place towards Johnson Street (before)



Guild Street looking from Onset Place towards Jefferson Street now



Guild Street looking from Onset Place towards Icemorlee Street (before)
(from Google Street view)



Guild Street looking from Onset Place towards Icemorlee Street now

New Hires and Promotions

Adam Dailey started as a Solid Waste Technician on August 9, 2022. Deanna Gambino started as the Stormwater Compliance Coordinator on August 15, 2022.

Fire

Ron Fowler, Chief, Fire Department

Fire Department is Awarded International Reaccreditation Status

Monroe Fire Department has again received Accredited Agency status with the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) for meeting the criteria established through the CFAI's voluntary self-assessment and accreditation program. Monroe Fire is one of approximately 300 agencies to achieve Internationally Accredited Agency status with the CFAI and the Center for Public Safety Excellence, Inc. (CPSE). The accredited agency status is valid for five years, provided that annual compliance reports are submitted to and approved by the Commission. Monroe was initially accredited in 2012 and reaccredited in 2017. CFAI is dedicated to assisting fire and emergency service agencies throughout the world in achieving excellence through self-assessment and accreditation to provide continuous quality improvement and the enhancement of service delivery to their communities. The CFAI process is voluntary and provides an agency with an improvement model to assess their service delivery and performance internally and then works

with a team of peers from other agencies to evaluate their completed self-assessment. Mayor Marion Holloway, Mayor Pro Tem and Public Safety Chair Gary Anderson, City Manager Brian J. Borne, Deputy Chief Greg Collins, Deputy Chief and Accreditation

Manager Bryan Kindley and Chief Ron Fowler represented the Fire Department and City during a virtual



hearing before the Commission, at which the Commission voted unanimously to award reaccredited status to the department. Thank you to the members of Monroe Fire Department for all their hard work in achieving reaccredited status and to the City Manager and City Council for their support in maintaining accredited status.

Firefighter Recruit Graduation and Promotion Ceremony

Six newly appointed Monroe Firefighters and various newly promoted firefighters were recently recognized during a Firefighter Graduation and Promotion Ceremony at the Dowd Center Theatre.

Firefighters Chad Aldridge, Caleb Baucom, Jamie Bergin, Nicholas Duke, Elian Paniagua and Ethan Whitley were recognized for graduating Monroe Fire Department's Recruit Class 21, a 21-week fire and medical training program.



The following department members were recognized on their recent promotions:

Firefighter Clayton Bradley promoted to Engineer
Firefighter James Brown promoted to Engineer
Firefighter Alan Burkitt promoted to Engineer
Firefighter Jody Frazier promoted to Engineer
Firefighter Wyatt Knight promoted to Engineer
Firefighter Ryan Moore promoted to Engineer



Engineer Jacob Helms promoted to Captain
Engineer Ben Hinson promoted to Captain
Engineer Graham McManus promoted to Captain
Engineer Adam Rorie promoted to Captain
Engineer Joseph Uhl promoted to Captain-Assistant
Fire Marshal

Captain-Assistant Kevin Philemon promoted to
Division Chief-Fire Marshal

Congratulations to each of these Fire Department
members on their professional accomplishments!



Parks and Recreation

Ryan Jones, Director, Parks and Recreation

Active Adults

In late July, members of the Ellen Fitzgerald Senior Center enjoyed an annual peach outing to Mac's Pride in McBee, SC. They brought home all sorts of fresh, local fruits and vegetables and enjoyed a delicious lunch at Big's.

On August 1, 2022, the Ellen Fitzgerald Senior Center's Bags to Benches program participants reached their goal of collecting and recycling 500 lbs. of plastic bags. In return, NexTrex is sending us a park bench made of recycled materials for the new Active Adult Center. This will be a great addition to our new Center and was only possible with the help of over 15 volunteer plus those who brought in the plastic material.

On August 10, 2022, the Ellen Fitzgerald Senior Center collaborated with Union County Parks and Recreation to provide a day outing at Cane Creek Park. The members enjoyed an educational program, pedal boats, miniature golf and hot dog lunch.



The Friends of the Fitzgerald:

The Friends of the Fitzgerald is a group of seniors dedicated to raising money for the Senior Center. On August 20, 2022, the Friends of the Fitzgerald held their Annual Yard Sale. All proceeds will go directly to the Senior Center to purchase needed items.

Welcome new line dance instructor, Chanderlyn "Mocha" Jewell. She teaches beginners line dance on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Her classes are fantastic exercise and she makes them so FUN for our members.



ELLEN FITZGERALD SENIOR CENTER
City of Monroe Parks and Recreation
327 South Hayne Street Monroe, North Carolina 28112-5506
Telephone 704-282-4657 Fax 704-238-9187

HELLO AUGUST 2022

Aging Well, Living Well
44 years of serving seniors 55+

Monday AUGUST 15	Tuesday AUGUST 16	Wednesday AUGUST 17	Thursday AUGUST 18	Friday AUGUST 19
<u>In-Person and Zoom Fitness</u> 9a- Aerobics 10a- Range of Motion 9a-1p Ceramics 9a Bags for Benches 1p -3p Intermediate line dance	<u>In-Person and Zoom Fitness</u> 9a- Mat Yoga 10:00a- Tai Chi Seated Class 9a - 11 a - Ceramics 11a-2p - Pottery 10a - 12:00 p - Handwork 10:00a- Spades 12:30p -Bridge 1:00p- Game Time 1-2 p Beginner Line Dance	<u>In-Person and Zoom Fitness</u> 9a- Aerobics 10:00a- Range of Motion 9a-1p - Ceramics 1:30 - 3:30 p- Art Studio 12:15 p - Pinochle 1p -3p Intermediate line dance	<u>In-Person and Zoom Fitness</u> 9a- Mat Yoga 10:00a- Chair Yoga 10a-Walk-Monroe Crossing Mall 9a -12 p Ceramics 12p-2p- Pottery 12p -Canasta 1-2 PM Educational 1-2 p Beginner Line Dance 6:00-8:00p: Thurs. Night Dance Open Studios Ceramics/Pottery	There will be no fitness classes today due to set up for Yard Sale. Thank you! 9a Bags for Benches 10a - 12p Euchre
AUGUST 22	AUGUST 23	AUGUST 24	AUGUST 25	AUGUST 26
<u>In-Person and Zoom Fitness</u> 9a- Aerobics 10a- Range of Motion 9a-1p Ceramics 9a Bags for Benches 4 1p -3p Intermediate line dance 1 - 2 pm Book Club ART Room <i>Carnegie's Maid</i> 2pm Bingo sponsored by Brookdale Senior Living	<u>In-Person and Zoom Fitness</u> 9a- Mat Yoga 10:00a- Tai Chi Seated Class 9a - 11 a - Ceramics 11a-2p - Pottery 10a - 12:00 p - Handwork 10:00a- Spades 12:30p -Bridge 1:00p- Game Time 1-2 p Beginner Line Dance 9:45 am - 3:30pm Hamrick's Trip Leave from Monroe Plaza	<u>In-Person and Zoom Fitness</u> 9a- Aerobics 10:00a- Range of Motion 9a-1p - Ceramics 1:30 - 3:30 p- Art Studio 12:15 p - Pinochle 1p -3p Intermediate line dance	<u>In-Person and Zoom Fitness</u> 9a- Mat Yoga 10:00a- Chair Yoga 10a-Walk-Monroe Crossing Mall 9a -12 p Ceramics 12p-2p- Pottery 12p -Canasta 1-2 PM Educational 1-2 p Beginner Line Dance 6:00-8:00p: Thurs. Night Dance Open Studios Ceramics/Pottery	<u>In-Person and Zoom Fitness</u> 9a- Aerobics 10a- Range of Motion 9a Bags for Benches 10a - 12p Euchre
<u>AUGUST 29</u> <u>In-Person and Zoom Fitness</u> 9a- Aerobics 10a- Range of Motion 9a-1p Ceramics 9a Bags for Benches 1p -3p Intermediate Line Dance	<u>AUGUST 30</u> <u>In-Person and Zoom Fitness</u> 9a- Mat Yoga 10:00a- Tai Chi Seated Class 9a - 11 a - Ceramics 11a-2p - Pottery 10a - 12:00 p - Handwork 10:00a- Spades 12:30p -Bridge 1:00p- Game Time 1-2 p Beginner Line Dance	<u>AUGUST 31</u> <u>In-Person and Zoom Fitness</u> 9a- Aerobics 10:00a- Range of Motion 9a-1p - Ceramics 1:30 - 3:30 p- Art Studio 12:15 p - Pinochle 1:00p - 3p Intermediate line dance	EDUCATIONAL CLASSES 4TH: Partners/GAST Caring for our Aging Population 11TH: Marcus McFarland Cooking Demo Adventure 18TH: HUMANA How Nutrition Changes as you age 25TH: Partners/GAST Post Traumatic Stress Disorder **VIP is back the 2ND ***AARP begins 11TH 11A - 12:30P	
			Yard Sale AUGUST 20TH 8/12 is last day to receive items for the sale see flyer	

Athletics

Youth Soccer Registration is now open! Registration can be found online by clicking [here](#). Limited spots are available. Late registrations will be subject to a \$10.00 late fee.

The Youth Flag Football season is off to a great start. This year, Monroe Parks and Recreation teams are competing against Parkwood Athletic Association and Union Athletic Association. A total combined number of 17 teams. Games are predominately scheduled to take place at Union Academy Charter School, with the exception of one Saturday.



Community Recreation Centers

Back to School Bash:

It's been a busy but fun Summer at your Community Centers. But, just like that, s

ummer is winding down. Our Centers made sure our community kids had whatever they needed to get back to school!



Birthday Calendar:

There is nothing quite like seeing a child's face on their birthday. Parks and Recreation Staff team up with Monroe Police and Fire on a monthly basis to make sure that every participant in our Beyond the Bell Program has an opportunity to enjoy a celebration on their special day!



Music Camp:

Beyond the Bell Summer Camp participants experienced what it takes to make it in the music business. This Music Camp was filled with a lot of information that helped the kids understand the amount of work that goes into dealing with music. They had the opportunity to learn about production, different types of equipment used to make music and more.



Monroe Aquatics and Fitness Center (MAFC)

Where Did It Go? - Summer Camp 2022

When Summer Camp ends we know the new school year is soon to follow. This year's MAFC's summer camp was extremely fun, and a more familiar camp compared to those in the past. On June 6, 2022, our camp counselors and camp kids were ready! Summer Camp 2022 brought a few new counselors and a host of new campers. But no one was new to having fun, making friends and gaining experiences of a lifetime.

Each year, MAFC Staff get excited for camp registration in March, to the first week of camp in June and through some tearful hugs and high-fives on the last day. Throughout summer, camp Staff look to connect kids with elements and items that are new and interesting but always with a dose of fun.

This year, everyone was totally ready for Culinary Thursdays where they learned to prepare fresh salsa, sweet and spicy pretzel mix to get started. Our Craft sessions are where they made Father's Day key chains from their own bare hands and learned the benefits of shaving cream as a cleaning product. Field trips allowed campers to get up close to giraffe and llamas, witness the length of an African Watusi's tongue or ride a roller-coaster with a new camp friend for the first time.

Each week, Staff poured their love and strength into each kid and it was reciprocated every time. From our camp Staff to you and your families, we can't thank you enough for making our summer one to remember.



Smoothie Bar – Blenderz is always blending! Do not let lunch or dinner cheat you from your workout! BlenderZ is a healthy food replacement option that works for the young and not as young crowds. We have Green Tea smoothies, fruity Berry Blast, Strawberry Detox, and Vegan smoothies just to name of few of our HEALTHY choices off the menu!!!

We can gear smoothies to some weight loss programs. We have lower carbohydrate smoothies like Mud Slide and Green Tea Machine with 9 or less carbs per small size. In addition, you are able to customize any smoothie to your personal health and energy needs by mixing in an additive such as BCAAs, creatine, or glutamine. Our BlenderZ Staff looks forward to creating a healthy smoothie especially for you.



Parks Maintenance

Earlier this week, one of our Parks Maintenance staff received the following appreciation post:

“My deepest appreciation goes out to one of your Parks and Recreation employees. I was visiting my Mom’s grave on Walter Bickett Road to put her birthday flowers there. Patrick Holmes was working in another area with the weed eater when he saw me exit my vehicle with flowers. He walked over to clean up my Mom’s grave so I could put flowers out. I just wanted you to know about his professionalism and kindness to a stranger. I immediately went by City Hall as well. He is a valuable asset to your Staff.”



The City of Monroe was recently awarded a \$57,000 matching grant to purchase and install new playground equipment at Creft Park. The grant was awarded to our Department as a part of the GameTime Cares program. This grant program’s goal is to bring play to as much of the community as they can! This will allow Staff to substantially upgrade the playground structure at Creft Park. Staff will provide artist renderings of the new park soon.

Parks Maintenance is in the process of contracting vendors to begin work on the Sunset Park renovation. This renovation includes upgrading the outdoor basketball courts, the addition of a natural dog park, addition of inclusive playground amenities and a new picnic shelter.

Don Griffin Park Playground is also scheduled for a considerable renovation. The renovation of this playground structure will add inclusive and unique play experiences to the current structure. This renovation includes inclusive swings and an inclusive four-person “see saw”.

The renovations to Don Griffin, Sunset and Creft Parks will provide accessible amenities to our facilities providing play opportunities to our entire community in an inclusive environment.

Special Events

Car Cruise-In:

On August 12th, the Monroe Parks and Recreation Department hosted its' monthly Car Cruise-In in Downtown Monroe, featuring "Jeeps." This month's event was well attended.



Music on Main:

On August 26, 2022, Music on Main returns (***no coolers please***), featuring "The Band of Oz". The Band of Oz is one of the most successful groups in the Southeast. Music will begin on-stage at 6:30 p.m. Food vendors will be onsite, as well as, a beverage vendor! And, be sure to check out all of the Downtown Merchants while you are dancing to the music!



1st Fall Festival:

On August 27, 2022, the Monroe Parks and Recreation Department will host its' 1st Fall Festival. This event is scheduled to take place on from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at Parks Williams Athletic Complex (2011 Ashton Ave. Monroe, NC 28110). **Be sure to stop by and check out this event!**



Other

Employee Updates:

Parks and Recreation welcomes Reginald Cummings as the new Community Center Supervisor at the Winchester Community Center. Reggie has recreation programming and facility management experience with the City of Hickory and the City of Asheville. His first day will be Monday, August 22, 2022.

Congratulations to Rae Moore, Athletic and Special Event Division Supervisor, for receiving her Master's Degree in Parks and Recreation from NC State University on May 7, 2022. Rae also received her Certified Parks and Recreation Professional Certification on June 6, 2022. In addition, she received her Certified Pool Operator certificate on June 21, 2022.

Parks and Recreation would like to congratulate Leann Yandle on her promotion from Membership Specialist to Membership and Marketing Division Supervisor at the MAFC. Leann was hired as an Administrative Assistant I and has been with MAFC for 24 years. Congrats to Leann!!!

Congratulations to Victor Dermid for his transfer within the department from Equipment Operator I to Facilities Maintenance Worker II.

Colleen Puceta, Ellen Fitzgerald Senior Center Supervisor, has accepted a new role in Colorado. Her last day was Friday, August 5, 2022. We wish her the best of luck in her endeavor!

All other programs offered throughout the summer can be found in our Program Guide. Click below to learn more:



Water Resources

Scott E. Clark, Director, Water Resources

Maintenance Division

In Photo A, our Maintenance Staff is repairing an 8” water main break that occurred on August 14, 2022. The main broke at approximately 3:00 a.m. and was located at 3816 W. Highway 74, east of the N. Rocky River Road intersection. Thank you to all of our Water Resources Staff and Police and Fire personnel that assisted with responding and locating the water main break. In Photo B, Crew Leader Nick Horne is repairing a leaking service line at the meter.



Photo A

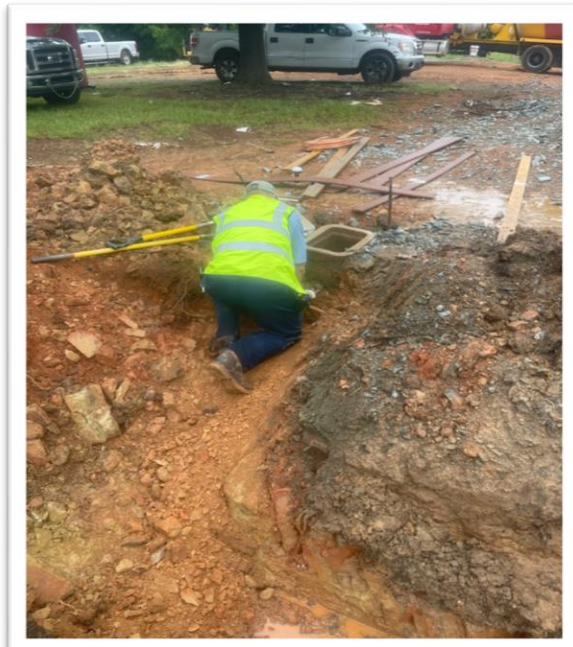


Photo B

Construction Division

Jordan Griffin is making a sewer tap on a new rehabbed sewer main.



Water Resources New Hires, Advancements and Retirements

Advancement: DiLynn Benson was recently promoted to Operator III in our Maintenance Division. Congratulations Mr. Benson!

New Hire: Edward Davis recently joined our organization as a Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator I. Welcome Mr. Davis – we are glad to have you join our organization!