

City Manager's Report
Brian J. Borne, City Manager
Week Ending September 2, 2022

Charlotte-Monroe Executive Airport
Peter Cevallos, Airport Manager



Energy Services
Rob Miller, Director, Energy Services

New Hires and Promotions:

Electric Division

Joshua Carpenter started as a Line Apprentice I on August 25, 2022.
Dallas Springer started as a Line Apprentice II on August 29, 2022.
Kenny Caudill started as a Line Apprentice III on August 29, 2022.

Natural Gas Division

Cameron Webster started as a Gas Technician I on August 29, 2022.

Fire
Ron Fowler, Chief, Fire Department

Community Activities

Monroe Firefighters participated in United Way's Annual Day of Caring on August 27, 2022. C-Shift Firefighters visited 22 homes in Monroe that were on United Way's Day of Caring project list and offered free smoke alarm checks. Firefighters installed 13 smoke alarms, three carbon monoxide alarms and provided four battery changes.

Monroe Fire personnel participated in Monroe Parks and Recreation's Fall Fest at Parks Williams Field. Firefighters were able to share fire safety information with the community. Around 150 people visited the tent for educational materials and fire hats! Captain Lori Hyatt, Engineer Alan Burkett and Firefighter Caleb Baucom with Engine 3, C-Shift, got a celebrity photo with Charlotte Checkers' Mascot Chubby.



Captain Ben Hinson, Engineer Joey Deese and Firefighter Brandon Cleary with Quint 2, C-Shift, joined East Elementary School staff to welcome students back on the morning of their first day of school. The students were excited to see and interact with the firefighters as they arrived and were happy to receive a "high 5" as they walked into the building.





Fire Explorers Back to School Event

Monroe Fire Explorers recently held a back to school bowling bash at Fox's Alley. This event gave the explorer students one last fun event before the start of the new school year. Monroe Fire Explorers are welcoming new members for our upcoming meeting at Fire Station 4 on September 13, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. Fire Exploring provides fire service career experiences to youth in the community. The program is for ages 14-20 and is free to everyone. There are currently 17 active Monroe Fire Explorers. If you would like more information, please contact Assistant Fire Marshal Katie Hinson at 704-282-4734 or kahinson@monroenc.org.



Parks and Recreation

Ryan Jones, Director, Parks and Recreation

Active Adults:

Ellen Fitzgerald Senior Center received the bench that the Bags to Benches program participants earned by reaching their goal of collecting and recycling 500 lbs. of plastic bags. The beginners' line dance classes have been expanded to two hours twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Staff is ecstatic to be able to meet the demand for this popular program.

Senior Center Staff was proud to assist other Parks and Recreation Staff with the first Fall Festival. Staff spoke with community members to promote departmental programing and the new active adult center.

Senior Center members travelled to Gastonia for lunch and shopping at Hamricks. They also enjoyed a trip to see the movie "Where the Crawdads Sing" Members had read this book in our book club and were excited to compare the book and the movie.

Recent community partnerships were with Brookdale Senior Living (bingo sponsor) and Humana (educational program).

Please click [HERE](#) for our monthly program calendar!

Athletics:

Youth Soccer Registration ended August 31, 2022. Registration can be found online [here](#). Limited spots are available. Late registrations will be subject to a \$10 late fee.

The Youth Flag Football season ended August 30, 2022. This year, Monroe Parks and Recreation teams competed against Parkwood Athletic Association and Union Athletic Association for a combined number of 17 teams.



The Youth Baseball and Softball season is underway! Practices began August 15, 2022 and games are scheduled to begin in September. This year, the Monroe Parks and Recreation Department will have the following number of teams in each age division: Baseball: Wee Ball (2); T-Ball (2); Rookies (1); Minors (1); and, Majors (0) and Girls' Softball: 8U (1); and, 10U (1).



Community Centers

Check out some of the fun fall programs taking place at the community centers!

Programs offered in a safe and nurturing environment for your children!

Enjoy fun activities and learn along the way !



Dickerson Afterschool Program

Monday through Friday 2:30pm-6:30pm

\$50 dollars per week (Limited Spaces)

Homework Help

Arts and Crafts

Sports and More

Bus pickup from: East, Walter Bickett, Walter Bickett Education Center, Rocky River, Benton Heights, Porter Ridge, Poplin, Sardis, and Union Academy

Monroe Table Tennis

Mondays and Wednesdays

11am-2pm

\$1.00 to play

Dickerson Open Gym Hours

Mon-Weds-Fri 10:00am-2:00pm

Tues-Thurs 9am-1pm

Mon-Fri 6:00pm-9:00pm

Saturday 1:00pm-7:00pm

Sunday 2:00pm-6:00pm

899 N Johnson St, Monroe, NC 28110

For more information please contact:

Kimberly Scott

(704)-282-4649

kscott@monroenc.org

DICKERSON RECREATION CENTER



SEPTEMBER 2022 PROGRAMMING!!

Fri Sept 2nd

Dickerson DC Teens Club 7pm-9pm

Meets monthly to plan and organize teen events, community outreach opportunities, as well as ,educational and fun programs designed by teens for teens at the Dickerson Recreation Center throughout the year

Fri Sept 9th

Parent's Night Out 6:30pm-10:30pm

Drop your 5-12 year olds off with us and enjoy an evening out! \$10.00 per child
Dinner and fun will be provided!

Pre-registration is required!

Sat Sept 10th



STEAM Saturday 10am-12 pm

SLIMY SEPTEMBER!

Bring your 5-12 years olds by for a steam filled morning
We will be making many types of slime

Pre-registration is required!

Tues Sept 6th and 20th

Mighty Tots Toddler Time 10am-11am

Join us with your 2-5 year olds for a moving grooving good time of music and movement

Pre-registration is required!

To register for these programs please visit

monroenc.org

Or contact Kimberly Scott

kscott@monroenc.org (704)282-4649

A safe, nurturing, environment
for your children....
enjoying fun activities while
learning along the way !



Arts
& Crafts

Sports &
Recreation

Fun
& Games

Beyond the Bell Afterschool Program

Afterschool - 6:30 pm
Homework help, enrichment
and more!

FREE!

FREE FOR ALL !!!

Register for Fall Programming Today!!!

J Ray Shute Hours

Mon-Fri 12:00pm - 8:00pm

Mon-Fri 6:00pm - 8:00pm - Organized Free Play

Saturday 11:00am - 5:00pm

Sunday 1:00pm - 5:00pm

506 E Green St, Monroe, NC 28112

For more information please contact

CENTER SUPERVISOR

George Massey

(704) 282-4655

gmassey@monroenc.org



City of
Monroe
Parks & Recreation

2022 J. Ray Shute SEPTEMBER PROGRAMMING!!!

Thurs., Sept 1st

Real Amazing Men 5pm-6p

Young men ages 13-18 will learn from guest speaker and activities promoting self-esteem, pride, respect and self-motivation.
Meets 1st thursday monthly.

Thurs., Sept 9th

Successful Amazing Women 5pm-6pm

Young women ages 13-18 will learn from guest speaker and activities promoting self-esteem, pride, respect and self-motivation.
Meets 2nd thursday monthly.

September 22nd

Simple Car Care 5pm-6:30pm

Come learn simple and easy car care.

Registration Required Spaces limited !

Thurs Sept 29th

Birthday Club 5pm-6pm

Come ages 6-19 to celebrate the birthdays of each month with us on the 3rd thursday monthly.

Registration Required Spaces limited !

Programs offered in a safe and nurturing environment. Enjoy FUN activities and learn while you play!



About Fall Programs

Beyond The Bell Afterschool

Monday- Friday 2:30-6:30 pm

Homework help, arts & crafts,

Sports, fun, and more !

FREE FOR ALL!

Sutton Park Hours

Mon-Fri 12:00-8:00 pm

6:00-8:00 Organized Free Play

Saturday-11:00-4:00 pm

Sunday 2:00-6:00 pm

2303 Brooks St, Monroe, NC, 28110

For more information please contact:

Ashura Colquhoun

704-262-4656

acolquhoun@monroene.org

2022

City of
Monroe
Parks & Recreation

SUTTON PARK FALL PROGRAMMING!!

September 2022

Sutton STEM-

Starting September 8th

Every Thursday 6:00-7:00 pm

Join us every week for some fun science, math, and engineering activities for ages 8-12 !

Registration Required, Spaces are limited

Sutton Chef

Starting September 7th

Every Wednesday 6:00-7:00 pm

Join us every week to learn about kitchen safety, chopping skills, and more for ages 12-15 !

Registration Required, Spaces are limited

Other Special Events in September

Trade Workshop with SPCC- September 13th

4:15-5:00 pm

Hair Care- September 16th

6:00-7:00 pm

Birthday Club Party - September 29th,

6:00-7:00 pm

Roller Skating Night - September 30th,

6:00-8:00 pm

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learning along the way !



Arts
& Crafts

Sports &
Recreation

Fun
& Games

About Our Summer Programs

Join us for a fun filled summer of field trips,
arts and crafts, family fun, games
and more!

FREE FOR ALL !!!

Register for Summer Programming Today!!!

Old Armory Community Center

500 S. Johnson Street , Monroe, NC 28112

For more information please contact
CENTER SUPERVISOR
Hope Tanner
(704) 282-4669
htanner@monroenc.org



City of
Monroe
Parks & Recreation

2022 Old Armory FALL PROGRAMMING!!

September 2022

Parking Lot Picassos

Thursday, June 2nd

4:00pm-5:30pm

Ages, 9-14

Family Fun Board Game Night

Thursday,

5:00p-6:30p

All Ages, Children under the age of 11
must be accompanied by adult

October 2022

Summer Chill

3:30pm-5:00pm

All Families Welcome, children
must be accompanied by an adult

Music Makers (1:00pm-3:00pm)

Thursday, 7/14.

Thursday, 7/21

Thursday, 7/28

Thursday, 8/4

November 2022

Mint Museum Trip

Ages 9-14

Thursday, August 11th

9:30am-1:00pm

\$15 trip and ticket fee



Monroe Aquatics and Fitness Center (MAFC):

Interested in Karate classes? Carolina Isshinryu Academy Monroe holds classes at MAFC every Thursday night and your first class is FREE! Open to members and non-members. To pre-register, contact Master Don Gyr at donaldgyr@gmail.com



Healthy Living Classes

It seems we go from one stressful period to another. Powering through these times without taking care of yourself is a recipe for temporary success at best. The MAFC along with the Novant Wellness Center can help better manage these difficult times. The Novant Wellness Center located at the MAFC offers several Healthy Living classes. These evidence-based, self-management classes are offered throughout the year. Such classes include: Living Healthy with Chronic Conditions; Living Healthy with Chronic Pain; and, Living Healthy with Diabetes. These classes are informative, interactive and fun. They help you manage your best life.

Living Healthy with Chronic Conditions includes “self-management skills for heart disease, arthritis, diabetes, depression, asthma, and other physical and mental conditions.

Living Healthy with chronic pain “is a self-management class designed to help participants manage their pain so they can get on with living a satisfying, fulfilling life.”

Living Healthy with diabetes “will help participants to set goals and learn healthy coping skills”. The classes include subject matter on exercise, healthy eating, and managing stress.

About The Healthier Living Program Workshops:

*Meets 2 ½ hours per week for six weeks



LIVING HEALTHY

- *Small group (10-15 participants)
- *Peer-led (non-health care professional) self-management workshop
- *Promotes empowerment by teaching behavior management
- *Great for people with diabetes or multiple chronic health conditions
- *Great for caregivers
- *Addresses topics such as blood glucose monitoring and management, complications of diabetes, diet, and exercise.
- *Helps to improving communication with physicians, family, and friends
- *Relaxation techniques
- *Stress reduction
- *Weekly goal setting

If you are interested in attending a class, please call the Novant Health Nurses at their office in the MAFC: 704-282-4693. Ask for Sheila Mobley or Tracey Leitner.

Dry Sauna- Not Just for Leisure

Among the many offerings of MAFC, the indoor pool area hosts a sauna. Hot sauna bathing has long been known as tradition in many cultures and has long been regarded to hold a host of health benefits.

Recently, the Mayo Clinic released an article linking hot sauna usage as beneficial to circulatory, cardiovascular, and immune functions. “Emerging evidence suggests that beyond its use for pleasure, sauna bathing may be linked to several health benefits, which include reduction in the risk of vascular diseases such as high blood pressure, cardiovascular disease, and neurocognitive diseases; nonvascular conditions such as pulmonary diseases; mortality; as well as amelioration of conditions such as arthritis, headache, and flu.” ([www.mayoclinicproceedings.org/article/S0025-6196\(18\)30275-1](http://www.mayoclinicproceedings.org/article/S0025-6196(18)30275-1))

MAFC cautions those with any pre-existing health conditions in their use of the sauna and recommends consulting with a physician in advance of any sauna sessions. Usage is limited to 15 minute intervals. MAFC reminds you of the importance staying hydrated during your sauna and that you pay close attention to your own wellness. If at any point you begin to feel lightheaded or dizzy, we advise you to discontinue use.

An article in Men’s Health also adds that “used in conjunction with a workout plan, you may find yourself being able to go harder for longer and recover more quickly than if you skipped the sauna.” So for anyone trying to make gains in the Fitness Room, sauna is a very useful tool. We welcome you to come sauna with us at MAFC!

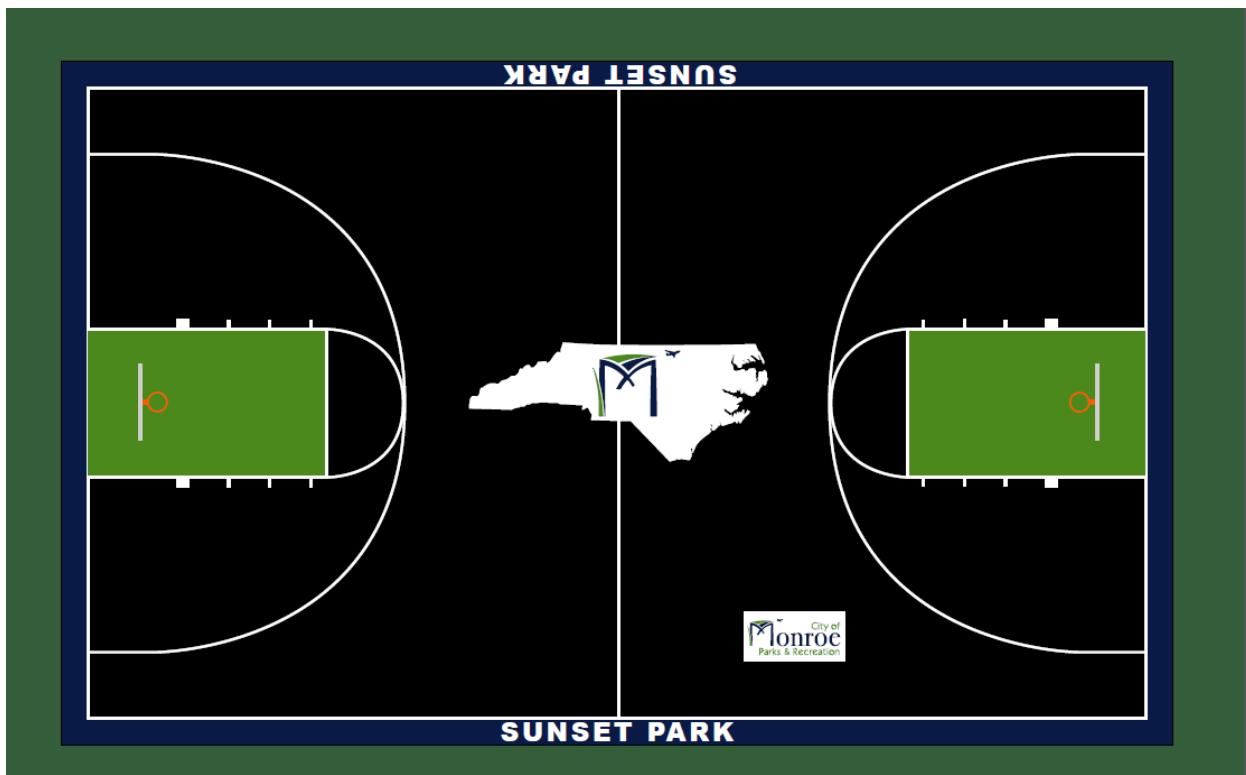
Parks Maintenance:

As of August 24, 2022, the outdoor basketball courts located at Sunset Park and Creft Park are closed for renovations. The closure will only affect the outdoor basketball courts at Sunset Park and Creft Park. The playground and other amenities at both parks will remain open to the public.

Outdoor Courts at Dickerson Park, Sutton Park, and Winchester Recreation Complex are available to the public.



Take a sneak peek at an artist rendering of the new and improved courts at Creft and Sunset Parks.



Dickerson Recreation Complex bathroom renovation is near completion and the building looks so much better! The project will be complete as soon as Control Link, automated door locking system, is installed. Staff will also be adding the City logo on the outside wall of the building before completion.



We are also VERY excited that Monroe's first natural dog park is under construction at Sunset Park. The dog park will feature an area for smaller dogs, as well as larger dogs. Dog friendly water stations will be on site along with a leashing area. The dog park will be close to .7 of an acre and will open soon. Special thanks to the City's Water Resources Department for their assistance with the water line to the dog watering stations!



Special Events:

Music on Main

On August 26, 2022, Music on Main hosted The Band of Oz. Hopefully everyone in attendance had a great time. We look forward to our last concert of the series on September 23, 2022, featuring the Marcel Portilla Band.



First Fall Festival

On August 27, 2022, the Monroe Parks and Recreation Department hosted its' First Fall Festival at Parks Williams Athletic Complex. Despite being extremely hot, this event was a success!



Other:

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



Planning and Development
Lisa Stiwinter, Director

Community Maintenance

The Community Maintenance division has been hard at work beautifying the City. The division spends a large portion of their time removing trash from the right-of-way, City-owned parcels, and illegal dumping. Community Maintenance also works hard to keep the Downtown dumpsters clear of overflow trash and debris. See below for some before and after pictures of a recent dumpster cleanup in Downtown.

Before



After



Permitting

Permit Revenue- includes Building, Planning, Fire & Engineering

FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2022 <i>7/1/22 – 8/31/22</i>
\$1,131,453.87	\$2,178,892.99	\$294,898.59

New Single Family Dwelling Permits Issued:

FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2022 <i>7/1/22 – 8/31/22</i>
378	708	84

Monthly Total Permit Counts for August:

2020	2021	2022

Planning Division

Boards and Commission Open Seats

The Board of Adjustment and Historic District Commission have open seats.

The Board of Adjustment is a quasi-judicial board. This Board hears and makes decisions on Special Use Permits, Variances, and Appeals.

The Historic District Commission makes quasi-judicial decisions on matters within the Historic District. You must either live in the District or have a demonstrated special interest, experience, or education in history, architectural, archaeology, or related fields to serve on this Commission.

Please note if you are interested in serving on one of these boards, you must attend at least one meeting prior to applying to serve on a Board. The application is on the City's website (www.monroenc.org). If you have any questions, please contact the Planning Department at 704-282-4520.

Historic District Commission

On August 10, 2022, the City received confirmation from the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office that the City of Monroe had met their responsibilities to maintain the Certified Local Government (CLG) status with the National Park Service. There are five minimum responsibilities for continued participation in the CLG program:

1. Maintain a qualified historic preservation commission;
2. Enforce state and local legislation for the designation and protection of historic resources;
3. Maintain a system for survey inventory of historic properties;
4. Provide for adequate public participation in the historic preservation program; and
5. Review National Register Nominations through a qualified local historic preservation commission.

The City of Monroe has been a CLG since March 10, 1986. Below is an excerpt from the National Park Service website regarding Certified Local Governments:

“Preservation through Partnership: this is the goal of the Certified Local Government (CLG) Program. Local, State, and Federal governments work together in the Federal Preservation Program to help communities save the irreplaceable historic character of places. Through the certification process, communities make a local commitment to historic preservation. This commitment is key to America’s ability to preserve, protect, and increase awareness of our unique cultural heritage found in the built environment across the country.”

For more information regarding the importance of being a CLG, please visit the National Park website: <https://www.nps.gov/clg/>

The Historic District continues to see renovations and revitalization. See some recent project highlights below:

603 S. Church St.

Before (Google Street View)



After



502 E. Talleyrand Ave.

Before (Google Street Image)



After



Water Resources

Scott E. Clark, Director, Water Resources

Engineering Division

Water Resources has invested in a technology called Smart Cover Systems. The new technology is a sensor that is attached to the bottom side of manhole covers. The sensor monitors the flow in a gravity sewer line and transmits the data via satellites to a software system. It measures flow and compares rainfall data, allowing staff to detect sources of inflow and infiltration that enter the sewer pipeline system.

This technology allows us to clean sewer lines based on real-time data compared to scheduled cleanings based on subjective data, therefore reducing overflows, saving funds, and being more efficient with our pipe rehabilitation efforts. Staff will strategically install the covers for three to six month intervals, before relocating them to other manholes, allowing Staff to quickly narrow down where the sources of rainwater might be entering the sewer pipeline system. At this time, Staff is starting the program with six covers and will expand the use of them strategically.

In photo (A), the low profile-green reflector on top of the manhole is actually the antenna. The antenna uses satellites to communicate the flow data to a computer software system. In photo (B), the sensor is attached to the bottom of the manhole cover so it can effectively monitor the flow in the sewer line. When opening the manhole cover, it's imperative to open carefully to prevent damage to the sensor.

(Photo A)



(Photo B)



Water Treatment and EIM Divisions

In the photo below, Staff replaced outdated turbidity meters. The new Swan turbidity meters offer enhanced accuracy, more user-friendly features and increased longevity. The Water Treatment Plant Operators designed and installed the board layout, while EIM Technicians installed the plumbing and communications components.

(Photo A)

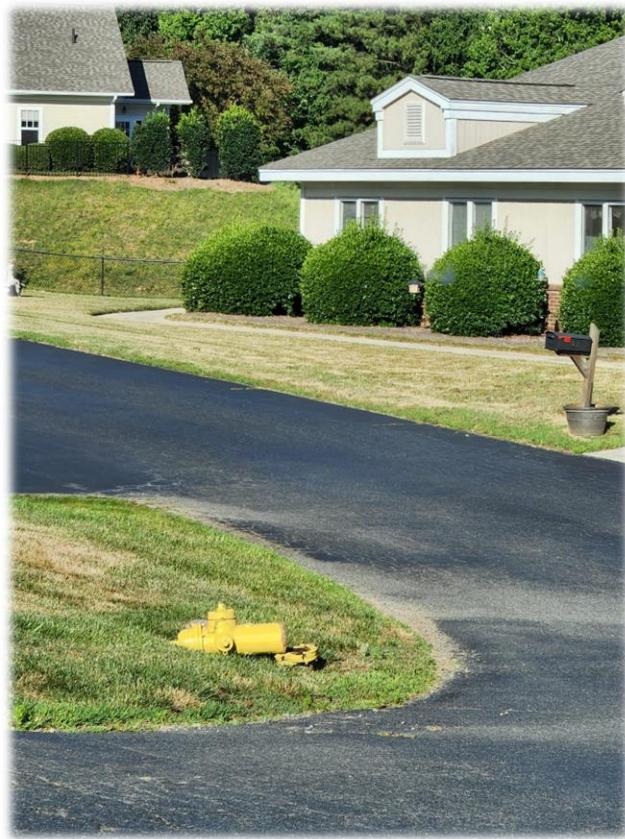


Maintenance Division

In the photo below, Staff is jetting a sewer main to clear an obstruction in the pipe. Debris in sewers such as flushable wipes and grease are the leading causes of blockages and overflows. It's important to remember that "Flushable" wipes do not dissolve in the sewer as tissue paper does and causes plumbing problems for customers.



In the photo below, a hydrant was damaged and broke at the break-away flange when it was struck by a tractor-trailer. Staff works hard to ensure we have all hydrants working properly at all times for the community.



Wastewater Treatment Division

Our greatest priority is protecting the environment and providing reliable sewer services for our community. The North Carolina Clean Water Act requires utilities to publish annual reports for our customers. This annual report is published on our website (<https://www.monroenc.org/Departments/Water-Sewer>). Hardcopies may be obtained by contacting Staff at (704) 282-4601. The Water Resources Department has some of the lowest rates in North Carolina. The sewer rates from service providers across North Carolina can be viewed at <https://dashboards.efc.sog.unc.edu/nc>. Staff is committed to ensuring wastewater is collected and treated efficiently, 24 hours per day, 365 days per year to remove pollutants from entering the waterways.

Great job to all of Staff who work tirelessly to ensure seamless services are provided to our customers!

