

City Manager's Report
Brian J. Borne, City Manager
Week Ending December 9, 2022

Charlotte-Monroe Executive Airport
Peter Cevallos, Airport Manager

		TAKEOFFS	2,529
		LANDINGS	2,479
November 2022 Operations		Daily Average Takeoffs or Landings: 83 Total Active Flights for the Month: 747	



Downtown

Matthew Black, Director, Downtown

OPEN HOUSE

NEEDED: YOU and YOUR vision for DOWNTOWN!

December 15, 2022

5:30-7:30 p.m.

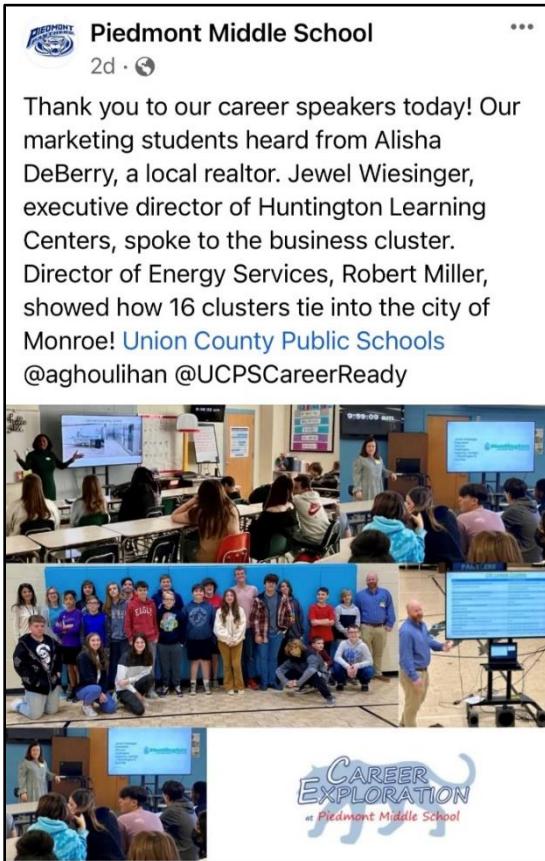
Location: 300 W. Crowell Street, City Hall

You're invited to an Open House!!
The City of Monroe has started the process of crafting a new vision for the future of Downtown.

We want to hear your ideas for the heart of the community. What would make our DOWNTOWN better? What is your "Dream Downtown"? We're just getting started, so drop in and let us know what you think.

Energy Services Department
Rob Miller, Director, Energy Services

Energy Services presented to the Piedmont Middle School STEM program and the Parkwood High School Clean Energy program last week. Energy Services also participated in Union County Public Schools (UCPS) Construction Advisory group. We are educating the students on the careers available at the City and support both trade and college career paths.



New Hires and Promotion

Josh Whitley started as a Gas Technician I on November 28, 2022.
Christian Thompson started as a Gas Technician I on November 28, 2022.
James Jenkins was promoted to Electric Engineer on November 16, 2022.

Engineering

Sarah McAllister, Director, Engineering

Street Division Projects

The Street Division recently replaced approximately 250 feet of 36 inch pipe on Florence Drive. The existing corrugated metal pipe had a partially crushed inlet and the bottom was mostly rusted out. Approximately 30 feet of reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) was installed under the roadway and another 220 feet of high density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe was installed outside of the roadway.



New Hire and Promotion

Bryan Jordan was hired as an Equipment Operator I - Streets on November 14, 2022. Cameron Allen started as the Street Sign Specialist on November 21, 2022.

Finance Department

Lisa Strickland, Director, Finance

New Hire

Please join our department in welcoming Lisa Kerner. Lisa began working on November 15, 2022 as a Grant Administrator. Lisa comes to us from Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office and has a background in writing and preparing grant proposals. We are excited to have her assistance with making applications for many new grant opportunities!

Grant Application

Monroe Fire Department Deputy Chief Bryan Kindley submitted a grant proposal to the North Carolina League of Municipalities (NCLM) requesting funding for a much-needed turnout gear dryer for Fire Station 5. Notice was received on December 8, 2022 that the grant had been approved in the amount of \$3,632.75.

Fire Department

Ron Fowler, Fire Chief

Citizen Meets Firefighters Who Rescued Her

Ms. Anita Plater came to Fire Station 1 on December 1st to meet the firefighters who rescued her from an apartment fire. This was a very emotional meeting and Ms. Plater expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the firefighters involved. Firefighters responded to an apartment fire on the Wednesday evening before Thanksgiving. They found heavy smoke and fire upon their arrival and received reports from neighbors that there may be occupants trapped in Apartments B and C. Captain Keith Starnes and Firefighter Josh Hawk entered Apartment B, where they utilized a thermal imaging camera to search through the smoke, and quickly located an unconscious victim on the floor, later identified as Ms. Plater. Captain Charlie Porter and Firefighter Chad Aldridge then assisted Captain Starnes and Firefighter Hawk in rescuing Ms. Plater. Firefighters reported that the fire was spreading from its room of origin and was beginning to roll across the ceiling above them as they were taking Ms. Plater out of her apartment. Ms. Plater was transported to the hospital with serious injuries. Time was critical in this incident; the quick actions by the firefighters involved and God's protection saved this citizen's life! This was a team effort by all B-Shift Firefighters involved and I commend each of them for their actions. We are thankful that Ms. Plater is doing well!



Annual Ladder Testing

Firefighters have been working with Underwriters Laboratories (UL) to conduct annual ladder maintenance and testing. All the department's ground and aerial ladders are tested annually to assure they are safe and ready for service.



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

City's Safety Committee

The City's Safety Committee met on November 17, 2022 at the Monroe Science Center Honoring Dr. Christine Mann Darden to celebrate an end of year job well done. Members of the Committee were able to fellowship during the meeting and had fun with playing afterwards. We are grateful to our hosts at the Science Center for welcoming us. The Committee will reconvene January 19, 2023 to kick off the new year. The Safety Committee will be working on coordinating citywide fire drills, active shooter training, and implementing a hearing conservation program. We are excited for all the enhancements coming to the City. The Committee is here to make sure that all employees are safe and well. We welcome anyone to join the Committee or even email us ideas.



Holiday Luncheon

The Holiday Luncheon was held on December 9, 2022 at the Monroe Country Club.

Parks and Recreation
Ryan Jones, Director, Parks and Recreation

Active Adults

On November 29, 2022, a group of seniors from the Ellen Fitzgerald Senior Center volunteered at the Operation Christmas Child Processing Center where they helped bring hope and joy to children around the world! These ladies inspected shoeboxes and got them ready for international shipment.

New Class Alert!! Drums Alive is now being offered at the Ellen Fitzgerald Senior Center. This is a fun and engaging cardio program that is not only great for your body but also brain health. The EFSC staff would like to thank the Union County Sheriff's Office for donating buckets for this new class!



Ellen Fitzgerald Senior Center participants danced the night away at our annual Christmas Dance! Thank you to Village Greene for providing great music while our seniors “cut a rug!”

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

Athletics:

The Youth Basketball season began for Monroe Parks and Recreation participants on December 3, 2022. Games will be held at various gym locations across the county. There are approximately 475 total games scheduled for the regular season among an approximate total of 120 teams. The Monroe Parks and Recreation Department provided 25 of those teams throughout the county, and this by far is the largest number of teams our department has held. We are thrilled to have the number of teams and participants registered in our program(s), and hope to continue to see growth in all of our athletic leagues.

Community Recreation Centers:

What a great Game Day with UDI at the Sutton Park Basketball Bonanza event.



Monroe Aquatics and Fitness Center (MAFC):

MAKE FITNESS FUN – It's easy, this time of the year, to neglect your fitness routine. Changing your workout routine is a great way to challenge your body and mind, stay engaged and keep your health as a top priority through the Holiday Season.

- Forget those crunches! Count to 100 in a different way while shocking those abdominal muscles – **TAKE A PILATES CLASS!** Many studies have proven that Pilates moves are superior to crunches for sculpting your midsection.
- Take a break from all that cardio! **ADD WEIGHT TRAINING** – it burns calories, boosts metabolism and builds muscle tone. If you complement your cardio routine with strength work, you will feel and see the difference.
- Exercising at one steady pace is boring! **INCORPORATE INTERVALS** by alternating between high and low intensity levels. Change your speed or your resistance level for an effective workout.

At the MAFC, we currently have 27 different class types on the Group Fitness Class Schedule to help you stay on track during this busy time of the year. Plus, it's fun to exercise in a group setting - come and workout with us!



Parks Maintenance:

Seasonal Loose Leaf Collection – October 17, 2022 – February 24, 2023

This is a friendly reminder, seasonal loose leaf collection begins October 17, 2022. The City of Monroe's leaf trucks operate weekdays during this time. City residents can expect their leaf piles vacuumed up at least every 10-14 days, but this cycle can be affected by both weather and the volume of leaves. Residents must place leaf piles at the edge of their yard above the curb, free from foreign debris and away from potential obstructions, while still being within the reach of the leaf trucks. Foreign debris is anything that is not leaves such as limbs, vines, rocks and trash, as these items can damage the vacuum equipment. Obstructions include, but are not limited to parked vehicles, mailboxes, fire hydrants, utility boxes, fences, trees & landscaping. Due to the risk of damage, leaf piles too close to obstructions, or mixed with foreign debris CANNOT be collected. If you have questions about loose leaf collection, please call Parks & Recreation at 704-282-4651.



Check out this great view of the newly renovated courts and Sunset Park! What an awesome renovation of these courts!



Special Events:

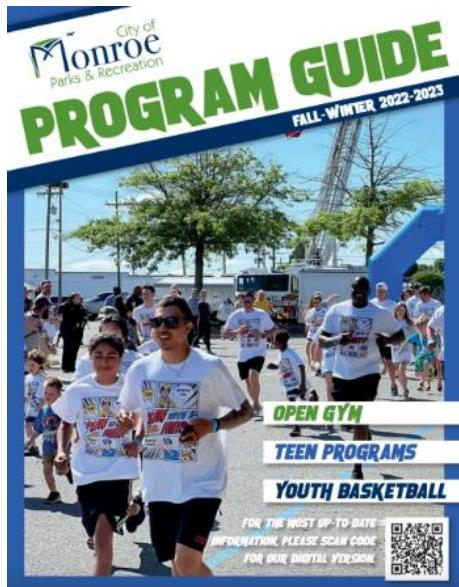
Our Annual Christmas Tree Lighting took place on December 3, 2022 in Downtown Monroe. Despite unfavorable weather earlier in the day, the event was a huge success! It was a very fun night for all in attendance!

We would also like to thank Imagine Music Group, Wixie, Tenth Talent, Shining Light Baptist Academy Choir, and Benton Heights Choir for their assistance and performances. Without these organizations or groups this event would not have been possible.



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, Planning and Development

Community Development:

The City's Outside Agency Workshop was conducted on November 10, 2022 with 52 in attendance. The funding application was released, including a filler document for convenience. The closing date of the application is February 10, 2023.

In addition, the North Carolina Center for Non Profits was invited to expand upon our partnership. Community Development will be sponsoring three workshops to assist our partnering and/or potential partners in organizational governance, board governance, and financial resource management. The three workshops will begin in January and be completed by the end of this fiscal year.

Community Development was invited and presented at NC Works on November 17, 2022 to share revitalization and housing initiatives and promote additional areas for partnership.

Permitting Division:

Permit Revenue- includes Building, Planning, Fire & Engineering

FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023 7/1/2022 – 11/30/2022
\$1,131,453.87	\$2,178,892.99	\$566,665.26

New Single Family Dwelling Permits Issued:

FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023 7/1/2022 – 11/30/2022
378	707	177

November (Monthly) Total permit counts:

2020	2021	2022
601	596	463

Planning Division:

Boards and Commission Open Seats

The Board of Adjustment and Historic District Commission have open seats. Please note if you are interested in serving on one of these boards, you must be a City residents and you must attend at least two meetings prior to applying to serve as well as submit a resume. The application is on

the City's website (<https://www.monroenc.org/City-Council/Committees/Committee-Vacancies>). If you have any questions, please contact the Planning Department at 704-282-4520.

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. There is a Historic District meeting on December 12, 2022 for those interested.

Promotion

Bryan McAllister has been promoted to Chief Building Inspector. Bryan came to the City of Monroe in September 2006 as a Customer Service Representative for the Finance Department. Bryan was hired as a Code Enforcement Officer in the Planning and Development Department in November 2008 where he served 8 years enforcing the public health nuisance, parking in the yard and minimum housing ordinance. Bryan's goal has always been to advance his career as a Building Inspector. Bryan began his journey to become a Building Inspector when he received his first Level I Standard Certification by the North Carolina Code Officials Qualifications Board in 2012.

In 2016, he successfully achieved his goal to become a Building Inspector I for the Building Standards Division. Since 2016, Bryan has taken numerous courses and exams in building, electrical, mechanical and plumbing and has received his Level III Standard Certifications in Electrical, Plumbing, Building and Mechanical. Over the past 4 months, Bryan has been assigned additional job responsibilities that fall under the role of Chief Building Inspector and has done a great job. In his spare time, he enjoys hunting, exercising, and Panthers football. If you see Bryan around, make sure to congratulate him!

Water Resources Department
Scott E. Clark, Director

Maintenance Division:

In photos (A) and (B) Maintenance staff replaced a manhole ring and cover at the intersection of N. Charlotte Avenue and Crowell Street due to it becoming a safety hazard. In photo (C) our staff is replacing approximately 65' of clay sewer pipe with new ductile iron pipe for the Morgan-Windsor Alley project. In photo (D) we repaired a water main break at 350 East Village Drive.

(A)



(B)



(C)



(D)



New Hires, Advancements and Retirements:

Advancements

Carter Lindsay – promoted to Operator II

Steven Horvath – Civil Engineer II

Lauren Carnes – WWTP Chemist