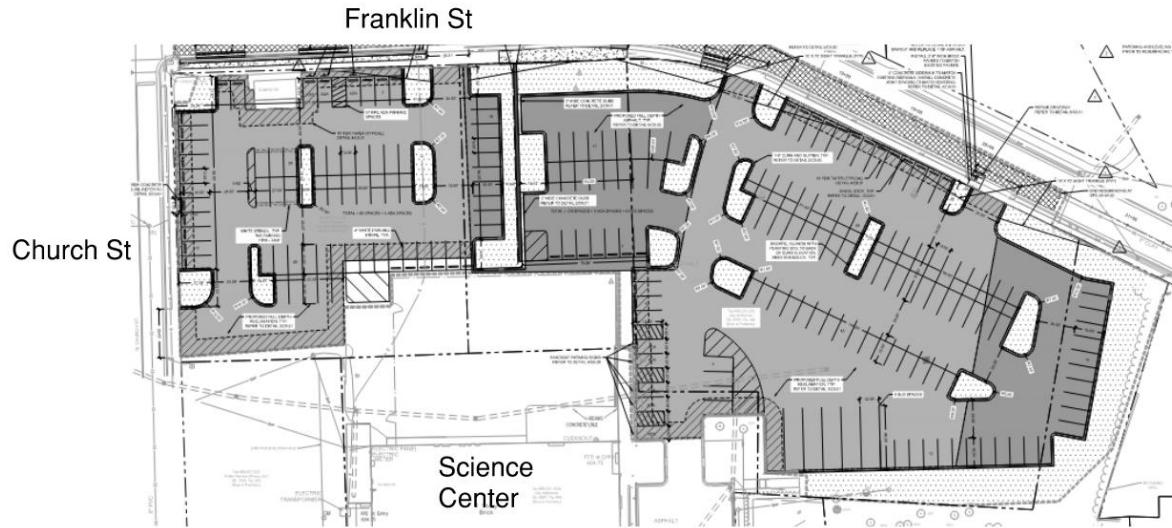


City Manager's Report
Brian J. Borne, City Manager
Week Ending January 20, 2023

Engineering Department
Sarah McAllister, Director

Science Center-Public Parking Lot Improvements

A pre-construction meeting was held on January 19, 2023 for the Science Center-Public Parking Lot Improvements Project. The contract was awarded to Hux Contracting, LLC in December 2022 by City Council. The Notice to Proceed will be issued on March 1, 2023. Hux Contracting is proposing to move quickly with the project and have all work completed well before the contract time expiration on July 28, 2023. The project includes concrete sidewalk, curb and gutter, erosion control, grading, storm drain installation, full-depth reclamation with cement, and asphalt paving. Public Parking at the corner lot located at Franklin Street and Church Street will be closed during construction. Alternative parking information as well as temporary dumpster locations will be provided to local businesses well in advance of the project start date. Hux Contracting stated the parking lot would need to be closed once they begin work in March 2023. Updates will be provided as the project progresses. Below is the final layout of the public parking lot improvements.



New Hire

- Md Huda started as the Stormwater Engineering Supervisor on January 17, 2023.

Finance Department
Lisa Strickland, Director, Finance

New Software Installation

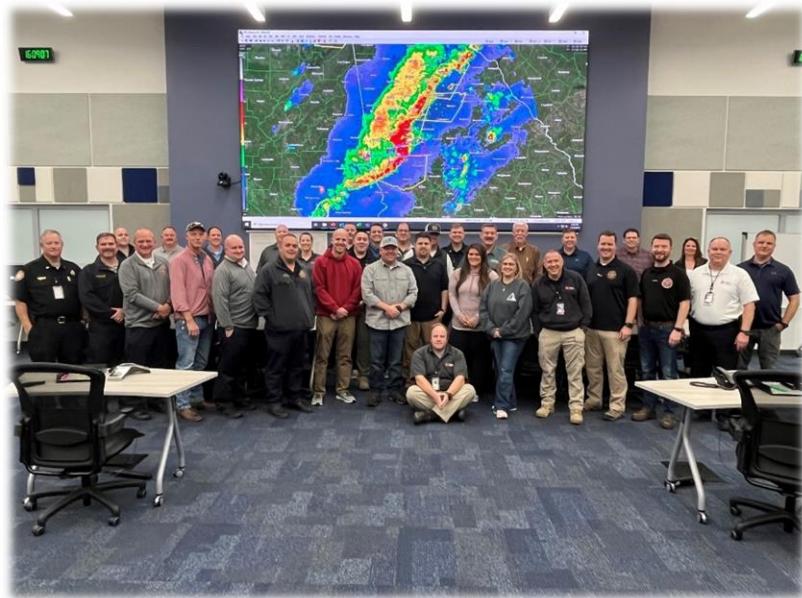
Staff has been working over the past year to convert customer data and set up both the Utility Billing and Tax billing software modules in the City's new financial software platform. Both of these modules will go live on February 6, 2023. With this new platform, the utility and tax bills and the payment website will have a new and improved look. The new bills will include more information and an easy readable format including utility usage graphs. Customer bills will also be accessible online at any time.

Fire Department

Ron Fowler, Fire Chief

Incident Management Team Course

Twelve Monroe Firefighters recently completed an All Hazards Incident Management Team course. The course focused on the importance of developing and operating as a functional All-Hazards Incident Management Team and met the needs of the National Incident Management System. The class was hosted by Union County Emergency Management and included city and county fire and emergency management personnel. The goal is to better equip personnel to serve in roles in the Emergency Operations Center and eventually develop a local Incident Management Team to serve during large scale emergencies or disaster situations. This is one of a series of courses these individuals have completed. The following firefighters completed the course: Deputy Chief Bryan Kindley; Division Chief Nick Steffler; Battalion Chief Johnny Blythe; Battalion Chief Rodney Chaney; Battalion Chief Travis Stegall; Division Chief Kevin Philemon; Captain Adam Speer; Captain Blair Stegall; Captain Charlie Porter; Captain Jason Easter; Captain Joe Uhl; and, Captain Brian Eshenbaugh.



New Hire

- Carter Plyler – We are excited to welcome back Retired Division Chief/Fire Marshal Carter Plyler to fill a part-time fire inspector position. Carter certainly has the qualifications for his position and will now continue to serve our citizens in this part-time fire inspector capacity.

Parks and Recreation

Ryan Jones, Director, Parks and Recreation

Active Adults

We are growing! Between January 3-17, 2023, we have had 22 new participants register at the Senior Center. We love seeing all the new faces here! New activities and programs are being added each month to provide opportunities for older adults in our community to learn new skills, stay active, socialize, and be involved!

The Ellen Fitzgerald Senior Center hosted its first monthly Veteran's Club on Wednesday, January 4, 2023. It was an honor to serve breakfast to 15 of our community's veterans.

Breakfast was sponsored by Community Home Care & Hospice. Our Veteran's Club is held the first Wednesday of every month at 9 am.



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

Athletics

Youth baseball and youth softball registration is now open. Registration can be found online or by clicking on the flyers below.



Community Recreation Centers

The community celebrated the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and honored his contributions through several community events at our community centers.

Participants at J. Ray Shute Community Center commemorated Dr. King's legacy by coming together in the true sense of the dream that Dr. King shared with the world. Activities, games and more were provided throughout the month of January that encouraged working together and accepting and understanding the differences that exist between us. Several community partners have assisted in providing this series of events.

The Winchester Community Center along with community partners, provided a community celebration on Martin Luther King, Jr. day that included cultural music, food, fun and more. The celebration was a fantastic example of community coming together to celebrate unity.

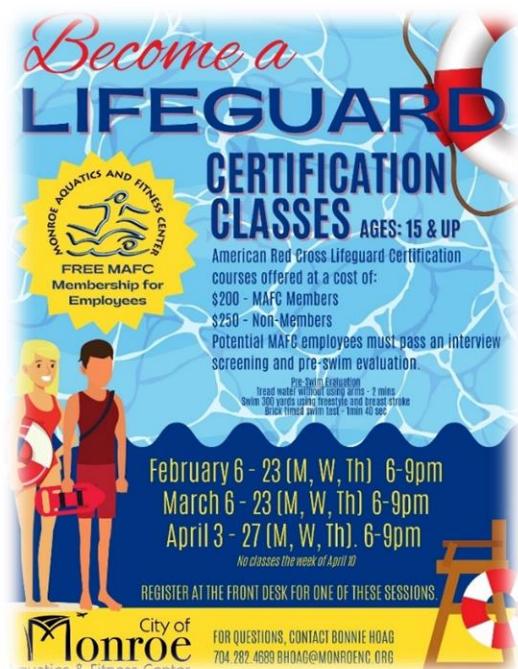
The Sutton Park Community Center hosted an "I Have a Dream Vision Board" program, where participants shared what their vision of community looks like.



Monroe Aquatics and Fitness Center (MAFC)

TAKE A STAND...Lifeguard Stand!

Through MAFC's lifeguard certification classes, we provide participants with the knowledge and skills to prevent, recognize and respond to aquatic emergencies. Class also includes First Aid and CPR/AED certifications. Pre-registration required at the MAFC's front desk.‘



It's not a resolution! It's a lifestyle! Change your lifestyle by changing your habits into healthy ones! This year, choose FULFILLMENT, BALANCE, and CONNECTIONS. You can attain all of those healthy habits when you join the MAFC family for 50% off through January 31, 2023.

Join through January 15th with NO joining fee!

- * Jr. Olympic Size Indoor Pool with Lap Lanes
- * Whirlpool, Steam Room, Dry Sauna
- * Swim Lessons
- * 2.5-acre Outdoor Water Park
- * Over 60+ Group Fitness Classes each week
- * Novant On-Site Wellness Center
- * Health & Wellness Classes
- * Walking Tracks (Indoor & Outdoor)
- * Free Childcare for ages 3 mos – 10 years
- * Basketball & Racquetball Courts
- * 14,000 sq. ft. State of the Art Fitness Room
- * Over 100 Cardio Machines
- * Blenderz Smoothie & Juice Bar
- * Locker Rooms & Showers
- * Massage Therapy
- * Family Events & Programs



For more info, call the MAFC's front desk at 704-282-4680.

Parks Maintenance

SEASONAL LOOSE LEAF COLLECTION – OCTOBER 17, 2022 – FEBRUARY 24, 2023

This is a friendly reminder, seasonal loose leaf collection begins Monday, October 17th. 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 and 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 and Recreation at 704-282-4651.



Park Renovation Updates

- Belk Tonawanda Phase 1-B. This renovation is near completion. The community has enjoyed the new amenities already provided. Staff is working with a partner to provide Bocce tournaments at our new and vastly improved bocce courts. The upper portion of the project that includes the bathroom, shelter and splash pad is close to completion. The splash pad's plumbing is being connected and the features should be up soon. We are very excited to complete this project.
- Sunset Park Renovation. The outdoor courts at Sunset Park are being utilized on a regular basis. The upgrade is a beautiful addition to the park. The dog park and Sunset Park is awaiting fountains for installation and the grand opening will be announced soon. We have also installed a new shelter at Sunset Park and it should be ready for rental within a month.

- Don Griffin and Creft Park Playground. Staff has contracted each playground and are awaiting delivery of equipment to install. These playgrounds will update the current playground structures that are currently on site.

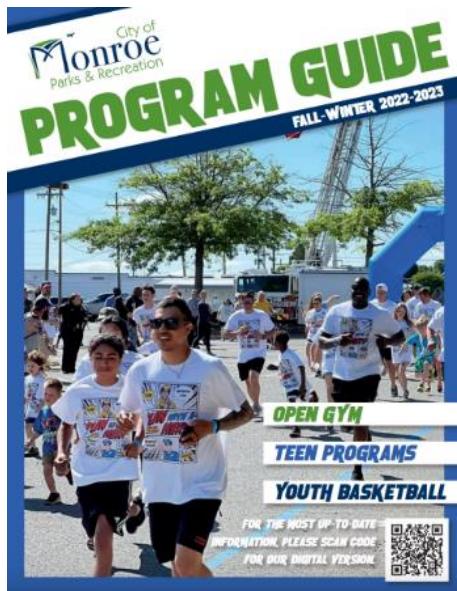
In preparation for the next phase of the Bearskin Greenway, staff has successfully secured easements adjacent to the Buggy Factory that will assist us with connecting Creft Park to Don Griffin Park. We are working with a consultant to provide a master plan for Creft Park and to apply for a Land and Water Trust Fund Grant for that park, along with a Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Grant to assist with funding the future phase of the greenway. We have also secured easements allowing us to connect the portion of the Bearskin Greenway behind the Farmers Market to the neighborhood in proximity to the greenway. The plan for the future greenway would connect Creft Park to Don Griffin to the Farmer's Market to Belk Tonawanda to the new Active Adult Center and to the Downtown area.

Special Events

The 2023 Calendar for the Parks and Recreation Department is [here](#).

Other

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



“Thought You Should Know Thursdays”

The Monroe Parks and Recreation Department is starting a new series called “Thought You Should Know Thursdays.” This series will highlight current parks and recreation projects, as well as spotlight our amazing parks and recreation staff and all they accomplish each day, week, month, and year!

January 5, 2023

This week’s “Thought You Should Know Thursday” spotlights the Parks and Recreation Department’s Parks Maintenance Superintendent, Darren Baucom.

“Thought You Should Know Thursdays”

How long have you worked for the City of Monroe?
25 years

What programs are you currently working on?

- Renovations at Cricht Park & Sunset Park
- Inclusive playground equipment to be added to Cricht Park & Don Griffin Park

What are your goals for this year?
“I would like to complete the current renovations taking place at several parks, and to begin the redesign of the Disc Golf Course at Dickerson Recreation Complex.”



.....  City of Monroe Parks & Recreation

January 12, 2023

This week's "Thought You Should Know Thursday" spotlights the Parks and Recreation Department's Senior Center Director, Aleshia Holland.

Click on the link below for more information regarding Senior Services:

[https://www.monroenc.org/.../Ellen-Fitzgerald-Senior-Center"](https://www.monroenc.org/.../Ellen-Fitzgerald-Senior-Center)

January 19, 2023

This week's "Thought You Should Know Thursday" spotlights the Parks and Recreation Department's J Ray Shute Center Supervisor, George Massey.

For more information regarding J Ray Shute Community Center's programs and facility reservations, contact George Massey at 704-282-4655 or gmassey@monroenc.org"

"Thought You Should Know Thursdays"

How long have you worked for the City of Monroe?
I am from the Stanly County Senior Center and have been working for the City of Monroe about 3 months.

What programs are you currently working on?
We are busy preparing for our move to the Active Adult Center! I have been enjoying getting to know all of the Senior Center participants, inquiring about their needs, desires and implementing new activities and programs for them to participate in. Networking has also been high on my priority list and I have met with representatives from local agencies to discuss ways to partner and provide more resources to the seniors in our community.



What is your favorite part about the job?
I love helping older adults live their best life by providing ways to maintain their independence, practice healthy living and

 City of

"Thought You Should Know Thursdays"

How long have you worked for the City of Monroe?
7 Years

What programs are you currently working on?
Health Fair, Valentine's Day Event, Easter Egg Hunt, College Application Day, Womanhood Summit, & Manhood Summit



What is your favorite part about the job?
My favorite part about the job is providing valuable resources to the children within the community to help better themselves.



Planning and Development
Lisa Stiwinter, Director, Planning and Development

Code Enforcement

On July 12, 2022 City Council adopted an updated Ordinance to revise and modernize the language in Section 153 titled *Minimum Housing Standards*. This revised Ordinance provides the necessary tools for Code Enforcement Staff to enforce abandoned structures, regardless of whether they are used for residential purposes or not. Code Enforcement Staff has started its first abandoned structure case at 403 Morgan Mill Road. The property owners are currently working to correct all violations of the ordinance.

Community Development

The City's Outside Agency funding application closes on February 10, 2023. To learn more visit the Community Development webpage: <https://www.monroenc.org/Departments/Planning-Development/Community-Development>

Housing Urgent Repair Scattered Site Program

Three happy homeowner's located in different areas of the City benefited from the Urgent Repair Housing Program. The program is made possible through a partnership between the City's

Community Development Division and Habitat for Humanity. Each residence is located in a Qualified Census Tract and received urgent roof replacement. The homes were located in the Sutton Park neighborhood, the Winchester neighborhood and the Concord Avenue area. The program has five additional properties being processed that were on the waitlist and in need of urgent repair. Additionally, the program has been extended citywide to accommodate low to moderate households. The application process should open again in February 2023 and mailed notices will be sent. You can also check the website for updated information <https://www.monroenc.org/Departments/Planning-Development/Community-Development>



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 resident 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. There is a Board of Adjustment meeting on January 26, 2023 for those interested.

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.

Development/Projects

- The Monroe Distribution Center (FedEx) located at 1691 Stafford Street has received a temporary Certificate of Occupancy to move equipment into the facility. We look forward to this industry beginning operations in Monroe.

- The Piedmont Lofts (also known as the Piedmont Buggy Factory) located at 518 Miller Street have received Certificates of Occupancy for all units. We look forward to having new residents in Monroe and near our Downtown.

Water Resources Department
Scott E. Clark, Director

Maintenance Division

Maintenance Staff is repairing an 8" water main break at 2031 E. Roosevelt Boulevard (Photo A). Staff is inspecting an 8" aerial sewer main that was struck by a fallen tree (Photo B).



Construction Division

Jordan Griffin (Photo A) is backfilling a trench where a new water main was installed. Staff is fusing together a new 2" water main pipe along Craig Street (Photo B).





Wastewater Treatment Division

The liner is being installed in the flow equalization basin project (Photo A). The north bank is completed and prepared (Photo B)

(A)



(B)



