

City Manager's Report
Brian J. Borne, City Manager
Week Ending February 17, 2023

Energy Services Department
Rob Miller, Director

New Construction Projects

- Electric primary, secondary have been completed in Blue Sky Meadows.
- Electric primary, secondary and natural gas main have been completed in Cottage Green Phase III.
- Construction of 6,500' natural gas main extension along White Store Road is complete.

New Hire/Promotion

- Ricky Carpenter started as the Electric Safety and Training Coordinator on January 17, 2023.
- Kyle Slusher was promoted to Energy Specialist/Technician on February 6, 2023.

Finance Department
Lisa Strickland, Director

New Software Installation

Effective February 6, 2023, City utilities converted to a new software system. The utility bills and the payment website have a new and improved look. The new bills include more information and an easy readable format including utility usage graphs.

Customer bills will also be accessible online at any time at the following address using your new account number and customer identification number:

<https://customer.monroenc.org/css/default.aspx>

The February bill will contain the a new account number and customer identification number. If a February bill has not been received and one would like to access an account online, please contact Customer Service at (704) 282-4511 to obtain a new number.

New pay by phone number for utility bills is: (877) 386-6730.

Groundhog Day Economic Summit Pictures



Parks and Recreation
Ryan Jones, Director

Active Adults

The 2023 United Senior Games is quickly approaching and the staff at Ellen Fitzgerald Senior Center and the Monroe Parks & Recreation Department has been working hard to prepare! The Senior Games Kickoff will be held at the Ellen Fitzgerald Senior Center on February 20, 2023 from 9:00 am -11:00 am. We're looking forward to a successful event!

It was an honor to serve breakfast to some of the veterans in our community at the Ellen Fitzgerald Senior Center. This group meets the first Wednesday of every month at 9 am. Thank you to Community Homecare & Hospice for sponsoring breakfast! (Pictured Left)



Our first Ladies Lunch Bunch event was a huge success! These ladies met at The Derby for lunch and had a wonderful time of socializing with each other. This is a great way for participants to get to know one another. This group meets on the 4th Wednesday of every month at a local restaurant (Pictured Right).

This group of seniors enjoyed a day trip to the Charlotte Museum of History and the Alexander Rock House. Participants were educated on the settlement of the Piedmont Backcountry and the history of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg region.



To view February's calendar of events at the Ellen Fitzgerald Senior Center, click [here](#).

Athletics

Youth Basketball End of Season Tournaments were held February 9 - 12, 2023 at various gym locations throughout Union County.

Youth Track and Field registration is now open! Registration can be found online or by clicking [here](#).

Benji Ball – Have you ever heard of Benji ball? It takes inclusion in baseball even further, and the Monroe Parks and Recreation Department is offering it! Benji Ball is a modified way to make baseball more inclusive by using specially designed bats and balls. Join us for a FREE introduction to Benji Ball on March 7, 2023 (4:00 pm- 6:00 pm). Participants are encouraged to [REGISTER](#) online or by emailing Rae Moore, Athletics-Special Events Division Supervisor at rmoore@monroenc.org.

Community Recreation Centers

Check out several programs coordinated by the Monroe Parks and Recreation Department's community centers throughout the month of February in celebration of Black History Month.

OLD ARMORY

Amazing Inventions by Black Inventors
Thursday, Feb 2nd 4:30p-5:30p
ages 6-11

Black History Word Scramble
Thursday, Feb 9th 4:30p-5:30p
ages 6-11

Black History Craft
3D Black History Hero Portrait
Thursday, Feb 16th 4:30p-6:30p
ages 11-15

Black History Trivia Bowl
Thursday, February 23rd
4:30p-5:30p
ages 6-11

SUTTON PARK

Black History Bingo
Tuesday February 7th
4:00-5:00 pm

Black History Craft: Diversity Heart
Tuesday February 14th
4:00-5:00 pm

Black History Trivia
Tuesday February 21st
4:00-5:00 pm

Black History Charades
Tuesday February 28th
4:00-5:00 pm

DICKERSON

Black History Spotlight: Garrett Morgan Stop Light Craft
Monday Feb 6th 4:30p-5:30p

Black History Spotlight: Rosa Parks Reciting The Pledge Craft
Monday Feb 13th 4:30p-5:30p

Black History Spotlight: Jackie Robinson Game: Tee Ball
Monday Feb 20th 4:30p-5:30p

Black History Spotlight: Christine King Farris Sonic Boom Craft
Monday Feb 27th 4:30p-5:30p

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Winchester

Black Wall Street
Thursday, February 9th
5:00- 6:00 pm

Black History - Trivia Games
Thursday, February 16th
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

African Eatery Culture
Thursday, February 23rd
5:00pm - 6:00 pm

J.RAY SHUTE

Do you know urban trivia?
Monday, February 6th
4pm-5:30pm

Black History Bracelet
Monday, February 13th
4:00pm- 5:00pm

City of Monroe
Parks & Recreation

Historical African-American Places and Events
Monday, February 20th 4:00pm-5:00pm

Pinedell Avenue Property – We are in the planning process and in partnership with Monroe Police Department to host this new properties first event, a FISHING DERBY! We are working with NC Wildlife to provide surveys on the types of fish that the pond can facilitate and we look forward to stocking this pond as we establish future plans for this awesome new addition.

Monroe Aquatics and Fitness Center (MAFC)

❤️ Don't wait! The sooner you join, the more you save! The date you join is the joining fee you pay. Pay a \$1 joining fee on February 1st., pay a \$2 joining fee on February 2nd, and so on.... ❤️



February is National Heart Month! It's a great time to make sure your ticker is tickin' properly. Start by making small changes to your daily routine such as changing your diet, maintaining a healthy weight, and being physically active. Gain the knowledge of those lifestyle changes at the MAFC!

FITNESS BINGO IS BACK!! Tired of your current workout? Looking for new fitness ideas? Come and explore all areas of our facility by joining a game of BINGO? Complete the squares needed to form the letters M A F or C or complete the entire card for a "blackout." Upon completion of each square, have a MAFC staff member stamp your card. All workouts must be completed at MAFC. When you have completed your BINGO card, return it to the front desk to be submitted into drawings for awesome prizes. You may submit more than one completed card. Prizes will be awarded after March 31, and each member that completes a card will receive a MAFC branded cinch bag. Download a bingo card here: <https://www.monroenc.org/Departments/Parks-Recreation/Monroe-Aquatics-Fitness-Center/Programs>



Swim Lessons at the MAFC will begin February 20, 2023. Active MAFC members may register at the front. Below is a schedule of class levels, days, and times being offered. You may also view the schedule on our website: <https://www.monroenc.org/Departments/Parks-Recreation/Monroe-Aquatics-Fitness-Center/Aquatics>

Winter 2023 Swim School				
WINTER SESSION 2 - February 20 th – April 1 st				
Class	Ages	Days	Times	Cost
Pre-School				
Parent-Tot	6 months – 3 yrs (Parent must participate in the water w/ child)	Tuesday Thursday Saturday	Tuesday 10:00a – 11:30a Thursday 6:30p – 7:00p Saturday 12:15p – 12:45p	\$30.00
Pre-School Level 1	3-5 years old	Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Saturday	Monday 6:00p – 6:30p Tuesday 1:00p – 1:30p 4:00p – 4:30p Wednesday 5:15p – 5:45p Thursday 4:00p – 4:30p 5:45p – 6:15p Saturday 10:45a – 11:15a 2:15p – 2:45p	\$35.00
Pre-School Level 2	3-5 years old	Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Saturday	Monday 4:30p – 5:00p Tuesday 11:30a – 12:00a 4:30p – 5:00p 5:15p – 5:45p Wednesday 6:00p – 6:30p Thursday 5:15p – 5:45p Saturday 10:15a – 10:45a	\$35.00
Pre-School Level 3	4-5 years old	Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Saturday	Monday 4:45p – 5:15p 5:30p – 5:45p Tuesday 12:15p – 12:45p 5:45p – 6:15p Wednesday 4:30p – 5:00p 5:30p – 6:00p Thursday 4:30p – 5:00p Saturday 12:45p – 1:15p	\$35.00
Youth				
Youth LTS: Level 1	6-12 years old	Tuesday Wednesday Thursday	Tuesday 5:15p – 6:00p Wednesday 6:00p – 6:45p Thursday 4:15p – 5:00p	\$40.00
Youth LTS: Level 2	6-12 years old	Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Saturday	Tuesday 4:15p – 5:00p Wednesday 4:15p – 5:30p Thursday 5:15p – 6:00p Saturday 1:15p – 2:15p	\$40.00
Youth LTS: Level 3	6-12 years old	Monday Tuesday Saturday	Monday 5:15p – 6:00p Tuesday 6:30p – 7:15p Saturday 5:15a – 10:00a	\$40.00
Youth LTS: Level 4	6-12 years old	Monday Thursday	Monday 6:15p – 7:00p Thursday 6:15p – 7:00p	\$40.00
Bridge to Swim Team	10-14 years old	Saturday	Saturday 9:15a – 10:00a	\$40.00
Adult				
TEEN - Learn to Swim	13 to 18	Tuesday	Tuesday 6:30p – 7:15p	\$40.00
Adult LTS: Basics	18 and older	Tuesday Saturday	Tuesday 6:30p – 7:15p Saturday 8:30a – 9:15a	\$40.00
Adult LTS: Fitness	18 and older	Saturday	Saturday 8:30a – 9:15am	\$40.00

February is Heart Health month! We provided a heart healthy snack table for our members with information on how to swap out unhealthy snacks for heart healthy ones, appropriate serving size charts for adults and children, and how to read nutrition labels.



Parks Maintenance

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

This is a friendly reminder, seasonal loose leaf collection ENDS February 24, 2023. 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.

The Sunset Park shelter construction is near completion. The NEW Dog Park located at Sunset Park will also be open in the near future. Once completed, a ribbon cutting will take place.



The Parks Maintenance Division has been working on the installation of inclusive playground amenities at various parks. The picture below depicts a new inclusive see-saw at Don Griffin Park.



There are multiple projects throughout our park system this year. All projects are scheduled to be complete by the end of this fiscal year. These projects include:

Belk Tonawanda Park Renovation – The bottom portion was completed in June. This portion of the project included new paths that provide better accessibility, the renovation and relocation of the bocce courts, an outdoor fitness station, permanent outdoor cornhole boards and table tennis tables. The top portion that includes the splash pad, bathroom and shelter is schedule for completion prior to the Summer season.

We are in the process of adding cameras to this park in partnership with the Energy Services and IT Departments. These cameras will assist in promoting a safe and inviting environment to this park. We have also partnered with the Police to provide park monitors on a regular basis to ensure this park is being utilized appropriately.

Dickerson Park Renovations – This renovation is complete and included the upgrade of the outdoor basketball courts and the complete renovation of the restroom facilities at the park. A further renovation will include the relocation of several disc golf holes into the wooded area on the park property. The disc golf course upgrade should be in process soon and should open in the Spring. The bathrooms are currently open to the public.

Don Griffin Park Playground Renovation – This playground renovation was completed in February. This renovation includes an additional section of playground that encourages cooperative play, as well as, a more “active” approach to play. Included in this renovation are two inclusive components that are located within the playground footprint.

Sunset Park Renovation – This renovation includes a new dog park which will be ready to open soon. The ribbon cutting ceremony date will be announced in the near future. Also included in this renovation is an upgrade to the outdoor basketball courts and a new shelter available for reservation. The basketball courts opened for play in the late fall. The shelter will be available for rental soon, as well.

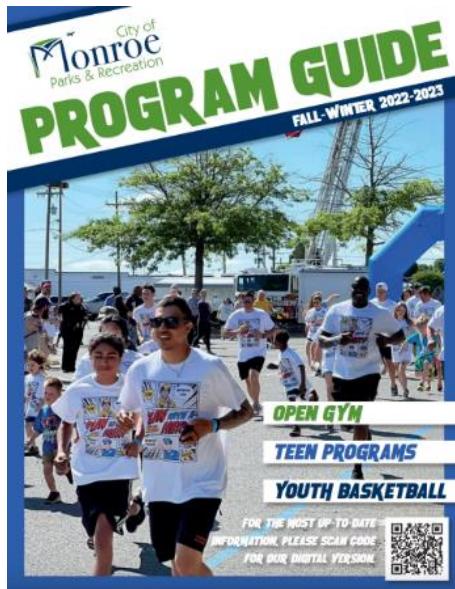
Creft Park Renovations – This renovation will include a new playground and the upgrade of the outdoor basketball courts. The playground replacement project should begin in March and, barring

any unforeseen obstacles, open to the public in March, as well. The outdoor basketball courts opened for play in late fall.

Inclusive Playground Equipment – We have made inclusivity at playgrounds and within programs a priority when planning for future renovation of parks and program offerings. We will be adding an [expression swing universal](#) (click to check it out) to Belk Tonawanda Park and Dickerson Park along with a [Sensory Wave Climber Ground Level “S”](#) (click to check it out) at Belk Tonawanda Park that assists those with mobility needs in enjoying our park amenities.

Other

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



Planning and Development Department
Lisa Stiwinter, Director

Code Enforcement:

New Minimum Housing Cases:

610 Castle Road located off Walkup Avenue has a residential structure that has been vacant and abandoned for several years.



1704 Concord Avenue has a residential structure that is also vacant and abandoned. The residential structure is located in the Concord Avenue Small Area Redevelopment Plan that was adopted by City Council in 2015 with a goal to improve aesthetics, safety, visibility and appeal of the Kerr Street area through a comprehensive small area plan.



Permitting

Permit Revenue- includes Building, Planning, Fire & Engineering

<i>FY 2021</i>	<i>FY 2022</i>	<i>FY 2023</i> <i>7/1/22 – 1/31/2023</i>
\$1,131,453.87	\$2,178,892.99	\$813,864.65

New Single Family Dwelling Permits Issued:

<i>FY 2021</i>	<i>FY 2022</i>	<i>FY 2023</i> <i>7/1/22 – 1/31/2023</i>
378	707	271

January (Monthly) Total permit counts:

2020	2021	2022
601	596	536

Planning Division

New Commercial Development/Projects:

- New Cocktail Lounge titled Local Logic Beer Co. located at 128 S. Main Street in Downtown Monroe has been issued their Certificate of Occupancy (CO) and will be opening soon.
- Collins Aerospace located at 1310 Airport Road has been issued their Certificate of Occupancy (CO) issued for an 18,000 square foot addition for a new additive manufacturing center and expansion of global repair capabilities
- A new Sports Clips coming to the new Windmere Shopping Center across from Target located at 2854 W. Highway 74.

New Residential Development/Projects:

Erosion Control Permits provide approval for ground disturbing activity; it is the first step in developing a site and preparing it for infrastructure and building. Erosion Control Permits have been issued for the following projects:

- Secrest Meadows – Single-family residential development located at Secrest Shortcut Road near Roanoke Church Road and adjacent to the Hilton Meadows Subdivision. While approved for 135 single family lots through the rezoning process, the development has been reduced to 129 lots through the erosion control permitting process.
- Wellington, Phase 1 – A 256 lot single-family residential development located off Deese Road. The erosion control permitting is being completed in phases; the first phase includes 159 lots.
- Ashton Park – Single-family residential development located off Olive Branch Road, just before the Monroe Expressway. While approved for 81 single family lots through the rezoning process, the development has been reduced to 72 lots through the erosion control permitting process.

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 February 23, 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. There is a Historic District Commission meeting on March 13, 2023 for those interested.

Water Resources

Scott E. Clark, Director

Maintenance Division:

Maintenance Staff inspected an aerial sewer line crossing after a recent storm event and removed the debris.



Construction Division:

In photo the photos below, Staff is removing debris from Lake Lee in order for annual dam maintenance to be completed prior to the seasonal opening. The recent storms has caused a lot of debris to collect near the dam.



Water Treatment Division:

Contractors have installed a new coating within sedimentation basin #2. The project should be completed soon.



Wastewater Treatment Division:

Water Resources Staff (David Rankin, Kyle Ketchum, Kevin Keesler and Scott Clark) recently presented career information to highschool students at Bible Baptist Tabernacle on Walkup Avenue. The students had a lot of questions regarding a career in the water and sewer utility sectors.

