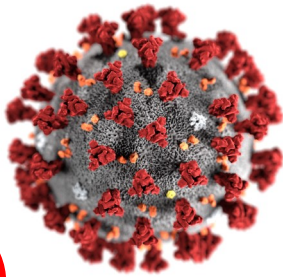


in the know

created by
Chris Bailey



official newsletter of **MONROE**, Georgia



2

This section discusses the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and how operational decisions were made for the safety of the employee base and citizens.



6

Ever wonder what's in a month, or where our months originate from...read this section to learn more about the months of June, July, and August.



8

Read this section to learn what's going on with the City owned parks in Monroe. Current projects, plans, and upcoming projects are discussed.

The Walton County Boys and Girls Club presents a July 4th Hometown Celebration! There will be music, food, and fun with a fireworks spectacular presented by The City of Monroe that evening! Activities start at 3pm at the Athens Technical College football field in Monroe.



COVID-19 *updates*

The City of Monroe has kept employees and citizens health and safety a priority as we have moved through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Just a quick recap of the things that your City has enacted since the pandemic was declared and a state of emergency was put in place, by state and federal officials. It is not necessary to review every decision, however; it is noteworthy to identify some of the most important decisions that were put in place.

Starting on March 23rd all of the departments at City Hall began to identify teams that would work together so that if one team was exposed to the COVID-19 virus essential services would be able to continue.

Not understanding the potential depth of the crisis for Monroe and Walton county at that time, the City Council held its first emergency meeting by Zoom conferencing on March 26th to discuss how the emergency orders would impact the businesses and citizens of Monroe.

The City Council, Mayor, and City Administrator relied very heavily on input from local business leaders and medical personnel, the Governors Task Force and the State Department of Health.

Since that date all City Council meetings have been held in the virtual environment, with the ability for the public to participate. It has proven to be a very reliable means of conducting the business of the City and will most likely continue to be a component of our strategy going forward. Internally, all department head meetings have also been conducted by virtual teleconference even if we were in the building. The safety and wellbeing of our employees was and is, of utmost priority.

The City Council has provided flexibility in the Ordinances around food and beverage to allow our local businesses the opportunity to continue profitable operations. This has provided the citizens the ability to enjoy these businesses and to help keep people employed during this economically devastating period for our

community. While not a substitute for robust nature of the City and business owners prior to March, it hopefully has provided the right catalyst to ensure that everyone is still standing when the worst of this pandemic is past and we are returning to a more normal business routine.

In addition to the moves made to help businesses through the stay at home orders, the City also eliminated late fees and stopped utility cut-offs for the month of April to help those economically impacted by the order to stay at home, or sidelined because of layoffs.

The Planning and Zoning, Code, and Building functions have slowed but not stopped. The major development at the north end of the City that will house the future Monroe Pavilion is continuing and is making significant progress during this crisis.

John's Supermarket and the housing starts throughout the City are great examples of the future spirit that the businesses, developers, and the staff at City Hall have kept vibrant during this time. An indication that there is confidence in our local economy going forward.

City Hall will continue to limit access to City buildings and may in the future look at ways to schedule appointments inside if necessary. The drive-thru and online options for services have proved very reliable and are now the preferred way to do business and keep everyone safe. Until we know that the virus has been contained, we have an obligation to everyone to make decisions based on the medical community's recommendations. As we all desire a quick end to the social distancing and limits on crowd size, it is important that until we know that it's safe, we continue to follow these disciplines.

This is your City Hall and we exist to serve you. While we are working hard to keep business as normal as possible during these trying times, if you have questions or concerns, we are always interested in hearing your feedback.

The future for Monroe is bright. We have navigated through this challenge, learned a lot about our resilience, and will once again celebrate our community spirit.

Est. 1821
MONROE
DOWNTOWN

EVENTS

& happenings...

June 20 - Flower Festival

July 24 - Members Only Concert (80's Tribute)

August 7 - The Purple Madness Concert
(Prince Tribute)

September 4 - Swingin' Medallions Concert



FARMERS MARKET

every Saturday 8:30 - 12:30 thru October 10th

June 6th

June 13th

June 20th

June 27th

Downtown
MONROE
PARKING MAP



P PUBLIC PARKING

P AFTER 5PM PARKING

WALTON CO. COURTHOUSE

PUBLIC LIBRARY

DAVIS-EDWARDS HOUSE

MONROE-WALTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS

CHILDERS PARK

ON STREET PARKING

CITY HALL

REST HAVEN CEMETERY

MCDANIEL-TICHENOR HOUSE

VISITORS CENTER & MONROE MUSEUM



WHAT'S IN A MONTH...

June is the sixth month of the year, the first month of summer, and is named after the Roman goddess Juno, who is the wife of Jupiter. In the early Roman calendar, June only had 29 days until Julius Caesar added the additional day giving June 30 days. The birthstones of June are pearl, moonstone, and Alexandrite, with birth flowers being the rose and the honeysuckle. June is nationally recognized as the Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month, and also as wedding season. Famous birthdays include Donald Trump, Morgan Freeman, Marilyn Monroe, Barry Manilow, Andy Griffith, Jerry Mathers, Clint Eastwood, Angelina Jolie, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Chris Pratt, Nicole Kidman, Dean Martin, Mark Wahlberg, "Prince", Ice Cube, Mike Tyson, Prince Philip (Duke of Ellington), Anderson Cooper, Gene Wilder, Anne Frank, Barbara Bush, and Judy Garland.



July is the seventh month of the year. It is on average the warmest month in most of the northern hemisphere and was named in honor of Roman general Julius Caesar, being that July is the month in which he was born. The biggest celebration of the United States for July is the Fourth of July, which celebrates the country's independence from the British in 1776 with fireworks and festivals. July is nationally recognized as the month for grilling, picnics, hot dogs, and ice cream. The July birthstone is the



ruby, and birth flower is either the larkspur or water lily. Famous birthdays include Princess Diana, Koko the Gorilla, Tom Hanks, E.B. White, Richard Petty, Tom Cruise, George W. Bush, Jr., Sylvester Stallone, O.J. Simpson, Alexander the Great, Ernest Hemingway, Amelia Earhart, Robin Williams, Fred Savage, John Quincy Adams VI, Julius Caesar, Leon Spinks, Harrison Ford, Pierre Cardin, Giorgio Armani, and Jennifer Lopez.

August is the eighth month of the year and was named in honor of Augustus Caesar, first Emperor of Rome. It is overall the most popular month for birthdays, considering a late August birthday means December conception. Nationally, August is recognized as Immunization Awareness Month and is also known as the National Family Fun Month. The birthstones of August are the peridot, sardonyx, and spinel, and the birth flower is the gladiolus or poppy.

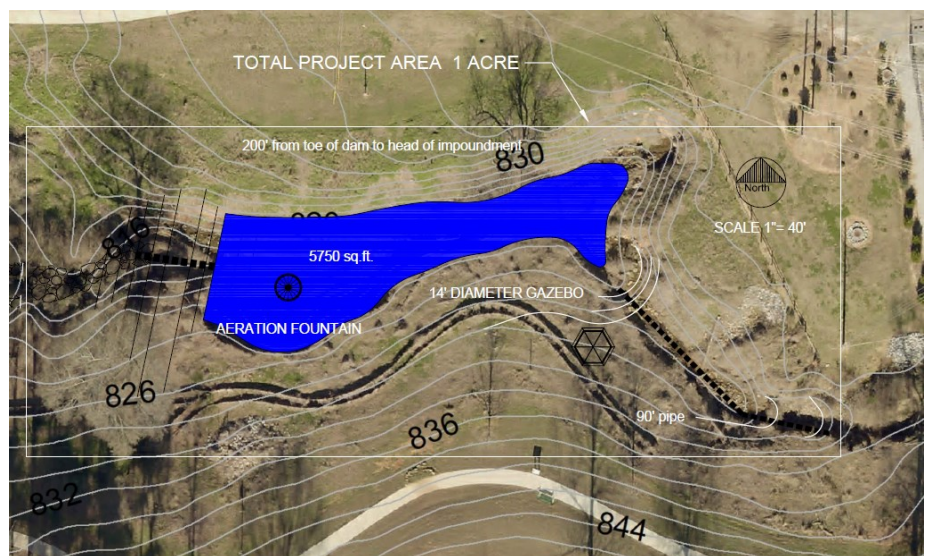
Famous birthdays include Martha Stewart, Louis Armstrong, Queen Elizabeth, Tom Brady, Barak Obama, Meghan Markle, Jeff Gordon, Neil Armstrong, Lucille Ball, Sam Elliott, Whitney Houston, Herbert Hoover, Hulk Hogan, Alfred Hitchcock, Magic Johnson, Tim Tebow, Madonna, Bill Clinton, Kenny Rogers, and Michael Jackson.



City of Monroe PARKS

In January 2020, the City of Monroe voted to officially take back control of all City-owned parks from County management and oversight. The initial plan for the City of Monroe is to assess the condition of those parks and to then provide an overall maintenance and rehabilitation plan. The primary focus at the outset is safety, followed by the usability of functions and facilities, and to finally rehabilitate those parks throughout the year, and years to come. There will be the removal of overgrown brush for aesthetics and undermaintained facilities and structures for safety in the beginning. Major projects at all parks will be funded by the 2019 SPLOST as provided for by the tax. As the tax revenue builds from the 2019 SPLOST, these budgeted projects will then be vetted and presented to City Council as achievable based on funding availability. Keep in mind that with the recent COVID-19 pandemic situation and the government imposed shutdown, those tax dollars have hit an unpredicted stall in collection. Due to this, projects will certainly be pushed back by several months, if not further as that tax revenue begins to return.

The first major park related project of 2020 has been the construction of an approximate 5,750 ft² pond with aeration fountain, bridge crossing, and landscaping at Childers Park. This project is nearing the final stages of completion and cost the City approximately \$90,000.



The next major project as approved by City Council in May is the complete rehabilitation and rebuild of Pilot Park, which is on Church Street and High School



Avenue. This project will entail the complete replacement of all play equipment and added age specific features, benches, trash receptacles, picnic areas, youth soccer goals, the addition of approximately 1000' of

additional walkways throughout, and numerous educational based components for children of all abilities. The June meeting will request approval for the official award to the selected playground equipment and installation company. The goal of this project is to have the park ready for a grand reopening in the early fall months of 2020.

The other parks to be included in the process of rebuild and rehabilitation will be the Town Green, further additions to Childers Park, Mathews Park, Hammond Park, EC Kidd, and Coker Park.



CITY MEETING DATES

June

- 2 - City Council Meeting - 6pm
- 9 - City Council Meeting - 6pm
- 11 - Downtown Development Authority Meeting - 8am
- 11 - Convention & Visitors Bureau Meeting - 9am
- 16 - Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting - 5:30pm
- 23 - Historic Preservation Commission Meeting - 6pm

July

- 6pm - City Council Meeting - 7
- 8am - Downtown Development Authority Meeting - 9
- 9am - Convention & Visitors Bureau Meeting - 9
- 4pm - Tree Board Meeting - 15
- 5:30pm - Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting - 21
- 6pm - Historic Preservation Commission Meeting - 28

August

- 4 - City Council Meeting - 6pm
- 11 - City Council Meeting - 6pm
- 13 - Downtown Development Authority Meeting - 8am
- 13 - Convention & Visitors Bureau Meeting - 9am
- 18 - Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting - 5:30pm
- 19 - Tree Board Meeting - 4:00pm
- 25 - Historic Preservation Commission Meeting - 6pm

IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES



June 5 - National Doughnut Day

June 6 - D-Day

June 14 - Flag Day

June 20 - Summer begins

June 21 - Father's Day

**HAPPY
FATHER'S
DAY!**

July 1 - Postal Worker Day

July 4 - Independence Day

July 15 - National Hot Dog Day

July 19 - National Ice Cream Day

July 26 - Parent's Day



August 2 - Friendship Day

August 15 - National Honey Bee Awareness Day

August 19 - National Aviation Day

August 21 - Senior Citizen's Day

August 26 - Women's Equality Day



City of Monroe Officials

MAYOR - John Howard

CITY ADMINISTRATOR - Logan Propes

COUNCIL DISTRICT 1 - Lee Malcom

COUNCIL DISTRICT 2 - Myoshia Crawford

COUNCIL DISTRICT 3 - Ross Bradley

COUNCIL DISTRICT 4 - Larry Bradley

COUNCIL DISTRICT 5 - Norman Garrett

COUNCIL DISTRICT 6 - Vacant

COUNCIL DISTRICT 7 - Nathan Little

COUNCIL DISTRICT 8 - David Dickinson

CITY CLERK - Debbie Kirk

FIRE CHIEF - William Owens

POLICE CHIEF - Robert Watts

CODE DIRECTOR - Patrick Kelley

FINANCE DIRECTOR - Beth Thompson

SOLID WASTE DIRECTOR - Danny Smith

HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR - Les Russell

ASSISTANT CITY ADMINISTRATOR - Chris Bailey

HIGHWAYS & STREETS DIRECTOR - Jeremiah Still

ELECTRIC & TELECOM DIRECTOR - Brian Thompson

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR - Darrell Stone

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR - Sadie Krawczyk

WATER, SEWER, & GAS DIRECTOR - Rodney Middlebrooks