in the know

created by
Chris Bailey

Since 1821
THE CITY OF Monroe

official newsletter of **MONROE**, *Georgia*

2 — This section provides a quick highlight of Monroe's *Bicentennial* anniversary and recaps the Community Cleanup Day that was held on May 8th.

4 — This section highlights the upcoming downtown events during our spring months and helps identify the layout of our downtown areas. Also, we're a *Georgia Exceptional Main Street City*!

6 — Read this section to learn some fun facts and the origins of the months of June, July, and August.

10 — Be sure to keep up with important dates which include official City of Monroe meeting dates and fun calendar dates throughout the spring months.

Monroe's BICENTENNIAL

Our Bicentennial year is upon us!

In 1818, Monroe was founded as the seat of the newly formed Walton County, and was then incorporated as a town in November of 1821. Through the years, Monroe has seen many major challenges, changes, and advancements to get to where we are now. This year we celebrate that history and our 200th birthday as we enjoy our beautiful city together.

Monroe has carefully balanced that small town feel while allowing for growth as we move towards the future. Our steadfast goal is to create a city for everyone!

In November of this year, we'll celebrate the official 200th birthday of the Greatest Small Town in America as we celebrate both our past and future. Later this year, Monroe will unveil new City branding and strive towards an even better Monroe over the next 100 years.

The Bicentennial logo for the City of Monroe was created as a celebration of our great city, with a reflection on our past economic engine of the mill districts and our always evolving downtown corridor to represent the celebration of our 200 years of history!

We look forward to sharing this historical event with our community and will have shirts and apparel available throughout the year at our City-sponsored downtown events as we return to a life of normalcy!

Community Cleanup Day

The City of Monroe hosted a Community Cleanup Day on May 8th as part of the Great American Cleanup Week that is celebrated through the outreach programs of Keep America Beautiful. Community cleanup events are to assist in making parks, sidewalks, roadsides, and other public spaces safer, cleaner, and more aesthetically pleasing. Approximately 100 volunteers joined various City personnel to collect a little over 1,360 pounds of trash and debris around areas of downtown, all of which went to the City's transfer station. In addition to maintaining other job responsibilities, City employees routinely pick up 3,000 to 4,000 pounds of trash and debris each month...not as a required service, but as a service to provide to our hometown to keep it looking beautiful. The City of Monroe greatly appreciates volunteers and citizens who make an effort to reduce littering. Some simple ways to help keep our town clean include keeping a litter bag in your vehicle to dispose of properly at your destination; or when walking downtown, wait to dispose of an item until you reach the next trash can. Trash cans are spread all throughout downtown, parks, and cemeteries for convenience.

The City of Monroe is looking forward to the next Community Cleanup Day in the fall with hopes that the occasion will become a twice yearly volunteer event. Together, we can keep our community and America beautiful!

- contributed by Hayden Harrison

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MONROE
DOWNTOWN

June 4 - First Friday Concert

June 19 - Blooms Flower Festival

July 4 - July Fourth Celebration

August 6 - First Friday Concert

Farmers Market EVERY SATURDAY @ 8:30am!!!

A Georgia Exceptional Main Street City

On April 14, 2021, the Georgia Main Street program announced Monroe will be added to the list of 20 cities that hold the designation of a Georgia Exceptional Main Street (GEMS) community.
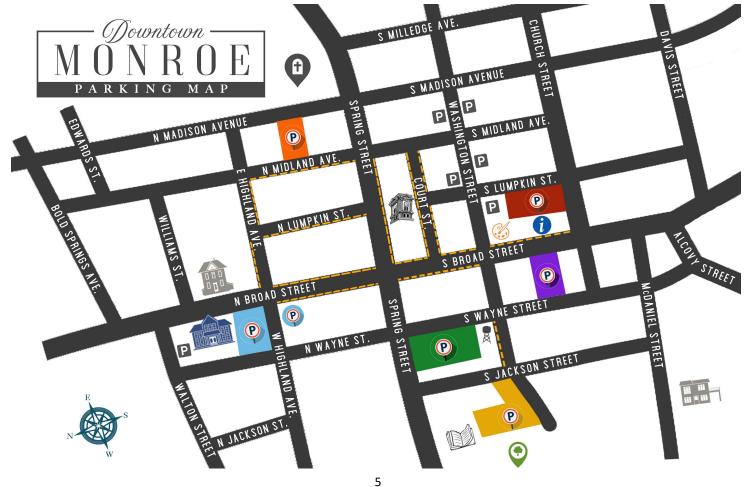
MAIN STREET AMERICA

GEMS cities represent some of the best Main Street Programs offered by the state. These Main Streets *have gone above and beyond expectations by making a strong and positive impact in their communities while utilizing the Main Street Approach,* according to Tara Bradshaw, the economic development specialist of the Office of Downtown Development. Bradshaw congratulated Monroe on their commitment *to excellence and stable leadership* that led to this designation.

Over the past three years, downtown Monroe has seen millions of dollars in private and public investment, with an emphasis on new businesses and job creation.

Main Street America has been helping revitalize older and historic commercial districts for more than 40 years. Today, it is a network of more than 1,600 neighborhoods and communities, rural and urban, who share both a commitment to place and to building stronger communities through preservation-based economic development. Since 1980, communities participating in the program have leveraged more than $74.73 billion in new public and private investment, generated

The Main Street Approach® is a proven methodology that empowers communities to utilize their distinctive assets, such as their independent businesses and historic character, to revive their commercial districts, strengthen local economies and increase civic engagement. Since 1980, the Main Street Four-Point Approach® to downtown revitalization has been used by more than 100 plus communities statewide to create more than 80,000 new jobs and stimulate a 7.3 billion dollar private/public investment.

WHAT'S IN A MONTH...

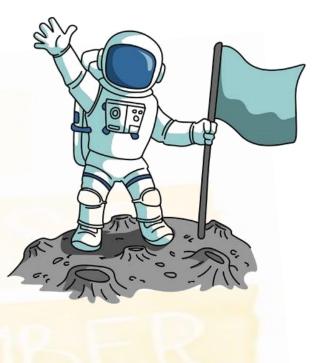June is named for the Roman goddess Juno, or the patroness of marriage and well-being of women. The month is known for beautiful flowers and bouquets, delicious fruits and vegetables, and sunshine! June holds several key dates including Flag Day (14), Emancipation or Freedom Day (19), First Day of Summer (20), and Father's Day (20). The Strawberry Moon happens on June 24th as strawberries start to ripen. Just remember, in June...everything comes up roses...for that reason, the birth flower for June is the rose and the honeysuckle. The pearl is generally considered to be the birthstone of the month, as well as alexandrite and moonstone. The famous English tennis tournament, Wimbledon, is played during the month of June.

July is most likely named for Roman emperor Julius Caesar, as he developed the precursor to the Gregorian calendar used today. July is mostly a month dedicated to freedoms for Canada (1), the United States (4), and France (14). The month also brings the hot and humid *Dog Days of Summer*. This is the hottest period of the

year beginning in July and ending in August. The birth flower of July is the larkspur and water lily, and the birthstone is the ruby...which is also believed to protect its wearer from evil! The first moonwalk took place during the month of July in 1969 followed by the famous quote by Neil Armstrong, *"that's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."*

August is named for Augustus Caesar. It is considered one of the busier tourism months based on school holiday periods. A fun fact about the month...August and November always end on the same day of the week, no matter the year. The birth flower is the gladiolus or poppy, and the birthstone is the peridot or onyx. To celebrate the month, champagne is thought to have been invented in the month of August by Dom Perignon, a French monk.

Cy Nunnally Memorial Airport

The Cy Nunnally Memorial Airport was awarded grant funds in the amount of $1,253,417 for the complete rehabilitation of runway 3/21 in the state's 2021 budget cycle. The City of Monroe will be responsible for approximately 5% of matching funds for the project. After the completion of bidding, Atlanta Paving and Concrete Construction, Inc. was awarded the contract for a total amount of $888,888. This project was finished ahead of schedule with construction activities completed on May 27th, and a final inspection planned during the month of June for closeout. The project was planned for an approximate closure total of 30 days and was completed with a closure of 23 days...so ahead of schedule! During the months of May, June, and July the City of Monroe decided to waive all lease and rental payments to help lessen the impact of closures to aviation based businesses and operations.

The City of Monroe will now begin to focus on the upcoming year Capital projects for the airport and begin planning funding applications for those projects. These projects are always beneficial to increasing the longevity and growth of the Cy Nunnally Memorial Airport and greatly leverage grant funding (free money) with lesser amounts of sponsor money (tax payer money).

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 years to come. Major projects at all parks will be funded by the 2019 SPLOST as provided for by the tax. Budgeted projects will then be discussed and presented to City Council as achievable based on funding availability.

In October 2020, Pilot Park on High School Avenue was reopened to the public! The park project was completed for approximately $262,317. Shade structures have been added to help with the heat of the summer months, and later this year there are plans for a restroom facility. The finished product has been an overwhelming success and a perfect example of what's to come with the City parks system in the future!

Mathews Park has seen the completion of the proposed first phase of improvements at a total cost of approximately $158,063. The restroom has been delivered and is open for use! Future improvements to the park should include paving, additional landscaping, another pavilion, and other features that will hopefully come before Council in July.

For updates on our parks system and the individual parks, please visit our website at www.monroega.com/parksrec.

CITY MEETING DATES

June

1 - City Council Meeting - 6pm

8 - City Council Meeting - 6pm

10 - Downtown Development Authority Meeting - 8am

10 - Convention & Visitors Bureau Meeting - 9am

15 - Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting - 5:30pm

22 - Historic Preservation Commission Meeting - 6pm

July

6pm - City Council Meeting - 6

8am - Downtown Development Authority Meeting - 8

9am - Convention & Visitors Bureau Meeting - 8

5:30pm - Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting - 20

6pm - Historic Preservation Commission Meeting - 27

August

3 - City Council Meeting - 6pm

10 - City Council Meeting - 6pm

12 - Downtown Development Authority Meeting - 8am

12 - Convention & Visitors Bureau Meeting - 9am

17 - Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting - 5:30pm

24 - Historic Preservation Commission Meeting - 6pm

IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES

June 6 - D-Day Anniversary

June 14 - Flag Day

June 19 - Juneteenth (Freedom Day)

June 20 - Father's Day

July 4 - Independence Day

July 18 - National Ice Cream Day

July 25 - Parents' Day

August 9 - VJ (Victory in Japan) Day

City 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 - Tyler Gregory

COUNCIL DISTRICT 7 - Nathan Little

COUNCIL DISTRICT 8 - David Dickinson

CITY CLERK - Debbie Kirk

FIRE CHIEF - Andrew Dykes

POLICE CHIEF - Robert Watts

CODE DIRECTOR - Patrick Kelley

FINANCE DIRECTOR - Beth Thompson

SOLID WASTE DIRECTOR - Danny Smith

CENTRAL SERVICES DIRECTOR - Chris Bailey

HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR - Les Russell

ASSISTANT CITY ADMINISTRATOR - Chris Bailey

HIGHWAYS & STREETS DIRECTOR - Jeremiah Still

ELECTRIC & TELECOM DIRECTOR - Brian Thompson

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR - Sadie Krawczyk

WATER, SEWER, & GAS DIRECTOR - Rodney Middlebrooks