in the know

THE CITY OF Monroe
Since 1821

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This article covers how to identify SPAM and how to avoid it causing trouble for you. Be aware of what to look for and ways to identify unsafe browsing or email messages. Always be careful when you're online!!

4

A brief insight into the Monroe-Walton County Library that shares event dates and current happenings of the Library. As a member of the Uncle Remus Library system it offers many different activities and opportunities for everyone.

6

Find out what the latest answers are to questions sent in to the City of Monroe about the happenings around Monroe. This provides for some insight into the details of projects and potential issues facing the citizens of Monroe.

8

The University of Georgia Emerging Leaders program and the City of Monroe are partnering to provide students with internship opportunities and local government insight for those with an interest in a career in government.

Monroe-Walton County Airport

The Monroe-Walton County Airport over the past five (5) years has undergone numerous upgrades, additions, and repairs to the facilities and operations, thus moving the Airport forward into having the potential to become a greater economic development driver for the City of Monroe and Walton County. The combination of grant funding from the State and Federal level, along with the use of Local funding, has provided for the completion of these projects.

The East Apron rehabilitation and expansion project was completed at the end of February by E.R. Snell Contractor, Inc. The expansion and rehabilitation of the Apron has provided for the future expansion of services to the Airport in terms of facility access, along with adding an approximate 72,000 square-feet of Apron space, and 16 new tie-down spaces for aircraft.

The West Taxi Lane reroute, after some adjustments to plans, is nearing completion, thus bringing the 240' setback requirements of runway and apron/taxi lane areas into compliance. The existing apron/taxi lane will be closed and subsequently removed by the City of Monroe.

The new Capital Improvement Project (CIP) list for the 2019/2020 fiscal years based on State funding cycles include approximately $1,724,000 in requested project funding. The submission was made on November 30, 2018 to the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) Aviation Division. The City of Monroe is hopeful to receive funding for both a Localizer Performance with Vertical Guidance (LPV) approach, a Part 77 18-B Obstruction Removal, the possible rehabilitation or overlay of the Runway 3/21, and an update to the existing Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) plan. All of these help build and grow the Monroe-Walton County Airport to entice larger jet traffic and growing the interest of possible corporate-based planes. Additionally, the City will look into the installation of proper signage along the taxi lanes and aprons of the Airport to further bring the Airport into GDOT compliance.

In January of 2019, the City of Monroe appointed both Robert Watts and William Owens to the positions of Police Chief and Fire Chief, respectively. Both had served in their respective roles as Interim positions since October 2018. The recent retirement of long time Public Safety Director, Keith Glass, created the new opportunity for both to step into the positions. The City of Monroe is proud to have them in their new roles to watch out for the safety of the citizens of Monroe.

Fire Chief - William Owens

- **Loganville High School (1990)**
- **United States Navy 2nd Class Petty Officer (1992-1996)**
  - **(E-5)**
  - **Ship Welder**
  - **Firefighter**
- **Pipe Fitter/Pipe Welder (1996-1999)**
- **Monroe Fire Department (2000 - present)**
- **Associates of Applied Science in Fire Science Technology (2006)**
- **Bachelors of Science in Fire Science Management (2009)**

Police Chief - Robert Watts

- **Cross Keys High School (1991)**
- **United States Marine Corps Sergeant (1992-1996)**
  - **24th Marine Expeditionary Unit - Somalia, Cuba, Japan**
- **Greene County Sheriff's Department (1997-2000)**
- **Monroe Police Department (2002 - present)**
  - **K-9, Uniform Patrol, Criminal Investigations, SWAT, Administration, Command Staff, Assistant Police Chief**
- **Bachelors of Arts in Criminal Justice (2016)**
- **Leadership Walton Graduate (2013)**
- **Board Member - Walton County Boys & Girls Club**

SAFE WEB BROWSING

Visit any website these days and it's very likely that you will be viewing ads as well. Sometimes these ads can be tempting, with many offering sales, promotions, or freebies to attract more clicks. Ads on certain websites can even be targeted specifically to you based on past browsing history, enticing you to click!

Advertisers do not sell their ads to websites one at a time. Websites that want to make money sell their advertising space to an ad network. Advertisers sign contracts with that ad network which then displays the ads on the participating websites. The ad network sits in the middle between the advertisers and the websites and manages the traffic and the payments. This is where the problem begins. Cybercriminals can fool the ad network into thinking they are a legit advertiser, but the ads which are displayed on major websites can be poisoned. If you browse to a page with a poisoned ad on it, that is enough to run the risk your PC will be encrypted with ransomware, which can hold your computer or your entire network hostage until you pay the cybercriminal a ransom. To prevent this type of attack, don't click directly on ads embedding within websites. Open your web browser, and go directly to the advertiser's website if you need to go shopping for that deal! If it's not there, then it wasn't real to begin with.

EMAIL SAFETY

When you receive an email from an online service or business partner that you are not expecting, proceed with caution. For example, if you receive an email from a business or company, ask yourself first if you are a member or have an affiliation with that business or company. The bad guys can use any online service such as banking, shopping, and social networking to try and trick you into clicking and providing information. If you're in doubt, open a web browser and visit the website of the business, company, or person who sent you the email. From there you can verify legitimacy or account activity.

EMAIL ATTACHMENTS

You may already be aware that you should not open email attachments with an extension such as ".exe", but did you know that even PDFs or Word Documents can be rendered unsafe to open? Opening these attachments from senders with malicious intent can cause your computer, and any networks to which you are connected to be compromised, hacked, or taken hostage with ransomware. The general rule is to **NEVER** open any email attachment if you do not know who it came from or why you received it. If you notice *anything* about the email that alarms you, do not click links, open attachments, or even reply. If everything seems okay, but you're still not sure–verify the email's legitimacy before proceeding.

CITY MEETING DATES

March

5 - City Council Meeting - 6pm

12 - City Council Meeting - 6pm

14 - Downtown Development Authority Meeting - 8am

14 - Convention & Visitors Bureau Meeting - 9am

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

26 - Historic Preservation Commission Meeting - 6pm

April

City Council Meeting - 6pm - 2

City Council Meeting - 6pm - 9

8am - Downtown Development Authority Meeting - 11

9am - Convention & Visitors Bureau Meeting - 11

Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting - 5:30pm - 16

Historic Preservation Commission Meeting - 6pm - 23

May

7 - City Council Meeting - 6pm

9 - Downtown Development Authority Meeting - 8am

9 - Convention & Visitors Bureau Meeting - 9am

14 - City Council Meeting - 6pm

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

28 - Historic Preservation Commission Meeting - 6pm

EVENTS
& happenings...

March 16 - Car Show

April 12 - Food Truck Friday

April 13 - Paws in the Park

April 13-14 Antiques Shopping Weekend

April 13-14 Dock Dogs Competition

April 27 - Farm to Table Dinner

May 3 - First Friday Concert

May 11 - Children's Book Festival

May 11 - Monroe Farmers Market Opening Day (every Saturday)

Businesses NEW to Downtown

Your Pie

South on Broad

Fairway Independent Mortgage

Elena De La Rosa Photography

Trejo & Sons Equipment

The Monroe Agency

Salon Aurora by Devonna

The Wonka Factory

Seehae Tax Service

Come in we're OPEN

2019 City of Monroe Project List

Downtown Green Development Program

Fire Station Roof Replacement & Exterior Rehabilitation

City Hall Drive Thru & Customer Service Renovation

North Broad Street Sidewalk Beautification

LMIG Paving (*Alcovy Street*)

Water Treatment Plant Building Renovation

Community Development Block Grant (*CDBG*) on 5th & 6th Streets

Alcovy Sewer Line Expansion

Loganville Water Transmission Line Extension

North Broad Streetscape Liveable Centers Initiative (*LCI*) Grant

GA HWY 83 Truck Connector Route

Jack's Creek Wastewater Treatment Facility Rehabilitation

Transportation Alternatives Program (*TAP*) Grant (*North Broad, Highland Avenue, North Lumpkin*)

Walton Plaza - Police Station Masterplan Design & Build

GA HWY 138 & West Spring Street Improvements

MAB Shopping Center Development

Gateway Entrance Signage Initiative

Geographic Information System (*GIS*) Development

Great American Cleanup Week: April 22 - April 26

Georgia Cities Week: April 21 - April 27
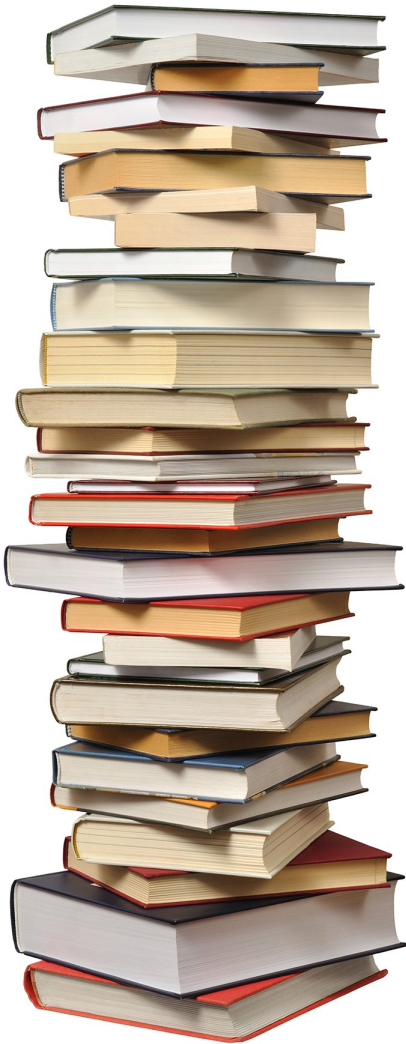
Installation of Natural Gas Lights to City Facilities

Monroe-Walton County Airport 2019/2020 Grant Application (*18-B Obstruction Survey for LPV Approach, Rehabilitation of Runway 3/21, DBE Update*)

Monroe-Walton County Library

In addition to the items that can be checked out from the collection, the Monroe-Walton County Library offers many other services. The library website, http://www.uncleremus.org/walton.htm, is a great first stop when looking for library services. The website provides access to the Georgia PINES library catalog, Galileo, Ancestry.com, Freading eBooks, and Mango Languages. All of these databases are of free access for library patrons.

From the beginning of February until the end of tax season the library offers tax preparation assistance. Volunteers from the AARP come to the library every Thursday throughout tax season and help members of the community to prepare their taxes. The volunteers have completed an IRS training program, and offer their help free of charge.

Throughout January and February the library was the final stop on the traveling tour for the Just Kids photography exhibition. The Just Kids Exhibition, a joint collaboration of the Georgia Public Library Service and The Blue Path Group, is a series of photographs depicting special needs children and their families who live in Georgia.

The Friends of the Monroe-Walton County Library hosted a speaker from the Walton County Sheriff's Office, who spoke to the members of the group about home safety. The Friends host quarterly author talks and guest lecturers that are free and open for anyone to attend.
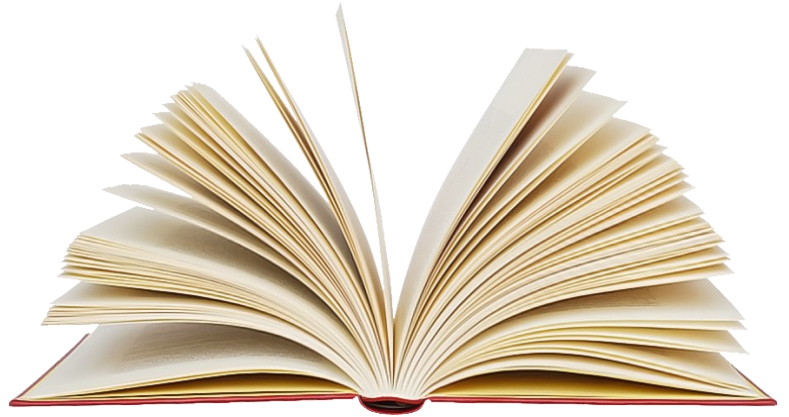
Marc Hammes, the artistic director for On Stage Walton, is continuing his series of Drama Hour's for young library patrons. Children are invited to come and participate in acting exercises and interactive storytelling activities. This program will continue through May 2019.

Thanks to the efforts of our many volunteers the library is now able to offer a weekly Baby Reads story time, as

well as monthly Puppet Story Times and Children's Book Clubs.

The library maintains a book sale room throughout the year. This room is kept stocked with donations received from members of the community, and is a major source of funding for the programs we offer. Please encourage anyone you know to donate books to the library!

We are also preparing for the 2019 Summer Reading Program. There will be multiple events and performers each week throughout the summer months, along with reading challenges and prizes for students who complete their reading logs. Be sure to check the library website and Facebook page regularly to find out about our new programs!

Join the City of Monroe Police Department
Coffee with a Cop

March 16th from 8am - 10:30am
Coffee Camper Company (101 North Broad Street)

March 23rd from 8am - 10:30am
The Cotton Café (136 North Broad)

From the City Administrator's Desk...

I want to use this newsletter to inform and update everyone on some frequently asked questions (FAQs) from citizens to the City of Monroe and then clarify the City of Monroe's role and involvement on these concerns. The main topic of late is, "Why does the City of Monroe invest in sidewalks?"

A common question asked of city officials is, "*why does the City keep building sidewalks*?" There are several reasons why the City of Monroe continues to build out not only sidewalks but streetscapes around the City. Streetscapes are generally larger format sidewalks with brick and grass inlays, decorative lighting, trees or other plants, and enhanced drainage systems!

For some recent history, about five (5) years ago the City of Monroe completed a nearly half-mile stretch of federal and state funded streetscape sidewalks on South Broad Street. The City has almost completed the SPLOST-funded, 1.5-mile West Spring Street streetscape sidewalk project, and is currently constructing the federal and state funded 1-mile North Broad Street streetscape sidewalk project. Along with these major projects, the City continues to rehabilitate various sections of old sidewalks on secondary and neighborhood streets as aggressively as funding allows.

The most obvious goal of expanding the number of sidewalks is to increase the City's walkability. City streets should not be just about moving people in vehicles but also moving people by foot and bicycle. In more dense environments (which cities of all sizes usually are) the ability to take vehicles off the road becomes a necessity especially as a city rapidly outgrows its expensive street/road infrastructure system. There are simply not enough lane miles a city can develop as it grows with available funding sources.
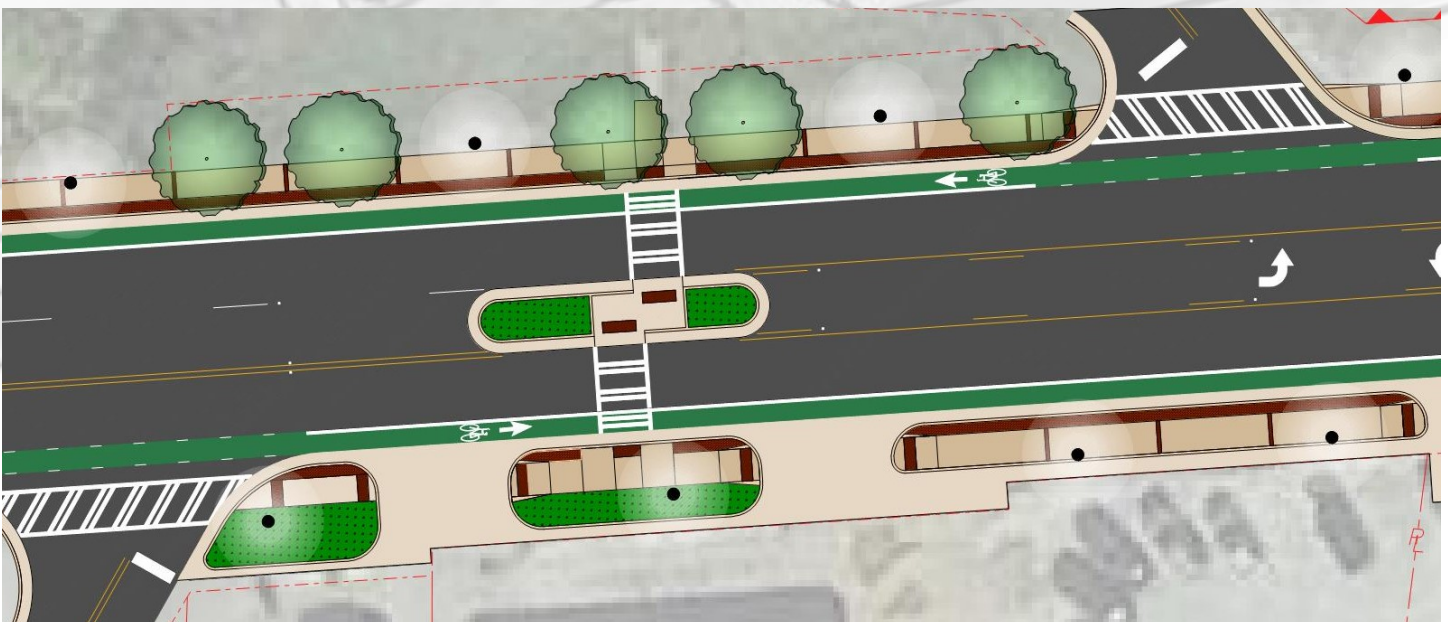
A case in point is the West Spring Street (GA Hwy 10 Business) area. Many have asked, "*why not add another travel lane there instead of a sidewalk*?" First, The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) generally has no interest in adding another lane on the "business" section of a state route. Second, the lane would be prohibitively expensive for the value of accommodating more volume of traffic along with the expense of upgrading multiple signals along the way. Third, the logistics of turning left in the already highly congested area would create more traffic problems than it would solve. Fourth, traffic would bottle neck again at GA Hwy 138 no matter what intersection improvements were made and again on eastbound routes entering Downtown. The only solution, and one that is not advisable or feasible, would be to tear down sections of Downtown to add lane capacity, and; lastly, there would never be

room for a sidewalk in the future with another lane added.

Other obvious benefits of creating a walkable city through sidewalks and streetscaping are general beautification and placemaking. Adding character to neighborhoods and corridors through overstory trees, shrubs, flowers, etc. can create an enjoyable aesthetic touch to a city and encourage walking. Walking helps build better health and wellness. It also connects neighbors that may otherwise never speak or even know they exist save for a blur of cars whizzing past homes each day. When you get to know your neighbors, you create a better, more engaged and connected community. Sidewalks also connect people to businesses, thus growing local business revenue. Everyone enjoys strolling thru Downtown Monroe from shop to shop but many people also access businesses outside of downtown by means of walking. Having a safe path to walk to get groceries for example is a necessity and would be so much harder, and more dangerous without sidewalks.

Streetscaping can also create additional vehicular safety through traffic calming. Narrowing streets for sidewalks and trees has been proven as an effective way to reduce speeds without adding speed bumps or other impediments. Slower vehicles also create a safer environment for pedestrians and cyclists. Lastly, sidewalks can promote a cleaner community since people are less likely to toss their litter down while walking. Seeing litter up close is also more impactful than if just quickly driving and tossing trash out of the window without regard.

In the end, sidewalks and streetscapes produce a better look to a city, create a safer experience for vehicles and pedestrians, and build a more flowable city through effective methods of travel.

The City of Monroe and University of Georgia have recently partnered with the Emerging Leaders Internship Program for the employment of students enrolled in the School of Public & International Affairs. This program helps match skill sets and professional aspirations of students with the needs of government agencies for a maximum 240-hour internship employment program. The students participate in a standard interview process with the City of Monroe and are then awarded a position in the same fashion as other employment selections. The positions are for research and viewpoint examinations of energy conservation, public policy making and guidelines, community relations and needs, governmental needs assessments, and any other community and government related topics as they concern both the City of Monroe and the program involvement.

In the coming weeks, look for a newsletter discussing the energy resources that provide Monroe with electricity. The newsletter will breakdown the costs associated with different types of energy and explain the history behind each type of energy source as it relates to the City of Monroe. The sources to be discussed are nuclear, natural gas, coal, and hydro that include Plant Hatch, Vogtle, Shearer, Wansley, part of SEPA, and other energy producing facilities.

IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES

March 10 - Daylight Saving Time

March 17 - St. Patrick's Day

April 1 - April Fool's Day

April 19 - Good Friday

April 21 - Easter

April 22 - Earth Day

May 5 - Cinco de Mayo

May 12 - Mother's Day

May 18 - Armed Forces Day

May 27 - Memorial 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 - Wayne Adcock

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

CENTRAL SERVICES DIRECTOR - Chris Bailey

HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR - Les Russell

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