

in the **know** Monroe

official newsletter of Monroe, Georgia

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Desk**

Monroe Proud



Imagine a city where the locals are friendly, the weather is nice, and the living comes easy. If you could live in such a place, it would be the city of Monroe. It is not a storybook setting, but with its antebellum homes and picturesque downtown, it is very close. The City of Monroe offers the charm of small town life, but the amenities of big city living. Here you can enjoy fine dining, an outdoor concert, and view beautiful art without ever leaving Downtown Monroe. Here in Monroe, we live life the way everyone should. We encourage everyone to live happy, live free, and live boldly.

In an effort to maintain our quality-of-life, the City of Monroe encourages everyone to take pride in our city. Please be mindful of keeping our city clean and safe for everyone.

CODES AND ORDINANCES

The City of Monroe Code Office has the duty of enforcing the Codes of the City of Monroe.

We believe that the majority of citizens are in compliance with the code or will comply once informed. Our goal is to inform the community in order to achieve voluntary compliance.

Once a written report of a code violation is made, the code office will notify the responsible person(s) of the violation and inform them on how to gain compliance. If voluntary compliance is not achieved in a specified time period, the responsible person(s) is issued a citation and ordered to appear before the Judge of the Municipal Court.

If you are in violation of city code, you will be notified by repair and cleanup notice posted on the property and/or by mail. For non-hazardous violations, the first letter is a courtesy notice. It is intended to advise that a violation of a law or municipal code(s) has been observed. If you receive one of these letters, you may contact the Code Enforcement Office at (770) 207-4674 with any questions you may have.

This letter will also inform you of the date by which the issue needs to be corrected. If the violation is not corrected by the date given, you will receive a citation. The fine will not exceed \$1,000. Our goal is to have citizens voluntarily abate violations without taking further enforcement action.

Each citizen has the right and is encouraged to report code violations online at www.monroega.gov. Reports may also be made by telephone or in person to the code office.

For citizens who may need financial assistance meeting code requirements or need help with general repairs, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) offers a program that may serve as a resource to help for home repair. This provides loans to very-low-income homeowners to repair, improve, or modernize their homes or grants to elderly very-low-income homeowners to remove health and safety hazards. To access this information visit www.rd.usda.gov.

Code violations can come in a variety of forms.

Some of them include:

- Tall grass and weeds
- Junked or abandoned vehicles
- Tree limbs and brush
- Trash and debris
- Trespassing
- Substandard and dangerous buildings
- Sign code violations
- Fence maintenance
- Zoning ordinances violations

What's Cold Got to do With it?

Cold and the Cost of Utility Bills

During the next few weeks, residents will see an increase in their Utility Bills. Here are a few answers to questions as to why they increased.

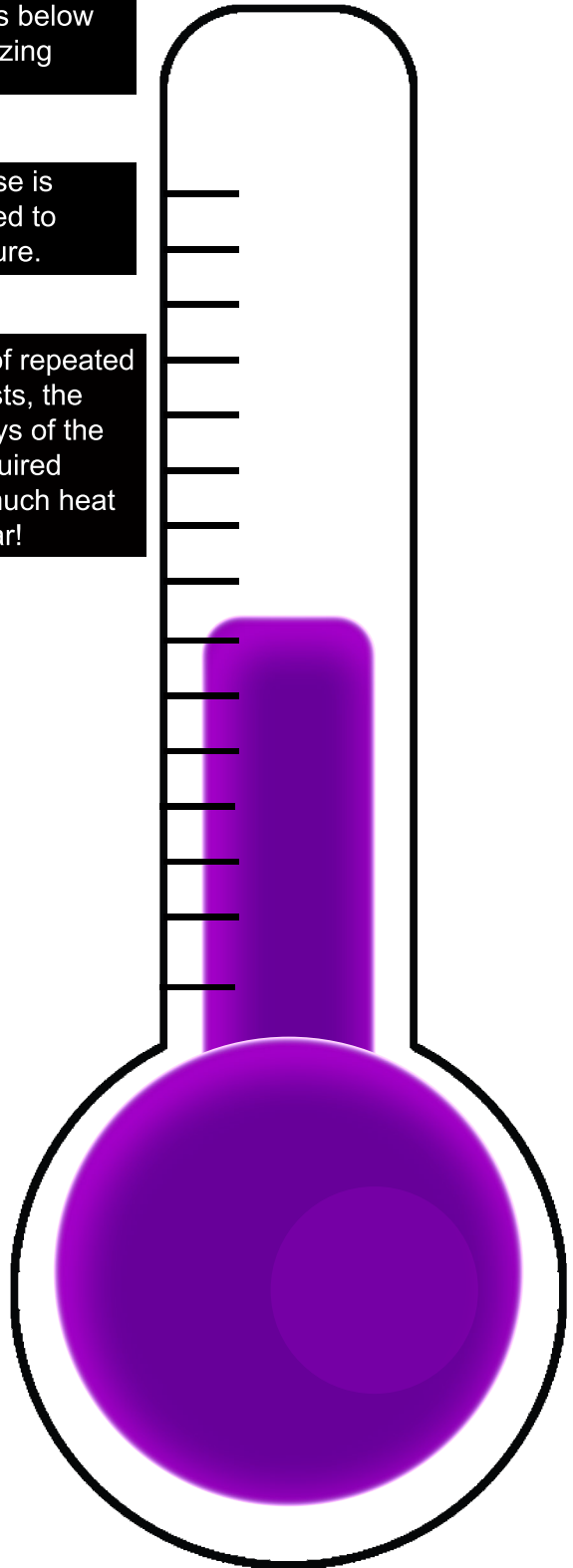
The simple truth: it was cold! During the month of January, the state of Georgia experienced extremely low temperatures. There were at least 16 days where the temperatures were below freezing. This is what contributed to the increased usage, which increased the bill!

16 days below freezing

Energy use is directly tied to temperature.

Because of repeated Arctic Blasts, the first 18 days of the month required twice as much heat as last year!

Heat systems in Georgia don't like to work hard. Anyone living in Georgia knows how unpredictable the weather can be. One day it's 41 degrees, and the next day it's well, 20 degrees and dropping. In Georgia, the heat systems are not designed to work below 40 degrees. The systems are called air source heating systems. They work two ways. When it is about 40 degrees or higher, the heat pumps work fine in ensuring that homes stay warm. Heat pumps are energy efficient and will heat a home at little expense. When the temperature drops, heat pumps stop working efficiently. When this happens, heat strips come on. Heat strips consume about three times as much energy as a heat pump while producing the same amount of heat. In essence, when the heat strips come on, the system uses more energy to keep the house warm. This is what contributes to usage going up as well. This is the same for space heaters and window units; they cause usage to spike as well. Remember, as usage goes up, so does the bill.

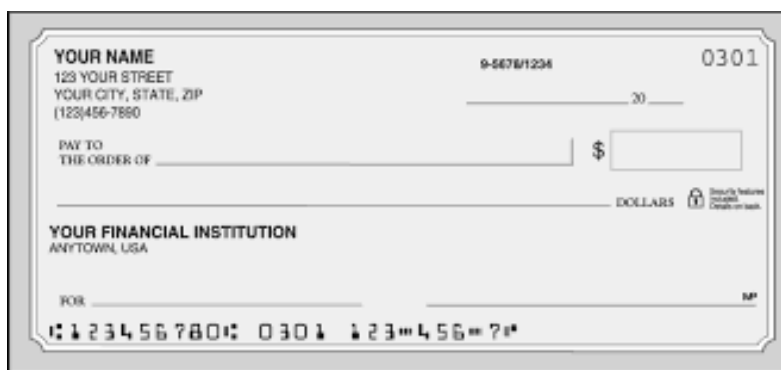


Do You Have Money Waiting on You?

The City of Monroe issues checks for a variety of reasons whether it be for payments or refunds. We generally will mail these payments to the address that we currently have on file. In some cases individuals or companies may have moved and the checks are returned to the City of Monroe or are never cashed or deposited. Take a look at these Monroe Utility customers & vendors who we mailed a refund or payment to, but the checks have not been cashed. If you are on this list or know someone who is, please contact us at [770-266-5125](tel:770-266-5125) so we can begin the process of reissuing these payments.

Juliana Amparbeng
Edward Barefoot
Marvin Barnes
Tommy L. Beall
Elizabeth Bilbrey-Hegwood
Donnell Blackshear
Ronderious Bostwick
Robert Breeton
Paul Britt
Brian Brown
Lance Brown
Jason Chapman
Derek Cobia
Elijah W Connell
Daylor Conner
Nona Kathryn Crowe
Joann Dixon
Paul Duncan
Charles Dunn Jr.
Randolph Dunn
East Metro Wireless
Romell Edwards
Pam Evans
Andrew Evelyn
Keyonna Fawcett
Noel Fazio
Tatiana Fuentes
Kendra Gordon
Green Forest Homes
Erica Grindle
Annie Holloman
Laquita Jackson
Anastasia Johnson
Kashawn Johnson
Charles Lemaster
Little Groceries
Elizabeth Lovitt
Patricia Madison
Shakira Mayers
Angela Meeler

Mhmad Auto Motors Inc
Janice Norman
Jolond Norman
Precise Ammunition
Johnny Rabon
Jimmy Reed
Mary Reynolds
Safety Construction Co
Southeastern Housing Foundation
Jasper Still
Brandon Studdard
James Thornton
Kishore Tilak
Alfonzo Udell
Jacob Vaughan
Kandice Leigh Vinson
Mildred Vonderheide
Antonio Walker
Jonathan Walters
Ariel Watkins
Stephen Watson
Mary Webb
Johnny Whitehead
Jonathan Williams
Matthew Wilson
Racquel Yilla



Don't Be A Litterbug

Do you need a littervention? Are you part of Monroe's Litter Problem? Are you prepared for a little trash talk...then LET'S TALK TRASH!

Litter is misplaced, abandoned, or discarded waste.

Litter is a public health concern.

Litter is an environmental concern.

Litter is a safety concern.

Fast food wrappers, cigarette butts, plastic bottles, and aluminum cans are the most common types of litter found along road ways.

Litter is not an individual problem. Everyone is responsible for the beautification of the community, including litter prevention and education.

Littering can carry a fine upwards of \$1000.

Litter impacts wildlife, water sources, and other natural resources. This ultimately impacts the quality of life of humans as well.

Residents of the City of Monroe (city limits only), the week of April 16-20, 2018 the City of Monroe will be participating in the "Great American Cleanup". During this week, any resident (no businesses please) wishing to bring garbage, trash, scrap metal, and tires (limit ten) to the City of Monroe Transfer Station will be able to do so without charge. For information and hours of operation, contact the Monroe Transfer Station at 770-266-5148.

For more resources on litter, please visit:

www.monroega.com

www.keepwaltonbeautiful.com

www.keepgeorgiabeautiful.com



From the Mayor's Desk

WHAT MAKES OUR TOWN GREAT? THE PEOPLE!

In my first month in office, I have had the pleasure of attending a service at New Beginnings Bible Church, which has a wonderful congregation. My friend, Nathan Durham, who offered the prayer at my first meeting with the city council, certainly preaches a fantastic sermon.

I attended the Hullabaloo at The Story Shop, where Melissa Music and Stephanie Cannon were just named two of the Most Creative Minds in America by Country Living Magazine.

I read in the Walton Tribune about my friend, Terry Queen, whose organization provides backpacks to school kids in Appalachia.

The following week, I had the honor to attend the Eagle Scout presentation recognizing Christopher Yarman. Christopher, and all of our local scouts (boys and girls), work tirelessly to make this world a better place.

The Annual Meeting of the Chamber of Commerce recognized one of the sweetest ladies around, Cindy Little, the executive director at FISH. Cindy is one of those who “walks the walk”. FISH gives aid to the most needy in town, and her lunch program provides food for 2,000 kids daily.

Speaking of wonderful people recognized by the Chamber, Sherry Spence Hawes was named Ambassador of the Year for 2017. Sherry has been a tremendous asset to our community ever since she was showing off on the sidelines as a Purple Hurricane.

I am mentioning all this to give an example of the wonderful people of Monroe. Day in, day out – you are the best! You make Monroe, and I am excited to serve you!



WHAT'S HAPPENING

You have seen the construction barrels and cones, along with some right-of-way work on West Spring Street. Our sidewalk project including street lights is coming along and will be running from Childers Park to White Oak Lane.

Our North Broad sidewalk beautification project will be underway this summer. Once complete, the remaining planned project is East Spring Street at Walton Plaza. I will keep you up-to-date as this project is scheduled.

Land acquisition will begin this summer for our truck route that runs from Hwy 83 to Hwy 11. As this is in the hands of the state Department of Transportation, we are at their mercy. However, we are anticipating construction to begin mid-year, 2020.

I have a personal goal to add to our parks; we will be working with your city of Monroe management to fund these upgrades. We are looking at additional playground equipment, perhaps a splash pad, and additional maintenance to beautify our system-wide network of parks (from Childers to Hammond to Pilot).

Of course, by now, you have heard that Monroe will be getting its first national hotel brand. Going on the corner of Spring Street and Bankers Blvd., the Hampton Inn will have 80 rooms to help accommodate our guests from out of town. Construction should begin by the end of the year.

ONE MONROE

Keeping everybody in the loop: One of the things that was most often mentioned during campaign season was the need to clean up our town. Regarding our efforts to clean up the city, please take a moment to download the new City of Monroe 311 app on your smart-phone; this will allow you to easily report code violations or repair requests (sidewalks / potholes)—here, you can even receive and pay your utility bill through the app.

Taking cleanup into consideration, we have asked our Code Department to give notices of all code violations. Instead of picking on one person or neighborhood, we have actively given out more than 200 notices all over town in the last few weeks. Most of these violations are very simple, low-cost fixes.

As the economy has picked up pace, our city has gotten safer. In 2017, we had an overall crime decrease in the city of 22%. Not only do I applaud our officers (including the Walton County Sheriff's Office and the GA State Patrol), I applaud you!

At the same time, we have asked our team to really focus on trash clean-up. While our guys are doing their part, it is up to each of us to keep Monroe clean. Monroe is in good shape at the moment. Property values are going up; however, the more we can do to enhance our properties and streetscapes, the more desirable our city.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to serve you! Please keep Monroe in your prayers!

Creating a Walkable Monroe

The City of Monroe is making the city more walkable! The City has begun the side walk project on Spring Street from Jackson Street to the Paradise Shoppes Shopping Center. With this project, the City will make provisions for pedestrian-oriented facilities such as sidewalks and multi-purpose paths. The enhancements will make it easier for pedestrians traveling to the City Center by way of foot-traffic. It will provide a safe alternative to driving for enjoying all of the many attractions Monroe has to offer.



for business

The following businesses received new licenses from the City of Monroe since July.

- **Gratuity Paper Company**
134 S Broad Street
- **Hot Wire Audio Inc**
105 Milledge Avenue
- **Legend Auto Sales**
1557A S Broad Street

- **Preston Ice**
155 Bankers Blvd Suite C-100
- **Reyna's auto Service**
407C N Broad Street





PRSRST STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MONROE, GA

*****ECRWSEDDM****

Postal Customer
Monroe, GA 30655

UPCOMING EVENTS

official newsletter of monroe, georgia

M March

- 6 City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m.
- 13 City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m.
- 17 Memories in Monroe Classic Car Show 9:00 a.m.
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 30 Holiday: Closed

M May

- 1 City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m.
- 4 First Friday Concert 7:00 p.m.
- 8 City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m.
- 12 Farmer's Market Opening Day 8:30 a.m.
- 13 Mother's Day
- 28 Holiday: Closed

A April

- 1 Easter Sunday
- 3 City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m.
- 5 Alive After 5 5:00 p.m.
- 10 City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m.
- 13 Food Truck Friday
- 28 Farm to Table Dinner 6:00 p.m.
- 16-20 Great American Cleanup Week
- 22-28 Georgia Cities Week

Unless otherwise noted, City of Monroe meetings are at City Hall, 215 N. Broad Street. Dates subject to change; check monroega.com for updates.

**City of
Monroe
Georgia**

Mayor John Howard
 Vice-Mayor Wayne Adcock-District 6
 City Council Lee Malcom-District 1
 Myoshia Crawford-District 2
 Ross Bradley-District 3
 Larry Bradley-District 4
 Norman Garrett-District 5
 Nathan Little-District 7
 David Dickinson-District 8

City Administrator
 Director of Public Safety
 Director of Code
 Director of Water, Sewer, & Gas
 Director of Finance
 Director of Solid Waste
 Director of Streets & Transportation
 Director of Electric & Telecom
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