

Happy Holidays



So Many Reasons to Love it Here during the Holidays

December 15

Pictures & Movie with the Grinch
Music on the Courthouse Lawn
Carriage Rides

December 22

Pictures with Santa in the Pocket Park
Music on the Courthouse Lawn
Carriage Rides

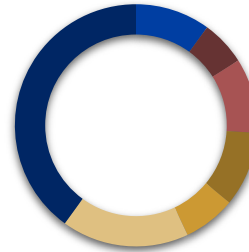
Candle Light Shopping December 1, 8, 15, & 22 from 5-8

Save Energy to Save Money

With summer ending and fall slowly fading into winter, it is time to think about preparing for winter and all of the concerns that the season brings. It is time to start thinking about cracks in the windows, a leaky roof, and making your home winter proof. Weatherizing for any season may not seem necessary to some, while others understand the importance of getting your house ready for a change in temperature and the impact it has on energy costs. Weatherizing your home for winter ensures that your heating system will heat at maximum capacity and save energy while doing so.

When most people think of weatherizing, they think of replacing insulation and windows, maybe even replacing air conditioning units. Weatherizing doesn't have to be difficult or expensive at all. Putting plastic on windows, caulking around door frames, and cleaning air vents can maximize your heating unit's efficiency, thus saving energy and money.

Typical Single-Family Home Energy Use



- Other
- Electronics
- Lighting
- Clothes Washer & Dryer
- Refrigerator
- Water Heater
- Heating & Cooling

Source: Residential Energy Consumption Survey, 2005 via www.energystar.gov

Holiday Garbage Pick-up Schedule

Christmas – December 23 and 26, 2016

Friday's Commercial Customers will be picked up on Thursday, December 22, 2016

Monday, December 26, 2016 - No Collection

Tuesday, December 27, 2016 - Monday's Collection Route

Wednesday, December 28, 2016 - Tuesday's and Wednesday's Collection Routes

Thursday, December 29, 2016 - Thursday's Collection Route

New Year's Day – January 2, 2017

Monday, January 2, 2017 - No Collection

Tuesday, January 3, 2017 - Monday's Collection Route

Wednesday, January 4, 2017 - Tuesday's and Wednesday's Collection Routes

Thursday, January 5, 2017 - Thursday's Collection Route

Martin Luther King Day – January 16, 2017

Monday, January 16, 2017 - No Collection

Tuesday, January 17, 2017 - Monday's Collection Route

Wednesday, January 18, 2017 - Tuesday's and Wednesday's Collection Routes

Thursday, January 19, 2017 - Thursday's Collection Route

Supporting Fire Safety

Thanks to a donation from Home Depot, the City of Monroe Fire Department has a limited supply of free 9 -volt batteries and smoke alarms with 10-year batteries. Please come by Monroe Fire at 139 South Madison Ave. or call 770-267-4446 for more information. Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/monroefirega.

The batteries were courtesy of Duracell and the smoke alarms were donated by Home Depot of Monroe via Kiddie FireX.





The City of Monroe's newly formed Monroe Housing Team is hard at work establishing goals and objectives for housing growth and neighborhood revitalization in Monroe. With almost a year under its belt, the team is steadily implementing its plan to encourage the building of more safe and affordable housing in Monroe.

The Monroe Housing Team hosted its first successful event, the Monroe Cleanup Day, on Saturday, April 23, 2016. The day boasted over 75 volunteers and 5 Teams competing to pick up the most trash in the city. Volunteers collected 16,680 lbs. of trash (8.34 tons) and 147 scrap tires during the event. On November 5, 2016, the Housing Team continued its efforts of a city-wide clean up and picked up over 15,020 lbs. of trash (7.51 tons) and 293 scrap tires.

Since its inception, the Team has completed over 800 housing assessments as a vital step in understanding the housing needs of the City of Monroe. Potential uses for the data once gathered include: grant application support data, setting future strategy for housing improvement, identifying potential DDA projects, and using it as a tool for private entities looking to invest in Monroe.

The Team has worked with Jerry Shannon, an Assistant Professor in Community Geography at the University of Georgia, to create a data gathering app for use on tablets. The Monroe Housing Team has ordered 3 tablets to use for the assessment and began the data collection in July. If you would like to learn more about the housing assessment process or would like to volunteer with us, please contact us.

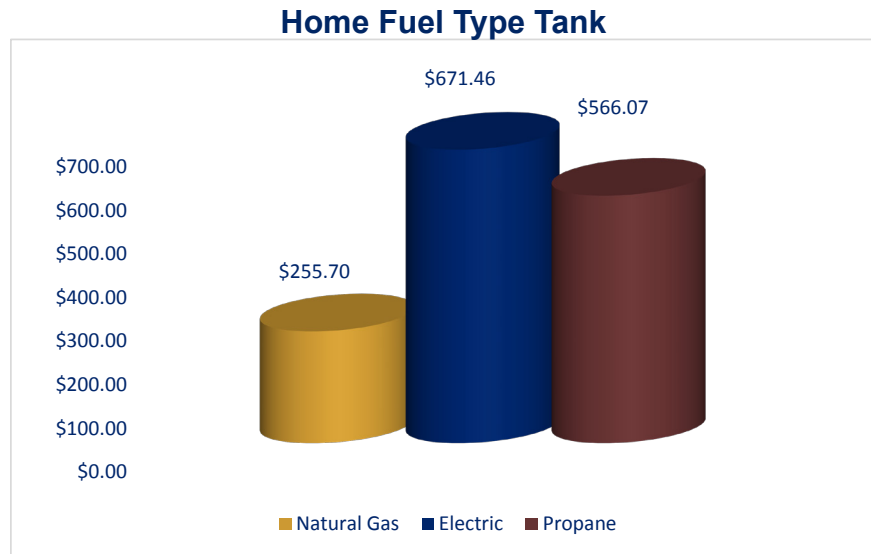
To get involved with the Monroe Housing Team and the GICH initiative, contact Sadie Krawczyk at sadiek@monroega.gov. Follow the Team's success by joining the Monroe Housing Team-GICH on Facebook.



Did you know that Natural Gas is one of the most efficient energy sources there is?

Natural Gas is an odorless, colorless fossil-fuel that can be used for cooking, water-heating, and heating your home. Speaking of water heating, did you know that water heaters are the second biggest energy users in a typical home, next to the heating and cooling system?

Natural gas water heaters cost less to operate than electric water heaters, on average, and can heat water twice as fast.



*This is a cost comparison of the annual cost of water heating an average-sized home.

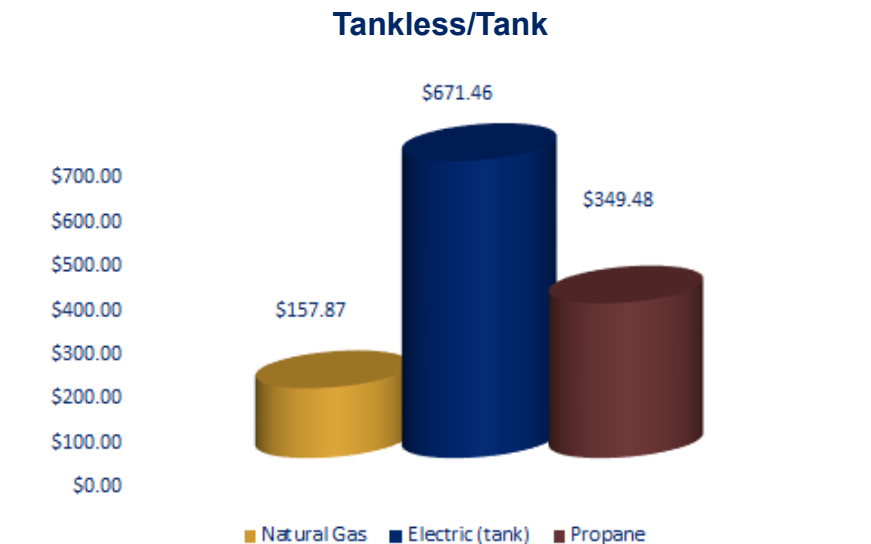
Natural gas water heaters do not usually use any electricity. Therefore, you will still have hot water during a power outage.

Did you Know?

Natural gas tankless water heaters heat water directly without the use of a storage tank.

Mounting a natural gas tankless water heater to a home's exterior or on an interior wall saves space in your home.

Heating water only when needed saves money on monthly utility costs! It can literally cut your utility bill in half when it comes to heating water.



*This chart includes annual operating cost for a natural gas tankless water heater.

The City of Monroe also offers rebates and financing for those switching from electric to natural gas appliances. Financing is available for appliances and installation cost, up to \$5,000 at 0% interest from the City of Monroe. Once you qualify for a natural gas appliance loan and choose your term, up to 60 months, the monthly amount is simply added to your natural gas bill!

Damage Prevention Prior to Excavating & How to Recognize a Natural Gas Leak

There are thousands of digging damage incidents in the United States every year. Striking an underground pipeline may lead to expensive fines, serious injury or death. Gas pipelines are built with safety and reliability as top priorities, following state and federal guidelines, regulations and specifications. However, a natural gas leak may result in fire, explosion, and/or asphyxiation.

Here are five easy steps to damage prevention:

1. **Survey and Mark** – Survey the proposed excavation area and mark the dig sites in white paint.
2. **Call Before You Dig** - 48 hours prior to digging, call 811 and get free staking of underground utility lines which helps reduce the chance of injury and unneeded expense.
3. **Wait!** Wait the required time to allow utility owners to locate and mark the lines.
4. **Respect the Marks!** Maintain visibility of the marks and safely follow them when digging.
5. **Dig** – Dig with care. Hand excavate within 24-inches of each side of the lines. If you plan to dig anywhere near a marked area – especially when using power equipment – use a shovel and carefully hand dig to expose the lines.

If your equipment contacts a gas line:

- **Leave equipment;** jumping clear and shuffling away, without turning off engines or generators.
- **Warn others and leave** the area quickly.
- **Do not operate** any gas pipeline valves or stop the flow of gas.
- Leave the **excavation open**.
- In a natural gas emergency, **call 911**, then the City of Monroe.

Some of the signs of a gas leak include seeing bubbling water, hearing a hissing or blowing sound from a pipeline or appliance, dead or discolored vegetation in an otherwise green area, dirt or dust blowing from the ground or the smell of rotten eggs.

If you smell gas or think you may smell gas:

- **Leave** the area immediately
- **Call** your local gas provider at 770-267-3429 or 911 **from a neighboring home or business**
- **Never** turn on or off switches, use a flashlight or phone in the presence of the gas smell, because an electric spark could ignite the gas & cause an explosion.
- **Stay** in a safe location until the emergency responder arrives & gives you clearance to return to the area.

Over the past 20 years, risk exposure has been rising through increased populations, energy consumption and pipeline miles. At the same time, the number of serious pipeline incidents involving death or injury has declined by 50%.



To learn more about our natural gas service and the benefits of natural gas, call the City of Monroe at 770-267-3429 or visit our website at www.monroega.com

Christmas in Monroe

Christmas decorations, bells ringing, Christmas trees twinkling in store windows are sure signs that the Christmas season has begun in Monroe. During the holiday season, Downtown Monroe offers many opportunities for families to make long-lasting Christmas memories. This year families can take pictures with the Grinch and Santa in our Award-Winning Pocket Park on December 15 and December 22 respectively starting at 5:00 p.m. each night.



An All-Star Christmas

Downtown Monroe's Christmas Parade is a tradition many families look forward to every year. The trees on the streets are brightly lit with lights and store windows have been decorated in the spirit of Christmas. Children and their parents line the streets awaiting a glimpse of the Christmas floats slowly making their way through downtown. This year the tradition continues with our sixty-third (63rd) annual Christmas parade. Downtown Monroe is excited to announce "An All-Star Christmas" celebrating the achievements of our hometown athletes. "An All-Star Christmas" will be held on December 8, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.



Shop Small for the Holidays

Many are familiar with the big-box stores like Macy's, BELK, Kohl's, and JC Penney. But, did you know that Monroe has some award winning stores right in Downtown Monroe. Downtown shopping offers shops that offer products that are unique to Monroe. Shops like Rinse Bath & Body and Sailor Studio offer products that are handmade and produced right here in Monroe. This holiday season opt for a more personal experience by supporting local businesses and shopping small.

SMALL BUSINESS | NOV
SATURDAY | 26

SHOW YOUR LOVE FOR

MONROE DOWNTOWN

#SHOPSMALL

**SHOP
SMALL**

Open

for business

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

• **Athens Appliance Repair**

112 South Wayne Street

• **Atkinson Casey Agency**

702 East Spring Street

• **Flexo Converters Georgia Inc.**

690 Unisia Drive

• **G7 Security Group Inc.**

601 South Madison Avenue

• **Buckeye Brands**

331 South Lumpkin Street

• **R.J.'s Soulfood & More**

232C North Hammond Drive

• **Simone Organic Boutique**

134 South Broad Street

• **The Story Shop**

124 North Broad Street

• **Wild Child's Garage**

112 Hubbard Street

*****ECRWSEDDM****

Postal Customer
Monroe, GA 30655

UPCOMING EVENTS

official newsletter of monroe, georgia

D December

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| 1 | Candlelight Shopping | 5:00 p.m. |
| 6 | City Council Meeting | 6:00 p.m. |
| 8 | Christmas Parade | 6:30 p.m. |
| 13 | City Council Meeting | 6:00 p.m. |
| 15 | Candlelight Shopping | 5:00 p.m. |
| 15 | Pictures with the Grinch/ Carriage Rides | 5:00 p.m. |
| 22 | Candlelight Shopping | 5:00 p.m. |
| 22 | Pictures with Santa/ Carriage Rides | 5:00 p.m. |
| 23 | Holiday: Closed | |
| 26 | Holiday: Closed | |



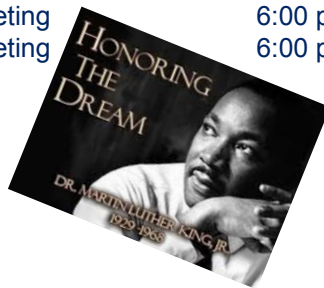
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| 7 | City Council Meeting | 6:00 p.m. |
| 9 | Chocolate Walk | 5:00 p.m. |
| 14 | City Council Meeting | 6:00 p.m. |



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| 2 | Holiday: Closed | |
| 3 | City Council Meeting | 6:00 p.m. |
| 10 | City Council Meeting | 6:00 p.m. |
| 16 | Holiday: Closed | |



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	Greg Thompson
Vice-Mayor	Wayne Adcock-District 6
City Council	Lee Malcom-District 1
	Myoshia Crawford-District 2
	Nathan Purvis-District 3
	Larry Bradley-District 4
	Norman Garrett-District 5
	Nathan Little-District 7
	Jimmy Richardson-District 8

Interim City Administrator	Ron Rabun
Director of Public Safety	Keith Glass
Director of Code	Patrick Kelley
Director of Water, Sewer, & Gas	Rodney Middlebrooks
Director of Finance	Logan Propes
Director of Solid Waste	Danny Smith
Director of Streets & Transportation	Jeremiah Still
Director of Electric & Telecom	Brian Thompson
Editor	Patrice Broughton