in the know Monroe

created by
Chris Bailey
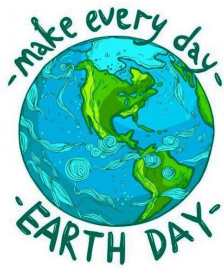
2 This section provides a historical timeline of the growth of Earth Day from its start in 1969 as an environmentally conscious effort by Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin.

4 This section highlights the upcoming downtown events during our spring months and helps identify the layout of our downtown areas. Also, the return of the Farmers Market in May!

6 Read this section to learn some fun facts and the origins of the months of March, April, and May.

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

the growth of **Earth Day**

In January of 1969, the results of a massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, California prompted Senator Gaylord Nelson, a senator from Wisconsin to announce the idea for an educational learning day across campuses throughout the United States about deteriorating environmental conditions. At the time, anti-war movements, coupled with an emerging public consciousness about air and water pollution helped set the tone for a day of learning about the environment. Senator Nelson, with the help of Congressman Pete McCloskey, and activist Denis Hayes were able to organize the first annual event on April 22 of that year. This date was chosen as it fell between spring break and final exams on college campuses, so that maximum student participation could be achieved.

Hayes was able to build a staff of approximately 85 members to help promote events across the United States. The chosen name of Earth Day sparked national media attention and inspired an estimated 20 million Americans to demonstrate against the impacts of years of industrial development that was creating a negative impact and legacy on the environment and human health.

By the end of 1970, the first Earth Day movement had led to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Laws that followed were the National

Environmental Education Act, Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA), Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, and Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act.

By the time we reached 1990, Earth Day went global as a major campaign was organized for the planet. The mobilization of approximately 200 million people in 141 countries helped bring attention to environmental issues on the world stage. Recycling efforts worldwide received a tremendous boost and led the way for the 1992 United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. Senator Nelson was at the time awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest honor given to civilians, by then President Bill Clinton for his role as the Earth Day founder.

In 2010, the internet became a large driver of Earth Day and through the development of EARTHDAY.ORG was able to reestablish as a movement for global action for the environment. Hundreds of millions of people have been engaged through the website and opportunities for civic engagement was created in over 193 countries.

Earth Day today, reaches and engages the support of more than a billion people every year as a movement to change human behavior and to create global, national, and local policy changes.

EVENTS
& happenings...

March 13 - Memories in Monroe Car Show

April 17/18 - Dock Dogs Spring Splashdown
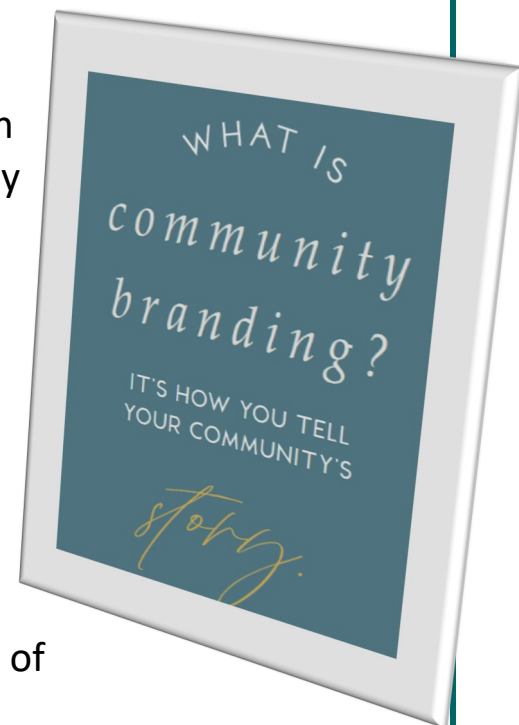
Farmers Market RETURNS on May 8th!!!

Join us every Saturday through October 30th

As part of Monroe's Bicentennial year, we are embarking on a new *Branding Campaign* for the City with the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government. This process involves everyone from the community being able to provide input. Your unique perspectives and insight will help us steer the branding in a more meaningful way. We want your friends and family to participate as well, so please share the included link and let's all get involved in rebranding our Monroe!

The survey is available at the following website:
www.brandmonroe.com

The website shares examples from other communities who have performed this same exercise. The new brand of Monroe will be fun!

WHAT IS community branding? IT'S HOW YOU TELL YOUR COMMUNITY'S story.

Downtown MONROE PARKING MAP

Streets:

S MILLEDGE AVE.
S MADISON AVENUE
CHURCH STREET
DAVIS STREET
N MADISON AVENUE
SPRING STREET
S MIDLAND AVE.
WASHINGTON STREET
EDWARDS ST.
N MIDLAND AVE.
E HIGHLAND AVE.
S LUMPKIN ST.
BOLD SPRINGS AVE.
WILLIAMS ST.
N LUMPKIN ST.
COURT ST.
ALCOVY STREET
S BROAD STREET
N BROAD STREET
S WAYNE STREET
McDANIEL STREET
SPRING STREET
N WAYNE ST.
W HIGHLAND AVE.
S JACKSON STREET
WALTON STREET
N JACKSON ST.

Compass: N E S W

Legend

- **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
- **i** VISITORS CENTER & MONROE MUSEUM

YOU ARE HERE
Monroe, Georgia

BLUE Superior Nutrition Ultimate Protection
Family. Feed T...
dockdogs

WHAT'S IN A MONTH...

March is the third month of the year and was named for the Roman god of war, Mars. This being the month of war because this was the time of year when military campaigns were resumed that were previously interrupted by winter. March holds the first day of spring and was the first month of the Roman calendar until approximately 450 BC. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote a poem reflecting the change...

I Martius am! Once first, and now third!
To lead the Year was my appointed place;
A mortal dispossessed me by a word,
And set there Janus with the double face.

March holds many key dates including International Women's Day (8), the start of Daylight Savings Time (14), the historically ill-fated Ides of March (15), and St. Patrick's Day (17). Other fun facts include the daffodil or jonquil as birth flower and aquamarine as the birthstone.

April gets its name from the Latin word *aperio*, meaning *to open*

as plants begin to bud and make their appearance. Naturally there's the classic April Fools' Day (1) which can be attributed to some changes in the New Year dating back to 16th-century France. Other dates of importance are Good Friday (2), Easter Sunday (4), and Earth Day (22). The birthstone for April is the diamond with a daisy and sweet pea as the birth flowers. For historical reference, the famous *shot heard 'round the world* and the harrowing flight of Apollo 13 took place during the month of April.

May is named for the Roman goddess, Maia, who oversaw the growth of plants. The month contains Cinco de Mayo (5), Mother's Day (9), Armed Forces Day (15), and Memorial Day (31). May also holds the Full Flower Moon which occurs on the 26th day of the month in 2021. The birth flowers for the month are the hawthorn and lily-of-the-valley, while the birthstone is the emerald. On May 26, 1917, one of the most devasting tornado outbreaks in history occurred in central Illinois. Approximately 4-8 tornados were estimated to have killed 101 people on this tragic date.

Cy Nunnally Memorial Airport

The Cy Nunnally Memorial Airport is still in the process of expanding hangar sites and hangar capacity. The single site is nearing completion, while the now 12-unit t -hangar is complete with final grading and paving in progress. Once complete, the airport's based aircraft county should expand to over 50 aircraft for the first time ever. This number helps with leverage for grant funding opportunities at both the state and federal levels.

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. The anticipated timeline for construction is to begin the first of April with a planned 3-4 week complete runway closure for construction activities, followed by an additional 3-4 sporadic closure for testing and permanent striping. Should weather allow, this project should be complete in 6-8 weeks.

For the 2020 fiscal year, and minus project related expenses involving federal and state funding, the Cy Nunnally Memorial Airport produced the following numbers (numbers are approximate totals)...

- Lease/Rental Revenues of $130,380
- Fuel Sales Revenues of $108,279
- Fuel Sales Expenses of $94,832
- Operational Expenses of $67,918
- Capital Project Expenses of $224,479
- Grant Funds of $73,106

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. Several new additions will be added in the spring and summer months of 2021 including shade structures and 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 is nearing the completion of the proposed first phase of improvements at a total cost of approximately $158,063. The restroom has been delivered but is awaiting more favorable weather for complete installation. Future improvements to the park should include paving, additional landscaping, and potentially another pavilion.

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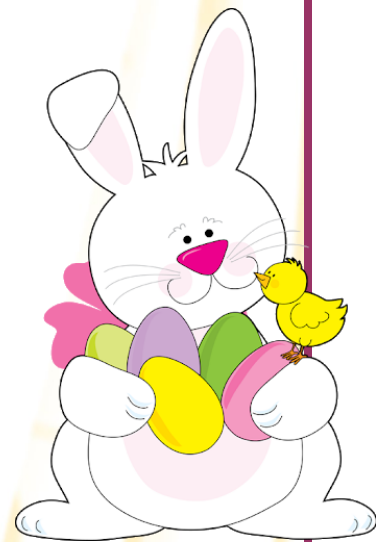
CITY MEETING DATES

March

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

April

6pm - City Council Meeting - 6

8am - Downtown Development Authority Meeting - 8

9am - Convention & Visitors Bureau Meeting - 8

6pm - City Council Meeting - 13

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

6pm - Historic Preservation Commission Meeting - 27

May

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

25 - Historic Preservation Commission Meeting - 6pm

IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES

March 8 - International Women's Day

March 14 - Daylight Savings Time

March 17 - St. Patrick's Day

March 20 - First Day of Spring

March 28 - Palm Sunday

April 1 - April Fools' Day

April 2 - Good Friday

April 4 - Easter

April 8 - Holocaust Remembrance Day

April 22 - Earth Day

May 1 - May Day

May 5 - Cinco De Mayo

May 6 - National Day of Prayer

May 9 - Mother's Day

May 15 - Armed Forces Day

May 31 - Memorial 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

FIRE CHIEF - Vacant

CITY CLERK - Debbie Kirk

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