

2016

What's New in the Monroe Tax Office

Below are upcoming important dates. Meetings, unless otherwise indicated, are held in the Council Chambers located at.

233 S. Main St.
Monroe, OH 45050

Mayor's Court

January 12, 2016-4:00 p.m.
January 26, 2016-4:00 p.m.
February 9, 2016-4:00 p.m.
February 23, 2016-4:00 p.m.

Council

January 12, 2016-6:30 p.m.
January 26, 2016-6:30 p.m.
February 9, 2016-6:30 p.m.
February 23, 2016-6:30 p.m.

Planning Commission

January 19, 2016-6:00 p.m.
February 16, 2016-6:00 p.m.

Park Board

January 13, 2016-6:30 p.m.
February 10, 2016-6:30 p.m.

Finance Committee

**Council Library—233 S.
Main Street, Monroe, OH**

January 26, 2016-5:45 p.m.
February 23, 2016-5:45 p.m.

**New Tax Ordinance**

The state of Ohio mandated changes that will affect all local income tax beginning with tax year 2016. Due to this, the City of Monroe Council recently passed a new Tax Ordinance. Listed below are the highlights of the Ordinance, however the full Ordinance can also be found by visiting www.monroehio.org

Estimated Income Tax

The threshold for requiring estimated tax payments will be \$200.00 starting in tax year 2016. This is determined by amount of tax due after withholding for the municipality and credit for taxes paid to another municipality if applicable.

Due dates: The due dates are earlier than in previous years.

First Quarter: remains due on the April filing deadline, generally April 15. For 2016, the filing deadline for the tax year 2015 return is April 18, 2016 due to the Emancipation Day Holiday being celebrated in Washington on Friday April 15, 2016.

Second Quarter: will be due by June 15, 2016

Third Quarter: will be due by September 15, 2016

Fourth Quarter: will be due by December 15, 2016

Penalties:

The penalty for late payment of a quarterly estimated tax payment is 15% of the amount past due amount plus an interest charge of .42% per month of the unpaid balance. A \$25.00 per month late filing charge cannot be charged. A declaration must be filed along with the annual return if the \$200.00 threshold is met or a declaration that the current situation has changed such that estimated taxes are not required.

City of Monroe Taxes are Due April 18, 2016. As normal, tax forms will not be mailed out this year. We will accept any generic tax form. Forms are also at the front desk of the City Building. You can bring your W-2(s) and Federal Schedules to the City of Monroe and we will prepare your local tax return (residents). Page 1 of your Federal Return is required. Visit our website at www.monroehio.org to download a form, or you can call the Tax Office and request a form at 513-539-7374 ext. 1022. Leave your name and complete address. E-file is available: compute your return yourself online. You will need to create a PIN when entering the E-file program. Just follow the instructions. Your E-filed return must be printed, signed and sent in with all your supporting documentation to the Tax Office to be considered filed. If you receive a Federal Extension for 2015, you must file a copy with the Tax Office by April 18th, 2016. TAX OFFICE HOURS-MONDAY THRU FRIDAY 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. City of Monroe, 233 S. Main Street, Monroe, OH 45050

The Monroe Tax Office Reaches out

Monroe requires all residents regardless of age to file a local income tax. This includes the fully retired residents, who are required to file every three years. To help with this, the Monroe Tax Office will be visiting Mount Pleasant Retirement Village located at 210 Mt Pleasant Dr. on February 18 from 9-12pm and February 19 from 1-4pm. The focus would be assisting fully retired residents; however any residents who are retired but have earned income are welcome to stop by and have your return filed. If you have any taxable income, please bring the first page of your Federal 1040 and any W-2 or schedules you may have.

Meetings or Get Together? Need Space?

The City of Monroe now has one community room and a conference room available for your gatherings.

The Monroe Community Room is located at the new Library/Community Center, at 6 East Avenue. It has an occupancy limit of 150 people. It is equipped with a small kitchen with a sink and a small refrigerator. It has round tables and chairs and is the perfect place for events such as wedding and baby showers and birthday parties. The cost to reserve the room is \$150.00, however \$100.00 is refundable assuming upon inspection, there is no damage and the room is found to be in a clean and orderly condition.

The Small Conference Room is also located at the new Library/Community Center. It has an occupancy limit of 20 people. It is perfect for a small group meeting. The cost for this room is \$100.00 and \$50.00 is refundable assuming upon inspection, there is no damage and the room is found to be in a clean and orderly condition.

Both rooms can be reserved at no charge for local Monroe groups as well as nonprofit associations. Simply submit a \$100.00 deposit with your reservation. Upon inspection of the room, assuming there are no damages and the room is found to be in a clean orderly condition, the full deposit will be refunded to you.

For more information or to reserve the Community Room or the Conference room for your next function call 513-539-7374 option 0 or email Peggy Stiver at stiverp@monroeohio.org or Heather Rippl at ripple@monroeohio.org.



From the Office of Monroe Public Works

Snow Plowing Procedures

In an effort to advance our snow removal season while continuing to conserve the amount of rock salt used, we are exploring additional treatment options, such as the use of brine and beet juice additives for pre-treatment as well as including this with the rock salt during snow removal efforts. The safety of the public is still our number one priority and the major roadways, collector streets, and bridges will be cleared first and in the same manner that they were before. As long as the snow is continuing to fall, or until the snow on the residential streets reaches 3-4 inches crews will focus on areas listed above. Typically vehicles can safely travel in a few inches of snow from the residential streets to the collector streets without an issue. This snow also provides some additional traction as opposed to scraping it clean in the middle of the storm. Once crews move into residential areas, they make one pass in and one pass out to provide for safe two way travel lanes. After first and second priority roads have been cleared, crews will make a second pass through residential neighborhoods to clear streets more thoroughly. Depending on the severity of the storm, crews may leave residential areas at any time to concentrate on major roadways, and in some extreme cases it may be a day or more before crews can return to clear residential streets. Each storm requires a different judgment call for treating. For some storms that the temperatures are right and the storm does not start out as rain, we may pre-treat with a salt brine and beet juice additive mixture in the residential areas. The snow on top of this pre-treatment application will act as an insulator and the street will clear more easily when the crews are able to plow them.

There are things you can do to make this winter easier on you. Please move vehicles off the street to avoid being plowed in. Unfortunately, snow piled across drive approaches cannot be avoided. However, as you're clearing your drive, if you pile snow on the left side of your driveway (as you face your house from the street), it will lessen the amount of snow deposited by the plow across your drive approach. Please avoid plowing snow from driveways onto public streets. With tight budgets and rising costs, Public Works crews have to work smarter to optimize winter storm operations. Obviously, the safety of the traveling public is the first concern, and every effort will be made to provide the highest level of service to our residents while be good stewards of our resources.

We appreciate your understanding of these changes. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call us at 513.727.8953, Monroe Public Works Department.



Basketball Goals Located in the Right of Way

In the past, during snow removal efforts and leaf pickup, these basketball goals have been accidentally struck by our snow plows and leafing equipment and damaged. If this occurs, the City does not reimburse property owners for any damage to the goals since they are not permitted to be located in the Right of Way. These are considered an obstruction in the Right of Way and must be moved back on to your property so it is outside the City's Right of Way. To prevent any damages to our equipment and the basketball goals, we are asking for them to be moved. We appreciate your understanding in this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the Public Works Department at 513-727-8953.

Update: Britton Lane

Full-Depth Reclamation of Britton Lane and Water Main Installation

As many of you are aware, construction on Britton Lane is ongoing and will continue through the winter in to late spring. Howell Contractors has been employed to perform full-depth reclamation of Britton Lane and to install a new water main and storm infrastructure. The water main has been installed and the contractor is currently working on installing new water services to the properties along Britton Lane. Once the new water services are in place the contractor will put the new main in service. We anticipate this work being completed in early 2016. After the completion of the water services, Howell Contractors will install new storm sewer structures and pipe along Britton Lane. The last part of this project will be full-depth reclamation of Britton Lane which will consist of milling the existing pavement and creating a cement base for the new pavement. The anticipated completion for the full-depth reclamation is early spring of 2016 with the project coming to a close in late spring to early summer of 2016.



Monroe Historical Society News

Join Our Family!

The Monroe Historical Society is kicking off our annual membership drive. The Society was founded in 1967 and we operate 3 museums: Our Primary Museum and offices located at 10 East Elm St, our 1910 Building/General Store located on the corner of Main and Elm and our 1700's log cabin located in the Monroe Community Park on Cincinnati Dayton Road.

We are inviting all Monroe residents to join our family of amazing people who are interested in exploring and preserving Monroe's rich heritage. Please consider becoming a supporter, active member and/or patron of the Society and its programs. The Society provides members with great community volunteer opportunities and we are very excited to begin planning for The Society's 50th Anniversary along with The City of Monroe's Bicentennial Celebration, both in 2017!

Society Memberships:

- Annual individual - \$10
- Annual family - \$25
- Lifetime individual - \$100
- Annual Corporate - \$100
- Annual Legend Newsletter supporter - \$50

For additional information and membership forms go to: <http://monroeohhistoricalsociety.org/>

or give us a call at (513) 539 – 2270 or email us at info@monroeohhistoricalsociety.org.

Be sure to like us on Facebook! <https://www.facebook.com/MonroeOhioHistoricalSociety>

Congratulations to our Elected Officers – 2016 through 2017:

President - Christina "Kristie" McElfresh
 Vice President – Kelly Meyer
 Treasurer – Lora Stillman
 Assistant Treasurer – Mary Maurer
 Recording Secretary – JoAnn Tubbs
 Corresponding Secretary – Ron Tubbs

Curator – Dorothy Smith
 Assistant Curator – Jo Hutsenpiller
 Director – Jim Price
 Director – Dan Clark
 Director – Anna Hale

Auxiliary Members:

Jane Majors
 Joyce Tannreuther
 Pat Williams

Nancy Bolton
 Mike Kuth
 Bonnie Kindler

Monroe Garden Club

The Monroe Garden Club is looking forward to a year of growing and sharing. The 2016 Program Year Officers are: President/Programs, Judy Shillinglaw, Secretary, Sherri Mallett, Treasurer, Carolyn McGuire., Publicity, Peggy Abernathy. The quiet months of January and February will bring the pleasure of reading the arrival of many seed and plant catalogues. Our programs this year begin with: **15 March**-Flower arranging with our local Kroger florist department, **16 April**-Visit bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum to see spring wildflowers. **17 May**- "Planting a pollinator garden to save our bees and to feed butterflies.", **21 June**- "Miniature Gardens" by Kenna from Bern's Garden Center, at the home of Judy Shillinglaw and will include a tour of her various flower and vegetable gardens. **16 August**-The Club will visit Historic Chrisholm Farmstead to tour the gardens and 1874 Historic Augspuriger House. If you or your friends enjoy gardening we invite you to join us at any of these programs. Please contact Judy at 539-8644 if you plan to attend.

Winners in the Monroe Garden Club Annual Christmas Lighting Contest were:

Children's Delight

Mike Sparrow
90 Holly Tree Dr

Entryway

Don Earley
850 South Main Street

Most Effective Use of Lights

Bob Brown
100 Holly Tree Dr.

Business Display

Monroe Drive-Thru
Michael Perry

Nativity

Linda Sanhc
2085 Apple Ridge Court



CARE FOR OUR PETS

As the inclement weather approaches please also take this time to provide your pets with shelter. If you are concerned about neighbor pets being left outdoors without shelter, please call the Monroe Police Department and they will investigate and report it to the proper authorities.

Now is the time to purchase a license for your dog...

There are two important reasons to license your dog.

First, Ohio law requires that you license your dog.

Dogs without licenses may be impounded by the Animal Control Officer.

The annual license renewal period is through January 31.

If you have a new puppy, you must buy a license by the time it reaches three months old.

If you live in Butler County, you can purchase a license at the Auditor's Office,

130 High Street, Fourth Floor,

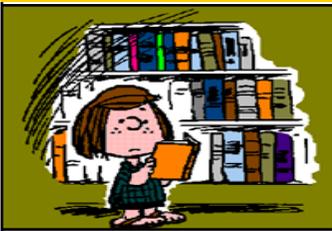
Hamilton, OH 45011,

or at one of your neighborhood vendors.

Second, a license tag attached to your dog's collar proves ownership and is your pet's ticket home if they get lost. Even if licensed, Ohio law specifies that all dogs must be confined to your property or under reasonable control, such as on a leash when being walked. It is not safe to let your dog roam the neighborhood. They can be hit by a car, become lost, damage neighbors' property, or injure another animal or person.

If your dog gets lost, call the Butler County Animal Control Officer at 513-867-5727. If you find a lost dog and the dog is wearing a current Butler County license tag, call 513-887-3138. If the dog is not wearing a current license tag, call the Animal Control at 513-867-5727.





Monroe Lending Library

Hours: Monday-Thursday 10:00 a.m-8:00 p.m. Friday-Saturday 10:00 a.m-2:00 p.m.
Closed Sunday

Address: 6 East Avenue, Monroe, Ohio 45050 Phone: 513-360-0100

Reminder: if Monroe Local Schools are closed due to inclement weather, the Library will also be closed.

Needlecraft Group:
Join us on Thursday January 14, at 6:30 p.m. and February 11, at 6:30 p.m.
Bring your favorite project and sit by the fire for a relaxing evening.

Book Review Group:
January 25 11:00 a.m. Book: GIRL ON THE TRAIN by Paula Hawkins.
February 22 11:00 a.m. Book: FOUNDLING MOTHERS- THE WOMEN WHO RAISED OUR NATION by Cokie

Yoga Classes:
Join Lisa for YOGA- A Journey of Self-Awareness Expressed Through Gentleness & Kindness
Tuesdays at 3:00 p.m. for Chair Yoga
Donation suggested \$5.00 This is Slower Paced and Hatha Based Yoga.
No experience needed.
www.YINtutive.com
Lisa@YINtutive.com

MONROE LENDING LIBRARY RAFFLEMANIA
Saturday, January 9 and Saturday, February 13 in the Monroe Community Center, 6 East Avenue, Monroe, Ohio.
Doors open at 6:15 p.m. Rafflemania starts at 7 p.m. Participants purchase tickets for 25 cents each to bid on items. A Snack Bar is available. This is a fun filled family event.
Proceeds support the Monroe Lending Library Operating Fund. For reservations, call Judy Mann at 513-594-4845 (cell). Thank you for your continuing support of our Library.

Did you know there are several ways to help fund your local lending library?

Did you know that we do not receive any tax dollars to operate our library?

Did you know that all of our staff are volunteers? You can help by:

- Attend our Rafflemania. This is a fun night out for the entire family. Buy tickets for a chance to win a variety of products including jewelry, gift baskets, gift cards, cash, toys and lots of misc. items.
- Register or re-register your Kroger Plus Card online at Kroger.com/community rewards. We have been approved by Kroger to receive proceeds through their Community Rewards program. When you register keep In mind that we are listed as Friends of Monroe Lending Library. We have been assigned Organization No 72653. This does not affect the points you earn on your card.
- Do you order from Amazon? Amazon has a special program called **AmazonSmile** to assist non-profit organizations. By making your purchases from smile.amazon.com we will receive 0.5% of all eligible Amazon-Smile purchases. We are registered as Monroe Lending Library, 6 East Ave., Monroe OH. Prices are the same as when ordering from Amazon.com.
- Want to meet lots of friendly people plus give back to our community? Become one of our volunteers. We have flexible hours and would love to have you join us. Call the Library at 513-360-0100.



From the Desk of Chief of Police

Snow



Snow Emergency



***No* on-Street Parking**



What exactly is a Snow Emergency?

If the City Manager deems that the storm is severe enough, he can declare a Snow Emergency to **all streets in Monroe**. This occurred several times last winter. Under this snow emergency **all vehicles must be removed from all streets or they may be towed by the police at the owners expense.**

How can a person be sure to be notified if there is a “snow emergency” declared?

1. Check the City website, Facebook (www.Facebook.com/MonroeOhio) or Twitter account during and after snowstorms.
2. Listen to local radio
3. Check websites of local news medias
4. Twitter account <https://twitter.com/MonroeOH>
5. Sign up to receive “code-red” alerts via your phone (s)
 This can be done at www.monroeohio.org
 Or by calling the City offices at 513-539-7374
6. Sign up to receive “Monroe e-mail alerts”
 This can be done via the city’s website (www.monroeohio.org)
 Or by calling the City offices at 513-539-7374

The City tries very hard to be sure that all residents are made aware when snow emergencies are declared. During these times of snow emergencies our emergency communications gets very busy. We do not encourage informational phone calls. But as a method of last resort to find out if your car needs to be off the street, call the non-emergency dispatch at 513-539-9234.

During the last, “snow emergency” many vehicles were left on the streets. After 48 hours the police placed warnings on vehicles to move off the street. These cars drastically slowed efforts to clear the residential streets of snow. The police officers are extremely busy during and after snow storms. In order to assist the Public Works Department in clearing the snow, making streets passable for emergency services and the residents, **we will be towing vehicles at the expense of the owner.** We are hoping that we will get the full cooperation of the community. For the sake of the entire community, move your vehicles (s) off the street.

1. If it looks like a snowstorm, plan ahead, get you vehicle (s) off the street.
2. If the weather forecast is for snow, plan ahead, remove your vehicle (s) from the street.
3. If you are going to be out of town during the winter, move your vehicle (s) from the street before you leave town.
 You do not want to be surprised by a tow and storage bill upon your spring return.
4. Listen to local news/weather reports & check local news/weather web sites.
5. Check the City website, Twitter, or Facebook and sign up for alerts.

Information on Ohio’s roadways can be found at <http://www.ohgo.com/>. This website is operated by The Ohio Department of Transportation and has great resources about traffic conditions on the interstate.

Christmas Tree Pickup



Rumpke will collect Christmas trees along with normal trash collection. Trees must have all decorations removed and be placed along the curb. If you have any questions regarding tree pickup, please contact Rumpke at 513-742-2900 .

CITY MANAGER

William J. Brock

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Kacey Waggaman

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Kevin Chesar

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Daniel Arthur

CHIEF OF POLICE

Bob Buchanan

FIRE CHIEF

John Centers

City of Monroe
233 S. Main Street
Monroe, Ohio 45050

MONROE **M**ESSENGER

Published bi-monthly and mailed to City of Monroe residents and businesses.

Download our app and sign up to receive text notifications.

We welcome your comments and questions

Please call 539-7374 ext. 1006

For past issues, visit www.monroeohio.org

City Administration Offices Closed

The City of Monroe Administration Offices will be closed on the following days in 2016.

- January 1st - New Year's Day
- January 18th - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- February 15th - President's Day
- May 30th - Memorial Day
- July 4th - Independence Day
- September 5th - Labor Day
- November 11th - Veteran's Day
- November 24th - Thanksgiving Day
- November 25th - Friday after Thanksgiving
- December 23rd - Christmas Eve
- December 26th - Christmas Day

MONROE
City Contact Information

Police and Fire Emergency	9-1-1
Police Non Emergency	539-9234
Detectives	360-2206
Crime Tip Line	360-2211
Records	360-2208
Fire Non Emergency	539-8380
Public Works	727-8953

The following offices can be contacted by calling 539-7374 and dialing the following extensions:

Mayor and Council	1012
City Manager	Option 7
Development, Planning & Zoning	Option 4
Finance and Income Tax	Option 3
Property Maintenance Hotline	2000
Water, Sewer, and Trash	Option 2

cityhall@monroeohio.org

Office Hours:
8:00am to 5:00p.m. Monday-Friday



CITY COUNCIL

Robert Routson, Mayor
Suzi Rubin, Vice Mayor

Dan Clark
Jason Frentzel
Keith M. Funk
Anna Hale
Todd Hickman