



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

TOWN OF MONROE

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Let's reflect on Monroe in 2025,

As you read through the annual report, please take the time to recognize the many initiatives and advancements that have changed the present and will shape the future of Monroe. Monroe continues to invite commercial interest on our Route 25 corridor. Additionally, town functions such as, our paving program, Grant Writer, and technology advancements continue to shape how we operate townwide. Ongoing upgrades, maintenance initiatives and repairs to our parks will be continued efforts in 2026, enhancing the experience of living in Monroe.

Monroe has always been a community-oriented town with historic charm, outstanding park facilities, and an extreme regard for public safety. This administration has a strong pulse on our community and believes that our population wants the town to advance responsibly, while keeping the country character we all treasure.

While we face consistent and daily challenges, we also need to take time to reflect and be proud of the advancements and successes in 2025. This annual report encompasses all department efforts made to better serve our citizens and community.

Monroe continues to rank as a top place to live in Connecticut. According to a 2025 study by Niche, Monroe has ranked #31 in Best Places to raise a family. Included below is a link to the article and additional rankings for the Town.

Monroe Rankings in Connecticut



Best Places to Buy a House in Connecticut
#27 of 253



Best Places to Raise a Family in Connecticut
#31 of 254



Places with the Best Public Schools in Connecticut
#35 of 208



Best Places to Live in Connecticut
#42 of 254



Best Places to Retire in Connecticut
#71 of 208



Best Places for Young Professionals in Connecticut
#145 of 254

<https://www.niche.com/places-to-live/monroe-greater-bridgeport-planning-region-ct/rankings/>

OFFICE OF THE ASSESSOR

The Tax Assessor's office worked with the First Selectman, Commission on Aging, and Town Attorney to update the Town's Senior Homeowner's Benefit Program Ordinance, increasing the income ceiling and expanding the range of the benefit brackets for the Town's Senior Homeowner's Benefit Program for the first time since the 2008 Grand List.

The Assessor's office successfully transitioned the Assessor's Office building permit workflow from paper permits generated by FileMaker Pro to an electronic format utilizing the OpenGov system and collaborated with other departments to develop a synchronized protocol for addressing subdivided properties.

In 2025 the department successfully implemented all state-mandated and local legislative changes affecting the assessment process for the 2024 Grand List year, including but not limited to; transitioning to an MSRP based assessment for motor vehicles, and the implementation of a new veteran's exemption program for 100% service-connected permanent and totally disabled veterans.

The Assessor's Office provided assessment and tax impact support to residents during the first billing cycle following the completion and implementation of the state-mandated 2024 Grand List Revaluation project.

The Assessor's Office continues to meet all assessment deadlines, including the state-mandated 2024 Revaluation, on time and in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes. The office will continue working with the Town Attorney to resolve all pending appeals stemming from the 2024 revaluation in an equitable and cost-effective manner.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

As of May 2025, the Building Department went paperless and is fully online. This shift has greatly improved permit issuance procedures, with average turnaround reduced to less than 2 weeks for smaller projects. Additionally, the department implemented same day issuance of permits for roofing, siding, window/door replacement and signs and have improved the scheduling process for ease of tracking and improved customer service.

The department continues to implement greater flexibility in inspection scheduling request process, half-hour windows, and accommodations for urgent inspections. They have continued to process increased permitting activity in the residential and commercial spaces as compared to prior years while the complexity of projects has also increased, requiring more thorough review and potential for additional comments.

The Building Department has partnered with Zoning and Health to set parameters on permit reviews to further expedite delivery of approvals and balance review time and refreshed the Building Department pages on the Town website to ensure current information.

CURRENT CAPITAL PROJECTS

RAILS FOR TRAILS – HOUSATONIC VALLEY RAIL TRAIL PROJECT



The Housatonic Valley Rail Trail Project (HRVT) began on September 16, 2025 and is scheduled to be completed on September 11, 2026. This project is to construct a 4,537 ft stone dust biking trail from Maple Drive to north of Wolfe Park. This section of trail will now connect two existing sections and allow this biking trail to extend through the entirety of Monroe. The project contains the construction of a retaining wall and some site grading. The project is underway with a good portion of the trail at subgrade. The project appears to be advancing on schedule to this point. Listed below are the project details.

Housatonic Valley Rail Trail Project

- Project Started – 9/16/2025
- Project End Date-9/11/2026
- Project Construction Cost-\$1,623,868.55
- Funding Source-LOTICIP
- Contracting Company-Guerrerra Construction
- Design Engineers-Stantec
- Engineering Inspectors-WMC

JUDD ROAD BRIDGE



The Judd Road Bridge Project began on September 2, 2025 and is scheduled to be completed on August 2, 2026. This project is to replace an existing bridge with a new bridge up to current design standards for today. This is a joint project between Monroe and Easton.

Listed below are the project details.

Judd Road Bridge Replacement

- Project Started – 9/02/2025
- Project End Date-8/02/2026
- Project Construction Cost-\$1,258,960.00
- Funding Source-LOTICIP
- Contracting Company-Nagy Brothers Construction
- Design Engineers-WMC
- Engineering Inspectors-WMC

COMMUNITY CENTER SITE



The Monroe Community Center continues with renovations.

Completed renovations include;

- IT office renovated and occupied
- Parks & Recreation office renovated and awaiting HVAC improvement
- Gym floor refinished and new lines completed
- Stage floor refinished
- Meeting room completed and cabinets installed for CERT
- Gym wall removed and replaced
- Entrance canopy repaired

Work that still needs to be completed include;

- The remainder of the classrooms on the first floor need to be renovated

- Elevator needs to be installed
- Second floor needs to be renovated
- Boiler needs to be replaced
- Heating oil tank needs to be upgraded (1000 gal. to 3000 gal.)
- ADA sidewalk improvements
- Renovate storage room in back of building
- Clean and utilize kitchen area in Gym

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Economic Development continues to provide direct support to businesses in navigating and coordinating the permitting process among multiple departments, while also facilitating approvals and advocating for appropriate business interests.

In 2025, the department completed the implementation of the Open Gov Licensing and Permitting Software for an on-line permitting solution, inclusive of Blue Beam access for staff to review and comment on plans, as well as the migration of over 175,000 historical files from File Maker Pro.

The department is the primary point of contact for MetroCOG on a Regional Plan of Conservation and Development, that focuses on regional resources, including housing, economic development, natural resources, open space and transportation needs.

The Economic & Community Development Director worked directly with the Economic Development Commission (EDC) to identify and support the Commission's goals and objectives inclusive of:

- Restaurant Week with 24 participating restaurants, utilizing social media outlets which produced 24,080 views across 12,359 unique accounts;
- Fairfield County Commercial Brokers Network annual lunch with over 110 Commercial Real Estate professionals in attendance;
- Monroe Marketing Material entitled "Monroe Today" to share with new business site selectors, commercial brokers and investors to help attract and promote all that Monroe has to offer;
- Partnered with MetroCOG on a regional Economic Development website that provides details on available parcels and commercial spaces, highlighting our industrial and commercial corridors;
- Coordinated recycling event with Bay State Textiles and the Conservation Commission to assist in the recycling of textiles.

The Department, in conjunction with the Grant Writer, has reviewed over 100 grant opportunities to determine Town eligibility and completed and submitted applications when appropriate. This resulted in the following:

- State Library Construction Grant for HVAC upgrades on the Edith Wheeler Memorial Library (\$150,000 awarded);
- CTDOT Active Transportation Micro grant:
 - Monroe Police Department for bicycles and bike helmets (MPD National Night Out - \$5,000 awarded);
 - Parks and Recreation and EWML for bike racks and scooter racks (\$5,000 awarded);
 - Department of Public Works for safety vests, cones and traffic paddles and additional bikes for MPD (\$3,982 awarded);

- Municipal Brownfields Grant for remediation and removal of hazardous building materials at the Monroe Community Center (\$100,000 awarded);
- Section 5310 Grant for a 20-passenger van to be purchased for the Monroe Senior Center (\$119,200 awarded)
- Matching Grant Program to offset salaries, fuel and transportation related expenses at the Monroe Senior Center (\$104,184 awarded (\$26,046 / year for 4 years);
- Completed scope change and technical correction requirements for Monroe Wastewater Infrastructure Improvement grant at Monroe Senior Center provided under the Congressionally Directed Spending (\$200,000 awarded).
- Progressed to second round Congressionally Directed Spending (Police Dashboard Surveillance - \$25,000).
- Completed and closed out STEAP grant for full renovation of MPD Animal Control building (\$500,000 awarded)
- Additionally, numerous grants have been applied for, and we are awaiting decision. These grants include:
 - State and local Cybersecurity grant for Information Technology and BOE to pursue security and software upgrades (\$70,450 applied for);
 - Recreational Trails Grant for maintenance equipment including a soil screener and two (2) Kubota's (\$288,000 applied for);

The Department continues to complete site availability analysis and site selection requirements for a new cell tower in the northern area of Town to service the middle school and elementary school, which currently lack cell coverage from many carriers.

Additionally, they provided an in-depth presentation regarding the Sustainable CT Certification and the grant review and submission process to Town Council in an effort to provide insight on how the two projects are interconnected.

Economic and Community Development will continue solar analysis of all Town-Owned buildings to identify potential locations for roof mounted, ground mounted or carport mounted solar arrays. This has led to partner discussions related to energy costs on commodity contracts for both electricity and natural gas.



Photos by, Bill Bittar

EDITH WHEELER MEMORIAL LIBRARY



Photo by, Edith Wheeler Memorial Library

The Edith Wheeler Memorial Library continues to be a pillar in the community for events, programs, and services. The Library's Strategic Plan: Marketing and Communication – increase community awareness of these services. This includes the launch of the Library of Things collection.

With the expansion of the Children's Department there are more offerings by purchasing VOX and audio books.

In 2025, Library visits increased 18%, program attendance increased 20%, and downloadable circulations increased 8%. The Library continues to offer in-person, remote, hybrid, and self-directed programming.

Regardless of the increased utilization in electronic databases and eBooks, paperback and hardcover books are still widely used throughout our community. If you're not a library goer, I encourage you to stop by for a visit!

EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT



In 2025, EMS deployed a new staffing model (increased weekday support), resulting in a significant reduction in mutual aid. Additionally, EMS completed a pilot hybrid EMT class – in person plus virtual sessions, making it easier for students to fit it into their schedules.

EMS continues to provide community event support for events such as, the Monroe Night Out, Summer Concerts, Plunge at the Park, Road Race, Football, Touch a Truck.

They remain committed to Heart Safe Community Certification, by providing public CPR training, public access to defibrillators, and early access to advanced care. Additionally, EMS has increased public no-cost CPR training and assisted with the training of CERT members.

EMS in partnership with the Health Department and Social Services, continues the promotion and engagement related to the Steady Steps Fall Prevention Program.

In 2025, EMS worked to redesigned new member onboarding and field training programs that place a greater emphasis on a “building block” approach where trainees (certified EMTs) begin using acquired skills earlier.

EMS continues to focus on community by partnering with local hospitals to enhance Continuing Medical Education and by providing opportunities for members to sharpen skills. Examples include, post-natal care, stroke evaluation, child/elder abuse, and burn care.

Monroe EMS continues to maintain quality equipment improvements. They have completed the RFP process for the replacement of the oldest ambulance - under budget, upgraded the portable radios to increase reliability and safety and enable communications with surrounding towns, and they added a Chief’s vehicle (equipped as first responder vehicle) at minimal cost by repurposing another Town vehicle.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Monroe has experienced a consistent interest in new community investment. As a result of many projects being introduced and completed during the year, Monroe's overall grand list increased by \$49.9m, from \$3,269,403,926 to \$3,319,313,121. This nearly \$50,000,000 increase in the grand list proves a consistent trend of healthy investment in Monroe which will increase tax revenue by approximately \$1.5m.

Through the diligent work and leadership of the Economic Development Department, \$597,384 has been received in grant funding while \$358,450 in applications are awaiting decision, justifying the return on investment of our grant writer. The Town will continue looking for viable grants for both Municipal and Board of Education needs. This initiative promotes working together and continues to exhaust any and every opportunity available to lower the tax burden to those who live and operate businesses in Monroe.

Every year, in May, Monroe residents cast their votes at the budget referendum. This means that no matter how our Town officials organize and deliberate over the proper use and expenditure of funds in town, our residents have the ability to agree or disagree through their vote. The First Selectman's office has operational and final budget input on the municipal side only. The Superintendent of Schools has purview over education costs and Board of Education operating expenses. Both budgets are combined to create "The First Selectman's Budget ". The Town Charter only authorizes the First Selectman to adjust overall increases.

- FY2024-25 Approved Annual Town Budget
 - https://drive.google.com/file/d/1f4O5CsiFpcHBFVwtXZFFdfUGRclqQeU/view?usp=drive_link

Monroe continues to hold a AAA bond rating with S&P.

- FY2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (Audit Report)
 - <https://www.monroect.gov/p/audit-reports>

FIRE DEPARTMENT



Photo by, Bill Bittar

Monroe Fire Departments:

The Monroe Fire Departments maintained 100% response coverage despite increased call volume and recorded zero significant firefighter or civilian injuries despite high activity levels in 2025. Additionally, they successfully onboarded six new firefighters; two completed probation and one new Lieutenant was appointed.

Monroe Fire has completed extensive hours revisiting design and lower cost alternatives for the planned station addition as requested by town officials, including securing a \$50,000 donation of pre-construction design services, completed test holes/soil samples, completed vendor due diligence, and met with multiple subcontractors; all culminating in a reduction of 53% in estimated costs compared to the initial design and quote commissioned by the Town and included in their FY25 PCR form.

In 2025, there had been an increase in collaboration among the 3 fire departments operationally, financially, and socially, including organizing their first ever town-wide fire department awards ceremony.

Together they have accomplished the following;

- Achieved readiness for the new NEIRS reporting system, replacing NFIRS.
- Sustained compliance with OSHA, NFPA, and other regulatory standards across equipment, apparatus, and training
- Organized an extensive mass casualty training exercise that included 120 participants and 12 organizations, including PD, EMS and BOE
- Implemented a major upgrade to the town wide Fire Command Center Radio System, enabling coordinated multi-agency incident management
- Moved forward with the design and pre-construction phase of the replacement for Squad 73, expected to be completed in '26
- Established 501(c)3 and procured 'nonprofit' licenses for E-Mail and Office packages at Stevenson

- Engine 302 is near completion
- Operated within budget, with no unexpected or unplanned financial requests to the Town, despite a continued decline in public donations

The Departments have increased community engagement through social media, sharing more than 80 safety and informational updates to our over 7,600 social media followers which is one of the largest among area volunteer fire departments. They also continued robust community outreach with more than 30 public events, including school programs, open house/safety day, career day, scout visits, 9/11 ceremony, Memorial Day and Veteran’s Day ceremonies, Night at the Park, health fair, and charity Santa visits.



Photos by, Bill Bittar

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

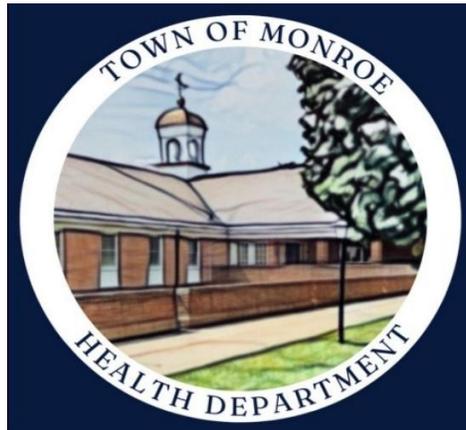


Photo by, Monroe Health Department

Monroe's Health Department has many functions from monitoring restaurants, providing vaccinations, and continuously monitoring drinking water quality and supply in our parks and lakes. In 2025 the Health Department continued online licensing of Food Service Establishments and Salon Establishments.

The Health Department continues to keep our community healthy by expanding access to Childhood Vaccination Programs, organizing and providing flu clinics for Town employees and Monroe seniors, and by participating in the development and completion of Community Health Assessments with our regional partners.

In 2025, the Health Department also provided revisions to the Monroe Health Public Health Emergency Response Plan and Appendices.

HUMAN RESOURCES



Human Resources assisted in the negotiations of the Collective Bargaining Agreements with the Police/Highway/Clerical unions and coordinated with the Clerical Union to create a new Pay Schedule. Additionally, they continue to recruit and fill positions when needed, while focusing on improved customer service and efficiencies. They also continue to review and revise current job descriptions and work on the creation of new positions, as needed.

In an effort to increase safety for all, the Human Resources Department coordinated the ADA Self-Evaluation for the Town which will show physical challenges to pedestrian and facility accessibility.

Human Resources received a check for \$62,621.00 from our insurer, Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency (CIRMA). CIRMA provides critical and stable protections in risk management and insurance services within the Connecticut Public Sector and is a service program under the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM).

PARKS AND RECREATION



The Parks and Recreation Department continues to offer many programs, and the community enjoyed many activities throughout 2025 such as, the summer concert series, day camps, and sporting programs.

They added picnic tables throughout the Wolfe Park picnic area, in a 5th year of a five-year plan. Also installed were three additional round picnic tables near the two Ga Ga game areas and umbrellas were purchased for over picnic tables at the pool concession for shade.

Parks & Recreation continues to collaborate with other departments such as the Human Resources Department for obtaining their second Parks & Recreation Intern during the summer of 2025. Additionally, the department collaborated with the Human Resources Department and Parks Maintenance Crew Leader for the installation of four AED's with weather proof containers which have been installed throughout Wolfe Park.

By having a continued partnership with the Masuk Athletic Department, Parks & Recreation has been able to offer youth sport camps with the high school coaching staff in cheerleading, baseball and basketball. Additionally, the department has been able to offer Middle School Splash Nights at the Masuk Pool, and increased the opportunities for Celebration/Birthday parties.

The department continues to see growth in the offerings and enrollment of the Summer Fun Days Tweens Adventure Travel Camp Program and Summer Fun Days Camp. They have also seen increased participation in the adult sports programming (tennis, pickleball, volleyball, men's basketball and men's softball) and a new women's slow pitch softball league started in 2025 with 82 players. Additionally, a successful third season of the departments youth travel basketball program saw another increase of participation.

Finally, our Parks & Recreation Department, in conjunction with Park Maintenance, continues to improve our parks for the community. In 2025, they assisted with the implementation and future completion of the new bike trail extension of the "Rails to Trail" line within Wolfe Park, purchased eight new pickleball nets on wheels with a locking device for use at the Wolfe Park courts, added a second pavilion near the Wolfe's Den Playground, completed the resurfacing of the tennis/pickleball courts #5-#8 at the Wolfe Park courts, and purchased a field line stripper for a more effective and cost friendly way to line the game fields.

Community is one of the many features that make Monroe a great Town and the Parks and Recreation Department provides a profound contribution to that.



PLANNING & ZONING

In early 2025, Open Gov, a municipal software, was implemented and has been an instrumental piece in making our Town services more efficient and transparent for applicants and citizens. Simple permits continue to be handled with this software, enabling applications to be administered and monitored on any electronic device. Completing the implementation of Open Gov licensing and permitting software for both Planning and Zoning, as well as Inland Wetland, has been instrumental in completing tasks timely such as, reviews, comments and approvals, including inspections and close-outs.

The Department has begun the digitization of historical permits by address to populate the OpenGov platform and move toward a fully digital environment.

Throughout 2025, Planning & Zoning completed 12 Regulation Text Amendment Applications, 11 of which were submitted by the Town to more clearly articulate the requirements of the regulation. They also created, produced, and distributed a public outreach pamphlet regarding Inland Wetlands and Water Courses in both digital and paper copies at a booth established at the Monroe Farmer's Market.

The Planning & Zoning Department continues to participate in corresponding Commission meetings as appropriate for projects, and works to implement best practices and consistency between commissions.

Notably in 2025, the Department acted by pre-emptively avoided an IWC violation with a tree cutting project through in-person visits and communication with the property owners.

The Planning & Zoning Department staff continue to invest in professional development, as well as certification maintenance courses to further the Planning and Zoning and Inland Wetlands missions through staff involvement. These courses included the following:

- CAZEO training for two (2) staff members
- CACIWC seminars, DEEP Training courses and UCONN TAB courses offered through the State of Connecticut
- 2025 CT Land Use Law courses for municipal land-use agencies, boards and commissions;
- Flooding in CT through a lens of land-use and zoning
- NVCOG program regarding the updates required for Municipal Affordable Housing Appeals List
- Affordable Housing 8-30(g) obstacles and opportunities
- CT Bar Association – Land-use 101
- CBA Land Use Legislative Roundtable
- Backyard Chicken zoning from a One Health perspective

POLICE DEPARTMENT



Photo by, Bill Bittar

Maintaining public safety is crucial in every community. The Monroe Police Department continues to run at nearly full-staff, while initiating department expansion and adjusting minimum manpower requirements to ensure the safest, most efficient and effective responses to ever increasing demands. Additionally, they have maintained a State of Connecticut Tier III Accreditation Standard and began the next three-year assessment cycle.

The Police Department continues to show dedication to Town safety in our community through proactive utilization of law enforcement personnel. Our dedicated men and women of law enforcement have delivered outstanding results in 2025 under the leadership of Chief Keith White. The acquisition of speed signs and data collection resulted in targeted enforcement, that produced an overall increase in motor vehicle enforcement; resulting in a decrease of motor vehicle accidents according to the most recent data received from Connecticut Crash Data Repository Center. The newest data reports 389 crashes in 2024, down to 297 crashes in 2025, while also showing a 32% increase in DUI arrests.

The Monroe Police Department continues its tradition of community engaged policing through community collaboration in tremendously successful events such as, the Christmas Toy Drive, multiple Special Olympic fundraisers, and their immensely popular National Police Night at the Park.



Photos by, Bill Bittar

ANIMAL CONTROL FACILITY



The Monroe Animal Control Facility renovation was completed in July of 2025. The upgraded facility was completed with funds awarded through the Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant from the State of Connecticut in the amount of \$500,000. State Representative Tony Scott, R-Monroe and former State Senators Marilyn Moore, D-Bridgeport and Kevin Kelly, R-Stratford, assisted the town in getting an approval for the grant.

The upgraded facility includes an office, work area, a full bathroom with a shower, a small locker room, washer & dryer, dog wash station, a cat room, and outdoor dog runs on each side creating an ample fenced-in play area. Benedict's Home and Garden donated flowers and plantings around the grounds.



Photos by, Bill Bittar

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Our Public Works Department consists of four divisions: **Building Maintenance, Highway, Engineering,** and **Parks Maintenance.**

- **Building Maintenance:** This division provides general and contracted maintenance for 21 public facilities, including Town Hall, the Police Department, Library, Senior Center, Firehouses, the Highway Garage, and the newly acquired Community Center Site, formerly known as St. Jude School. In total, staff maintain **272,911 square feet** of building space and **12 emergency generators**, supported by **one full-time Building Maintainer and one full-time Custodian.**
- **Highway:** The Highway Division performs all maintenance and construction within the Town-owned right-of-way across **143 miles of road**, including **5 miles of dirt roads.** Core functions include road reconstruction, excavation, paving, pothole patching, curbing, topsoil and seeding, drainage pipe and structure installation, traffic and street sign installation, roadside trimming and mowing, litter cleanup, street sweeping, tree removal and trimming, snow plowing and salting, dirt-road grading, dust control, and guiderail maintenance. The division also supports the annual bulky waste pickup, collects waste motor oil and assists once a year with tri-town hazardous waste collection day.
- **Engineering:** The Engineering Division provides design, project development, coordination, and technical support to Town boards and commissions, Town administration, other Town departments, applicants and their representatives, and the general public. It also coordinates closely with the State Department of Environmental Protection, State Department of Transportation, the Metropolitan Council of Governments, utility companies, and other relevant agencies and organizations.
- **Parks Maintenance:** This division maintains all Town-designated park areas and related facilities. Responsibilities include Wolfe Park and all Town-owned properties: The Town Hall/Police Department complex, Edith Wheeler Memorial Library, Senior Center, Monroe Green, Stepney Green, Food Pantry, six Fire Houses, Webb Mountain Campground, EMS Building, Animal Control Facility, the newly acquired St. Jude Facility, and the Town's maintenance obligations at the Route 110/111 state roundabout.

Throughout 2025, the Public Works Department

- Completed the rebuilding the Guskie Pond Dam from flood damages
- Continued departmental drainage repairs and new installations without the need for vendors
- Increased permanent repair of delaminated and deteriorated road segments with utilization of milling & newly acquired paving equipment
- Began construction on the Housatonic Rail Trail & Judd Road Bridge replacement projects
- Have ongoing coordination of the State-mandated MS4 permit; met goals and requirements
- Locked in beneficial fuels pricing for all town departments



REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

2025 was a busy year for the Registrar of Voters, as it held a municipal election in November. From July 1st – December 19th, they added 331 voters, changed the status of 299 voters (including party changes), and removed 432 voters from our voter list. They completed an annual canvass of voters, including the processing of residents moving in/out of town, inactive voters, the identification and removal of duplicate registrations. This included a thorough review and contact with all registered voters who had not voted in 4+ years.

Additionally, the Registrars implemented a new online Total Vote System (replacement for CVRS) for voter registration, including attending online and in-person training sessions for Total Vote and Early Voting. They completed the training of Deputies and Election Officials on the new Total Vote System including Voter Registration, Canvass, Elections, Early Voting, and Who Voted.

The Registrars had a successful recruitment drive which resulted in several new Election Officials, including Early Voting Officials and continued significant improvements to our Election Official Training Programs, including:

- o Improved online and in person training presentations for our Election Officials to reflect implementation of Early Voting
- o Officials trained for Municipal Election and Budget Referendum
- o Trained Election Officials to accommodate Early Voting voters as well as Same Day Registration Voters in the online Connecticut Voter Registration System (CVRS)

The Registrar of Voters continues to improve communication with Election Officials, School Officials, Town Hall Officials, and the Town Clerk’s Office.

In 2025 the Registrars;

- Conducted Municipal Election and Budget Referendum
- Successfully streamlined voting process to central polling location when statutorily allowed
- Successfully implemented Early Voting for the Municipal Election (14 days)
- Successfully implemented 14 days of Same Day Registration for the Municipal Election
- Drafted updated Emergency Election Procedures Plan to include Early Voting
- Integrated additional legislative changes made to elections and election enforcement statutes
- Attended monthly virtual training sessions with the Secretary of State and her staff



Photos by, Bill Bittar

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES



Photo by, Bill Bittar

The Community & Social Services Department was designated as a Focal Point through the Southwestern Connecticut Agency on Aging in 2025.

The Department continues to have success in applying for Title III Grants through the Southwestern Connecticut Agency on Aging for programming (recreation, chore service, transportation) and caregiver assistance (information & assistance, education and, caregiver support group).

Additionally, the Department has applied for the Community Impact Grant for a permanent generator and for the DOT 5310 Grant for a new bus. Grants allow for the Department to offer various activities at no charge and to continue the monthly caregiver education series and support session. They also applied for the NAA (Neighborhood Assistance Act) Grant for Project Warmth & the Food Pantry.

TRIAD Programs offered a variety of educational programs on senior health, wellness, scam and fraud education, healthy eating and more and the Congregate Meal & Senior Dine Programs are going strong.

Throughout 2025 Community & Social Services were able to complete the following upgrades;

- Pole base covers installed over newly painted light posts
- Parking lot cleaned and curb blocks installed
- 4 windows replaced in main room
- ARPA projects completed: new carpet installed, new floors in bathrooms; automatic door openers on restroom doors; new tables, chairs and racks purchased
- New commercial freezer purchased

Additionally, they hired one (1) new part time driver and have an ARPA classes scheduled: Tai Chi & Current Events.

The Department continues to foster strong interdepartmental and community relationships with the following collaborations and fundraising efforts;

- Collaborated with the Health Department, Parks & Recreation, Edith Wheeler Memorial Library & EMS to hold fourth annual health & wellness fair including vaccinations, educational sessions and vendors
- Collaborate with local businesses, home care agencies and health care facilities to offer free educational and recreational programs
- Collaborate with Social Workers in the school system regarding assistance with school supplies, giving tree, food pantry, state programs and support services for families
- Collaborate with the Board of Education to assist families and group homes with holiday gifts and Thanksgiving meals
- Collaborate with civic organizations (Lions Club, Rotary Club and Masons), churches, local restaurants to assist families in the community with food/supply drives, fundraisers, holiday meals and more
- Collaboration with the Parks & Recreation department to offer pickleball
- Fundraising letter campaign for Project Warmth, Food Pantry and Social Services Exchange
- Applied and received monies for Project Warmth & the Monroe Food Pantry from the Newtown Savings Bank Foundation
- Provided Thanksgiving meals to eight (8) homebound seniors and six (6) families in need with generous donations from community members and businesses
- Increase in public awareness of the food pantry – tours for various groups (school, scouts)
- Applied and received \$23,250.00 for Project Warmth through the Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA) Tax Credit Program



Photos by, Bill Bittar

OFFICE OF THE TAX COLLECTOR

The Tax Collector's Office is trending at a stellar 98.7% tax collection rate which exceeded the revenue target. Our Tax Collector has reported that many back taxes have been collected in the past year making the overall collection better than previous years.

TECHNOLOGY



Photo by, Monroe Technology Department

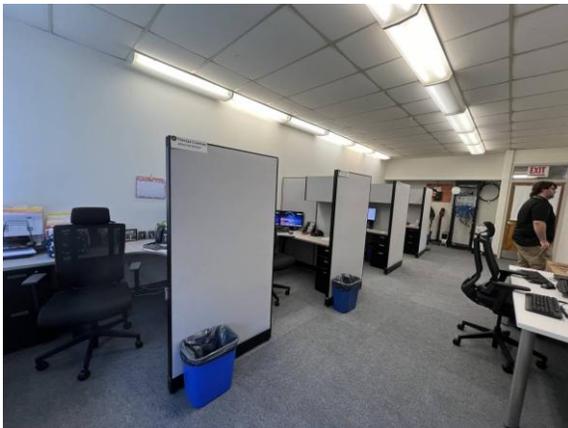


Photo by, Bill Bittar

The Monroe Technology Department works tirelessly to ensure that the Town's cybersecurity infrastructure is protected, operating efficient, effective, and safely. In 2025, the Technology Department moved from the outdated space in the Board of Education building to a newly updated space in the Community Center. From this new space, the Technology Department continues to improve the Board of Education and Municipal cyber infrastructures by updating technology and hiring knowledgeable staff members.

In 2025 the Monroe Technology Department completed the following upgrades;

- Updating current assets to Windows 11
- Setup and implemented Mobile Device Management (MDM) for town owned iPhones (policy enforcement & management)
- Completed fiber install between Town Hall and Monroe Community Center
- Moved department operations to new location at Monroe Community Center
- Installed basic door controls at Monroe Community Center
- Added two additional staff (Cyber & Inventory) to bolster operations and security



Photos by, Bill Bittar

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Our Town Clerk and assistants are proudly serving our residents with everything from dog licenses, marriage licenses, land recordings, and providing municipal meeting information to our residents.

They successfully planned and organized a Special Election for State Representative of the 112th District and the 2025 Municipal Election for Absentee Ballot Voting/Poll Districts/Early Voting, which included utilizing a new vendor for ballot preparation.

The Clerk's Office continues to achieve excellence in record keeping by completing the Secretary of the State's Security Awareness Training and by applying for and being awarded the FY26 Historic Documents Preservation Grant, allowing for additional fire-proof and secure vitals cabinet to be located in the public vault.

BOARD OF EDUCATION



With approximately 3,400 students and 580 employees across five (5) schools, the Board of Education fosters strong partnerships with students, families and the community in an effort to promote open communication, trust, and shared responsibility for student success. High quality instruction fosters an environment where academic outcomes soar and achievement gaps close.

Monroe schools offer a variety of co-curricular activities for every student. Our schools compete vigorously not only in academics but through sports and programming. From State Championships in Softball, Football and Soccer, to award winning Robotics and Fine Arts, Monroe schools offer comprehensive programming that meets the needs of the whole child, providing them with rich experiences that prepare them for success.

The town Grant Writer has been working to secure grant funding for the Board of Education in an effort to offset Unfunded State Mandates.

The following grants have been applied for on behalf of the Board of Education;

- State and local Cybersecurity grant for Information Technology and BOE to pursue security and software upgrades (\$70,450 applied for);

The following grants are in process for submittal on behalf of the Board of Education;

- School construction grant for the replacement of the Monroe Elementary Roof
- Application for the Jockey Hollow roof replacement
- School Security Competitive Grant Program coming up in the Spring of 2026

According to a study by Niche in 2025 Monroe Schools ranked in the top tier of several categories including;

- #9 Best School Districts for Athletes in Connecticut
- #16 Best School Districts in Connecticut
- #19 Districts with the Best Teachers in Connecticut
- #22 Best Places to Teach in Connecticut

<https://www.niche.com/k12/d/monroe-school-district-ct/rankings/>

Monroe School District Rankings in Connecticut



Best School Districts for
Athletes in Connecticut

#9 of 117



Best School Districts in
Connecticut

#16 of 120



Districts with the Best
Teachers in Connecticut

#19 of 130



Best Places to Teach in
Connecticut

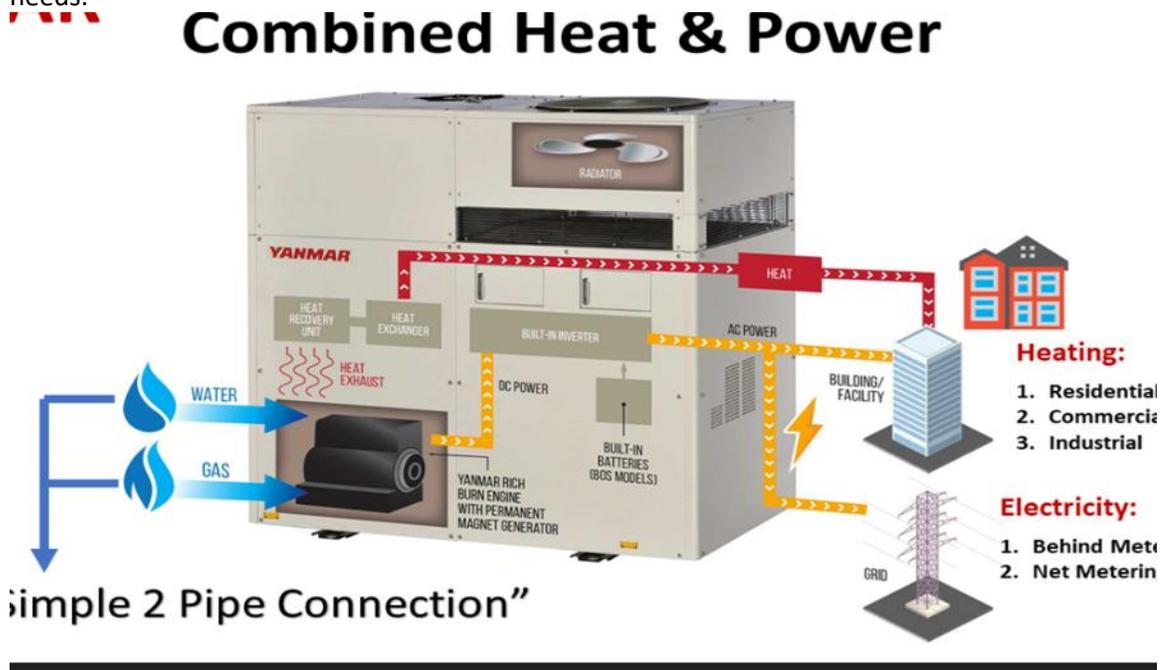
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ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOLUTIONS

First Selectman Terrence P. Rooney has been working tirelessly with Department of Public Works and the Economic Development Department throughout 2025 searching for new forms of energy to reduce costs. Studies have been done into geo-thermal, with significant research into solar and Co-Gen equipment that not only supplies heat, it generates its own electricity taking each building largely off the grid and generating its own sustainable electric energy. Site visits have been made to both New Haven and Waterbury locations who have installed these systems with significant success and savings. Research is ongoing however, we are hopeful this equipment will be suitable for the heating system needed at Monroe Elementary School and future systems in other municipal buildings.

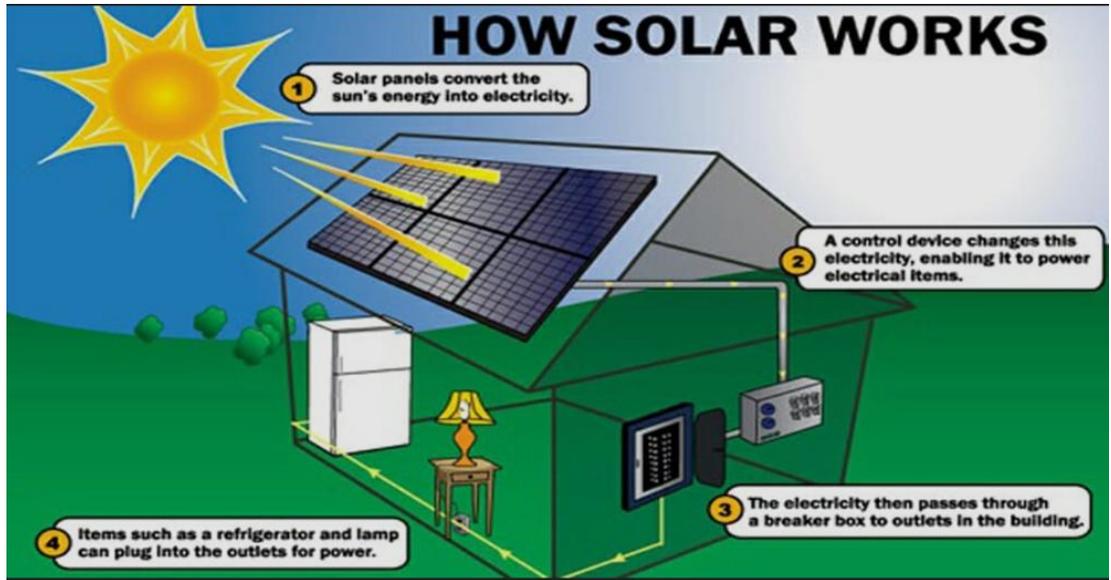
Co-Gen Heating & Cooling System

- Co-Gen Systems produce electricity by using a natural gas-powered engine, that turns a generator to create electricity. Additionally, this creates heating and cooling through a system of heat exchangers. Public Works and the First Selectman met with two representatives from Controlled Air at the Mary Wade Senior Care Facility to see the system in use and to see if it will fit the Town's needs.



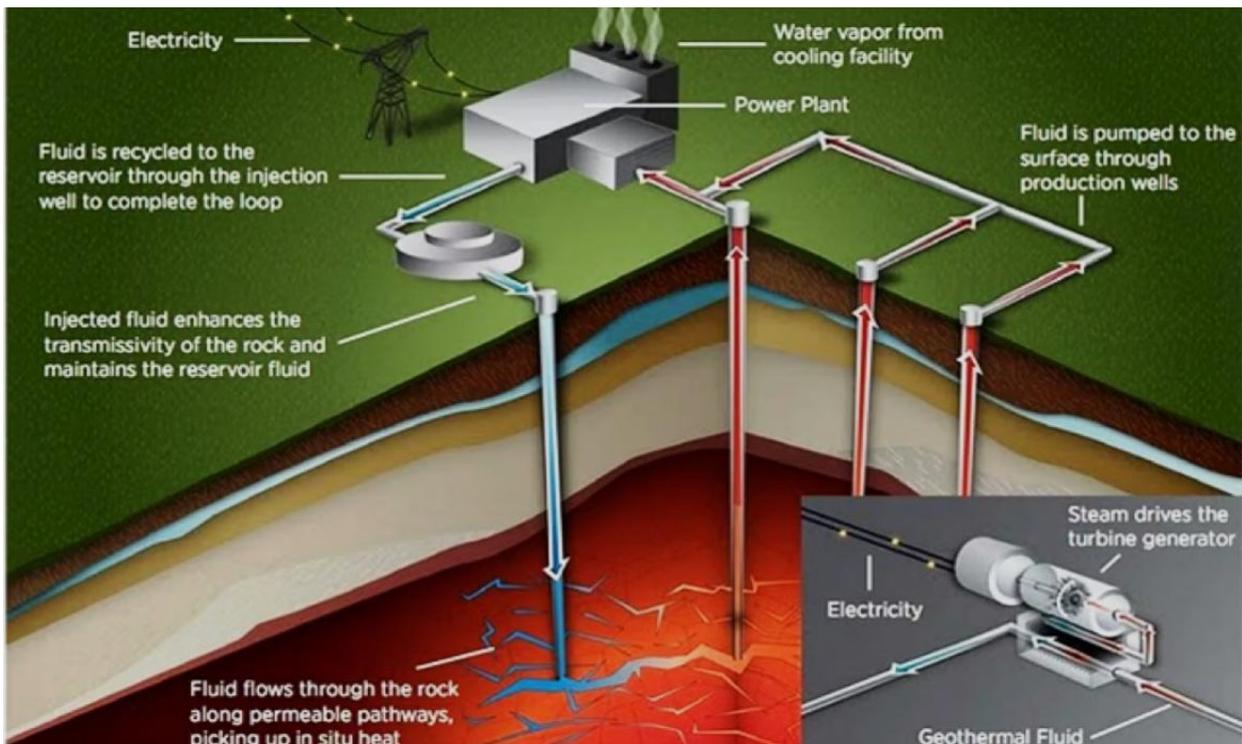
Solar Energy Supply

- We are exploring repositioning the solar projects to include both Jockey Hollow and Monroe Elementary.
- Working with Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) and energy purchasing.



Geothermal

- Geothermal wells would need to be installed to work properly at the Community Center Site. Geothermal is a source of power derived from heat beneath the Earth's surface. After further examination, the Town determined that this would not be a cost-efficient solution.



Photos by, Terry Rooney

As we welcome 2026, I would like to take a moment to thank all of our town staff, elected officials, and volunteers for their commitment and hard work in 2025.

Thank you to our businesses in Monroe both new and existing, and to our citizens. Our strong community and Monroe spirit continues to make our town an exceptional place to raise a family and live a healthy lifestyle.

Thank you for your attention,



Terrence P. Rooney
First Selectman

