

Guest Column to The Monroe Dispatch
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From: Mayor James E. "Jamie" Mayo
City of Monroe, LA

October: Breast Cancer Awareness Month

The American Cancer Society co-founded Breast Cancer Awareness Month in 1985. Since the early 1990's the pink ribbon has been the symbol of a cause designed to educate, assist, and inspire millions of people in hopes of finding a cure for this dreaded disease. Please wear pink this month to help encourage others.

Research shows that up to 1 out of every 8 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime. Early detection is the best protection. Encourage those you know and love to get regular checkups and mammograms.

If we stop and think about it, we all have family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, sorority sisters, club members, or church members. We all know someone whose family has been impacted by breast cancer. Although tremendous progress has been made over the years, we cannot be satisfied until researchers find a cure.

In September, our City of Monroe Employee Community Benevolent Act was to support the 25th annual Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure (NELA). The event drew around 4,000 people to Forsythe Park. Over 100 city employees and their family members either volunteered at or participated in the race. Our team effort helped save the foundation thousands of dollars in expenses. Which means more of the funds raised at this year's event will go towards cancer research, local support, and testing. This effort was led by Monroe Police Chief Eugene Ellis and the hard-working men and women of the Monroe Police Department. Please join me in commending them and all the organizers and participants for doing an outstanding job!

We salute the staff and volunteers at the local Susan G. Komen Foundation, American Cancer Society, NELA Cancer Institute and so many other local hospitals, medical facilities, and organizations who help fight breast cancer and all other forms of cancer. They are a blessing to many. By working together, we are making a difference!