

GUEST COLUMN
For the Thursday, December 14, 2017 Edition
From: Mayor James E. "Jamie" Mayo

Citywide Enhancements for Family Quality of Life and Recreational Activities

Check out these two quality of life projects that you and your family can enjoy in Monroe!

DISC GOLF COURSE AT CHENNAULT PARK

Recently, in conjunction with the *Twin City Disc Golf Association* (TCDGA), the City Council and I announced the opening of Monroe's disc golf courses at Chennault Park. The 36-hole track was made possible through a cooperative endeavor agreement between the City of Monroe and the TCDGA. Under that agreement, the association purchased the chain baskets needed for play and donated them to the City. City Public works crews installed the baskets and performed routine maintenance around the courses.

The disc golf courses are open to the public, free of charge, during normal park operating hours. However, the TCDGA has first rights on scheduling of league play and tournaments. The "*Green Course*" was completed in spring 2017, with the "*Blue Course*" installation wrapping up in November of this year.

The courses are so named because of the color of the donated chain baskets. In addition to the 36 modern-era chain baskets, Chennault also features an historic "*bucket*" course. The 18 bucket holes at Chennault have been in place for better than 40 years and the course is one of the last of its kind in the world.

The courses have already served host to several local amateur tournaments, but a major professional event is slated for the 2018 Memorial Day weekend. Chennault's courses will serve as the primary venue for the *Southern National Championships of the Pro Disc Golf Association* (PDGA). The top five finishers at that tourney will go on to throw in the National Championships.

RIVERSIDE HIKING TRAIL

Michael Domingue, Louisiana Administrator for the Federal Highway Administration Recreational Trails Program joined city officials on December 11th officially open Monroe's Riverside Hiking Trail.

The 3,308-linear foot Riverside Hiking Trail is a quality of life project that promotes healthy lifestyles (#49 on Mayor Mayo's 60 for 60 project list) and promotes the beautiful Ouachita River. You can get your steps in while comfortably enjoying the scenic view.

This project consists of a concrete paved trail, more than a ½ mile in length, that is for walking, running, and bicycling. Parents can even exercise while pushing their baby in a stroller along the path on the riverside of the Forsythe levee and north of the boat ramp.

By working together, we are making a difference!