



Phase 2 features a fence and set hours for unique playground

A new fence surrounds Savannah's Playground at Grand Park, across from The Market Common. The adjacent pond, near Crabtree Memorial Gym, also has a fence of its own as a safety precaution.

Former Myrtle Beach Mayor John Rhodes conceived the one-of-a-kind enabling playground and raised the initial funding to make it happen. Phase 2, completed in 2019, expanded the playground with nearly \$500,000 worth of new equipment, including fencing.

The park now has set hours, too, and is open every day except Thanksgiving and Christmas. Hours begin at 8:00 a.m. daily, except for Tuesdays, when the park opens at 12:00 p.m. The Tuesday delay is to provide time for maintenance. Note that closing hours are adjusted throughout the year according to seasonal sunset changes.

By the way, smoking is not allowed in Savannah's Playground. As a sign notes, "Young lungs at play." Pets also are not allowed inside Savannah's Playground.



Sign up for the weekly **Friday Fax** email to receive meetings and agendas for the coming week, along with city-related news and events. Send your email address to info@cityofmyrtlebeach.com. Like and visit our Facebook page, too: www.facebook.com/myrtlebeachcitygovernment.



Little Free Libraries let books trade

Myrtle Beach has little libraries scattered throughout the city. A Little Free Library

is a unique box, like the one shown here at Mary C. Canty Recreation Center, where people donate books as part of a neighborhood book exchange. Community members drop off books and are allowed to take a book to read. The exchange is based on the honor system, so please return a book when finished to allow others a good selection.

Thanks to Eagle Scout Cody King from Troop 801, Myrtle Beach has four Little Free Libraries. King built them as part of his community project, with support from the Friends of Chapin Memorial Library. In addition to Mary C. Canty Recreation Center, you'll find a Little Free Library at Myrtle's Market, Crabtree Memorial Gymnasium and Pepper Geddings Recreation Center.

<https://www.facebook.com/myrtlebeachcitygovernment>

Library offers new services, programs

You can register online for programs at Chapin Memorial Library. Better still, if you're homebound, you can have reading materials delivered directly to your door. These are just two of the new offerings from the state's only city-owned library.

Online registration is available through the library's calendar feature. Visit <https://www.chapinlibrary.org/calendar> to view the monthly programs and sign up. You can even tell how many available slots remain.

Chapin Memorial Library is offering a pilot Homebound Delivery program for those with limited mobility who can't get out to visit the library in person due to physical conditions.

The service provides reading materials within a limited delivery area. For more information about Homebound Delivery or other library programs, call 843-918-1275.



PROGRESS REPORT Winter 2020

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PROGRESS

REPORT

City Council strengthens animal laws



An update to Myrtle Beach's animal protection law adds additional safeguards for pets. It also provides for times when spaying, neutering and microchipping are required. The ordinance expands the definition of "mistreatment of animals" to prohibit the following:

- Exposure to extreme weather events.
- Confining an animal in a closed vehicle without air conditioning or adequate ventilation when temperatures exceed 70° F.
- Tethering an animal for more than two hours in a 12-hour period without a responsible person present.
- Tethering an animal that is sick or injured.
- Tethering an animal on a restraining device exceeding more than 10% of the animal's body weight.
- Tethering by chain or metal device which is in direct contact with the skin.
- Tethering an animal in a manner that causes injury, strangulation or entanglement.

...see **Animal welfare**, page 2

New recycling rules stem from market changes

It's time to get serious about recycling in Myrtle Beach. The market for recyclables has declined internationally, which means we must provide the cleanest material possible if the recycling effort is to have any value.

The Horry County Solid Waste Authority has notified local jurisdictions that their services will be fined for every

contaminated load of recyclables. Fines start at \$150 per load and go up, so we must be clean and green. Expect to find one of the hang tags pictured here if your curbside bin or roll cart is contaminated.

The list of recyclable items has narrowed, too. We can no longer recycle pizza boxes because of contamination from grease or cheese. That's how tight the market is.

Also, do not bag or separate your recyclable items. Please rinse food containers, and then just place loose items together in your recycling container.

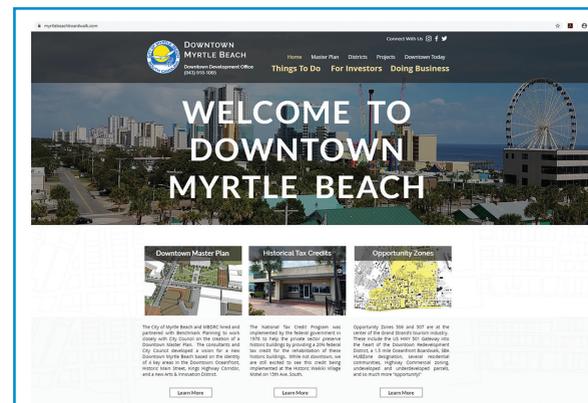
...see **What can I recycle**, page 2

'Quality of Life' Court will handle code violations

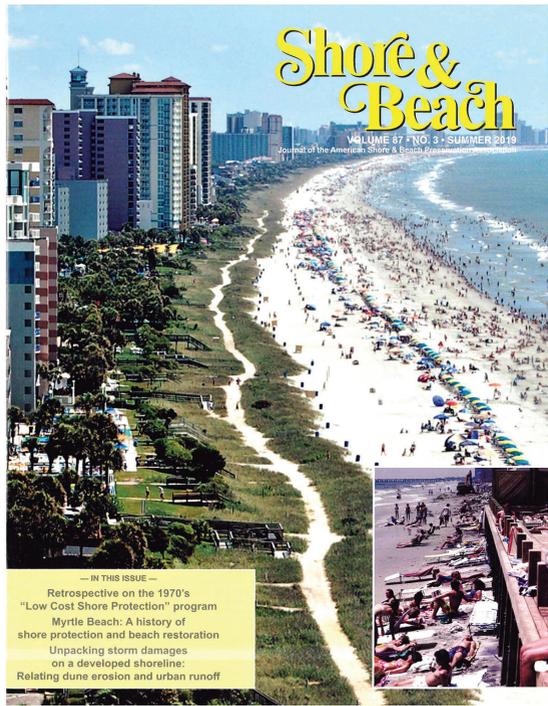
Myrtle Beach's new Quality of Life Court is expected to hear its first cases beginning in March. The court will meet regularly at the Ted C. Collins Law Enforcement Center to address property maintenance, code enforcement and other nuisances affecting the quality of life for residents.

Violations handled through the new court will include: abandoned vehicles; illegal dumping; noise complaints; overgrown grass, weeds and unkempt property; signage violations; zoning violations; nuisances affecting public health; nuisances offending public decency, peace and order; nuisances affecting public welfare and safety; and nuisances affecting public economy.

...see **New nuisance court**, page 3



Keep up with Myrtle Beach's new Arts & Innovation District through our *Downtown Today* site. Track new businesses, addition of the coworking space and more at <https://www.myrtlebeachboardwalk.com/downtowntoday>. The website also provides information about Myrtle Beach's two Opportunity Zones and historic tax credits for investment.



Myrtle Beach wins national award for our beach preservation

The City of Myrtle Beach received the Robert L. Wiegel Coastal Project Award for its beach preservation projects dating back to the 1980s.

The award was presented during the American Shore & Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA) conference in October 2019 at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center.

The national award is presented to a coastal project that has stood the test of time and has a positive environmental, social or recreational benefit. Myrtle Beach's history of beach renourishment is detailed in the ASBPA's October magazine, *Shore & Beach*, showing our coast on the cover.

The highly technical, 22-page article details Myrtle Beach's 40-year history of successful beach management and renourishment. It features historic photos of renourishment projects, along with steps taken to protect our most valuable natural resource.

Here's a link to the full ASBPA magazine article: <https://tinyurl.com/y4swwuj3>.

Would you like to serve?

To be considered for City Council appointment to one of Myrtle Beach's many volunteer boards, commissions and committees, just send a letter of interest and résumé to the City Clerk, PO Box 2468, Myrtle Beach, SC 29578, or bring it to City Hall.



Animal welfare law updated

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The new ordinance changes the definition of "impound." It now reads, "Impound means to take legal custody or possession as to confine humanely while providing adequate food, shelter, ventilation and veterinary care."

It requires all impounded dogs and cats to be spayed or neutered within 30 days. Exceptions are made based on age or health reasons, as well as for service animals. The ordinance also requires all impounded cats and dogs to be microchipped.

R.A.I.N. form available for e-billing customers



Animal lovers make regular contributions to the Grand Strand Humane Society through their monthly Myrtle Beach utility bills. Called "R.A.I.N.," or Remembering Animals In Need, the donation program allows city utility customers to easily and regularly support the Humane Society's efforts.

Interested in becoming a R.A.I.N. contributor, but you pay your utility bills through e-billing? Now you can download a contribution form online at <https://www.cityofmyrtlebeach.com/R.A.I.N.ContributionForm.pdf>.

Submit the completed form to the Utility Billing Division at the City Services Building, 921 North Oak Street. The city forwards all collections to the shelter each month, and the money helps feed and care for the shelter animals, including a spay and neuter program.

The Grand Strand Humane Society works closely with our animal control officers and accepts found or unwanted animals from inside the city limits. It serves as the city's animal shelter. Making a little "R.A.I.N." through your monthly utility bill will help meet the animals' needs.

What can I recycle?

...continued from page 1

If you find one of these hang tags on your recycling cart or bin, please look to see which items are in violation and remove them so that we can collect the recycling next time.

Remember, don't use plastic bags. Just place recyclables together in the green cart (or the blue bin, if you still have one). No bags in or next to the cart or bin, but cardboard can be placed next to the cart if it won't fit inside. Items accepted include:

- ◆ Glass – Food and beverage containers only.
- ◆ Cardboard and Paper – Newspaper, junk mail, cereal boxes, etc., but no pizza boxes.
- ◆ Catalogs and magazines.
- ◆ Cans – Steel and aluminum food and beverage cans only.
- ◆ Plastic – #1 and #2 food, beverage or detergent bottles only. No plastic tubs or to-go containers can be accepted.



38th Police Academy class graduates

Congratulations to Class 38 of the Myrtle Beach Citizens Police Academy! Graduation ceremonies were held in November at the Law Enforcement Center Annex on Mustang Street at The Market Common. The course is offered twice a year, in the fall and winter. Thirty people completed the latest 10-week class, which offers a behind-the-scenes look at the Police Department.

Class 38 members pictured above include: Linda Aikey, Alex Albani, Rosalie Alexandersen, Cathy Brown, Whitney Chestnut, William Decker II, Renny Diedrich, Alan Goldstein, Linda Goldstein, Sylvia Jastrzebski, William Ledbetter, Jodi Lias, Sharon Lotze, Lisa Melendez, Angela Miller, Douglas Miller, Vicki Palma, Michelle Parker, Carolina Paulhus, John Paulhus, Caitlin Reed, Thomas Robinson, Arthur Silverstein, Elizabeth Silverstein, Daniel Tissot, Carol Torbic, Richard Vadimski, Sharyn Vadimski, Thomas Weaver and Barbara Welch.



Underground utilities come to Pampas Dr.

The overhead utility wires shown in this photo of Pampas Drive, near Farrow Parkway, will be placed underground starting in January 2020. When complete in June, the street will

look more like the Sweetgrass Square portion where no overhead poles or lines exist. The City of Myrtle Beach has hired Greenwall Construction Company to complete the underground wiring project along portions of Pampas Drive and Crabtree Lane.

On Pampas, the work occurs between Mallard Lake Drive (Howard Avenue) and Meyers Avenue. On Crabtree, the work occurs from Pampas Drive to Emmens Avenue, with a portion along Emmens by the HGTC Conference Center.

Most of the construction will be outside the paved areas of the roadway, although temporary lane closures and open cuts or crossings of the road will be required.

New nuisance court for Myrtle Beach

...continued from page 1

The Quality of Life Court will speed up resolution of these issues, making neighbors happier. Property owners or violators will receive a court summons from a Police Officer or Code Enforcement Officer. The person will then appear before the court to address the issue at hand. Charleston has used such a court since 2002.

Currently, many of these cases now follow a "rule to show cause" path which involves a hearing before City Council. From the first notice of violation to a final resolution by Council may take six months. The new court will resolve issues faster.

The objective of the new court is to abate or address the nuisance so that derelict buildings, unkempt properties and other nuisances are quickly addressed.

New decking lets sand flow

The new outdoor shower decking shown below provides better drainage and traction. Myrtle Beach's Public Works staff installed "Titan Decking" on the shower pan at the 50th Avenue North beach access in response to concerns about poor drainage there.



The City of Myrtle Beach has outdoor showers at most of the public beach accesses. On older decks, sand can get stuck between the boards, preventing proper drainage. Staff will use this textured, flow-through product in the future when rebuilding dune crossovers.



Rules for recycling electronics

Have a new television or computer and need to discard the old one? State law specifies that televisions, computers, printers and monitors cannot be thrown away and must be recycled separately.

Call the Solid Waste staff at 843-918-2160 to schedule curbside pick-up of unwanted electronics. Or, drop them off at the city's transfer station, 3221 Mr. Joe White Avenue, on Fridays, between 7:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.