



## HTC Aspire Hub opens in city's new Arts & Innovation District

Dreams came to life with the opening of the HTC Aspire Hub along Ninth Avenue North in Myrtle Beach in February. The cowork space is part of the budding Arts & Innovation District, with other historic buildings refurbished by the city.

The HTC Aspire Hub's goal is to support arts and innovation while supporting business growth in the area. Entrepreneurs are renting out pods and work spaces to improve their product, while having business-savvy mentors at their fingertips.

The HTC Aspire Hub is a partnership among HTC, eMYRge and the City of Myrtle Beach, using HTC's technology.

## Text-to-park goes fulltime for parking space payments



Myrtle Beach now offers the "text to park" option, allowing you to text to pay for a parking space, instead of feeding a meter or pay station.

The text-to-pay system was available in limited areas late last year, but now is offered for any city paid parking space.

Look for directions on the sign or meter near your parking space. You can also pay for parking with the Parkmobile phone app, or directly at one of the pay stations or meters. Some meters accept debit and credit cards, too.

## 'Giving Box' at Matt Hughes Skate Park accepts donations

A new "giving box" at the entrance to Matt Hughes Skate Park serves those who want to skate, but don't have a skateboard available.

Have a spare to share? Then put it in the "giving box" for someone else to enjoy. The donation box also holds spare shoelaces and skateboard wheels.



The box was a design project by STEAM class participants at Pepper Geddings Recreation Center. So far, it's proving very popular. City team member Aaron Frobase helped the children, ages five to 10, gather leftover materials around the recreation center to repurpose for the giving box.

## Fire groups give generously to locals

Did you know that Myrtle Beach Fire Cares, a non-profit organization, donated \$8,983.87 to various charities in 2021? The group gave an additional \$7,000 to a Myrtle Beach High School student fighting cancer for medical treatment expenses.

Myrtle Beach Fire personnel and the Professional Firefighters Association raised \$12,161.47 for Muscular Dystrophy and another \$6,043.17 to purchase holiday gifts for local children.

A group of fire staffers led by Lt. Adam Oleszkowicz organized the Annual Tunnel to Towers 5K Run and collected \$39,955 to benefit the Tunnels to Towers Foundation.

That foundation also paid the remaining mortgage for the family of fallen North Myrtle Beach Police Sergeant Gordon William Best.



Dear City Council...

City Council wants to hear from you. Email all of the Council members directly at [dearcitycouncil@cityofmyrtlebeach.com](mailto:dearcitycouncil@cityofmyrtlebeach.com).

## PROGRESS REPORT Spring 2022

### CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Brenda Bethune, Mayor
- Michael Chestnut, Mayor Pro Tem
- Jackie Hatley
- John Krajc
- Mike Lowder
- Philip Render
- Gregg Smith

### PUBLISHER

Jonathan Fox Simons, City Manager

### EDITORS

Mark Kruea and Meredith Helline  
[info@cityofmyrtlebeach.com](mailto:info@cityofmyrtlebeach.com)  
843-918-1014

P. O. Box 2468

Myrtle Beach, SC 29578

[www.cityofmyrtlebeach.com](http://www.cityofmyrtlebeach.com)

# PROGRESS

## REPORT



## Boardwalk renovations are underway on oceanfront

The Myrtle Beach Boardwalk is getting a facelift, with new decking that will last longer and brighten the appearance of our oceanfront icon.

Work began March 1 to remove the original Southern yellow pine deck boards and replace them with a wood-like composite material. The new boards come in nine colors and are being installed in a random, linear pattern.

The boardwalk opened in May 2010. It will remain open while work continues, although expect lane closures where active construction is occurring.

The re-decking is being accomplished in three phases, expected to last until late summer. The cost is \$3.1 million.

Construction was scheduled to begin in November, but was delayed due to worldwide material shortages.

## State-of-the-art features on two new ambulances

The Myrtle Beach Fire Department is putting two new ambulances into service in time for summer. Built by Frazer, the new vehicles have state-of-the-art improvements and are larger than the current units.

Upgrades include a self-lifting stretcher loader, Apple Maps, HAAS emergency alert system and exterior compartments for firefighters' turnout gear.

They cost \$280,000 each and will improve the level of patient care offered by the city's EMS service.

...see [New ambulances](#), page 2

## Military Appreciation activities celebrate our veterans and heritage

Myrtle Beach salutes and celebrates our many military veterans and long US Air Force heritage with the annual Military Appreciation Days in May. Myrtle Beach was a military base for nearly 50 years, and that history lives on and is recognized annually.

Activities during May include the Horry County Junior ROTC Drill Meet, a Military Appreciation Night at a Pelicans' game, the Military Appreciation Days Parade on Farrow Parkway, a big Family Picnic in Valor Memorial Garden and more.

The Veterans March on Ocean Boulevard has been renamed this year in honor of the late Jack Platt, a World War II veteran who conceived the Memorial Day walk and lobbied for it. Platt is pictured at left with Roger Pilcher.



In addition, the Military Appreciation Committee is opening the Jack Platt Veterans March to others who wish to walk with the veterans in honor or memory of someone who served.

...see [Marine Corps Band](#), page 3

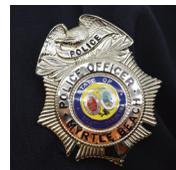
## Upgraded vests aim to improve officers' health

Have you noticed a new style on our Myrtle Beach police officers? They're wearing new bulletproof vests which act as carriers for much of the officers' gear.

The new "outer carrier" vests distribute the weight of daily police equipment (as much as 30 pounds) more evenly to take pressure off the officers' backs and hips.

The vests operate the same as other bulletproof gear, but are worn outside the uniform. Better weight distribution means health benefits for the officers.

All of the patrol, school resource, animal control and special operations officers receive a new vest this fiscal year at a cost of \$300,000. Administrative officers get theirs next year.





## Jake Abraham transfer station opens to the public

The new Jake Abraham Transfer Station on Mr. Joe White Avenue is now open to the public from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The transfer station is named for the late Jake Abraham, long-time staff member in the Solid Waste Division. A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the \$5 million facility was held in January, with members of Mr. Abraham's family on hand for the occasion.

New recycling drop-off containers also are available onsite for residential customers. These include co-mingled recycling (glass, paper, plastic, cardboard), clean wood, scrap metal, electronics and bulky junk.

## 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, 937 Broadway Street.

## New ambulances replace older front-line vehicles

*...continued from page 1*

The ambulance units being replaced each have more than 15,000 engine hours and 100,000 miles on their odometers. They've been in use for six years.



The older vehicles will move to the "reserve unit" where they will help out as backups during the busiest months.

One of the new units will arrive in mid-spring, while the other will arrive in late spring, just in time for the summer season.

Sign up for the weekly **Friday Fax** email to receive news, events, meetings and agendas from the city. Send your email address to [info@cityofmyrtlebeach.com](mailto:info@cityofmyrtlebeach.com). Please like and visit our Facebook page, too: [www.facebook.com/myrtlebeachcitygovernment](https://www.facebook.com/myrtlebeachcitygovernment).



## Grants give the Garden of Hope a spring update

Volunteers from Home Depot joined Myrtle Beach city staff members in March to build new planting beds for The Garden of Hope, between Dunbar and Carver Streets in the Booker T. Washington neighborhood.

The new garden box project was made possible thanks to a \$1,000 American Express grant from Home Depot, a \$1,500 donation from Jason Greene of Tuscan Properties and Bradley Development and a \$2,500 matching contribution from the City of Myrtle Beach.

Volunteers and city staff dug, cut, measured, drilled and hammered to perfect the new box frames. The Heyward Family provided the land for use as a community garden back in 2016.



## State regulates use of golf carts on streets

Golf carts are allowed on public streets in South Carolina, but state law regulates how and when they may be used and who is allowed to drive one.

Golf carts also must be registered with the SC Department of Motor Vehicles and must be insured. Here are the operating rules for golf carts on the street:

- Only by a licensed driver.
- Only when insured and registered.
- Only during daylight hours.
- Only on secondary roads where the speed limit is 35 miles per hour or less.
- Only up to four miles from the registered address.
- Not on primary roads (Kings Highway or US 501).
- Not on sidewalks, bike lanes or multipurpose paths.
- Not with more people than seats in the golf cart.
- Not by unlicensed children of any age.



## US Marine Corps Band from Parris Island in 2022 parade

*...continued from page 1*

The 2022 Military Appreciation Days Parade steps off at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, May 28, and travels along Pampas Drive and Farrow Parkway in the Market Common area.

We are excited to welcome the US Marine Corps Band from Parris Island, SC, to this year's Military Appreciation Parade. The band has committed to play and march. Stay tuned for more details!

Registration forms for the parade are available in the Document Center on the city's website, [www.cityofmyrtlebeach.com](http://www.cityofmyrtlebeach.com).

After the parade, everyone's invited to the big Family Picnic with military-themed exhibitors at Valor Memorial Garden. The Omar Chefs Shriners provide hamburgers, hot dogs and beverages.

## 2022 Military Appreciation Days Schedule of Events

- Horry County Junior ROTC Drill Meet** – 9:00 a.m., Saturday, May 7, Pelicans' Stadium
- Military Family Members' Social** – 12:00 p.m., Saturday, May 7, Pelicans' Stadium
- Myrtle Beach Pelicans' Military Appreciation Night** – 6:05 p.m., Saturday, May 14, Pelicans' Stadium
- Military Appreciation Days Parade** – 10:30 a.m., Saturday, May 28, The Market Common (Parade Registration Deadline is May 13)
- Family Picnic and Military Exhibits** – 11:30 a.m., Saturday, May 28, Valor Memorial Garden
- Jack Platt Veterans March and Battlefield Cross Ceremony** – 9:00 a.m., Monday, May 30, Ocean Boulevard, from 16th to Ninth Avenues North
- Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony** – 11:00 a.m., Monday, May 30, Myrtle Beach Convention Center

## Myrtle Beach recreation facilities receive upgrades

Residents and visitors alike enjoy access to some of the finest sports and recreation facilities in the state here in Myrtle Beach. A number of our offerings have received upgrades or are in the process of being renovated and improved. From pickleball to softball, and track-and-field to tennis, here are some of this year's projects.

**Midway Memorial Park** at 1910 South Kings Highway is just about complete, with new surfaces on all of the courts: tennis, pickleball and basketball.

Lighting and fencing have been replaced, sidewalks have been updated, a people-and-pets water fountain has been added and landscaping has been improved.



Other new features include a tennis hitting wall and picnic shelters beside the courts. Loyal pickleball players donated the shelters, shown above. Still to come are a new restroom and benches.

The **Ned Donkle Complex** near Pepper Geddings Recreation Center received a facelift of its own this year. New fencing, irrigation and foul poles were installed. Portions of the complex were repaved, too.

Ned Donkle features two adult and five youth playing fields, all with natural grass surfaces. The complex includes batting cages, restrooms, concessions and press boxes.



Three of nine fields at the **Grand Park Athletic Complex** received new field turf this year at a cost of \$1.5 million. The work was accomplished ahead of schedule.

The new, longer-lasting artificial playing surface is lined for multiple sports, including softball, baseball, soccer and lacrosse. The remaining six fields at the Grand Park Complex will be re-turfed in the next two years.

Thousands of athletes and Myrtle Beach residents who frequent **Doug Shaw Memorial Stadium** now have freshly painted lines on the running track.

The composite surface track was re-striped this year in time for three collegiate and high school track meets.

