

Army Reserve captain, former Miss USA named 2018 Military Appreciation Grand Marshal

Deshauna Barber, US Army Reserve Captain and 2016 Miss USA, will serve as Grand Marshal of this year's Military Appreciation Days Parade at The Market Common on the Memorial Day weekend. The parade begins at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, May 26, and is a highlight of Myrtle Beach's Military Appreciation events.

The month-long celebration is a "thank you" to our dedicated service men and women, past and present – along with their families – for all that they do on our behalf.

As Grand Marshal, Barber will lead the Military Appreciation Days parade on Farrow Parkway, then greet her fans at the Family Picnic in The Market Common.

All are invited to enjoy the festivities, which include military



2018 Grand Marshal Deshauna Barber

exhibits and live music. The picnic lunch, prepared by the Omar Chefs Shriners, is free for all attendees.

"The committee looks for a celebrity with a military background, and Captain Barber is a vibrant and charismatic choice," said Myrtle Beach Public Information Officer Mark Kruea. "She serves as a logistics commander in the US Army Reserve and is the first on-duty military person to win the Miss USA title."

Now 27, Barber earned her Bachelor of Science in Business Management and a Master of Science in Computer Information Systems. In December 2015, she won the Miss District of Columbia USA title. And, on June 5, 2016, in Las Vegas, Barber won the coveted Miss USA crown and sash.

Captain Barber currently commands the Army Reserve's 988th Quartermaster Detachment Company in Rockville, MD. Using her educational background in technology, she also has worked as an IT Analyst for the federal government for more than five years,



PGBA.

A CELERIAN GROUP COMPANY sponsored by the City of Myrtle Beach, the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce and PGBA, LLC. In addition to the big parade and picnic, other activities include the third annual Horry County Junior ROTC Drill Meet. That event is set for Saturday, May 5, at the Myrtle Beach Pelicans' stadium.

Myrtle Beach is the first in the nation to complete the East Coast Greenway within its city limits. Officials gathered last fall to dedicate the Jack Walker Trailhead on US 17 Business, near Seagate Village.



Winter-Spring Events

Business Disaster Recovery Workshop

9:30 a.m., Friday, January 26
Myrtle Beach Train Depot

City Day 2018

Saturday, February 3
Myrtle Beach Convention Center

FIRST Robotics Palmetto Competition

Thursday-Saturday, March 1-3
Myrtle Beach Convention Center

21st Annual Myrtle Beach Marathon

6:30 a.m., Saturday, March 3

Pee Dee Street Rodders'

Run to the Sun Car and Truck Show

Thursday-Saturday, March 15-17
Former Myrtle Square Mall Site

Myrtle Beach Food Truck Festival

Friday-Sunday, April 20-22
Burroughs & Chapin Pavilion Place
Eighth and Ninth Avenues North



Sign up now for Myrtle Beach's weekly e-mail for news and events. The Friday Fax provides upcoming meetings and agendas. Send your address to info@cityofmyrtlebeach.com. Be sure to like and visit our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/myrtlebeachcitygovernment.

PROGRESS REPORT

Winter 2018

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PROGRESS

REPORT



Thunderbolt Park features outdoor classroom and trails

Thunderbolt Park is the official name for the extension of Grand Park which runs along Farrow Parkway, west of The Market Common. The name comes from the A-10 Thunderbolt jets which were stationed at the Myrtle Beach Air Force Base.



When complete, the park will feature nearly three miles of bicycling and walking paths, along with an outdoor classroom, public restrooms, bike racks, water bottle filling stations and more.

The outdoor classroom, pictured here, has a great view of the lake. The restrooms are included in a re-purposed building from the Air Force Base.

...see [New park offers](#), page 3

City offers Hyper-Reach for emergency messages

Myrtle Beach city residents are encouraged to sign up for a new emergency communication system called Hyper-Reach. The new tool allows participants to instantly receive alerts and emergency messages **hyper-reach** via text, phone call or e-mail, right on their mobile device. the power of instant communication

The emergency alerts will be especially valuable during hurricane season, June through November, should this area be threatened by a major storm. Other uses could include police alerts and safety advisories.

To receive notifications, you must sign up. Visit <http://hyper-reach.com/scmyrtlebeachsignup.html>. The system is for in-city residents only. Horry County also offers an alert service for all county residents.

Join us for City Day!

Everyone's invited to learn more about your community and the services it provides during **City Day** on Saturday, February 3, at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center. The various city departments will have staff on hand to explain what they do and how they do it.

City Day promises to be an exciting look at the City of Myrtle Beach and its operations, with demonstrations and activities for all ages. From Public Works to Planning, Police



to Fire and Finance to Recreation, you'll learn what it takes to make Myrtle Beach such a lively and responsive place to live.

Join us between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., as **City Day** will feature interactive displays, tours, children's activities and "city talk" seminars about frequently-discussed city topics. Admission and parking will be free at the Convention Center.



Train Depot railcars get new paint as first step in reuse

The caboose and boxcar parked outside the Myrtle Beach Train Depot received a fresh coat of paint last fall. The depot is on the National Register of Historic Places and can't be expanded, so the railcars will provide extra room.

The next step is to build a foundation for the railcars near the depot, then to retrofit the inside of each. Plans call for turning the caboose into a warming kitchen, while the boxcar will become additional meeting space and storage.



34th class completes Police Academy

The 34th class of the Myrtle Beach Police Academy graduated from the 10-week course with ceremonies in November. Students get a behind-the-scenes look at law enforcement, including ride-along opportunities with Myrtle Beach police officers. The class occurs twice a year.

Class members included Dana Bushkin, Ada Carmen, Matthew DeVital, Sue Dimonda, Kathleen Ebbs, Glen Fickenworth, Jennifer Fickenworth, Larry Graden, Hank Johnson, Daniel Kureshi, Sandra Long, Nancy Manning, Thomas Owen, Dana Painter, Deborah Palumbo, Becky Patrick-Robertson, Andrew Paulussen, Daniel Pfister, Sunday Reiser, Vernon Shepard, Ronal Siedlecki, Donna Smith, Valentine Wagner, Jeffrey Wisniewski, James Yost and Patricia Yost.



Freedom Tree replanted during annual Arbor Day

The annual Arbor Day ceremonies in December brought City Council and Community Appearance Board members to Chapin Memorial Library, where they replaced the Freedom Tree.

Recent storms had damaged the tree, which was planted in memory of Lt. Colonel Anthony Shine, a pilot stationed at the Myrtle Beach Air Force Base. Shine's plane crashed in Vietnam and was undiscovered for nearly 25 years, until family members found and identified his remains.



Savannah's Playground wins award

The SC Recreation and Parks Association gave its 2017 Excellence Award to Savannah's Playground at Myrtle Beach's Grand Park. The \$1.5 million enabling playground was conceived by Mayor John Rhodes and named in honor of Savannah Thompson. Phase one opened in 2016 adjacent to Crabtree Memorial Gymnasium, near The Market Common.



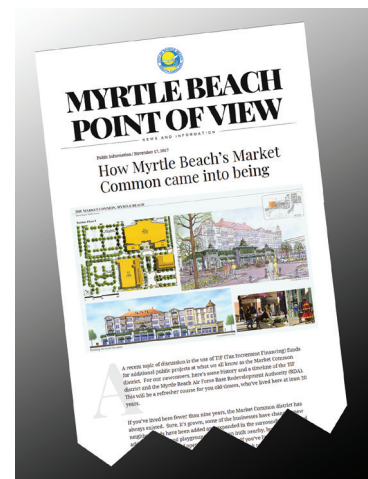
Savannah's Playground came to life thanks to the support and partnership of many community stakeholders. The City of Myrtle Beach started with the donation of the land and \$350,000. Other major contributions included \$300,000 from the South Carolina General Assembly, \$300,000 from the Myrtle Beach Air Force Base Redevelopment Authority and \$100,000 from Horry County.

New blog offers city viewpoint

The City of Myrtle Beach has launched its own blog to get the word out about city activities and address any incorrect information which may exist.

Called Myrtle Beach Point of View, the blog tackles topics that may require more information or additional background material so that readers are fully informed.

Transparency is the goal, and questions are welcomed. See the blog for yourself at www.myrtlebeachpointofview.com.



Changes ahead for solid waste schedules

Thanks to residential growth throughout the city, especially in the Market Common district, the Solid Waste Division will be adjusting its collection routes and days for some customers.

Plans call for maintaining the Monday through Thursday schedule, but some homes will be moved to different collection zones. The changes are expected to occur in February or March. Stay tuned for details.



Incoming Mayor and Council members...



Brenda Bethune



Mike Lowder



Jackie Vereen



Gregg Smith

Outgoing Mayor and Council members...



John Rhodes



Wayne Gray



Randal Wallace

New Council members take office

Myrtle Beach voters chose a new mayor and two new City Council members during the November elections. Brenda Bethune takes over the gavel from John Rhodes, who held the mayor's office for 12 years (2006-2018). Bethune is the city's first female mayor in its 80-year history.

Voters reelected incumbent Councilman Mike Lowder to a third term and added newcomers Jackie Vereen and Gregg Smith to round out the dais. Leaving City Council in January are two longtime members. Wayne Gray, who served a total of 16 years (1998-2002 and 2006-2018), did not seek reelection. Councilman Randal Wallace also served 16 years (2002-2018).



Withers Swash park expanding

Construction is well underway on the Withers Swash Park Trail between Third Avenue South and Broadway Street.

The project includes a raised boardwalk along the swash to where it connects with New Town Park, which Horry County recently completed. The \$450,000 project takes advantage of one of Myrtle Beach's oldest and most scenic waterways.

Smile for the cameras...



Myrtle Beach has nearly 800 cameras that watch over the major streets, intersections and parks throughout the city. The cameras have been highly valuable for tracking and arresting suspects and deterring criminal behavior.

New park offers trails, classroom

...continued from page 1

The City of Myrtle Beach thanks the following supporters for making the new park possible: CSX #Trees for Tracks (\$6,500), the Myrtle Beach Air Force Base Redevelopment Authority (\$500,000), Grand Strand Area Transportation Study (\$300,000), SC Parks, Recreation and Tourism (\$100,000), Beazer Homes (\$90,000) and The Vinings Group (\$25,000). The City of Myrtle Beach contributed \$126,000 (plus the land), bringing the total to \$1,147,500.

In the photos below, dozens of volunteers pitched in last fall to plant more than 30 trees along the paths and around the lakes at Thunderbolt Park. The trees were provided by the CSX grant and other groups. Species included Southern magnolia, red bud, river birch and bald cypress.



Volunteers gathered at Thunderbolt Park in November to plant three dozen trees around the lakes and along the park's multi-purpose paths.



Need your fingerprints for a job application or a concealed weapons permit?

The Myrtle Beach Police Department performs fingerprinting for city residents Tuesdays, from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Law Enforcement Center Annex on Mustang Street.