



Myrtle Beach receives 22nd annual Tree City USA award

During Arbor Day celebrations in December, the City of Myrtle Beach received its 22nd consecutive Tree City USA award from the SC Forestry Commission and the Arbor Day Foundation. In 2018, the Parks Division planted more than 1,500 new trees and pruned more than 3,400 existing ones. The Tree City Award recognizes communities that take care of their urban forests.



In Honor of Long Time Resident
Billy V. Roberts
 Historian and Friend to Myrtle's Market

Billy Roberts honored with bench at Myrtle's Market

Myrtle Beach historian Billy Roberts, at left above, was honored this fall with a bench in his name at Myrtle's Market. The bench dedication kicked off a tree and shrub planting event at the farmers' market, courtesy of a \$20,000 grant for improvements from TD Bank's Green Streets program. Roberts, 89, has been taking photos of Myrtle Beach and recording its history since he was a youngster.

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



City Council wants to hear from you!

Do you have something to tell the City Council members? Just send your email to dearcitycouncil@cityofmyrtlebeach.com. All seven members will get your message. The email address is designed to encourage public input to the Myrtle Beach City Council.



Looking for something to do in Myrtle Beach? Check out the Events list on our website. See also the site's calendar feature for current activities, programs and meetings.



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 2019

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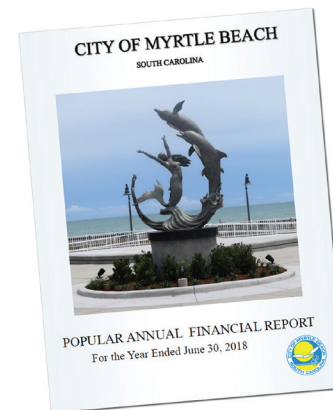
www.cityofmyrtlebeach.com

PROGRESS

REPORT

PAFR makes financial numbers easy to grasp

Each year, the City of Myrtle Beach publishes a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) that itemizes financial results for the past fiscal year. This detailed report is great if you have a background in accounting, but at more than 160 pages, it's a little heavy on the numbers.



That's why Myrtle Beach also produces a Popular Annual Financial Report, or PAFR, which conveys the financial results in a readable, easy to understand format.

You won't find any technical jargon in the PAFR. Instead, you'll see where the money to operate the City of Myrtle Beach originates and how it's spent to achieve the city's goals. For instance, public safety functions (police and fire) account for 30.6 percent of governmental fund expenditures.

Look for the PAFR and CAFR under Financial Management at www.cityofmyrtlebeach.com.



New state marker recalls the history of Charlie's Place

A piece of Myrtle Beach's musical past is recalled on a state historical marker on Carver Street, where Charlie's Place once stood. Charlie was Charles Fitzgerald, an African-American resident and business owner in the 1930s-1960s.

Charlie's Place, the restaurant and nightclub, is gone now, but preservation of the site is being accomplished by the City of Myrtle Beach, which is investing \$650,000. Construction is underway to renovate the adjacent Fitzgerald Motel as an event and community center. ...see [Charlie's Place](#), page 3



New restrooms opened this fall at Savannah's Playground at Grand Park, near Crabtree Gym. Each of the four family bathrooms has a changing station. The building features a new water fountain, too, complete with a bottle filling station that counts how many plastic bottles are saved.

Playground is ready for part 2

Construction is underway on Phase 2 of Savannah's Playground, featuring \$400,000 worth of new equipment on an expanded footprint.

A new play element is called a "We Go Round," which can spin two wheelchairs at once. It was donated by Carolina Parks and Play, which provided the rest of the equipment. Construction will wrap this winter.

Savannah's Playground is an enabling play space designed for children of all abilities.

New online offerings include business licenses issued and City Council members' history

Two new pages on Myrtle Beach's website should satisfy curiosity about recent business openings in the city and the history of our previous mayors and City Council members.

Each month, a file containing all of the new business licenses issued for the preceding month will be posted to the city's website. The listing of new businesses starts with June 2018, which was the beginning of the current license year. New files will be posted early each month.

A second new web page lists the names, election dates and lengths of term for every mayor and City Council member, from Myrtle Beach's beginning in 1938 to present. This history page offers a look back at who served on Council during Myrtle Beach's early years.

Both listings are available now on the city's website, www.cityofmyrtlebeach.com, along with more information.

Pictured above at the Swamp Fox roller coaster are members of the 1981 Myrtle Beach City Council. From the left, they are Wilson Cain, Ted Collins, James Futrell, Mayor Erick Ficken, Marjorie Stonebrook, E. A. Thomas and Pete Pearce.



Paper bags required for yard waste disposal

Leaves, clippings and other loose yard waste must be placed in paper bags for curbside pickup in Myrtle Beach. The Horry County Solid Waste Authority is only accepting yard waste in paper bags so that it can be composted.

Composting yard waste saves valuable space in the landfill. Home stores now carry paper bags just for this purpose. You can still put limbs by the curb, but leaves, etc., must be in paper bags.

ATTENTION: YARD WASTE COLLECTION CHANGE



Effective Now!

Please do not put yard waste materials in plastic bags or cans for collection. All leaves, grass clippings, weeds and other loose yard waste must be placed in paper bags.



Council meetings now are streamed live

If you can't get to the Ted C. Collins Law Enforcement Center for the City Council meetings on the second and fourth Tuesday each month, you can watch them on the internet or your local cable system.

Council meetings now are streamed live online, with the recordings archived for future reference. To view the online broadcast, go to the website, www.cityofmyrtlebeach.com, and click on "I Want To..." where you'll find a link to "Watch City Council Online."

Myrtle Beach has broadcast its regular Council meetings for more than 25 years on the local cable system. Council meetings are shown on MBTV, available on Channel 1303 on Spectrum and on Channel 9 on HTC cable.



New parking decals are ready

New parking decals for residents' vehicles will be available in January. If your personal vehicle is registered inside the City of Myrtle Beach and you pay city property taxes on it, then it's eligible for one of the residential parking decals. Commercial use vehicles are not eligible.

The new parking decals are valid until December 31, 2020, and allow you to park free at on-street parking meters in the city and at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center. The city counts your paid vehicle taxes as your contribution toward the parking supply, even if you never occupy a metered space.

Online registration for the free decals will be easier this year. Visit the city's website for details. You'll need your vehicle registration and tax receipt. A replacement decal due to a broken windshield, vehicle sale or other reason is \$20.

Singer, soldier Keni Thomas is Grand Marshal for 2019 Military Appreciation Days

Keni Thomas, decorated U.S. Army veteran-turned-country-musician, will serve as Grand Marshal of the 2019 Military Appreciation Days Parade at The Market Common on Memorial Day weekend. The month-long celebration is a "thank you" to our dedicated service men and women, both past and present, and their families.



In 1993, Staff Sergeant Thomas deployed to Mogadishu, Somalia, with Third Ranger Battalion as part of an elite special operation called Task Force Ranger. Its mission was to find and capture criminal warlord Mohammed Farrah Aidid.

On October 3, 1993, Thomas and fellow rangers distinguished themselves in an 18-hour firefight that would later be recounted in the book and movie, *Black Hawk Down*. Nineteen Americans died and 78 were wounded in the worst urban combat seen by U.S. troops since World War II.

After Mogadishu, SSGT Thomas volunteered for one more enlistment. He became an assistant team leader for a six-man ranger reconnaissance team, earning his master parachutist rating with more than 400 military freefall jumps. He completed the Special Forces Combat Diver course, became an Advanced EMT and was one of 10 Americans to complete the Belgian Commando Course.

In 1997, Thomas traded in his war boots for a microphone, ending his military career to pursue one in music. Thomas now works full-time as an award-winning country music artist and songwriter in Nashville. He and his band, Cornbread, were featured in the movie *Sweet Home Alabama*, and his music can be heard on country stations nationwide.

A powerful speaker, Thomas tells the incredible story of extraordinary individuals and how they fought to bring each other home. Thomas is a regular guest on major news networks as a military analyst and has received the American Patriot Award. He is a graduate of the University of Florida and recipient of the Bronze Star for Valor.



36th class graduates from Citizens Police Academy

Graduation ceremonies were held Monday, November 19, for the 36th session of the Myrtle Beach Citizens Police Academy. The course is normally 10 weeks, but was shortened to eight weeks this time, thanks to scheduling changes due to Hurricane Florence.

In all, 24 people completed the latest class, which offers a behind-the-scenes look at the Myrtle Beach Police Department. Participants get to ride along with officers, drive a police car on a closed obstacle course and learn about crime scene investigations and the K-9 unit. The free course is offered twice a year, in the fall and winter.



Charlie's Place marker remembers earlier time

...continued from page 1

The official historic marker came about through the efforts of many, including the Horry County Board of Architectural Review and Historic Preservation. Here's part of the text from the double-sided plaque:

"Charlie and Sarah Fitzgerald opened Charlie's Place as a supper club in 1937. It was a stop on the 'Chitlin' Circuit,' nightclubs where black entertainers such as Billie Holiday, the Mills Brothers, Little Richard, Ruth Brown, Otis Redding, and The Drifters performed during the era of racial segregation.

"While the club is gone, the Fitzgerald Motel, built in 1948, remains. The motel served black entertainers who could not stay in whites-only hotels. Oral tradition holds that 'the Shag,' a form of swing dancing, originated here. Both white and black customers gathered to listen to music and dance."