

Biking, walking improvements celebrated with ribbon-cuttings

Two construction projects designed to make it easier for our bicyclists and walkers to get around town were celebrated with ribbon-cutting ceremonies this spring. Together, the projects cost \$687,000 to build, but more than half of that total, some \$387,500, was provided by the County Transportation Committee, or CTC.



In the top photo at left, City Council members Mary Jeffcoat and Randal Wallace cut the ribbon on a new US 501 sidewalk. The six-foot strip runs from Alder to Seaboard Street, on the south side of the highway.



Below, Mayor John Rhodes and Councilman Randal Wallace cut the ribbon for a new bike lane on North Ocean Boulevard. The work included the bike lane, along with new curb-and-gutter, stormwater drainage, new pavement and a new sidewalk.



Myrtle Beach sprays for mosquitoes each weekday, weather permitting. You can help control mosquitoes by eliminating standing water.



Market has fresh produce, more

Myrtle's Market is open from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., each Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at the corner of Mr. Joe White Avenue and Oak Street. Vendors offer fresh fruits and vegetables, local honey, homemade desserts and handmade crafts. Call 843-918-4906 for more information about the Farmers' Market.



Look for new beach safety flag system

Myrtle Beach has a new set of safety flags to keep beachgoers informed about water conditions. Pictured above is a sign showing the new system. The flags fly from lifeguard stands to alert of any potential danger.

A double red flag means the water is closed; no swimming is allowed. A single red flag indicates hazardous conditions, such as strong waves. Medium hazards are indicated by a yellow flag, while a green flag shows that conditions are generally good. A blue flag indicates dangerous marine life, such as jellyfish.

PROGRESS REPORT Summer 2017

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PROGRESS

REPORT



Fire Department teams provide on-beach safety and emergency response throughout the summer.

Beach safety and water quality make summer fun

Myrtle Beach's oceanfront is both cleaner and safer, thanks to ongoing investments by the city. New additions in recent years include the deepwater ocean outfall at Fourth Avenue North and increased presence on the beach by both police and fire personnel.

The city now has a dedicated beach coordinator to look after and monitor the oceanfront, the sand dunes and the public accesses. Full beach renourishment is expected next year, but the city has recovered well from Hurricane Matthew. New sand fencing is in place, and dunes are recovering. *...see Beachfront, page 3*

Train Depot gets boxcar

The historic Myrtle Beach Train Depot has a boxcar of its own, delivered by truck and crane in mid-June. The used boxcar is awaiting renovation and a new coat of paint. Ultimately, it will be turned into additional meeting and storage space to complement the existing building.

The Train Depot is widely used for receptions, meetings, parties, concerts, weddings and more. Plans also call for a caboose, which could be used as a kitchen, and perhaps another boxcar or flatbed for an outside stage.

Built in 1936 and renovated in 2006, the Train Depot is on the National Register of Historic Places. As a result, the structure can't be altered without losing that historic designation.

Adding a railcar or two will provide extra space, keeping with the character of the depot. The car was purchased for \$10,000.



A used boxcar weighing 53,000 pounds is placed back on its wheels at the Myrtle Beach Train Depot. Two sets of tracks still run by the building. Once renovated, the boxcar will provide extra space and storage to complement the depot without changing the structure.

'Library of tomorrow' will revitalize central city area

Plans are moving ahead for a new Chapin Memorial Library and South Carolina Children's Museum on the corner of Kings Highway and Ninth Avenue North.

In January 2017, the Myrtle Beach City Council announced future plans to build the library and children's museum building on that corner of the Super Block. It's a first step toward revitalization of the central business district.

In five short months since the announcement, most of the property has been purchased at or above market value. The city soon will seek an architectural firm to design the buildings. Demolition of the existing structures could begin in early 2018, with construction of the new facility likely to occur in the 2018-19 budget year.

The current Chapin Memorial Library is a busy hub for families, with year-round activities. However, the building itself dates from 1949, while modern libraries feature a more open design. *...see Construction, page 3*





Beach wheelchairs available for free use

The City of Myrtle Beach offers free use of lightweight, beach-going wheelchairs on a first-come, first-served basis.

To inquire about one of the chairs, call 843-918-1488. The chairs are delivered and picked up on the same day.

A legal form of identification is required. Supplies are limited, and reservations are not accepted, due to demand.



Jazz Festival returns!

Myrtle Beach is planning for the second annual Jazz Festival, to be held September 29 through October 1 on Carver Street. The three-day event will fill the area between 21st and 18th Avenues North with live music, delicious food and handmade crafts.

Admission to the Jazz Festival is free, with free parking at the Myrtle Beach Pelicans' stadium and a free shuttle service from there. Bring your lawn chair and enjoy the show.



Date set for 2017 Garage Sale

South Carolina's Largest Garage Sale returns to the Myrtle Beach Convention Center on Saturday, October 7, from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. From castoff to collectible, you'll find it at the 29th annual sale.

Thousands of people turn out for the big bargain hunt, which fills more than 100,000 square feet of space at the Convention Center. Admission is free. Parking at the Convention Center is \$5.00 per car, per day.

Want to sell your items? Please note that on-line vendor registration for the 280 available spaces will begin at 9:00 a.m., Monday, August 7, 2017.



33rd Citizens Police Academy celebrates with graduation

Myrtle Beach's 33rd session of the Citizens Police Academy celebrated its graduation with ceremonies at the Law Enforcement Center Annex near The Market Common. Taught by the Myrtle Beach Police Department, the Citizens Police Academy gives a behind-the-scenes look at law enforcement.

The class is held twice a year, in the fall and winter, and meets each Monday evening for 10 weeks. Participants learn about crime scene investigation, K-9 units, emergency vehicle operation and simulated firearms training. They also ride along with officers.

Graduates of Class 33, pictured above, include Jim Andrew, Patte Appling, Rob Faro, Marian Graham, Steven Jordan, Susan Keller, Pat Loomis, Tana Mason, John Moore, Susan Murphy, Marilyn Patton, Pam Rochelle, Julie Schroll, Sandra Sharpe, Joe Shepard, Tish Singleton, Patricia Smith, Cole Williams, David Williams, Donna Williams, Jerry Williamson and Melinda Williamson.

Applicants must be residents of Horry County and at least 21. A valid driver's license is required, along with a criminal history check and driver's license background check. Class members must attend at least eight of the 10 sessions to graduate.

The next class will be held in September. Applications for the 34th session are being accepted until 5:00 p.m., Monday, July 31. For more information, contact Master Sergeant Bryan Murphy at 843-918-1803. Visit www.cityofmyrtlebeach.com/cpa.html or one of the law enforcement centers for an application.

Chapin Park stage complete

The new stage at Chapin Park is ready! During the past two years, the city has renovated the park, adding sidewalks, painting the pergola, removing the fence and thinning the tree canopy. Construction of a new stage is the most recent step. Call 843-918-2332 to inquire about using the park.

Changes coming to solid waste collection schedule

Thanks to new residential growth throughout the city, especially in the Market Common area, the Solid Waste Division soon will be making changes to the collection routes and days. The city will keep the Monday-through-Thursday schedule, but some homes will be moved to different collection days. Stay tuned for more information!

If you're wondering what the schedule will be for residential solid waste and recycling collection during the upcoming holidays, here's a list for the rest of 2017.

LABOR DAY... City offices will be closed Monday, September 4, in observance of Labor Day. However, solid waste and recycling collections will occur on the regular schedule that week.

VETERANS DAY... City offices will be closed Friday, November 10, in observance of Veterans Day. However, solid waste and recycling collections will occur on the regular Monday-through-Thursday schedule. No service will be provided Friday, November 10.

THANKSGIVING WEEK... City offices will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 23 and 24, for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Solid waste and recycling collections for Wednesday and Thursday, November 22-23, will occur on Wednesday, November 22. No service will be offered Thursday or Friday, November 23-24.

CHRISTMAS WEEK... City offices will be closed Monday and Tuesday, December 25 and 26, for Christmas. Monday's solid waste and recycle collections will occur on Tuesday, December 26. Tuesday's normal collection will occur on Wednesday, December 27. Both Wednesday and Thursday collections will occur on Thursday, December 28. No service will be offered Friday, December 29.

Construction planning on track for library, museum

The need for a new library has been discussed for a decade. Beyond books, Chapin Memorial Library offers a wealth of digital media, along with educational and cultural programs for all ages, and has simply outgrown its space.

Combining the library with the Children's Museum will create a destination for local and visiting families. It also will bring new life to the Super Block, where some of the buildings were unoccupied or in need of repairs.

Property purchases have been accomplished through the Downtown Redevelopment Corporation's \$10 million line of credit. Initial funding for construction also may come from the line of credit, but City Council ultimately will issue bonds to build the facility. An exact cost will be determined once architectural designs are complete.

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Are you ready for a hurricane?

For newcomers, last year's Hurricane Matthew was a wake-up call. Living by the coast is great, but hurricane season is a fact from June through November. Know what to do before the storm strikes.

For example, you should know your evacuation zone and the route to take if an evacuation is needed. Have a family contact point. Stock up an emergency kit and keep your important papers and documents handy. Advance preparation is the key to your safety if a hurricane threatens the Myrtle Beach area.

Beachfront safety is top priority for summer fun

...continued from page 1

The new sand fencing includes "turtle breaks," which allow nesting sea turtles access to the beach. However, the breaks are not for humans! It is illegal to damage the dunes, sand fencing or sea grass. Violations are subject to a fine of up to \$500 and/or 30 days in jail, so stay on the marked paths.

The city has increased the presence of both Police and Fire Department staff on the beach. Three EMS crews are available on the beach, seven days a week, to provide first aid and assist with any water-related emergencies. The Beach Patrol also has more officers working on the beach. The lifeguard services, through the franchise agreement with the city, also have a greater presence on the beach, with new lifeguard-only stands.

Completion of the Fourth Avenue North deepwater ocean outfall means that stormwater runoff now flows more than 1,000 feet offshore, beyond the breakers. The city has four deepwater outfalls that have removed drainage pipes from the beach and greatly improved the overall ocean water quality.



New sand fencing installed includes "turtle breaks" to accommodate nesting sea turtles, but not people. Stay on the marked paths! Damaging the dunes, sand fencing or sea grass is a misdemeanor.