

Paper, not plastic, please

In order to compost more material and save valuable space in the landfill, the Solid Waste Authority is requesting that residents switch to paper bags for their lawn clippings, leaves and other yard debris. Plastic bags do not decompose and therefore cannot be composted. The City of Myrtle Beach will make this switch on November 1. After that time, leaves and yard waste will only be collected in paper bags.

ATTENTION: YARD WASTE COLLECTION CHANGE



Effective **NOVEMBER 1, 2018**

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.

What do you get for your \$\$\$?

When all regular property taxes, fees and monthly service charges were considered, a typical residential household in the City of Myrtle Beach paid an estimated \$123 per month for city services in 2017-18. Included are property taxes on a house valued at \$250,000 and two automobiles valued at \$28,000, along with monthly fees for 7,500 gallons of water, curbside solid waste services and the stormwater fee.

Note that the cost per month is about the same or less than a typical electric power bill or the cost of telephone, cable and internet service for most homes. And that's *before* calculating the 80-percent property tax credit for owner-occupied residential property. So, what does that \$123 per month buy? Here's a short list of what you get for your money.

ISO 1 fire protection; 24-hour EMS response; hazardous material response; 24-hour police protection; traffic enforcement; criminal investigation; crime prevention programs; school resource officers; street construction and maintenance; traffic signals and street lights; street sweeping; litter pick-up; recycling; stormwater drainage system maintenance and improvement; parks; playgrounds; recreation facilities and programs; community planning, zoning and development review; code enforcement and construction services; municipal court; various economic development services; street tree plantings and maintenance; and all municipal management, support and legislative services.



Find Myrtle Beach info here...

The City of Myrtle Beach offers a number of ways to receive information about city meetings, activities, events and services. As the above graphic shows, you'll find city communications on the Internet, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, Wordpress (our blog) and Next Door. We also provide a weekly city email.

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

Use these handy phone numbers for Myrtle Beach facilities and services

Main Number	843-918-1000
Animal Control	843-918-1382
Business License	843-918-1200
Construction Services	843-918-1111
Chapin Memorial Library	843-918-1275
Clerk of Court	843-918-1356
Crabtree Memorial Gym	843-918-2355
Crime Prevention Officer	843-918-1806
Fire Administration	843-918-1192
General Robert H. Reed Rec. Center	843-918-2380
Mary C. Canty Recreation Center	843-918-1465
Myrtle Beach City Hall	843-918-1012
Neighborhood Services	843-918-1062
Parks Division	843-918-2412
Pepper Geddings Recreation Center	843-918-2280
Planning	843-918-1050
Police (Non-Emergency)	843-918-1382
Public Works	843-918-2000
Solid Waste	843-918-2160
Tennis Center	843-918-2440
Utility Billing	843-918-1212

Sign up for Myrtle Beach's weekly news and events email. The **Friday Fax** provides upcoming meetings and agendas. Send your address to info@cityofmyrtlebeach.com.

PROGRESS REPORT Autumn 2018

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PROGRESS

REPORT

Annual Report: Fiscal Year 2017-18

Public safety receives top priority in 2017-18 budget

Improving public safety in the City of Myrtle Beach was the main goal of last year's budget, as well as this year's. The spending plan for fiscal year 2017-18 totaled \$190.6 million and added 14 new positions, nine of those in public safety roles.

The new city staff included five additional police officers, two real-time crime analysts to track trends and watch cameras and two extra code enforcement officers. The city also increased on-beach coverage by both the Police and Fire Departments.

The budget did not require a property tax increase. The *ad valorem* tax rate remained steady at 77.5 mills, and owner-occupied homes received a credit from the Tourism Development Fee for the operational portion of the budget. As a result, the effective tax rate for owner-occupied homes was 14 mills.

The fiscal year just past saw two minor fee increases, one for solid waste and one for water and sewer service. The residential solid waste fee increased by \$1.15 per month in last year's budget, but that was simply a pass-through of higher landfill tipping fees charged by the Horry County Solid Waste Authority.

Utility customers saw a blended water and sewer rate increase of 2.5 to 2.8 percent, depending on volume used. A typical four-person home using 7,500 gallons of water a month paid \$1.23 more. The increase also was a pass-through of higher rates charged by Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority.

The chart at right shows what a typical Myrtle Beach residential household pays in city taxes, service charges and fees, and how the city might use those revenues to provide public services in our community.

Capital projects completed, beach renourishment and others scheduled

Several major capital improvement projects were approved for fiscal year 2017-18, including renovations at Doug Shaw Memorial Stadium and Mary C. Canty Recreation Center. Others included the annual work to rebuild half a dozen dune crossovers and construction of Thunderbolt Park along Farrow Parkway.

Several projects that began during the fiscal year were completed later this summer. They include the extension of Burroughs & Chapin Boulevard from Oak Street to Grissom Parkway, providing greater access to the Myrtle Beach Convention Center and Sports Center.

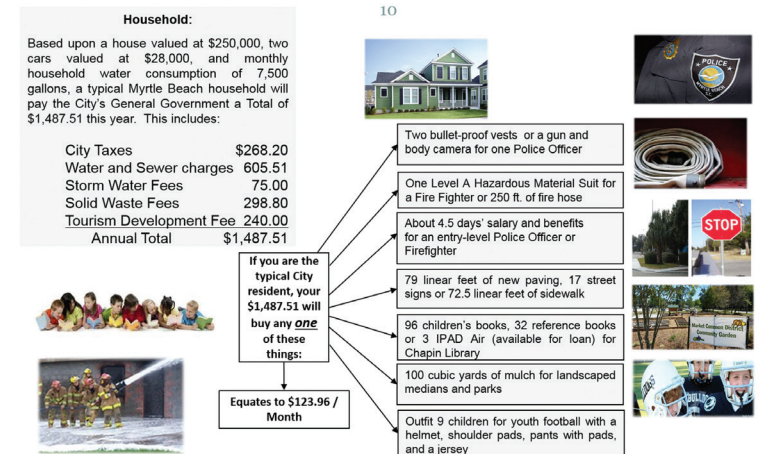
Also completed were improvements to Matt Hughes Skate Park and Myrtle's Market and installation of new residential sidewalks and traffic control cabinets.

...see **Beach renourishment**, page 2

The Myrtle Beach Police Department acquired the mobile command post shown here for special events, emergencies.



BUYING POWER OF TYPICAL HOUSEHOLD





Beach renourishment, more projects underway

...continued from page 1

Beach renourishment along the city's shoreline is underway this fall. Myrtle Beach is benefitting from \$24 million in federal funding for emergency sand replenishment following a couple of recent hurricanes.

Other projects completed include restriping of a portion of Ocean Boulevard to match the three-lanes-with-bicycle-lanes configuration elsewhere. In addition to new telescoping seats in the exhibit hall, the Myrtle Beach Convention Center reduced energy consumption indoors, installed solar lights outside and updated the exterior and grounds of the facility.

The FY 2018-19 capital project budget includes maintenance and repairs to various city buildings, along with work at Futrell Park, the Myrtle Beach Train Depot and new public restrooms at Savannah's Playground.

Other scheduled projects include the repainting of the Air Force planes on display at Warbird Park and completion of Thunderbolt Park at the former Myrtle Beach Air Force Base.

Also this year, the public can expect the beginning of underground utility conversions on South Kings Highway, from Third Avenue South to Ninth Avenue South. This work will require two winter seasons to complete.

Did you know...???

That a gallon of water costs Myrtle Beach city residents just one-tenth of a cent? That's the cost per gallon for the first 4,000 gallons each month, even with a small rate increase in FY 2018-19.

The price includes both the base charge (\$2.85) and the use charge (\$1.53) for the first 4,000 gallons. Put another way, you get 10 gallons of water for one penny, delivered to your home, around the clock.

Out-of-city residential customers pay twice as much as in-city customers, so a gallon of water costs them two-tenths of a cent.

Myrtle Beach has Council-Manager government form

By a four-to-one margin, Myrtle Beach city voters adopted the Council-Manager form of government in 1973. In this system, City Council is the legislative body, setting the policy and direction for municipal government.

City Council is composed of a mayor who serves as presiding officer and six members. All are elected at-large to four-year terms in staggered, biennial elections. The mayor and Council are non-partisan.

A professional city manager is the chief executive and administrative officer for the city. The manager is appointed by City Council and administers daily operations through the executive staff and department heads.

The City of Myrtle Beach is both a public agency and a multi-million dollar corporation. The budget for fiscal year 2018-19 totals \$199.6 million.

South Carolina requires that local governments adopt balanced budgets, providing sufficient revenues and other financing sources to offset expenditures authorized for the fiscal period. Myrtle Beach has such a balanced budget.



Planning received grants worth more than \$460,000

Myrtle Beach's Planning Department received more than \$460,000 in grants last year for more than a dozen projects. The grants assisted with park construction, tree plantings, new bicycle racks, trails, a business workshop on disaster recovery and renovation of a former Air Force Base building. A short list includes:

- ◆ \$6,500 from the CSX "Beyond the Rails" program to purchase trees, fertilizer and mulch for tree plantings.
- ◆ \$7,500 from TD Bank's TD Tree Days Program for 75 trees and supplies for tree plantings in Withers Swash Park.
- ◆ \$20,000 from TD Bank for improvements to Myrtle's Market, including irrigation, sod, sidewalks, trees, shrubs, planting boxes and signage.
- ◆ \$2,500 from the South Carolina

Office of Regulatory Staff, Energy Office to help illustrate gasoline savings by cycling, using the BikeMB app, and 10 bicycle racks with the BikeMB logo.

◆ \$50,000 from the Myrtle Beach Air Base Redevelopment Authority to construct the southern East Coast Greenway trailhead, including signage, a pavilion and concrete pad, water bottle refilling station, bike repair stand, picnic tables and a beginner mountain bike trail.

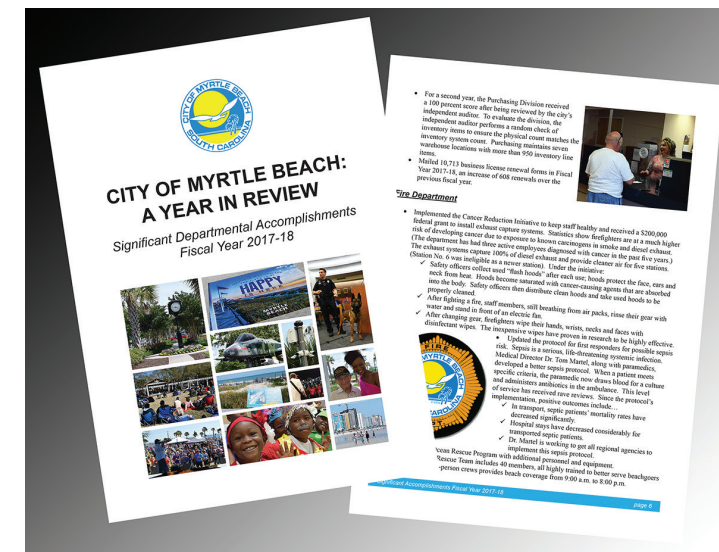
◆ \$16,000 technical assistance grant from South Carolina Emergency Management for an annual business disaster recovery symposium. The event covers weather, emergency management, preparing for a disaster, active shooter information and more.



Myrtle Beach, by the numbers

Here are a few statistics to put the city's "first in service" pledge into perspective. During the 2017-18 year, the City of Myrtle Beach and its staff....

- ◆ Maintained 10.77 miles of beach for everyone to enjoy.
- ◆ Issued 585 new single-family residence permits.
- ◆ Issued 7,072 building permits of all kinds with a total value of \$355,690,680.
- ◆ Performed 20,209 building inspections.
- ◆ Worked 2,336,359 hours during the year, not counting any extra time that exempt personnel worked.
- ◆ Installed 69 solar powered lights at the Convention Center.
- ◆ Hosted 192 events and 569,000 people at the Convention Center.
- ◆ Mailed 10,713 business license renewals.
- ◆ Handled 28,222 court cases.
- ◆ Answered 128,665 calls for police service and investigated 3,087 cases.
- ◆ Received 20,736 calls for 9-1-1 emergency service.
- ◆ Responded to 14,889 calls for fire and emergency medical service, of which 9,683 were for EMS and rescue needs, 1,722 were false alarms and 221 were for actual fires.
- ◆ Collected and disposed of 47,550,000 pounds of solid waste.
- ◆ Maintained 2,584 fire hydrants, 49 miles of medians, 39 parks and 97 buildings.
- ◆ Responded to 242 requests under the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.
- ◆ Played more than 11,000 games on city recreation fields.
- ◆ Hosted 199 events at the Myrtle Beach Train Depot.
- ◆ Welcomed 116,000 people to Chapin Memorial Library and hosted 585 programs.
- ◆ Hosted 811 young people in the Summer Reading Program, and they read for 8,732 hours.
- ◆ Conducted the 34th and 35th Citizens Police Academy sessions.



Want more info about 2017-18?

The City of Myrtle Beach offers a list of accomplishments for the fiscal year just past. To learn more about what our staff members and departments achieved, view "A Year in Review" online at <http://www.cityofmyrtlebeach.com/FY2017-18Accomplishments.pdf>.

2017-18 awards and recognitions

◆ The Finance Department received its 30th annual **Certificate for Excellence in Financial Reporting** from the Government Finance Officers Association for the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for 2016-17.

◆ Myrtle Beach received the **South Carolina Municipal Association Achievement Award in Public Service** for Savannah's Playground at Grand Park.



◆ The Myrtle Beach Fire Department won its eighth consecutive **Richard S. Campbell Award** from the SC Fire Chiefs Association for Excellence in Public Safety Education. This is the 13th time the Fire Department has received this statewide award for safety efforts.

◆ The City of Myrtle Beach received its 21st annual **Tree City USA Award** last year. Sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation, the US Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters, the award recognizes efforts to protect and preserve our urban forest.

◆ Earned the National Weather Service's certification as **StormReady and TsunamiReady** for three more years.



City Council wants to hear from you. Email all of the Council members directly at dearcitycouncil@cityofmyrtlebeach.com.