



Please keep out of the dunes!

It's illegal in Myrtle Beach to climb or walk on the sand dunes or to break or damage the sea oats or beach grass for any reason. The sand dunes are the first line of defense in the event of a hurricane. The sand fencing and sea grasses help the dunes grow.

Seasonal rules about dogs and bicycles on the beach go into effect May 1 and continue through Labor Day. During the summer months, pets are allowed on the beach before 10:00 a.m. and after 5:00 p.m. At all times, pets must be on a leash of seven feet or less, and owners must pick up and properly dispose of any droppings.

Bicycles also must observe the "only before 10:00 a.m. and after 5:00 p.m." rule for the beach. On the boardwalk, pets and bicycles are allowed only from 5:00 to 10:00 a.m., beginning May 1.



New trail nears completion next to Farrow Parkway, ITAP

Paving is underway on the new 10-foot-wide multipurpose path around the Thunderbolt Park lake along Farrow Parkway. The park is just west of Myrtle Beach's Market Common district and adjacent to the International Technology and Aerospace Park (ITAP).

Thunderbolt Park is an extension of the Grand Park system, which includes lakes, trails and recreation facilities in the Market Common area, once home to the Myrtle Beach Air Force Base.



Sign up for the weekly **Friday Fax** email to receive meetings and agendas for the coming week, along with city-related news and events. Send your email address to info@cityofmyrtlebeach.com. Like and visit our Facebook page, too: www.facebook.com/myrtlebeachcitygovernment.



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

'Check My Beach' for timely information

Grand Strand residents and visitors have a new resource for beach-going information. The "Check My Beach" site offers details about water quality testing, rip currents, beach safety tips and more.

The site's goal is to provide timely, accurate and useful information directly to beach-goers.

The swim season runs from May 1 until October 1. Visit www.checkmybeach.com.



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

Did you know... That metal detecting is permitted on the beach itself, but not in the sand dunes or in the beach access street-ends? Metal detecting is not allowed in city parks or on other city-owned property.

PROGRESS REPORT Spring 2021

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

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

PUBLISHER

Jonathan Fox Simons, City Manager

EDITOR

Mark Kruea, Public Information Director
info@cityofmyrtlebeach.com
843-918-1014

P. O. Box 2468
Myrtle Beach, SC 29578

www.cityofmyrtlebeach.com

PROGRESS REPORT

Mask use urged as COVID-19 emergency continues for now

The City of Myrtle Beach's year-long emergency declaration for COVID-19 continues, along with a new executive order from City Manager Fox Simons urging everyone to keep wearing face coverings to protect each other from the disease.

Businesses have the option of requiring masks in indoor public spaces for both patrons and staff. "We encourage them to exercise that option," Simons said, "until COVID is controlled."



This latest executive order replaces all previous ones. It keeps the temporary signage allowances through April for businesses. It also continues the business license payment plan which City Council approved to help businesses cope and speed the recovery.

More than a year into the global pandemic caused by COVID-19, "The public fully understands the importance of safety protocols, including the use of face masks," Simons added. "Personal responsibility must drive our actions and choices now."

Sports Center is renamed in honor of Mayor John Rhodes

John Rhodes, former three-term mayor and one of the city's earliest and biggest proponents of sports tourism for Myrtle Beach, passed away from COVID-19 in late January.

To honor his memory and many contributions, the City Council approved a name change for the Sports Center. The new sign for the John T. Rhodes Myrtle Beach Sports Center was unveiled April 3, which would have been Rhodes' 78th birthday.

During his term on Council from 2006 until 2018, the city built the Sports Center, the Grand Park Athletic Complex, the Myrtle Beach Boardwalk and Savannah's Playground, among other projects, and renovated Doug Shaw Memorial Stadium.

Rhodes also was the longtime executive director of the Beach Ball Classic, a national high school basketball tournament.



Nance Plaza's facelift welcomes more uses

An expansion and update of Myrtle Beach's Nance Plaza makes the park space a centerpiece in the city's new Arts & Innovation District.

The redesigned plaza now features a stage for performances, an outdoor cafe, friendly turf grass for games and events and an extension between buildings to provide access to additional parking off North Oak Street.

Two new businesses face onto the updated plaza in renovated buildings that retain the historic character of the area. Renovations are underway on six more buildings on Ninth Avenue North.

One of those will become the HTC Aspire Hub, a cowork space for entrepreneurs and artists.

Berrouet chosen 2020's Volunteer of the Year

Congratulations to Miriam Berrouet, the City of Myrtle Beach's Volunteer of the Year for 2020.

Berrouet received the honor during a surprise meeting with Myrtle Beach Mayor Brenda Bethune at City Hall, since COVID-19 cancelled the Volunteer Appreciation Lunch. ...see Award, page 3



Underground utilities give Pampas Drive a new look

“Look, Ma, no poles!” Gone are the overhead utility poles and wires from the older portion of Pampas Drive, near Myrtle Beach’s Grand Park.

Overhead utilities were placed underground during 2020, and the last of the old-style wooden poles vanished earlier this year. As you can see in the before-and-after photos below, the difference is noticeable. New light fixtures with LEDs also provide a cleaner, brighter look.



This portion of Pampas Drive and nearby Crabtree Lane never did get a makeover when the rest of the former Myrtle Beach Air Force Base was transformed into the Market Common area, compete with underground utilities.

Horry-Georgetown Technical College is wrapping up a landscaping and building improvement program which will complete Pampas Drive’s new look later this year.

An underground utility fund established by Santee Cooper and the City of Myrtle Beach paid for removal of overhead lines and their placement in conduits and vaults.

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, email it to jadkins@cityofmyrtlebeach.com, or bring it to City Hall, 937 Broadway Street.



Myrtle Beach history is revealed on Ninth Avenue

Anyone remember Seymour’s Gift Shop on Ninth Avenue North? Removing the old facade from one of the buildings in preparation for restoring the original character unveiled some unexpected signage from a previous tenant.

Apparently, Seymour’s Gift Shop occupied the same space as the A&P Super Store, either before or after the grocery. Layers of paint were powerwashed away, but the Seymour’s sign remained and surprised locals.

Six building facades are being restored on Ninth Avenue North as part of the city’s renovations in the Arts & Innovation District. One will become the HTC Aspire Hub, a cowork space for local artists and entrepreneurs.

New picnic shelters offer options at Warbird Park

Three new picnic shelters are complete and ready for use at Myrtle Beach’s Warbird Park on Farrow Parkway, as shown below.

The new shelters feature covers, concrete pads and either picnic tables or benches. You’ll find them in the wooded areas overlooking the runway at Myrtle Beach International Airport.

Thanks go to the Myrtle Beach Air Force Base Redevelopment Authority for funding the construction. The total cost was just under \$50,000.

No reservation is required to enjoy a picnic or a some solitude at one of these new structures!



In all, the Redevelopment Authority provided more than \$212,000, which included funding for replacement of 32 outdated fire hydrants in Seagate Village. The old fire hydrants had been in service since 1956 and were upgraded to a larger size for better water flows.

NON-RESIDENT EMPLOYEE PARKING DECAL

Eligibility Requirements: Must be directly employed by a business located East of Kings Highway to oceanfront.

VALID at any POM Meter in the City

What is a POM Meter?

A - Base model accepts coins only

Where are the POM Meters?

A - Typically 2nd & 3rd row parking

How many spots available?

A - 1,465 Citywide



NOT VALID Anywhere Else...

NO: Beach Accesses | “Smart” Meters | or Pay-by-Phone-ONLY areas

Will I know if I’m parked at one of these locations?

A - Yes, parking payment methods are clearly marked with signage if a physical meter is not present.

Why can’t I park here?

A - Pay Stations and Smart Meter locations are found throughout the City in close proximity to the ocean, therefore are naturally high revenue generating locations and reserved to be utilized by visitors and other preferred city decals systems, such as \$30 weekly passes.

Non-resident parking decals available for Boulevard staff

The City of Myrtle Beach offers a non-resident parking decal for employees who work east of Kings Highway.

If you work on Ocean Boulevard, for example, but your vehicle isn’t eligible for one of the residential parking decals, this new program will benefit you.

Recipients must be directly employed by a business located east of Kings Highway. Proof of employment is required. The cost of the yearly parking decal is \$50.00, and it expires annually on December 31.

As explained in the graphic above, non-resident employee decals may be used only at coin-operated parking meters. They are not valid at smart meters, pay stations, street-ends or pay-by-phone-only parking areas.

Applications for the decals must be presented in person, along with the requested documentation, at the parking office in the Pavilion Parking Garage, at the corner of Kings Highway and Ninth Avenue North. Application materials are available on the city’s website, www.cityofmyrtlebeach.com.



New driveway installed at Charlie’s Place

A circular driveway made of permeable pavers now serves Charlie’s Place on Carver Street. The pavers allow rain to soak through. The historic site was the home of Charlie and Sarah Fitzgerald and includes a re-creation of part of the Whispering Pines Motel, which served African-American travelers during segregation. The city purchased and restored the property.

Award recognizes one outstanding volunteer

...continued from page 1

Berrouet was chosen as Volunteer of the Year “for her service to the City of Myrtle Beach as Chair of the Human Rights Commission, where she increased our diversity and inclusiveness and provided a listening ear and a loving place to turn, as well as for her translation services for the Hispanic community.”

The city has nearly 600 volunteers who serve in many capacities throughout the year. Instead of a lunch this time, volunteers received a letter of thanks and a small gift of appreciation for their services.



Facilities Re-opening Update

Expecting a return to 100% occupancy in May



Full occupancy for city buildings, offices should resume in May

The City of Myrtle Beach’s offices and facilities returned to 75 percent of capacity in April, with plans to resume 100 percent occupancy in May.

Many buildings had been operating at reduced capacity or were closed to the public entirely for the past year, due to the COVID-19 global pandemic.

The Ted C. Collins Law Enforcement Center lobby reopened to the public in April, as did City Hall and the City Services Building.

Our recreation centers and Chapin Memorial Library are operating at 75 percent of capacity in April, but will allow 100 percent capacity beginning in May, barring any change in COVID conditions.

Rentals at Mary C. Canty Recreation Center, General Robert H. Reed Recreation Center and the Myrtle Beach Train Depot returned to full capacity April 1, while youth and adult sports are allowing spectators again.

Myrtle’s Market returns in mid-April. The farmers’ market will be open 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, at the corner of North Oak Street and Mr. Joe White Avenue. Parking is free.

To become a vendor at Myrtle’s Market, call 843-918-4906.

