



11 graduate from 44th CPA Class

Eleven local residents graduated in March from Class 44 of the Citizens Police Academy. The nine-week course meets Monday evenings and offers a behind-the-scenes look at the Myrtle Beach Police Department.

Class members learn about crime scene investigation, the K-9 unit and other law enforcement topics. They also experience the Fire Arms Training Simulator and ride along with patrol officers. Most important, they get to know our officers and staff as people.

Pictured above with Police Chief Amy Prock and Sergeant Jeffrey Thomas are Class 44's Jeff Allen, David Cacho, Kerah Conti, Anna Fox, Lyric Gibson, Brian Long, Linda Oakley, Margo Partlow, Eric Rivenbark and Tiffany Shifflett. Not pictured is Joseph Perry.



MyBeach 101 class recognized

Graduates of the eighth *MyBeach 101* class were recognized by City Council in March. They are pictured above with Neighborhood Services staff members who organize and host the annual program.

MyBeach 101 participants met Thursday evenings at various locations to learn about city operations from department heads and staff members. Topics included the full range of city services, from parks to public works and budgeting to building maintenance.

This year's *MyBeach 101* class members were Lucy Bongiorno, Brittany Brown, Tewana Denney, Mike Deweese, SueAnn Deweese, Omar Dickens, Dent Follweiler, Janet Hart, Kenya Hennigan, Kori Hippe, Mitchell Martin, Peggy Masterson, Jo Ella McQueen, Raymond Moyer, Virginia Norris, Waleed Razzaq, John Schwinn, Christine Shefchik, Barbara Shepherd, Joyce Stack, Flori Tonn, Thomas Vantine, Suzanne Watts and Monica Wilson.



Sign up for the weekly **Friday Fax** email to receive meetings and agendas for the coming week, along with city-related news and events. Visit <http://cepurl.com/idi4uX> to put your address on the Friday Fax list. Like and visit our Facebook page, too: www.facebook.com/myrtlebeachcitygovernment.



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

Garage Sale date set

We have a date for SC's Largest Garage Sale at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center! Mark your calendar for Saturday, September 7, 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Parking is \$5.00 per car.

The sale draws nearly 250 vendors who fill more than 100,000 square feet of floor space with second-hand treasures. From cast-off to collectible, you'll find it at South Carolina's Largest Garage Sale.



Transfer Station open

Myrtle Beach city residents have extended hours to drop off items at the Jake Abraham Transfer Station, 3221 Mr. Joe White Avenue.

Doing some spring cleaning? You may drop off garbage, yard waste, tires, e-waste, bulk waste, clean lumber and commingled recyclables at the transfer station.

Proof of residency is required. Hours are 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, and 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday. For more information, call 843-918-2160.

PROGRESS REPORT Spring 2024

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Brenda Bethune, Mayor
Mike Lowder, Mayor Pro Tem
Michael Chestnut
Debbie Conner
Jackie Hatley
Bill McClure
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



Mobile librarians Jerilynn Derhammer and Thomas Smith welcome you to Chapin Memorial Library "on the go."

Rolling, mobile library provides books on the go!

Say "hello" to Myrtle Beach's first-ever bookmobile. The city's new library-on-wheels debuted in March and is making the rounds already, visiting neighborhoods, community centers and assisted living facilities.

The city's Chapin Memorial Library received a \$200,000 grant from the Chapin Foundation in 2023 to purchase a van and equip it as a mobile library. The vehicle's cabin space stores more than 900 items.

Patrons can check out, renew and exchange books from the bookmobile. You can also register for a library card, enjoy free WiFi and return books, whether they came from the actual library or the mobile library.

Your mobile librarians are Jerilynn Derhammer and Thomas Smith. To request a visit, call 843-918-1277 or apply at <https://www.chapinlibrary.org/mobile-library>.



Skaters welcome new bowl at park

Skaters are thrilled with a new bowl to test their shredding skills at Matt Hughes Skate Park, near Doug Shaw Memorial Stadium and Pepper Geddings Recreation Center. The cement bowl is five feet deep, 30 feet wide and 50 feet long. It replaced an original wooden half-pipe that had served the skating public for more than 20 years.

The Friends of the Skateparks Foundation contributed a \$35,000 grant toward the \$95,000 addition. All ages came to try out the new bowl during ribbon-cutting ceremonies on Saturday, February 10. Skateboarders and roller-bladers took turns testing the curves and edges of the new bowl. Helmets are required, of course.

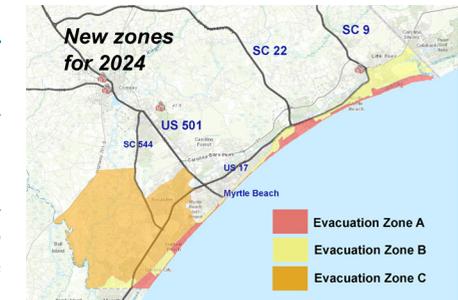
Hurricane evacuation zones changing for 2024 season

The South Carolina Emergency Management Division updated its hurricane evacuation zones along the coast, including those for Myrtle Beach and the Grand Strand.

New for 2024, Evacuation Zones A and B are smaller than before for Myrtle Beach. Zone C is smaller, too, but it now includes the Market Common area for the first time.

The new Zone A includes the beach and both sides of Ocean Boulevard, as shown on the map below. Our Zone B now stretches from Ocean Boulevard to the east side of Kings Highway.

Evacuation Zone C encompasses all of the Market Common area, west of Kings Highway and south of Myrtle Beach International Airport.



When a hurricane threatens, officials may call for Zones A, B or C to be evacuated, depending on the path and expected storm surge strength. Know your **NEW** zone!

The changes follow a statewide study of updated flood zone maps, recent hurricane events and reports of actual flooding. Hurricane season is June 1 through November 30.

Know in advance where you'll go if an evacuation is ordered. Have important papers ready in a "go bag," and keep a hurricane kit handy with insurance and medical records. ...see **Be prepared for hurricanes**, page 3

'Pardon our A&I progress' in downtown Myrtle Beach!

As the sign says, work is underway downtown to build a new Arts & Innovation District, thanks in part to a \$5 million grant from the State of South Carolina. In all, the city is accomplishing \$34 million of infrastructure work to build a foundation for growth.



Current city construction projects include stormwater retention ponds, underground utilities, water and sewer line improvements and new street scapes.

Eager to be part of the progress, new businesses have opened in renovated stores on Ninth Avenue North and Broadway Street, including several new restaurants.

City Council recently approved an agreement with Coastal Carolina University for a 300-seat theater on Main Street in the old Broadway Movie House. CCU will manage the theatre and use it for drama and performing arts courses. That's an additional \$12 million project that will bring more life and activity to the downtown area.

The SC Department of Transportation is expected to begin realignment this year of US 501 along Seventh Avenue North, from Broadway Street to US 17. That project is funded by RIDE III.



Kayak launch and foot bridge coming to Thunderbolt Park

Work is underway at Thunderbolt Park on Farrow Parkway, just west of the Market Common, to build a kayak-launching pier. When complete this spring, it will allow lake access for kayaks and paddleboards. For now, it's BYOK (Bring Your Own Kayak).

A long-awaited footbridge to complete the multipurpose path around Thunderbolt Lake also will be installed this spring at the western-most end of the park. The lake is part of the greater Grand Park system serving the former Myrtle Beach Air Force Base.

In other park news, Warbird Park received new lighting along its paths and displays to allow for longer hours. The World War II Memorial is beautifully lighted at night, as are the military planes, and path lighting throughout the park will provide more access.

A new Vietnam War Memorial is planned in next year's budget, to recognize Vietnam veterans and the former Air Force Base's role.



Everyone is invited to join this year's Jack Platt Veterans March at 9:00 a.m., Monday, May 27. Jack was a World War II veteran who wanted to honor other veterans and their families on Memorial Day. The walk begins at 16th Avenue North on Ocean Boulevard.

Military Appreciation Days Schedule of Events

- Horry County Junior ROTC Drill Meet** – 9:00 a.m., Saturday, May 4, Pelicans' Stadium, with high school JROTC units
 - Military Family Members' Social** – 12:00 p.m., Saturday, May 4, Pelicans' Stadium
 - Myrtle Beach Pelicans' Military Appreciation Night** – 6:05 p.m., Saturday, May 11, Pelicans' Stadium
 - Myrtle Beach Vet Center Grand Opening** – 12:00 p.m., Friday, May 24
 - Military Appreciation Days Parade** – 10:30 a.m., Saturday, May 25, Farrow Parkway
 - Family Picnic and Military Exhibits** – 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Saturday, May 25, Valor Memorial Garden
 - Jack Platt Veterans March and Battlefield Cross Ceremony** – 9:00 a.m., Monday, May 27, Ocean Boulevard, from 16th to Ninth Avenues North
 - Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony** – 11:00 a.m., Monday, May 27, Myrtle Beach Convention Center
 - Military Documentary "Against All Odds"** – 2:00 p.m., Monday, May 27, Grand 14 Cinema, The Market Common
 - Festive Brass Concert Performance** – 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 28, Ballroom ABC, Myrtle Beach Convention Center
- All events are free and open to the public.*

Be prepared for hurricanes



...continued from page 1

Include enough supplies in the emergency kit for all family members to have a minimum of three days' food, water, medicine and other items. Batteries and flashlights are vital in a power outage.

Don't forget your pets! Have evacuation plans for Fido and Felix, too, as most shelters do not accept pets. Do advance research on pet-friendly hotels or accommodations in areas away from the coast.

When the time comes, fill the car with gas and check in with relatives when you get to your destination. Having a family contact point will keep everyone posted.

State regulates how golf carts may drive on streets

Golf carts are allowed on public streets, but state law regulates how and when, along with who is allowed to drive them. When on the road, golf carts must be insured and registered with the SC Department of Motor Vehicles. Here are the operating rules for the street:

- Only by a licensed driver.
- Only when insured and registered.
- Only during daylight hours.
- Only on secondary roads where the speed limit is 35 miles per hour or less.
- Only up to four miles from the registered address.
- Not on primary roads (Kings Highway or US 501).
- Not on sidewalks, bike lanes or multipurpose paths.
- Not with more people than seats in the golf cart.
- Not by unlicensed children of any age.

Support team ready to roll

If you see this car, Myrtle Beach's Opioid Response team is on the job. Our community support team offers compassion, empathy and information to help break the cycle of addiction.

If you or someone you know suffers from problematic substance use, call the Response Team at 843-918-1600 or email opioid@cityofmyrtlebeach.com.

Loved ones, too! If you support someone struggling with substance use, you may benefit from support, too.



Myrtle Beach Police Department Current Starting Salaries

- **Certified Police Officer: \$60,174**
- **Uncertified Police Officer: \$57,657**
- **Detention Officer: \$50,835**
- **Communication Officer: \$50,835**



March 2024

Check out the benefits, too... City-paid health/dental/vision insurance for full-time employees, staff health care clinic, state retirement & more.



Myrtle's Market re-opens

Myrtle's Market opens for the season on Wednesday, April 10, at the corner of Mr. Joe White Avenue and Oak Street. The market offers fresh fruits and vegetables, flowers, homemade treats and handmade crafts.

New this year, market hours are 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (instead of 3:00 p.m.), Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. The market is at the intersection of Oak Street and Mr. Joe White Avenue, with plenty of free parking.

Interested in becoming a vendor? Call Troy Marron at 843-918-2338.



Seasonal beach and biking rules begin May 1

Several beach and boardwalk rules change for the summer season when May arrives. From May 1 through Labor Day, dogs and bicycles are allowed on the beach only before 10:00 a.m. and after 5:00 p.m.

At all times when dogs are allowed on the beach or boardwalk, they must be on a leash of seven feet or shorter, and you must pick up and properly dispose of their droppings.

The pick-up-after-your-pet law is in place whenever the dog is off the owner's property. Violations are misdemeanors, subject to fines of up to \$500 and/or 30 days in jail. Handy pet disposal bags are available at most city parks.

'Check My Beach' for timely information

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

The website provides timely, accurate and useful information directly to beach-goers. The Grand Strand's swim season is May 1 to October 1. Visit www.checkmybeach.com.

