

Alek Skarlatos named Grand Marshal for 2017 parade

Army National Guard Specialist Alek Skarlatos has been selected as grand marshal for the 2017 Military Appreciation Days Parade. The parade will be held Saturday, May 27, on Farrow Parkway. In August 2015, Skarlatos and two childhood friends, Spencer Stone and Anthony Sadler, made international headlines when they overpowered a gunman on a Paris-bound train.

For his heroic actions, Alek Skarlatos was awarded the United States Army Soldier's Medal by President Barack Obama and France's highest decoration, the Legion of Honour, by French President Francois Hollande. He subsequently was invited to compete on season 21 of ABC TV's *Dancing with the Stars*, finishing third with partner Lindsay Arnold. Skarlatos recently completed a tour of duty in Afghanistan and continues to be a member of the Oregon National Guard.



2017 Grand Marshal
Alek Skarlatos

"The bravery and heroism that Specialist Skarlatos and his friends exhibited on that Paris train exemplify the high level of service that our National Guard and military personnel give to the United States," Kruea added.

As grand marshal, Skarlatos will lead the Military Appreciation Days parade, then greet fans afterward at the Family Picnic in Valor Memorial Garden at The Market Common. Here are the events scheduled for Military Appreciation Days in May 2017.

- Second Annual Horry County Junior ROTC Drill Competition – 9:00 a.m., Saturday, May 6, Myrtle Beach Pelicans' Stadium
 - Military Family Members Social (following the Junior ROTC Drill Meet) – 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Saturday, May 6, Pelicans' Picnic Area
 - Myrtle Beach Pelicans' Military Appreciation Night – 7:05 p.m. game time, Saturday, May 13, Pelicans' Stadium
 - Military Appreciation Days Dinner and Dance – 7:00 p.m., Thursday, May 25, Ballroom, Sheraton Myrtle Beach Convention Center Hotel
 - Military Appreciation Days Parade – 10:30 a.m., Saturday, May 27, Farrow Parkway, The Market Common
 - Family Picnic – 12:00 to 2:00 p.m., Saturday, May 27, Valor Memorial Garden, The Market Common
 - Veterans' March – 9:00 a.m., Monday, May 29, Ocean Boulevard
 - Grand Strand Patriotic Alliance Memorial Day Ceremony – 11:00 a.m., Monday, May 29, Myrtle Beach Convention Center
- Military Appreciation Days are sponsored by the City of Myrtle Beach, along with PGBA, LLC, and the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce.



PGBA

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Roadwork underway

Construction has begun on phase one of Burroughs & Chapin Boulevard, which will connect Oak Street and Grissom Parkway, just north of the Convention Center. The four-lane road will provide better access to the Myrtle Beach Sports Center and future performing arts center and amphitheater.

Winter-Spring Events

Business Disaster Recovery Symposium
8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Friday, January 27
Sheraton Convention Center Hotel

**FIRST Robotics
Palmetto Regional
Competition**

Thursday through
Saturday, March 2-4
Convention Center



20th Annual Myrtle Beach Marathon
Friday through Sunday, March 3-5

Pee Dee Street Rodders' "Run to the Sun" Car and Truck Show

Thursday through Saturday, March 16-18
Former Myrtle Square Mall Site

Myrtle Beach Highland Games
Saturday and Sunday, March 24-25
Grand Park, The Market Common

PROGRESS REPORT

Winter 2017

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PROGRESS

REPORT

Parking decal renewal goes high-tech for 2017-18

Renewing your car's parking decal will be easier in 2017, thanks to a new on-line registration system. The free parking decals are good for two-year periods and allow personal vehicles to park free at public parking meters and at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center.

Decals are available for personal vehicles that "live" inside the City of Myrtle Beach. In other words, cars registered to an in-city address and on which city property taxes have been paid are eligible.

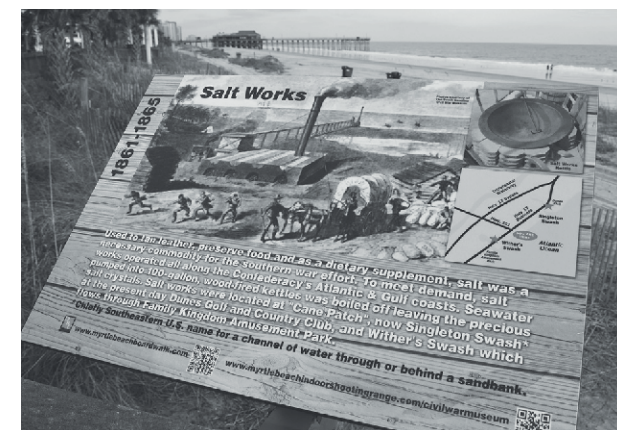


Why a free parking decal? The city counts the property tax payment on the vehicle as your contribution toward the cost of providing and maintaining public parking in the city.

To complete the on-line process, you will need your vehicle's paid property tax receipt and registration. Look for the web address soon.

By the way, the original parking decal is free, but the city now charges \$20 to replace a lost or damaged decal.

...see **Answers to parking questions**, page 3



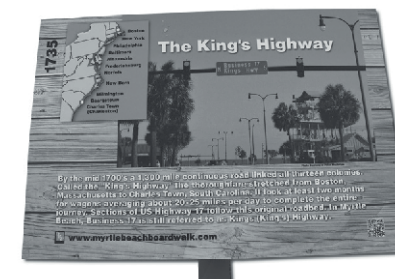
New boardwalk markers tell Myrtle Beach's history

From icebergs to salt works to hurricanes, you can learn about Myrtle Beach's history just by strolling along the oceanfront boardwalk. Eleven new historical plaques were installed in December, bringing the total to 24 from Plyler Park to First Avenue.

The markers were conceived by Peter MacIntyre, a former member of the Downtown Redevelopment Corporation board of directors, which funded the project.

Marker topics include Hurricanes Hazel and Hugo, how the Grand Strand got its name and, as shown above, the salt works that existed along the coast in the 1800s.

The 13 original markers were installed in 2013. The new ones feature historical information about how the Grand Strand and Myrtle Beach were named, local fauna and flora, the Pavilion and a history of Kings Highway, below, which once ran along the East Coast.

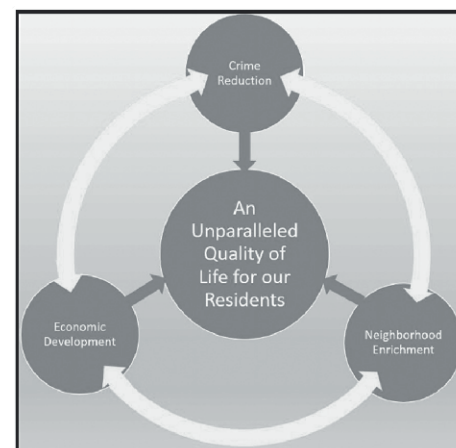


Strategic goals focus on quality of life for 2017

An unparalleled quality of life for our residents is City Council's ultimate goal for Myrtle Beach in 2017 and beyond. As the graphic at left shows, the city is focused on achieving three objectives that support this comprehensive goal.

The city has fine-tuned these initiatives during the past two years, zeroing in on Neighborhood Enrichment, Economic Development and Crime Reduction as the primary keys to an unparalleled quality of life. These elements will be the city's focus for 2017.

The Myrtle Beach City Council and staff already are using these priorities in developing next year's budget. Beyond that, the initiatives are a factor in the city's daily decision-making. Ordinances, actions and plans that support the goals and objectives are ones that City Council and staff actively pursue.





32nd class completes Police Academy

Graduation ceremonies at the Law Enforcement Center Annex celebrated the 32nd class of the Myrtle Beach Citizens Police Academy. Participants get a behind-the-scenes look at the Police Department, including ride-along experience.

The 10-week class occurs twice a year. Graduates include Monica Ainsworth, Cristina Armstrong, David Betsch, Kaitlin Burns, Dan Connolly, Glenda Connolly, Beverly Davidson, Cynthia Harrison, Angela Kegler, Linda Kiger, Kathi Langoria, Kenneth MacDonald, Connie MacDougall, Eddie Mack, Jeffrey McAfee, Josh Mgrdechian, Sabrina Morris, Barbara Shepherd, Terri Springs, Chuck Thomas, Josephine Valzoano, Amber Vereen and DeWayne Wilkerson.

Myrtle Beach celebrates Arbor Day

Myrtle Beach received its 20th annual Tree City USA award during Arbor Day ceremonies at Whispering Pines Golf Course in December.

The annual event also included tree plantings at the entrance to the golf course and presentation of the Community Appearance Board awards for outstanding tree preservation and landscaping.

In 2016, the City of Myrtle Beach planted 643 new trees on public property and rights-of-way.

To be eligible for recognition as a Tree City USA, a community must spend at least \$2.00 per capita on tree maintenance each year. Myrtle Beach easily exceeded that amount during 2016, spending \$17.32 per capita last year to maintain the city's urban forest.



Myrtle Beach Police Officer James W. Smith appreciates the opportunity for a fulfilling career in public service. Officers face many challenges, but the rewards are great.

"My favorite part of the job is giving back to the community and putting smiles on faces. My motivation is knowing that I am making a difference in the community. There's satisfaction in keeping people safe."

Officer James W. Smith, Myrtle Beach Police Department

Online auction disposes of city property

Thanks to the Internet, the City of Myrtle Beach and other communities can easily dispose of outdated and obsolete items, including used vehicles, office equipment and other unneeded supplies and materials.

Instead of an annual auction, property is available for sale year-round. Goods are described and photographed, then placed up for sale through bidding.

Myrtle Beach is using an auction site designed especially for unwanted government items, www.govworldauctions.com.

Vehicles, for example, are inspected, then described and photographed by a GovWorld mechanic. The city recovers money from the surplus items, while the public has a chance to buy used equipment at auction.

City vendor registration moving to online system

The Purchasing Division is transitioning to a new on-line system for vendor registration and bid postings. The system goes live in January 2017.

New and existing vendors can sign up for the new system by registering on-line. See the city's Purchasing home page at www.cityofmyrtlebeach.com/purchasing.html for registration information and other details.

Library hours extended

Chapin Memorial Library is now open from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Friday, and from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday.



Date set for 2017 S.C. Garage Sale

We have a date! 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 to the sale is free. Parking at the Convention Center is \$5.00 per car, per day. On-line vendor registration for the 280 available spaces will begin at 9:00 a.m., Monday, June 12, 2017.

Paying utility bills is easy

Need to make a payment in a hurry? See the Payments or Utilities pages on the city's web site for the IVR Customer Portal, which allows a one-time payment without creating a user account.

Or, call 844-571-2888 and use the free pay-by-phone feature, 24-hours a day. We also offer handy drop-off boxes, a drive-through window and automatic draft payment options, including paperless.

Answers to parking questions

The City of Myrtle Beach offers a variety of parking passes and decals, including some for golf carts and non-resident vehicles. Here are answers to frequently asked parking questions.

Parking decals are available for DMV-registered golf carts at in-city addresses, but only if current property tax has been paid on an in-city registered automobile. On-line registration will be available for qualifying golf carts.

Non-resident parking decals are available for \$100 a year from Lanier Parking on the first floor of the Pavilion Parking Garage. Non-resident decals allow out-of-city vehicles to park in two areas in the Entertainment District: the Buchanan No. 2 Lot, Second Avenue North, and the Driftwood Lot, 16th Avenue North at Withers Drive.

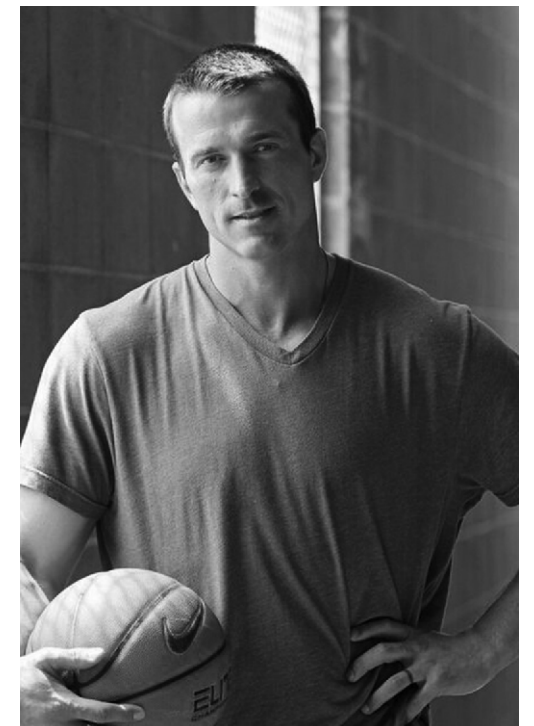
Non-resident golf cart decals are available for in-city property owners for \$100. Bring proof of property ownership and proof of DMV golf cart registration to Lanier Parking on the first floor of the Pavilion Parking Garage. Non-resident golf cart decals expire annually on December 31.

Anyone may purchase a seven-consecutive-day visitor pass for paid parking for \$30 from Lanier Parking in the Pavilion Parking Garage, Ninth Avenue North and Kings Highway. However, such a parking pass is NOT valid for decal-only parking areas.



Weekly e-mail updates available

Sign up for Myrtle Beach's three weekly e-mails for city news and events. The Friday Fax provides upcoming meetings and agendas, while the Events and Recreation e-mails focus on city-related activities and programs. Send your e-mail address to info@cityofmyrtlebeach.com. Be sure to visit and like our Facebook page for more information: www.facebook.com/myrtlebeachcitygovernment.



Herren speaks about heroin and addiction

Former NBA star Chris Herren tells his story of victory, defeat and recovery in two presentations at Myrtle Beach High School on Thursday, January 26. "Unguarded: A Conversation with Chris Herren" is part of the city's ongoing effort to combat drug addiction.

Herren's 2:00 p.m. talk is for a student assembly. Then, at 7:00 p.m., the public is invited to an encore presentation of Herren's accomplishments and struggles. Admission is free. Through his inspiring presentation of his own story, Herren convinces audiences that it is never too late to follow your dreams. He urges young and old alike to overcome setbacks and start making the right choices.

Herren was drafted by the Denver Nuggets in 1999 and traded to his hometown team, the Boston Celtics, in 2000. He struggled with substance abuse for much of his career. As he willingly explains, he lived his lifelong dream of playing in the NBA only to lose it all to the nightmare of drug addiction – first alcohol, then cocaine, oxycontin and, finally, heroin.

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