

## World War II memorial coming to Warbird Park this year

Here's a look at the preliminary design for a new World War II memorial at Myrtle Beach's Warbird Park in the Market Common district. Fifty new parking spaces, plus a permanent restroom, also will be added to the popular park. Construction begins this winter.

In December 1941, just days before the Pearl Harbor attack, the Myrtle Beach Town Council agreed to turn its fledgling airport over to the U.S. War Department to serve as the Myrtle Beach Aerial Gunnery and Bombing Range. The official vote occurred December 16, 1941, when the town sold the airport for \$3,500.

The Myrtle Beach Army Air Field was deactivated after World War II, and the airport was returned to the City of Myrtle Beach in 1947. As the Cold War heated up in the mid-1950s, the city again gave the airport to the federal government.

The Myrtle Beach Air Force Base operated until 1993, when it was closed during a nationwide base realignment. Today, the area has been redeveloped as the Market Common district.



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://eepurl.com/idi4uX> to put your address on the Friday Fax list. Like and visit our Facebook page, too: [www.facebook.com/myrtlebeachcitygovernment](http://www.facebook.com/myrtlebeachcitygovernment).



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

## Would you like to serve on a board?

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 a résumé or biography to the City Clerk.

Mail your information to P.O. Box 2468, Myrtle Beach, SC 29578; email it to [jadkins@cityofmyrtlebeach.com](mailto:jadkins@cityofmyrtlebeach.com); or bring it in person to City Hall, 937 Broadway Street, during regular office hours.

## '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 beach site was developed by the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce, working with the local municipalities and the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control.

It 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](http://www.checkmybeach.com) for more.



## PROGRESS REPORT Winter 2023

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# PROGRESS

## REPORT



## New disc golf and dog park transform Withers Swash

The City of Myrtle Beach has added two outdoor amenities – a disc golf course and a bark park – in the middle of town, on either side of Third Avenue South.



Swashbuckler Disc Golf Course offers 18 holes of free play in Withers Swash Park, while New Town Bark Park is the city's third off-leash park for dogs. New Town Bark Park provides fenced areas for large and small dogs to play along Collins Street and Withers Swash Drive.

Both projects are part of this year's Capital Improvement Plan. Activating the previously passive park areas with free amenities will encourage more use and traffic, from both residents and visitors. Both projects have been well-received by residents, including those who live nearby.

The Swashbuckler is a "short course," compared to the much-longer Splinter City Disc Golf course across from Warbird Park on Farrow Parkway. The Swashbuckler takes advantage of spectacular scenery at Withers Swash Park and allows for shorter play times.



## 2023-24 residential parking decals available

New, two-year parking decals are available now to city residents who have personal vehicles that "live" in the city limits and on which city property taxes have been paid. The decals grant free parking at city-owned parking meters and are valid for the 2023 and 2024 calendar years.

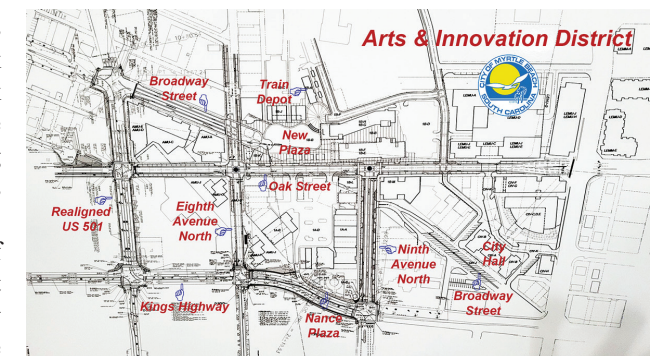
The city counts vehicle property taxes as a parking payment, whether or not the owner ever uses a metered space. Everyone pays for parking, just in different ways. ...see **Paid parking**, page 2

## Street, utility construction work begins this spring in Arts & Innovation District

Work begins this spring on realigned roads and new utilities to serve the Arts & Innovation District in downtown Myrtle Beach. As shown in the illustration, Oak Street becomes the thoroughway for traffic between Mr. Joe White Avenue and a realigned Main Street (US 501).

To make room for a new plaza near the Myrtle Beach Train Depot, Broadway Street will stop at Eighth Avenue North. The plaza will serve as an event space and focal point, in the heart of the Arts & Innovation District. Overhead utilities also will be placed underground.

The new Oak Street layout will feature three lanes with a designated bicycle lane. Broadway Street will have additional parking and other streetscape improvements. Construction is expected to take 18 to 24 months.



This diagram and illustration show the street improvements and amenities for Myrtle Beach's Arts & Innovation District.





## Paid parking returns March 1; new, two-year decals available

...continued from Page 1

To receive a parking decal, residents will need the South Carolina vehicle registration card, driver's license and current Horry County vehicle property tax receipt for each vehicle.



For online registration, visit the Parking Decal webpage at [www.cityofmyrtlebeach.com](http://www.cityofmyrtlebeach.com) and follow the steps.

Residents who have not had a parking decal in the past will need to apply in person.

Submit in-person requests at the Reef Parking Office in the Pavilion Parking Garage, 914 North Kings Highway, from

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Residents who own a qualifying golf cart will need to bring the South Carolina Golf Cart permit number issued by the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles (SCDMV).

Each parking decal is specific to each vehicle; decals are not interchangeable or transferrable. After processing, parking decals are mailed to the registered address.

The paid parking season is March 1 through October 31. New residential parking decals are valid through December 31, 2024. In addition to free parking at on-street meters and pay stations, decals also grant free parking at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center.

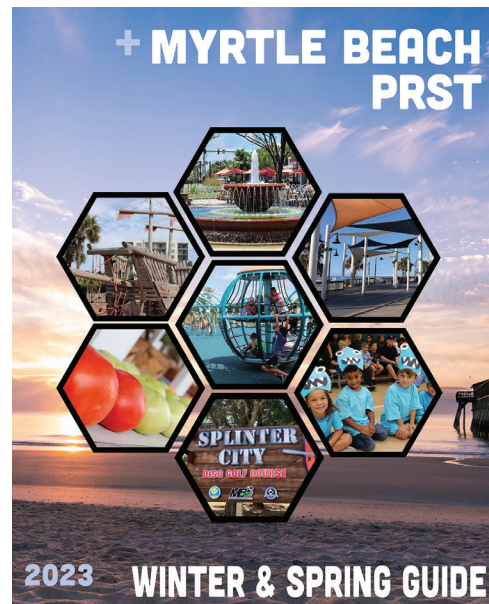
Replacement decals, due to failure to remove the decal upon windshield replacement or sale of the vehicle, are \$20.00 each. Limited parking decals for non-residents are available for purchase.

## Myrtle Beach's two cemeteries receive makeovers in 2022

The City of Myrtle Beach owns and operates two cemeteries, and both received upgrades and improvements in recent months. A little-known cemetery near 21st Avenue North, behind the Myrtle Beach Convention Center, received a full makeover, while Ocean Woods Memorial Cemetery on South Kings Highway received new fencing.

Known as the historic Oak Street Cemetery, the city acquired the small burial ground for African Americans in 1992, when it bought land for the Convention Center expansion. The recent work included a new perimeter fence, landscaping and an arched entry. Neglected headstones also were uncovered, repaired, painted and straightened.

Ocean Woods Cemetery now has new fencing around the 20-acre property. The metal fence along Kings Highway was sandblasted and painted, while 2,000 feet of new, wood fence were replaced along the cemetery's sides and back. Ocean Woods has nearly 6,000 grave sites, while the Oak Street Cemetery has about 220.



## PRST guide lists all

Check out the 2023 Winter and Spring Activities Guide from our Parks, Recreation and Sports Tourism Department. The online flipbook includes parks, maps, memberships, facilities, programs and more. Find all of your classes and events for the New Year at <https://online.fliphtml5.com/fknos/gkxc/#p=1>.



## 2023 Myrtle Beach calendars available

Pick up your new 2023 City of Myrtle Beach calendar at one of several locations. As pictured, the calendar features city-related images of people, places and events.

The free, 12-by-18-inch calendars are available while supplies last at recreation centers, City Services and other facilities.

## Charlie's Place named to Beach Music Hall of Fame

Myrtle Beach's Charlie's Place was inducted into the Carolina Beach Music Hall of Fame during the 28th Annual Carolina Beach Music Awards Ceremony in November. The Hall of Fame is for groups or individuals devoted to promoting and preserving Carolina Beach Music.

The nightclub known as Charlie's Place existed from the late 1930s to the early 1960s on Carver Street in the Booker T. Washington neighborhood. Charlie and Sarah



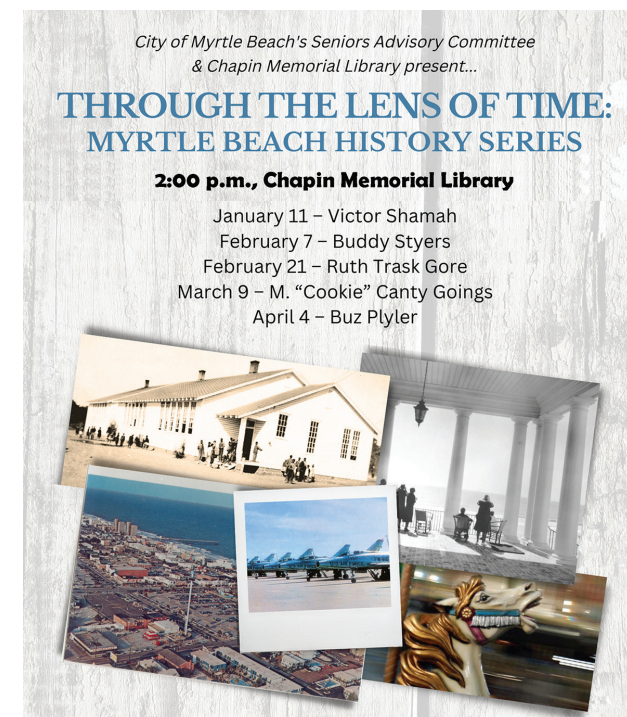
Fitzgerald operated the club and a small motel next door to their home.

Before integration, early jazz and Motown performers entertained at Charlie's Place and spent the night next door at the Whispering Pines Motel.

Musical stars who visited Myrtle Beach and performed at Charlie's Place included Duke Ellington, Billie Holiday, Dizzy Gillespie, Little Richard and many others.

The City of Myrtle Beach purchased the property with an eye toward preserving the musical and economic history of Charlie's Place. A portion of the motel was recreated, and the Fitzgeralds' home serves as an event headquarters.

Charlie's Place is at 1420 Carver Street. Tours are available through the Neighborhood Services Department by calling 843-918-1061.



*Hear Myrtle Beach's history first-hand from our longtime locals during this fascinating series, sponsored by Chapin Memorial Library and the Seniors Advisory Committee.*



Everyone pitches in to plant a live oak tree at New Town Bark Park during Arbor Day ceremonies in December.

## Myrtle Beach receives 26th Tree City USA award

During 2022 Arbor Day celebrations in December, the City of Myrtle Beach received its 26th consecutive Tree City USA award from the SC Forestry Commission and the Arbor Day Foundation.

The event was marked with the planting of a live oak tree at the city's latest off-leash dog park, New Town Bark Park on Withers Swash Drive. The park features separate areas for large and small dogs to play.

Ten Community Appearance Board Awards were presented to local businesses and properties for their landscaping, tree preservation and stormwater work.



## Volunteers needed for two spring track meets

Myrtle Beach needs volunteers for two Spring Break track meets at Doug Shaw Memorial Stadium. The Collegiate Challenge is March 10-11, followed by the Alan Connie Shamrock Invitational, March 16-18. Both draw college competitors from around the country.

The Sports Tourism Division welcomes your help. Volunteers must be at least 14 years of age, and those who are 18 and older are required to pass a background check. Volunteers should wear khaki shorts or pants, with tennis shoes, and be prepared for all types of weather.

Every volunteer receives a t-shirt, food and beverages during the event. Most shifts are scheduled in four-hour increments. To learn more and sign up, email [myrtlebeachsportsvolunteers@cityofmyrtlebeach.com](mailto:myrtlebeachsportsvolunteers@cityofmyrtlebeach.com).