

RULES OF THE ROAD

- Bicyclists must always ride in the same direction as traffic - not against it!
- Bicyclists must ride in a bicycle lane when one is present. On streets without bicycle lanes, bicyclists may share the street with other traffic.
- Bicycles may be ridden on the sidewalk only when necessary for the immediate safety of the rider.
- Bicyclists must obey all street signage, pavement markings, traffic lights and laws as motorists do. They also must give turn signals as motorists do.
- Bicyclists communicate a right turn to vehicles by extending their left arm upward in a square shape, or by extending their right arm horizontally to the right.
- Bicyclists indicate a left turn by extending the left arm horizontally.
- Bicyclists indicate slowing speed or stopping by extending one arm downward.
- Bicyclists are not required to continuously give signals mentioned above if the arm is needed to control their bicycle.



New bicycle and pedestrian brochures available

Make sure to pick up a copy of Myrtle Beach's updated bicycle and pedestrian brochure! The new pamphlet features bicycle and pedestrian rules. It lists where you can ride, seasonal rule changes, proper path usage and how to communicate with drivers.

A QR code is provided inside the brochure for easy access to more information and updated bicycle paths. Pick up your brochure today at City Hall or any Myrtle Beach recreation center.

Myrtle Beach City Council appoints first Poet Laureate

The Myrtle Beach City Council selected Bo Bryan as the city's first-ever Poet Laureate on December 12, 2023. Bryan is a longtime local resident with a love of history and writing. It's a two-year appointment. Bryan called the choice to appoint a poet laureate "an act of civic audacity."



Duties of the post include participating in various public events and engaging with schools, community centers and libraries to encourage literacy and creative writing in general, but specifically the reading and writing of poetry.



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.



<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; or bring it in person to City Hall, 937 Broadway Street, during regular office hours.

Picking up after pets is required by law

Just pick it up! The City of Myrtle Beach requires pet owners to pick up after their pets whenever they are off the owner's property. As the sign below says, you must pick up and properly dispose of your pet's waste.

Violations of this pet-related rule are a misdemeanor.

Please be a responsible pet owner! The city offers free waste bags at many parks and public spaces.



PROGRESS REPORT Winter 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

Meredith Denari, Public Information
info@cityofmyrtlebeach.com
843-918-1014

P. O. Box 2468
Myrtle Beach, SC 29578

www.cityofmyrtlebeach.com

PROGRESS

REPORT



The six flags above the memorial represent each branch of the United States military active during World War II. The memorial is towards the back of Warbird Park, facing Farrow Parkway.

New World War II Memorial unveiled in November

Myrtle Beach's World War II Memorial was completed on schedule in early November and unveiled to the public during a dedication ceremony on Thursday, November 9, 2023. Hundreds attended the event at Warbird Park on a gorgeous fall day.

Former Myrtle Beach mayor, Councilman and World War II veteran Robert "Bob" Hirsch treated the audience to stories from his experiences as a C-47 pilot. He flew cargo and paratroopers in Europe, including the Battle of Normandy and the Battle of the Bulge.

...see *World War II Memorial*, page 3

First responders and city staff receive salary boost

Myrtle Beach City Council approved a mid-year salary adjustment for all city employees during the last meeting of 2023. Certified police officers received a \$7,500 salary increase, paramedics received a \$7,000 increase and all other fulltime employees received a \$5,000 salary increase. Part-time staff pay increased by \$1.00 to \$1.25 per hour.

A review of comparable cities and counties showed that Myrtle Beach's compensation was at or below current market rates, especially for police and paramedics.

These citywide salary increases will help with recruitment and retention and also put Myrtle Beach at or above what other area municipalities are offering. With the increases, the lowest fulltime salary is \$37,440, or \$18.00 an hour.

Pay grades increased by \$7,500 for certified police officers, \$5,000 for police lieutenants and above, \$5,700 for paramedics, \$3,000 for firefighters and \$3,000 for all other fulltime positions. All pay adjustments were reflected in the first January paycheck.

Parks and Rec's Caputo wins statewide award

Myrtle Beach Recreation District Manager Ryan Caputo won the South Carolina Recreation and Parks Association's Young Professional of the Year award.

Caputo was recognized by parks and recreation executives across the Carolinas in December at the 2023 SCRPA Conference for his commitment to progress, diversity, inclusion and peer-support.

Many know Ryan through his involvement in Myrtle Beach High School cross country, Horry County youth events and city aquatics.

Peers and supervisors nominated Caputo for his outstanding efforts, helping the community,

inspiring others with his initiative and demonstrating leadership within the Myrtle Beach organization.

Congrats, Ryan, and thanks for being a great example of "First in Service."



New City of Myrtle Beach Salaries Effective January 2024

- **Certified Police Officer: \$60,174**
- **Uncertified Police Officer: \$57,657**
- **Detention Officer: \$50,835**
- **Communication Officer: \$50,835**
- **Firefighter Paramedic: \$60,632**
- **Firefighter: \$50,434**
- **Heavy Equipment Mechanic: \$51,438**
- **Heavy Equipment Operator CDL: \$46,924**





The new restrooms are operational at Futrell Park, between the playground equipment and the splash pad. They automatically open and lock, at times that vary by season.



The dune walkover at 51st Avenue North was completed earlier in 2023, along with others that were rebuilt during the year. This walkover was converted into an ADA-compliant dune crossing.

Myrtle Beach ends 2023 with more than two dozen projects

The City of Myrtle Beach's Parks, Recreation and Sports Tourism Department (PRST) and Capital Projects Division completed more than two dozen major building projects in the 2023 calendar year.

Some of those projects include addition of the Futrell Park splash pad, three public park restrooms and 12 new dune walkovers. Here's a list of the more significant accomplishments:

PARKS, RECREATION AND SPORTS TOURISM

- Construction of Futrell Park Splash Pad and Playground
- Futrell Park renovations (path-widening, StoryWalk, swinging benches)
- Grand Park renovations (new fencing and parking lot resurfacing)
- Infield grading, LED lights, fence replacement and new ticket booth at Ned Donkle Field

OTHER CAPITAL PROJECTS

- Midway Park restrooms
- Valor Memorial Garden restrooms
- Futrell Park restrooms
- Dune Walkovers: Haskell Circle, Beach Place, 2104 North Ocean Boulevard, 26th Avenue North, 31st Avenue North, 41st Avenue North, 51st Avenue North, 42nd Avenue North, 73rd Avenue North, 77th Avenue North, 80th Avenue North and 8702 North Ocean Boulevard
- New exterior stairs at the Franklin G. Burroughs-Simeon B. Chapin Art Museum
- New roof on Crabtree Memorial Gym
- Parking lot resurfacing at the Convention Center
- Parking lot resurfacing at the John T. Rhodes Myrtle Beach Sports Center
- Motel demolitions at Seventh and Eighth Avenues North

Water improvement project underway

Work is underway off Broadway Street in downtown Myrtle Beach to improve the Broadway Wetland Stream, part of the Withers Swash drainage system.

A contractor is installing settling basins with native grasses and plants to slow and filter stormwater before it continues downstream to the Atlantic Ocean. The photo below shows the pond just west of Broadway Street, near Third Avenue South.

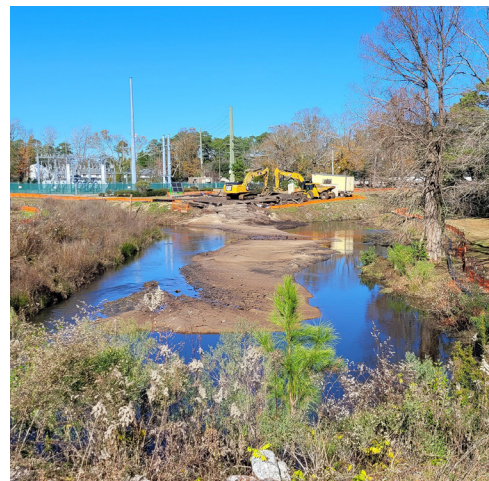
The city received a \$600,000 low-interest loan from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) to accomplish the work along Broadway Street.

Myrtle Beach is implementing a citywide masterplan to help reduce flooding, improve water quality, enhance stream systems and reconnect floodplains. Once constructed, it will improve water quality by finding better ways to store stormwater and improve drainage systems.

The proposed projects by Myrtle Beach's stormwater consultants, WK Dickson, include enhancing and creating stormwater wetlands and green infrastructure.

The Clean Water program is administered by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control and the SC Rural Infrastructure Authority, with joint funding from the Environmental Protection Agency and the State of South Carolina.

Clean Water revolving fund programs operate around the country to provide states and communities the resources necessary to maintain and improve the infrastructure that protects our valuable water resources.



Work began in December 2023 to complete the city's first citywide watershed master plan. The goal is to reduce the frequency, severity and duration of flooding.



Eleven World War II veterans who were present at the dedication posed for a picture after the ceremony. The veterans in the back row, left to right, are Robert Varner, Matthew Zawtock, John Walker, Alfred Smith and Edson Meyers. The veterans in the front row, left to right, are Raffaella "Ralph" Vernacchio, Edward "Ted" Ackley, Robert "Bob" Hirsh, Charles "Dick" Richards and Robert Jones. The youngest is 96; the oldest is 102.

World War II Memorial unveiled at Warbird Park

...continued from page 1

Construction began in May for the \$1.5 million tribute to the "greatest generation." The memorial features black granite panels with laser-etched images from the Myrtle Beach Army Air Field and elsewhere during the war years. The photos recall our community's local contributions to the war effort.

A map of the world fills the plaza, with 17 inlaid bronze markers identifying significant battles and locations during the war. The ocean is represented with blue recycled glass, exposed through sand-blasting.

The granite veneer and benches are from Kershaw Granite, the same quarry as the granite used at the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.



Former Myrtle Beach Mayor Robert "Bob" Hirsch, 100, entertained the crowd for 20 minutes as the ceremony's featured speaker. The World War II veteran was mayor from 1974-77, and then was re-elected to City Council for one term in 1990.

You will find each motto of the six military branches on the faces of the benches, with a tall light next to each bench. The lights are the color of the military branch the bench represents.

The flags of the military branches that were in operation during WWII fly above the memorial. Those are the U.S. Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Army Air Corps, Merchant Marines and Coast Guard.

A custom sculpture of a P-47 fighter jet stands in the middle of the memorial's granite panels. The 220-pound bronze sculpture was created by Tuck Langland, who personally installed the artpiece.

It's titled "Up, Up and Away," envisioning the pilot as a young man who spirals upward in excitement at his first solo flight. Langland also has 11 sculptures at Brookgreen Gardens in Pawleys Island.

The entry pergola is an interpretation of the original Army Airfield guardhouse building. Lastly, a "Kilroy" is specially hidden within the monument for the visitor to find! The memorial is open at Warbird Park.

No! 'Kilroy' is not graffiti

Several people thought the "Kilroy" engraving was graffiti on Myrtle Beach's new World War II Memorial. It definitely is NOT graffiti. For those unfamiliar with Kilroy's image and story, here are the details.

The original Kilroy was James Kilroy, an inspector at a Massachusetts shipyard. He used chalk to write "Kilroy was here" to show that he had inspected the number of rivets on ships built for the war effort in the early 1940s.

Kilroy's catchy inspection signature was then seen – and copied – by thousands of U.S. servicemen who traveled overseas. The long-nosed character was added later, and the whole doodle became popular during World War II as a sign that U.S. soldiers had been "here."

The national World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., has two of the Kilroy images tucked away for people to find. Kilroy was very much part of World War II's history and experience.

Yes, Kilroy was here!

