



## Recreation additions include playgrounds and parking

New recreational opportunities abound for Myrtle Beach residents. Above, the city has installed \$31,000 worth of new playground equipment at Mary C. Canty Recreation Center. The center now has additional parking, too, just west of the building.

At General Robert H. Reed Recreation Center, look for new horseshoe pits and bocce ball courts on the lawn. We are adding outdoor shuffleboard courts, too, at the General Reed Center.

Midway Park on South Kings Highway at 20th Avenue South is in the final stages of its makeover. The tennis hitting wall is complete, along with new landscaping and lighting. Expect new restrooms at Midway Park in the coming year, too.

And speaking of restrooms, look for permanent bathroom facilities soon at Valor Memorial Garden in The Market Common.



## Pet hours restricted in summer season

From May 1 through Labor Day each year, dogs are allowed on the beach only before 10:00 a.m. and after 5:00 p.m.

At all times, they must be on a leash of seven feet or less, and you must pick up and properly dispose of their waste.

In fact, the city requires pet owners to pick up after their pets whenever they are off the owner's property. Free waste bags are available at many parks and public spaces.

Violations are misdemeanors, subject to a fine of up to \$500 and/or 30 days in jail, upon conviction. Please be a good pet owner.



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](mailto:info@cityofmyrtlebeach.com). Like and visit our Facebook page, too: [www.facebook.com/myrtlebeachcitygovernment](https://www.facebook.com/myrtlebeachcitygovernment).



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City Council wants to hear from you! We created an email address specifically to encourage public input to the Myrtle Beach City Council. Do you have something to say? Send your email message directly to Council at [dearcitycouncil@cityofmyrtlebeach.com](mailto:dearcitycouncil@cityofmyrtlebeach.com). All seven members will receive your email.



## PROGRESS REPORT Summer 2022

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# PROGRESS

## REPORT



## Boardwalk decking is more durable (and more colorful)

Resurfacing of Myrtle Beach's Oceanfront Boardwalk is well underway, as shown above. The new decking is complete from Plyler Park and the SkyWheel to Ninth Avenue North.

The full re-decking project will be finished by late summer at a cost of \$3.7 million. Crews are working now to replace the widest section, between Ninth and Eighth Avenues North, where the military flags fly. ...see [Boardwalk](#), page 3

## New budget adds 25 police officers, improves service

The Myrtle Beach City Council has approved a \$292.2 million budget for Fiscal Year 2022-23. It includes a 10 mill property tax increase to help pay for 25 new police officers and 22 other positions, plus a class and compensation study.

Thanks to the compensation study, the starting salary for certified police officers jumps from \$45,760 to \$50,139, making Myrtle Beach officers the highest paid in the state.

Bringing city positions up to market rates is costing \$4.6 million, plus another \$1.2 million in benefits. With the adjustment, the city's lowest fulltime salary rises to \$15.75 per hour, or \$32,760 per year, an increase of \$3.04 per hour.

...see [Budget addresses growth](#), page 2

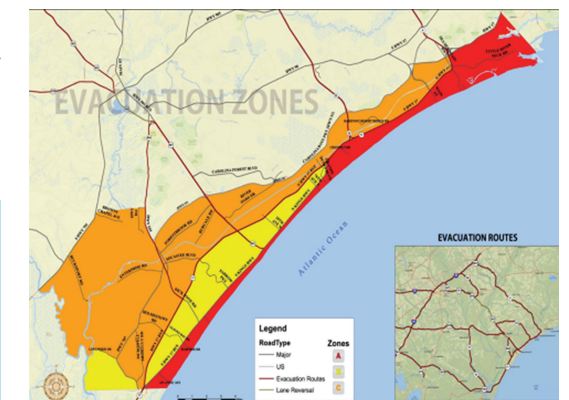
## Ready for hurricane season? Now is the time to prepare!

Myrtle Beach has had a few close calls with hurricanes in recent years, and that's a reminder to everyone that hurricane season begins annually on June 1 and continues through November 30.

The first step is to "know your zone," as shown on the map below. Evacuation routes and other hurricane safety tips are posted on [www.cityofmyrtlebeach.com](http://www.cityofmyrtlebeach.com).

Know in advance where you will go if an evacuation happens. Have important papers ready in a "go bag," and keep a hurricane kit handy with things you'll need in an emergency.

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



Find out which zone is yours and be ready to act if a hurricane evacuation is ordered

Do not forget your pets! Have an evacuation plan for them, too, as most shelters will not accept pets. Do some advance research on pet-friendly hotels or accommodations, or make arrangements ahead for pet care in case of a storm.

When the time comes to evacuate, fill the car with gas and have a plan to check in with relatives when you get to your destination. Having a family contact point is a good idea.







*This new dune crossover at 24th Avenue North is handicapped accessible, with an ADA compliant ramp. Myrtle Beach replaces about half a dozen crossovers each year. Work is underway on the next one to be rebuilt, at 73rd Avenue North.*

## Budget addresses growth demands, retention of staff

*...continued from page 1*

The additional staff in the new budget will increase services to residents, businesses and visitors. Even with the 10 mill increase, Myrtle Beach's property taxes are among the lowest for cities in South Carolina, as shown in the graph below.

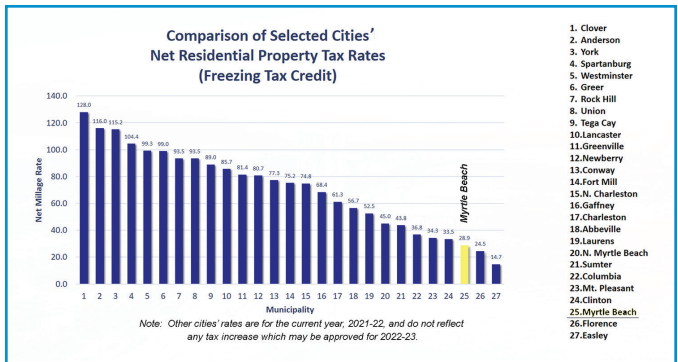
The 2022-23 budget freezes the Tourism Development Fee (TDF) credit for residential properties. Owner-occupied homes still will receive a 67.45 percent credit on their city property taxes, thanks to the TDF.

An owner-occupied home valued at \$250,000 will pay an extra \$100 per year in city property taxes, thanks to the 10 mill increase, while a commercial property valued at \$1,000,000 will pay an extra \$600 per year. Compare that yearly cost to a typical monthly cellphone or cable television bill.

The FY 2022-23 budget authorizes \$62.5 million in new capital improvement projects, such as continued work in the Arts & Innovation District. Other new capital projects include maintenance at recreation centers and fire stations, more road resurfacing and additional sidewalks.

The budget has minor fee increases for water and sewer charges (4.0 and 5.0 percent, respectively), largely due to wholesale cost hikes passed on from Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority. The monthly stormwater fee increases by \$1.67 per month, per ERU (equivalent residential unit). Combined, those two increases will cost the typical family an extra \$4.25 per month on the utility bill in the new fiscal year.

The new budget does not call for any increase in business license fees, recreation fees or solid waste fees.



## We have a 2022 date for Largest Garage Sale

South Carolina's Largest Garage Sale returns to the Myrtle Beach Convention Center on Saturday, September 10, from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

From castoff to collectible, you'll find it at the Garage Sale. Thousands of people turn out for the big bargain hunt, which fills more than 100,000 square feet of space.

Many visitors plan their trip to Myrtle Beach specifically for the Garage Sale. Admission to the sale is free, while parking at the Convention Center is just \$5.00 per car, per day.



## Drinking water quality report available online

The City of Myrtle Beach's 2022 Drinking Water Quality Report is available online. It explains how surface water is treated and tested along the way, before it's available from your faucet.

You'll be pleased to know that our drinking water meets or exceeds all state and federal quality standards. To view the annual report, visit <https://www.cityofmyrtlebeach.com/waterqualityreport>.



## Pervious paving comes to A&I District parking

Work continues in the new Arts & Innovation District, as Myrtle Beach creates destinations for the downtown area and reuses historic buildings.

Pictured here is the pervious paving system installed in the parking area between Nance Plaza and Oak Street. This lot serves Ninth Avenue North businesses, too.

The brick pavers allow stormwater to drain, unlike asphalt or cement, which cause rain to runoff. The same pavers are in use at Charlie's Place.



## Juneteenth celebrated at historic Charlie's Place

Myrtle Beach celebrated Juneteenth on Saturday, June 18, with a Unity March, a ribbon-cutting and a festival on Carver Street. Hosted by the Neighborhood Services Department, the event included music, dancing, food, fellowship and more, for all ages.

Juneteenth marks the occasion when news of the Emancipation Proclamation abolishing slavery finally reached the farthest corner of the US on June 19, 1865, more than two years after President Abraham Lincoln signed it.

During this year's Juneteenth celebration, officials held a ribbon-cutting and dedication for Charlie's Place, a museum and business incubator that preserves the economic and musical history of Myrtle Beach's early African American community.

In the days before integration, Charlie's Place was a well-known venue and nightspot. From the 1940s to the 1960s, Charlie's Place hosted Little Richard, Otis Redding, Billie Holiday, Jackie Wilson, Louis Jordan, Brook Benton, The Drifters, The Coasters, Ink Spots, Marvin Gaye, Fats Domino and others.

Juneteenth will be an official City of Myrtle Beach holiday in 2023. Funding for the holiday was included in the new fiscal year budget, which began July 1.



## Boardwalk re-decking provides tourist attraction

*...continued from page 1*

Visitors have enjoyed watching the construction on the boardwalk this spring. The oceanfront project has become something of an attraction in its own right, as the new design emerges in place of the old.

The colorful, wood-look composite material replaces the original Southern yellow pine installed when the Boardwalk was new, back in 2010. The composite is much more durable and should provide a smooth surface for many years to come.

Also this summer, pedestrian railings are being installed along Ocean Boulevard between Seventh and 12th Avenues North. The decorative railings feature a wave design and will help establish defined areas for walkers and vehicles.



## New fireworks rules in effect; fines start at \$250

Myrtle Beach's updated fireworks ordinance still prohibits fireworks on the beach and other public property. But in accordance with state law, fireworks now are allowed on private property (with permission) between 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.

The private property allowance extends until 12:30 a.m. on two days only: early on July 5 and New Year's Day. Please keep neighbors and pets in mind, and don't disturb their peace.

Violations of the amended law are a civil infraction, instead of a misdemeanor. The new fine is \$250 for the first offense and \$500 for any second or subsequent violations in the same 12 months.

The city's ordinance makes it illegal to shoot or throw fireworks toward any person, animal, structure or vehicle, including golf carts. The \$250 and \$500 civil fines apply to such violations.

It also is illegal to shoot or throw fireworks from a vehicle or discharge personal fireworks within 500 feet of a church, hospital or school, or within 300 feet of any gas station or business where flammable goods are sold.

