

New driver feedback signs report how fast you are going



Check your speed! Drivers in the Market Common district now have visual reminders of the speed limit and whether they are abiding by it or exceeding it. Six digital feedback signs on Farrow Parkway, Pampas Drive and Coventry Boulevard will help keep drivers alert and aware. The one pictured is on Coventry Boulevard. Neighborhood residents have requested additional traffic-calming devices to help drivers observe the speed limit and to protect pedestrians and bicyclists.

Myrtle Beach moves ahead with Arts & Innovation District plans

Work is underway on two fronts in Myrtle Beach’s new Arts & Innovation District. Along Ninth Avenue North, later building facades are being removed to reveal the original features, as shown in the Myrtle Beach Bakery photo and drawings, below.

A second floor addition on the former bakery also will be removed. The city’s goal is to restore the Ninth Avenue buildings to their historic look.

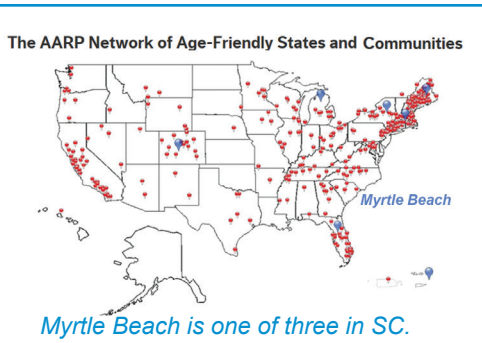
Meanwhile, work is underway to expand Nance Plaza and provide more access. As shown in the illustration, the Firestone building has been removed to provide more park presence and greater access.

The new open area will become a walkway that connects Nance Plaza to the parking area behind the buildings. The parking will be redesigned, too, creating a more attractive space for visitors.

Mashburn Construction Company and Grand Strand Brewing Company will occupy the neighboring buildings. Work is underway now to restore the structure that Mashburn Construction will occupy.



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



AARP designates Myrtle Beach as an age-friendly city

Myrtle Beach is one of only three age-friendly communities in South Carolina, according to the AARP. The city recently applied for and was granted membership in the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities.

Membership means that a community’s leadership has made a commitment to work with residents and local advocates to make their locale an age-friendly place to live.

The AARP network provides resources for communities to become even more age-friendly by tapping into national and global research, planning and best practices.

Currently, one in three Americans is age 50 or older. The other two age-friendly communities in SC are Columbia (2017) and Orangeburg County (2019).

PROGRESS REPORT Spring 2020

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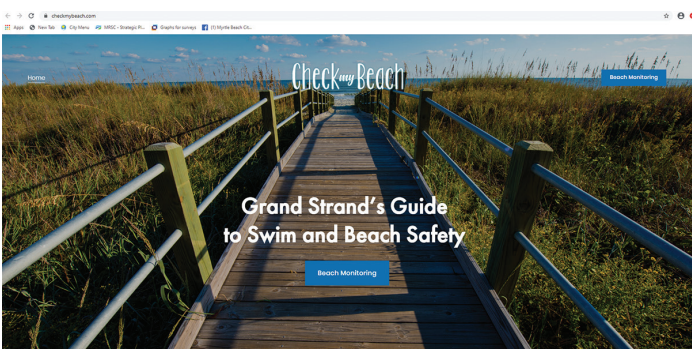
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PROGRESS REPORT



New ‘Check My Beach’ site provides timely information

The Grand Strand has a new resource for beach-going information. A new “Check My Beach” site offers details about water quality testing, rip currents, beach safety tips and more.

The new site’s goal is to provide timely, accurate and useful information directly to beach-goers. The City of Myrtle Beach worked with the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) and the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce to improve the state’s Beach Monitoring Program.

The swim season runs from May 1 until October 1. During those months, DHEC routinely tests ocean water quality at 120 sites in South Carolina each week. The City of Myrtle Beach also tests the ocean waters weekly. Visit www.checkmybeach.com.

Census time is here!

You should have received your 2020 Census Questionnaire, with a handy link to an online site. Please fill it out! Here’s our chance to accurately count Myrtle Beach’s population.

Beyond that, the results of the Census help determine how billions of dollars in federal funding flow into communities such as Myrtle Beach every year for the next decade.

School lunches, plans for highways, support for firefighters, funding for hospitals, support for families in need and more are determined, in part, by your census response.

You can fill out a paper copy or complete the Census online at <https://my2020census.gov/>.



City offers resources to cope with COVID-19

During the COVID-19 health emergency, the City of Myrtle Beach has a wealth of information online for our residents, businesses and visitors. A new page, www.myrtlebeachstrong.com, provides a central resource for connections and services.

With Myrtle Beach Strong, you can stay up-to-date on such topics as unemployment, community assistance, education, safety, recreation and more.

In recent weeks, the city’s recreation division has created online classes for all ages and subjects, while staff members at Chapin Memorial Library have offered online storytimes and STEAM experiments for kids.

In short, the city has found creative ways to keep in touch with the public and still provide that “first in service” experience.

Additional resources also are available online at www.cityofmyrtlebeach.com. Look especially for the Coronavirus Information page, with links to business license filings and other timely notices.



170 flower baskets say ‘welcome’

Continuing a tradition begun in 2019, the city’s Parks Division has installed 170 hanging flower baskets mainly along Ocean Boulevard, but also on Mr. Joe White Avenue and Ninth Avenue North.

The baskets swing from brackets installed on the utility poles. They feature live flowers and send a cheerful message of “welcome” to Ocean Boulevard.

The flower baskets stretch from 21st Avenue North to Sixth Avenue South, an expansion of last year’s coverage. Residents and visitors both enjoyed seeing the colorful baskets last year.

In response to COVID-19, the City of Myrtle Beach set up an information line to provide assistance to the public.

Need answers? For city-related questions, please call

843-918-INFO

8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
daily, until further notice

Business license payments accepted until June 30

In response to the COVID-19 health emergency, the City of Myrtle Beach will accept business license payments without penalty on or before June 30, 2020.

Business license renewals and payments normally are due by April 30. However, recognizing the economic impact of COVID-19, the Myrtle Beach City Council has waived any penalty for payments received as late as June 30.

Further, businesses affected by government orders related to the COVID-19 emergency may request an extension for the 2020-21 license year. All such emergency payment plan requests must be made in writing on forms supplied for that purpose.

Additional information, including a full explanation of "affected by government orders," is available on the Documents Center webpage in the Business License Division folder. See www.cityofmyrtlebeach.com.

Questions? Email buslic@cityofmyrtlebeach.com or call 843-918-1200 for more information.



Check out the new Autism Wall on the lake side of Crabtree Memorial Gymnasium, facing Savannah's Playground. City staff member Aaron Frobase in our Recreation Division designed the puzzle-piece layout for the mural, and he and other staff members accomplished the painting.

Online and other options available for utility bills

During the COVID-19 health emergency, the city offers a number of online and contact-free options for utility billing, as part of our overall social distancing.

- You can pay your bill with our automated system, 24/7, by calling 844-571-2888. You will need your utility account number.

- You can pay your bill using our online payment system, 24/7. You will need your utility account number. Visit https://www.cityofmyrtlebeach.com/departments/utility_billing_division.php.

- You can drop your payment into one of our two convenient drop boxes or at our drive-through cashier window at the City Services Building, 921 North Oak Street. Please note that our drop boxes are available 24/7, and our drive-through cashier window is available during normal business hours.

- If you need to start water service, you can download and complete your application online. After you complete your application, please call Customer Service at 843-918-1212 for assistance on finalizing the application process.

If you have questions, if you need your utility account number, or if you need help starting or stopping water service, please call Customer Service at 843-918-1212 or 1-800-617-7758.

Myrtle Beach welcomes newest K-9 officer, Koax

Say "hello" to the Police Department's newest K9 unit, PFC Austin Cox and his partner, K-9 Koax. Together, they are the city's sixth K-9 team.



Paper (not plastic) bags required for yard waste

Leaves, clippings and other loose yard waste must be placed in paper bags for curbside pickup in Myrtle Beach. The city can't pick up yard waste in plastic bags.

The Horry County Solid Waste Authority initiated the change. Yard waste in paper bags can be composted, which saves valuable space in the landfill.

Home stores carry paper bags just for this purpose. You can still put limbs by the curb, but leaves, grass clippings, etc., must be in paper bags.

New dunes are growing

The beach grass seedlings and sand fencing installed in Spring 2019, after the most recent beach renourishment, are doing their job as intended.

A landscaping contractor planted 180,000 beach grass and seagrass sprigs last March



along the length of Myrtle Beach. The plantings were the last step in the beach renourishment process, completed in early 2019.

Hurricanes in 2017 and 2018 damaged or destroyed most of the sand fencing and some first-row dunes, but as you can see in this photo from early April, the sand fence and sea grass are trapping windblown sand and rebuilding new dunes, as designed.

Police Dept. has online reporting

See something? Say something! Call 843-918-1382. Did you know that certain crimes may be reported online? You can report any "not in progress" crime to our P2C site at <http://p2c.cityofmyrtlebeach.com>. Just follow the criteria listed.



Events rescheduled due to COVID-19

A number of spring events have been tentatively rescheduled for summer and fall due to the COVID-19 health emergency. We hope these dates will hold, but may not know for certain for several weeks yet. Please keep an eye on the Events file, available on the city's website at <https://www.cityofmyrtlebeach.com/events.pdf>.

Irish Fest, June 13, Grand Park, The Market Common.

Carolina Country Music Fest, September 17-20, Burroughs & Chapin Pavilion Place, Ocean Boulevard.

Dragon Boat Festival, September 19, Grand Park, The Market Common.

Pee Dee Streetrodders' "Run to the Sun" Car and Truck Show, September

24-26, Former Myrtle Square Mall Site, Oak Street to Kings Highway.

Pooch-A-Mania, October 4, Grand Park, The Market Common.

Art in the Park, October 19-20, Valor Memorial Garden, The Market Common.

Jeep Jam, October 23-25, Former Myrtle Square Mall Site.

Food Truck Festival, October 30-31 and November 1 (location to be determined).



Would you like to serve?

Would you like to be considered for one of Myrtle Beach's many volunteer boards, commissions and committees? If the answer is "yes," send a letter of interest and résumé to the City Clerk, PO Box 2468, Myrtle Beach, SC 29578.

Picking up after your pet is required

The City of Myrtle Beach requires pet owners to pick up after their pets whenever they are off the owner's property. You must properly dispose of your pet's waste.

Beginning 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 shorter, and you must pick up after them and properly dispose of the waste in a trash receptacle.

Violations of these rules are misdemeanors, subject to a fine of up to \$500 and/or 30 days in jail, upon conviction.

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

By the way, bicycles also are allowed on the beach only before 10:00 a.m. and after 5:00 p.m. from May 1 through Labor Day.

In addition, both bicycles and dogs are allowed on the boardwalk only in the mornings, 5:00 to 10:00 a.m.