

## Musical history is unique to Myrtle Beach's Charlie's Place



...continued from page 1

The famous nightclub itself is gone, but the Fitzgeralds' home and part of a small motel they operated still exist. Phase One of the preservation project included reconstruction of the house as a community center and event space.

Phase Two includes restoration of the first four motel units and reconstruction of eight other units. A few rooms will be kept as a museum to the era, showing what "Green Book" travel was like. Other rooms will be reconstructed for use as small shops and community classes or crafts.

In addition to saving the musical history and culture of Charlie's Place, the city's goal is to restore the economic contributions that the club and motel made to the Booker T. Washington neighborhood.

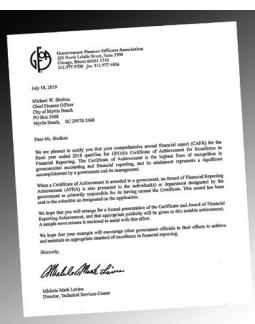
## Textured crossing in place



A new textured crosswalk at Meyers Avenue and Yorkshire Parkway at The Market Common alerts drivers to expect pedestrian traffic. Neighbors requested additional measures for bikers and walkers crossing here.

## Myrtle Beach honored for 31st year of financial excellence

For the 31st consecutive year, Myrtle Beach has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association.



"The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and the attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management," according to the GFOA.

Each year, a public accounting firm audits the city's books according to standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants

and the Governmental Accounting Standards Board.

The auditors consistently have said that Myrtle Beach's financial statements represent the city's financial condition in a manner that is fair in all material respects, known as an "unqualified opinion."



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

## Use these handy phone numbers for Myrtle Beach facilities and services

<b>Main Number</b>	<b>843-918-1000</b>
Animal Control	843-918-1382
Business License	843-918-1200
Construction Services	843-918-1111
Chapin Memorial Library	843-918-1275
Clerk of Court	843-918-1356
Crabtree Memorial Gym	843-918-2355
Crime Prevention Officer	843-918-1806
Fire Administration	843-918-1192
General Robert H. Reed Rec. Center	843-918-2380
Mary C. Canty Recreation Center	843-918-1465
Myrtle Beach City Hall	843-918-1012
Tennis Center	843-918-2440
Neighborhood Services	843-918-1062
Parks Division	843-918-2412
Pepper Geddings Recreation Center	843-918-2280
Police (Non-Emergency)	843-918-1382
Public Works	843-918-2000
Solid Waste	843-918-2160
Utility Billing	843-918-1212
Planning and Zoning	843-918-1050

Sign up for Myrtle Beach's weekly news and events email. The **Friday Fax** provides upcoming meetings and agendas. Send your address to [info@cityofmyrtlebeach.com](mailto:info@cityofmyrtlebeach.com).

## PROGRESS REPORT Autumn 2019

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# PROGRESS REPORT

## Annual Report: Fiscal Year 2018-19



## Preserving the history and culture of Charlie's Place

Myrtle Beach's unique musical history is part of the story being told through the restoration and re-use of Charlie's Place on Carver Street. Charlie Fitzgerald and his wife, Sarah, owned the Myrtle Beach nightclub from the late 1930s to the early 1960s.

The Shag and "beach music" all have their origins here. Famous African-Americans entertained at Charlie's Place in the days before integration, and many stayed at the Fitzgeralds' hotel, which was next door.

Charlie's Place catered to entertainers excluded from other venues, including Dizzy Gillespie, Little Richard, Billie Holliday, Duke Ellington, Cab Calloway, Lena Horne, Count Basie, Muddy Water and Ray Charles.

...see **Musical history**, page 4

## Arts & Innovation District begins to come alive

A transformation is underway in downtown Myrtle Beach, now that City Council has approved a master plan for the area and zoning for the Arts & Innovation District.

The city's Technology Advisory Group is starting a co-work and event space on Ninth Avenue North. At least one business has announced plans to restore a historic building on Nance Plaza.

...see **Downtown**, page 3

## FY 2018-19 budget added 10 new police officers

Hiring 10 more police officers and redeveloping the downtown area were two of the top priorities in the fiscal year which ended June 30. The spending plan for fiscal year 2018-19 totaled \$199.7 million and added 10 new police officers for a second consecutive year.

Last year's budget featured a three-mill tax increase to pay for the 10 additional officers. As expected, the investment in police personnel and technology has resulted in lower crime rates. Both 2018 and early 2019 saw reductions.

Owner-occupied homes continued to receive a credit from the Tourism Development Fee for the operational portion of the budget. Thanks to the TDF, the effective tax rate for owner-occupied homes was just 16 mills.

Water and sewer rates increased slightly during the year, mainly as a pass-through of higher wholesale costs from Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority. For a typical family using 7,500 gallons of water a month, the 3.9 percent increase resulted in an extra \$1.89 per month.

...see **FY 2018-19 budget**, page 2



Public safety is the city's top priority, with 10 police officers added in each of the FY 2018-19 and 2019-20 budgets. Above, a real-time crime analyst watches the city's 800-plus surveillance cameras. New technology and great teamwork helped the violent crime rate drop another 14 percent in the first half of 2019, continuing the 2018 trend.



### City Services

What you get for your money...

- 24-hour police protection
- Criminal Investigation
- Traffic Enforcement
- Crime Prevention Programs
- School Resource Officer's Program
- 24-hour fire protection
- Fire Prevention Services
- 24-hour Emergency Medical Response
- Hazardous Materials Response
- Street Construction and Maintenance
- Traffic Signals and Street Lighting
- Street Cleaning
- Drainage System Maintenance
- Drainage Improvements
- Parks and Recreation Facilities and Programs
- Street Tree Planting and Maintenance
- Community Planning, Zoning, Development Review
- Neighborhood Services
- Construction Services
- Municipal Court
- Various Economic Development Services
- All Municipal Legislative, Management and Support Services

One evening out for two with dinner and a movie:

**\$140.25**

Based upon average price of \$24.95, including two drinks, taxes, tips and refreshments at the theater.

**Total Cost of City Services:**

**\$135.23 Per Month**

Compare With:

Three tanks of mid-grade gasoline to fill your family's mid-sized sedan:

**\$141.75**

Based upon 21.0 gallon fuel capacity at \$2.25 per gallon.

One Month's subscription to Basic Cable TV & High Speed Internet Access:

**\$145.99**

One week's Moderate cost grocery bill for a family of 4:

**\$206.30**

Based upon USDA Official Food Plan update April 2019.

## What do you get for your money as a resident?

When all regular property taxes, fees and monthly service charges were considered, a typical residential household in the City of Myrtle Beach paid an estimated \$135 per month for city services in 2018-19. Included are property taxes on a house valued at \$250,000 and two automobiles valued at \$28,000, along with monthly fees for 7,500 gallons of water, curbside solid waste services and the stormwater fee.

Note that the cost per month of all city services combined is about the same or less than a typical electric power bill or the cost of telephone, cable and internet service for most homes. And that's *before* calculating the 80-percent TDF property tax credit for owner-occupied residential property.

So, what does that \$135 per month buy? Here's a short list of what you get for your money.

*ISO 1 fire protection; 24-hour EMS response; hazardous material response; 24-hour police protection; traffic enforcement; criminal investigation; crime prevention programs; school resource officers; street construction and maintenance; traffic signals and street lights; street sweeping; litter pick-up; recycling; stormwater drainage system maintenance and improvement; parks; playgrounds; recreation facilities and programs; community planning, zoning and development review; code enforcement and construction services; municipal court; various economic development services; street tree plantings and maintenance; and all municipal management, support and legislative services.*



## FY 2018-19 budget supports city progress

The only other utility increase was an extra 50 cents a month per equivalent residential unit (ERU) in the stormwater utility fee. One ERU is 5,000 square feet of driveway, parking area or roof surface. Residential properties are assessed at one ERU. Commercial properties pay a stormwater fee that's based on the actual amount of impervious surface on site.

The FY 2018-19 budget also featured \$12.4 million in new capital improvement projects during the year, including restrooms at Savannah's Playground and other renovations. For instance, Chapin Memorial Library received a new roof this summer as one of those projects.

## Myrtle Beach has Council-Manager government form

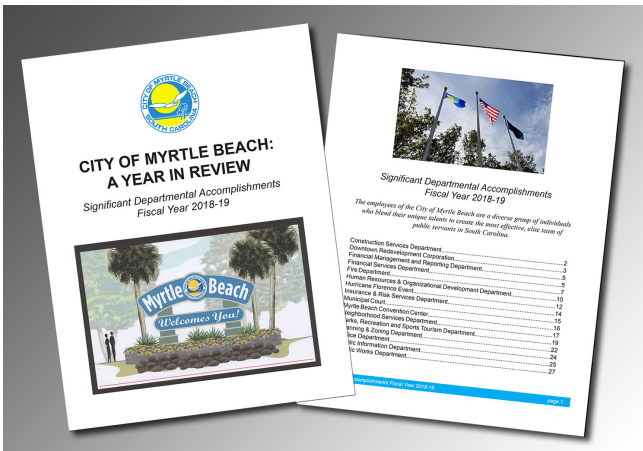
By a four-to-one margin, Myrtle Beach city voters adopted the Council-Manager form of government in 1973. In this system, City Council is the legislative body, setting the policy and direction for municipal government.

City Council is composed of a mayor who serves as the presiding officer and six members. All are elected at-large to four-year terms in staggered, biennial elections. The mayor and Council are non-partisan.

A professional city manager is the chief executive and administrative officer for the city. The manager is appointed by City Council and administers daily operations through the executive staff and department heads.

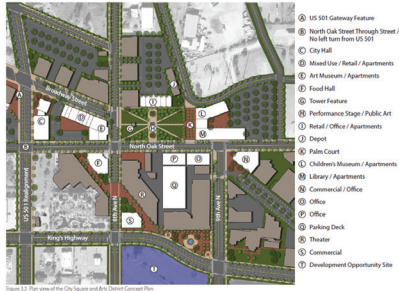
The City of Myrtle Beach is both a public agency and a multi-million dollar corporation. The budget for fiscal year 2019-20 totals \$202 million.

South Carolina requires that local governments adopt balanced budgets, providing sufficient revenues and other financing sources to offset expenditures authorized for the fiscal period. Myrtle Beach has such a balanced budget.



## Learn more about last year's accomplishments online

The City of Myrtle Beach offers a detailed review of the many accomplishments during the past fiscal year. To learn more about what staff members and departments achieved in FY 2018-2019, visit "A Year in Review" in our online Document Center at <https://www.cityofmyrtlebeach.com>.



## Downtown plan seeks culture, arts

...continued from page 1

The goal is to create a vibrant and thriving urban center that capitalizes on diversity. As conceived in the master plan, the Arts & Innovation District will include city offices, a new library, a new museum or two, a performing arts center, a co-work space for entrepreneurs and a new city square for events and activities.

The city has hired an architectural firm to craft a design vision for the area. Bringing entrepreneurs and artists to the area will create an inviting cultural atmosphere to attract new business and residential projects. Relocating public facilities within the district will generate additional foot traffic and potential customers to support new dining, retail, living and entertainment options.

## Myrtle Beach, by the numbers

Here are a few statistics to put the city's "first in service" pledge into perspective. During the 2018-19 year, the city's staff...

- ◆ Repaired 5,566 square feet of sidewalks and resurfaced more than 10 miles of roadway.
- ◆ Issued 530 new single-family residence permits, nine new multifamily permits and 40 new commercial building permits.
- ◆ Issued 7,177 building permits of all kinds with a total value of \$331,281,527.
- ◆ Performed 15,487 building inspections.
- ◆ Applied for and received \$12,211,213 worth of grants.
- ◆ Received 4,541 job applications to fill 136 positions.
- ◆ Hosted 332 events and 673,859 people at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center.
- ◆ Mailed 10,332 business license renewals.
- ◆ Handled 24,468 municipal court cases.
- ◆ Answered 129,182 calls for police service.
- ◆ Investigated 2,739 motor vehicle collisions and made 430 arrests for impaired driving.
- ◆ Collected more than 357 pounds of unneeded or outdated prescription drugs through the drop-off collection box.
- ◆ Responded to 14,703 calls for fire and emergency medical service, of which 9,306 were for EMS and rescue needs, 1,782 were false alarms and 253 were for actual fires.
- ◆ Collected and disposed of 58,606,000 pounds of solid waste.
- ◆ Maintained 2,584 fire hydrants, 49 miles of medians, 39 parks and 97 buildings.
- ◆ Responded to 365 requests under the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act
- ◆ Played more than 11,000 games on city recreation fields.
- ◆ Provided 40,000-plus swimming sessions at two indoor pools.
- ◆ Welcomed 116,500 people to Chapin Memorial Library and hosted 739 programs.
- ◆ Provided playing space for 254 adult sports teams with 4,149 individual players.
- ◆ Conducted the 36<sup>th</sup> and 37<sup>th</sup> Citizens Police Academy sessions.
- ◆ Maintained 10.77 miles of beach for everyone to enjoy.

## 2018-19 awards and recognitions

◆ The Finance Department received its 31st annual **Certificate for Excellence in Financial Reporting** from the Government Finance Officers Association for the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for 2017-18.

◆ The Youth Sports Division of the Parks, Recreation and Sports Tourism Department was named **"Athletic Department of the Year"** by the South Carolina Parks and Recreation Association for the sixth time in the last 10 years.

◆ The City of Myrtle Beach received its 22nd annual **Tree City USA Award** last year. Sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation, the US Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters, the award recognizes efforts to protect and preserve our urban forest.



City Council wants to hear from you. Email all of the Council members directly at [dearcitycouncil@cityofmyrtlebeach.com](mailto:dearcitycouncil@cityofmyrtlebeach.com).

## 2019 Solid Waste Schedule

**Veterans Day Week (November 11-15)**  
Regular Monday-through-Thursday collection schedule.

**Thanksgiving Week (November 25-29)**  
Service on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. No service on Thursday.

**Christmas Week (December 23-27)**  
Service on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. No service on Wednesday.

**New Year's Week (December 30-January 3)**  
Regular Monday-through-Thursday collection schedule.