11 graduate from 44th CPA Class

Eleven local residents graduated in March from Class 44 of the Citizens Police Academy. The nine-week course meets Monday evenings and offers a behind-the-scenes look at the Myrtle Beach Police Department.

Class members learn about crime scene investigation, the K-9 unit and other law enforcement topics. They also experience the Fire Arms Training Simulator and ride along with patrol officers.

Most important, they get to know our officers and staff as people.

Pictured above with Police Chief Amy Prock and Sergeant Jeffrey Thomas are Class 44’s Jeff Allen, David Cacho, Kerah Conti, Anna Fox, Lyric Gibson, Brian Long, Linda Oakley, Margo Partlow, Jeffrey Thomas are Class 44’s Jeff Allen, David Cacho, Kerah Conti, Anna Fox, Lyric Gibson, Brian Long, Linda Oakley, Margo Partlow, Jeff Allen, David Cacho, Kerah Conti, Anna Fox, Lyric Gibson, Brian Long, Linda Oakley, Margo Partlow, Joe McQueen, Brittany Brown, Kimberly Denney, Mike Deweese, SueAnn Deweese, Omar Dickens, Dent Follweiler, Janet Hart, Kenya Hennigan, Kori Hippe, Mitchell Martin, Peggy Masterson, Jo Ella McQueen, Raymond Moyer, Virginia Norris, Wales Razzaz, John Schwinn, Christine Shechik, Barbara Shepherd, Joyce Stack, Flori Tomm, Thomas Vantine, Suzanne Watts and Monica Wilson.

MyBeach 101 class recognized

Graduates of the eighth MyBeach 101 class were recognized by the City Council in March. They are pictured above with Neighborhood Services staff members who organize and host the annual program.

MyBeach 101 participants met Thursday evenings at various locations to learn about city operations from department heads and staff members. Topics included the full range of city services, from parks to public works and budgeting to building maintenance.

This year’s MyBeach 101 class members were Lucy Bongiorno, Brittany Brown, Kimberly Denney, Mike Deweese, SueAnn Deweese, Omar Dickens, Dent Follweiler, Janet Hart, Kenya Hennigan, Kori Hippe, Mitchell Martin, Peggy Masterson, Jo Ella McQueen, Raymond Moyer, Virginia Norris, Wales Razzaz, John Schwinn, Christine Shechik, Barbara Shepherd, Joyce Stack, Flori Tomm, Thomas Vantine, Suzanne Watts and Monica Wilson.

Garage Sale date set

We have a date for SC’s Largest Garage Sale at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center! Mark your calendar for Saturday, September 7, 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Parking is $5.00 per car.

The sale draws nearly 250 vendors who fill more than 100,000 square feet of floor space with second-hand treasures. From cast-off to collectible, you’ll find it at South Carolina’s Largest Garage Sale.

Transfer Station open

Myrtle Beach city residents have extended hours to drop off items at the Jake Abraham Transfer Station, 3221 Mt. Joe White Avenue.

Doing some spring cleaning? You may drop off garbage, yard waste, tires, e-waste, bulk waste, clean lumber and commingled recyclables at the transfer station.

Proof of residency is required. Hours are 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, and 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday. For more information, call 843-918-2160.

Mobile librarians Jerilynn Derhammer and Thomas Smith welcome you to Chaplin Memorial Library “on the go.”

Rolling, mobile library provides books on the go!

Say “hello” to Myrtle Beach’s first-ever bookmobile. The city’s new library-on-wheels debuted in March and is making the rounds already, visiting neighborhoods, community centers and assisted living facilities.

The city’s Chapin Memorial Library received a $200,000 grant from the Chapin Foundation in 2023 to purchase a van and equip it as a mobile library. The vehicle’s cabin space stores more than 900 items.

Patrons can check out, renew and exchange books from the bookmobile. You can also register for a library card, enjoy free WiFi and return books, whether they came from the actual library or the mobile library.

Your mobile librarians are Jerilynn Derhammer and Thomas Smith. To request a visit, call 843-918-1277 or apply at https://www.chaplinlibrary.org/mobile-library.

Skaters welcome new bowl at park

Skaters are thrilled with a new bowl to test their shredding skills at Matt Hughes Skate Park, near Doug Shaw Memorial Stadium and Pepper Geddings Recreation Center. The cement bowl is five feet deep, 30 feet wide and 50 feet long. It replaced an original wooden half-pipe that had served the skating public for more than 20 years.

The Friends of the Skateparks Foundation contributed a $35,000 grant toward the $95,000 addition. All ages came to try out the new bowl during ribbon-cutting ceremonies on Saturday, February 10. Skateboarders and roller-bladers took turns testing the curves and edges of the new bowl. Helmets are required, of course.

Hurricane evacuation zones changing for 2024 season

The South Carolina Emergency Management Division updated its hurricane evacuation zones along the coast, including those for Myrtle Beach and the Grand Strand.

New for 2024, Evacuation Zones A and B are smaller than before for Myrtle Beach. Zone C is smaller, too, but it now includes the Market Common area for the first time.

The new Zone A includes the beach and both sides of Ocean Boulevard, as shown on the map below. Our Zone B now stretches from Ocean Boulevard to the east side of Kings Highway.

Evacuation Zone C encompasses all of the Market Common area, west of Kings Highway and south of Myrtle Beach International Airport.

The changes follow a statewide study of updated flood zone maps, recent hurricane events and reports of actual flooding. Hurricane season is June 1 through November 30.

Know in advance where you’ll go if an evacuation is ordered. Have important papers ready in a “go bag,” and keep a hurricane kit handy with insurance and medical records.
Be prepared for hurricanes

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

Don’t forget your pets! Have evacuation plans for Fido and Felix, too, as most shelters do not accept pets. Do advance research on pet-friendly hotels or accommodations in areas away from hurricanes.

When the time comes, fill the car with gas and check in with relatives when you get to your destination. Having a family contact point will keep everyone posted.

State regulates how golf carts may drive on streets

Golf carts are allowed on public streets, but state law regulates how and when, along with who is allowed to drive them. When on the road, golf carts must be insured and registered with the SC Department of Motor Vehicles. Here are the operating rules for the street:

- Only by a licensed driver.
- Only when insured and registered.
- Only during daylight hours.
- Only on secondary roads where the speed limit is 35 miles per hour or less.
- Only up to four miles from the registered address.
- Not on sidewalks, bike lanes or multipurpose paths.
- Not with more people than seats in the golf cart.
- Not by unlicensed children of any age.

Support team ready to roll

If you see this car, Myrtle Beach’s Opioid Response team is on the job. Our community support team offers compassion, empathy and information to help break the cycle of addiction.

If you or someone you know suffers from problematic substance use, call the Response Team at 843-918-1600 or email opioid@cityofmyrtlebeach.com.

Loved ones, too! If you support someone struggling with substance use, you may benefit from support, too.

Myrtle’s Market re-opens

Myrtle’s Market opens for the season on Wednesday, April 10, at the corner of Mr. Joe White Avenue and Oak Street. The market offers fresh fruits and vegetables, flowers, homemade treats and handmade crafts.

New this year, market hours are 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (instead of 3:00 p.m.), Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.

Seasonal beach and biking rules begin May 1

Several beach and boardwalk rules change for the summer season when May arrives. From May 1 through Labor Day, dogs and bicycles are allowed on the beach only before 10:00 a.m. and after 5:00 p.m.

At all times when dogs are allowed on the beach or boardwalk, they must be on a leash of seven feet or shorter, and you must pick up and properly dispose of their droppings.

The pick-up-after-your-pet law is in place whenever the dog is off the owner’s property. Violations are misdemeanors, subject to fines of up to $500 and/or 30 days in jail. Handy pet disposal bags are available at most city parks.

‘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 weather quality testing, ocean currents, beach safety tips and more.

The website 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.