



News and Views

Myrtle Trace

A Newsletter by Myrtle Trace Residents for Myrtle Trace Residents January 2024

BOARD BRIEFS

This is the time of year when we often look back over the events of the past year and plan for the upcoming year. It's also the time of year when we resolve to eat less and exercise more. Here are ten other New Year's resolutions to consider:

- 1) **Read News & Views**—We are often overwhelmed with the amount of information available to us and while we may find it easy to “go online” for information, remember that News & Views is the official communication linking the Board and its committees with you, our residents. A good example of information which you may miss if you don't read News & Views is the announcement you'll find in this issue about the upcoming Primary elections.
- 2) **Drive 25**—that's 25MPH on Myrtle Trace Drive and 5MPH when you approach the back gate. If you drive slowly near the gate and still experience problems, call Nancy Seeds.
- 3) **Worry less**—If you worry about the ponds flooding your house and property, you can scratch that off your list. We just experienced a major rain event and the ponds did exactly what they are designed to do – they retained the runoff and the rain (they are retention ponds). During a heavy rain the water level will often rise above the retaining walls and that's OK. The retaining walls are not a measure of the depth of the water – they are designed to protect the lake banks from erosion. Our retention ponds are part of a larger drainage system which flows into the county's “big ditch” and ultimately to the ocean. The drainage system has worked for 40 years and handled hurricanes which dumped a lot more rain than what we experienced this past month. And we take precautions: before a major weather event our maintenance crew checks the swales and drains that are on common property to clear them of debris. You may want to do the same on your private property.
- 4) **Respect your neighbor's property**—And that includes the common property. You probably wouldn't rake or blow leaves onto your next door neighbor's property. The same holds true of the common property. It may be tempting, especially when no one is looking, but the common ground is not for dumping and that includes the wooded areas. The only time that we should expect Hardee Maintenance to pick up debris piled at the front of our properties near the road is after a named storm when they pick up and dispose of fallen trees and large tree limbs. Our ponds are also common ground and not a place for you or your landscaper to throw grass clippings.
- 5) **Be a volunteer**—join a committee.
- 6) **Be kind and courteous to Board and Committee members**—we are all volunteers and neighbors and are doing the best we can to serve our community.
- 7) **Remember #6.**
- 8) **Read # 6 again.**
- 9) **Enjoy being part of a great community and all that it has to offer.**
- 10) **Don't forget #6 and have a happy, healthy New Year!**

Briefs continued on page 5

News & Views

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February Deadline—1/21/24
February Delivery—1/31/24

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TRACERS ON THE GO!

Thursday, January 25, 2024
10:00 am
BLUEBERRY'S GRILL

7931 N. Kings Highway
Myrtle Beach

ROMEO'S

Friday, January 19, 2024
Time: 7:45 am
NANNIE ANNIE'S BREAK-FAST & LUNCH

1315 Highway 90
Conway

**NON-EMERGENCY POLICE
PHONE NUMBER
843-248-1520**

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

The Activities Committee met on Monday, December 11th at 7:00 PM. The committee wishes to thank everyone who donated food to the Thanksgiving dinner. The dinner was a great success because of your delicious contributions.

The primary committee business was assembling a new team of officers who will be elected by the committee and taking their positions effective the end of February. Two candidates have stepped up to run for the offices of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. More candidates may step forward to run for these offices also. The Secretary and Treasurer positions are still open and we need volunteers.

Another business item is the need for residents to become active participants on the Activities Committee. Our current core group of members look forward to having you join them. Every resident of Myrtle Trace is invited to be on the committee and attend monthly meetings the second Monday of every month, except July. Please help us continue to make Myrtle Trace a fun and active place to live.

Bob Smith

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

ARC would like to take this opportunity to wish each and everyone a Happy New Year.

In the community we have had two incidents of water pipe breakage, one last year and one this year. In each case, extensive damage was done to the home. Most of you know this little tip, but if not, it is helpful to open cabinet doors if temperatures are to be below freezing and you have water pipes on outside walls. This allows warm indoor air to keep the pipes somewhat warmer. We hope you have enjoyed a pleasant 2023 and are looking forward to an even better 2024.

Pat Hosford

COMMUNITY DIRECTORY UPDATES—AS OF 12/23/23

Additions:

George, Eric	249 Candlewood DR	470-371-9807
Holloway, Peter	121 Boxwood LN	502-905-9004
Kivela, William	1218 Loblolly LN	860-841-7539
Kivela, Kim	1218 Loblolly LN	860-402-5490

Changes/Corrections:

Buckley, Leon	buckley.leon@ymail.com
Langham, Bill	glangham845@gmail.com
Riker, Kevin	631-664-5909—Alliedgman@aol.com

E-mail:

George, Eric	drericg@gmail.com
Holloway, Peter	pnh55@aol.com
Kivela, William and Kim	wkivela@aol.com

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

PROPERTY CHAIRPERSON—Beginning January 1, 2024, Joe Bastian will be the new Property Chairperson. Liz Maass will be Tom Gray's assistant on roads. The entire committee applauded her devotion and past accomplishments to this committee and to its members. January will be Cathy McElroy's last month as Vice Chairperson. She and Liz, the dynamic duo, worked perfectly together for 3 years to make Property a stellar committee.

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY—In the October Telephone Directory, the Property Committee start time is listed incorrectly. It is 9:30 am, the second Tuesday of every month. Anyone is welcome to sit in and see how our committee works. Note the correct number for Joe Bastian is: 571-239-9759.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for Phase 6 & Phase 7 Representative positions. See the following Job description:

PROPERTY PHASE REP. RESPONSIBILITIES—Please read in your Guidelines Binder under Tab B the Property Committee Guidelines to familiarize yourself with the rules and regulations this Committee is responsible for.

When receiving a complaint from a resident:

1. Write down the resident's name, address and phone number.
2. Have the resident describe the complaint.
3. Even if a solution has been completed, present the complaint at our next meeting and your procedure or need to solve the resident's problem. Omit their name and just provide the address.

If complaint is regarding:

1. Trees on HOA Property. Take a look. Contact Property person taking care of trees and describe the problem.
2. Flooding. Go to the resident's property to see where flooding is occurring. If on personal property, they are to contact ARC. If retaining walls, they are to contact ARC. If flooding is caused by retention ponds, contact the Property person in charge of lakes and give them all the information so they can take a look.
3. If a street light goes out or is flickering. Go check out the light. There is a number on a white piece of paper affixed towards the bottom of the pole. Call Santee Cooper with the number: 1-888-769-7688. Let them know the light is out and give them the ID pole number. It takes approximately 48 hours for a resolution.
4. Maintenance Agreement or Sod Replacement form is in the Guidelines Binder. They are to make a copy of form. Fill it out and drop off at Clubhouse slot under HOA.
5. Roads, signs, gate, Clubhouse, pool, sports complex. Get the information and contact the person in charge.

If you are not sure who to contact, please call either the Property Chair or Property Vice-Chair for direction. All members of the committee are listed on the back page of the Community Telephone Directory.

Joe Bastian

Thank You From The Bible Study Group

We would like to thank Alta Fox and Linda Siehler for leading our previous Bible Studies. Diane Gascoigne is now leading our Bible Study group. In January we will be starting the E100—The Essential One-Hundred Bible Reading Plan Challenge Guide. The book will be going over 50 passages from the Old Testament and 50 passages from the New Testament. We welcome residents to join us on Mondays at 10am.

Thank You

*To all my Myrtle Trace friends and neighbors who wished me a rapid recovery from my recent surgery, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. All the delicious food was certainly appreciated, too!
I wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year!
Les Gerhart*

Holiday Decoration Winners

The NW team enjoyed viewing the neighborhood's decorations but it was a difficult task for judging! We all agreed that our community has some very artistic, creative, inventive and enthusiastic homeowners. There were three judging categories. The tallies were so close in each category that we picked **two** winners per category:

WHIMSICAL

The Shandra's-112 Juneberry LN
The Titus's-106 Birchwood LN

NOSTALGIA/TRADITIONAL

The Farie's-233 Candlewood DR
Horst Marzahl-1200 Loblolly LN

ORIGINAL USE OF LIGHTS

The Black's-110 Mayberry LN
Valerie Young-101 Birchwood LN

CONGRATULATIONS!

MYRTLE TRACE-MART

SELL—Lifetime collection of automotive tools. Too many to list but includes a 2-ton capacity, all aluminum floor jack, Chicago Pneumatic impact wrench and other pneumatic tools, topside oil evacuator, 5-HP air compressor and much more. Please call Jack for full details: 843-234-1530. (1)

REMINDER ON USING MYRTLE TRACE MART

Myrtle Trace-Mart is a service of the News and Views which accepts NO responsibility for any claims made in an ad. Ads for businesses conducted by Myrtle Trace residents or others will not be accepted. Ads will be published for three (3) months unless cancelled or renewed via email or phone call to the Newsletter Coordinator at: carol.blonowicz@gmail.com or 585-880-8925.

SAFE DRIVING AND SAFE WALKING

Pedestrians and drivers share the roads in Myrtle Trace. It is the time of year when dawn is late and night is early. Please be vigilant and careful when driving or walking along our streets, especially Myrtle Trace Drive.

Pedestrians, please remember to walk facing oncoming traffic. You will avoid any surprises from a vehicle approaching you from behind your field of view. Myrtle Trace Drive has several curves in its design and there is a risk of not being visible to approaching drivers. Also, please be safe and yield the roadway to approaching vehicles. Finally, if you are walking during twilight hours or after dark, wear reflective clothing and carry a bright light.

Drivers face challenges from sunlight, darkness and obstructions along our roads. Please remain alert for pedestrians, geese and other possible hazards on our roads. The winter sunlight may reduce visibility to zero so please remember that the speed limit on Myrtle Trace Drives is 25 miles per hour. Also, our stop signs are not *suggestions*. Cars and bicycles have been observed ignoring our signs. This creates a serious hazard to other drivers and pedestrians.

BEAVER ACTIVITY NEAR MYRTLE TRACE

Myrtle Trace residents and the Hardee Maintenance Team have reported sightings of beavers in “the ditch” along the perimeter of our community. This channel conveys water drained from Myrtle Trace to the Intercoastal Waterway. It is a key element of flood prevention. Beavers have constructed dams in the ditch and impeded the flow of water. Once again, the Board notified the Horry County Storm Water Department. A representative from the department dispatched a trapper to locate the beavers and then work with the SC Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to trap and remove the beavers.

JANUARY LAWN CARE TIPS

Take time to service equipment and sharpen blades for the upcoming growing season. This is also a great time to get a soil test done to determine pH and nutrient levels.

Source: Clemson Extension

BOARD BRIEFS—*continued from page 1*

CLUBHOUSE THERMOSTAT—Our last meeting took place on December 20 – the coldest day of the year! While many of us wore sweaters, others were in short sleeves and shorts. BRR! The point being that we will never make everyone comfortable with the temperature in the Clubhouse. The thermostat is set for 70 degrees and we have been advised by our electrician and heating contractor to leave it set at a constant temperature rather than change the setting overnight or throughout the day. Best advice – bring a sweater and think warm thoughts. As one of the sweater wearers, I will suggest to the Property Committee that we raise the temperature to 71 or 72 degrees.

PRIMARY ELECTIONS—The Democratic and Republican primary elections are scheduled for February 3, 2024 and February 24, 2024 respectively.

The Democratic Party has announced that **voting in the Democratic Primary will be at Seacoast Church – NOT AT OUR CLUBHOUSE**. Seacoast Church is located at the corner of Rte 501 and Business 501 in Conway. The entrance to the church is off Business 501. The site of the Republican Primary has yet to be determined.

Nancy Seeds

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NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce that Ted Black and Larry Lapinski are candidates for the Board of Directors. Their photos and resumes will be included in the information packets for the Annual Meeting.

The candidates will be introduced at the Board Meeting on Wednesday, January 17th and will have an opportunity to make brief comments at that time.

The Annual Meeting Planning Committee will be assembling the meeting packets on Saturday, January 6, 2024. The packets will be distributed to the owner-resident black newspaper tubes that same day, weather permitting. If you will be unable to retrieve your packet on the 6th or 7th, please call either Mary Johnsen-Schaeffer at 843-347-6897/email RPMMARYJ@AOL.COM or Joe Martin at 843-347-2823/email JJMJ109@YAHOO.COM to arrange delivery.

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ANNUAL MEETING— FEBRUARY 3, 2024

The MTHOA Annual Meeting will be held in the Burroughs and Chapin Auditorium at Horry-Georgetown Technical College. The meeting will start at 2 PM on Saturday, February 3rd 2024. Registration starts at 1 PM. We encourage all residents of the community to attend the meeting, and if an owner, vote for one of the candidates for the Board.

For those voting multiple proxies there will be an early registration in the Clubhouse on Friday, February 2nd from 1 to 3 PM. Proxy holders will receive the official ballot at the meeting. All voting takes place at the meeting.

HAPPY NEW YEAR, EVERYONE!

Just a couple of reminders:

- ◆ Please make sure that you put any HOA correspondence in the correct place at the Clubhouse. Nothing should be put in the mailbox on Myrtle Trace Drive except what is delivered by the post office.
- ◆ Dues—Once again, I am providing you with a chart to put on your refrigerator, etc., that reminds you of the amount of dues to pay. Please note that you can pay in advance if you want – quarterly, annually, etc.

<u>Schedule of Payments</u>	
1 month	\$85.00
2 months	170.00
3 months	255.00
4 months	340.00
5 months	425.00
6 months	510.00
7 months	595.00
8 months	680.00
9 months	765.00
10 months	850.00
11 months	935.00
12 months	1,020.00

- ◆ Many people are having their banks send us their HOA dues automatically instead of having to remember to write a check themselves. That may be a good option for some of you. Unfortunately, we are not equipped to offer automatic deposits at this time. This is the information that you will need to provide to your bank to set up your payments:
 - ◇ Make checks payable to – **Myrtle Trace Homeowners Association (MTHOA)**
 - ◇ Mail checks to – **101 Myrtle Trace Drive, Conway, SC 29526**
 - ◇ Indicate **frequency** and **amount** of payments – monthly, quarterly, etc.
 - ◇ Choose **date** that you want the checks to be issued, keeping in mind that dues are payable on the 1st of each month.
- ◆ Mailboxes—We take pride in the appearance of our community and sometimes we tend to overlook the little things like our mailboxes. You can contact me for what you need to spruce things up. Please make a check out to MTHOA for the appropriate amount (below) and leave it in the HOA box at the Clubhouse. Hardee Maintenance does all the work for you! Unfortunately, you have to purchase the paper tubes yourself. Many people have found tubes on Amazon that are black plastic and very durable.

Mailbox—\$17.00

Nameplate—\$10.00

Post—\$25.00

Thank you and please contact me if you have any questions!

Jean Hohenberger - 843-349-8395

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE RECRUITMENT

MEMBERS

What makes our Myrtle Trace Community such a great place to live? Some may say it's the people, or the homes, or our mature trees, or our ponds with abundant wildlife. Some enjoy our pool and recreation area. Some say it's our Clubhouse where so many functions are held. We meet, we eat, we sing, we dance, and we play games. Bingo and various parties and other functions are made available for our residents to keep us active physically, mentally and socially. Our Activities Committee needs help to keep these functions as part of our community. We need assistance from individuals that can join us and help us continue to develop fun activities for all to enjoy.

We are seeking an additional 5 people from each phase of the community. Our next meeting is January 8th at 7 pm so just show up if interested. All help is welcomed!

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TREASURER

The Activities Committee needs someone to volunteer to take on the role of Committee Treasurer. Are you one of those people who love working with numbers and balances? The Activities Committee is in dire need of your talents and skills. The committee not only comes up with activity event ideas and implementing them but also helps event chair people by reimbursing them quickly for incurred expenses so they have no out-of-pocket expenses.

The duties of the Activities Treasurer are:

- Prepare and present a treasurer's report at each monthly committee meeting (2nd Monday of every month, except July).
- Maintain the committee bank account, make deposits and write checks for expenditures and reimbursements.

The election of officers will be held at our February 12th meeting. If you are interested in this volunteer position, please seriously consider it and let us know as soon as possible. We cannot continue as a committee without a Treasurer.

Contact Bob Smith at (419) 308-0746 or Cathy Smith at (419) 308-0943. Cathy is the retiring Treasurer.

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON RECRUITMENT

POTLUCK DINNERS

We've heard from many residents that our Potluck Dinners are enjoyed by the community! Perhaps this is an event where you invite new neighbors to join you or an event at which you look forward to chatting with old friends or to meet new residents.

We are seeking a new Chairperson for the Potluck Dinners, if we continue to move forward with these. There are lots of possibilities for potluck dinners. We can have the traditional "everyone bring a dish" or invite a food truck to offer food. Perhaps we offer a wine and cheese social or a dessert social? How about a simple soup and sandwich?

There are so very many ways to envision and create potluck dinners. And, of course, these social events are not possible without hosts and volunteers from our community.

If the Potluck Dinner is of value to you, then please offer to Chair Potluck Dinners, or volunteer to host the dinner on one of these dates:

Monday evening at 5:30 PM:

March 18

May 13

Aug 19

Oct 14

Contact **Bob Smith** at (419) 308-0746 or thebobster45@gmail.com

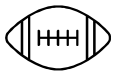
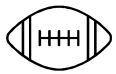
Thanks for your volunteerism!

Activities Committee

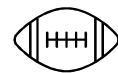
SUPERBOWL PARTY

FEBRUARY 11, 2024. 6 PM - Game is Over

Come out and enjoy the game at the clubhouse with fellow Myrtle Trace residents that enjoy football, good food, and to just having a good time. Bring your favorite football food or snacks to share. BYOB (Bring Your Own Beverages).



Best Superbowl Chili Contest



Bring a pot of Chili for all to try. All attendees of the party will receive one (1) ballot to vote for **"Best Superbowl Chili of Myrtle Trace"**. All ballots will be tabulated, and a winner will be announced at half time. Hot Dogs and some fixings will be provided so you can make Chili Dogs if you desire.

Door Prizes and Football Raffles

Please complete this reply ----->
if you plan on attending the event
and/or entering the Chili Contest.
Insert reply in red box on porch of
1214 Loblolly Lane. See you there!

\$ Texas Holdem Table Available \$

SUPERBOWL PARTY FEB. 11, 2024

I plan to attend and can bring a dish or
snack to share. I understand this is a
BYOB event.

Name _____

Name _____

I want to enter the Chili Contest

YES

NO

MYRTLE TRACE LADIES COFFEE

Saturday, January 13, 2024, 10:00AM



Is it really 2024? Celebrate the start of a new year with “New Beginnings.” Come and join your fellow residents, visit with one another, and enjoy a relaxed breakfast.

We will have favors and door prizes and 50/50 (please bring small bills).

Please bring your favorite dish (enough to share with a few others; less leftovers).



Looking forward to seeing you!

Hostesses: Laura DiFiore, Donna Ebling, Kathy Gerhart, Barb Lapinski,
Maxine Monti, MaryAnn Schroder and Jannine Sutherland.

MYRTLE TRACE DINING OUT

Tuesday, Jan. 30th, 2024 Noon

(Lunch during Winter)



Grumpy Monk

4545 Hwy 501 Carolina Forest Myrtle Beach

**PLEASE DROP OFF RSVP AND PLACE IN THE
WHITE DINING OUT MAILBOX NEAR FRONT DOOR
NO LATER THAN SAT. JAN. 20TH.**



Please drop this reservation off to

Sue Rudnicki

138 Myrtle Trace Dr

843-347-5757

Name: _____

Number of People: ___ X \$2.00 = ____

Phone Number: _____

Money will be refunded at restaurant.

MYRTLE TRACE ACTIVITIES		January					2024
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	1 10:00 Bible Study 6:30 Bunco	2 1:00 Mah Jong 1:00 Hand & Foot 5:30 Men's Poker	3 12:00 Chinese Maj Jong 12:30 Bridge 4:30 Mt Texas Holdem	4 1:00 Grove Poker 6:30 Tracer's on the Go Mtg.	5 1:00 Canasta	6 9:00 Annual MTG. Prep.	
7 6:30 Game Night	8 10:00 Bible Study 3:00 ARC MTG. 7:00 ACT. COM.	9 9:30 PROP. COM. 1:00 Mah Jong 1:00 Hand & Foot 5:30 Men's Poker	10 12:00 Chinese Maj Jong 12:30 Bridge 4:30 Mt Texas Holdem	11 1:00 Grove Poker 5:30 Men's Poker 6:30 Mah Jongg	12 1:00 Canasta 7:00 Bingo	13 10:00 Ladies Coffee 12:30 Reserved Driver	
14 6:30 Game Night	15 10:00 Bible Study	16 1:00 Mah Jong 1:00 Hand & Foot 5:30 Men's Poker	17 9:00 MTHOA BD MTG. 12:00 Chinese Maj Jong 12:30 Bridge 4:30 Mt Texas Holdem	18 2:00 Past Pres Mtg. 5:30 Men's Poker 6:30 Mah Jongg	19 7:45 ROMEOS 1:00 Canasta	20	
21 6:30 Game Night	22 10:00 Bible Study 3:00 ARC MTG.	23 1:00 Mah Jong 1:00 Hand & Foot 5:30 Men's Poker	24 12:00 Chinese MajJong 12:30 Bridge 4:30 Mt Texas Holdem 7:00 Bunco	25 10:00 Tracer's OTG Bkfst 1:00 Grove Poker 5:30 Men's Poker 6:30 Mah Jongg	26 1:00 Canasta 7:00 Bingo	27 1:00 Queen's Book Club	
28 6:30 Game Night	29 10:00 Bible Study	30 12:00 Dining Out 1:00 Mah Jong 1:00 Hand & Foot 5:30 Men's Poker	31 12:00 Chinese Maj Jong 12:30 Bridge 4:30 Mt Texas Holdem 6:30 Men's Poker	CALENDAR Pat Paxson - 347-1609 Alternate Ted Ackley - 347-3004	League Bowling Thursday 10:00	LINE DANCE Fridays 10 AM	