



**JANUARY 2025  
GATE POST**



## **News from the Board** **Joyce Jalbert, President**

Happy New Year! Can you believe its 2025? What happened to 2024?

We hope everyone had a safe and happy Holiday Season.

And here's to a healthy and great New Year!!

**Reflector Strips/Reflector Poles:** I am pleased to announce that the Modification Committee in conjunction with MTS BOD have come up with a plan to not only ensure some safety to the mailboxes but also to keep with the MTS CCR's and maintain uniformity. The Modification Committee put a great deal of effort into this initiative. We thank them for their hard work. Please see Don Nadler's article for all the particulars. Everyone will be receiving a hard copy for your Modification Book in the coming weeks. Important things to know: you must fill out a Modification Request Form to complete this job and you must have all old reflector strips/reflector poles removed no later than January 31.

**Street Sign Posts:** The BOD has contracted with Cruz Maintenance to repair the Street Signs. The good news is that the posts were all OK. The Brackets that held the signs were in dire need of replacement as they were old and rotten. In addition to replacing the brackets, they are also power washing, painting, and securing the placards on our Street Signs. The work began on December 19<sup>th</sup> and is expected to be completed within several days weather permitting. We have worked with Cruz Maintenance on several occasions and found their work to be well done and reasonable.

**Fire Pits:** The BOD has voted unanimously not to allow Fire Pits. We believe that it is a safety hazard and are not willing to take any chance of a fire in the neighborhood.

**\$15 Waccamaw Charge for sending out Violation Letters:** For those who have not been to the last 2 BOD meetings, this subject has been discussed in depth. To summarize: when Waccamaw comes thru the neighborhood, finds a violation and then sends a letter to the homeowner, it costs the neighborhood \$15 a letter to do so. To put this in prospective during the months of September-November, we spent \$585 on these letters. We definitely could be using our (your) money in a more productive way. So please please please do your part and keep up on your home maintenance to avoid these fees.

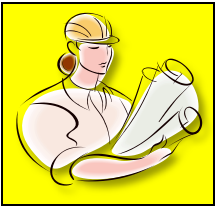
# News from the Board continued,

**Personal Note:** I personally would like to thank the Clubhouse Committee for all their hard work throughout 2024. They put much effort and time into these events. This was especially evident in their Christmas Dinner held on December 14<sup>th</sup>. It was such a FUN night. Everything was perfect!!!! Thank you.

Also, I want to thank all the people on the various committees that make our community a GREAT place to live. Including: The Dirt Band, Modification, Firewise, Nomination, Welcome, Sunshine Committees, Gatepost Editor. AND all the privately run groups: the Christmas Angels, Ladies Luncheon, Swim, Exercise, Golf, Christmas Centerpiece Ladies, Poker, Mahjong Ladies Social, Book Club. The list is long!!! And, of course the MTS BOD. You guys ROCK!!!

See you all at the next BOD Meeting on January 8, 2025.

**Be Kind...Be Calm...Be Happy...Always**



## **MODIFICATION COMMITTEE**

***Don Nadler***

As you were notified in an E-blast, the BOD now allows a blue reflective strip on mailbox posts, so that all markings are consistent throughout the community. These reflective strips are to mark your mailbox post, which for many people is a concern, as numerous people have had their mail box or post hit, some more than once.

The strips are to be blue, with a defined dimension and location on the post. All reflective blue tape must be purchased from the Modification Committee at a total cost of \$2.00 for the two 18" strips. These are not mandatory, of course, but if you wish to have them, please contact Don Nadler, 843-591-0185, for further information. Please note that you need to do a Modification Request form!!

The BOD also will allow blue markers along the edge of the road during emergency situations, such as during flooding times, with no need for a modification request. They must be removed when the situation is over. They may also be used to prevent parking on your terrace during garage sale days.

For marking a hazard, such as open areas at the end of some driveways, three markers may be used. They may remain as long as the hazard is there. A modification request is needed.

Please refer to the E-blast or current Modification Guidelines on the Myrtle Trace South website for more details.

Also, if you have received a violation notice for something that would normally require a Modification Request Form submission and approval, you must submit one. The violation notice does not suspend the need for Modification Committee approval. Failure to get approval may result in BOD action. Of course, most violations do not require Modification Committee approval, but painting a surround for example does.

**IF IN DOUBT, YOU CAN ASK OR FILL ONE OUT.** Better safe than sorry.



## **DIRT BAND**

***Paul Witalis***

Water to the outside spigots at poolside were turned off for the winter season. Christmas decorations were arranged along the pool's front fence. White icicle lights and colored string lights were placed along the top of the fence. Weed and fire ant eradication programs are suspended until spring. Happy Holidays !



## **CHRISTMAS ANGELS**

***Kathy Mathewson***

Thank you to all Angel Shoppers and to all MTS residents that donated monetarily for the children at Waccamaw Elementary. With your generosity we were able to provide 3 families (5 children) with gifts and food for the holiday season. We delivered them on December 13th and the families were so grateful for all they received. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2025.



## **NANA'S CLOSET**

***Ellen Witalis***

The holidays are over here in Conway, and there's no snow again! Not even a few flurries. But January and February often bring visiting grands and great grands who enjoy a winter break here in South Carolina. If you'll need items for your visiting little people please let me know as soon as possible. During Christmas and New Year's weeks most of our wanted supplies were signed out early. We have a high chair, a stroller with a cover, a pac n' play, and toys and games for indoor as well as outdoor fun. We also have a baby monitor. Contact me at Ellen Witalis, 843-347-7101, 843-503-1662, or [elplusp@aol.com](mailto:elplusp@aol.com). Happy 2025!

## **EXERCISE CLASS AT OUR CLUBHOUSE**

As the new year of 2025 begins you are reminded of the 55+ Exercise class held at our MTS Clubhouse every Tuesday and Thursday at 9:00 a.m. We use a variety of DVDs for the hour. Both sitting and standing exercises are included. Optional is always just sitting. Each day is varied and the exercises work on strength building, balance, core and cardio. It is these four areas we, as Seniors, need to keep working on to improve our overall health and daily living.

Consider attending the class of women and men to improve your life skills. You will be better for it!

Eileen Sause [eileensause@gmail.com](mailto:eileensause@gmail.com)



## **CLUBHOUSE POOL COMMITTEE**

***Kathy Nadler, Chair***

December was a fun month! We held a cookie exchange with hot chocolate at the clubhouse. The cookies were delicious. We even took some over to the fire department for them to enjoy.



Our Christmas dinner, catered by The Trestle Cafe, was delicious. We had 50 people attend. The tables were decorated with red, green and white linen tablecloths, lanterns with candles, and ornaments. Our clubhouse tree and military trees looked beautiful. The outside of the clubhouse and pool fence were decorated with strings of lights and icicles. Our theme, "Light Up The Night", came true. Two poinsettias were raffled off as door prizes. Janet Pechalonis and Victor Marabito were the winners.



**1/25 at 5 pm** Soup R Bowl. See flyer for info.

**1/28 at 6:30 pm** Bingo

**On February 22nd** at 11:30 am we are going on the Barefoot Queen Riverboat for a 1 ½ hr lunch cruise, with entertainment. Group price is \$36 per person. Lunch choices are a turkey, ham or roast beef sandwich. Make reservations and lunch choice with Kathy Nadler (843-591-0185) by

**February 7th.** Come and join us for a fun afternoon.

**2/25 at 6:30 pm** Bingo

**3/15** St. Patrick's Day Pot Luck dinner. More details in next Gatepost.

PS: If anyone wants to play cribbage, contact Ted Volante at 843-234-2852. If anyone wants to play canasta, contact Connie Huyer at 703-853-4283. If anyone wants to play pinochle, contact Gail Lukens at 410-790-5859. If you have an activity you would like to do, let the Clubhouse Committee know.





## FIREWISE COMMITTEE REPORT

### **Colleen Meitzler**

The Firewise Committee would like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year! May 2025 bring you peace, love, joy and good health!

We have submitted our application for the Firewise Grant for 2025 and will update everyone when we receive an answer.

Please remember to complete and submit your **Firewise Activity Sheets** so we receive credit for our efforts and continue to qualify for our Firewise Grant.

Please take a moment to review our Firewise Safety Gatepost flyer on Winter Freeze safety. Stay warm! Stay safe!



## **EDITOR'S CORNER**

I would like to encourage our residents to submit some of their ideas to be published in the Gate Post. Topics could include favorite recipes, humor/jokes, safety or healthy living tips, etc. Controversial, derogatory, inflammatory issues or issues/complaints regarding MTS and its guidelines will not be accepted. I look forward to receiving some articles and your ideas for additional topics that are beneficial to share. Please submit such to [mtsgatepost01@aol.com](mailto:mtsgatepost01@aol.com).

***BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR!***



### **January**

### **Birthdays**

1 – Barry McNally  
1 – Mike Bubniak  
9 – Ed Bucher  
13 – Jim Gray  
13 – Rich Lockyer  
14 – Henry Heavens  
14 – Joyce Jalbert  
15 --Connie Huyer

15 – Bill Moyer  
20 – Dean Michael  
21 – Janet Pechalonis  
26 – Paul Witalis  
27 – Maureen Cox  
29 – Ella Bryant  
30 – Jon Craig  
31 – Ron Kautz  
31—Jennifer DenDanto

### **January Anniversaries**

1– Jon & Bonnie Craig  
14 – Ted & Barbara Volante  
16 – Bob & Jean Williams



## **SUNSHINE COMMITTEE NEWS**

***Jean Grady***

Many of our neighbors are in need of our thoughts and prayers as we navigate through this holiday season.

We send our deepest sympathies to Bill Dagle on the recent passing of his wife Donna. The Dagles, originally from Connecticut, have resided in MTS for well over twenty years. Please remember Bill and his family in your prayers.

Joan Warden is recuperating at Pruitt Healthcare after a recent hospitalization. And the Sunshine Committee's own Betty Petrakovitz is rehabbing after a recent fall. Also, Teresa Edwards is recuperating after recent surgery. And Dave Gilman is also recovering from surgery. We also send best wishes to Nancy Thornburgh for a speedy recovery after her recent hospitalization.

As you can see, these are the neighbors we are aware of. There may be others unknown to us who also need our positive thoughts and energy. We will keep them in mind as well.

Please contact any member of the Committee if you know of someone needing a little Sunshine! Berry Lowman on Trawler Bay, Janet Pechalonis and Ginni Boam on Sand Ridge, Eileen Sause on Rudder Court (we are giving Betty this month off!), and Linda Downes and Jean Grady on Helms Way.

Joyous holidays to all and please stay well.

## **A NOTE OF THANKS FROM DAVE GILMAN**

Thanks SO much for all your cards, calls, emails, etc. expressing your prayers and good wishes during my recent surgeries and recovery.

## **MTS NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

***Nancy Thornburg and Ellen Witalis***

During December the MTS Nominating Committee contacted every new household in MTS with a holiday card. There have been 11 new resident neighbors in the past 12 months. Each received an individually made card by the Committee.

We want each new resident to be recognized as an important part of MTS, and hope each feels welcomed and would like to be involved in our community. We hope we've achieved a part of the Committee's goals.



## **MEDICAL SUPPLIES**

***Janet Pechalonis***

Often times, when an injury occurs or a special need arises, medical equipment may be necessary for a short period of time. Many of our residents have walkers and wheelchairs as well as other items in their homes which they no longer use. These very generous folks are willing to lend, on a temporary basis, to those in need, when a family is in a situation of caring for others.

If you are in need of borrowing, please contact me **Janet Pechalonis** by phone: **843-349-0093** – text **203-558-4013** – or email [petchco@sbcglobal.net](mailto:petchco@sbcglobal.net)

Although, I do not have the equipment in my home, I will direct you to the person who may have what you need. Thank you for your donations.



## **BOOK CLUB**

*Ellen Witalis*

We did not meet in December, but we chose our January book in advance. January's book will be **THE BRIAR CLUB** by Kate Quinn. This is one of her outstanding historical mysteries. In this book several women rent rooms in a downtrodden old house in Washington, DC. Their stories take place during the political and community unrest of the postwar 50's while America tried to enjoy the cheerfulness after WWII. Each woman has a back story that reveals itself in the friendships and secrets of the McCarthy paranoid era.

We'll choose our February and March books at our meeting which will be Wednesday, January 15 at 6:30 P.M. All our meetings are at the Clubhouse on the 3rd Wednesday of each month except for holiday months. Everyone is invited even if you've not read our book of the month. Come out to join us for good book discussions and updates on our neighborhood.



## **MTS LADIES SOCIAL**

### **Ladies Social on Thursday, January 9 at 2 pm**

A winter themed program is being planned.

Hostesses are Susan Hooker and Kathy Nadler



Please RSVP by January 7<sup>th</sup> to either Kathy Nadler at 843-591-0185  
or Susan Hooker at 843-591-9891

Please remember to bring a mug, coffee cup or tea cup for a beverage

Refreshments will be provided

**Hope to see you there!**

**On January 25<sup>th</sup> there will be a  
Soup "R" Bowl night at the Clubhouse**

**ALL ARE INVITED!**



**We are asking people to bring various soups/chilis in crock pots  
*but it is not necessary for you to do so in order to enjoy the food.***

**The Clubhouse will provide water, coffee, or tea and bread and a salad.  
BYOB if desired**

**RSVP to Kathy Nadler (843-591-0185) by January 22<sup>nd</sup> with the number attending  
and if you are willing to make a soup/chili**

**We are hoping for a nice variety**

**So far we have**

**Ham and Bean soup**

**Clam Chowder**

**Pasta Fagioli**

**French Onion Soup**

**and Chili**

**We will have a 50/50 raffle also**

**PLEASE ARRIVE PROMPTLY AT 5 PM SO THAT ALL THE FOOD WILL BE HOT**



# **JANUARY LADIES BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON**



**The MTS Ladies Luncheon will be held at the Inlet Crab House in Murrells Inlet on Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at noon.**

**Please join us in celebrating the following ladies' birthdays:**

- 14<sup>th</sup> Joyce Jalbert**
- 15<sup>th</sup> Connie Huyer**
- 21<sup>st</sup> Janet Pechalonis**
- 27<sup>th</sup> Maureen Cox**
- 29<sup>th</sup> Ella Bryant**
- 31<sup>st</sup> Jennifer DenDanto**

**This is a fabulous restaurant that offers a wide variety of delicious menu items. Although seafood is their specialty, there are additional options on the menu. If you have never been, just ask Ginni Boam, Ellen Witalis, Joyce Jalbert, or Michelle Maylock for their recommendation!**

**As always, we will order from the menu and dessert will be provided.**

**Hostesses Sharon Gilbert and Linda Downes will look forward to seeing you there!**

**Contact Linda at either 843-421-3673 or [ldownes4@gmail.com](mailto:ldownes4@gmail.com) or Sharon at 843-347-0199 to RSVP no later than Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup>!**



10  
Tips

## Get Ahead of the Winter Freeze

It's not too early to begin preparing for the heating season. Check these 10 tips off your list and get ahead of the winter freeze.

- ☐ Our **furnace has been inspected and serviced** by a qualified professional during the last 12 months. *(A furnace should be serviced at least once a year.)*
- ☐ Our **chimneys and vents have been cleaned and inspected** by a qualified professional. I have checked for creosote built-up. *(Not cleaning your chimney is the leading cause of chimney fires from built up creosote. This service needs to be done at least once a year.)*
- ☐ Our wood for our fireplace or wood stove is **dry, seasoned wood**.
- ☐ Our **fireplace screen is metal or heat-tempered glass**, in good condition and secure in its position in front of the fireplace.
- ☐ We have a **covered metal container** ready to use to dispose cooled ashes. *(The ash container should be kept at least 10 feet from the home and any nearby buildings.)*
- ☐ Our children know to stay at least **3 feet away** from the fireplace, wood/pellet stove, oil stove or other space heaters.
- ☐ Our portable space heaters have an **automatic shut-off**.
- ☐ Our portable space heaters will be **plugged directly into an outlet** *(not an extension cord)* and placed at least three feet from anything that can burn; like bedding, paper, walls, and even people. *(Place notes throughout your home to remind you to turn off portable heaters when you leave a room or go to bed.)*
- ☐ We have **tested our smoke alarms** and made sure they are working. *(You need smoke alarms on every level of the home, inside each sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area. For the best protection, the smoke alarms should be interconnected so when one sounds, they all sound.)*
- ☐ We have **tested our carbon monoxide alarms** and made sure they are working. *(Carbon monoxide alarms should be located outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home.)*



**Your Source for SAFETY Information**

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169



## FIREWISE ACTIVITIES MATCHING FUNDS RECORDING SHEET

Can be used to record activities for matching funds and other Firewise Communities/USA

What qualifies for matching funds for Firewise grants? Any time or money you spend on your home and/or surrounding property for the purpose of reducing the probability of wildfire loss. Examples of activities that will qualify related to homes and outbuildings are:

Dryer vent cleaning, pruning, mulching, tree trimming/limbing, weed abatement/spraying, replacing combustible mulches with stone/gravel, leaf raking and removal, pine needle/pine cone removal, cleaning gutters, grass cutting, grass irrigation, edging, time spent hauling vegetation to landfill/dump sites, meetings, presentations, cost for purchase or rental of chain saw/hedge trimmers, cost or protective eyewear/earplugs.

Volunteer activities also qualify for Firewise matching funds. Volunteer activities can include: attending Firewise Board Meetings, attending Firewise community events and preparation for wildfire.

To record **your time**, please fill in the following:

ACTIVITY	DATE PERFORMED	AMOUNT OF TIME (HRS : MINUTES)
<b>Total Number of Hours/Minutes</b>	→→→→→→→	

To record **your costs**, please fill in the following and **attach a copy of any invoices** from stores, contracted personnel, etc.

ACTIVITY	DATE PERFORMED	COST OF ACTIVITY
<b>Total Costs of Invoices</b> Please attach a copy of invoice(s)	→→→→→→→	\$ _____ .__

I affirm that the information I have provided on this form is accurate.

Print Name

Address

Date

Signature

Phone/E-mail

Return this form to your Firewise Board contact at a Monthly HOA meeting, community event or mail tube:

Colleen Meitzler 721 HW\*\*Dennis Vander Ryk-1044 RC\*\*Gail DiMaio-787 HW  
Glen Daniels-1020 RC\*\*Bruce McConnell 721 HW

Rev. 9/2024

## MYRTLE TRACE SOUTH

### MODIFICATION REQUEST APPLICATION FORM

HOMEOWNER MUST RECEIVE WRITTEN APPROVAL BEFORE WORK CAN COMMENCE. THE MODIFICATION COMMITTEE AND/OR BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BOD) WILL REVIEW YOUR REQUEST AND RETURN AN ANSWER WITHIN 45 DAYS OF RECEIVING THIS WRITTEN REQUEST.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ LOT#: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

PRIMARY E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

SECONDARY E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX #: \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE MODIFICATION PROJECT (use additional pages if necessary):

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DESIRED START DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ EST. COMPLETION DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

### PROVIDE THE PERTINENT INFORMATION LISTED BELOW

LOCATION OF PROJECT: \_\_\_\_\_

PROVIDE: MARKUP, SURVEY, HOUSE PLANS, PHOTOGRAPH, LANDSCAPING LAYOUT OR OTHER APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTS

MATERIALS: \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIPTION OF THE MATERIALS, BROCHURES, WEBSITE INFORMATION AND/OR SAMPLES SHOULD BE PROVIDED

COLORS: \_\_\_\_\_

A LISTING OF THE COLOR(S), SWATCHES, BROCHURES OR SAMPLES ATTACHMENTS MUST BE NOTED AND AN APPROVED COLOR WHERE APPLICABLE. \_\_\_\_\_

PLANS: ATTACH LAYOUT, DIAGRAMS, SURVEY AND/OR PLANS FOR THE PROJECT IF CONSTRUCTION RELATED

ATTACHMENTS: PLEASE CHECK APPROPRIATE BOX FOR ANY ATTACHMENTS: YES ☐ NO ☐

By signing this application, you are accepting full responsibility for the modification project and acknowledge that: a) the HOA may not be held responsible for any injuries or damage resulting from the modification being done; b) any commercial contractor(s) used is/are licensed and insured; c) All applicable permits that may be required by law are obtained prior to start of the modification; d) The Modification Committee, at its discretion, may ask to view permits, proof of insurance and licensing for construction, re-roofing, retaining walls, drainage alterations and other substantial modifications by contractors; e) The Modification Committee has the right to conduct on-site inspections of the modification project.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Homeowner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Homeowner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Please deliver this completed form to: **Don Nadler - 518 Sand Ridge Rd**





# MYRTLE TRACE SOUTH

## COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

\_\_\_\_\_ would like to be considered to serve as a

(Print Your Name)

member of the following committee(s) of the Myrtle Trace South Homeowners' Association, Inc.

Please place an **X** next to the committee(s) you have an interest in:

☐ Pool/Clubhouse Committee

☐ Grounds Maintenance Committee

☐ Modification Committee

☐ Nominating Committee

☐ Firewise Committee

☐ Ponds Committee

☐ Sunshine Committee

☐ Welcoming Committee

Your OCCUPATION: (if retired, former occupation) \_\_\_\_\_

Your EXPERIENCE: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What TALENTS/GIFTS do you have that lead you to apply to serve on the above committee(s)?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Property Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

***Please complete and return this form to:***

**Ellen Witalis - 1023 Rudder Court - 843-347-7101 - [elplusp@aol.com](mailto:elplusp@aol.com)**


On behalf of the BOD of MTS, thank you for "stepping up" to serve in our community!

Rev. 8/30/24

\_\_\_\_\_

# JANUARY

# 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
				55+ Exercise 9AM CHCP Mtg 10:30AM Poker 6PM		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Poker 6PM	55+ Exercise 9AM	Board Mtg 9AM	55+ Exercise 9AM Ladies Social 2PM Poker 6PM		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Poker 6PM	55+ Exercise 9AM	Book Club 6:30PM	55+ Exercise 9AM Poker 6PM		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Poker 6PM	55+ Exercise 9AM Ladies Bday Lunch 12 Noon		55+ Exercise 9AM Poker 6PM		Soup R Bowl 5 PM
26	27	28	29	30	31	
	Poker 6PM	55+ Exercise 9AM Bingo 6:30PM		55+ Exercise 9AM Poker 6PM		