



News from the Board Joyce Jalbert, President

Treasurer: A Big Thank You goes out to Michelle Maylock for volunteering to be the Treasurer of the BOD. She decided that she did not want to join the BOD but would be glad to help us out with the books. Again, thank you so much!

BOD Position: With the resignation of Michelle Gagnon, we are still in need of a fifth member to round out the BOD. If you are interested in getting involved with your neighborhood, please reach out to me at jalbejoy@yahoo.com. This would be an excellent opportunity for you to get to know the inner workings of the community.

Boundaries: I would like to remind everyone that the BOD and all the other volunteers in the neighborhood need you to respect their boundaries. So...please don't go to their houses uninvited and unannounced with a problem, don't approach them at Walmart to discuss issues, don't accost them while they are walking their dog to discuss your complaints.

There is a time and place for all of the above. 1. Come to a BOD meeting. They occur the first Wednesday of the month. 2. You can email anyone on the BOD with your concerns. 3. Feel free to text as well. I believe the BOD is very responsive to your needs, IE: someone told us that more handicapped parking spots were needed at the Clubhouse and BAM...it was done!

Elasts: if you need an eblast to be sent out by Suzanne Gilman or Michelle Gagnon, please send a **TEXT** to their phone that says you have sent something to their email to be sent out. This quick step will insure that the eblast gets out in a timely manner.

Have A Safe And Happy New Year!

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





CLUBHOUSE POOL COMMITTEE

Kathy Nadler, Chair

In November the Ladies Social group had a craft day conducted by Donna Burns. We made snowmen out of paint stirrer sticks, yarn tree ornaments, decorated twig stars with twine, made 3D stars out of toilet paper rolls, and made snow globe villages out of upside-down wine glasses, donated by Deb Moffitt. We had a fun time, other than glue gun burns.



Our November food drive was very successful. We had 3½ car loads of food for Catholic Charities and Backpack Buddies. Thank you notes are in the clubhouse.

Our catered Christmas dinner was held on December 13th in the clubhouse. 60 people attended. The food was good and plenty of lively conversation. Eileen Hajnal made ornaments which were given away at each table. 2 poinsettias were raffled off, plus an evergreen centerpiece which was made by Felicia Stanich. A beautiful evergreen centerpiece was presented to me as a thank you from my committee. Thank you very much for your thoughtfulness.



For January we are taking a break however we are conducting Bingo on Tuesday, January 27 at 6:30 pm. Come and join us.

February 1st at 5 pm we will have our Soup R Bowl dinner. See flyer for further information and RSVP info.

Clubhouse Pool Committee members: Donna Hunt (co-chair), Barb Volente, Eileen Hajnal, Deb Medeiros, Digna St. Omer Hall and Jen DenDanto (treasurer) We need a Chairperson.





SUNSHINE COMMITTEE NEWS

Jean Grady

We are happy to say that there have been no reported hospitalizations, illnesses or deaths in the past month.

Know that we are here if anyone needs a bit of sunshine.

Contact any of the committee members: Janet Petchalonis or Ginni Boam on Sand Ridge, Berri Lowman on Trawler Bay, Eileen Sause on Rudder Court and Linda Downes or Jean Grady on Helms Way.

Wishing everyone a happy, healthy New Year

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MODIFICATION COMMITTEE

Anne McOwen, Chair

As we ring in the New Year, I would like to reiterate a few requests that our committee has to help us expedite your requests. The **ONLY** request form that should be submitted is the most recent form (**Rev. 8/2025**) that can be found either on the website, at the bottom of the Gatepost or in a pocket on the wall of the kitchen in the clubhouse. **Any old forms you may have should be discarded.**

These forms are to be filled out in their entirety **INCLUDING** the lot number which can be found on the Residents Map. Any info we have to fill in for you will only delay your request. Please refer to the Modification Guidelines to see if it is necessary to submit a request.

We wish all of you a happy and healthy New Year!



MTS DIRT BAND

Glen Daniels, Chair Grounds Maintenance and Beautification Committee

Purpose: The Grounds/Maintenance committee is a voluntary group commissioned by and reporting to the MTS Board of Directors. The committee is responsible for advising the board on matters pertaining to common area property maintenance. The board must receive committee recommendations in September for use in developing the annual budget.

Responsibilities: The committee will review all aspects of common area property maintenance and recommend purchasing or renting equipment; plantings, etc., and prepare and present recommendations to the board. The committee will interact with the lawn services contractor for assisting with projects. An annual planting request/diagram will be sent to the modification committee for approval by the September BOD meeting.

Committee organization: The committee shall consist of three to five members appointed by the board. The committee shall meet as frequently as necessary. Minutes will be taken at all committee meetings.

Relationship to board: A copy of all committee meeting minutes will be sent to the board. Major expenditures must be approved in advance by the board. A proposed annual budget shall be submitted to the board by the September BOD meeting. Activities will be presented to the BOD at the monthly meeting.

The paragraphs above represent our current GMBC Committee structure and required commitments. Those which are most generally followed are highlighted. Not included but provided services include:

Interaction with the Community:

Requesting help when a particular activity requires more folks operating handled implements (think Rakes!) than the committee alone can provide, e.g. mulching the Circle Garden in the Spring, helping out with the Spring and Fall Cleanups, and some assistance being requested for our Christmas decoration placements. Generally, response is good for our projects, and many of our neighbors admit to having had a pretty good time even though a quick glance at the jobs tend to evoke more thoughts about being worn out than gratified. This is an amazing community when we pull together as a group. Donuts and coffee from time to time don't hurt either.

Down and Dirty:

Pest control, whether it be weeds or invasive critters, is high up on our list of chores. Our ground-penetrating radar (useful for compiling Fire Ant kills) has not been operational due to budget cuts in the Firewise program, but we feel we have maintained our standards and are comfortable that this is still a highly effective program. We hope to return to the Ant Mortality reports when funding is restored.

Behind the Scenes:

Our friends at Hardee Landscaping continue to do their level best to provide high quality mowing, trimming and many other services to the Community. Many times I have relied upon their good graces to come to our aid after storms, flooding events and other general Mother Nature tantrums to help get our community looking good again. Regardless of any one person's experiences with them, I find them to be a great asset to us in the broader field of keeping our overall look good. Nobody is perfect all the time. But - Ask any realtor who's sold a house here, what they've heard.

All of which is meant to say that GMBC rocks! Plus anyone who has contributed their time, talents and sweat to keep things looking great here. You're all a bunch of budding arborists and landscapers, and everything you contribute continues to make us look good, or better, building up to great.

Thanks all – you are the best neighbors ever.



BOOK CLUB

Ellen Witalis

December's meeting was one of the best we've had in several years. We were lucky to have our guest speaker...**Lindsay Gibson**... speak to us about one of her holiday centered books. **The Christmas Coin** is about an injured professional dancer who changes her life by moving and renovating an historic house in northwestern Connecticut. Not only did we discuss her book. but we also learned so much about the publishing industry. MS Gibson's perseverance and ability has allowed her books to gain readership and also now to be the subject of an upcoming Hallmark TV movie. She was also charming and fun at our meeting. Her books are available on Amazon as well as local bookstores. We highly recommend them.

In January we'll read a book written by one of our member's high school classmates. K.L. Darden writes mysteries set in VA. **The Twizzle Twist** is a mystery surrounding the death of a young boy in a quiet neighborhood. A special investigator of the VA state police is assigned to find the reason for his death. This should be an exciting new author read for us.

The MTS Book Club meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Clubhouse at 6:30 P.M. Everyone in MTS is invited to join us even if you've not read our book of the month. Come out to hear about many of the most readable books available today.

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FIREWISE COMMITTEE

Colleen Meitzler

Thank you to the Firewise Committee for your time and effort this year.

Thank you to our residents for participating in our Fall Clean-up Event and for keeping MTS a Firewise community. I have submitted our applications to remain a qualified Firewise community for the upcoming year. I have also submitted the application to receive a Firewise Grant for 2026 and will hopefully have some good news to report in the new year.

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.

The Firewise Committee would like to wish everyone a Safe and Joyous Holiday season.

Please take a moment to review our Firewise Safety Gatepost flyer on Holiday safety.



CHRISTMAS ANGELS

Kathy Mathewson

Thank you to all Angel Shoppers and to the many MTS residents that donated monetarily for Waccamaw Elementary this year. With your generosity we were able to provide 3 families (6 children) with food (including a ham and a turkey) and gifts for the holiday season. We delivered on December 11th. and met 1 of the families. She was extremely grateful for everything she received for her family. Happiness and Peace to all in 2026.

Thank you

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NANA'S CLOSET

Ellen Witalis

The busiest time of the year for the Closet is over now. If anyone has items they wish to donate to our supply please contact me. I'll be happy to check them for our use at your house. We welcome usable items at any time. Contact me at:

Ellen Witalis **843-347-7101, 843-503-1662, or ellusp@aol.com**

HAPPY NEW YEAR !

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JANUARY

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

BIRTHDAYS

16 – John Parker
20 – Dean Michael
21 – Janet Pechalonis
26 – Paul Witalis
27 – Maureen Cox
29 – Ella Bryant
30 – Jon Craig
31—Jennifer DenDanto

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

1– Jon & Bonnie Craig
7 –Larry & Diane Koehler
14 – Ted & Barbara Volante
16 – Bob & Jean Williams



BUNCO (DICE GAME)

Ladies Bunco will be on **Wednesday, January 7th at 6:30**. Snacks are welcome. Please RSVP to Eileen Hajnal at (203) 494-7643 by January 4th at the latest.

Thank you

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CANASTA GROUP TAKES BREAK AFTER CELEBRATING THE HOLIDAYS.

The Friday afternoon Canasta group will be taking off the next 2 weeks (December 26 and January 2) while members are traveling for the holidays.

They will play again on **Friday, January 9 at 1:00** in the clubhouse.

They celebrated on December 19 with New Orleans Muffuletta sandwiches, little smokies and meatballs, pizzelles, cookies, candies, wine, and eggnog. The wine and eggnog really got everyone into a joyful mood.



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.

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.

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.



EDITOR'S CORNER

**BEST WISHES TO ALL OUR
NEIGHBORS FOR A HAPPY AND
HEALTHY NEW YEAR!**



55+ EXERCISE CLASS

2026 — A new year begins! How about a revised **YOU** for the new year?

Gentle Exercise is offered every Tuesday and Thursday at our Clubhouse from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. "Gentle" means just that; exercise designed for 55+ women and men. The DVDs used offer work to improve balance (so important as we age), cardio, and upper and lower body exercise.

Exercises are done both sitting and standing. Generally, the hour includes one half hour of movement and one half hour of sitting Yoga for relaxation.

Do a favor for your body. Commit yourself to begin with three times and see how much better you begin to feel for the new year.

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

LADIES JANUARY 2026 BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON

On January 20th @ 11:30 AM

At

Maggie D's

385 Seaboard Drive

Myrtle Beach



Join us as we celebrate the Birthdays of the following ladies:

14	Joyce Jolbert	27	Maureen Cox
15	Connie Huyer	29	Ella Bryant
21	Janet Pechalonis	31	Jennifer DenDanto

Order from the extensive menu at your cost.

Birthday cake will be provided for dessert.

This luncheon is being provided by Ellen Conway, Anne Marie Feeney, and Joanne Malonson.

Please RSVP by **January 15th** to Anne Marie via text, call, or email:

508-380-4727 or afeeney56@gmail.com

On February 1st 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.
BYOB if desired**

**RSVP to Donna Hunt (410-818-0646) by January 26th with the number
attending
and if you are willing to make a soup/chili**

We are hoping for a nice variety

We will have a 50/50 raffle also

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



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)
Total Number of Hours/Minutes	→→→→→→→	

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
Total Costs of Invoices 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 (MTS) HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

MODIFICATION REQUEST APPLICATION FORM

HOMEOWNERS 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):

DESIRED START DATE: _____ EST. COMPLETION DATE: _____

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 MUST BE NOTED. ONLY COLORS APPROVED BY THE MTS MODIFICATION COMMITTEE AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS MAY BE USED)

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) All applicable permits that may be required by law are obtained prior to start of the modification; c) any commercial contractor(s) used is/are licensed and insured; **d) For any roof work projects, the homeowner must include copies of the contractors' business license, and liability and/or workers compensation insurance with this Modification Request Application;** e) The Modification Committee, at its discretion, may ask to view permits, proof of insurance and licensing for construction, retaining wall, drainage alteration, or other substantial modifications by contractors; f) The Modification Committee has the right to conduct on-site inspections of the modification project.

Signature of Homeowner

Date

Signature of Homeowner

Date

Rev. 8/2025



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


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

Rev. 8/30/24

JANUARY



2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	4
				 CHCP Mtg 10:30AM		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		Senior Exercise 9AM	Board Mtg 9AM Bunco 6:30 PM	Senior Exercise 9AM Ladies Social 2PM	Hand and Foot Canasta 1PM	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
		Senior Exercise 9AM		Senior Exercise 9AM	Hand and Foot Canasta 1PM	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		Senior Exercise 9AM Ladies Bday Lunch <u>11:30</u>	Book Club 6:30	Senior Exercise 9AM	Hand and Foot Canasta 1PM	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
		Senior Exercise 9AM Bingo 6:30 PM		Senior Exercise 9AM	Hand and Foot Canasta 1PM	