



## News from the Board

### Joyce Jalbert, President

**BOD Member:** Don't forget...we are still looking for a person to fill the open position on the BOD. Could that person be you? While it can be trying at times, it also can be rewarding. Especially when you are able to do something nice for a neighbor. Call me!

**Compliance Visit:** Cristina from Waccamaw Management Company did not do a full-blown compliance visit this month. She figured it was too cold to power wash or paint so what was the point. The BOD agreed with her. She only went out to look at existing violations to ensure they had been completed. She found only 2 were outstanding.

**Insurance:** We again signed with McGriff Insurance Company for our neighborhood insurance. Our insurance includes the following: Property, General Liability, Directors & Officers, Crime Package, Workers Compensation, Excess Liability, and Environmental Impairment. Some of these line items remained the same as last year, some increased slightly, and one even was at a lower cost.

**MTS HOA Website:** You can access our website at: [www.myrtletracesouth.org](http://www.myrtletracesouth.org). The password is mtshoainfo2013. This website provides ALL kinds of info such as: our Financials, Community Info, Committee Info, By Laws and Covenants, Forms and Lists and much much more. Our Website Master is Linda Downes. And she does a darn good job. [Check it out.](#)

**February BOD Meeting:** Our February meeting is Wednesday, the 4th at 9am. Hope to see you!





## **CLUBHOUSE POOL COMMITTEE**

***Jennifer DenDanto Chair***

On January 3, we took down the Christmas decorations. We had to discard the old Christmas Tree. Thank you Don Nadler for taking it to the Recycling Center!

If anyone has an old Christmas tree they would like to donate for next year, please contact me at 845-649-0206.

Soup R Bowl will be on **February 1st at 5 pm**. We are looking forward to a yummy time! Please join us at 5:00 PM!

Bingo will be held on **February 24, 2026 at 6:30**.

Just a heads up...we will be having a food drive in May...start collecting your nonperishables!

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## **SUNSHINE COMMITTEE NEWS**

***Jean Grady***

Since last month's Gatepost, we have lost several folks in our neighborhood. We send our deepest sympathies to Roberta McNally on the death of her husband Barry, Mark and Michelle Lee on the loss of their son and Michelle Maylock on the passing of her mother and Suzanne Gilman also on the passing of her mother. Please hold them all in your hearts and send prayers their way

We also wish Peggy Szmaglski a speedy recovery after her recent hospitalization.

If you know of anyone needing some sunshine please contact committee members: Berri Lowman of Trawler Bay, Janet Pechalonis or Ginni Boam on Sand Ridge, Eileen Sause on Rudder Court or Linda Downes and Jean Grady of Helms Way.



## **MODIFICATION COMMITTEE**

***Anne McOwen, Chair***

We have not received many requests this month which is probably due to the cold weather and everyone hibernating.

Spring will be here before you know it so if you have any projects planned for Spring, please submit your Modification Request ahead of schedule to allow time for approval. Most are approved quickly but, depending on the project, may take up to 45 days.

Approval is good for 6 months so we ask that you please plan accordingly.

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

***Ellen Witalis and Nancy Thornburgh***



We delivered December holiday cards to the 6 new resident homes in MTS as another welcome to our community. We hope those new neighbors are attending the monthly MTS Board of Director meetings that are held on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 9 AM.

Attending meetings is a good way to learn how our community is managed by the Board plus Waccamaw Management. ALL neighbors are encouraged to attend the meetings to keep up to date with ongoing and special activities here in MTS.

Recruiting for 2 new members of the Board of Directors will begin in the Spring. We encourage you to participate in keeping MTS the beautiful and responsible neighborhood we all enjoy.



## **FIREWISE COMMITTEE**

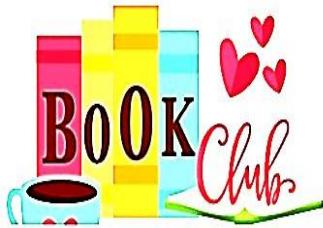
***Colleen Meitzler***

The Firewise Committee would like to wish everyone a very Happy Valentine's Day! We hope you are staying safe and warm during this cold winter weather.

We have been approved as a Firewise Community again this year. We are waiting on the Firewise Grant for 2026 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 Portable Heater safety. Stay warm! Stay safe!



## BOOK CLUB

*Ellen Witalis*

January's book was **The Twizzle Twist** by K.L.Darden who is a retired Virginia police investigator as well as a high school friend of one of our members. This story details the search for and eventual finding of the killer of a young boy. The killer is part of an underground network of child predators that stretches along the US East Coast. We liked this book so much that we gave it an 8 & 3/4 vote...high praise from us.

February's book will be something entirely different. We'll read **The Official We Do Not Care Club Handbook** by Melani Sanders, MS Sanders is a social media influencer who advocates for women and their feelings as they age. She's considered to be hilarious and perceptive. It sounds like a great read for MTS women.

March's book will be **Remarkably Bright Creature** by Shelby Van Pelt. This book is an unusual story of a woman cleaner working at night who develops a relationship with a giant Pacific octopus who lives in a tank at the aquarium. After a tank rescue Marcellus the octopus helps Tova the cleaner with her grief after the long ago loss of her son. Sounds like a very strange idea for a novel, but reviews indicate the warmth and kindness the 2 characters develop is amazing. We're looking forward to enjoying this story.

The MTS Book Club meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Clubhouse. Our next meeting is on February 22. We meet at 6:30 PM. and all MTS residents are invited to join us even if you've not read our book of the month. All are welcome to attend to listen or participate in our discussions.

## NANA'S CLOSET

*Ellen Witalis*



The busy holiday season is past so the next time many of us will be needing extra items for grandchildren or great grandchildren visits will be the Spring and Easter holiday vacation time.

If you will need to borrow from the Closet please plan ahead.

If you'd like to donate any items that your visitors no longer need please let me know. We sometimes need replacements for our items.

Contact me at Ellen Witalis at 843-503-1662, 843-347-7101 or [elplusp@aol.com](mailto:elplusp@aol.com).

## **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 [pechco@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pechco@sbcglobal.net).

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### **FEBRUARY**

1 – John Maylock  
2 – Lynn Jones  
2 – Diane Koehler  
4 – Mark Lee  
4 – Rose Triacca  
6 – Barbara Volante  
8 – Mary Heavens  
9 – Joan Vander Ryk  
10 – Jane Gardner  
13 – John Sorrentino  
13 – Teresa McKinney  
14 – Michele Lee

### **BIRTHDAYS**

17 – Mark Lowman  
17 – Kathy Antonucci  
17 – Marilyn Darrone  
18 – Ken Manning  
20 – Bev Cashdollar  
21 – Connie Hall  
22 – Denise Daniels  
22 – Kathy McClure  
25 – Cheryl Naumann  
27 – Chris Boam  
28 – Suzanne Gilman  
-----Jennifer Zacharek

### **FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

8 – Ken & Bonnie Manning  
14 – Joe & Rose Triacca  
24 – Mark & Berri Lowman

## February Ladies Social

Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2:00pm

You are invited to attend the Ladies Social on Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. This month's social is being hosted by Joyce Jalbert and Ginni Boam.

We will be playing "Right, Left, Center". Bring **3 quarters** to play with because somebody is going home with A LOT of money!

Please RSVP to Joyce at [jalbejoy@yahoo.com](mailto:jalbejoy@yahoo.com) or Ginni at [ginni64@aol.com](mailto:ginni64@aol.com).

AND...a couple of **FABULOUS Prizes** are at stake!!



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### BUNCO (DICE GAME)

Ladies Bunco will be on Tuesday February 11th at 6:30. Snacks are welcome. Please RSVP to Eileen Hajnal at (203) 494-7643.

Thank you

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### CANASTA GROUP

The Friday afternoon Canasta group has resumed playing every Friday at 1PM at the clubhouse.

# February Ladies Birthday Lunch

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

11:30am



Please join us for lunch at the Scrambled Restaurant

4999 Carolina Blvd

Happy Birthday To:

2	Diane Koehler	2	Lynn Jones	4	Rose Triacca
6	Barb Volante	8	Mary Heavens	8	Debbie Moffitt
9	Joan Vander Ryk	10	Jane Gardner	13	Teresa McKinney
14	Michelle Lee	17	Kathy Antonucci	17	Marilyn Darrone
20	Beverly Cashdollar	21	Connie Hall	22	Denise Daniels
22	Kathy McClure	25	Cheryl Naumann	28	Suzanne Gilman
			Jennifer Zacharek		



Please RSVP by February 13<sup>th</sup> to Linda Downes at [ldownes4@gmail.com](mailto:ldownes4@gmail.com)



# Electric Portable Space Heater Safety



When the weather turns cold, it can bring a chill into our homes. Portable space heaters have become a popular way to supplement central heating or heat one room. If you plan to use portable electric space heaters, make sure to follow these tips and recommendations:

## HEATER CHECKLIST

- Purchase a heater with the seal of a qualified testing laboratory.
- Keep the heater at least 3 feet (1 metre) away from anything that can burn, including people.
- Choose a heater with a thermostat and overheat protection.
- Place the heater on a solid, flat surface.
- Make sure your heater has an auto shut-off to turn the heater off if it tips over.
- Keep space heaters out of the way of foot traffic. Never block an exit.
- Keep children away from the space heater.
- Plug the heater directly into the wall outlet. Never use an extension cord.
- Space heaters should be turned off and unplugged when you leave the room or go to bed.

## Types of electric space heaters

**Oil or water-filled radiator**  
Heated oil or water travels through the heater.

**Fan-forced heater**  
A fan blows warm air over metal coils.

**Ceramic heater**  
Air is warmed over a ceramic heating element.

**Infrared heaters**  
Heat is created by infrared bulbs.

## Fact

Two in five deaths in space heater fires involve portable electric space heaters.



**NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**

The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

**On February 1<sup>st</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.  
BYOB if desired**

**RSVP to Donna Hunt (410-818-0646) by January 26<sup>th</sup> 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)
<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**

## MYRTLE TRACE SOUTH (MTS) HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

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### 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):

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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:

<input type="checkbox"/> Pool/Clubhouse Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Grounds Maintenance Committee
<input type="checkbox"/> Modification Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Nominating Committee
<input type="checkbox"/> Firewise Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Ponds Committee
<input type="checkbox"/> Sunshine Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> 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

# FEBRUARY



# 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Soup "R" Bowl 5PM		Senior Exercise 9AM	Board Mtg 9AM	Senior Exercise 9AM CHCP Mtg 10:30AM	Hand and Foot Canasta 1PM	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
		Senior Exercise 9AM	Bunco 6:30 PM	Senior Exercise 9AM Ladies Social 2PM	Hand and Foot Canasta 1PM	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		Senior Exercise 9AM Ladies Bday Lunch 11:30	Book Club 6:30	Senior Exercise 9AM	Hand and Foot Canasta 1PM	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
		Senior Exercise 9AM Bingo 6PM		Senior Exercise 9AM	Hand and Foot Canasta 1PM	Clubhouse Reserved for Private Party Noon to 5PM