



News from the Board Joyce Jalbert, President



Yard Work: While the date has not been definitely set by Hardees to begin mowing, it will be here before you know it. Generally, they begin around the week of Easter depending on the weather and the need for mowing. With that being said...are you ready for them to come to your yard? They will not mow if there are a lot of leaves and pine needles laying on the ground in your yard. Also, branches and pine cones need to be picked up as well. Unnecessary debris makes it difficult for them to mow and potentially could damage their mowers. Are you ready?

Compliance Visit: Waccamaw Management has not done a full-blown compliance visit in 2 months because of the weather. It's been too cold to paint or power wash and thankfully because of the cold, the weeds have been nonexistent. They are planning to do a drive thru sometime around the first week of March weather permitting. I know my front door needs to be painted. How about yours? Don't forget....when you have a paint brush in your hand, you should have already gotten approval from the Modification Committee.

BOD Member: We are still in need of a fifth member for the HOA BOD. This position is only an 18 month commitment as you would be filling a spot vacated by a previous BOD member. Call me!

It's been a very quiet month for the BOD. Just helping out neighbors with a mailbox issue, downed tree, HVAC issue, and the great garbage can caper. Quiet is a good thing!

The next regularly scheduled HOA BOD Meeting is **Wednesday, March 4th at 9 am.**

Hope to see you there!





CLUBHOUSE POOL COMMITTEE

Jennifer DenDanto Chair

The Soup R Bowl was rescheduled due to snow from 2-1-2026 to **2-15-2026**.

In March, we will keep with tradition & have a Pot Luck St. Patrick's Day Party on **3-14-2026 from 4-7....**we hope to see you there!

The pool is set to be opened on **4-15-2026**. We will need volunteers to put out furniture & if you have a power washer, to power wash the furniture.

We will start looking for volunteers next month.

We will be having a food drive in May...start collecting your nonperishables!



SUNSHINE COMMITTEE NEWS

Jean Grady

We send heartfelt condolences to Andy Szmagalski on the recent passing of his wife Peggie. Please keep Andy and his family in your prayers during this difficult time.

We are also sending lots of hugs and positive thoughts to Jerry Stypinski and his wife Barb as they navigate Jerry's current health challenges.

There are surely other neighbors who have suffered losses or had hospitalizations of which we are unaware. To all of them we send silent prayers.

If you know any neighbors who are in need of a bit of Sunshine, please reach out to anyone on the Committee: Berri Lowman of Trawler Bay, Janet Pechalonis and Ginni Boam of Sand Ridge, Eileen Sause on Rudder Court or Linda Downes and Jean Grady of Helms Way.

Spring is coming and better weather leads to more folks out walking. Please, please, please: if you're out when it's not completely light out, such as early morning or dusk, wear a reflective vest or carry a flashlight! So many walkers don't use the sidewalks. We don't want anyone to be hit by an oncoming vehicle that can't see you until it's too late.

THANK YOU NOTES FROM OUR NEIGHBORS

To MTS Friends & Neighbors,

I would like to thank you for the outpouring of sympathy you bestowed after the passing of my mother, Frances Wenner. Your, cards, calls, and expressions of support are greatly appreciated. Special thanks to Janet Pechalonis/Medical Supplies and Ellen Witalis/Nanna's Closet, an invaluable asset when an emergency need arises.

Earnestly,

Michelle Maylock

Thank you to all my friends and neighbors who sent cards and offered prayers for the passing of my mother Lorraine Dargis. All were sincerely appreciated.

Thank you,

Suzanne Gilman

Jerry & I would like to thank everyone for the food, cards, calls, messages, and visits. Moving into this community 22 yrs ago, was the best decision we have ever made. Much care & love. It is all deeply appreciated. Please continue to keep Jerry in your prayers.

Barb & Jerry Stypinski

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the MTS community for the personal condolences, the sympathy cards, food brought to us and donations in his name after the death of our son Scott who has lived with us in the community for the past 5 1/2 years. The kindness shown is much appreciated.

Mark and Michele Lee



FIREWISE COMMITTEE

Colleen Meitzler

We hope everyone stayed safe and warm during this cold winter weather.

We are once again an approved Firewise Community for 2026; however, we have not heard back about receiving any grant funds. I have reached out to the Forestry Commission and am waiting for a reply. Once I hear back, we will make decisions with the BOD about our Spring activities. I will have more information in the next Gatepost.

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



MODIFICATION COMMITTEE

Anne McOwen, Chair

We have had numerous occurrences of mailboxes being hit, primarily on Sand Ridge Road, and, at the request of a member of the BOD, I was asked to offer this information to anyone that may need it in the future.

Both the Pineapple and the Scroll Work can be purchased from SteelSupplyLP.com. The Pineapple costs around \$67 for 1, SKU #103769, Product #657-L and the Scrollwork, as of 2024, was \$105, SKU #105406 (Corner Casting Plaques/Bellflower Corner Casting). I am currently in possession of (2) pieces of scrollwork and (1) Pineapple but when they run out, this is where Waccamaw said we can purchase them. If purchased from me, check must be made to MTS HOA and mailed to Waccamaw Mgmt. or can be dropped off at their office in Carolina Forest. I am told Cruz did the most recent work for the homeowner (refer to our "Recommended Vendor List) and also took care of the welding. Total cost for this particular homeowner was around \$600 including scrollwork that she purchased.

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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.

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NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Ellen Witalis and Nancy Thornburgh



This month is the best month for you to come forward and volunteer to be a candidate for our Board of Directors! It is a great opportunity to get to know your neighbors while learning about our great community.

Please contact : Ellen Witalis at 843-503-1662 or Nancy Thornburgh at 989-798-1782
Don't miss out on this great opportunity!



BOOK CLUB

Ellen Witalis

February's book was something new for us. We read a new book by Melani Sanders who is a celebrated spokesperson on social media. She advocates for women's emotions and feelings in all the stages of their lives. We read **The Official We Do Not Care Club Handbook**. She's as funny and outspoken as she appears on camera. We voted it a worthy to read 7.

In March we'll be reading **The Remarkably Bright Creature** by Shelby Van Pelt. We've heard great things about this story of an aquarium cleaner who develops a relationship with a huge octopus that lives in a tank at the aquarium. After a tank rescue, Marcellus the octopus helps the cleaner with her grief after a long ago loss of her son. Reviews of this book suggest the warmth and kindness that the 2 characters develop is amazing.

April's book will be **The 2nd Mrs. Astor** by Shana Abe about the life of an 18 year old debutante who married the extremely wealthy 47 year old John Jacob Astor IV. It is based on the true story of their life together in the early 1900's and the tragedy of the sinking of the Titanic in 1912.

We think these novels will be fascinating reads, and we welcome all MTS neighbors who like to read and discuss books to join us at our next meeting on **March 18th at 6:30 PM**. The MTS Book Club meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 P.M. at the Clubhouse



NANA'S CLOSET

Ellen Witalis



If you're planning on visitors for Spring break or Easter week please check in with us for any items you'll want to borrow. Some new items have been donated recently.

Ellen Witalis
843-347-7101
843-503-1662
elplusp@aol.com



CANASTA GROUP

The Friday afternoon Canasta group is continuing to play every **Friday at 1PM** at the clubhouse.

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BUNCO (DICE GAME)

Ladies Bunco will be on **Wednesday March 11th at 7:30**. Snacks are welcome. Please RSVP to Eileen Hajnal at **(203) 494-7643**.

Thank you

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MARCH

1 – Wally Burke
1 – Dick Custer
4 – Nancy Guinto
5 – Dawn Tucker
8 – Felisa Stanich
8 – Betty Tynes
11 – Naty Saenz
12 – Bob Williams

BIRTHDAYS

13 – Martha Hall
16 – Kathy Mathewson
18 – Jerry Mazurkiewicz
23 – Janet Roche
23 – Carmen DenDanto
24 – Frank Ricupero
26 – Barry MacGregor
27 – George Bertolet

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

2 – Dennis & Joan Vander Ryk
7 – Mike & Ginger Bubniak
9 – Joseph & Janet Pechalonis
22 – Ed & Connie Huyer
28 – Jim & Amanda Gray
29 – Walt & Beverly Cashdollar
31 – Naty & Flower Saenz

February Ladies Social

Thursday, February 12th, 2:00pm

Hosted by Janet Roche and Eileen Hajnal.

Please RSVP to Eileen at 203-494-7643.



EDITOR'S CORNER

Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead one hour on Sunday March 8th.

REMINDER: The Gate Post is available to list your household items for sale and to submit your favorite recipes or health and safety tips.

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'D DAY TO ALL!!!

Urgent Warning for Tomorrow



Aliens Are Coming To Earth Tomorrow.
Their Mission Is To Abduct All Sexy,
Good Looking "Old" People.
I'm Just Sharing To Say Goodbye.
I've Got To Go Pack.

March Ladies Birthday Lunch

Tuesday, March 17, 2026

12:00 PM

Please join us for lunch at

CK's Bistro (Market Common)

3020 Nevers Street Myrtle Beach, SC. 29577

(Attached Parking Garage)



4th. Nancy Guinto.

5th. Dawn Tucker.

8th. Felisa Stanich.

8th. Betty Tynes.



11th. Naty Saenz

13th. Martha Hall

16th. Kathy Mathewson

23rd. Janet Roche.

Please RSVP by **Saturday March 14th** to Kathy Mathewson
anja178@aol.com or Iris boam (miboam@yahoo.com)

ST. PATRICKS DAY PARTY

Join Us for A Pot Luck dinner!

Date: 03/14/2026

Time: 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM

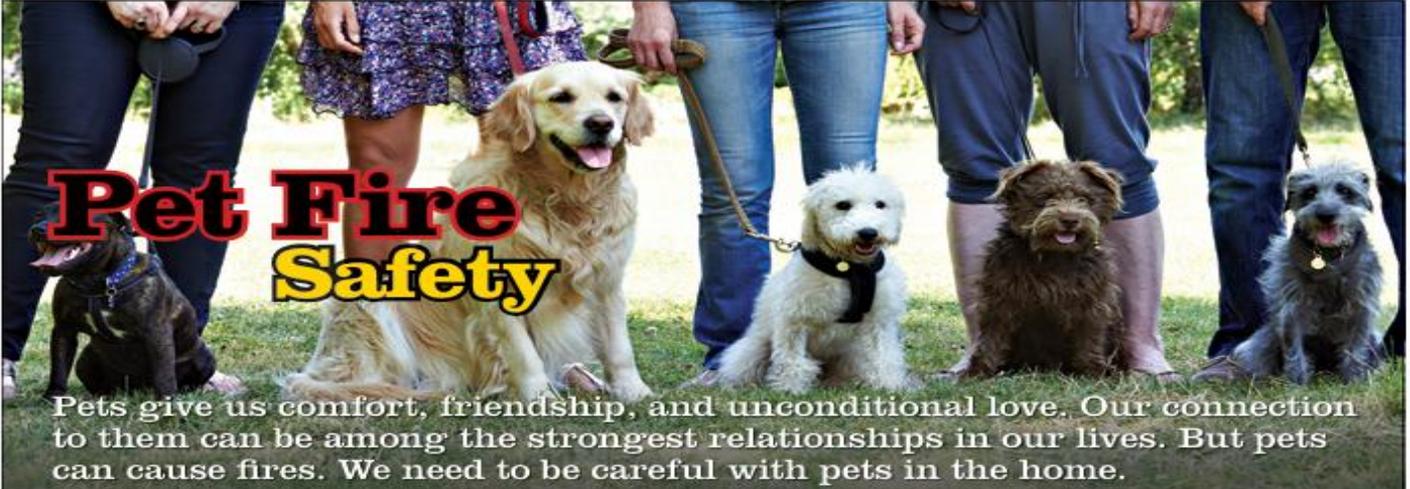
Location: Myrtle Trace South Clubhouse



Volunteers are needed for set up & clean up. We are also looking for volunteers to cook or prepare (or buy...lol) dishes & desserts.

Please call **Jen DenDanto (845)649-0206** to RSVP with how many are coming & what you are bringing by **3-10-2026**. Thank You!

****There will be a 50/50 raffle****



Pets give us comfort, friendship, and unconditional love. Our connection to them can be among the strongest relationships in our lives. But pets can cause fires. We need to be careful with pets in the home.

SAFETY TIPS

- Pets are curious. They may bump into, turn on, or knock over cooking equipment. Keep pets away from stoves and countertops.
- Keep pets away from candles, lamps, and space heaters.
- Always use a metal or heat-tempered glass screen on a fireplace and keep it in place.
- Keep pets away from a chimney's outside vents. Have a "pet-free zone" of at least 3 feet (1 meter) away from the fireplace. Glass doors and screens can stay dangerously hot for several hours after the fire goes out.
- Consider battery-operated, flameless candles. They can look and smell like real candles.
- Some pets are chewers. Watch pets to make sure they don't chew through electrical cords. Have any problems checked by a professional.

SMOKE ALARMS

- Have working smoke alarms on every level of the home. Test your smoke alarms at least once a month.
- If the smoke alarm sounds, get out and stay out.
- Never go back inside for pets in a fire. Tell firefighters if your pet is trapped.

Pets and Wildfires

Make sure pets are included in your family's wildfire evacuation plan. Build an evacuation kit for each pet in your household. Ensure each kit is a size and weight that can be quickly and easily loaded into a vehicle when packing to evacuate.



FACT

Pets or wild animals have a part in starting about 750 home fires per year. These involve cooking equipment, fireplaces and chimneys, space heaters, lamps, bulbs, wiring, and candles.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards



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 HWDennis Vander Ryk-1044 RC**Gail DiMaio-787 HW
Glen Daniels-1020 RC**Bruce McConnell 721 HW**

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!

MARCH



2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		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
	b	Senior Exercise 9AM	Bunco 7:30 PM	Senior Exercise 9AM Ladies Social 2PM	Hand and Foot Canasta 1PM	 Clubhouse Party 4 to 7PM
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		Senior Exercise 9AM Ladies Bday Lunch 12:00 	Book Club 6:30	Senior Exercise 9AM	Hand and Foot Canasta 1PM 	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
		Senior Exercise 9AM Bingo 6:30 PM		Senior Exercise 9AM	Hand and Foot Canasta 1PM	
29	30	31				
		Senior Exercise 9AM				