



ONSITE SPOKESPEOPLE (DAYS OF THE DEBATES)

Note: All phone numbers listed are in area code 843.

CITY OF MYRTLE BEACH

Myrtle Beach was incorporated as a town in 1938 and became a city in 1957. Its name comes from the wax myrtle, a shrub that grows abundantly in the area. Our 25,000 permanent residents welcome millions of visitors to this full-service resort community, and the city's 780 employees take their "first in service" pledge seriously. Myrtle Beach occupies 22 square miles in the heart of the Grand Strand, on South Carolina's northeast shore. Residents and guests enjoy the sandy beaches, the Atlantic Ocean, and an incredible range of entertainment, recreation, shopping and dining. For more information, call 918-1012 or visit www.cityofmyrtlebeach.com.

- Mark Kruea, public information officer
Availability: Jan. 10, 7 a.m.-7 p.m.; Jan. 21, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
Cell: 450-1695/office: 918-1014/e-mail: info@cityofmyrtlebeach.com

Mark Kruea has been the public information officer for the city since 1998. His previous experience includes six years in public relations and 10 years in radio and television news. Kruea graduated from Wake Forest University.

- Mayor John Rhodes
Availability: Jan. 10/21, periodically throughout the day
Cell: 424-2182/office: 918-1002/e-mail: johnrhodes@beachballclassic.com

John Rhodes began his four-year term as mayor in January 2006. Since 1999, he has served as executive director of the Beachball Classic, one of the nation's premier high school basketball tournaments. Rhodes has lived on the Grand Strand since 1963 and managed local hotels and restaurants early in his career.

- Wayne Gray, city council member, mayor pro-tem
Availability: Jan. 10/21, occasionally throughout the day
Cell: 267-6277/office: 448-8145/e-mail: wwg007@aol.com

Wayne Gray is a native of Myrtle Beach. He was sworn in January 10, 2006, to a second term on City Council, having previously served from 1998 to 2002. Wayne received a B.S. in finance from Presbyterian College and is a graduate of Leadership Grand Strand and Leadership South

Carolina. He is the vice president of commercial banking at Tidelands Bank and owns the Spring House Family Restaurants.

- City Manager Thomas E. Leath
Availability: Jan. 10/21, occasionally throughout the day
Cell: 450-1696/office: 918-1002/e-mail: tleath@cityofmyrtlebeach.com

Tom Leath has been city manager since November 1987. As city manager, he is responsible for Myrtle Beach's day-to-day operations and its 780 full-time staff. Leath is a graduate of the University of South Carolina, where he earned a master's of public administration and law degree.

MYRTLE BEACH AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce has stood for 67 years as the unified voice of the Grand Strand's business community. The chamber serves Myrtle Beach, North Myrtle Beach, Surfside Beach, Little River, Atlantic Beach, Garden City Beach, Loris, Conway, Aynor, Murrells Inlet, Litchfield Beach and Pawleys Island. For more information, call (800) 356-3016 or visit www.myrtlebeachchamber.com.

- Brad Dean, president and CEO
Availability: Jan. 10/21, throughout the day
Cell: 458-2960/office: 916-7241/e-mail: deanb@mbchamber.org

Brad Dean was named president and chief executive officer of the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce in October 2003, after serving four years as the chief financial officer. In his role, Dean heads the area's primary destination marketing organization, with more than 2,400 members. He graduated from the University of Illinois with a degree in accounting.

CITY OF NORTH MYRTLE BEACH

The City of North Myrtle Beach was formed in 1968 when four small beach towns—Cherry Grove, Ocean Drive, Crescent Beach and Windy Hill Beach—consolidated into one community. Located on the northern coastline of South Carolina, the city encompasses 15 square miles including nine miles of uninterrupted beaches. North Myrtle Beach, which operates under a council-manager form of government, has nearly 13,000 year-round residents and 3.5 million visitors each year. North Myrtle Beach is best known more for its quiet, family beaches, its laid-back Southern attitude and as the birthplace of South Carolina's state dance, the "Shag." For more information, call 280-5555 or visit www.NMB.us.

- Mayor Marilyn Hatley
Availability: Jan. 10/21, 2-4 p.m.
Cell: 457-7809/office: 280-5525/e-mail: mayorhatley@nmb.us

Marilyn Hatley has lived in North Myrtle Beach since 1971, served as a councilwoman from 1996-2001 and served as mayor since November 2001. Along with many other distinctions, Mayor Hatley graduated from the Municipal Government Institute, is on the board of directors for the Municipal Association of South Carolina and owns her own successful business in North Myrtle Beach.

- City Manager John Smithson
Availability: Jan. 10/21, 2-4 p.m.
Cell: 222-0788/office: 280-5526/e-mail: jsmithson@nmb.us

John Smithson has lived in North Myrtle Beach since 1972. He began his career in North Myrtle Beach's local government in 1980 as the communication management specialist and served as

city clerk, assistant to the city manager and assistant city manager before his appointment to city manager in August 2003.

- Nicole Aiello, public information officer
Availability: Jan. 10/21, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
Cell: 241-7480/office: 280-5612/e-mail: naaiello@nmb.us

A graduate of the Scripps School of Journalism at Ohio University, Nicole Aiello has resided in the Myrtle Beach area for 10 years. In that time, Aiello has worked in the field of media relations representing tourism, business and government with local, regional and national media including Travel Channel, USA Today, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, The Charlotte Observer and Southern Living. She has served as public information officer since September 2007.

HORRY COUNTY

The northeastern corner of South Carolina, known as Horry (pronounced O-REE') County since 1801, is a diverse land of rivers, beaches, forests and swamps. Sometimes referred to as "the Independent Republic of Horry," a nickname that had a humorous beginning and referred to politically independent minded people, consists of 1,143 square miles, over 300,000 residents, and over 1,800 dedicated employees to service their needs. Horry County hosts eight cities/towns that welcome millions of visitors annually who enjoy our many amenities that include pristine beaches, shopping, golf and a wide array entertainment. For more information, call the Horry County public information office at (843) 915-5390 or visit www.horrycounty.org.

- Horry County Councilman Liz Gilland
Availability: Jan. 10/21, 3-5 p.m.
Cell: 421-3730/e-mail: gillandl@horrycounty.org

Liz Gilland, a Conway native and graduate of Columbia College and University of South Carolina, has been serving on the Horry County Council since 1994 and has been chairman since 2003. She is the first female chairman elected to serve on the Horry County Council.

- Horry County Administrator Danny Knight
Availability: Jan. 10/21, 10 a.m.- noon
Cell: 222-5199/office: 915-5020/e-mail: dknight@horrycounty.org

Danny Knight, a graduate of Appalachian State University, has been employed with Horry County since 1978 and has worked his way up the ranks from recreation and public works director, to Horry County administrator for the last 8 years.

- Lisa H. Bourcier, public information director
Availability: Jan. 10/21, 8 a.m.-7 p.m.
Cell: 455-0117/office: 915-5390/e-mail: bourcier@horrycounty.org

Lisa H. Bourcier, a graduate of Old Dominion University (Va.), has been in public and media relations for the last 14 years including seven years as the public information director for Horry County.

COASTAL CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

Coastal Carolina University is a dynamic, public liberal arts institution located in Conway, just minutes from Myrtle Beach. Coastal Carolina offers baccalaureate programs in 40 fields of study including acclaimed programs in marine science, resort tourism and professional golf management. Graduate programs include an MBA as well as master's degrees in education and coastal marine and wetland studies.

Approximately 7,800 Coastal Carolina students from across the country and the world interact with a world-class faculty and enjoy a nationally competitive NCAA I athletic program, an

inspiring cultural calendar and a tradition of community interaction that is fueled by more than 100 student clubs and organizations.

The university is comprised of 52 main buildings on 302 acres plus Waties Island, 1,062 acres of pristine barrier island on the Atlantic coast that provides a natural laboratory for extensive study in marine science and wetland biology.

Coastal Carolina was founded in 1954 as a campus of the College of Charleston. It later affiliated with the University of South Carolina and became an independent university in 1993. For more information, call 347-3161 or visit www.coastal.edu.

- Dave A. DeCenzo, president
Availability: Jan. 10/21, 7-9 a.m.
Cell: 450-2700/office: 349-2001/e-mail: ddecenzo@coastal.edu

Dr. DeCenzo became the second president of Coastal Carolina University on May 7, 2007. He served previously as dean of the E. Craig Wall Sr. College of Business Administration and university provost. An experienced industry consultant, DeCenzo has served a wide variety of clients including Citicorp Global Technology, Moen Inc., Motorola and others. His major academic interests are in human resource management, management and organizational behavior. He is the author of textbooks that are used widely at colleges and universities throughout the United States and the world.

- Edgar (Eddie) Dyer, executive vice president
Availability: Jan. 10/21, 9:30 a.m.-noon
Cell: 340-0076/office: 349-2628/e-mail: dyer@coastal.edu

In addition to teaching political science, Dyer serves as legal counsel to the president and board of trustees and is responsible for university relations. He has authored a variety of scholarly publications in the areas of state and local government, academic freedom and African-American history. Prior to working in academia, he was a planner and zoning administrator in Florence, S.C., and a circuit-riding planner with the Office of the Governor.

- Mary Eaddy, special assistant to the president
Availability: Jan. 10/21, periodically
Cell: 997-1212/office: 349-2510/e-mail: meaddy@coastal.edu

Mary Eaddy, owner of The Wordsmith, Inc., a Myrtle Beach public relations company, has worked on issues related to education, transportation and environmental management for the past two decades. Formerly a newspaper and radio journalist, she worked on Capitol Hill for U.S. Sen. J. Strom Thurmond and in campaign management for state and regional candidates of both political parties. Her grandfather built one of the first houses in Surfside Beach in the 1940s.

Note: Availability of individual spokespeople is subject to change.

Information compiled by: Nancy Gray, media communications manager, Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce, 916-7235/cell 655-7629