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City of Southport

November 2021 Newsletter

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A Community Update from Mayor J.P. Hatem, MD, MPH

The month of November in Southport, when our city collectively gives thanks for the many blessings bestowed upon us and continues the traditions that embody Thanksgiving and our city.

On Saturday November 6th, from 10 am to 4 pm, the tradition returns, the Annual Southport

Wooden Boat Show. The downtown will bustle and the Yacht Basin will over flow with wooden boats, maritime vendors, chowder, and hundreds of citizens and tourists enjoying a festive day in the village.

November 11th, Southport praises the service of our men and women of the military and the sacrifice they made for our protection and freedom. I will read a proclamation at the board of Aldermen Meeting on Thursday the 11th.

Thanksgiving in 2021, a totally different holiday from 2020, with vaccines, which will make travel and gatherings much safer. Enjoy your favorite Southport dishes, from oyster dressing to pumpkin pie with lots of turkey, rice and gravy. Revel in the delight of being surrounded by family and friends and remember those who could not be with us.

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Southport City Hall, 1029 N. Howe Street, Southport, NC 28461

(910) 457-7900 www.cityofsouthport.com



November 2021 Newsletter

A Community Update from Mayor J.P. Hatem, MD, MPH

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As part of Thanksgiving, if you are able, donate to organizations who are helping those less fortunate or personally volunteer in some way in making someone's Thanksgiving a special day. Another tradition and blessing, The Christmas Tree Lighting, the Friday after Thanksgiving, November 26th at 6 pm at the Whittler's Bench. Unlike last year, when it was a virtual event, this year you may attend in person and embrace the glow of our downtown Christmas Tree and hear the Sounds of the Season—'Twas the Night Before Christmas being read and Christmas Carols being sung.

So to all of our citizens, their families, our city employees, our First Responders—Police, Fire Fighters, and Emergency Services, Doctors, Nurses, and so many who will be working on this day, I wish the Blessings of Thanksgiving. From the proclamation issued on October 3, 1863 by President Abraham Lincoln: "I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a Day of Thanksgiving and Praise..." We celebrate in Southport as one family. We collectively watch the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, cook our turkey, gather around our table of bounty in prayer, and realize more each day, the blessings that have been bestowed upon us by living in this city, the quaint village we call home.

A Happy Thanksgiving to you all and remember to Fall Back on Sunday, November 7th at 2 am, the end daylight saving time.

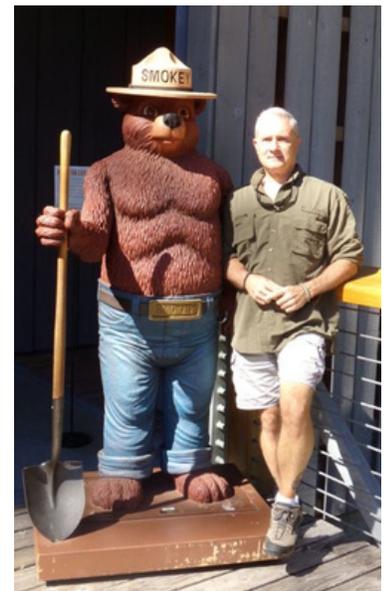
Mayor J.P. Hatem, MD, MPH

Meet Scott Len

Southport Forestry Committee, Chairman

I have been a member of the Forestry Committee since the spring of 2016. While hiking on the Appalachian Trail Karen Mosteller asked my wife, Lisa, to get in touch with me about an opening. I applied via my phone at a hostel near Nantahala and by the time I got back home I was on the Committee. Fifteen minutes into my first meeting I was elected Chairman and here we are.

The Southport Forestry Committee was formed in December 1998 following a severe *kermes scale* infestation in town which threatened our Live Oaks. The town weathered that scare but in response, the Board of Aldermen formed the Committee with four major tasks: "The Preservation of Existing Trees, Tree Replenishment, Public Education, and other functions related to the community's forest environment." *Continued next page.*



Meet Scott Len

Southport Forestry Committee, Chairman

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I see tree replenishment as one of our most important tasks. Thanks to the committee's efforts, approximately 400 live oak trees have been planted over the last 23 years. These young trees aren't as noticeable as fully mature specimens but will ensure that Southport has a vibrant canopy of our iconic trees for generations to come. In regard to preservation, we work closely with the City to monitor and assess existing trees and can alert City Staff if there is an issue. We perform consultations with homeowners and can provide information on a particular issue, do additional research, or get the homeowner in touch with a tree professional or arborist.

One of the areas I think we have made great strides in the last couple of years is in the area of Public Education. Through our web page and this newsletter, we have been able to let folks know we're here, provide information on trees and tree issues, and link to educational opportunities should someone like to dig deeper or broaden their knowledge of urban forestry. In addition to yearly planting, we've also held pruning seminars in coordination with the Beautification Committee and worked with the Historical Society for some cleanup in the Old Smithville Burying ground. Perhaps the biggest accomplishment during my tenure was the passage of the first comprehensive tree ordinance in 2018. This was not only an affirmation of Southport's commitment to the urban forest that makes Southport unique but an acknowledgment that the City had to take a role in its preservation.

Forestry has always been an avocation of mine, however, I took a 27-year detour from that and worked as a Telecommunications Officer for the Federal Government before retiring and moving to Southport. Lisa and I spent 23 years living overseas while I worked in Embassies and other government facilities around the globe. During that time, when we periodically returned to the US, we'd take a day and come to Southport, have a crab sandwich at Provisions, then get ice cream and walk around town saying "this place is pretty cool."

When it came time to think about settling down we purchased our home here in 2010 and moved here full time when I retired out of Germany in 2013. There's nothing better than walking along the waterfront or enjoying a drink down at the yacht basin in the evening looking out over the water, though, sitting on my front porch can be pretty nice as well. For Lisa and I, Southport is a place to call home. We've been married 37 years and up until we got here we never lived anywhere more than a couple of years before moving on. It was a heck of an adventure, and we were fortunate enough to experience a variety of countries and cultures. It's nice to finally be able to put down some roots.

Southport Beautification Committee



The rosemary got a good trimming and fertilizing, but remains on our watch list.



Once again, we were blessed with the help of some South Brunswick High honor students at our monthly cleanup. Thanks to them, hundreds of cigarette butts were properly disposed of at Waterfront Park. Smokers, please use the receptacles!



Rob Thatcher continues his stewardship of Kingsley Park keeping the grasses and lantana looking great.



Community Updates

Our community notification system "SOUTHPORT CONNECTED!" gives residents, businesses, and visitors access to important emergency alerts as well as general community updates through secure messaging via phone, email, and

Connect Me!

www.cityofsouthport.com/southportconnected/

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Southport Forestry Committee

Estimating the Age of Trees

One of the favorite pastimes in Southport is speculating on how old our favorite live oak tree might be. The good news is that there are actually tools that can help make the guessing a bit more realistic.

You can get a fairly accurate estimate if you know when a tree was planted; For example, the large live oak tree on the lawn of the Southport Community Center was transplanted there in 1958 and would have been no more than 15-20 years old at the time, as older trees are too difficult to move. Knowing this, we can estimate the age of the tree as being in the 75-80-year-old range. The ginkgo tree next to St. Phillip's Church was planted in the early 1940s, making it also approximately 75-80 years old. The major limitation of this method, of course, is that there have to be people still alive who remember when the tree was planted, and that grows less likely as time passes.



75-80 year old live oak on the Fort Johnston Garrison Lawn

The most common method of dating trees uses a set of formulas to estimate the age. With this method, you begin by measuring the circumference of the tree about 4 1/2 feet above the ground (Dbh, or "Diameter at breast height"). Translate that number into inches, e.g., 9 ft. 4 inches equals 112 inches. To increase accuracy, subtract 2 inches to account for the thicker bark of an oak tree. Then calculate the diameter by dividing the circumference by 3.14 (just like in middle school!). In the case of our hypothetical tree, this would be 110 inches divided by 3.14 = 35 inches.

Now we need to adjust for the growth factor of the species of the tree. The International Society of Arboriculture has developed a "growth factor" for each species of tree. For a live oak, the growth factor is 4, so the 35 inches x 4 = a tree that is approximately 140 years old.

There are a number of factors that can affect the accuracy of this approach in estimating a tree's age.

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Southport Forestry Committee

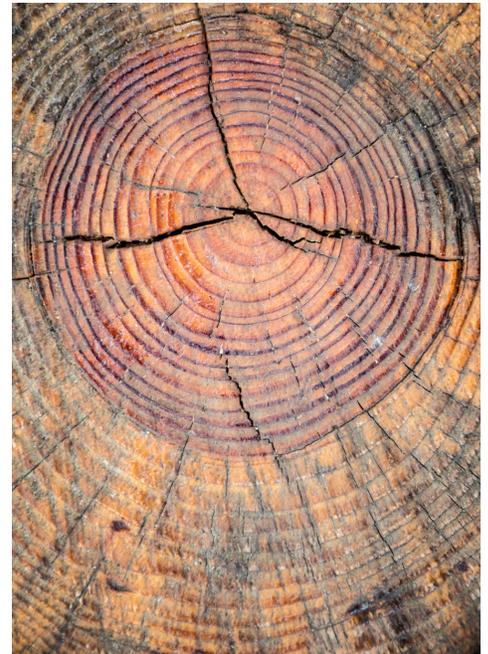
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For example, trees in forested areas are under less stress than those in urban areas and grow more quickly. Additionally, the upward growth of trees in forested areas is more constrained so their trunk grows thicker, making them seem older. Conversely, urban trees are under greater stress and things such as drought, insect infestations, and diseases can slow growth between tree rings, resulting in an estimated age that is younger than the tree really is.

The most accurate way to determine a tree's age is to count its growth rings. It is possible to do this without having to cut down the tree. Professionals can extract a cross-section of a standing tree using an increment borer. Individuals can also do it, but extracting a bore sample can weaken the tree and make it susceptible to disease or rot. The bore sample should be equal to the radius of the tree (1/2 of the diameter).

Count the rings and then add 5-10 years to your count because the sample comes from the diameter at breast height (DBH). Counting the rings of a tree that has been felled is the most definitive method for determining a tree's age. Start at the center of the stump (pith) and move outward to the first dark ring. The light ring represents growth in the spring and summer and the dark ring represents growth in the fall and winter. One light ring plus one dark ring equals a tree's growth over a single year. The total number of growth rings gives you the age of the tree.

The bottom line though is short of cutting a tree down, there is no exact way to determine the age of a particular tree as there are so many factors to consider. Here in Southport, we have any number of large and magnificent oaks which, to be honest, perhaps aren't as old as we think they may be. That being said, it doesn't make them any less majestic or iconic in our landscape. We are truly fortunate to have such an extensive urban forest, and should all do our part to ensure that it remains one of the signature aspects of our wonderful city.



Counting the growth rings is the best way to determine the age of a tree.

<https://www.treehugger.com/estimating-forest-trees-age-1343321>
<https://www.purduelandscapereport.org/article/how-old-is-my-tree/>
<https://theyardable.com/how-to-find-out-age-of-tree/>

A Glimpse of History: Cape Fear Indians

Most likely, the first inhabitants in the Cape Fear Region were Siouan-speaking people. They traveled in the region's waterways in dugout canoes. To make the canoes, a thick oak, pine, or cypress tree would be girdled or burned around its base to bring it down. Then, the center of the log would be hollowed out by burning and scraping it with shells. This process would be repeated until a long, narrow canoe was created.

Dugout canoes have been discovered locally in lakes. The



This dugout canoe is on display in the NC Maritime Museum at Southport. Many of these canoes were found in the lakes of the region, hidden and forgotten under mud.



Indian Trail Tree located in Keziah Park, 113 W. Moore Street, Southport

Cape Fear Indians would weigh down canoes in the lakes intentionally to save them for future use, as they frequently moved from one fishing area to another.

Trails to frequently visited destinations such as good fishing sites, water sources, campsites, or safe river crossings, were indicated by bent saplings pointing the way. These Marker Trees were made by weighting down a sapling with rock or dirt and securing it with rawhide, bark, or vine, in the bent position for several years. This man-made habit eventually became the tree's own. Oaks, maples, and elms were often used because the saplings were pliable, and the mature trees were strong and long-lived.

It is a common belief that our town's Indian Trail tree in Keziak Park was once one of these directional signs. The Southport Indian Trail Tree, *Quercus virginiana*, is thought to be 400-800 years old.

November 2021 Newsletter

The NC Maritime Museum at Southport

The NC Maritime Museum at Southport collects, preserves, and interprets the natural and cultural history of the Lower Cape Fear for all people.

Visitors can learn about the first indigenous mariners to the current US Coast Guard. A periscope also gives patrons a different perspective of the confluence of the Cape Fear River, Atlantic Ocean, and the Intracoastal Waterway.

One of three maritime museums in the North Carolina system, the museum in Southport is staffed by three full-time employees, making volunteers an integral part of the NC Maritime Museum at Southport.

Many projects and programs are made possible by our Friends Support Group and our dedicated corps of volunteers. One volunteer, in particular, Richard McCullough, builds exhibits, repairs facility woes, creates educational interactive activities, and serves on the Friends of the NC Maritime Museum at Southport Board. The maritime museum is a better place because of Dick and Janice McCullough, a duo that help in so many creative ways.



7 THINGS TO KNOW FOR YOUR VISIT

- **Hours of Operation:** Tuesday - Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Admission is free (donations are appreciated).**
- **There is no designated parking lot. There is parking available along all nearby streets.**
- **3 levels of Scavenger hunts—ranging from hunting for artifacts to completing a crossword puzzle—are available.**
- **A wheelchair is available to borrow during your visit.**
- **For a more inclusive visit, guided tours are available through QR code with ASL interpretation, Spoken English, and Spanish subtitles. Call 910-477-5151 for more information.**
- **NC Maritime Museum at Southport, 204 E. Moore Street, Southport, NC 28461**

Meet... Richard McCullough, Board Member NC Maritime Museum at Southport



I first started volunteering at the NC Maritime Museum in April of 2019, working on projects in the Facilities Maintenance area.

I've had an interest in maritime history since I was young. I grew up in Massachusetts and spent summers on Cape Cod learning about the history of the Pirate ship *Whydah* and also the history of whaling in the New Bedford area. I love the fact that the museum staff are helping to preserve and interpret the maritime history of the Lower Cape Fear region.

One of the first projects I worked on at the museum, was a new base for the Quarantine Station Exhibit along with a step around half the exhibit so it would be easier for the children to see. Other projects have included, making scale models of both Oak Island and Bald Head Island lighthouses for display in one of the exhibits, and making stackable lighthouse puzzles for kids to take apart and re-assemble. I worked with other volunteers in constructing walls, installing flooring, and putting together shelving units for the new artifact storage area for the museum. New flooring has also been installed in the front entranceway and down the hall by the bathroom area as well as new flooring in the kitchen. There are numerous projects I've had the pleasure of working on to help with educational programs, improvements to the gift shop, and preparation for newly planned exhibits.

My original background was as a Tool and Die maker prior to getting my degree in Mechanical Design Engineering from Wentworth Institute of Technology and spend my first 15 years, following college, working in Research in Development for the Foxboro Company. I then left to be part of a startup company based in Massachusetts. I was the Engineering Mgr. for the Company for 30 years before retiring in 2015.

I haven't been very active at it since retiring, but one of my hobbies was carving, I always had a love of birds and in 1989 I started carving birds and entering them in carving competitions from 1989 - 1997. My wife, Janice, and I also enjoy traveling. When I retired we sold our house and bought a 36" motorhome, and toured the country for about a year before we decide to settle in Southport. A lot of people ask why we picked Southport. For years my brother and I brought our father down to Wilmington from Massachusetts for reunions with the shipmates he served with on the USS *North Carolina*. Once I saw Southport that was it. It reminded me of some of the small towns on Cape Cod, without the snow.

My wife and I enjoy the area beaches, ferry rides from Southport to Fort Fisher, trips to Bald Head Island and eating at the local restaurants.

Southport is one of the nicest communities in North Carolina. I love the waterfront, restaurants, shops, NC Maritime Museum, and Southport is a very warm, welcoming community that makes you feel at home.

Recipes Southport Style

Sweet Potatoes

Sweet potato pie is a traditional dessert, originating in the Southern United States among the African American community. It is often served during the American holiday season, especially at Thanksgiving and Christmas in place of pumpkin pie, which is more traditional in other regions of the United States. Though creamy vegetable pie recipes date back to Medieval Europe, sweet potato pie appears in the southern United States from the early colonial days.



The use of sweet potatoes in Southern and African-American cuisine traces back to West African influences. The sweet potato, which is native to the Americas, was likely used by African slaves as an alternative to the yam found in their homeland. Sweet potato pie applies European pie making customs to the preparation of sweet potatoes. *From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sweet_potato_pie*

Fun facts about Sweet Potato Pie!

- The sweet potato is neither a potato nor a yam! It is commonly thought to be a type of potato but belongs to the morning glory family, not the nightshade family. It's also completely unrelated to yams.
- Sweet potato cultivars with white or pale yellow flesh are less sweet and moist than those with red, pink, or orange flesh.
- Sweet potatoes were first introduced to the Philippines during the Spanish colonial period (1521-1598) via the Manila galleons
- Raw sweet potatoes are rich in complex carbohydrates, dietary fiber, and beta-carotene (a provitamin A carotenoid). When baked, small variable changes in micronutrient density occur to include a higher content of vitamin C
- Their leaves are edible and can be prepared like spinach or turnip greens.
- Like many sweet potato recipes, sweet potato pie was likely developed by African-American slaves from traditional African culinary influences as an alternative to the African yam, making it a staple of soul food today.
- Recipes for sweet potato pie first appeared in printed cookbooks in the 18th century, where it was included with savory vegetable dishes. By the 19th century, sweet potato pie was more commonly classified as a dessert.

<https://www.lord-of-the-pies.com/s/stories/fun-facts-on-sweet-potato-pie>

Sweet Potato Pie

RECIPE COURTESY OF TRISHA YEARWOOD

Level: Easy - Total: 1 hr 30 min - Active: 15 min

Yield: One 9-inch pie

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 cups canned sweet potatoes or 2 to 3 roasted, peeled and pureed sweet potatoes
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 4 tablespoons (1/2 stick) butter, softened
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- Pinch salt
- 1 unbaked 9-inch pie shell, homemade or store-bought



Directions

Preheat the oven to 300 degrees F.

In the bowl of an electric mixer, combine the sweet potatoes and 1/2 cup of the sugar, as well as the eggs, butter, milk, vanilla, cinnamon, nutmeg and salt. Beat until thoroughly blended and smooth. Pour the mixture into the pie shell and sprinkle with the remaining 1/4 cup sugar. Allow the pie to stand for 15 minutes before baking to allow the sugar to melt.

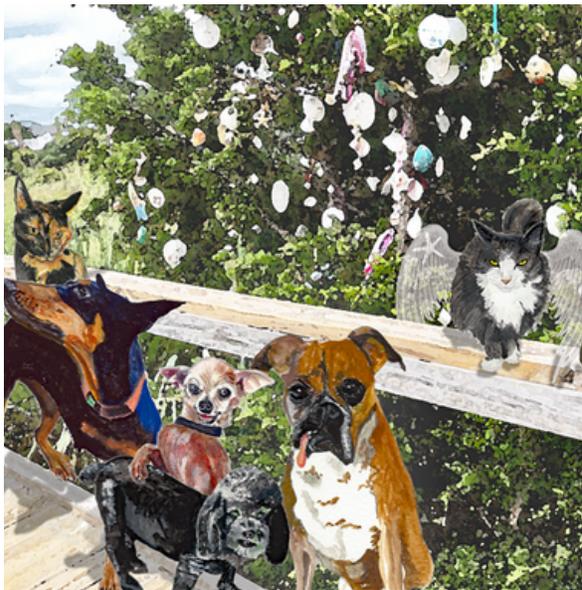
Bake until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean, about 1 hour. Cool before serving.

Georgia Cooking in an Oklahoma Kitchen by Trisha Yearwood (c) Clarkson Potter 2008



Donate pet food at Indian Trail Meeting Hall!
Located at 113 W Moore St, Southport, NC 28461

Learn about
Paws for a Peaceful Holiday
Season fundraiser at
paws-ability.org



Paws Pantry is a Paws-Ability program that supplies local Brunswick County food pantries with pet food. To ensure that all families have a consistent source of pet food, Paws Pantry supplies food pantries in Brunswick County with dog and cat food. These locations are the *only* consistent sources of free pet food in the county. The following food distribution centers are supplied with pet food:

Southport Oak Island InterChurch Fellowship (SOICF)

Brunswick Family Assistance (2 locations)

How can you help?

There are several ways you can contribute to this important program. Collection bins are located at various points throughout Brunswick County and more are added regularly. We also have Amazon and Chewy wish lists. Please go to: www.paws-ability.org/pawspantry. Monetary donations to Paws Pantry can be made through the website at <https://www.paws-ability.org/donate-paws>.

You can also bring donations of any kind to our meetings or events. Paws-Ability is a 501(c)3 organization, and donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

Thank you for supporting Paws-Ability and Brunswick County animals in need!



November 2021 Newsletter

Storefront Showcase

SPONSORED BY
CITY OF SOUTHPORT

Visit and vote on local businesses who have decorated for the season! Displays will be able to be voted on until December the 11th, winners announced on December 13th.

Learn more at
cityofsouthport.com/calendar-of-events

29th Annual

HOLLY DAYS

Arts and Crafts Show
Saturday November 6, 2021
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Southport Baptist Church
Howe and Nash Streets

70+ Crafters - Christmas Crafts –
Baskets – Woodcrafts – Jewelry –
Fresh Baked Goods and Much More

Enjoy Hot Dogs, Home Made Chili, Sausage Biscuits
and Peach Cobbler at the Concession Stand

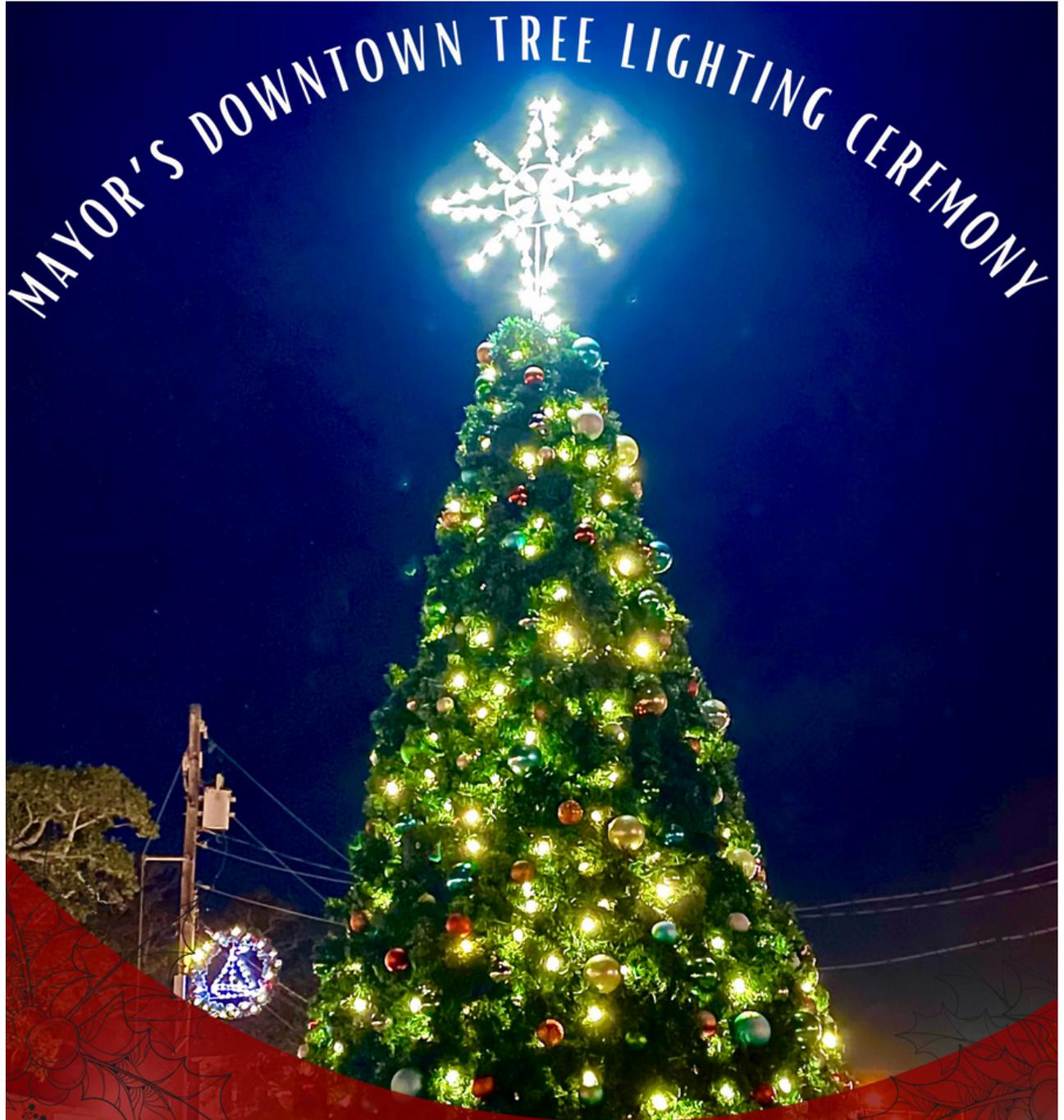
Wooden Boat Show



2021

Old Southport Yacht Basin

November 6, 10am - 4pm



In the Spirit of the Holiday Season, Mayor Hatem will light the City of Southport's Downtown Christmas Tree at Whittler's Bench. 'Twas the Night Before Christmas will be read and the Trinity United Methodist Church Children's Choir will serenade us with time-honored Christmas Carols. Come join us in person or online on Friday, November 26, 6 pm to share in the Joy of the Season.



Winterfest 2021

For more information, please visit
cityofsouthport.com/calendar
or call 910-457-7927

STOREFRONT SHOWCASE

(Sponsored by City of Southport)
Visit and vote on local businesses who have decorated for the season! Displays will be able to be voted on until December 11, with winners announced on December 13.

PET PICTURES WITH SANTA

(Sponsored by Southport Animal Services)
Sunday, December 5, at 2-4 p.m.
Indian Trail Meeting Hall / Keziah Park
113 W. Moore St.

BICYCLE & GOLF CART CHRISTMAS PARADE

Sunday, December 5, at 6 p.m.
Meet at Franklin Square Park to participate

SHOP-WITH-A-COP CONCERT

Featuring the Back Porch Rockers
(Sponsored by Southport Police Dept.)
Monday, December 6, at 6-8 p.m.
Franklin Square Park

CANDY CANE GARDEN PARTY

(Sponsored by Southport Garden Club)
Tuesday, December 7, from 6-7 p.m.
Keziah Park

ANNUAL COOKIE CONTEST

(Sponsored by The State Port Pilot)
Wednesday, December 8, at 3:30-5:30 p.m.
Community Building 223 E Bay St.

SUPPER WITH SANTA'S ELVES

(Sponsored by Southport Parks & Rec.)
Wednesday, December 8, at 5-7 p.m.
\$5 per child 209 Atlantic Ave.
beside Southport Gym

CHRISTMAS MOVIE "POLAR EXPRESS"

(Sponsored by Southport Parks & Rec.)
Thursday, December 9, at dusk
Fort Johnston Garrison Lawn
Chairs/blankets are encouraged

COSTUMED HOLIDAY HISTORY TOUR

(Sponsored by NC Maritime Museum at Southport)
Friday, December 10, at 3 p.m.
204 E. Moore St.

CAROLING WITH THE SEA NOTES

Friday, December 10
from 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Franklin Square Park Stage

LIGHT UP THE NIGHT CHRISTMAS PARADE

(Sponsored by Southport Fire Dept.)
Friday, December 10,
Children will board the fire engines at the Southport Fire Station at 5:30 p.m. Parade begins at 6:30 p.m.
Parade route: Waterfront Park, down Howe St.

WINTER CRAFT FESTIVAL

(Sponsored by Downtown Southport, Inc. & City of Southport)
Saturday, December 11, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Franklin Square Park.

BOOK SALE

(Sponsored by Friends of the Library)
Saturday, December 11, 1:30-4 p.m.
Southport Realty, 727 N. Howe St.

WINTERFEST PERFORMING ARTS

(Sponsored by Brunswick Arts Council)
Saturday, December 11, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Franklin Square Park Stage

SANTA'S WORKSHOP

(Sponsored by Southport Parks & Rec.)
Saturday, December 11, from 10-11 a.m.
209 Atlantic Ave., beside Southport Gym

SOUTHPORT WINTERFEST FLOTILLA

(Sponsored by Cape Fear Yacht Club, Downtown Southport, Inc., & City of Southport)
Saturday, December 11, 7 p.m.
on the Southport Waterfront.
Bring chairs and blankets and enjoy the beauty of the Christmas lights bouncing off the water.
Judges - Southport Elementary School Art Classes

November 2021 Newsletter

UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS

Forestry Committee
2nd Tuesday of each month
November 9, 5 p.m. - (ITMH)

Park & Recreation Board
2nd Tuesday of each month
November 9, 6:30 p.m. - (ITMH)

ABC Board
2nd Wednesday of each month
November 10, 6:30 p.m. - (ITMH)

Board of Aldermen
2nd Thursday of each month
November 11, 6 p.m. - (SCB)

Beautification Committee
3rd Monday of each month
November 15, 5 p.m. - (ITMH)

Planning & Zoning Board
3rd Thursday of each month
November 18, 6 p.m. - (SCB)

Zoning Board of Adjustments
4th Tuesday of each month
November 23, 4:30 p.m. - (SCB)

City meetings are open to the public.

The City of Southport does not discriminate based on disability. If you need an auxiliary aid or service or other accommodation to attend or fully participate in this meeting, please contact the Clerk's office as far in advance as possible so that your request can be considered.

Southport Community Building (SCB)
223 East Bay Street

Indian Trail Meeting Hall (ITMH)
110 West Moore Street