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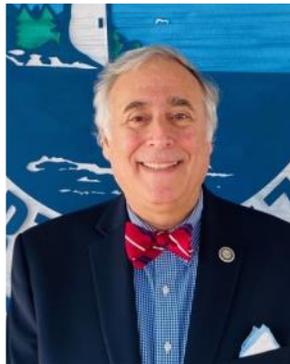
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City of Southport

February 2021 Newsletter

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

February is the month with heart. We have Valentine's Day February 14th. We show our respect as we honor the lives of President Abraham Lincoln, February 12, 1809 and our first President George Washington, February 22, 1732, and the lives of all Presidents on

the third Monday in February—the 15th known as Presidents' Day. We literally look at our hearts, February is American Heart Month, raising the awareness of Heart Disease in women, and we celebrate with heartfelt remembrance of Black History Month, honoring the lives and legacy of the African American community in our country.

Under normal times, the Dr. J. Arthur Doshier Memorial Hospital Foundation would have an in person event for American Heart Month. And we would gather in the Southport Community Building as in previous years for a weekend of events for Black History Month. We will do what we can virtually until 2022.

Our city will be holding our annual workshop in February, where we prioritize our projects, set goals, review our budget, receiving a report from the heads of each city department, as we plan for the municipal future of Southport. This will be two, one-half day events—February 8th and February 15th, with limitations due to the pandemic.

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

(910) 457-7900 www.cityofsouthport.com



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

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I want the citizens to know that we are moving forward and working towards prioritizing, planning and completing the goals we set forth from last February. For example, regionalization of the Southport Sewer System with Brunswick County, to repairing City Dock, and the work on replacing infrastructure under Howe Street, all moving forward, and we are adding to our list. Progress is at times not at the pace at which we would like, but every day we move forward and I am proud of the work that our city employees do every day for the citizens of Southport. We continue to look at safety and other issues in the yacht basin and I appreciate Mayor Pro Tem Karen Mosteller taking the lead on this committee and I thank the citizens that are serving on it including our former city planner, Alderman John Allen. Waterfront stabilization has been a priority for me since I first campaigned in 2015 and became familiar with the plan for the waterfront from the committee chaired by Tommy Harrelson and under the administration of Mayor Robert Howard. Stabilization of our waterfront and erosion control is important not only for Southport, but for our entire state, and it is an economic and environmental issue that requires partnership with county, state, and federal officials. I am working on that and it is a process as we look for continued cooperation with a new legislature in Raleigh. There are many issues, goals and challenges, Taylor Field, the weather tower, building maintenance, road repair, preparing for the next hurricane, to an overall plan for storm water drainage and other projects of importance that are contained in "The Notebook." Again, we move forward each day. February will be an important month for the

continued distribution of the COVID-19 Vaccine. I appreciate the efforts of our local hospitals, Doshier and Novant Hospitals, and the coordination with the Brunswick County Health Department in the continued vaccination of our citizens. This process will improve with more funding and release of vaccine and a more coordinated effort from the federal government. Our state officials are aware of the need for improvement and it will get better. On the positive side, some of our citizens will be receiving their second dose this month and I am hopeful that supplies will increase and vaccinations will be a daily priority, including weekends, and that as the numbers of those vaccinated increase, the number of new cases will decline. We will continue public health mitigation measures –wear a facial covering, avoid crowds, physical distance, and wash your hands.



So we all have plenty to do. Send out Valentines, order flowers, plan a small special dinner for the love ones you live with or see frequently, while supporting our local businesses and restaurants. Celebrate our presidents, read about Black History and participate in any virtual events. Make an appointment with your doctor for a heart check-up, and do all that you can to uplift and keep safe all those around you.

Joseph P. Hatem, MD, MPH
Mayor, City of Southport

February 2021 Newsletter

A message from Southport City Manager, Gordon Hargrove



One of my main goals as City Manager has been to complete projects. I am proud to announce the City of Southport has received the Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) certificate of exemption for city dock repairs. We're now able to move ahead with our long-awaited repair.

Heather Hemphill, Southport's Director of Parks and Recreation, working with CAMA representatives, obtained the final approval for the repairs. This wouldn't have happened without Heather's constant drive and her taking care of due diligence.

"The quest for approval to repair the badly deteriorated dock has been a long and frustrating process for city officials. Beginning more than four years ago when the structure was ravaged by Hurricane Matthew, a continual stream of regulatory issues and disagreements with adjacent property owners on water rights impeded the permitting process. During that time, the dock sustained additional damage as hurricanes Florence and Isaias roared through the area, making the dock even more of an eyesore in the yacht basin," explains the State Port Pilot in their January 20, 2021 edition.

Gordon Hargrove, City Manager



Code Enforcement

The City of Southport believes the everyone should enjoy a safe and healthy environment to live in which enhances their quality of life.

Code Enforcement has the main responsibility of enforcing several divisions within the Southport General Code of Ordinances that promotes the general overall health and welfare of its residents, and to promote education for responsible citizenship. Code Enforcement Officer can assist you with the following matters:

Chapter 9 -

- Health and Sanitation
- Includes weed control/overgrown lots
- Mosquito Control

Chapter 15 -

- Solid Waste Violations
- Bulk items
- Illegal dumping

Did you know?

The City of Southport contracts all garbage and yard debris pickup to GFL Environmental.

There is no City pickup service for any refuse or yard debris left on the curbside. All white goods, brown goods (mattresses, furniture & other bulk items) construction debris, lot clearing & tree removal or hazardous waste disposal is the responsibility of the resident.

Southport Police Department

The Southport Police Department has several programs focusing on community issues. The department also works closely with advisory councils within the community to strengthen the relationship between members of the community and police. Here's a list of some of the community outreach programs.

FOOT PATROLS (officers "walking the beat" interacting one on one)

BIKE PATROL & SAFETY

OPERATION "WE CARE" CALLING (calling program for those living alone or with special needs)

SAFE SANCTUARIES (partnership with our pastoral community to assure churches are as safe)

COMMUNITY WATCH (meetings with communities about safety plans and ideas)

BUSINESS WATCH AFTER HOUR CHECKS

ROBBERY AWARENESS FOR BUSINESSES

RESIDENTIAL KEEP CHECK (officers checking homes while you're away on vacation)

CAR SEAT INSTALL "BUCKLE UP NC" (certified officer assuring your car seat is properly installed)

CITIZENS RIDE-A-LONG

GOLF CART REGISTRATION PROGRAM

SHOP WITH A COP (program to help those with financial strain during the holiday season)

COFFEE WITH A COP (4 times a year we "share a cup of coffee" and talk with our citizens about your concerns)

Tip Line: www.cityofsouthport.com/tip-line/

FACEBOOK PAGE Southport Police Department NC

There are also the following permits that the Police Department oversees, issues and confirms. These can be found on the City's webpage under the Police Department. Per-

mits can be submitted online or dropped off at our Office.

- Parade and/or motorcade (funeral escort, special guest escort, etc.)
- Parks and Recreation Facility Rental (PD reviews with Parks and Rec Director for approval)
- Special Events where "above normal" NOISE levels are anticipated
- Noise Permit Request (firing of cannon for weddings, etc.)
- Golf Cart Ordinance (PDF)
- Golf Cart registration (fillable form for renewals and first-time cart owners)



Again, I want to say thank you for taking time to learn about YOUR Police Department. Our office is located at 1029 N Howe Street upstairs. Our office is open Monday through Saturday, 8:30am-5pm. Due to current COVID restrictions City offices are closed to the public. You can call us for all non-emergency matters 910-457-7911. If it's an emergency or you need an officer to respond to you for any reason call 9-1-1 or the non-emergency number to the call center 910-253-7490. They will take your information and dispatch the closest police officer.

Blessed to Serve,
Chief Todd Coring
Office: 910-457-7913
tcoring@cityofsouthport.com



Meet... Robin Clark, Buildings and Janitorial Supervisor

Hi! My name is Robin Clark. I am the Buildings and Janitorial Supervisor for the City of Southport. I have been working with the city for three and a half years.

My workday begins by opening and cleaning all of Southport's public restrooms. For those who might not know or are new to Southport, the restrooms are located at the Southport Visitors' Center, Nash Street, Lowe/White Park, and Caviness Park. I am also responsible for cleaning City Hall and the Police Department, and many other city buildings. Some of my other tasks are refilling the hand sanitizer stations you find around the city and ordering all the cleaning and janitorial supplies.

Before working for the City of Southport, I owned a cleaning business for many years in the Shenandoah Valley, Virginia, where I was born and raised. I have been coming to Southport and enjoying the waterfront views for many years, and finally moved to Southport 4 years ago.

You can find my husband, a Southport native, and myself hanging out on the waterfront most evenings with friends and family. The one thing that I have found most surprising about this job is I hear almost daily, "We appreciate you and thank you for keeping the restrooms so clean."

Southport is... MY HOME!



Meet... Todd Dunn, ABC Store Manager

I am the General Manager of the City of Southport ABC Board and have held the position since February of 2015.

My day consists of various back-office duties, helping customers with products they are interested in, and assuring the store is properly staffed. Before coming to Southport, I spent 16 years installing and supporting Point of Sale and Back Office Systems for ABC Stores throughout the state.

In 1998, the Southport ABC Store was the first ABC Board I installed registers and Back Office Computer Systems. I fell in love with Southport. Seventeen years later, I acquired the job of General Manager for the Southport ABC Board.

In my spare time, I enjoy going out to eat at the many great restaurants in town. My family and I like to sit at the waterfront and watch the river and the boats. We also enjoy taking the various tours in town, such as the Ghost Tour, Southport Boat Tour, and Fun Tour. My wife and I take walks through the Smithville Burial Ground and look at the old grave markers and the history they record.

Southport is a growing town that still feels like a small town with great people and I look forward to living here for a long time.

ABC Board Update

The Past, Present and Future of the Southport ABC Store

The Southport ABC Board was the first ABC Board to be approved in Brunswick County on September 13th 1957. The first store was located downtown where the Trolley Shop is currently. The first store was a full service counter store. The customer would come in and ask for the product at the counter and the clerk would go get the item for them.

In 1975 the Southport ABC Board moved to the current location at 714 N Howe St. It became a self-service store at this point. We get this question often as to why our sign says self-service. In the past a lot of stores were counter stores to where the customer couldn't shop around the store on their own. When the sign said self-service it let the customer know that they could shop around themselves. Now counter stores are pretty obsolete but a few still are around in other counties.

The store stayed the same visually until Oct 2015. At this time we remodeled our store to allow for more product and better shopping experience.

Due to growth in business between restaurants and customers we are currently in the process of building on to the store. We purchased the lot next to the store and are going to build an approximately 3900 square foot building to be a new Retail area so we can provide more product for our customers and the current location will become a warehouse to store more product and a Mixed Beverage location to serve our restaurants better.

I would like to thank all our customers' retail and restaurant for their support. Without you we wouldn't be able to do what we are doing.

Our goal is to provide the best service and product choices that we can for the City of Southport, surrounding areas and its visitors. Thank you for your support and patronage we look forward to continuing to serve and provide product to the City of Southport and surrounding areas. If we don't have a product that you are looking for please ask and we will do what we can to get it if available.



Lord, Howe, Dry, I Am is a running community witticism. The four streets run roughly northwest to southeast, although not in exact order. "I Am" is a little obscure, but the other three were named for figures in colonial history. One legend claims a town clerk decided to have a little fun when drawing the street grid back in the 1950s. Others think the combination recalls Southport's colorful history from Prohibition.

Southport Beautification Committee

Certificate of Appreciation

Monarch Waystations provide milkweeds, nectar plants, and shelter for monarchs throughout their annual cycle of reproduction and migration.

In appreciation for efforts on behalf of monarchs,
Monarch Watch awards this certificate to

Southport Beautification Volunteers

for the creation and maintenance of Monarch Waystation number
31247

Creating and maintaining a Monarch Waystation contributes to monarch conservation and helps to assure the continuation of the monarch migration in North America.

CREATE, CONSERVE, & PROTECT MONARCH HABITATS


Chip Taylor, Director
Monarch Watch


www.MonarchWatch.org

Congratulations!
Beautification Committee



Southport Forestry Committee

It's time to plant!

It's February, and spring is just around the corner. Now is the time to plant those new trees in your landscape and ensure

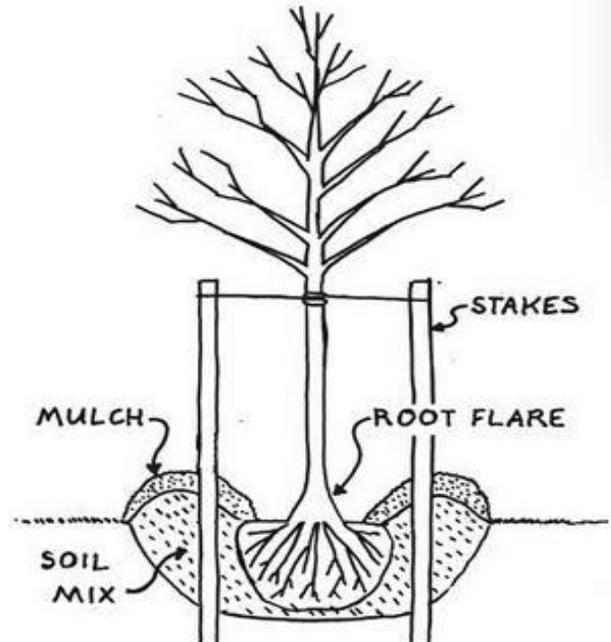
they get off to a good start.

If you are considering planting a tree in your yard (and you should) the first step is to do a little research and find out what species of tree will provide the aesthetic benefits that you're looking for. Are you looking for shade? Screening or privacy from your neighbors? Perhaps a tree that adds a little interest or "bling" to your landscape? There's a species for each of those, and more.

Ultimately, everyone desires a tree that will do well and require little maintenance once established. The place to start is to look for a species that is native to our area or at least a "nativar" – one that was bred to do well in our environment. Take a look at the [Southport Native Tree](#) list which we put together for use with the UDO, there should be a tree that will not only fit your needs, but also be available at one of our local nurseries.

Once you have your new tree home, there are a few things that you can do to ensure you get it off to a good start. Find a location where the tree will have room to grow to full maturity – trees need light, so unless you've chosen an understory tree it's going to need a spot where it gets enough sunshine. Once you chose that perfect spot, it's time to plant.

First, you're going to need to dig a hole that is about 3 times bigger than the size of your pot or root ball. It needs to be deep enough that the root collar is just two or three inches above ground level – planting too shallow, or



too deep, can cause a lot of subsequent issues. When placed in the hole, back fill with the soil that was removed and ensure all voids are filled and the soil tamped down. Unless specifically recommended for the tree you purchased, there is no need to amend the soil or even fertilize at this point, let the tree get used to its new home.

In order to establish the tree in the first season, ensuring the tree gets enough water is essential. In Southport, our soil is primarily sand, which is not particularly good at holding water. You're going to want to make sure that the tree gets about two good soakings a week – about 20 gallons is what is recommended. Stay consistent with this for at least the first few months so the roots have time to grow and establish.

If the tree is spindly, or "whippy", you may have to provide it some support. You should ALWAYS remove the stake that was used in the pot or at the nursery. *Continued*

Forestry Committee, continued

You can pin the root ball with stakes and for the trunk itself, using guys (ropes) to hold the tree upright in the wind may be helpful.

All of these procedures are detailed in the "Tree Owner's manual" in the link below and are worth a review before planting. If you do have any questions or queries, feel free to contact one of us on the Committee and we'd be glad to assist.

Plant a tree! It's a gift that will return benefits far beyond the initial costs, and do so for generations.

There are some good resources available on the Forestry Committee web page <https://southportnc.org/forestry-committee/>

Tree Owner's manual: https://cityofsouthport.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/TreeOwner_final.pdf

Scott A. Len Chairman



Red Maple, *Acer rubrum*

A Glimpse of Southport History



John N Smith Cemetery

The John N. Smith Cemetery was officially established in 1880 when members of an African American Methodist Church in Smithville (Southport) purchased a two acre tract of land for the sole purpose of making it a grave yard. An additional acre was added later. The land, which had been owned by three former slaves, had been being used as an unofficial burying ground for several years.

Continued next page

A Glimpse of Southport History

John N Smith Cemetery, continued

The cemetery committee, made up of representatives from five local black churches sold burial plots to the community at large. The cemetery was kept and maintained by the committee.

The oldest tombstone in the cemetery belongs to John N. Smith who was buried in 1874. The cemetery is named in his honor. The cemetery was the only African American cemetery in Southport for over seventy years. This cemetery is the final resting place of veterans of every American war since the Civil War, former slaves, freemen, business owners, farmers, mariners, and other professionals. In fact, two Civil War veterans are buried here. Every year, the city of Southport holds its Memorial Day Celebration in this cemetery.

There are 479 grave markers. Ground Penetrating Radar has shown that there are an additional 1243 unmarked graves in the cemetery. It's likely that many of the unmarked graves originally had wooden or ballast stone markers that have disappeared with time. Traditionally, many of the graves were adorned with conch and oyster shells, as is consistent with the African American Gullah Geechee culture.

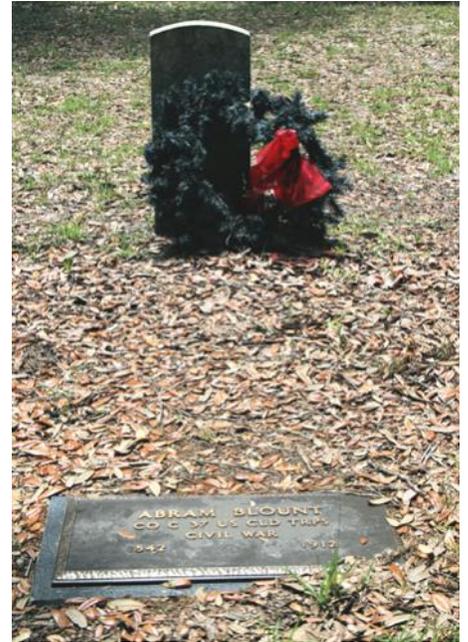
The practice of using seashells to mark graves traces back to an African belief that the seashell encloses the soul's immortal presence.

There was a prayer to the mbanba seashell: *Strong as your house you shall keep my life for me. When you leave for the sea, take me along, that I may live forever with you.*

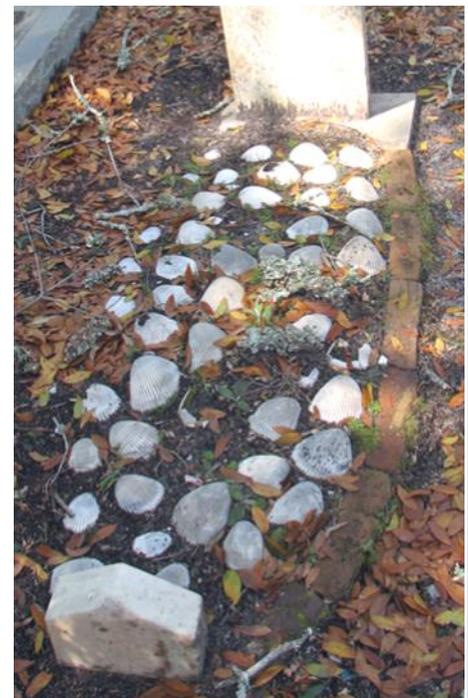
Even into the twentieth century some Gullah explained the use of shell on the graves as representing the sea: *The sea brought us, the sea shall take us back. So the shells upon our graves stand for water, the means of glory and the land of demise.*

Excerpts from: *The John N Smith Restoration and Preservation, Inc. and John N Smith Cemetery*

Southport, NC African American Heritage Tour, Southport Historical Society.



Abram Blount
CO C 37 US Colored Troops, Civil War
1842-1912



Grave plots were cleaned and decorated with seashells for Memorial Day Commemorations.

Recipes Southport Style

Anna McKenzie's Brown Dogs - A Peanut Candy



The recipe for Brown Dogs, a type of peanut candy that originated in Southport, was handed down for generations before being written down for the first time in the late 1800s by a confectioner in Southport. Willie McKenzie, pictured below, ran his own confectionery from 1910 until the 1970s with the help of his wife Anna Lee McKenzie. He also ran a dance hall during the early part of the 20th century located on Howe Street.

INGREDIENTS

2 pounds light brown sugar
3 pounds raw peanuts
1/4 teaspoon baking soda
1/4 cup butter
Water
1 teaspoon vanilla flavoring

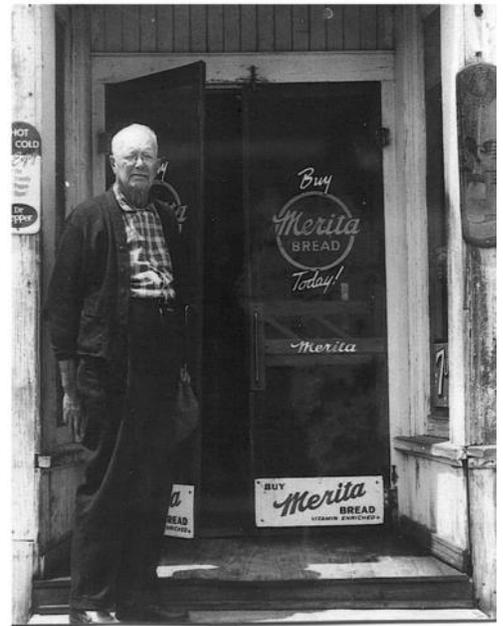
DIRECTIONS

Roast peanuts until light brown. Mix sugar with enough water to dissolve. Cook over medium heat, stirring occasionally, scraping sides of pot. When white sheets begin to form on sides of pot, add the baking soda and stir well. Mixture will foam up. Add the vanilla flavoring and butter. Add the peanuts and mix well, then turn heat low. Spoon mixture onto well greased pan as quickly as possible. Enjoy!

Willie McKenzie's Confectionery

Willie McKenzie was not only one of the first African American men to own a business in Southport, he was also one of the most popular. Several generations of children and adults have fond memories of Mr. Willie and his homemade ice cream. In addition to ice cream, he sold sherbet, shaved ice, sodas and candy, as well as medicine like castor oil. His wife, Anna Lee McKenzie, partnered with her husband in the store. She made small sweet potato pies and a type of peanut candy called "brown dogs" which were very popular. The store was known for having a massive granite and marble soda fountain with a saloon type mahogany canopy, a glass mirror and storage cabinets. It's said that Anna bought this soda fountain for her husband as a gift. She earned the money by doing washing and ironing for 25 cents a week and saving the money. Next door to the Ice Cream Parlor was a Pool Hall. The two buildings, which Mr. Willie had built in 1910, were connected by a hallway. Mr. Willie and his wife Anna closed their doors in 1968 after 58 successful years in business.

Southport Historical Society



UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS

- **Forestry Committee**
2nd Tuesday of each month
February 9, 5 p.m. - (ITMH)
- **Park & Recreation Board**
2nd Tuesday of each month
February 9, 6 p.m. - (ITMH)
- **ABC Board**
2nd Wednesday of each month
February 10, 6:30 p.m. - (ITMH)
- **Board of Aldermen**
2nd Thursday of each month
February 11, 6 p.m. - (SCB)
- **Beautification Committee**
3rd Monday of each month
February 15, 5 p.m. - (ITMH)
- **Planning & Zoning Board**
3rd Thursday of each month
February 18, 6 p.m. - (SCB)
- **Zoning Board of Adjustments**
4th Tuesday of each month
February 23, 4:30 p.m. - (SCB)

City meetings are open to the public. Seating is limited. Social distancing and facial coverings are required.

The City of Southport does not discriminate on the basis of disability. If you need an auxiliary aid or service or other accommodation in order to attend or fully participate at this meeting, please contact the Clerk's office as far in advance of the meeting as is 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

Event Calendar

"This is Our Town"

February 6

Join your neighbors on the first Saturday of February for weeding, planting, pruning, and other gardening delights. Let's beautify our parks, waterfront, and other areas. No need to bring tools, just your good intentions, and your mask. Meet at the old jail annex at Nash and Rhett streets at 9 am. Please call 612.202.8541 for more information. "We ❤️ our volunteers!"



*Happy
Valentine's Day*



**Waterfront, Restaurants, Shops,
Art Galleries, History, Recreation,
Tours, Museums, Ferry, Movie & TV
Spots, Biking & more!**

City of Southport Department of Tourism www.cityofsouthport.com

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