

In this issue >>>

- Community Update from the Mayor



City of Southport

May 2021 Newsletter

- Building Inspections
- Meet... Kiley Barefoot
- Meet... William Davis
- Southport ABC Board
- Forestry Committee
- Beautification Committee
- Taylor Field Master Plan
- A Glimpse of Southport History, Abner Doubleday and the Baseball Myth
- Recipes Southport Style
- Upcoming Meetings



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

May is a month of remembrance and celebration.

We remember and celebrate the women in our lives we call “Mother” on Sunday, May 9th and cherish their memory or if fortunate enough, their physical presence in our life. A Happy Mother’s Day to all in our city.

We remember the brave men and women in our military who made the ultimate sacrifice in losing their life for our country. Memorial Day, Monday, May 31st, our U.S. Flags will be displayed on Howe Street by the Lions Club and from our porches throughout the city.

We remember and celebrate National Nurses Week, May 6th -12th, and thank them for their continued unselfish sacrifice in caring for the sick and providing comfort for those in need. They faced the pandemic and did not falter and we are grateful for their service. May 21st is the birth anniversary of the founder of modern day nursing, Florence Nightingale.

We remember and celebrate National Police Week May 9th –15th and their unwavering service to our city and pay our respect to police officers who died in the line of duty, on Police Officer Memorial Day on May 15th.

We remember and celebrate the gift of prayer on National Day of Prayer, May 6th, as we pray in thanksgiving, for the blessings we have in Southport. *continued*

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

Continued from previous page

We celebrate the high school and college graduations that occur in May and thank the teachers for their dedication in educating their students in a virtual academic world as we remember all those who taught us, on May 4th, National Teachers Day.

We celebrate and remember our military. May is National Military Appreciation Month as we remember all who served our country in the armed forces.

We remember and raise awareness for a number of medical conditions: Skin Cancer Awareness Month, National Osteoporosis Month, National Allergy/Asthma Awareness Month, National Arthritis Awareness Month, Strike Out Strokes Month and National Hepatitis Awareness Month. Make the appropriate appointments with your doctor or clinic.

And we celebrate the unofficial beginning of summer with tourists returning in larger numbers, to lighting the grill as it is National Hamburger Month, sponsored by White Castle, the original fast-food hamburger chain, founded in 1921. And we know how our city has been affected in the past as we remember that hurricane season is approaching with National Hurricane Preparedness Week May 2-8.

May, for our city, is an important month. The city's budget will be completed and submitted. The city manager, city staff, and the board have worked diligently as we have had two budget workshops and have another one scheduled. The city is in a good financial position, with reimbursements from FEMA and funds from the American Rescue Plan also called the COVID-19 Stimulus Package. The American Rescue Plan

“provides \$350 billion to help states, counties, cities and tribal governments cover increased expenditures, replenish lost revenue and mitigate economic harm from the COVID-19 pandemic.” Southport is scheduled to receive 1.2 million dollars in two separate installments of \$600,000 each. The general fund balance is more than adequate which gives the city a flexibility to fund projects and mitigate an increase in ad valorem taxes. Projects included are as I emphasized at the budget workshop—roads—East Bay Street, repairing and supporting the road and sidewalk; Brunswick Street, the west side of the yacht basin; paving of roads throughout the city where the filling of potholes has not been adequate; the sidewalk project on Howe Street; and the kayak launch near the marina. There are others as we move forward including a comprehensive storm water plan and mitigation, burying power lines, the continued upgrade of our sewer and water infrastructure, with regionalization of our sewer system, which is a policy I promoted in 2019 and is the first step, once the upgrade is complete, to turning this whole system over to Brunswick County. I am in contact with our legislators concerning funding from Raleigh for our waterfront stabilization and erosion mitigation.



May 2021 Newsletter

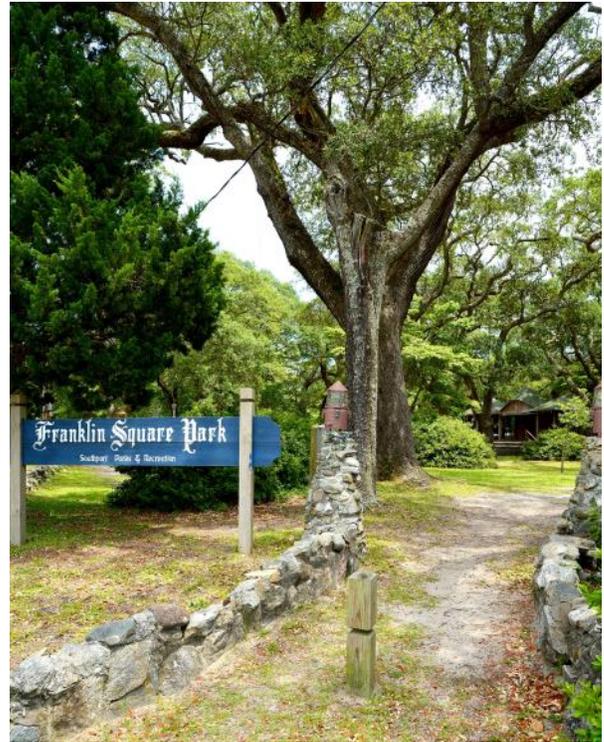
A Community Update from Mayor J.P. Hatem, MD, MPH

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This is not only for our city and county, but for the entire state as the waterfront in Southport is one of the crown jewels in North Carolina and I want to make sure this view and iconic historic heritage is preserved for generations. I also am working towards the full funding of the restoration of the iconic Southport Weather Tower.

Preserving our history and heritage is important to me, to our city and to our citizens. If you have not contributed and would like to, go to [WeatherTowerPreservationFund/cityofsouthport.com](https://www.cityofsouthport.com/WeatherTowerPreservationFund/) for more information.

May is an important month for our city with respect to the pandemic. With Governor Cooper's new executive order with respect to loosening restrictions concerning the mask mandate for outdoors being lifted, the city will adapt and evolve as I have previously stated. Our city was first in stating we would be opening up, including our Visitors Center, City Hall, and holding events on the garrison lawn, June 1st. Southport has led and continues to lead the way in terms of the pandemic. With the lifting of the outdoor mask mandate and increasing the limits on indoor and outdoor gatherings, we have made the following additional changes. City Hall and the Visitors Center will open June 1st as scheduled, still wearing masks indoors but with pre-pandemic activity. This will give the staff time to prepare for "business as usual." Our parks will be open to events, including Waterfront, Franklin Square, and Caviness Parks starting June 1st. This will permit the Summer Market, the Summer Concerts, Plein Air, and other events as per-



As of June 1, Southport parks will be open to events, including Waterfront, Franklin Square, and Caviness Parks.

mitted by the city to be allowed in the parks as the public health guidelines have changed. Masks are still required indoors and I am still promoting that everyone "Take Your Best Shot" and please get vaccinated and encourage all your family and friends to do so. We can immunize our way out of this pandemic.

Our city is moving in "A Better Way Forward" and is making progress daily. Look no further than City Dock with the ribbon cutting scheduled for May 5th. Southport is vibrant, our downtown and yacht basin is overflowing, people making memories and our economic recovery is strong. I want to thank our city employees for their continued hard work and

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

Continued from previous page



The City of Southport is pleased to announce the re-opening of the City Dock in the Yacht Basin with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 11:00 am on Wednesday, May 5, 2021.

dedication and I appreciate the work of our City Manager, City Finance Officer and staff, and the Board of Aldermen in developing our budget and helping to make Southport one of the greatest cities to live. So in May, remembrance and celebration, even including looking out for “our whale” who has been spotted in the Cape Fear River. See the front page of The State Port Pilot. I have talked to officials at the aquarium at Fort Fisher and at the Marine Mammal Stranding Program at UNCW. We are all working together for a good outcome for this migrating juvenile hump back whale and

I appreciate the concern our citizens have shown for this young mammal. Southport is a compassionate, kind, joyful, and resilient, quaint fishing village on the Cape Fear River, that proclaims southern hospitality and holds on to its heritage and virtues. How fortunate we all are to live here.

My best wishes to you and your family and your friends, during the Month of May!

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



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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City of Southport Building Inspections

The building inspection and permit office are responsible for issuing and keeping a record of permits and inspections. These include buildings, fences, accessory structures of any size, demolitions, electrical, mechanical (HVAC and Gas), and plumbing. Inspections are performed for these permits to ensure your safety, and to make sure that the contractor that you have hired, or the work that you are doing, is done properly. Inspectors also assure compliance with the plans and check workmanship as well as code compliance. The inspector is the first person to review the plans, drawings, and site layouts to make sure they conform to the requirements of local or specified code.

Everyone assumes when you walk in a store, a house, or a restaurant, that everything is safe, all the way from the building, the electrical, the power, all the way to the plumbing. The inspector not only inspects houses, but also your restaurants and businesses. When the inspector inspects restaurants, they are looking for handicap accessibilities, fire extinguishers, proper doors, and mechanical ventilation hoods, which are ventilation systems above ranges and griddles, broilers, ovens, and above counter dishwashers.

When building a house, all permits (plumbing, electrical, must have a final inspection before a final inspection on the finished building permit can be performed. This means that the plumbing, the electrical, and the mechanical all must be up



to code and pass before a Certificate of Occupancy is issued. A Certificate of Occupancy means that all codes are compliant and that the house is ready to move into and is issued at the final inspection of everything.

Not everything requires a permit when building or renovating. Some examples of when a permit is required would be if you are changing the structure, changing the footprint, removing or adding a wall, converting an existing room into something different (a garage into a master bedroom), or if you are changing the roofing structure of your house. Things like painting, replacing shingles, replacing certain kitchen appliances, or repaving your driveway, are a few examples that can all be done without a permit.



Meet... Kiley Barefoot, Building Inspector

My name is Kiley Barefoot. I am the new Building Inspector for the City of Southport. I have over 30 years of building experience and was excited to accept this position on April 1, 2021.

My typical day starts around 8:00 a.m. answering phone calls, emails, and reviewing plans for permits. After a few hours of office work, I generally head out to do the inspections scheduled for the day. While performing inspections is the major part of my day, *continued*

Meet... Kiley Barefoot, Building Inspector

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there is more paperwork to complete when I return to the office in the afternoon.

The most surprising thing about my job is that there are so many hats the building inspector wears. One, for example, is that I am the Cemetery Superintendent... I never thought I would be wearing that hat! I'm sure more surprises will arise as I get settled into the role of Southport's building inspector.

Some of my favorite things to do in Southport

are to bike downtown with my wife Maureen, walk on the City pier, and visit the many small shops and restaurants in town.

My downtime is filled with woodworking in my shop and visiting family and friends. I also like to enjoy some couch time; I have been known to be a couch potato on rainy days!

Southport is my home. I may not be a native to Southport but for me, it's home now...

Meet... William Davis, ABC Board Chairman



Hello, I am William Davis, Chairman of the ABC Board for the City of Southport. I have served as a member of the board for approximately 12 years.

The purpose of the ABC Board is to provide the highest level of service to the citizens and visitors who come through our door. The main projects I have been involved with include remodeling the existing store and increasing the size of our current building to better serve our customers. Some residents will be surprised to learn I am on the Board and serve as the Chairman; possibly making history as the first Black to serve on the ABC Board as Chairman.

I was born and raised in Southport, NC, and am a proud graduate of the Brunswick County Training School. I studied at Fayetteville State University for two years and later received an Industrial Maintenance degree from Brunswick Technical Community College. I am a Vietnam Veteran and I retired from E.I. DuPont after 29 years of service.

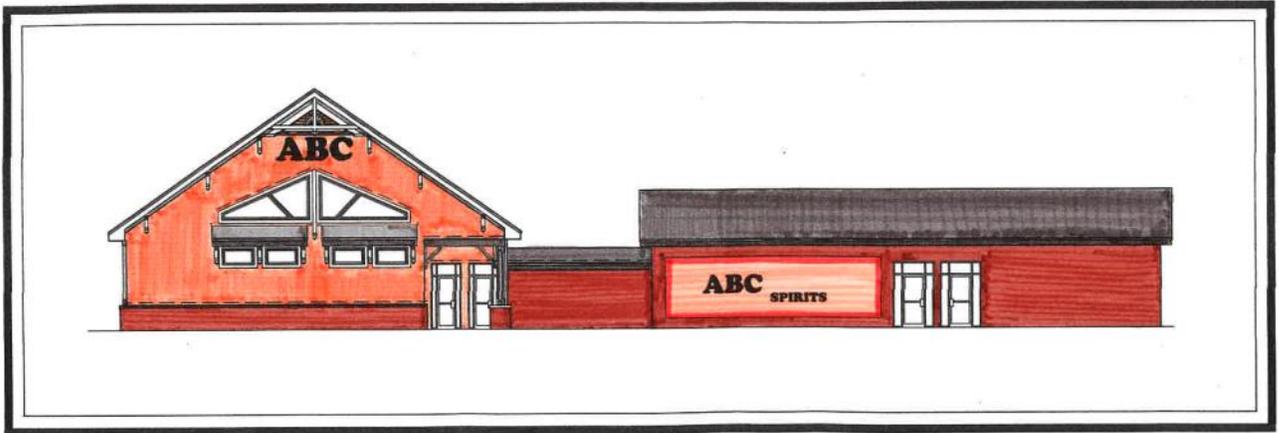
My wife, Cozette C. Davis, and I have two children, five grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

I belong to several organizations: Mount Carmel AME Church, Pythagoras # 6 PHA, Consistory #63, Habib Temple 159 Shriner, Royal Ark Mason, Eastern Star # 555, and the American Legion Post # 213.

In my time off, I enjoy traveling and visiting family and friends. As a long-time resident of Southport, I especially enjoy the 4th of July festival and I love to spend time at the waterfront.

Southport is the best place to live and visit. There is no place in the world like Southport, NC!

ABC Store Expansion



In early April, the Southport ABC Store began preparation for the expansion of their building in downtown Southport. The new extension will be approximately 3900 square feet, and it will include a new retail area, office space, and a breakroom. The existing section of the store will become warehouse space, as well as, an area for servicing restaurants and clubs.

If all goes well, without major delays, we are hoping to complete the project by mid-August.

The new addition will allow us to carry more product and provide better service to our customers and restaurants.

On April 20, 2021, the City of Southport held a groundbreaking ceremony to commemorate the start of the construction.

Thank you for your support and patronage. We look forward to continuing to serve and provide merchandise to the City of Southport and surrounding areas. Customer service is our number one goal. If you don't see what you are looking for, please ask and we will do what we can to get it!



Pictured are Todd Dunn, ABC Store Manager, Mayor Hatem, and ABC Board Members, William Davis (Chairman), Zach Zuehlke, and Angela Wadsworth



Southport Forestry Committee

Trees and Construction

In last month's newsletter, we talked about considering the existing trees on your property when planning to build on or renovate your lot. This month, let's talk a bit about how to protect those trees that will remain during the construction/renovation process.

The trees on our lots or in our yards are often the most dramatic feature of the landscape. Whether your home and yard are established or you're looking at an "empty" lot to build on, chances are whatever trees you have are attractive additions to your home. Not only are they aesthetically pleasing, but if mature, they provide the most valuable asset there is in a Southport summer; shade. An established, mature tree is like money in the bank to you and has actual monetary value, so we want to protect that asset as best we can whenever we're going to do anything disruptive to the landscape.

Whether it's a major project like building a new home, or a smaller project at your current home, those trees that you have chosen to retain in your landscape need to be protected during the process to ensure they survive and thrive.

Here's the thing to remember: **The vast majority of tree roots exist in the top 8"-12" of soil, and contrary to popular opinion, they can extend beyond the drip-line (canopy).** These fine roots are where all the water and oxygen that the trees require to live are taken up or used. The soil needs to be protected where these roots are as well. So, what are some things we need to be attentive to?

Protecting the tree itself: Roping off or fencing around a tree can ensure that it doesn't get hit



by construction equipment or have building materials leaned against it.

Compaction: Don't store construction materials under the drip line of a tree – heavyweight or activity under the tree can compact the soil, which damages the biomass, reduces the number of pores (where water and oxygen are stored), and can damage or expose fine roots.

Chemicals: Paint or solvents spilled or dumped on the ground can poison a tree. Concrete can change the pH of the soil to alkaline, which most trees don't like. Ensure that when equipment is cleaned of these solvents, it's done far away from trees and tree roots.

Grading: as noted above, the majority of the fine roots are located in the top 8"-12" of soil – scraping away soil or piling soil on the existing grade can damage or suffocate these delicate roots.

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Southport Forestry Committee

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Removing too many trees: If you're starting with a vacant (no structure) lot, most likely, you're going to have to remove some trees. However, leave as many as you can, not only for the aesthetics, but trees support and protect one another from the environment. Whether it be wind (a tree standing alone has a much greater chance of being damaged or uprooted), or sun (understory trees can suffer from "sunburn" if exposed), when you change the environment in any way, the trees are going to need time to recover.

There are many hazards on a construction site that can have a negative impact on your trees, and lots of resources that can assist in identifying them. The important thing is to be aware and to care for these valuable assets throughout the construction process. Protect your trees as you would any other valuable asset in your portfolio! *Scott A. Len, Chairman.*

Southport Beautification Committee

The beautification committee's planning Board has two spots opening in June and are seeking candidates who would like to join the other seven members until June 2023. Our by-laws require a minimum of six members to live within Southport city limits and, at most, three members to live outside the city limits but within the 28461 Zip Code. The available two spots are only open to city residents as the board already has three board members from outside the city limits. The deadline for applications is May 15th and are available on the city's website here: <https://cityofsouthport.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/application-for-appointment-to-board-and-committees-2017.pdf>. We can use your help!



The weather didn't dampen the spirit of the Beautification volunteers as they staid various gazebos around town. Once again we appreciate the help of some of our South Brunswick High School honor society students.

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Taylor Field Master Plan

Taylor Field was the official baseball field for Southport High School for many years. In September 2017, the field was donated by the Harper family to the City with the stipulation that it be used for recreational purposes.

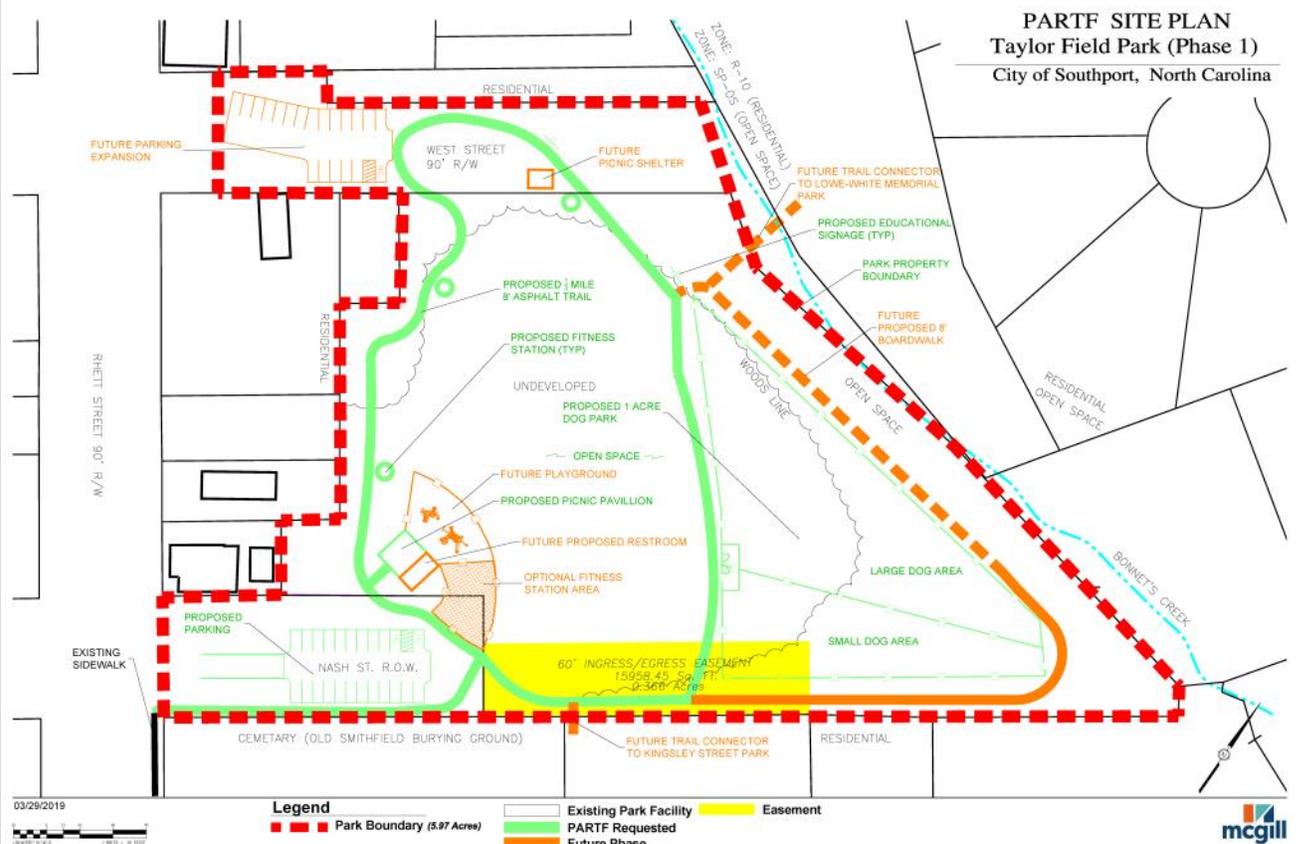
The City of Southport recognizes the importance of planning as a means of improving recreation opportunities for all its residents and visitors. As a result, the Southport hired McGill Associates to create a City Park Master Plan for the existing Taylor Field park owned by the City. The City has moved forward with the development of the site-specific master plan as part of the initial planning effort.

Public input played an important role in understanding user needs and desires for the Park Master Plan. As a part of the community out-

reach, public meetings were held to solicit public opinion about possible improvements to Taylor Field. As a part of these meetings, participants were asked to identify and prioritize the recreation facilities and programs that were lacking in the community.

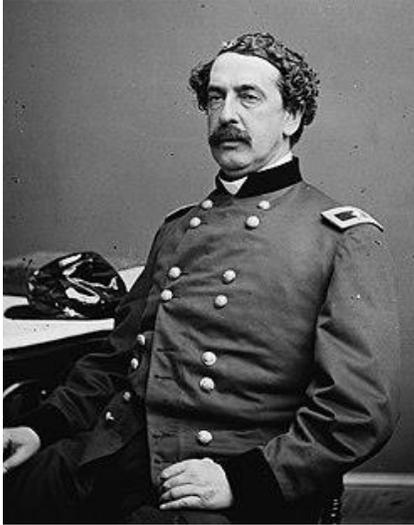
A Parks and Recreation Survey was distributed throughout the community to gather additional input for future facility needs and programming elements. A reoccurring theme among the study findings was the need for exercise opportunities, a place to share the outdoors with pet dogs, picnic opportunities, and facilities, such as restrooms and ample parking, necessary to support these functions.

Final recommendations and conceptual designs were drawn from these collaborative efforts.



A Glimpse of History

Abner Doubleday and the Baseball Myth



“U.S. Army Officer Abner Doubleday was a career military officer and prominent Union general in the Eastern Theater of the American Civil War.

Doubleday began his studies at West Point on September 1, 1838. He graduated on July 1, 1842. Following his graduation, the army brevetted Doubleday to second lieutenant and assigned him to the U.S. 3rd Artillery. He served the next three years on garrison duty at Fort Johnston, North Carolina, Fort Mchenry, Maryland, Fort Moultrie, South Carolina, and Fort Preble, Maine. On February 24, 1845, the army promoted Doubleday and he was transferred to Texas to fight in the Mexican-American War. He enjoyed a long military career and retired from the United States Army on December 11, 1873, credited with thirty years of continuous service.

Twelve years after Doubleday’s death, sporting goods magnate Albert Spalding sponsored the formation of the Mills Commission, tasked with determining the origins of the modern game of baseball. In 1907, the commission issued a report that credited Doubleday with inventing the game at Cooperstown, New York, in 1839.” <https://www.americanhistorycentral.com/entries/abner-doubleday/>

“Two years of haphazard information-gathering produced a ragged body of data. But amidst it all, Spalding found something he liked. A 71-year-old Denver mining engineer named Abner Graves wrote in 1905 two letters (one to the editor of the Akron, Ohio Beacon-Journal and the other to Spalding) recounting how, in his childhood home of Cooperstown, New York, a boy named Abner Doubleday surprised his playfellows one fine day with a concept for a game called “base ball.” The two letters, dated April 3 and November 17, 1905, are printed in David Block’s, *Baseball Before We Knew It: A Search for the Roots of the Game* (Lincoln and London: University of Nebraska Press, 2005), pp. 252-256. Spalding must have been overjoyed when he realized that not only had he found an eyewitness account affirming baseball’s American origin, but that its purported inventor grew up to be a military hero in the Civil War! Lacking anything more substantive or suitable to their inquiry, Spalding and the commission ran with it.

Elementary fact-checking reveals the future General Doubleday to have been enrolled at West Point at the time of his alleged invention.

So what about Abner Doubleday’s “invention” of baseball? No serious historian of baseball believes Doubleday established the rules of baseball, but the myth of Doubleday still persists to some degree.” [Circa 1840: The legendary Doubleday Game by Mark Pestana](#)

It is Southport lore, that during Doubleday’s commission at Fort Johnston, he and his men played the very same ball game that he had allegedly invented while in Cooperstown, New York.

Recipes Southport Style

Southern Chess Pie

Recipe by: www.southernliving.com/recipes/classic-chess-pie

Goey, buttery, and supremely sweet, the chess pie has been a staple of the Southern dessert table for a couple hundred years. The recipe always calls for butter, sugar, and eggs, but bakers differ when it comes to the thickening agent: Some prefer flour, while others prefer cornmeal, but ours uses both. As for the story behind the name, there are plenty. Some say it's called chess pie because it was kept in pie "chests;" others say that it's the result of a wife responding flippantly to her husband's question about what she was serving: "I don't know, it's ches' pie." Whatever you choose as the thickener or wherever the name came from, there's absolutely no disputing that a chess pie will be a crowd-pleaser every time you serve it. Even better? Our recipe uses premade piecrust, so pulling one together for last-minute celebrations is a breeze. *Southern Living*

Ingredients

Pie Crust:

- 1/2 (15-ounce) package refrigerated pie crusts
- pie weights or dried beans
- aluminum foil

Chess Pie:

- 2 cups sugar
- 2 tablespoons cornmeal
- 1 tablespoon flour
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine, melted
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1 tablespoon white vinegar
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 4 large eggs, lightly beaten
- Powdered sugar, for garnish

Directions

1. Bake Pie Crust: Fit piecrust in a 9-inch pieplate according to package directions; fold edges under, and crimp. Line pastry with aluminum foil. Fill with dried beans or pie weights and bake at 425° for 4 to 5 minutes. Remove weights and foil; bake 2 more minutes or until golden. Cool.
2. Make Pie: Stir together sugar, cornmeal, flour, salt, melted butter, milk, white vinegar, and vanilla extract until blended. Add eggs, and stir well before pouring into piecrust.
3. Bake at 350° for 50 to 55 minutes, shielding edges with aluminum foil after 10 minutes to prevent excessive browning. Cool completely on a wire rack. If desired, garnish with powdered sugar.





UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS

Board of Aldermen

2nd Thursday of each month
May 13, 6 p.m. - (SCB)

Forestry Committee

2nd Tuesday of each month
May 11, 5 p.m. - (ITMH)

Park & Recreation Board

2nd Tuesday of each month
May 11, 6:30 p.m. - (ITMH)

ABC Board

2nd Wednesday of each month
May 12, 6:30 p.m. - (ITMH)

Planning & Zoning Board

3rd Thursday of each month
April 15, 6 p.m. - (SCB)

Beautification Committee

3rd Monday of each month
May 16, 5 p.m. - (ITMH)

Zoning Board of Adjustments

4th Tuesday of each month
May 25, 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