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*City of Southport*

# September 2021 Newsletter

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

During the month of September, our Southport community joins the nation in commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001. This cowardly attack on those who were leading their normal lives, at the World Trade Center, at the Pentagon, at airports, as they boarded flights unaware that this would be their last morning on earth, and who were living in a nation that represents peace, democracy, liberty, and freedom. For those individuals and those ideals to be assaulted was an attack on humanity and an attack on the greatness that this country represents.

The Southport Fire Department is holding a ceremony on September 11th at 9:00 am at the Fire Station, to remember the 343 Fire Fighters who lost their lives on this day. I urge our citizens who are able, to attend and also to remember this day as "Patriots Day" as designated by every president since the joint resolution was adopted on December 18, 2001. We pray for and remember all those who were killed on this tragic day and pray for all those who were left behind, that they with time, may find solace in the memory of their loved ones and the courage, love and patriotism that was shown on that day.

For further commemoration of 9-11, go to the city website- [cityofsouthport.com](http://cityofsouthport.com)- and view my message from September 11, 2020.

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

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

(910) 457-7900 [www.cityofsouthport.com](http://www.cityofsouthport.com)



## Electric Services

### Load Management Program

It is possible to save on your electric bill by having load management switches installed on your electric water heaters, central air conditioning systems, or heat pump heating/cooling systems.

- There is no cost to install a switch.
- Water heaters are controlled 12 months of the year.
- Air conditioning units are usually controlled from May through October.
- All load management switches are installed by a licensed electrician.

### General Description of the Load Management Program

Load Management is a program that allows the Utility Provider to control electrical use at certain times to help avoid costly Peak Power Demands. Peak demand is when consumers try to consume more electricity than the provider can supply. Power generation plants running already at maximum must rely on auxiliary generation to supplement power to "The Grid".

Peak demands occur in the summer or winter when temperatures are extreme or sustained. The highest demands are during the hours of 6 to 8 a.m. when people are getting up and ready for work, and from 4 to 6 p.m. when people are getting home and settling in for the night. This "Peak" amount of power used determines costs for power. When the peak goes up, so do the costs.

When your load management switch is disconnected, your electric rate will revert back to the higher rate.

### Description of Load Management Programs

- **Cycling Air Conditioning Control - CA/C**

This program consists of cycling air conditioners during Load Management periods. Units will be off for 50% or approximately 15 minutes, twice every hour during load management. Only the compressor on the heat pump is switched off, so the circulatory fan inside the structure may continue to run during the off-cycle.

This is the most tolerable of the air conditioning control through load management. Most participants are unaware that the unit is being controlled. It is estimated that on the hottest summer day during load management, the temperature inside only increases two to four degrees.

- **Total Air Conditioning Control - TA/C**

Total Air Conditioning control is an expansion of the cycling air conditioning program. Instead of cycling units, 100% shed control shuts the units off completely during the peak period.

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# September 2021 Newsletter

## Electric Services

### Load Management Program

*continued from previous page*

Participating in Total Air Conditioning control is strictly VOLUNTARY and provides a \$0.02/kWh discount for the entire year.

Also, unlike cycling air conditioning control, participants will fully notice when their air conditioning is being controlled. Under Total A/C control, units will be off for three hours or longer at a time during high-temperature extremes. In some isolated cases, this may occur for many days in a summer month.

Participants under Total A/C often state that they are used to living without air conditioning or are not at home during the peak. Others willingly endure the inconvenience for the savings presented by the lower rate.

- **Water Heater Control - WH**

This program consists of turning off your electric water heater for the duration of the load management period. Customers with water heaters sized sufficiently for their family size and lifestyle, report they rarely if ever notice load management control.

Water heaters are controlled 12 months of the year. During cold winter months, control is usually from 6-8 a.m. Control is usually from 4-6 p.m. during hot summer months and at various afternoon and evening hours during the beginning and ending 4 months of summer. Occasionally during the spring and fall, control will be during both the morning and afternoon hours.

- **Heat Strip Control - HS**

This program consists of turning off the auxiliary (emergency) Heat Strips in the Heat Pump during the load management period. In extremely cold weather, heat strips are used to provide additional heat when the efficiency of heat pumps decreases.

Heat strips are controlled during the heating season usually between 6-8 a.m. As with all the Load Management programs, switches are installed by a licensed electrician.

More information can be found on the following links:

[Customer and City Requirements for Load Management Control](#)

[Ordinance amending Chapter 19, Article V, of the Southport City Code](#)

[Article V. Electrical Service](#)

[Sec. 19-186. Load Management](#)

[Customer Participant Agreement through Smart Thermostat Load Management Pilot Program](#)

If you have any questions, please call Public Works 457-7935 or the Load Management office at 457-7938.

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## Meet... Paul 'Ellie' Pittenger, City of Southport Electrical Superintendent



I am the Electrical Superintendent for the Public Services Department of the City of Southport. I originally started with the City in the 1990s, worked for four years, left, and returned in 2003. I have been here ever since.

The Electrical Department is a one-man show. In a typical workday, I begin by consulting with my superiors and coworkers regarding any electrical concerns. My daily responsibilities may include meeting with BEMC personnel at various worksites to discuss necessary work that needs to be done, figuring out the best options, and speaking to or meeting with customers who may have concerns over the usage recorded on their electric bill. Many people are pleasantly surprised at my hands-on approach when I arrive and even 'help out.'

The City offers a Load Management program, and I answer questions and educate customers about the energy-saving methods we offer. In addition, I assist residents and businesses in locating possible causes of high electrical use. Records for internal, State and Federal agencies need to be updated daily. Because we live close to a nuclear power facility, twice each month, I replace the air pump filters and send them to the State Lab which monitors background radiation.

My grandmother owned Arrington's, which was a local dress shop in Southport. I get my middle name from my grandfather, Eldridge Arrington. That's where the nickname "Ellie" comes from.

I love to eat at any of Southport's dining establishments. Driving along the waterfront to "make sure the river is flowing properly" is one of my most favorite things to do. I also love to count the light beams from the Oak Island lighthouse at night. I love seeing our water tank, day or night.

I was born at J. Arthur Doshier Memorial Hospital and was delivered by Doctor Landis Brown. "Southport is and always has been my home."

### Electric Services Mission Statement

1. To work closely with BEMC to ensure that O&M contracts obligations are met and to work with BEMC and developers on system improvements projects.
2. To work with BEMC on maintenance of City's street lighting program and coordinate multi-year work plan of Electric distribution system.
3. To work with ElectriCities and Load Management vendors in increasing efficiency and effectiveness of the load management infrastructure and system.

# September 2021 Newsletter

## Southport Community Building

After being closed for over a year, the Community Building is back open for business! The Southport Community Building is a multi-use facility located on the banks of the Cape Fear River where the Atlantic Ocean and the Intra-Coastal Waterway join. The beautiful building is located in historic Southport and provides an impressive backdrop for all occasions. With over 2400 square feet of flexible space in the main hall, the Community Building offers the versatility to accommodate groups of up to 160 for seminars, conferences, company parties, annual meetings, reunions, weddings, banquets, trade shows, and entertainment events. Whether you're planning your wedding, anniversary, family reunion, class reunion, military reunion or any other type of get-together which reunites family, friends, or co-workers, the City of Southport is the perfect setting. [Visit our website for more information!](#)



ESTABLISHED 1792  
*Southport* Community Building  
★ N.C. ★

Whether you're planning your wedding, anniversary, family reunion, class reunion or any other type of get-together which reunites family, friends, or the community, the City of Southport is the perfect setting.

To schedule a tour please contact us at (910) 457-0665

To find more information, visit [cityofsouthport.com/southport-community-building](http://cityofsouthport.com/southport-community-building)

Photography by Digital Wunderland, Provided by Blue Satin Bee

# September 2021 Newsletter

## Meet... Allayna Dail

### Southport Community Building Manager



I am the Community Building Manager and the Tourism & Communications Administrator for the City of Southport Department of Tourism and Communication. I started on July 21, 2021. My main responsibility has been to get the Community Building back up and running since it was closed in March 2020 due to Covid-19. We are excited to start holding events again. So far, the most surprising thing that has happened is how EASY it is to book events here. This building truly sells itself!

I am originally from Oriental, NC. In 2013, I moved to Wilmington for college, and I have been living in that general area since then. I am currently commuting to Southport, but I plan to move this way soon. I enjoy spending as much time as possible outdoors in my spare time. I especially enjoy kayaking.

## Southport Beautification Committee



Southport Beautification volunteers gather to hear instructions for a Saturday morning workday around town. Anyone interested in spending a little time beautifying our city can meet on the first Saturday of each month, starting September 4th, at the old jail annex on Rhett Street at 9 am. No need to bring anything but your energy and good intentions.

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# September 2021 Newsletter



## Southport Forestry Committee

### Considering the Economic Benefits of Trees

Few spend time considering the ways in which trees contribute to their household finances, yet trees provide a myriad of economic benefits. These benefits are further amplified in communities that place a value on preserving and expanding the tree cover.

The most common way in which trees are monetized is when they are sold for lumber. There are professional tree appraisers who can give an estimate of a tree's potential value. Homeowners can also generate informal estimates by consulting online resources. For example, The Noble Research Institute publishes a formula for calculating a tree's worth when one is seeking compensation for, say, a lost tree (<https://www.noble.org/news/publications/ag-news-and-views/2015/november/formula-provides-basis-for-tree-appraisal/>). The Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers (CTLA) has developed cost, income, and sales comparison approaches to tree appraisal, and Purdue University Extension publishes a brochure that provides guidance on how to use the CTLA approaches (<https://www.purdue.edu/fnr/extension/revised-publication-tree-appraisal-and-the-value-of-trees/>).

It is not necessary to sell a tree in order to enjoy the economic benefits. The U.S. Forest Service estimates that trees reduce a home's demand for air conditioning by as much as 30 percent. While less common in our area, strategically-placed deciduous trees can reduce heating costs by 20 percent. The U.S. Department of Energy has developed computer models that show that as few as three properly-situated trees can save \$100-250 in annual energy costs, while First Energy Corporation notes that shading an air conditioner can increase its efficiency by as much as 10%. *continued on next page*



*Live oak trees provide relief from summer heat.*



## Southport Forestry Committee

### Considering the Economic Benefits of Trees

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Southport's live oaks are one of the City's first lines of defense against hurricane damage. As discussed in previous Forestry Committee columns, they protect people's roofs by lifting the wind over the roof. When trees are planted together, as they are in Southport, they function as a windbreak and block the wind from ground level to the treetops. First Energy Corporation indicates that trees have the potential to reduce wind speed for a distance of as much as 30 times the height of the trees ([https://www.firstenergycorp.com/help/saving\\_energy/trees.html](https://www.firstenergycorp.com/help/saving_energy/trees.html)).



*Trees planted close together provide a windbreak.*

Trees increase a home's resale value. The Urban Forestry Network notes that properties with trees have property values 5-15% higher than comparable properties without trees. The U.S. Forest Service reports that each large front yard tree "adds 1% to the house sales price, and large specimen trees can add 10%."

Trees are critical to stormwater control. The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) has shown that up to 90 percent of precipitation filters into the ground as opposed to becoming runoff. The U.S. Forest Service notes that 100 mature trees can capture nearly 140,000 gallons of rainwater per year. This benefits the homeowner by protecting against flooding and by reducing municipal costs for dealing with stormwater runoff.

Less easy to calculate for the individual household but no less important to society are the benefits of trees for such things as mental health (discussed in a previous Forestry Committee newsletter article), as the source of oxygen for breathing, as a contributor to the lower prevalence of asthma among children, and as a player in the carbon absorption and sequestration cycle. In the United Kingdom, Investors in the Environment have shown that the physical weight of a tree is composed of 50% carbon.

There are tools that allow homeowners to calculate the overall benefit of their trees. One such tool is the National Tree Benefit Calculator developed by Casey Trees and the Davey Tree Expert Company (<http://www.treebenefits.com/calculator/treeinfor.cfm?zip=28461&city=SOUTHPORT&state=NC&climatezone=South&country=US>). There are also tools that allow communities to quantify the benefits of their trees on a more macro level. An example of this is the suite of applications offered by [itreetools.org/tools](http://itreetools.org/tools).

To quote the U.S. Forest Service:

**"It Pays to Care for Trees. Trees Pay Us Back."**

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## A Glimpse of History:

### The Old Brunswick County Courthouse



*Artist Illustration of the Brunswick County Courthouse, Circa 1865 Civil War Era*

The Old Brunswick County Courthouse was originally built in the mid-1800s and served as the County Courthouse until 1977 when the court was relocated to the new government center in Bolivia. The building served as Southport City Hall from 1979 until 2014, when administrative operations were moved to their current location on Howe Street. The building is still owned by the city but has been vacant for several years.

It is in a fairly advanced state of disrepair. There are significant environmental issues with mold, most likely with lead and asbestos, as

well. A new roof was installed within the last ten years, but there was already extensive water damage by that time and the building was declared uninhabitable in 2016.

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) between Up Your Arts and the City of Southport was approved by elected officials in November 2019. Successful completion of the agreement included a feasibility study to determine whether the building was a viable candidate for restoration from both a civil engineering standpoint and mold remediation. It passed the test.

A second MOU was approved between the parties in December 2020 for the next year-long stage, which will identify the physical design, programming, and fundraising necessary for financial sustainability, as well as, the management structure under which reconstruction would take place.

Up Your Arts is working to transform and repurpose the old city hall building located at 201 East Moore Street in downtown Southport. John Keiffer, Board Member of Up Your Arts, plants an image in our minds. "Envision an arts center in the historic heart of the city: an informal gathering spot for everyone in our community and a must-see destination for out-of-town family and other visitors. We have a vision for a self-sustaining, state-of-the-art performing and creative arts center that reflects the community we are. Informal, creative, responsible, caring."

In keeping with their mission of advocating for the art and music community, Up Your Arts has met over the last many months with various officials from the City of Southport and community organizations to discuss possible re-uses of the old city hall building. They are inspired by the building's history and its standing in the community, both for its prominent downtown location and for its status as a center of municipal and civic life. *continued*

# September 2021 Newsletter

## A Glimpse of History:

### The Old Brunswick County Courthouse

*continued from previous page*



*Vintage postcard from the first half of the 20th century*



*A porch was added to the courthouse in 1922*



*Wings were added to the building in the 60s*



*Old Brunswick County Courthouse Circa 2018*

The overall plan consists of a multi-year, multi-million-dollar project to effect a major reconstruction of the building. The construction and operation of the new “Southport Center for The Arts” will come at no cost to the taxpayers. Funding for the project will come through a variety of grants, corporate sponsorships, and private giving programs.

In addition to creating space for visual and performing artists to work and exhibit, Up Your Arts proposes to renovate the grand hall upstairs for reuse as a public meeting chamber for the city’s governing body. The center will also provide additional space for weddings and events when the Southport Community Building is booked to capacity. The hall is acoustically well suited to support a state-of-the-art, intimate venue offering a broad range of performance art: dance, choral recitals, chamber music, storytelling, theater, listening concerts, etc.

An outdoor sculpture garden, with seating and performance areas, will enhance the entrance from Moore Street. The first floor will house rented studio space to visual artists, private and co-op, and the wide, central hallway would function as an exhibition gallery. A welcoming foyer will provide information on all upcoming art and music events throughout the area and help promote existing art and community organizations. Up Your Arts also plans to dedicate space to be used communally by Brunswick County non-profit and community organizations.

Up Your Arts will continue a variety of grassroots outreach efforts to further refine the vision and usage of the building. These will include community-wide presentation and feedback events, social media presentations, smaller focus and discussion groups,

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# September 2021 Newsletter

## A Glimpse of History:

### The Old Brunswick County Courthouse

*continued from previous page*

(held throughout the area in a variety of venues and formats), and ongoing conversations with municipal leaders.

Additionally, Up Your Arts has identified and consulted with numerous individuals from the greater Southport area who have demonstrated expertise in various program areas. These consultations have helped refine the actual program elements they hope to pursue in the re-design process.

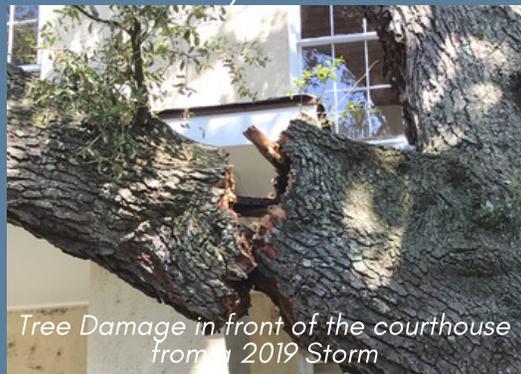
During the coming months, professional architectural services will be engaged and funded by Up Your Arts. The selected firm will assist with defining and prioritizing all aspects of program development and in evaluating the requirements for engineering and hazardous material remediation services. The firm will then prepare a series of architectural drawings, specifications, and construction budgets.

A separate non-profit board of trustees will also be identified during the next few months to become the legal agency to oversee and direct funding for the reconstruction and be the agency with which the City of Southport will enter long-term leasing agreements. The membership of this board will be selected from various stakeholders throughout the greater Southport community.

As Up Your Art moves forward, they are committed to both transparency and accountability in its partnership with the City of Southport and its various community partners. "The offers of support we have received, both financially and pro bono, in a hands-on activity, point to a very successful project outcome," states Bonnie Bray, Treasurer, Up Your Arts.

Once completed, the City will begin to celebrate having a true community-based performing and creative arts center in the heart of Southport. Visit the Up Your Arts website at [www.upyourarts.org](http://www.upyourarts.org) to take a virtual 3D tour of the building. While visiting the website you can also donate your time, treasures and talents to the campaign. **Let's "Save the Hall, Y'all!"**

*In 2019, the tree in front of the Old Brunswick County Courthouse suffered a limb failure during a storm. A subsequent inspection by an Arborist indicated that there were enough concerns about the overall health of the tree, and the likelihood of further failures, to warrant removal for safety reasons. In short order, the Forestry Committee worked with City Staff to*



*Tree Damage in front of the courthouse from 2019 Storm*



*The Old Brunswick County Courthouse as it stands today.*

*replace the tree during the following planting cycle so that future generations will be able to sit in the shade of the front lawn of the renovated City Hall Arts Center."*

# September 2021 Newsletter

## Recipes Southport Style:

### Brunswick Stew

Brunswick Stew is a classic southern dish full of delicious smoked pork, veggies, and a savory barbecue broth. It's the perfect way to warm up on a chilly fall day, or just when you're craving a taste of the south!

<https://belleofthekitchen.com/brunswick-stew/>

Prep Time: 10 minutes    Cook Time: 1 hour 40 minutes    Total Time: 1 hour 50 minutes  
Servings: 10 servings    Calories: 342 kcal

Author: Ashlyn Edwards | Belle of the Kitchen

### Ingredients

- 4 Tablespoon butter
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 large yellow onion, finely chopped
- 1 (15 oz) can fire roasted tomatoes (undrained)
- 4 cups chicken stock
- 1 1/2 cups barbecue sauce (I used Sweet Baby Ray's)
- 2 Tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 Tablespoon brown sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1 1/2 pounds smoked pulled pork (or chicken)
- 8 oz. frozen corn
- 8 oz. frozen lima beans
- Salt and pepper to taste



### Instructions

- Melt butter in a large Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Once melted, add the garlic and onions and saute until soft, about 5 minutes.
- Stir in the tomatoes, chicken stock, barbecue sauce, Worcestershire, brown sugar, cayenne, smoked pork, lima beans, corn and salt and pepper.
- Bring the mixture to a boil, then reduce to a simmer and cook over medium-low heat for 1 1/2 hours, stirring occasionally.



 *2021 Southport Summer Concert Series*

**Franklin Square Park**  
Southport Parks & Recreation

**Thursday, 6-8 p.m. in Franklin Square Park**  
**September 2: Back Porch Rockers**  
**(Classic Rock/Blues)**  
***SPONSOR: Moore Street Oyster Bar***

Sponsored by the City of Southport Department of Parks and Recreation, with the support of Brunswick County Parks and Recreation, The City of Southport Department of Tourism and by Downtown Southport, Inc., with the support of local businesses.

[www.cityofsouthport.com](http://www.cityofsouthport.com) (910) 457-7927



## Southport Fire Department Remembering the 343 Memorial Ceremony

September 11, 2021  
Ceremony 9:00 am



1011 N. Howe St.  
Southport, N.C.  
28461

343 Fire boots will be displayed in Front of Headquarters  
In Remembrance of the first responders  
who gave the ultimate sacrifice

9/11/2001  
Sponsors:  
Boots Provided by:  
Haix  
C.W. Williams



Made with PosterMyWall.com

Join your friends, neighbors & visitors!  
Hosted by the Sisters of Southport

## Southport Flag Ceremony

Waterfront Park (Howe & Bay Streets)  
Daily at 7:30 pm  
August 7 through September 30, 2021

# September 2021 Newsletter



## 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/](http://www.cityofsouthport.com/southportconnected/)



Local Farm Fresh Fruits and Vegetables • Baked Goods  
Flowers and Herbs • Local Arts and Crafts

## 2021 Southport Summer Market

Wednesdays

8 am - 1 pm

June 2 - September 29

Franklin Square Park  
Corner of Howe & E. West Streets



910.279.4616 • [DowntownSouthport.com](http://DowntownSouthport.com)

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# September 2021 Newsletter

## UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS

### ABC Board

2nd Wednesday of each month  
September 8, 6:30 p.m. - (ITMH)

### Board of Aldermen

2nd Thursday of each month  
September 9, 6 p.m. - (SCB)

### Forestry Committee

2nd Tuesday of each month  
September 14, 5 p.m. - (ITMH)

### Park & Recreation Board

2nd Tuesday of each month  
September 14, 6:30 p.m. - (ITMH)

### Planning & Zoning Board

3rd Thursday of each month  
September 16, 6 p.m. - (SCB)

### Beautification Committee

3rd Monday of each month  
September 19, 5 p.m. - (ITMH)

### Zoning Board of Adjustments

4th Tuesday of each month  
September 28, 4:30 p.m. - (ITMH)

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