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City of Southport

February 2023 Newsletter

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



In February, our city is focusing on workshops, the next one is scheduled for February 7th and then the Board of Aldermen Meeting on February 9th. One of the most important issues Southport has and was mentioned in last month's newsletter is regionalization /merger feasibility of the waste water treatment system with Brunswick County. There will be a presentation at the February 7th workshop on the project and on the cost to the city for the wastewater plant expansion. It will be an agenda item on the February 9th Board of Aldermen Meeting. This was one of many Capital Improvement Projects and issues discussed at the January Board of Aldermen workshop. Other projects listed included: Shoreline Stabilization (workshop on this issue February 27th); Dredging in the Yacht Basin; Burying Power Lines; Sewer pipes and pump stations; Taylor Field; Southport Cemeteries; Storm Water/Engineering Consultant for this and other projects; Police/City Hall Feasibility Study; Grants; ARPA Funding; and other issues deemed important to our city. During this past week, I continued to discuss the regionalization of our wastewater treatment /sewer system and the project of waterfront stabilization with Sen. Bill Rabon and Rep. Charlie Miller as well as discussed additional infrastructure issues and the need for further funding. I thanked them for how they have helped our city in the past and for continuing to do so in this legislative session. The February 7th Workshop will focus on the wastewater treatment facility with the county; the issue of the Right of Way in our city; and the Board will review the agenda for the February 9th

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

(910) 457-7900 www.cityofsouthport.com



February 2023 Newsletter

A Community Update from the Mayor

Continued

Board of Aldermen Meeting.

February is Black History Month and the City of Southport will be hosting the Brunswick County Black History Symposium February 17th–19th, at the Southport Community Building. I look forward to attending this now in-person event. Please see further details in the Newsletter. I appreciate the efforts of Mr. Donnie Joyner, the founder of the symposium, and all those involved who are making this year’s event possible.

In February, we celebrate our Presidents, Abraham Lincoln on February 12th and George Washington on February 22nd, and all Presidents on Presidents Day, Monday, February 20th.

February is American Heart Month. See your doctor and if not already doing so begin risk factor modification for heart disease: Exercise, Diet, Smoking Cessation, Blood Pressure Control, Lowering Cholesterol and Glucose if elevated, and have scheduled appropriate screening tests. In Public Health, prevention is a cornerstone principle, and preventing and mitigating cardiovascular disease, from heart attacks to atrial fibrillation, improves health and quality of life.

February 8, 1910, the Anniversary of the founding of the Boy Scouts of America. In Southport there has been a long tradition of Scouting, including most recently, the Eagle Scout Court of Honor held last month at Trinity United Methodist Church, which has sponsored Scout Troop 238 for over 50 years. Jackson Enis and Ethan Overton of Troop 238, received their Eagle Scout Award. I, as Mayor, and as an Eagle Scout, was invited to attend and speak. It was an inspiring ceremony with the entire troop and family members and friends present and the First Lady and I were honored to be in attendance. I congratulate these scouts and Troop 238 and the scout leaders who volunteer their time to scouting and wish them continued success.

And in February, Valentine’s Day, February 14th. Remember the loved ones in your lives, especially that special someone. I recommend as always shopping locally and supporting our Southport Business Community, our unique shops and stores, and wonderful restaurants whether for casual or fine dining.

Our city moves in the Best Way Forward, Capital Improvement Projects, Workshops, and Board Meetings. We Celebrate Black History Month, we celebrate our Presidents and the Boy Scouts. We are aware of American Heart Month and we cherish always in our hearts our precious Valentines whether with us or in memory as we are engulfed with the heartfelt blessing that is Southport.



HELP THE CITY OF SOUTHPORT CELEBRATE IN FEBRUARY

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

BRUNSWICK COUNTY BLACK HISTORY SYMPOSIUM
FEB. 17 - 19
SOUTHPORT COMMUNITY BUILDING

February 2023 Newsletter

Meet... Patricia Fortuna Human Resource Director



I've been with the City of Southport as the HR Director for four months. Something unique about this position for me is that I am a department of one. I've been in HR for over 30 years and have worked in many different settings and supported many states on the West and East Coasts. Human Resources is not just what I do, it's part of who I am. I say this because I genuinely care about the well-being of people and their success in life.

The HR department's purpose is to manage our employees' recruitment and retention and to create consistency in improving performance, coaching, and reducing risk to our city. I strive to support excellence through the people who work and support our community every day. I am doing this by offering support and guidance to departments and employees utilizing a philosophy of communication, collaboration, and recognition. Oftentimes, HR is thought to be the decision maker on terminations and corrective actions; though that may be a small part of the role, Human Resources is more about supporting the employees in a positive way. The reporting requirement is critical to creating a culture where employee rights are respected and protected. I should be called for any allegation of discrimination, harassment, retaliation, or other unlawful conduct. I should also be notified if an employee needs an accommodation for any reason or if there is an allegation that an employee was not properly paid. With me being a department of one and all the daily happenings, an email is always best.

Upon joining the Southport team, I took the first 30 days to access the current programs in place while aligning with our new City Manager on areas of identified opportunity and focusing on a strategy for long-term actions that will create sustainability. A few examples of this are the implementation of NEOGOV, an HR Management Suite that allows us to attract more qualified candidates while creating a great onboarding experience. I also partnered with a third-party agency that will enable us to ensure a proper background is done on all employees based on their job positions. I am currently working on engagement surveys to create a culture so that employees feel they have a voice and to better understand what they are looking for. I aspire to complete the implementation of NEOGOV by mid-year along with creating a performance management process that is more specific to the positions in our city. I am also working on solutions to make the city greener with still ensuring compliance with all aspects of human resources.

Before moving to Southport, I had been working in California for 18 years and made the decision to relocate to North Carolina to care for my mother. I accepted a position in Wilmington soon after the big move. I then moved to Southport in 2022 and since living here, I haven't found a restaurant I don't love! Mr. P's is one of my favorites. My husband and I love relaxing on the beach and riding our bikes downtown. A fun fact about me is I was a gymnast when I was young, and I loved to compete. In my time off I enjoy cooking, painting, and spending time with family. "Southport is a great place to call home."

Staff Shout-Out!

"I would like you to know what a wonderful employee you have in Kate Marshall. Her compassion for animals is outstanding. She also is very personable with humans. She is a valuable employee"

- Joan Lofink



We want to hear from you! If you have kind words, submit them through the contact form on the website!

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February 2023 Newsletter

Southport Forestry Committee

Calling All Giant Oaks

to Membership in the Live Oak Society



If you have a live oak on your property that measures 8' or more in circumference (96" or more) at a point 4 ½ feet above the ground, it is eligible for membership in the Live Oak Society. Trees, not their owners, are the members, and the president of the Society is the largest live oak in the nation, currently the Seven Sisters Oak in Mandeville,

Louisiana. That oak is nearly 40 feet in circumference and is estimated to be at least 1,000 years old.

If your live oak, at 4 ½ feet above the ground, measures between 8' and 16' in circumference (between 96" and 192"), it is eligible to be a Junior League Tree. If it measures more than 16' in circumference (more than 192"), it is eligible for membership as a Centenarian Tree.

The Live Oak Society was established in 1934 to promote appreciation for and preservation of the live oak tree. It is operated under the auspices of the Louisiana Garden Club Federation and has only one "human" member, a chairperson who is responsible for registering and recording the members, that is, the trees.

Southport should be well-represented in the Society but currently has only two members: the Bay Street Oak (owned by Jill & Wayne Berry) and Hardee's Sweetheart (owned by Carol Bailey). So many more of our oaks are eligible, so the Forestry Committee is launching a campaign to help owners secure membership for their trees.



The application process is easy. Just go to <https://www.lgcfinc.org/live-oak-society.html> and download and print the Live Oak Registration Form. Complete the form and mail it via the U.S. postal service to the address on the form. Use a separate form for each tree you wish to register. There is no fee to register your tree(s) with the Society, although donations are always welcome.

If you would like assistance, contact Scott Len, chair of the Forestry Committee, at scottlialen@hotmail.com or Roxie Smith at rrs20@columbia.edu. They would be happy to come and help with measurements.

Let's give our trees the recognition they deserve!

February 2023 Newsletter

Southport Beautification Committee

Next Clean-up: February 4, 2023

The Southport Beautification's Committee first workday of 2023 started out with a nice show of folks interested in helping keep Southport Beautiful.

One team of folks went out and picked up Christmas decorations from around the City while others headed to the parks to do some early trimming on the lantanas. The Roundabout, which is one of the first areas that visitors to our City using the ferry see, saw some needed attention with weeding and general cleanup. Another crew headed out along the waterfront taking notes of items to add to the project list for 2023. This includes painting and staining various signs as well as the benches and picnic tables which see a great deal of use throughout the year.

One of the important projects that we have coming up is replacing the signs along the Saltmarsh Boardwalk. They are well-faded and the frames have begun to deteriorate from constant exposure to the sun and salt. We're working with various City Departments to ensure that these signs are replaced correctly and in keeping with the spirit of the boardwalk and our coastal views.

If there is a constant in Southport, it's the need for volunteers to help keep the City that we call home, beautiful. There is always a long list of things to be done and having you come out and help, would help shorten that list. So don't be shy. Our next workday is on Saturday, February 4th. We meet at 9 at the Old Jail Annex. There are few things that are more gratifying than being able to say that you help to keep Southport Beautiful. The only way to do that is to help. See you on the 4th.



Animal Protective Services Department has a NEW home!

Animal Protective Services is now located at 111 N. Rhett Street. The building is the former home to the Brunswick County Jail (1971-1977) and then The Friends of the Library Southport/Oak Island (1978-1980). It has been used as storage for multiple city departments since that time.

APS is now occupying the front portion of the building, with the back sections still being used for storage as the building undergoes more updates, both inside and out.

Look for more information about the new location as
APS continues to settle in!



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February 2023 Newsletter

Caswell Avenue Community Garden

The Winter Garden

Though the variety may be limited, mild temperatures and solid planning mean a gardener in Southport can have fresh produce throughout the winter. Many of our gardeners have cracked the code for year-round vegetables. These pictures were all taken in the second week of January 2023.

Collards, cabbages, kale, and lettuce seem to be the most popular. In February, potatoes, onions, and peas will go into the ground mid-month along with carrots.



Away from the garden, many more gardeners are gathering seeds and starting plants inside. Others will use the cold frame in our garden to jump-start their planting or will go ahead and plant outside in the garden and tent the tender seedlings when the temperatures drop below freezing. In a few months, they may be harvesting tomatoes!



Perhaps you would like to join in the fun of winter gardening. There are wonderful local and online resources available. The Carolina Farm Stewardship Association is one such source at gardening.ces.ncsu.edu. They offer an easy-to-follow calendar. But don't forget that Brunswick County Center, at brunswick.ces.ncsu.edu, is a part of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension which is partnered with NC A&T and NC State University. Their location in Bolivia hosts many events which are worth checking out.

We are located on Caswell Avenue behind the Southport Campus of Brunswick Community College. If the gate is open, stop in, have a look around, and chat with our members. We love showing off our gardens!



Find us on  Find us on Facebook @ Caswell Avenue Community Garden of Southport, NC: www.facebook.com/groups/483761655007537

The Low Income Energy Assistance Program

The LIEAP is now accepting applications to provide a one-time annual vendor payment to help eligible families offset winter heating expenses. The household's total countable income for the base period must be equal to or less than 130% of the current poverty level and the household's total resources must be \$2,250 or less. Please go to the portal epass.nc.gov through 3/31 to apply. Applicants can also submit a paper application through mail, fax, or by dropping it off at their local Social Services Department. Brunswick County's Social Services Department is located at Building B, 60 Government Center Drive, Bolivia, 28422. For more information, please call 910-253-2422.

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February 2023 Newsletter

A Glimpse of History: In the late 1800s, Southport Was Going Mad Over Cows *from A Bit of History newspaper archive*

Prologue by Susie Carson

Dr. Jon Lewis, formerly of Winston-Salem but now of Southport, has done a lot of research in early Southport newspapers and has found some interesting Bits of history.

For today's article, he shares some of his research about a town ordinance from when cattle once roamed our Southport streets. I think you will find this entertaining as I did, and it stirred my imagination as to what it must have been like living here in those days.

Article by Dr. Jon Lewis

The Cow Ordinances

Boldly displayed on the northwest corner at the intersection of Howe and Owens streets in Southport is a sign announcing the construction of a new center to be called Town Gate Crossing. Though sure to be a welcome addition to the historic community, the center's name harkens to an era long in the past - a time more than a century ago, when cows roamed the streets and a gate was required on the north side of town to keep the animals from meandering into the county.

During the final decade of the 19th century and the early years of the 20th century, much was promised for the community. Maritime trade had expanded and a quarantine station was constructed on the Cape Fear River. Shipping had increased both in Wilmington and at Southport's natural deep-water port. A Cleveland newspaper wrote about the future great city of the South. This image, though, was at odds with life in Southport.

Cows kept contained within the city limits by the town gate, presented an image of a small rural community, not that of a great city. The dichotomy was a source of great concern for those who had expectations of Southport's greatness. Cows, in the eyes of some, were a nuisance, and a campaign was initiated to restrict their freedom. Between 1890 and 1902, more than a dozen editorials appeared in the newspaper concerning the issue.

The campaign brought a response from the city fathers but was ignored by both the cows and those who owned them. Published in the Southport Leader in June 1890 was City Ordinance 14, which forbid the free-roaming of large animals, including pigs, goats, and cows, in the area bounded by Brown Street, Bonnet's Creek, the river, and Boundary Street.

This attempt to control the movement of livestock apparently failed, and a year later, city leaders modified the ordinance to grant free movement for all cattle, providing the owners paid an annual privilege tax of \$2. Revenue from the tax was not insignificant, and in 1893 it represented 7.5 percent of the town's income.

February 2023 Newsletter

In the late 1800s, Southport Was Going Mad Over Cows

Continued

"The city authorities could investigate... the records of numbers of very poor cattle that roam the streets of this city, day and night, destroying everything they can reach."

- 'Southport Leader,' May 2, 1895

Not all of the cattle, however, were registered, so in 1893 the ordinance was again modified, authorizing the Town Marshal to impound unregistered animals at a daily cost of 25 cents to the owner. A cow pound was constructed at the east end of Nash Street. In spite of these actions, cows registered and unregistered continued to be an annoyance.

This brought the Southport Leader to speak out again on May 2, 1895: "The city authorities could investigate, with profit to the city treasury, the records of numbers of very poor cattle that roam the streets of this city, day and night, destroying everything they can reach, especially if it looks green. They are not merely sources of annoyance to every property owner who is trying to cultivate a garden or grass plot, but they are perfect nuisances to the public in every particular. A little attention given to these vagabond cattle will be appreciated by the citizens."

The appeal fell on deaf ears, for a year later the cows remained "distinctly a nuisance." But in 1896, after six years of dealing with the issue, the town leaders decided to poll the residents on whether the cows should go or stay.

The results of the census, as reported by the Town Marshal:

Banish the cows, 103.

Let them roam at "their own sweet will," 95.

No mind on the question, 25.

Acknowledging the lack of consensus, the Town Council, in sympathy with the owners of cows, met two weeks later to write a compromise ordinance. Cows could roam the streets between sunrise and 9 p.m. in the summer but had to be off the streets by 8 p.m. in the winter. Calves could roam freely at all times, but bulls had to be contained. According to the Leader June 11, 1896). "the question seems to have cowed the city fathers. All animals big or little are welcome to our hospitable streets."

The historical records over the ensuing five years are sketchy, but the pro-development anti-cow forces ultimately prevailed. As specified in City Ordinance No. 1, published in the Southport Standard on May 16, 1901, cattle were no longer free to roam the streets of Southport. The town gate could be opened at last.

"Please keep in mind that after these ordinances were passed, Southport has initiated a leash law. So please, if you plan to walk your cattle in Southport City limits, have them properly leashed."

- Kate Marshall, Animal Protective Services

February

Years of Service

Charles Drew, 30 Years – 2/23/1993
Fire Chief

Karen Deegan, 12 Years – 2/1/2011
Volunteer EMS Captain

William Hargrove, 10 Years – 2/28/2013
Parks & Recreation – City Gym Attendant

Brian Hagge, 7 Years – 2/22/2016
Volunteer Fire Lieutenant

Virgil Cochran, 5 Years – 2/20/2018
Public Service Technician

Tiffany Keaton, 4 Years – 2/28/2019
Parks & Recreation – Recreation Assistant

Kenneth Hutton, 3 Years – 2/20/20
Volunteer EMS Member

Congratulations on achieving this anniversary with us! We know you have worked hard for this accomplishment and we truly appreciate your dedication.

February 2023 Newsletter

Jambalaya

www.gimmesomeoven.com/jambalaya-recipe

Fat Tuesday

Is Tuesday, February 21, 2023

What better way to celebrate than a heaping bowl of Jambalaya?

Ingredients

- The Cajun/Creole "holy trinity": Celery, onion, and green bell pepper
- Jalapeño and cayenne
- Garlic, Creole or Cajun seasoning, bay leaf, thyme
- Chicken, shrimp, and Andouille sausage
- Chicken stock
- Crushed tomatoes
- White rice: Long grain
- Okra: Fresh or frozen
- Salt and Black Pepper



Instructions

- Sauté the chicken and sausage. Sauté until the chicken is cooked through and the sausage is lightly browned. Then transfer to a clean plate and set aside.
- Sauté the veggies. Sauté the onion, bell pepper, celery, jalapeño, and garlic until soft.
- Add rice, liquids, and seasonings. Add in the uncooked rice, chicken stock, crushed tomatoes, Cajun/Creole seasoning, thyme, cayenne, and bay leaf. Give everything a good stir.
- Cover and cook. Then cook for 25-30 minutes, being sure to stir the mixture every 5 minutes or so (to prevent burning) until the rice is nearly tender.
- Add the okra and shrimp. And cook for a final 5 minutes or so, until the shrimp is pink and opaque. Add the chicken and sausage back in.
- Taste and season. Season the jambalaya with salt and pepper (and extra Cajun/Creole seasoning, if needed) to taste.
- Serve warm.

Want to make it vegetarian? No problem!

- Sub chicken stock with veggie stock and add lots of hearty veggies (such as carrots, squash, mushrooms, broccoli, etc).

Did you try it?

We want to hear from you!

If you try one of the recipes featured in the newsletter, post a picture of it and tag us on your preferred social media platform, or email a photo to us at adail@cityofsouthport.com

February 2023 Newsletter

BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING RECAP

Regular Board Meeting - January 12, 2023

- The Board approved two sets of Minutes from previous meetings and an ordinance creating a Capital Project for the Shoreline Stabilization project.
- The Board approved the dedication of Flank Court in Rivermist, not including the cul-de-sac or the parking area for the clubhouse.
- A request was heard to consider abandoning an alleyway. Mr. Gaines Brown said there are often trees down after storms. He would like to clear it some but leave it as a natural area. The process of abandoning an alleyway includes notifying adjacent property owners and publishing the notice of intent to abandon the area. The Board of Aldermen requested unanimously to send the request to the Planning Board for review. If they make a positive recommendation, the Board will consider the request.
- The final plat was approved for an outparcel at Southport Crossing shopping center. Before the final plat can be recorded, three conditions must be met. The City must receive the performance bond/guarantee, Brunswick County utilities must approve the plat, and the plat must contain the certificates as required by the City of Southport's Unified Development Ordinance.
- Mayor Hatem was reappointed as the primary delegate for the Cape Fear Council of Governments. Mayor Pro-tem Mosteller was reappointed as the alternate.
- Interim City Manager Bonnie Therrien asked the Board to send her a list of dates they are unavailable because many workshops are needed in the next month or two.
- Alderman Allen reported on the Planning Board and the Planning Board Review Committees.
- Alderman Carroll thanked Randy Jones for his hard work and organization of the 4th of July Committee. He also reported that the Historic Preservation Commission had its first meeting. Charles Drew was selected as the Commission Chair. Rick Pukenas was appointed as the Vice-Chair.
- Alderman Alt reported that MOTSU was no longer interested in purchasing the City's property near Sunny Point, but all existing easements and restrictions remain on the property.
- Alderman Davis reminded the public of the upcoming Forestry Committee and Parks and Recreation meetings. She also explained that the tree used at the Capital in Washington D.C. was from the Pisgah National Forest in North Carolina.

Next Board Meeting - March 9, 2023

February 2023 Newsletter

Southport Historical Society presents:

"Shrimping in North Carolina, 1865 - 1965"

Presented by David Bennett
Curator of Maritime History for the
NC Maritime Museum System

Tuesday, Feb. 14, 1 pm via Zoom

Contact
info@southporthistoricalsociety.org
for the link. Free. Open to all.

BRUNSWICK COUNTY BLACK HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

FEBRUARY
17-19

SOUTHPORT COMMUNITY BUILDING
223 E Bay St, Southport, NC 28461
PROCEEDS FROM THIS EVENT WILL GO TO:
 Cedar Hill/West Bank Heritage Foundation and the
 restoration of the Reaves Chapel Church



Carolyn Evans,
Story Teller

Friday 2/17, 6pm
Ms. Carolyn Evans
Presents:
"Sojourner Truth"

Sojourner Truth was an African American evangelist, abolitionist, women's rights activist and author who was born into slavery before escaping to freedom in 1826. After gaining her freedom, Truth preached about abolitionism and equal rights for all.

Saturday 2/18, 11am
Opening

Saturday 2/18, 12-1pm
"The 54th Coast Artillery Regiment"
by
NC Maritime Museum at Southport manager, John Moseley

The regiment was one of three African American units to train at Camp Davis, NC during World War II.



John Moseley

Sunday 2/19, 3-6pm
"The Gospel Fest"
Hosted By
Gwen Wearren



Judge
Pauline Hankins



Saturday 2/18, 2-3pm
Judge Pauline Hankins
"Law and Justice"

Saturday 2/18, 4-5pm
Judy Smith Fowler
"Quilting in the African American Community"






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February 2023 Newsletter



Southport Symposium

Southport Community Building, 2-4pm

Come out to the Community Building to hear from the City of Southport Department Representatives to learn more about your City! There will be a presentation and Q & A session with representatives from City Departments.

February
13

City Manager, Assistant City Manager, Animal Protective Services, Human Resources

July
17

Finance & Utilities

March
13

Community Relations

August
14

Police Department

April
17

Development Services

September
18

Parks & Recreation

May
22

**Hurricane Expo
Hosted by Fire Department
5-8pm**

October
16

Fire Department

June
12

**Mayor
Board of Aldermen**

November
13

Public Services

Registration is required.

You can register by visiting: <https://forms.gle/P6i6TVna64jEXH4t6>



February 2023 Newsletter



FEBRUARY AT A GLANCE



UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS

Historic Preservation Commission
1st Wednesday of each month
February 1, 4:00 pm - (ITMH)

Special Called Planning Board Review
Committee Meeting
February 2, 4:30 pm
Nash Street Substation

Board of Aldermen Agenda Meeting
February 7, 8 am - (ITMH)

Board of Aldermen Regular Meeting
2nd Thursday of each month
February 9, 6 pm - (SCB)

Forestry Committee
2nd Tuesday of each month
February 7, 5 pm - (ITMH)

ABC Board
2nd Wednesday of each month
February 8, 6:30 pm - (ITMH)

Planning & Zoning Board
3rd Thursday of each month
February 16, 6 pm - (SCB)

Board of Aldermen
Public Information Session
February 27, 3p - (SCB)

Board of Adjustments
4th Tuesday of each month
February 28, 4:30 pm - (ITMH)

UPCOMING EVENTS

"This is Our Town" Cleanup
1st Saturday of each month
February 4, 9:00 am
Old Jail Annex

Southport Symposium featuring
City Administration, HR, & APS
February 13, 2:00-4:00 pm - (SCB)

SHS Presents: "Shrimping in North
Carolina, 1865 - 1965"
with David Bennett
February 14, 1:00 pm - Zoom

Brunswick County
Black History Symposium
February 17, 6:00 pm - (SCB)
February 18, 11:00-5:00 pm - (SCB)
February 19, 3:00-6:00 pm - (SCB)

Southport Community Building
Sip and Sea 2023 Open House
Hosted by Blue Satin Bee
February 25, 4:00-7:00 pm - (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

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