

City of Southport

### March 2024 Newsletter

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### Monthly Citizen Update From the Office of the Mayor, Rich Alt



There is a host of activity going on and the winter is supposed to be the slow time, hmmm. The city's commitment to transfer the sewer system to the county has taken another step forward when the Board of Aldermen voted unanimously to buy down the citizens' sewer rates to approximately what they will be under the county using funds from the sewer fund. This was also agreed to by Brunswick County. On average, citizens should see

approximately a 50% decrease in sewer rates in your current bill. A lot of hard work by the Manager, staff, and your elected officials has paid off. At the end of this document will be a list of the meetings that are on the calendar, as of this writing.

On February 26th the city entered into an agreement with the North Carolina League of Municipalities (NCLM) wherein the League will provide Southport with several accounting software packages that will allow Southport to have a state-approved accounting process which in turn should make the mandatory yearly state audits go more efficiently. This program will eventually be offered to all municipalities but Southport was fortunate enough to be in one of the first offerings. It will save some \$30,000 a year on its current software packages. As you know the city has struggled for over a decade with the state audit.

At the February 8th Board of Aldermen meeting the citizens of the Jabbertown area made a convincing argument that the much needed Southport forced sewer line originally planned for Jabbertown Road should be instead laid down on Rob Gandy Blvd. The city, working

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with WK Dickson Engineering Inc, had already been working to find efficiencies in the various sewer projects underway. It was announced that evening that the total length of the sewer repair project had been shaved by three years, and that generated enough savings to cover the additional \$750,000 to run the line down Rob Gandy. A win-win-win, and hats off to the citizens for participating in a well-thought-out alternative, and the Manager & staff working with the engineering folks as a team to adjust projects when needed.

The mayor has the authority to appoint ad hoc committees and such a committee was established to address a lack of written policies and procedures governing the Board of Aldermen (to include the mayor). I appointed Fank Lai with his decades of human resource, organizational change, and budgetary skill sets. Robert Carroll and I made up the other two members of the three-member committee. On March 5th there will be a workshop which is open to the public to discuss; 1) A proposal to establish rules and procedures governing public/private partnerships in the collection of donations. 2) The mechanism for initiating UDO reviews and for specific UDO request for amendments. 3)The role and responsibilities of Board of Aldermen committee liaisons. 4) Efficiencies in the method Board of Aldermen meetings are conducted to include time limits on public comment, a mechanism to follow up to public comment questions. All these topics are cross walked with the UNC School of Government recommendations on how to run meetings.

- Feb 28, Board of Aldermen workshop on Public Right a ways, 5PM Community Building
- Feb 29 Budget Goal Setting meeting with the League of Municipalities, 8:30 AM, Indian Trail
- Feb 29 Parks and Recreation Inclusive Playground open discussion, Noon, Community Building.
- Feb 29 Council of Government Annual Membership Awards Dinner, 5 PM Supply
- March 04, Board of Aldermen Meeting, 9 AM Community Building
- March 05, Board of Aldermen Ad Hoc Rules Committee, 10 AM, Community Building
- March 11 Public Right-of-Way Workshop, 6 PM Community Building
- March 15, COG Rural Planning Organization (regional transportation analysis group) meeting, 9 AM, COG HQ in Wilmington
- There is also 4th of July planning meetings along with Winterfest planning meetings. Please continue the "Southport Way" of citizen participation. The full agendas of meetings are posted on the city's Facebook page and on the website. Some of the agenda items are proposed new ways of doing business, so if time permits, ask questions.

March is also the reawaking on the Yacht Basin area, and the boating season begins!





#### The "We Care" Calling Program

City of Southport Police Department



Delivering on the promise of compassion and community care, the "We Care" calling program stands as an offer of support, provided free of charge by the Southport Police Department. Aimed to enhance the quality of life for older adults, individuals with disabilities, and those navigating the challenges of living alone, this initiative is a lifeline for those at risk of sudden illness, accidents, or the pangs of social isolation. Typically, it's concerned family members, neighbors, or friends who suggest enrolling someone in the program. It's a lifeline for those who may be older, dealing with disabilities, or navigating the challenges of living alone.

At its core, the program orchestrates a daily call to each enrolled individual at a predetermined time. This simple yet crucial interaction serves as a daily check-in, offering reassurance and an immediate response mechanism if the need arises.

Each day, 365 days a year, the Southport Police Department's dedicated staff diligently places calls to subscribers, logging their well-being status daily. Some of our calls are brief, just a quick hello, while others extend for several minutes, becoming the day's highlight for those who may not receive any other calls. A missed call triggers a second attempt, and if the silence persists, an officer is promptly dispatched to the residence, ensuring the individual's safety. In the event of an absence during the scheduled call time – whether due to travel, medical appointments, or other commitments – participants are encouraged to notify the police department. This collaborative approach emphasizes communication, reinforcing the program's commitment to personalized care.

Signing up for the "We Care" calling program is a straightforward process, interested individuals complete a brief form, detailing personal and medical information that could be vital in an emergency. Additionally, subscribers are required to provide two contacts – whether relatives or neighbors – who possess keys to their residence, streamlining access for officers in case of an urgent need to check on the subscriber.

Reaching out is a simple process for those wanting to join the "We Care" calling program. Inquiries can be directed to the Southport Police Department at 910-457-7911, or applicants can visit the official website at cityofsouthport.com/police-department/#department-services. The application form, found under the Police Department section, can be printed and dropped off at the office for processing.

In the heart of Southport, the "We Care" calling program exemplifies a community that looks out for its own, providing not just a service but a lifeline of compassion and connection.











#### SOUTHPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT

Accessing Your Department's Page From the NC Police Departments App



SCAN QR OR SEARCH FOR THE "NC POLICE DEPARTMENTS APP" IN YOUR APP STORE



INSIDE THE APP, TAP ON "GET STARTED"



SEARCH FOR YOUR DESIRED POLICE DEPARTMENT









#### **Southport Forestry Committee**





March is here, spring is around the corner, and that means that the Forestry Committee has once again completed our annual tree planting efforts. One of the duties of the committee is to organize and execute tree replenishment throughout the city in order to ensure that Southport's iconic tree canopy will remain viable and enjoyed by both locals and tourists for generations to come. Each year, the committee looks to plant about a dozen trees throughout the city; while this doesn't seem like a

significant number the trees, the fact is that since its inception in 1998, the committee has been responsible for the planting of over 400 trees throughout the City. Take a walk up or down any street in the core area of Southport and you will see these younger trees growing to ultimately take over canopy duties as the older trees expire.

This year's trees included seven live oaks (Quercus virginiana), and three red maples (Acer rubrum) for a total of ten. While the planting of live oaks will always be our primary focus, we have sought to introduce some other native trees as well that will help diversify our treescape, and also add some visual interest and color. The red maples planted last year at Taylor Field gave us a magnificent flash of orange and yellow at the entrance to the park this past fall.

Finally, the Committee would like to acknowledge the assistance and support of the Public Works Department; without their help we would be unable to undertake the planting of these larger trees each year. The adage "many hands make light work" proved true this year as we were able to plant all ten trees around town in about four hours. The Grounds Crew will continue to assist as we look to settle these trees in through the first year through watering and consistent monitoring to get them off to a good start in their new locations.

Southport's Arbor Day celebration will be held this year on Friday, April 26th – details to follow. The Forestry Committee would like to invite everyone to attend not only to celebrate the day, but also the newest additions to Southport's urban forest.











2024 TREE PLANTING











### SOUTHPORT SUMMER MARKET

The Southport Summer Market will run every Wednesday from the first Wednesday of May until the last Wednesday in August, excluding the week of the Fourth of July. Operating from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, vendors can set up between 6:30 am and 9:00 am each Wednesday morning.

#### WHAT'S NEW THIS YEAR?

Rather than being located within Franklin Square Park, the market will be located behind the city gym and on a portion of E West St, which will be closed for the event.

Acknowledging the limitation of available space, the city expresses gratitude for finding a viable solution that allows residents and visitors alike to enjoy the tradition initiated by Downtown Southport, Inc. Despite the reduced number of vendors compared to previous years, the Summer Markets promise an atmosphere filled with charm and local flair. The Market Committee will carefully review and approve vendors, ensuring a diverse array of products.

To apply as a vendor, please apply by visiting us at cityofsouthport.com/southport-summer-market or by scanning the QR code below.



cityofsouthport.com/ southport-summer-market





# Help us name the next plan for Southport!



The City of Southport is gearing up to create a new CAMA Comprehensive Land Use Plan!

This state mandated document will allow the City to refine it's vision, establish goals, and guide growth and development decisions for the next 10 to 20 years. To kick this process off, the City of Southport is asking YOU to help us name this document!

Scan the QR Code to take the plan name survey now, or visit the City's website (cityofsouthport.com/development-services/#comprehensive-plan) to take the plan name survey and watch for any upcoming events.



#### Can I operate a short-term rental on my property?

DO YOU OWN PROPERTY IN THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT (CBD), BUSINESS DISTRICT (BD), OR A PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (PUD)?

#### YES, MY PROPERTY IS IN A CBD, BD, OR PUD ZONE.

Congratulations! You are eligible to operate a STR on your property. You can obtain your zoning permit from City Hall.

#### NO, MY PROPERTY IS NOT IN A CBD, BD, OR PUD ZONE, BUT OPERATED AS A REGISTERED STR PRIOR TO JULY 8, 2021.

Congratulations! You are eligible to operate a STR on your property. You can obtain your zoning permit from City Hall.

#### NO, MY PROPERTY HAS NEVER PREVIOUSLY OPERATED AS A REGISTERED STR.

According to Article 3 of the UDO, no new STR will be permitted outside of the CBD, BD, or PUD zones.

Please be advised that the City of Southport adopted a Short-Term Vacation Rental Ordinance on July 8, 2021. This ordinance prohibits short-term vacation rentals within the residential districts of the City of Southport but does allow short-term vacation rentals existing on the date of the adoption of the ordinance to continue as lawful nonconforming uses. The City is no longer using a registration program to monitor the operation of shorter term vacation rentals or homestays, but the property must still comply with the zoning districts and standards of the Unified Development Ordinance.

**Homestays** are a private, resident occupied dwelling unit, with up to two guest rooms where overnight lodging accommodations are provided to transients for compensation and where the use is subordinate and incidental to the primary residental use of the building. A homestay is considered Accessory Lodging Use under the current UDO.

The permanent resident is present during the rental stay.





## A Glimpse of History: Getting to (or out of) Our Town Was Tough by Larry Maisel

from The Whittlers Bench, Southport Historical Society Newsletter, Winter 2009

Next time you're sitting in traffic in Shallotte, or Highway 211, or Long Beach Road, think about when there were no roads worthy of the name. Oh, there was the one called "The King's Highway," but it fell far short of bring fit for a king, or anyone else for that matter. Water was how you got anywhere. It was faster. It was well into the 20th Century before you could go west or north from Southport without getting bogged down in the mud.

Very early, whether at Eagle's Island or Calabash, Brunswick County entrepreneurs were ferrying people and goods for a fee. By 1803 a sloop called Friendship was hauling passengers and freight between Wilmington and Smithville (now Southport) on a somewhat regular basis, joined later, by the schooner Rising Sun. But it was a "maybe yes, maybe no" proposition, depending on the tides, wind, and how bad the shoaling in the river had become.

Norfolk and Charleston have always been easier to get in and out of than Wilmington. Between the 1830's and mid 1850's, steam vessels, such as the Virginia, on runs between those two, would sometimes stop in Smithville, to pick up wood, and take on any passengers and freight. But it was risky at low water, and the boats came only when they happened to be near Cape Fear at high tide. You can almost picture Brunswick residents hoping for bad weather which might force vessels to take shelter here, so they and their freight could leave.

In 1854, Wilmington and Charleston were finally linked by rail, but not Wilmington and Smithville. So, it was back to sail boats, operated by Captains Samuel Potter and Samuel Price, leaving Brunswick County at the mercy of the wind and tides. Again. The following year, just for the summer, Captain Price ran a steamboat, but that Fall, it burned and it was back to square one. Again.

Good roads and the Intracoastal Waterway were still 70 or 80 years away, so travel between Brunswick County towns---even from Smithville to Shallotte or Calabash---meant going "outside," meaning into the ocean. It wasn't a case of "you can't get there from here," but rather "it ain't gonna be easy!"



Typical early steamer/ferry









### FLOOD HAZARD

Living near the water is a blessing, but it comes with challenges. Do you own property in Southport? Is your property within the Special Flood Hazard Area? If you have questions about your property's Base Flood Elevation, what flood zone your property is in, or if there are special development standards that might be required, don't hesitate to get in touch with the City of Southport's Certified Floodplain Manager, Dorrie Dutton at (910) 457-7900 ext. 1010 or ddutton@cityofsouthport.com.

Knowing this information can help you plan better for projects, inclement weather, and even purchasing insurance.

Or view these other resources:



Brunswick

County GIS



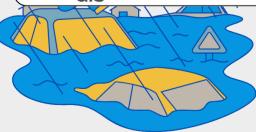
Flood Risk Information

System



**FEMA** 

Flood Maps







We're Hiring!



### COME JOIN OUR TEAM



Scan or click here to apply.

### **OPEN POSITIONS:**

Accreditation Specialist, PT

Performs a full range of accreditation and program support duties as the primary accreditation support role in a department requiring an understanding of the departmental mission, rules, regulations, goals, and services.

City Manager

Performs difficult management, professional, and administrative duties as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for the City.

Community Building Facilitator, PT

The Southport Community Building is looking for a multifaceted individual to help us maintain a secure and well-functioning building for events and weddings.

Firefighter, PT

Performs duties for the Southport Fire Department.

• Paramedic, PT

Performs protective service work protecting citizens and property.

Police Officer

Performs general duty law enforcement services and call response as an integral member of the community to protect life and property in the City.

If you are interested in applying for a job with the City of Southport, be aware that we utilize the NEOGOV platform. We do not accept paper or walk-in applications.



# March

Years of Service

Eddie Moore, 10 Years - 3.5.2014 .
Parks & Rec - Basketball Referee

Accounting Technician

Dale Washington, 9 Years - 3.4.2015
Parks & Rec - Basketball Referee

Thomas Moore, 5 Years - 3.19.2019
Police Sergeant

Christopher Martin, 4 Years - 3.19.2020 Grounds Maintenance

Norothy Nutton, 3 Years – 3.10.2021 Assistant City Manager/City Clerk



#### Creamy Salmon Fettuccine and Spring Vegetables

https://www.southernliving.com/recipes/creamy-salmon-fettuccini

#### Ingredients

- 12 ounces uncooked fettuccine
- 1 (5.2-oz.) pkg. soft Gournay cheese product with garlic and fine herbs (such as Boursin)
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 (1-lb.) skin-on salmon fillet
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper
- 1 ¼ teaspoons kosher salt, divided
- 2 tablespoons unsalted
- 2 cups thinly sliced leek
- 1 pound fresh thin asparagus, trimmed and sliced diagonally into 2-inch pieces (about 3 cups)
- ì teaspoon gráted lemon
- 1 cup frozen petite green
- peas, thawed 2 tablespoons chopped fresh dill, plus more for garnish



#### Instructions

- 1. Cook fettuccine in a large pot of boiling salted water according to package directions for al dente. Drain, reserving 1 cup cooking liquid. Whisk together cheese and ½ cup of the liquid until smooth; set aside.
- 2. Heat oil in a 12- to 14-inch nonstick skillet over medium-high. Pat salmon dry; season flesh side with pepper and ½ teaspoon of the salt. Add fish, flesh side down, to skillet. Cook, undisturbed, until a deep golden brown crust forms, 5 to 6 minutes. Turn fish over; cook to desired degree of doneness, 1 to 2 minutes for medium. Transfer to a plate lined with paper towels; cover with aluminum foil to keep warm. Wipe skillet clean.
- 3. Melt butter in skillet over medium. Add leek. Cook, stirring often, until wilted, 2 minutes. Add asparagus and remaining 3/4 teaspoon salt. Cook, stirring occasionally, until tendercrisp, 2 minutes. (Reduce heat to medium-low, if needed, to prevent browning.) Stir in cheese mixture, zest, peas, and cooked pasta. Cook, stirring constantly, until heated through, 2 minutes, stirring in cooking liquid, 1 tablespoon at a time, if needed, for creaminess. Remove from heat; stir in dill.
- 4. Remove skin from salmon; flake into large pieces. Top pasta servings with salmon, and sprinkle with additional dill.









#### JOIN US IN WELCOMING THE



SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2024 10 A.M. - 4 P.M. WALMART SUPERCENTER 1675 N HOWE ST SOUTHPORT, NC



#### WREATHS across AMERICA

The Wreaths Across America Mobile Education Exhibit is a rolling exhibition that brings the local community, veterans, active-duty military and their families together through interactive exhibits, short films, and shared stories. The exhibit serves as a mobile museum, educating visitors about the service and sacrifice of our nation's heroes as well as to serve as an official 'welcome home' station for our nation's Vietnam Veterans. All veterans, active-duty military, their families, and the local community members are invited and encouraged to visit, take a tour and speak with WAA representatives and volunteers. They can also share more about the national nonprofit, and the work its volunteers do to support our heroes and their communities year-round.

#### HONOR A HERO AT:

www.wreathsacrossamerica.org



# AT HARPER LIBRARY

Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss! Monday, March 4th @ 10am Celebrate Dr. Seuss' Birthday at a special storytime! Ages 0–5. No registration is required.

Legomania Thursdays @ 4pm Join us in the Kid Zone for fun Lego building! All ages welcome. No registration is required.

Storytime Mondays @ 10am Join us for fun stories, songs, dancing, and crafts! Ages 0-5.

No registration is required.

STEAM Team Wed., March 13th @ 4pm Join us for fun S.T.E.A.M. activities! Featuring Osmo, Magformers, Marble Circuits & more! Ages 3+ Registration required.

Dungeons & Dragons (ages 12+) Thursdays, March 7th @ 21st @ 4pm Join us for an epic role playing game where you will be immersed in a fantasy world and your choices will decide your fate. This event is open to anyone aged 12+ (youth & adults welcome to join in), all experience levels are welcome!

Dead Tree Society Saturday, March 23rd @ 1pm BOOK CLUB for 6th–10th graders. First 5 registrations for March book club will receive a FREE copy of the book, "The Lightning Thief" by Riordan. Registration required.

LIFELONG LEARNERS Medical Myths, Lies and Half-Truths Wednesdays 10:00-11:30am Feed a cold; starve a fever. Drink eight glasses of water a day. We all hear this medical advice, but is it accurate? The great course, "Medical Myths, Lies and Half-Truths" will present the scientific truth behind these and many other medical adages. All are welcome! No registration!

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS: ADULTS Fridays, March 1st & 15th 4:00-5:30PM

Join us for an epic role-playing game where you will be immersed in a fantasy world and your choices will decide your fate. All experience levels are welcome!

For ages 18+. Registration required.





#### FIRST FRIDAY BINGO

Friday, March 1st at 2:00pm

Enjoy an afternoon of Bingo! Win fun prizes! For adults age 17+. Registration required.

SLICE N DICE: Board Game Party Monday, March 5th 1:00–3:00PM

Whether you're new to board games or a gamer pro, join us for pizza, board games, and lots of fun! For teens & adults age 13+. Registration required.

TRIVIA TIME! Academy Awards Trivia Friday, March 15th @ 2:00pm

Celebrate the Oscars with trivia on Academy Award-winners throughout history! Teams can range from 1-5 players. Snacks and prizes await! For adults age 17+. Register online or call.

CRAFTING WITH CANDICE Air Fresheners & Crafter's Choice
Thursday, March 14th at 2:00pm

Join us for crafting fun! All materials provided. For adults age 17+. Registration required.

#### WRITER'S GROUP

Thursday, March 28th 1:00-3:00pm

Looking to grow as a writer and join a community of writers? Bring a piece you've written (1,500 words max.) to share with the group. We'll take turns reading aloud our writing and providing constructive feedback. For adults age 17+. Registration required.

#### ONE-ON-ONE TECH SUPPORT

Thursdays 1:00-3:00pm

Having trouble with your computer, tablet, or phone? Schedule your 30-minute one-on-one appointment with volunteer technology coach John McDonald. For adults age 17+.

Registration required.





### AT A GLANCE



#### **UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS**

Board of Aldermen Regular Meeting March 4 @ 9:00 am - SCB

Board of Aldermen Special Meeting Unified Development Ordinance March 5 @ 10:00 am - SCB

Historic Preservation Commission March 6 @ 4:00 pm - ITMH

Board of Aldermen Special Meeting Right-of-Way March 11 @ 6:00 pm - SCB

Forestry Committee Meeting March 12 @ 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm - ITMH

> ABC Board Meeting March 13 @ 6:30 pm

Board of Aldermen Regular Meeting March 14 @ 6:00 pm - SCB

Beautification Committee Regular Meeting March 18 @ 5:00 pm - ITMH

Park and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting March 19 @ 6:00 pm - Recreation Office

> Planning & Zoning Board Meeting March 21 @ 6:00 pm - SCB

Zoning Board of Adjustments March 26 @ 4:30 pm - ITMH

Cemetery Committee Meeting March 27 @ 2:00 pm - ITMH

City Offices Closed for Holiday March 29

March 29
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

"This is Our Town" Cleanup

**UPCOMING EVENTS** 

Beautification Committee March 2, @ 9:00 am - Old Jail Annex

Up Your Arts – Cool & Fancy Gala March 9 @ 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm St. James Community Center

> FOLSOI: Opera Sunday March 10 @ 2:00 pm, SCB

SHS: North Carolina's Royal Governors and the Building and Burning of Fort Johnston March 12 @ 10:00 am Harper Library

NC Maritime Museum at Southport, Third Tuesdays March 19 @ 11:00 am - 1:00 pm Southport Community Building

Southport Parks & Recreation's Easter Egg Hunt March 23 @ 10:00 am Taylor Field Park

The Sea Notes Choral Society Spring 2024 Concert March 23 & 24 @ 3:00 pm Odell Williamson Auditorium

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