



City of Southport

June 2023 Newsletter

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



June is a month of seasons. June 1st marks the beginning of Hurricane Season and from the City's excellent Hurricane Expo last month, now is the time to make preparations. The City of Southport has excellent information on this important topic. Summer Season begins June 21st although the tourist summer season begins before the summer solstice. June is the peak of budget season for municipalities. The public hearing on the City of Southport Budget will be on June 6th. June is a season of fragrances from the gardenias to the magnolias. Take time on your daily walk to enjoy these beautiful blossoms that emanate all through our neighborhoods.

June is a month of remembrance as we celebrate Juneteenth that commemorates June 19th, 1865 when word of the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 reached Texas. We remember the courage and sacrifice of D-Day, June 6, 1944, the invasion of Normandy during World War II. We celebrate Flag Day June 14th and we thank the Lions Club for placing the US Flags on Howe Street. June 21st is the 235th Anniversary of the US Constitution, ratified in 1788.

Southport celebrates National Rivers Month—we cherish the Cape Fear River and promote keeping it environmentally safe and a place for boating and commerce. We also celebrate National Pollinators Week, June 19th–25th through our Beautification Committee and the Pollinator Garden located in Lowe-White Park. And also Southport is a Bee City USA.

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

(910) 457-7900 www.cityofsouthport.com



June 2023 Newsletter

A Community Update from Mayor Hatem

June is Cataract Awareness Month and Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month. Do all that you can to protect your eyesight and your memory by healthy habits and preventive care. And June 2nd is the anniversary of the first day of operation of Brunswick County Hospital, now J. Arthur Doshier Memorial Hospital in 1930, in Southport. And June is National Safety Month. As Mayor, I am always promoting safety in our city.

United Nations World Environment Day is June 5th and World Ocean Day is June 8th. In Southport, we are supportive of both these days and endeavors as we rely on a clean environment and ocean for ourselves, our families, friends, visitors, and tourists.

Father's Day is Sunday, June 18th. Celebrate with your father, your father figure, or if no longer physically here with you, toast their influence on your life and cherish their memory. Happy Father's Day and may the blessings of the seasons of June embrace you and inspire you as we continue on our journey in Southport together.



June 2023 Newsletter

Southport Forestry Committee

Getting that new tree through “the first summer”



It's June - and that means that summer (for better or worse) is just around the corner. If you decided to plant a new tree in your yard this spring and want to be sure it survives this first tough summer season then here's a few tips.

Thus far this year, we've avoided the spring drought that we experienced the last two years. The prognosis for the coming summer is that “above normal” precipitation is expected - however, we live in in Southport and know well that just because it's raining in Brunswick

County, it may not rain here along the coastal boundary. In addition to that, our sandy soil just doesn't hold water very well - the “field capacity” for sand is about 1”, which means that it'll only hold on to about 1” of rain. If we get a heavy rainfall of several inches and the sand can only hold that first inch, anything over that is not held nor available later to the tree roots. Sand also drains very quickly, so even that inch isn't going to be around for long. The bottom line is that we need to ensure that young, newly established, trees get water regularly and hold on to it as long as possible.

- 1 **Mulch, mulch, mulch.** An organic mulch (bark chips, pine needles) will keep the soil moist and cool and can provide nutrients as it decomposes. It can also keep mowers and string trimmers away from the trunk. It is best for mulch to be 4-6 inches from the trunk and extend to the edge of the canopy 2 to 4 inches deep.
- 2 **Water regularly.** We want the tree to get the water it needs, but at the same time don't want the tree to become fully dependent on that watering. Apply water over the root ball and planting area and not on the trunk. Nursery stock trees are typically in the 1 to 2-inch diameter range and will need 8-10 gallons of water per inch of diameter per week. A good way to measure is to fill a 5-gallon Lowes bucket and slowly pour two or three buckets full around the tree at least once a week if we aren't getting any rain. More than that is not necessary as the sandy soil won't hold it anyway.
- 3 **Don't prune** trees heavily during the first year - only prune what is already dead or broken. Next winter after the tree has established its root system is the time to prune for shape if you wish. For now, the tree needs to put all its energy into root production.
- 4 **Don't fertilize!** Again, at this point we want the tree to focus on establishing the root system it needs to support itself. We don't want to encourage growth that may not be sustainable at this time. Also, in general, trees (unlike house plants) shouldn't be fertilized unless their condition specifically requires it - a topic for another article.

One final thing - as if the likelihood of heat and the possibility of drought weren't enough, summer is also hurricane season. If you're concerned about your young tree surviving the high winds of a tropical storm, you can temporarily stake it for the duration. Trees should be allowed to sway a bit, so don't tighten the lines too much but staking a young tree prior to the storm's arrival as a little “insurance” isn't a bad idea.

Further information on tree care can be found on the Forestry Committee's web page at <https://cityofsouthport.com/forestry-committee/#educational-info> Any other questions, feel free to reach out to one of us on the Committee.

June 2023 Newsletter

Southport Beautification Committee

Next Clean-up: June 3, 2023

The Southport Beautification Committee and volunteers have been busy over the past month.

It started off with having a table showing how we keep Southport Beautiful at Nature Fest. Then on the following Saturday we had over a dozen volunteers help us weed and clean up the Round-A-Bout along with the memorials on the front lawn of the Garrison House and the garden in front of the Fire Department Sub-Station. Along the waterfront, we gave a fresh coat of stain to the many benches and swings that line the walkway and are enjoyed by so many with their fabulous views and salubrious breezes.

During the month, volunteers tackled making and staining picnic tables for the new gazebo located in the newly opened Taylor Field Park. If you haven't been to this new park, it's worth checking out its walking path along with separate, fenced in, big and small dog parks.

Our next Beautification Workday is scheduled for June 3rd. We meet at 9 AM behind the Old Brunswick County Jailhouse. If you've helped us in the past, thank you. If you'd like to come and do your part to help keep Southport the beautiful City that it is, come on down. We can use your help and you'll be glad you did.



June 2023 Newsletter

*Help Keep your Pets
Healthy & Safe this Summer.*

Pet Friendly Summer Tips



CAR TRAVEL

Never leave your pet alone in a hot car!
When traveling, use a secured crate,
harness system or pet safety belt.



HYDRATE

Look for signs of overheating
like excessive panting,
drooling and weakness.
Keep plenty of water on hand.



PAW PATROL

Walk your dog during
the cooler morning
and evening hours.
Avoid hot surfaces like
pavement and sand.



TOXIC CHEMICALS

Keep pets away from bug
spray, insecticides, citronella
products and sunscreen.



FLEAS & TICKS

Give your pet proper flea
and tick medication, and check
them regularly with a flea comb.



STAY INDOORS

During fireworks and
thunderstorms, keep
pets secure in a safe,
quiet area at home.



WATER SAFETY

Never leave pets unattended
at the beach, lake or pool.
When boating, use
a pet life jacket.



STORM PREP

Create a disaster kit with
food, water and medication
that can last 5 days.



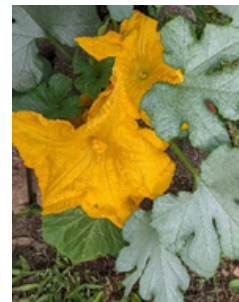
Animal Protective Services

June 2023 Newsletter

Caswell Avenue Community Garden

“What have you planted in your garden this year?”

“What have you planted in your garden this year?” is often how our gardeners greet each other here at the Caswell Avenue Community Garden. We are a community garden with an emphasis on COMMUNITY. Since many of us come from other states or other regions in North Carolina, we may have little success with crops we have planted in the past. Sharing our experiences of what did and did not do well in the past, and hopes for the next harvest, is really important to us.



Let’s look at the metrics. Our gardeners were surveyed as to what exactly they are growing this season:



LETTUCE - Various lettuces combined to top our list. Romaine, arugula, and butter lettuce are the favorites and it makes sense. Lettuce can be grown almost anywhere in the garden, takes up little space, and keeps producing all through the summer.



BEANS - Together, bush and pole beans came in second. As a side note, many of us planted lima beans this year but none of them came up. We are all sticking to other beans from now on!



PEAS, followed closely by **TOMATOES** then **POTATOES** round out our top five most popular veggies to plant. **HERBS** like parsley, rosemary, cilantro, and basil are also common. Our winter plantings will be a completely different list. Stay tuned...

Gardening is not a competition but it’s always fun to see who has the first ripe tomato, who can grow the biggest squash, who can be successful with the most exotic (to us!) veggie. We look to these gardeners to share their effective methods so all our gardens may flourish... as a community.



Our garden is located on Caswell Avenue behind the Southport Campus of Brunswick Community College. Come by and see us. If the gate is open come on in and chat with a gardener and have a look around at the 40+ garden beds.



Caswell Avenue Community Garden of Southport, NC: www.facebook.com/groups/483761655007537

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Bendigo: A Visible Reminder of the American Civil War in the Lower Cape Fear

By Kyra McCormick, from [The Magazine of the North Carolina Maritime Museums](#)

Sailors navigating the waters of the Lower Cape Fear region will often find themselves navigating around shipwrecks. There are a large number of shipwrecks concentrated in this relatively small region. Each of these shipwrecks give an insight into the history of the Cape Fear and how it fits into the larger picture of American History. One of these shipwrecks is Bendigo, a blockade runner that grounded in 1864 near Oak Island during the American Civil War.

In 1861, the Union Navy implemented a blockade of Confederate ports to restrict foreign trade. The goal was to prevent the Confederacy from trading southern goods, such as cotton and tobacco, for military weapons and civilian supplies. The port of Wilmington was perfectly situated to take advantage of these trade opportunities since it could be accessed by two different openings to the Cape Fear River from the Atlantic Ocean. A blockading fleet would have to cover both inlets, which were separated by Smith Island and its 30 miles of sandbar laden shoreline. By August 1863, the port of Wilmington had become the most important shipping destination in the south. A railroad connected it directly to Confederate forces in Richmond, Virginia. Perhaps speaking prematurely regarding establishing a blockade in the region, Admiral David Dixon Porter, United States Navy Commanding North Atlantic Blockading Squadron, said, "I am satisfied that no vessel should escape out of Wilmington after the blockade is perfected." The blockade at Cape Fear was never really perfected due to the difficult nature of the coastline; vessels escaped from Wilmington through January 1865. Fraser, Trenholm, and Company, a firm in Liverpool, England, was deeply tied to the Confederacy and made a lot of money building and financing ships for the purpose of smuggling goods and arms through the blockade. The iron sidewheel steamer Bendigo was built in 1863 by the firm. Though we know the ship was similar to other blockade runners financed by Fraser, Trenholm, and Co., we don't know what cargo it was carrying when it sank. According to Stephen R. Wise's *Lifeline of the Confederacy*, such vessels might have carried civilian goods—like shoes, blankets, and dry goods—or wartime goods—like guns, rifles, and cartridges. Once at port, the items were sold to the highest bidder; and the company profited.

According to an article in the June 9, 1864, *Wilmington Journal*, Bendigo made one trip from Nassau and two runs through the blockade at Cape Fear successfully. On January 3, 1864, the blockade runner attempted to reach the port of Wilmington through Lockwood's Folly Inlet at the west end of Oak Island. Entering the inlet, the crew mistook the visible wreckage of the blockade runner Elizabeth as a member of the Union blockade. This fellow Fraser, Trenholm, and Co. vessel had run aground on a sandbar at the same location four months prior while trying to outrun a blockading ship. The captain of Bendigo attempted to squeeze

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Bendigo Continued

the vessel between the derelict Elizabeth and the shoreline but ended up running aground too. Confederate troops sailed out to Bendigo to unload the cargo by hand. Union forces sent the steamer USS Iron Age to tow the freshly stranded vessel to deeper water for salvage. Unfortunately for USS Iron Age, the sandbars in the inlet were in a taking mood; and it also got stuck on a sandbar. After removing what they could, Confederates destroyed as much of Bendigo as possible. Meanwhile, Union sailors burned USS Iron Age. These acts were to limit what resources, if any, could fall into enemy hands.

Today, the wreck of Bendigo is still visible at "The Point" of Oak Island during extreme low tides. Its hull sticks out of the water and creates dangerous conditions for boaters just as the sandbars did for the blockade runners. Along with USS Iron Age and Elizabeth, these Civil War era shipwrecks reveal an interesting part of our nation's maritime history and provide observers an opportunity to learn about what was happening in the Cape Fear region more than 150 years ago. The events from that time continue to fascinate locals and visitors alike.

Kyra McCormick is the visitor and volunteer services coordinator of the North Carolina Maritime Museum at Southport.



View of Bendigo wreck site as seen from the air.
Photo by W. Hall Watters 1970, U.S. Navy.

Golf Cart Registration

BEGINS MAY 31, 2023

**current stickers expire June 30, 2023*



Visit us at the Southport Summer Market from 9am-12pm to register your golf cart in person:



June 7



June 14



June 21



June 28



<https://cityofsouthport.com/police-department/#police-issued-permits>



June 2023 Newsletter

June

Years of Service

Maureen Moore, 26 Years – 6.10.1997
Recreation Program Supervisor

Amanda Clemmons, 20 Years – 6.16.2003
Parks & Rec School Counselor

Brandy Moore, 17 Years – 6.12.2006
Parks & Recreation Assistant

David Kelly, 7 Years – 6.28.2016
Building & Grounds Supervisor

Brayden Waddell, 6 Years – 6.26.2017
Parks & Rec School Counselor

Shaniqua Fennell, 5 Years – 6.6.2018
Recreation Assistant

Thomas Lott, 4 Years – 6.17.2019
Volunteer Fire Fighter

Jason Hill, 4 Years – 6.30.2019
Volunteer Fire Fighter

Kevin Smith, 3 Years – 6.2.2020
Police Officer

Mara Vaughn, 2 Years – 6.1.2021
Fire Clerk

Valerie Kolhoff, 1 Year – 6.14.2022
Community Building Facilitator

ChyAnn Ketchum, 1 Year – 6.20.2022
Public Information Officer

Winter Durham, 1 Year – 6.24.2022
Volunteer EMS Member

Leola Sharpless, 1 Year – 6.30.2022
Camp Counselor

Benjamin Rion Armstrong, 1 Year – 6.8.2022
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.

We're Hiring!



COME
JOIN
OUR
TEAM

OPEN POSITIONS:

- Code Enforcement Officer
- Community Building Facilitator & Videographer *part-time*
- Public Services Technician
- PT Summer Camp Counselor

If you are interested in applying for a job with the City of Southport, please read the job post for which you are applying and submit the application accordingly.

Scan or click here to apply now!



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Gullah Recipe for Red Rice

<https://www.yummly.com/recipe/Red-Rice---Gullah-Style>

Ingredients

- 2 Tablespoons Bacon grease or other oil or shortening
- 1/3-1/2 pound smoked meat such as ham or sausage cut into bite-sized pieces
- 1-2 onions, chopped
- 5-6 tomatoes, diced
- 1 Tablespoon chili powder optional
- 1 cup long-grain rice
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup water



Instructions

1. Heat the baking grease in a large pot or small Dutch oven over medium heat.
2. Add the meat and cook until browned on the edges, then remove and set aside.
3. Add the onions and tomatoes to the pot and cook until the onions are translucent.
4. Stir in the water, rice, salt, and chili powder if you'd like. Add the meat, stirring at medium-high heat until the mixture boils.
5. Reduce to simmer, cover and cook for 20 minutes. If rice is not done, add another 1/4 cup of water, recover and cook for 5-6 more minutes.

Gullah Recipe for Sweet Potatoes

<https://www.yummly.com/recipe/Gullah-Recipe-for-Sweet-Potatoes>

Ingredients

- 2-3 sweet potatoes medium to large size
- 4 Tablespoons brown sugar
- 3 Tablespoons butter
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon



Instructions

1. Boil the potatoes until the skin starts to split and a knife goes into the center without force.
2. Cool the sweet potatoes enough to handle and then peel.
3. Slice into approximately 1/2" slices and arrange in baking dish.
4. Sprinkle with brown sugar and then small pieces of butter.
5. Sprinkle with cinnamon.
6. Bake at 350 degrees for about 20-25 minutes or until potatoes are tender.

Did you know?

June is National Soul Food Month!

Let's celebrate with these Gullah Geechee classics.

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The 2023 North Carolina Fourth of July Festival, Event Highlights

May 29-September 4,
Nightly @ 7:30 pm
Southport Flag Ceremony
at the Waterfront Area event, hosted by the Sisters of Southport & Southport Police Dept.

June 30 @ 6:00 pm
Welcoming Ceremony
Fort Johnston Lawn

July 1 @ 8:00 am
Beach Day Begins
Middleton Park, Oak Island

July 1 @ 4:00 pm
38th Annual Fire Fighters Freedom Competition & Apparatus Expo
Nash St

July 1 @ 5:45 pm
Welcoming Ceremony
Middleton Park Extension, Oak Island

July 1 @ 6:00 pm
Shag Contest
Middleton Park Extension, Oak Island

July 1 @ 9:00 pm
Town of Oak Island Anniversary Fireworks
Oak Island Pier, Oak Island

July 2 @ 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Arts & Crafts Market
Franklin Square Park

July 2 @ 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Clicks of Confidence and Trick Horses
Southport, Taylor Field Park

July 2 @ 4:00 pm
Red, White & Blue Freedom Flotilla
Southport Waterfront Park

July 2 @ 6:00 pm
A Salute to Veterans
Southport Community Building

July 3 & 4 @
10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Arts & Crafts Market
Franklin Square Park

July 3 @ 4:30 pm
Naturalization Ceremony
Fort Johnston Garrison Lawn

July 3 @ 7:00 - 10:00 pm
Waterfront Stage Entertainment & Street Dance
Southport Waterfront Park

July 4 @ 11:00 am
Fourth of July Festival Parade
Moore and Howe St Southport

July 4 @ 3:00 pm
Live Pro Wrestling
Middleton Park, Oak Island

July 4 @ 5:00 pm
Uncle Sam Skydive
Oak Island Beachfront, Oak Island

July 4 @ 9:00 pm
4th of July Fireworks
Southport Waterfront Park



For a full list of events, scan the QR code or visit www.nc4thofjuly.com





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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
- March 13 Community Relations
- April 7 *Completed* Public Works Services
- May 22 Hurricane Expo Hosted by Fire Department 5-8pm
- June 12 Mayor Board of Aldermen

- July 17 Finance & Utilities
- August 14 Police Department
- September 18 Parks & Recreation
- October 16 Fire Department
- November 13 Public Services

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

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SUMMER FUN At Harper Library

June 12 @ 11 am: Fresh Start Rescue, Fresh Start Rescue saves the lives of homeless, unwanted, or injured reptiles, from snakes to lizards and everything in between. Come meet and learn all about lizards, snakes, frogs, and even insects in this interactive learning experience. Registration starts June 1. Call 910-457-6237 to register.

June 19 @ 11 am: Sea Biscuit Wildlife Shelter, Sea Biscuit Wildlife Shelter has helped care for over 7500 injured or orphaned wild birds, from songbirds to pelicans to raptors! Come learn about it and meet some of our fine-featured friends. Registration starts June 1. Call 910-457-6237 to register.

June 26 @ 11 am: Big Bang Boom, Get ready to move with Big Bang Boom, a parent-friendly children's music band that performs upbeat, high-energy, interactive music that everyone can enjoy! Registration starts June 1. Call 910-457-6237 to register.

River Readers Middle School Book Club: 1st & 3rd Thursdays in June, July & August @ 4p
Hosted by the Southport Woman's Club. Grab your friends and join us for our 6-session middle school book club! The first five participants receive complimentary copies of all six books from FOLSO! For grades 6th-8th. Call 910-457-6237 to register now.

June 1: Holes by Sachar & June 15: Invisible by Gonzalez

Friday Flix - June 9th & 23rd, @ 2 pm, Bring your blanket and join us for a family movie! No registration is required.

S.T.E.A.M. Team - Wednesdays June 21st, @ 4 pm, Join us for fun S.T.E.A.M. activities! Featuring Osmo, Magformers, Marble Circuits & more! Ages 3+. No registration is required.

Lego Pro - Wednesdays June 14th & 28th, @ 4 pm, Team building of a large-scale Lego Kit. For ages 10+. Call 910-457-6237 to register now.

Craft & Create - Thursdays June 15th, @ 2 pm, Join us for crafting and creating! Ages 10+. Call 910-457-6237 to register now.

Lego We-Do Robotics - Tuesdays June 13th & July 11th @ 1 pm, Join the Kiwanis for robotics! Recommended for grade levels 3rd-6th. Call 910-457-6237 to register now.



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JUNE AT A GLANCE



UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS

Board of Aldermen Agenda Meeting
June 2 @ 9:00 am - 12:00 pm - OTMH

Board of Aldermen Budget Public Hearing
June 6 @ 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm - SCB

Historic Preservation Commission
June 7 @ 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm - ITMH

Board of Aldermen Regular Meeting
June 8 @ 6:00 pm - SCB

Forestry Committee Meeting
June 13 @ 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm - ITMH

Park and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
June 13 @ 6:30 pm - ITMH

ABC Board Budget Meeting
June 14 @ 6:00 pm - ITMH

Planning & Zoning Board Meeting
June 15 @ 6:00 pm - SCB

Beautification Committee Meeting
June 19 @ 5:00 pm - SCB

Zoning Board of Adjustments
June 27 @ 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm ITMH

UPCOMING EVENTS

Southport Flag Lowering Ceremony,
hosted by the Sisters of Southport and
the Southport Police Dept
Nightly @ 7:30 pm, Southport
Waterfront

2023 Southport Summer Market
Wednesdays, 10 am - Franklin Sq Park

"Ships of the Cape Fear River" Exhibit
at Intracoastal Realty
June 2, 5-7 pm

"This is Our Town" Cleanup
June 3, 9 am - Old Jail Annex

Dosher to Community Cookout and
Ground-Breaking Ceremony
June 10 @ 11:30 am - 1:30 pm

Southport Symposium featuring
Mayor & Board of Aldermen
June 12 @ 2:00 pm - SCB

SHS: 2nd Tuesday Talks Highway
History with Pat Kirkman
June 13 @ 10:00 am
Harper Library

Sea Notes Choral Society Presents the
2023 Patriotic Concert,
This is a Great Country
June 24 & 25 @ 3:00 pm
Odell Williamson Auditorium

The 2023 North Carolina
Fourth of July Festival
June 30 - July 4

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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