



City of Southport

December 2023 Newsletter

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

December in Southport is as radiant and festive as the lights from all the trees that are displayed throughout our village, especially from the Garrison at Fort Johnston. I want to thank the Southport Garden Club and the City of Southport Public Services Department for decorating this historic fortress.

As we cherish our time together during this Holiday Season with reverence and remembrance, the First Lady and I Wish you all the Blessings of a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

"I heard the bells on Christmas Day
 Their old, familiar carols play,
 And wild and sweet
 The words repeat
 Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"



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

(910) 457-7900 www.cityofsouthport.com



December 2023 Newsletter

Meet... Abbey Glenn

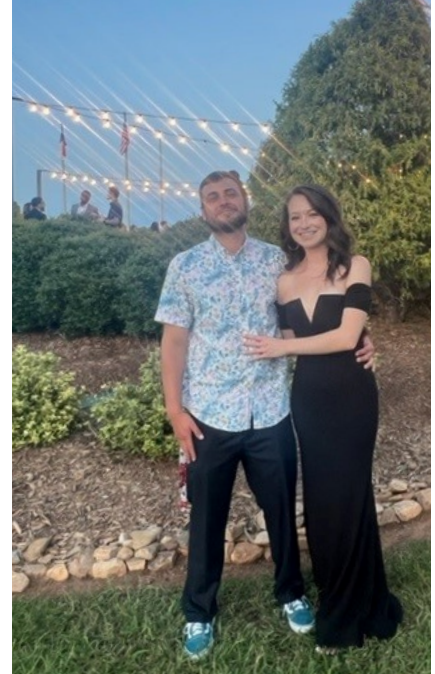
Southport Fire Department - Fire Chief Charles A. Drew

I'm Abbey Glenn, a permit technician with about 3 months under my belt here in Southport! As a permit technician, my main goal is to make sure things run smoothly in construction. Now, I know it might seem like we're here to slow things down or throw a wrench in the works, but really, it's all about making sure the projects are done right. Whether it means putting a temporary hold on a project or calling for an inspection, the goal is to ensure that the work is not only safe for the current owner but for anyone who comes after.

My focus is all about safety and sticking to the building codes. It's not just about ticking off boxes; it's about making sure buildings are solid and safe, keeping everyone inside protected, and maintaining the overall safety standards of the community. If you've got questions or need more info about the permit process, I'm here to help out. It's all about working together to make sure projects go off without a hitch.

Before landing here in Southport, I was living in Gastonia, working at a pediatric therapy office as a referral home coordinator. It might seem like a bit of a shift, but it's all about community well-being, and that background brings a bit of heart to what I do as a permit technician.

When I'm not at work, you'll find me soaking up time with my family. Whether it's strolling along the beach or getting into some yoga, those moments of relaxation are crucial. Southport has become my home, and I love exploring the local scene - hitting up shops and restaurants is a favorite. And there's something special about sitting by the waterfront, watching the boats glide by. Southport is where I feel at home.



Fun Fact:



"JINGLE BELLS" WAS ORIGINALLY A THANKSGIVING SONG
Turns out, we first started dashing through the snow for an entirely different holiday. James Lord Pierpont wrote the song called "One Horse Open Sleigh" for his church's Thanksgiving concert in the mid-19th century. Then in 1857, the song was re-released under the title we all know and love and it's still among the most popular Christmas songs today.

December 2023 Newsletter

Holiday Fire Safety Tips

Southport Fire Department - Fire Chief Charles A. Drew

Our holiday traditions can increase the risk of home fires. Learn how to stay safe while you celebrate.

From Thanksgiving to the New Year, it's time to enjoy our favorite holiday traditions, celebrating around the table, and making new memories with friends and family. To ensure that the festivities are both happy and safe, here are some useful holiday season fire safety tips from your fire department.

Cooking and Baking



No holiday celebration would be complete without a feast but be sure to take precautions against kitchen fires when you're cooking and baking. That includes keeping children and flammable items such as grocery bags and kitchen towels away from the stove and oven. Clean up greasy spills as you go to remove another fire hazard. If you're deep frying a turkey, keep the fryer well away from structures and trees, make sure your turkey is fully thawed, and follow the manufacturer's instructions for your fryer. Never wear loose fitting clothing and do not cook when you are drowsy, using alcohol, or taking medication.

Christmas Trees

Old-fashioned Christmas celebrations featured wax candles on live tree branches - inside homes! Today we know better but risks still remain. If your family prefers real trees, be sure to water yours every day because dry needles and wood catch fire more easily. Go ahead and use many strings of light, but don't plug more than 3 strings into each other (opt for a surge protector instead). Discard light strings that are worn or broken. And be sure to always unplug the lights before leaving the house or going to sleep.



Menorah or Kinara



It's possible to buy electric menorahs and kinaras, but if you prefer traditional candles, you can still celebrate Hanukkah and Kwanzaa in a fire smart way. Keep flammable items, including curtains and holiday decorations, at least 3 feet away from your candles. Place your menorah or kinara on a non-flammable surface to catch the melting candle wax, such as a tray lined with aluminum foil. Never leave lit candles unattended.



Fireplaces

Nothing takes the chill off winter holidays like the light and heat of a fire on your hearth. Just be sure to keep "fuel" - from wrapping paper to rugs to clothing - at least three feet away from the flames. Use a fire screen to keep embers and logs from escaping. Lastly, make sure all embers are fully extinguished before you turn in for the night.



Fireworks

We usually talk about firework safety for the Fourth of July, but many New Year celebrations also include fireworks. If you'll be setting off fireworks at home, choose a location away from buildings and trees. Be sure your spectators, including children and pets, stay well back. Keep a supply of water or fire extinguisher at hand. If you live in an area that's experiencing a drought, consider cancelling the show this year - a stray spark that lands on dry grass or leaves can lead to a wildfire. Remember any firework that leaves the ground is illegal in the state of North Carolina. It is best practice to leave the fireworks to the professionals.

Celebrations, holidays, and traditions are always a special treat. It is a wonderful time for family and friends to fellowship and share the joy of the season. Don't let your special time be ruined by a fire or emergency that can be prevented. Southport Fire Department wishes you a safe and happy holiday season, use these fire safety tips to keep you and your family safe. If you have questions, feel free to contact Headquarters at 910-457-7915.

December 2023 Newsletter

A Smithville Christmas by Mike Royal, ca 2011

Submitted by the Southport Historical Society

This "localized" Night Before Christmas poem was a creation that popped in my head as I wanted to write a Christmas piece for my grandchildren. I envisioned a story/poem that would be a fun adaptation for children and yet implement many of the landmarks and touches of my childhood Southport, knowing that my grandchildren will never know the Southport I knew as a child.

Only now as a man looking back did I discover how great it all was. The good and the bad from the past, now in the golden light of an antique memory, become all GOOD! I hope that all children and any others who are touched by that story will share it and share it many times in the future. Maybe it could even find a place with all the Christmas decorations and be displayed every year. Wouldn't that be great! - Mike

'Twas the night before Christmas and all down the docks
The Skippers were checking and doubling their knots
When all was secure and their boats put to bed
They were ready for family, their boots soon to shed
The weather was nice with just a slight chill
And all was at peace in the town of Smithville
But during the night as Old Baldy did scan
An object was spotted in the light as it ran
It seemed so impossible as they came into view
But there in the channel eight tiny tugs cruised
They motored and hummed with their engines full steam
As they pulled a big barge of toys and dreams
The buoys all parted and blinked as they passed
Some red and some green, as they gave a bright flash
The Tugs arched around Jaybird and pointed toward land
They began to make noise like a full brass band
The people were all sleeping in Smithville that night
And awoke to the horns now blasting delight
The sound was familiar as a carol was played
It was merry, it was soothing, as they listened and swayed
There! a brightly lit cedar, a legend of lore
Like a beacon it guided them straight to the shore
They sailed to the pier at the foot of old Howe
Where a Jolly little man stood straight on the bow
His face was a circle of smoke from his pipe
And it glowed with the spray from a rough sea swipe
The town's people gathered at the river to gaze
As the little Jolly Pilot eased the barge into place
He began calling out to his crew on the barge
Commanding such order, they know who's in charge
Gifts were given to one and to all
For the children of Smithville some big and some small
A present each got until there were none
To his crew he exclaimed "that's a job well done"
With the help of town folk they cast off with a cheer
And he piloted the barge back down the Cape Fear
With his task now completed and smiles all around
He sailed the barge out and straight for the sound
We heard the pilot shout as they went out of sight
"Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!"



December 2023 Newsletter

Southport Forestry Committee

Landscaping – be “Fire wise”



I was recently on a trip “out west” to southwestern North Carolina and during the trip there were two major wildfires, and several smaller ones, affecting communities throughout several counties. Here in Southport, the event that we typically spend our time preparing for is hurricanes – but we probably should spend at least a little time thinking about the possibility of fire.

We are all aware that for the last several years, we have had drought conditions down here on the coast for several months at a time. Those fires happening in SW North Carolina are a direct result of the extreme drought conditions that they are currently experiencing. When the conditions are right, it doesn’t take much to start a conflagration that can quickly get out of control when vegetative matter is bone dry, humidity is low, and the wind is blowing. We have all seen the devastating results of major fires out in California and the western US, but North Carolina typically ranks in the top 5 for the number of wildfires we experience each year; we all remember this past June we had the “Pulp Road” fire in the Green Swamp that was only about 20 miles from here. While it’s unlikely that here in Southport we could experience a fire on the scale of those in California as we really aren’t in the “WUI” (Wildland Urban Interface) – but could we experience a fire that could impact one or a few of our residents? Absolutely.

North Carolina, like many other states, has a “Fire Wise” program, which helps people identify ways to reduce the likelihood that wildfire could affect their residence. As an example, here in Southport, one of the most utilized types of mulching in our landscape is pine straw. Pine straw is readily available, looks nice, and is relatively cheap. However, when it’s dry, as in drought conditions, pine straw has a high potential for ignition. Landscape companies like to pile it high, but if that straw is piled directly adjacent to your home, you’re creating a potential hazard. Pine straw, leaves, or any other vegetative matter should always be cleared away from around the foundation of your home. Any woody plants should not become overgrown and physically touch your house; they just provide a path for fire to reach the structure. Gutters and eaves should be cleaned regularly – an ember from a fire can travel up to a mile in the right conditions, and if it lands in a gutter full of leafy debris the results can be devastating.

By all means, we should continue to landscape with trees, shrubs, and plants to keep Southport beautiful. But as we experience annual drought conditions more frequently we should undertake that landscaping in such a way that we are not laying the foundation for potential disaster. I would encourage everyone to at least take a look at the “Resist Wildfire NC” site to be aware of how a few small changes can ensure the safety of your home – and those in it.
<https://resistwildfirenc.org/>



December 2023 Newsletter

Southport Beautification Committee

November was a busy month for Southport's Beautification Committee Volunteers!

It began with the Beautification Workday on Saturday, November 8th, where a number of volunteers cleaned up the Steed Bonnet Memorial as well as the roundabout on E. Moore. Volunteers also readied the many Christmas trees, checking their condition and ensuring that all of the bulbs were working. These were then placed in the various Parks by Public Services.

During the month, there were also volunteers working in the Pollinator Garden in Lowe-White Park. Plus, the benches on E. Nash Street received a badly needed coat of stain.

Also, during the month, volunteers prepped the wreaths that decorate our streets by replacing all of the bulbs with brighter white lights around the sailboats while adding colored lights around the edges. 6,000 bulbs later and they were ready to go. They were then picked up by Public Services and distributed around the City. BEMC (Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation) then installed them overnight.

Garland was also added to the various signs around the City giving them a festive look.

Then, of course, there were Beautification volunteers assisting with the installation of the City's Christmas Tree at Waterfront Park. Truthfully, the heavy lifting was taken care of by the great crew from Public Services and BEMC.

We're so very thankful for the many people who come out and help bring the Christmas Spirit to our fine City.



December 2023 Newsletter



SOUTHPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT

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

1



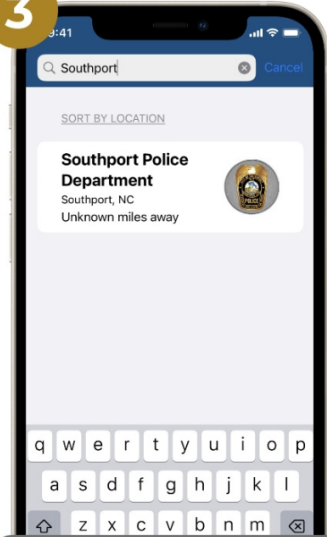
SCAN QR OR SEARCH
FOR THE "NC POLICE
DEPARTMENTS APP"
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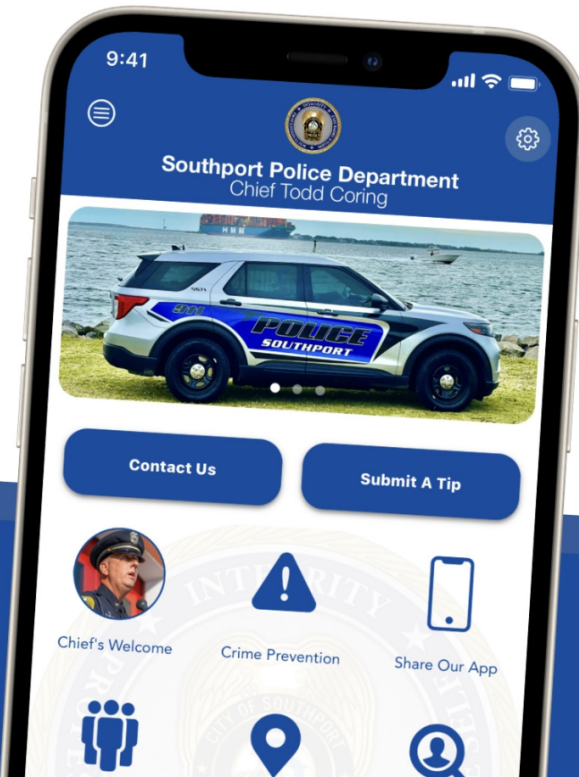


INSIDE THE APP,
TAP ON
"GET STARTED"

3



SEARCH FOR
YOUR DESIRED
POLICE DEPARTMENT



Built by:  **THEPOLICEAPP.COM**
CUSTOM POLICE APPS

December 2023 Newsletter

A Glimpse of History: A Southport Christmas by Boyce Spencer

from The Whittlers Bench, Southport Historical Society Newsletter, January 2003

Christmas in Southport during the 30's and early 40's was always looked forward to with much anticipation and great expectations. Probably best of all was that school was let out until after new years.

Our Christmas tree was always given to us by a friend or family member until I reached the age when I could go in the woods and cut one myself. The tree was a cedar and the small needles would penetrate your skin and cause a rash of sorts that was very uncomfortable. Decorating the tree was just as bad and the removal of the decorations at the end of the season was even worse because the needles had dried and become even more of a menace. The lights we first used were the kind that when a single bulb burned out the whole strand went out. Finding the culprit light took considerable time as each bulb had to be replaced with a good one until the strand lit up. Mama was tired of this yearly ritual and purchased several strings of outdoor lights. We used these on the tree for years. After mama passed away I still made use of the lights until they got misplaced after lending them to someone for use at a dance. The lights were blue with a pink center. Not very Christmas sounding but they were pretty. The tree was always in the same corner of the living room and tied to the walls to keep it from leaning. Most of the time the base of the tree was kept in a bucket of dirt so it could be watered from time to time.

Next to the tree was the fireplace with the stockings hung with care from the mantle. Santa filled the stockings with fruits and nuts and maybe a small toy for me in my stocking. For some reason I always got mama a bible for a present. She must have had more bibles than any woman in town. Evening in Paris perfume was popular and I made sure my sister Evelyn got a bottle for Christmas. It came in a small blue bottle with a tassel on top. The cost of the perfume was probably in the neighborhood of 25 cents a gallon. She pretended she liked it and that was all that counted.

Some of the houses around town were decorated but nothing like the houses of today. Carolers would come by in the evenings and sing the songs of the season. My favorite group was Erving Brown and some of his friends. They were good and reminded me of the Mills Brothers. Seems like folks don't have time for this anymore.

Where the new Baptist Church is today there was a large cedar tree and Santa Claus would be there on Christmas Eve to hand out gifts to the young children. The gifts were for the most part fruits and nuts and hard candy. Coming into Southport on Howe Street one was treated to a canopy of multicolored lights strung over the street and seeing them from a distance they looked very impressive, like a solid cover of lights. A white Christmas was always wished for but never happened. The only White Christmas then was from Bing Crosby.



We're Hiring!



COME
JOIN
OUR
TEAM



Scan or click here to apply.

OPEN POSITIONS:

- **City Clerk**

Performs high level administrative, technical, and professional work in coordinating and facilitating the administration of City Government. This individual serves as the City Clerk for the Board of Aldermen, Board of Adjustment, and others as needed.

- **Planning Services Director**

Performs difficult management, administrative and professional work in planning, organizing and directing the activities of the City's Planning Services Department. This includes Planning, Inspections, Permitting and Code Enforcement.

- **Firefighter**

Performs duties for the Southport Fire Department as related to a wide variety of tasks and functions in support of fire suppression, fire prevention, hazardous materials, emergency medical and other emergency services; and other tasks or duties as assigned by superiors.

- **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.

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

(910) 457-7900 www.cityofsouthport.com

December

Years of Service

Tony Burke, 5 Years – 12.4.2018

Police Major

Mark Caban, 5 Years – 12.4.2018

Distribution Operator

Kayce Burris, 1 Year – 12.14.2022

Police Officer

December 2023 Newsletter

Slow-Cooker Pork Shoulder

With Brown Sugar & Balsamic Glaze

<https://www.southernliving.com/recipes/sweet-potato-rolls>

Ingredients:

- 4 pounds pork shoulder (boneless pork butt)
- 4 cloves garlic, grated
- 2 teaspoons ground sage
- 2 teaspoons kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 4 bay leaves
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 cup dark brown sugar
- 1/2 cup balsamic vinegar
- 1/4 cup soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons mustard powder
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch



Instructions

1. Put the pork shoulder, garlic, sage, salt, pepper, bay leaves, and water into a slow cooker and smooch around with your hands. Cook on High for 4 hours.
2. In a measuring cup, whisk together the brown sugar, balsamic vinegar, soy sauce, mustard powder, and cornstarch. Add to the slow cooker and cook for another hour.
3. Carve pork against the grain into individual portions and serve with roasted carrots or white rice.

Sheet-Pan Cranberry Crisp

Bonus!

<https://www.southernliving.com/recipes/sweet-potato-rolls>

Ingredients:

Cranberry Filling

- 3 pounds cranberries (fresh or thawed from frozen)
- 1 1/4 cups light brown sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon kosher salt

Streusel Topping

- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 2/3 cups rolled (aka old-fashioned) oats
- 1 1/4 cups light brown sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons kosher salt
- 1 1/4 cups (2 1/2 sticks) unsalted butter, cubed, at a cool room temperature



Instructions

1. Position a rack in the middle of the oven and cover the rack below with foil (to catch any drips). Heat the oven to 400°F.
2. Add all of the cranberry filling ingredients to a large bowl and toss with your hands until the sugar starts to dissolve. Spread the mixture into a rimmed 18x13-inch sheet pan.
3. To make the streusel, combine the flour, oats, sugar, and salt in a large bowl and stir. Add the butter and incorporate by hand, pinching with your fingers, until the mixture resembles wet sand that clumps when squeezed. Evenly distribute the streusel on top of the cranberries, smushing it into clumps along the way.
4. Bake for 30 to 40 minutes, until the cranberries are bubbling around the edges and the streusel is golden brown.
5. Let cool for at least 10 minutes before serving.

Christmas Shoe Drive

Help us support our local
school children
by donating
a new pair of tennis shoes
to be distributed by
Power Walking Ministries, Inc.
est. 2007 - 501(c)(3)

Check out our donation
shoe tags located at
Shoe Show, Tidewater Plaza
1671 N Howe Street #5,
Southport NC
during the months of
November and December



**DONATIONS OF SOCKS
AND
GIFT CARDS
ALSO APPRECIATED**



December 2023 Newsletter



Winterfest 2023 December 7-9

MAYOR'S DOWNTOWN TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

(Sponsored by the City of Southport)
Come join us on Friday, December 1 at 6 to share in the Joy of the Season.

STOREFRONT SHOWCASE

(Sponsored by the City of Southport)
Visit and vote on local businesses that have decorated for the season!

WINTERFEST TEA

(Sponsored by the Sisters of Southport)
Saturday, December 2 at 1:00 at the Southport Community Building. Tickets will be \$45 and are available at Ricky Evans Gallery or the Ft. Johnston Visitors Center.

PET PICTURES WITH SANTA

(Sponsored by Southport Animal Protective Services)
Sunday, December 3, 2-4 Indian Trail Meeting Hall / Keziah Park 113 W. Moore St.

SHOP-WITH-A-COP CONCERT

(Sponsored by Southport Police Dept.)
Monday, December 4, 6-8 Franklin Square Park.
Featuring the BACK PORCH ROCKERS.

CANDY CANE GARDEN PARTY

(Sponsored by Southport Garden Club)
Tuesday, December 5, 6-8 Keziah Park
Buy candy canes online at southportgardenclub.org, available for pickup at Visitors Center.

ANNUAL COOKIE CONTEST

(Sponsored by The State Port Pilot)
Wednesday, December 6, 3:30-5:30, Southport Community Building
For more information visit stateportpilot.com.

SUPPER WITH SANTA'S ELVES

(Sponsored by Southport Parks & Rec.)
Wednesday, December 6, 5-6:30 \$5 per child
209 Atlantic Ave., beside Southport Gym.

CHRISTMAS MOVIE "POLAR EXPRESS"

(Sponsored by Southport Parks & Rec.)
Thursday, December 7, at dusk Fort Johnston Garrison Lawn
Chairs/blankets are suggested. Snacks provided by Southport Intra-coastal Realty.

ONCE MORE BOOKSTORE'S HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

(Sponsored by Friends of the Library Southport Oak Island)
Friday, December 8th, from 10-4 At 727 N Howe St.

HISTORIC HOLIDAYS

(Sponsored by NC Maritime Museum at Southport)
Friday, December 8, 12-4
204 E. Moore St.

LIGHT UP THE NIGHT CHRISTMAS PARADE

(Sponsored by Southport Fire Dept.)
Friday, December 8, 5:30
Children will board the fire engines at the Fire Station
Parade begins at 6:30
Parade route: Waterfront Park, down Howe St., back to the Southport Fire Station.
Following the parade, children are invited to visit with Santa and will receive a gift.
Concessions available.

WINTER CRAFT FESTIVAL

(Sponsored by Downtown Southport, Inc. & City of Southport)
Saturday, December 9, 9-4
Franklin Square Park
For more information, visit www.downtownsouthport.com.

SANTA'S WORKSHOP

(Sponsored by Southport Parks & Rec.)
Saturday, December 9, 10-11
209 Atlantic Ave., beside Southport Gym.

WINTERFEST PERFORMING ARTS

(Sponsored by Brunswick Arts Council)
Saturday, December 9, 11-3
Franklin Square Park Stage.

SOUTHPORT TRAIN AND TOY SHOW

(Sponsored by Wilmington Railroad Museum & Grand Strand Model Railroaders)
Indian Trail Meeting Hall
Saturday, December 9th, open from 12-5, presentations at 1 & 3.

OLD BRUNSWICK COUNTY JAIL MUSEUM TOURS

(Sponsored by Southport Historical Society)
Saturday, December 9, 12-5 on the corner of Nash & Rhett St.

HOLIDAY TOUR OF HOMES

(Sponsored by Southport Historical Society)
Saturday, December 9, 12-5
Tickets are needed to join this tour and can be purchased for \$25 through the Southport Historical Society's website starting on November 28th at 10

CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS

(Sponsored by Brunswick Arts Council) Concert & Party
Saturday, December 9, from 3-5
Southport Community Building

SOUTHPORT WINTERFEST FLOTILLA

(Sponsored by Cape Fear Yacht Club, Downtown Southport, Inc., & City of Southport)
Saturday, December 9, 6 on the Southport Waterfront.
Bring chairs and blankets and enjoy the beauty of the Christmas lights bouncing off the water. Judges will be Southport Elementary School Art Class Students.

For more information,
please call 910-457-7927



December 2023 Newsletter



SOUTHPORT POLICE SHOP WITH A COP PROGRAM

DONATIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED!

Donations can be dropped off at Southport Police Department, 1029 N. Howe Street. Please include "Shop with a Cop" in the memo line. Donations will be accepted until December 9, 2023.

CHRISTMAS DINNER TRADITIONS FROM CHARLES DICKENS



Presented by Desiree Bridge



Monday, December 11th, 10:00am

For more information
www.southporthistoricalsociety.org

 Harper Library

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

(910) 457-7900 www.cityofsouthport.com



December 2023 Newsletter



DECEMBER AT A GLANCE



UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS

Historic Preservation Commission
December 6 @ 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm - ITMH

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

ABC Board Meeting
December 13 @ 6:30 pm - ITMH

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

Park and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
December 19 @ 6:00 pm - ITMH

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

City offices Closed for Holiday
December 25

City offices Closed for Holiday
December 26

City offices Closed for Holiday
December 27

UPCOMING EVENTS

Winterfest activities and events!
December 1-10
cityofsouthport.com/winterfest-2023

Sensory Saturday, Penguin Party
December 2 @ 9:00 am - 11:00 am
NC Maritime Museum

Sea Notes Choral Society Presents
Christmas Concert 2023
December 2 & 3 @ 3:00 pm
Odell Williamson Auditorium

SHS: Christmas Dinner Traditions
from Charles Dickens
Presented by Desiree Bridge
December 11 @ 10:00 am
Harper Library

NC Maritime Museum at Southport,
Third Tuesdays
December 19 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Southport Community Building

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

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

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