

City of Southport

February 2024 Newsletter

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



This past thirty days has been a combination of working to complete old business and initiating new practices.

The sewer and water transfers to the county are underway. As with any project of this magnitude there are a host of questions that both jurisdictions need to hammer out. Due to the implications of such a move the Board of Aldermen voted to hire an outside lawyer to

represent the city. He also represented Shallotte in their water system transfer to the county.

In order to make an informed decision on the 441 acres of city land outside the gate of Sunny Point, (originally purchased for \$2 million in 2006 for part of the then city-proposed sewer plant), the Board of Aldermen voted to have the city manager research several unanswered questions that have lingered for some time. One of which is to determine if it is in the best interest of the taxpayers, while at the same time not harmful for the environment, for the city to lease part of the land, and receive a portion of the sale of the sand/clay mixture. There is a potential that the city could be paid approximately \$6 million. The decision must take into consideration environmental impacts. Those discussions are underway. To be clear, the Board voted to conduct more analysis and did not vote in which direction it would take. Additionally, it is not clear if the County will claim the land is a sewer asset and if they plan on asking for it as part of the sewer transfer.

An ad hoc committee of three Southport legislators are developing a draft recommendation to the full Board on policies

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

(910) 457-7900 www.cityofsouthport.com



February Monthly Citizen Update

and procedures that will guide the Board in their decision-making and business practices. Those discussions are currently underway.

The Board of Aldermen is currently reviewing applications for the vacant City Clerk position. This process is moving forward.

The Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee is working with the contractor to move along this project that will define how you want the city to look and feel like in the future.

I want to thank Mayor Pro Tem Kelley. On January 22, the mayor pro tem stood in for the Office of the Mayor at an important Rual Planning Organizational meeting (regional transportation analytical group). After a four-year gap in Southport participation, she made a proposal that was accepted to have Southport designated as an alternate voting member. This is the first step in regaining Southport's full voting status. This was a nice win for the city.

On January 30th, Southport reengaged and participated in the Brunswick County Nineteen Municipal Mayors' meeting. Rep. Frank ller and Senator Bill Rabon are on the agenda to discuss issues of common concern for all the municipalities, including regional legislative packages. This is another step in Southport's effort to rejoin our regional partners after several years of absence.

For all of you who organized the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. city parade and the subsequent event at the City of Southport Fire House on Sunday, January 14th, thank you immensely. It was an honor to have been invited.

February is when the various city departments bring their budget proposals to the table for the manager's review. Then in March, at the latest, the Board of Aldermen begin deliberations on how to wisely spend your tax dollars. Let your voice be heard.



City of Southport

February 2024 Newsletter



Shoreline Stabilization Project Successfully Completes Emergency Seawall Installation

By Tom Stanley, Public Services Director & Tom Zilinek, PE, City Engineer

In a proactive move to safeguard the Bay Street shoreline between S. Lord St and S Caswell Ave, a vital project recently installed approximately 190 linear feet of large rip rap. The initiative, spearheaded by the City, aimed to counteract erosion threatening the sidewalk and street, preventing them from succumbing to the relentless forces of the Cape Fear River.

The necessity for this emergency shoreline stabilization project became apparent in late June, prompting swift action. Concerns arose as the sidewalk along Bay Street showed signs of erosion due to the tidal and wave effects of the Cape Fear River. In response, the City promptly reached out to the Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) for guidance and assistance.

Upon consultation, it was decided that constructing a robust seawall using large rip rap would be the most effective means of stabilizing the area. However, a unique challenge emerged in finding the non-standard size stone required for the seawall. The solution was found in a quarry in Rockingham, NC, where the specific rip rap material was sourced.

To proceed with the project, the Mean High Tide Elevation needed to be surveyed for accurate seawall placement, a crucial step for obtaining the CAMA permit. The survey was conducted, and the permit application process ensued. After a diligent six-month period, the CAMA permit was successfully secured.

The actual installation of the seawall commenced on December 11, 2023, and was efficiently completed by December 14, 2023. A staggering 461 tons of rip rap were placed along the shoreline by the dedicated City Staff. This massive undertaking marked a significant milestone, with 190 linear feet of seawall construction bringing about substantial completion of the project.

While the primary seawall installation is finished, some follow-up tasks remain on the agenda. This includes the reconstruction of the sidewalk, temporarily removed for the seawall installation, as well as specific drainage and grading modifications. The final touch will involve the paving of Bay Street in the affected area. These remaining activities are currently being scheduled and are anticipated to conclude in the coming months.

This successful shoreline stabilization project not only addresses the immediate threat of erosion but also demonstrates the City's commitment to proactive infrastructure management and the protection of its valuable waterfront assets.









Southport Parks & Recreation Basketball is back for its 44th season

By ChyAnn Ketchum, Public Information Officer



Starting in the 1980s with a mere four teams of 9-13 year olds, Southport Parks & Recreation Basketball is on its 44th season with a roster comprised of 20 teams across four age groups: 5-7 years old, 8-10 years old, 11-13 years old, and high school-aged, respectively. The rosters include athletes from Southport and surrounding communities.

Since its beginning, Southport Basketball has held all practices and games in the Southport City Gym with this year's schedule hosting games on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings. New to basketball season this year, Southport Parks & Recreation will be holding a concession stand each night of

games in the Parks & Recreation Office at 209 N. Atlantic Ave. serving hotdogs, chips, and drinks. The building is already equipped for food preparation and serving from its past use as a food center for Brunswick Senior Center.

A true basketball experience each year, athletes participate in a skills showcase that includes past drills, dribbling, shooting, and overall skill levels facilitated by head referee, Mr. Eddie Moore, who has been serving with Southport Parks & Recreation Basketball for a decade. The skills showcase is then followed by a draft where coaches evaluate each of the athletes and draw a number for their draft order. From there, the draft continues until all athletes have been drafted to a team for the season. The skills showcase and draft usually occurs on the third Saturday in December each year.

Coaches are recruited by Parks & Recreation Program Director Maureen "Cookie" Moore each year and include a healthy mix of long-term veteran coaches and newer rookie coaches.

On their favorite memory from basketball season, Parks & Recreation Director Heather Hemphill feels great pride and joy when she sees athletes featured in the State Port Pilot knowing that they got their start and built their skills on the Southport City Gym Court. Maureen "Cookie" Moore has fond memories of watching athletes develop from kids who couldn't hold a basketball at the start of the season who are scoring baskets by the end.

Sponsorships are still available for the 2024 Basketball Season and other Parks & Recreation annual events. Basketball Sponsorships are \$200 and can support a full team for the season. New sponsorships or donations can be made out to Southport Parks & Recreation and dropped off at City Hall, 1029 N. Howe Street.

The schedule for this season's games can be found here: cityofsouthport.com/series/2024-youth-basketball-games





Southport Forestry Committee



New Year - Old Rules

As we start the New Year, it might be time for a reminder that here in Southport we have an active Tree Preservation chapter in our Unified Development Ordinance (UDO). Passed by the Board of Aldermen in August 2018, Chapter 3.18 of the UDO deals with regulations related to the preservation of Southport's trees and tree canopy on both public and private property. We have seen an increased incidence of both developers and private citizens undertaking the removal of trees and

clearing of lots without obtaining the proper permits and clearance from the City – some claiming they were not aware that we had these requirements.

Chapter 3.18 "Tree Preservation and Landscape Preservation" can be found at the following link: cityofsouthport.com/forestry-committee/#unified-development-ordinance The full City of Southport UDO can be found at: cityofsouthport.com/development-ordinance

It is the responsibility of each homeowner to obtain the proper permit prior to the removal of any hardwood tree greater than 8" diameter, or conifer 12" diameter that is on private property. Permits are not required for pruning. Trees that are in the right of way (public trees) that need to be removed should be brought to the attention of City Staff. The request for a Tree Removal Permit can be submitted online and the link to that form is: southportne.portal.opengov.com/categories/1080/record-types/6430

If you have a question about a particular tree or situation, you can contact City Staff at (910) 457-7925, or get in touch with a member of the Forestry Committee. The Forestry Committee can offer an assessment of your tree, or provide you with a list of local tree services that can assist.

The bottom line is "Call before you Cut" – if you have any questions, a phone call or permit request prior to undertaking any tree removal or lot clearance can avert what could possibly be a costly violation of the UDO.

Let's all do our part to preserve and maintain Southport's wonderful, and valuable, tree canopy!



City of Southport





Southport Fire Department Continues to Give Back through 501c3 Organizations

By ChyAnn Ketchum, Public Information Officer

In addition to responding to emergency response calls, the Southport Fire Department (SFD) also houses four separate 501c3 organizations: Southport Firemen's Fund, Southport Cares, Southport Firefighter Burned Children's Fund, and Southport Rescue Squad Auxiliary, respectively. Each organization supports local and state-wide fire safety and prevention activities.

Southport Firemen's Fund

The oldest of the Southport Fire Department 501c3 organizations, the Southport Firemen's fund has been in existence for approximately six decades, having been started by Chief Aldridge in the 1960s. Southport Firemen's Fund was first started as a private organization to assist the fire department with expenses that were not covered in the budget such as uniforms, dress uniforms, retirement, and miscellaneous items. Now, Southport Firemen's Fund continues giving back to the community as a 501c3 organization that hosts many fundraisers throughout the year. Fundraisers include raffles and bake sales which are then used to allocate funds for the annual awards banquet, retirement gifts, fire prevention supplies, and City event sponsorships. When the Model T Fire Engine was refurbished in 1992, many of the funds used for its restoration came from Firemen's Fund donations. To support Southport Firemen's Fund, you can make donations out the "Southport Firemen's Fund" and drop them off at Fire Headquarters at 1011 N. Howe Street or mail them to PO Box 10608, Southport, NC 28461.

Southport Cares

Southport Cares, governed by a Board comprised of both first responders and civilians, is the newest to join the Southport Fire Department's 501c3 organizations, having been created when the 2020 COVID Pandemic first hit by helping folks who had been directly impacted by effects of the pandemic. Southport Cares came together by some first responders who asked, "after the call is over, what can we do to help?" Funded by donations, both from first responders and civilians, Southport Cares has helped many people within the Southport Fire District who have been impacted by an emergency that warrants a response call from the fire department. When responding to a call, first responders identify the need that they see. To support Southport Cares, you can make donations out to "Southport Cares" and drop them off at Fire Headquarters at 1011 N. Howe Street, mail them to mail them to PO Box 10608, Southport, NC 28461, or visit the website: https://southportcares.org.

Southport Firefighter Burned Children's Fund

After being certified as Fire Prevention and Life Safety Officers many years ago, Fire Chief Charles Drew and Assistant Fire Chief Todd Coring had the idea to bring a chapter of the North Carolina Burned Children's Fund to eastern North Carolina. This organization is primarily funded by recyclable aluminum cans. Found in two locations, recycling trailers are at the Nash Street Substation in Southport and the Caswell Beach Substation in Caswell Beach. The aluminum cans are collected and then escorted to Wilmington and recycled for money. In 2023, the Southport Burned Children's Fund collected 5,400 pounds of cans which equated to about \$3,000 that was used to support the Jaycee Burn Center at UNC Chapel Hill and the





Southport Fire Department Continues to Give Back through 501c3 Organizations

Continued

Wake Forest Burn Center in Winston–Salem. In addition to supporting the burn centers directly, the Southport Firefighter Burned Children's Fund has also been used for fire prevention initiatives across the state, assisting with the State's annual Camp Celebrate for burned children, and purchasing the Southport Fire Department's safety house used in training. A third recycling trailer is slated to be placed in the Yacht Basin area of Southport, but they are custom–made and cost approximately \$12,000. You can read more about the Southport Burned Children's Fund in the January 10, 2024 edition of the State Port Pilot.

Southport Rescue Squad Auxiliary

Originally started by the EMS Division prior to merging with the Southport Fire Department, the Southport Rescue Squad Auxiliary was created to offset purchases for the EMS Division and serves EMS similarly to how the Southport Firemen's Fund serves the Fire Department. Over the last year, \$50,000 was raised to add two power stretchers to two ambulances, with half being provided by the Auxiliary and the other half being provided by the City of Southport. Funds from the Southport Rescue Squad Auxiliary have also been used to purchase a Polaris for hard-to-reach areas during response calls. The Rescue Squad Auxiliary hosts a few fundraisers a year which include bake sales, dinner plates, or letter requests. To support the Southport Rescue Squad Auxiliary, you can make donations out to the "Southport Rescue Squad Auxiliary" and drop them off at Fire Headquarters at 1011 N. Howe Street or mail them to PO Box 10608, Southport, NC 28461.

When asked what some of his fondest memories of working with these organizations were, Fire Chief Charles Drew stated that "all four of these organizations are giving back and helping... being able to help the people we serve is amazing." One instance of post-response assistance occurred when installing fire alarms for a hospice patient. First responders noticed the lack of groceries in the home. Through Southport Cares, the first responders were able to provide the patient with groceries and flowers.

Some ways that the community can support the Southport Fire Department include volunteering and donating. Volunteer opportunities are available through Southport Cares and the Rescue Squad Auxiliary. Financial contributions can be dropped off at Fire Headquarters at 1011 N. Howe Street or mail them to PO Box 10608, Southport, NC 28461.











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







A Glimpse of History: **An early Description of Cape Fear**

from The Whittlers Bench, Southport Historical Society Newsletter, September 1976

Dr. John Brickell, a native of Ireland, came to Carolina around 1729 and resided in the Alberaarle area for about two years. He then returned to Ireland and in 1737 published The Natural History of North Carolina, a lengthy description of the natural, social and economic conditions had observed in the Carolina colony.

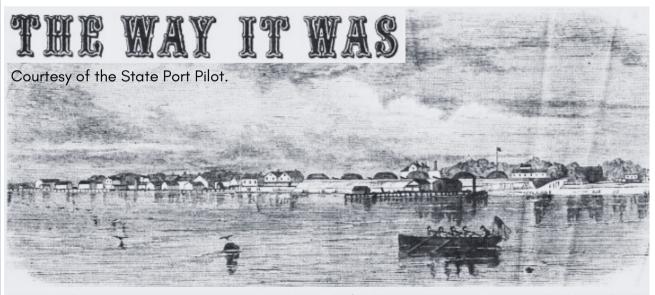
In his account of "the most considerable Inlets and Havens" of the province. Dr. Brickell writes:

"Cape Fear Inlet lyes in the Latitude of 33 Degrees 53 Minutes; it is the best in all North Carolina, where you have 7 Fathom Water at the Barr. you have likewise a fine Harbour, and can come with safety to an Anchor 5 or 6 Leagues up the River.

And notwithstanding it -is so commodious for Navigation, yet few or no planters settled here till within these few years, but now in all Appearance, it seems to be the most rising part of all this Province; there being now many Substantial Planters settled there, and are become very Rich within the space of Nine or Ten years, It being little frequented inhabited before that Time, viz. in the Year 1723,"

Dr. Brickell was well impressed with the plantations he saw along the river:

"The Planters for the most part live by the Water side, few or none living in the In-land parts of the Country at present... Most part of the Plantations run but a Mile backwards into the Woods, so' that betwixt every River you shall see vast Tracts of Land lying waste, or inhabited only by wild Beasts: What is worthy of Observation is, That almost every Planter may have a convenient Dock upon his Plantation, and a sufficient quantity of good Timber to build Ships and Boats withal."



This is how Smithville looked to an artist from Leslie's Illustrated News when he visited in early February, 1865, just after Fort Johnston was occupied by Federal naval forces. Easily perceived is the present-day Garrison building. as well as the now-filled approach to the beach at Fort Johnston Place. The drawing was loaned to us by Jim McKee, who recently obtained it from a private collection in Michigan.







The Short-Term Vacation Rental Ordinance has changed since it was originally adopted. However, the City still enforces the zoning regulations for Short-term Vacation Rentals.

Before you list your property or buy a property in Southport to use as a Short-term Vacation Rental, please call the Development Services office at (910) 457-7925 to get more information!

Or visit us, here:











COME JOIN OUR TEAM

OPEN POSITIONS:

Energy Manager

Firefighter

Firefighter/Paramedic

Paramedic



Scan or click here to apply.

Police Officer

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.



February

Years of Service

Charles Drew, 31 Years - 2.23.1993
Fire Chief

Al Cochran, 6 Years - 2.20.2018
Public Works Technician

Karen Deegan, 13 Years – 2.1.2011 Volunteer EMS Captain

William Hargrove, 11 Years – 2.28.2013 City Gym Attendant

Brian Hagge, 8 Years - 2.22.2016 Volunteer Fire Lieutenant

Jon Zilinek, 1 Year - 2.13.2023 City Engineer



Grillades and Cheesy Grits

<u> https://www.foodandwine.com/grillades-and-cheesy-grits-7090895</u>

Ingredients

Grillades:

- 1(2-pound) beef top round
- 1 cup (about 4¼ ounces) plus
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour,
- 1 tablespoon kosher salt, plus more to taste
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon crushed red
- pepper 1/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons canola oil, divided
- 1 medium-size yellow onion, finely chopped (about 11/2 cups
- 1 small red bell pepper, finely chopped (about 3/4 cup)
- 1 large celery stalk, finely chopped (about 1/4 cup)
- 1 (1-inch) piece fresh ginger, peeled and finely chopped (about 2 tablespoons)
- 3 garlic cloves, finely chopped (about 1 tablespoon plus 2 teaspoons)
- 1 (15-ouncé) can diced tomatoes, drained
- 2 dried bay leaves
- 1 tablespoon Creole seasoning
- 2 3/4 cups beef stock or lower-sodium beef broth
- Hot sauce (such as Tabasco) to
- Thinly sliced scallions, for garnish

Cheesy Grits

- 31/2 cups water
- 1 cup uncooked stone-ground white grits (about 4 ounces)
- 8 ounces sharp cheddar cheese, grated (about 2 cups)
- 1/4 cup unsalted butter
- Kosher salt, to taste

Instructions

Make the grillades:

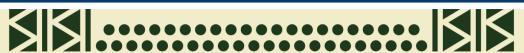
- 1. Slice beef against the grain into 4 even pieces. Cover meat with plastic wrap, and pound lightly with a meat mallet to 1/3-inch thickness. Stir together 1 cup flour, salt, black pepper, and crushed red pepper in a shallow bowl. Lightly dredge beef slices in flour mixture, shaking beef lightly to remove any excess.
- 2. Heat 1/4 cup oil in a cast-iron Dutch oven over medium-high until it just begins to smoke. Working in 2 batches, cook beef in hot oil until browned on both sides, about 6 minutes per batch. Transfer beef to a large platter, and set aside. Do not wipe Dutch oven clean.
- 3. Preheat oven to 275°F. Combine onion, bell pepper, celery, remaining 2 tablespoons flour, and remaining 2 tablespoons oil in Dutch oven. Cook over mediumhigh, stirring and scraping bottom of Dutch oven constantly, until mixture is fragrant and vegetables begin to caramelize, 2 to 3 minutes. Add ginger and garlic; cook, stirring constantly, until fragrant, about 30 seconds. Stir in tomatoes, bay leaves, and Creole seasoning; cook, stirring often, until tomatoes begin to break down, about 4 minutes. Stir in stock; bring to a simmer over medium-high. Nestle browned beef into sauce mixture. Remove from heat.
- 4. Cover Dutch oven, and transfer to preheated oven. Roast until grillades are fork-tender, about 3 hours.

Make the cheesy grits:

- 1. Bring 3 1/2 cups water to a boil in a medium saucepan over medium-high. Whisk in grits; cook, whisking constantly, until grits begin to thicken, about 3 minutes. Cover and reduce heat to low. Cook, stirring occasionally and scraping bottom of saucepan to prevent scorching, until grits are tender, softened, and cooked through, about 20 minutes. Remove grits from heat. Whisk in cheese and butter. Season with salt to taste. Cover to keep warm.
- 2. Remove grillades from oven; season with hot sauce and additional salt to taste. Serve warm over cheesy grits, and garnish with scallions.







BRUNSWICK COUNTY **BLACK HISTORY SYMPOSIUM**

FEBRUARY

9-11

O SOUTHPORT COMMUNITY BUILDING 223 E Bay St, Southport, NC 28461 PROCEEDS FROM THIS EVENT WILL GO TO: Woodard's Adult Day Health Center

February 9,2024

6:00 pm: Storyteller Ms. Carolyn Evans will portray Miss Annie Clemmons, a Black Southport woman who fought for voting rights in **Brunswick County** during the women's suffrage movement in 1920.

Also that evening, we will present local author, Liz Fullers ne book, "Southport's Secret Suffragist."

Battery B 2nd Regiment

U.S. Colored Light

Artillery

(United States Colored

Troops Re-enactors)

February 10, 2024

12:00 pm: Mr. John Mosely: "The African American Experience in the Cape Fear 1861-1865"

1:30 pm: Dr. Liz Fuller: "The Struggle for Black Voting Rights in Brunswick County"



John Moseley



February 11, 2024

3:00pm:

"Gospel Fest"

hosted

by Ms. Gwen

Wearren

3:00 pm: Mr. Donnie Joyner: "Battery B 2nd Regiment U.S. Colored Light Artillery Inc. Civil War Re-Enactors"

4:30 pm: West Brunswick High School Drama Club will present an excerpt from their 16th Annual **Black History Month** Production.



West Brunswick High School Drama Club













2024

ARTS SHOW & RECEPTION

Spotlighting the Visual Arts of:

Don't miss out on seeing the amazing creativity and talent of today's students!



STUDENTS FROM SOUTH BRUNSWICK HIGH SCHOOL

and members of the GFWC - Southport Woman's Club

TUESDAY, February 6th, 5:00 to 7:00PM

Southport Community Building

223 East Bay Street

Free Event - Open to the Public - Light Refreshments

Sponsored by the GFWC - Southport Woman's Club and the City of Southport







EAT A GLANCE



UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS

Board of Aldermen Regular Meeting February 5 @ 9:00 am - SCB

Historic Preservation Commission February 7 @ 4:00 pm -ITMH

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

Forestry Committee Meeting February 13 @ 5:00 pm - ITMH

ABC Board Meeting February 14 @ 1:00 pm - ITMH

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

Beautification Committee Regular Meeting February 19 @ 5:00 pm - ITMH

Park and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting February 20 @ 6:00 pm - Parks & Rec Offices

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

Cemetery Committee Meeting February 28 @ 2:00 pm - ITMH

UPCOMING EVENTS

All month long: Mon, Tue, Thurs 2024 Youth Basketball Games 5:30 pm - 9:30 pm Southport City Gym The schedule for this season's games can be found here: cityofsouthport.com/series/2024-youthbasketball-games

"This is Our Town" Cleanup Beautification Committee February 3, @ 9:00 am - Old Jail Annex

> Musical Theatre 101 February 3 @ 3:00 pm Brunswick Little Theatre

Darling Daughter Dance February 4 @ 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm Southport Community Building

Southport Women's Club Art Show February 6 @ 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm Southport Community Building

> SHS: Brunswick County Black History Symposium February 9-11, SCB

SHS: Scottish Influence in NC February 13 @ 10:00 am Harper Library

NC Maritime Museum at Southport, Third Tuesdays February 20 @ 11:00 am - 1:00 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