



City of Southport

April 2024 Newsletter

In this issue >>>

- Monthly Citizen Update, From the Office of the Mayor, Rich Alt
- Meet the Author: Lynn Cook Betz @ Southport Community Building
- Southport Forestry Committee - *Arbor Day*
- New City Clerk Selected
- Dail Promoted to Director of Community Relations
- A Glimpse of History - *Dr. W.G. Curtis, the historian, writes of past social life in "Ye Olden Times." In 1897.*
- Spring Herb Frittata
- We're Hiring!
- Anniversaries
- Upcoming Meetings & Events

Monthly Citizen Update

From the Office of the Mayor, Rich Alt



The month of April will be a busy one for your city elected officials. There are 8 full Board of Aldermen meetings already set and that does not take into account ad-hoc subcommittee meetings.

At the Monday, April 01 meeting a number of topics were moved forward from approving a first draft of a Comprehensive Infrastructure Plan (CIP) to begin prioritizing projects and funding streams over a six-year span of time, to setting the stage for the budget process, to approving in concept and policy to govern public/private partnerships on joint ventures that have a city nexus.

- April 8th will be a presentation on the shoreline restoration project and its status, Discussions on possible Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) changes, and a discussion the roles and responsibilities of aldermen liaisons to committees and boards.
- April 10th Closed session for personnel issue
- April 11th is the regular Board of Aldermen meeting with a 334-page agenda.
- April 12 is a closed session on personnel issues
- April 23, 29, and 30 Budget meetings

So, as we move into the budget cycle, which will require some hard choices on how we manage our various facilities, which in turn will set the city up for the next decade plus, on a path that no matter which fork the city takes, will cost in the millions of dollars, your elected officials are dedicated to making these difficult votes. If time permits, when the second draft of the CIP comes out take a look at the financial and logistical challenges that hopefully will be turned into action plans.

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

(910) 457-7900 www.cityofsouthport.com





April 2024 Newsletter

Southport Press Release

Meet the Author: Lynn Cook Betz @ Southport Community Building



Meet the Author
at
Southport Community
Center



Lynn Betz

Wednesday, April 17th at 4:00pm
Southport Community Center, 223 E. Bay Street
Southport

Friends of the Library Southport-Oak Island and the City of Southport invite you to join us for an exclusive evening with acclaimed author Lynn Cook Betz as she presents her riveting new book, "My Right Hand to Goodness; the Life and Times of Crazy Dale Varnam". This special event will take place at the Southport Community Building on April 17, 2024, from 4:00 pm-5:00 pm, offering an insightful exploration into the captivating history of Varnamtown during the tumultuous 1980s and 1990s.

Accompanied by special guests Dale Varnam and local vigilante Roger Morton, Lynn Cook Betz will delve into the depths of a small coastal town gripped by greed, corruption, and drug trafficking linked to the infamous Medellin Cartel.

Through nine years of meticulous research, Betz unveils the astonishing role played by "Crazy Dale" Varnam in this true crime saga, promising an evening filled with intrigue and revelation.

As a prelude to this anticipated event, enthusiasts are encouraged to tune in to the gripping "Varnamtown" podcast, hosted by television star Kyle McLachlan and co-produced by Lynn Cook Betz. Explore the captivating narrative leading up to the event at www.podcastone.com/pd/Varnamtown.

Generously sponsored by Friends of the Library Southport & Oak Island (FOLSOI) and The City of Southport, this event promises to be an unforgettable experience for those interested in history and true crime.

Spaces are limited. Reserve your seat today by registering at <https://brunscolibcal.com/event/12215719> or calling 910-457-6237.

April 2024 Newsletter



Southport Forestry Committee

Join the Forestry Committee in celebrating Arbor Day!

This is Southport's 20th year as a "Tree City USA"

Guest Speaker: Mr. Wayne Hoffman

Recognition of "Southport Tree Champion"

And more!



Southport
Arbor Day

FRIDAY, 26 APRIL, 11:00A
AT TAYLOR FIELD PARK

Come join the City of Southport
Forestry Committee
as we celebrate
Arbor Day.

Wayne Hoffman, a native Oregonian who resides near Newport, Oregon, is trained as a behavioral ecologist (BS and MS in Zoology from Oregon State University, Ph.D. from the University of South Florida). Wayne has worked on seabird biology, marine mammal and sea turtle distribution and ecology, forest bird habitat needs and foraging behavior, and habitat value of forests and forest plantations under different harvest regimes. For the past 16 years, Wayne has worked for the MidCoast Watersheds Council, with an emphasis on the restoration of stream habitat for salmon, steelhead, and trout. Wayne is also an avid nature photographer, concentrating on birds, mammals, wildflowers, and insects.

April 2024 Newsletter

Southport Press Release

New City Clerk Selected

The Board of Aldermen recently selected Sara Thomas to serve as City Clerk. Thomas began her tenure with the City on March 5, 2024, after previously serving as a Paralegal for a prestigious Charlotte-based law firm. Thomas began her career as a Clerk in Seven Devils, NC, and has served across North Carolina, settling in Brunswick County in 2021.

Sara Thomas moved into the City Clerk position after the previous City Clerk, Dorothy Dutton was promoted to Assistant City Manager in October 2022. Dutton continued to serve as Clerk until Thomas' selection.

Thomas states that she is excited to be joining the City of Southport team and looks forward to continuing to make progress on current and future projects.

Sara Thomas' office is on the second floor of City Hall, and she can be reached at sthomas@cityofsouthport.com or (910) 457-7900 ext. 1011.

Southport Press Release

Dail Promoted to Director of Community Relations

After serving the City of Southport for close to three years, Allayna Dail has been promoted to Director of Community Relations.

Having graduated with a History degree from the University of North Carolina Wilmington in 2017, Dail has served the New Hanover and Brunswick County areas for over seven years. Joining the City as a Marketing Specialist in 2021, Allayna dove headfirst into event creation and promotion, non-profit assistance, and supervisory duties.

In her new role, Dail has big plans for upcoming events around the City and is excited to breathe new life into the currently active events and film scene in Southport.

When asked what excites her the most about this position, Dail stated that she is grateful for the chance to continue her service to Southport and its community in this new role—a responsibility she embraces with enthusiasm.

Assistant City Manager Dorrie Dutton states "We are grateful for all that Allayna has done to keep the City and the Community Relations Department moving forward over the last five months. All of her dedication and hard work has paid off and she will do well as the Director."

Allayna's office remains in the Garrison House at Fort Johnston, and she can be reached at adaile@cityofsouthport.com or (910) 457-7927 ext. 1039.

April 2024 Newsletter



SOUTHPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT

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

1



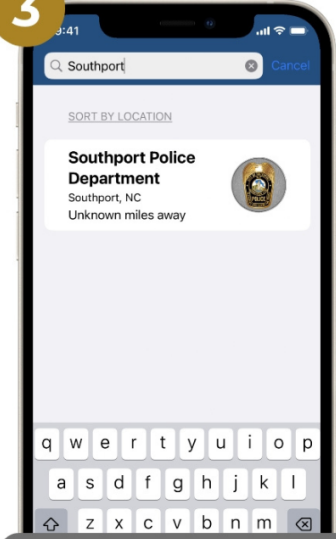
SCAN QR OR SEARCH
FOR THE "NC POLICE
DEPARTMENTS APP"
IN YOUR APP STORE

2



INSIDE THE APP,
TAP ON
"GET STARTED"

3



SEARCH FOR
YOUR DESIRED
POLICE DEPARTMENT



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



Southport Fire Department

CITIZEN'S FIRE ACADEMY

Meets every Tuesday at 6:00 pm starting April 2nd

<h3>SCHEDULE:</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Week 1: April 2nd- Introduction to the Fire ServiceWeek 2: April 9th- A day in the life of a Firefighter/EMTWeek 3: April 16th- Fire Prevention & Life Safety- Fire Marshal's Office- Education, Enforcement, & InvestigationWeek 4: April 23rd- Emergency Medical Services, Technical Rescue & ExtricationWeek 5: April 30th- Disasters & High Risk EmergenciesWeek 6: March 7th- Fire Academy Review & Graduation Ceremony	<h3>HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PROGRAM:</h3> <p>Tour of Fire Headquarters, Being Raised in a 101' Platform Aerial, Hands on with the Jaws of Life, breathing apparatus, Fire Extinguishers, and a once in a lifetime chance to drive a fire engine and ambulance!</p>
--	--

APPLY ONLINE NO LATER THAN: Monday, April 1st, 3PM

WWW.SOUTHPORTFD.COM
WWW.CITYOFSOUTHPORT.COM

MORE INFORMATION: (910) 457-7915, 910-368-6712
OR EMAIL: cdrew@cityofsouthport.com - mdrew@cityofsouthport.com

April 2024 Newsletter

A Glimpse of History: **Dr. W.G. Curtis, the historian, writes of past social life in "Ye Olden Times." In 1897.**

from The Whittlers Bench, Southport Historical Society Newsletter, September 1997

FROM THE FILES OF BILL REAVES, WILMINGTON, N. C., MARDI, 1997.

Southport is an ancient town in the sense that anything in America over a century old is ancient.

Yet, at the date of this present, there is no single specimen of antiquity remaining. The march of progress has obliterated every specimen of the world of the original settlers. With the old block house and the old house built of cypress boards and fastened with wrought nails - with the one-story, dormer-windowed houses with broad verandas and shed room at the back, have gone, the old people and the old memories. It is not in good form, except with a few who have ancestry, and take pride in the fact, to say much about the olden times, which are little esteemed by the new men and women.

"Who was Benjamin Blaney?" is inquired some times in a letter from New Jersey or California, and nobody knows, but somebody (there is always a village antiquary, or "Old Mortality," in every place) goes down to the old cemetery and finds a broken and neglected tombstone lying in the brambles and finds this inscription

"Here lie the remains of Benjamin Blaney, a native of Roxbury, State of Massachusetts, who departed this life on the 14th of Nov., 1816, aged 50 years."

Another distant inquirer asks: "Who was Benjamin Smith?" Nobody knows but after diligent inquiry, it is learned that he was once a governor of North Carolina, that he gave away all of his magnificent estate and died in poverty and neglect, and is buried - where? Nobody in Southport knows, but there is a tradition that somebody's bones had been dug up and buried for his bones -somewhere. However this may be, it is a fact that letters of inquiry have been lately received to find out whether it was as reported, that the hair on the late lamented skull of this somebody who was dug up had grown and turned red after burial. All of which leads to the sad reflection: That where the march of progress begins, we are of little consequence, and that the money spent on inscriptions on our tombstones might better have been spent in providing tracts in the Booriboolan language on the original sin for the natives of Booriboolah Gha.

Southport was laid out about a century ago in a spirit of liberality which took no note of the probable fact that land would be worth \$100 a front foot when the railroad should get there.

Its streets are 99 feet wide and are named after the men of Mark who lived in these days, and whom the writer loved to honor - such as Dry, l'400re, Nash, Ho, Riett, Potts, and others. It was named Smithville, in honor of its founder, His Excellency Benjamin Smith, governor of North Carolina, a man given to hospitality, generosity, and a patron of learning in the state. From the earliest times, Southport has been a resort for purposes of pleasure comfort, and health. But there are resorts and resorts, pleasure-seekers and pleasure seekers, various in their purposes and their tastes. Of the old sort (blessed be their memories), and peace to their ashes! their purpose was ease, not without dignity, but certainly with genuine friendship, and genial hospitality. They came to Southport about June 1st, which was as late as it was deemed safe to stay at their winter homes, for mosquitoes and malaria arrived in those days by the almanac. On the 10th of October frost was die, and as they did not rise very early they took it on trust that frost had come as is duty bound on that day.

So they folded their tents and departed, leaving the Smithvillians in tears, for the residents

April 2024 Newsletter

A Glimpse of History, *continued.*

of Smithville were very fond of these summer guests, whose business it was to sit in the shade, where the sunnier breezes front the Atlantic, blowing over sunnier seas, could permeate through than with a delicious coolness. At 11 o'clock by the watch, it was to take a toddy and bless the Lord for his goodness. This was before the days when the devil was discovered at the bottom of the cup; at any rate, they took their toddy and lived long and happily thereafter.

The ladies were the dispensers of generous hospitality, and happy were they Kio could gather around the table of Mrs. John Walker, or Mrs. Cowan, or Mrs. Oven D. Holmes, and many others, and partake of the delicious viands they knew so wall photo set forth and preside over. Truly, they were cooks in those days, taught by adepts in the art of tickling the palate, and not hampered by the rules of Mrs. Parloa, or any other professor of the culinary art. They just simply did it, and that was all there was about it. Ien, after the feast, then came the evening drive, and then the dancing. Duke Walker was the fiddler. This venerable colored gentleman enjoyed a high reputation, first, as the major Cerro of Major Walker, and, second, as the fiddler at all impromptu social gatherings. But, alas! for the degeneracy of human nature! Having spent a long and useful life as above enumerated, he finally accepted a position as "boss" of the First National Bank of Wilmington and went out with that institution.

Thus Smithville remained until the tocsin of war sounded in 1861. An ideal resort, has its characteristics varied from time to time by its pituitary aspect. For Smithville was never altogether Smithville. It was Fort Johnston from early Colonial times, and long before Smithville was thought of. Indeed, it was seldom that any of the pleasure and health seekers spoke of Smithville at all. They were going to the "Fort" always. At the Fort were the troops of the United States Army, with their gay young officers, always popular in the South. And the South, in like manner was ever popular with the gay young officers. At no military post were they received with more courtesy, or with more open-handed hospitality. At no military post did they find more beautiful women. At none were they more easily compelled to surrender to the overwhelming power of Cupid's darts. The bond of friendship and affection between many of the officers and our people did become cb firmly bound that, after four years of a bloody war, they were not forgotten.

One hesitates to ring down the curtain and hide forever the peaceful life of these people at the favorite and only resort in the Cape Fear section. For, be it reentered, this was in the days of slavery, which assured in these days and this place a rather patriarchal character. None of the evils of slavery, so much talked of and written about in the northern and anti-slavery points were known to exist; and it seems now that about the only obstacle to entire freedom were the patrollers, who were a terror to wandering negroes away from here after 9 p.m. But even this did not amount to nudi deprivation of liberty, because any of them could get a pass merely by asking for it. Many of the families residing in the town for the summer kept from ten to fifteen servants, whose principal occupation must have been to get out of each other's way.

Not many who prosper these days know the routine of daily life at that time. Every member of the family and every guest had his special servant. The misfortune of attending this arrangement was that your special servant was apt to be out to hear the band play or see the procession passed by, just when he was wanted, but if everything went on with due regularity he woke you in the morning at the proper attire, not too early, brushed your clothes and arranged them neatly on a chair at your bedside, took your shoes away to be polished, and, after a brief absence, returned with the water for your bath. After you had finished your toilet, he offered you a mint julep sent up by your host, which puts you in a happy mood for enjoying your breakfast.

April 2024 Newsletter

A Glimpse of History, *continued.*

After this meal is over, you repair to the shady veranda, when pipes are served already filled, and ready to be lighted from a blazing coal for the kitchen fire. But in a town when most of the pilots of the Cape Fear River had their hams, it was not to be expected that absolute quiet would long prevail, and even the super residents and miters in good standing of the Lazy Club, could not resist the excitement which naturally pertains to the business of piloting. A white spot about the size of a man's hand will appear in the offing, discernible only to the practiced eye of a pilot. The cry of "a ship off the bar" could arouse the town to life, energy, and activity. In less time than you could think, frau two to a half dozen boats would put off from the shore, the steersman always in his place, the oarsman pulling off their coats, others clearing away to set the mainsail and jib, and before they had got rods from the shore all would be settled in their places for the chase, which might be five to ten miles long. Then the excitement of the race would pervade all classes of people, even women and children alike. And so it was all the time, for commerce was then entirely coastwise, and transacted by sailing vessels. It was not uncommon for ten or twenty vessels to appear off the bar in a single day, and often twenty or thirty would hoist their white sails and go to sea on a single tide. So it is always and everywhere. An intense interest and excitement attached to all transactions upon the mighty ocean. Wherever in pursuit of their avocations pilots race over smooth waters or stormy seas, there is daring and danger, which requires a fierce activity and constant watchfulness, attracting the attention and sympathy of all observers.

But is it impossible to elaborate on these matters of social life and the history of Smithville at greater length? It would require the imagination and the pen of Dickens to describe the curious people, both men and women, who have spent their lives in old Smithville, and who have gone to their rest. Smithville is no more. When the threats of war sounded she yielded up the ghost and quietly departed out of this troublesome world. Old Smithville is a dream and a present impossibility. Her ways of doing things and her manner of life could no more be revived now than could the institutions of slavery. And never, on this continent or any other can there ever be such a place. The struggle for life political liberty money, and social position is fierce. There is strife and bickery and new social and political ambitions, which cannot be satisfied. The bottom sail has got on top, and don't know what to do with itself. None of these troubles existed in old Smithville, where everybody occupied the position intended for him, or her, for the foundation of the world, and were satisfied with it.

Southport is a place that North Carolina should be proud of. It is the only finished and prominent harbor in the state. It is being fortified by the United States for defense, with the soldiers of the United States, and the brilliant uniforms will be seen upon our streets as in the olden times. Are the beautiful Cape Fear girls going to let these young officers suffer for want of their bright smiles and fascinating ways? We think not, but we will wait and see.

Undoubtedly there will be a new city in Southport sure time in the future. The situation is too beautiful to be ignored. Its commercial position will contend business. As a city, it will be a younger brother to Wilmington, and the relationship between the two places ought always to be intimate and friendly.

THE WILMINGTON MESSENGER, 8-22-1897.

We're Hiring!



COME
JOIN
OUR
TEAM



Scan or click here to apply.

OPEN POSITIONS:

- **Assistant Director of Community Relations**

The Assistant Director of Community Relations plays a pivotal role in facilitating effective communication with the public and executing city-wide marketing initiatives.

- **Building & Events Manager**

This position involves overseeing the Southport Community Building and the Indian Trail Meeting Hall to ensure smooth operations for events and weddings.

- **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.

- **Paramedic**

Performs protective service work protecting citizens and property while performing firefighting, rescue and emergency medical functions, fire prevention, general facility maintenance, apparatus and equipment maintenance, public education, and other related work as apparent or assigned.

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

April 2024 Newsletter

April

Years of Service

Harlan Pyles, 13 Years – 4.11.2011
Code Enforcement Officer

Addison White, 10 Years – 4.7.2014
Grounds Maintenance

George Ball, 6 Years – 4.9.2018
Youth Basketball Head Referee

William Wade, 4 Years – 4.21.2020
Police Sergeant

Kiley Barefoot, 3 Years – 4.1.2021
Building Inspector

Robert Jarvis, 1 Year – 4.5.2023
City Engineer

Jerod Parker, 1 Year – 4.18.2023
Grounds Maintenance

April 2024 Newsletter

Spring Herb Frittata

<https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/spring-herb-frittata-recipe/>

Ingredients

- 1/4 c. crème fraîche, at room temperature
- 2 tbsp. chopped chives
- 6 large eggs
- 6 scallions, cut into 1-in. pieces
- 2 c. flat-leaf parsley leaves, plus more for sprinkling
- 2 c. cilantro leaves and tender stems, plus more for sprinkling
- 1/2 c. dill fronds, plus more for sprinkling
- 2 tbsp. tarragon leaves, plus more for sprinkling
- 4 tbsp. olive oil, divided



Instructions

1. Heat oven to 350°F.
2. In a small bowl, stir together crème fraîche and chives; set aside.
3. In a large bowl, lightly beat eggs. In a food processor, pulse scallions, parsley, cilantro, dill, tarragon, and 2 tablespoons oil until evenly and finely chopped. Add to bowl with eggs along with 1/2 teaspoon each salt and pepper and mix to combine.
4. Heat the remaining 2 tablespoons oil in a medium skillet on medium until shimmering, about 2 minutes. Add egg mixture and cook until edges have begun to sizzle and set, about 2 minutes.
5. Transfer skillet to oven and bake until center is just set 18 to 20 minutes.
6. Let rest for at least 5 minutes. Serve with chive crème fraîche. Sprinkle with more herbs, if desired.

April 2024 Newsletter



APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

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](http://cityofsouthport.com/southport-summer-market)



April 2024 Newsletter



APRIL AT A GLANCE



UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS

- Board of Aldermen Regular Meeting
April 1 @ 9:00 am - SCB
- ABC Board Meeting
April 3 @ 1:30 pm - ABC Store
- Historic Preservation Commission
April 3 @ 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm - ITMH
- BOA Special Meeting
April 8 @ 9:00 am - SCB
- Forestry Committee Meeting
April 9 @ 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm - ITMH
- BOA Special Closed Session Meeting
April 10 @ 8:30 am - SCB
- Board of Aldermen Regular Meeting
April 11 @ 6:00 pm - SCB
- BOA Special Closed Session Meeting
April 12 @ 8:30 am - ITMH
- Beautification Committee Regular Meeting
April 15 @ 5:00 pm - ITMH
- Park and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
April 16 @ 6:00 pm - Parks & Rec Offices
- Planning & Zoning Board Meeting
April 18 @ 6:00 pm - SCB
- BOA Special Budget Workshop
April 23 @ 2:00 pm - ITMH
- Zoning Board of Adjustments
April 23 @ 4:30 pm - ITMH
- Cemetery Committee Meeting
April 24 @ 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm - ITMH
- BOA Special Budget Workshop
April 29 @ 9:00 am - ITMH

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Parks & Rec Spring Break Camp
April 1 @ 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Parks & Recreation Office
- Fire Department Citizen's Fire Academy
April 2 @ 6:00 pm
Fire Department Headquarters
- Volunteers Needed: Southport's
Native Plant Pollinator Garden
April 5 @ 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Lowe- White Memorial Park
- "This is Our Town" Cleanup
April 6 @ 9:00 am
Old Jail Annex
- Preserving Southport History:
Community Scanning Day
April 6 @ 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Harper Library
- SHS: History of the
John N. Smith Cemetery
April 9 @ 10:00 am
Harper Library
- 2024 NCDOT Spring Litter Sweep
April 13 - April 27
To learn more and volunteer:
ncdot.gov/littersweep
- NC Maritime Museum at Southport,
Third Tuesdays
April 16 - SCB
- FOLSOL: Meet the Authors: Lynn Betz
April 17 @ 4:00 pm - SCB
- Southport Arbor Day
April 26 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
Taylor Field
- Friends of the Maritime Museum
Present:
3rd Annual Night for the Museum
April 26 @ 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm - SCB

City meetings are open to the public. The City of Southport does not discriminate based on disability. If you need an auxiliary aid or service or other accommodation to attend or fully participate in this meeting, please contact the Clerk's office as far in advance as possible so that your request can be considered.

Southport Community Building (SCB)
223 East Bay Street

Indian Trail Meeting Hall (ITMH)
110 West Moore Street

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

(910) 457-7900 www.cityofsouthport.com