



## City of Southport

# May 2024 Newsletter

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



The month of May will be a major turning point for Southport on issues that have not been resolved for nearly a decade. To add to this, we have several challenging budget issues, a slew of potential Unified Development Ordinances (UDO) to review, and critical personnel searches to conduct.

As we attempt to obtain as much information on each topic to make informed decisions, the sheer volume of work will perhaps limit our collections abilities. To that end, speak out at public comment, or write a concise letter to the city manager with your thoughts, or email the Board; but help us, serve the citizens of Southport. And yes, from time to time the Board will consider revisiting a topic where additional information has come to our attention. To not do this, reassessment would be irresponsible and could lead to a misguided vote on critical projects.

Please remember most policy issues will have people taking different approaches to solving a problem. Enthusiasm is great, but we must strive not to think that someone who has different stance is bad or evil. Let us try and keep the national level ranker out of how we treat each other. Some times your idea will win the day and sometimes someone else's idea will win. Democracy can be a bit messy, but a better long-term system has yet to be discovered.

Enjoy the May flowers, warmer temps, and bucolic waterfront views.  
Rich

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

(910) 457-7900 [www.cityofsouthport.com](http://www.cityofsouthport.com)



# May 2024 Newsletter

## Kayak Launch Groundbreaking

### Southport Press Release



The City of Southport hosted a groundbreaking ceremony on Saturday, April 27, 2024, at 10:00 am at the end of W. West Street in Southport. This event, involving City of Southport Parks & Recreation and Morningstar Marinas Southport, was a highly anticipated and exciting step towards bringing a top-of-the-line kayak launch and access to Southport.

After the groundbreaking, community members were invited to Morningstar Marinas Southport, located at 606 W. West Street, for a Community Safety Day. This event included golf cart safety by City of Southport Police Department, boating safety by Morningstar Marinas Southport, representatives from Brunswick County Sheriff's Office, Atlantic Marine, Anglers Marine, J&J Boat Services, and more. There was also a food truck and DJ on site. Additionally, a contest was held for the golf cart with the best

nautical-themed decorations, with a winner selected at 2:00 pm.

The media were invited to join the Kayak Launch Groundbreaking at 10:00 am, as well as the Community Safety Day shortly after. Media were also invited to speak with individual City and/or Marina representatives at 11:00 am. They were asked to gather outside the Marina's front office.

On October 25, 2022, the City of Southport was awarded a public access grant of \$141,000 through the North Carolina Coastal Management Program. The City used this grant to fund the ADA-accessible kayak launch that is now at the end of West West Street.

Parks and Recreation Director Heather Hemphill stated that she was excited about the new kayak launch and was grateful for the wonderful partnership with Morningstar Marinas Southport so that they could bring this much-desired amenity to residents and community members.



# May 2024 Newsletter

## Southport Forestry Committee

### “These are the times that try men’s souls”



With all respect to Thomas Paine, I’m not talking about politics or patriotism but rather the season that we find ourselves in here with respect to our trees: Pollen season.

Whether you consider yourself a tree lover, or not, this is the season that drives all of us nuts; our oaks are continuously dropping leaves, catkins rain on us like a spring shower; yellow pollen covers everything, and our sinus’ are screaming out in protest. What’s going on?

Here in Southport, we have a variety of common oak trees. Of course, there are our live oaks (*Quercus virginiana*) but also an equal number of swamp laurel oaks (*Quercus lorifolia*), sand laurel oaks (*Quercus hemisphaerica*), and water oaks (*Quercus nigra*). What do they all have in common? They are all “semi-deciduous” (or, “semi-evergreen” if you prefer) meaning that while their leaves remain on the tree for the most part year around, they do drop leaves both in the fall as well as the spring when the buds are pushing out new leaves and causing the old ones to fall. And they fall, constantly, for several weeks typically. As soon as you blow or rake the mess up, it doesn’t take long before it looks as if you hadn’t done anything – they’re back.

Coupled with this fall of leaves, soon the catkins add to the chorus. These catkins are actually male flowers, and each one contains copious amounts of pollen that covers your car and home with a yellow-green powdery mess and adds to your allergy woes. Live oaks produce separate male and female flowers on the same tree; the male catkins pollinate the female flowers, which will ultimately become acorns in the fall. It almost seems as if the main purpose of these oaks is to keep you busy and the multitude of car washes in town in business. And the pines you ask? Don’t get me started on those.



But, we do get something in return for tolerating this season. Soon, it will end – the catkins and leaves will stop falling and needing to pop antihistamines like Pez will be just a memory. As summer approaches, our oaks will be flush with new leaves, ready to provide the most valuable commodity in a Southport summer. Shade! Our expansive oak canopy will protect our streets from the harsh rays of the sun, and in conjunction with our “salubrious breezes” make our lives just a bit more comfortable.



So, hang in there – good things come to those that wait.



# May 2024 Newsletter

 *Plan 50 Southport  
Comprehensive Plan Survey*



We want your input!  
The Plan 50 Southport  
Comprehensive Plan  
Survey is live! Please  
complete the survey  
and provide your  
feedback on your vision  
for Southport.

**The survey closes on  
June 15, 2024.**



# May 2024 Newsletter



## SOUTHPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT

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

1



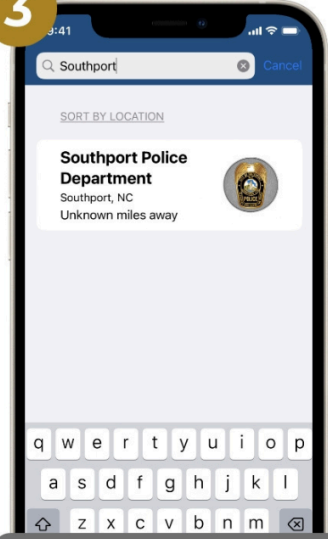
SCAN QR OR SEARCH  
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DEPARTMENTS APP"  
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INSIDE THE APP,  
TAP ON  
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# May 2024 Newsletter

## A Glimpse of History: Southport's Monument to the Lost Pilots

*from The Whittlers Bench, Southport Historical Society Newsletter, Fall 2021*

The Wilmington Cape Fear River Pilots Association is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. Southport Historical Society (SHS) thought it would be an appropriate time to clean the monument and to host a Ceremony of Remembrance. The monument has been cleaned several times in its 142-year history. Due to tannins and other biological materials in the cemetery, periodic maintenance is required to help preserve the stones. The Wilmington Cape Fear River Pilots Association provided a generous donation to help with the effort.

The monument was professionally cleaned by Dawn Taylor and Dave Padgett of Carved in Stone Cemetery Preservation Services located in Avon, North Carolina. Dawn is an expert in cemetery preservation. She is very focused on the care of the stones and will not clean a stone that is too fragile or unstable. She and Dave remove lichens, algae, mold, tannins, and other biological matter from the stones. They use the same trusted cleanser that is used by the National Park Service, in the National Cemeteries, and by fellow professionals in the field. All their cleaning is done by hand with soft brushes, plastic scrapers, and wooden picks. They never use bleach or power washing which can damage the stone and remove years from its life in a matter of minutes.

Old Smithville Burying Ground is home to many live oak and magnolia trees that add beauty and grace to the setting. Unfortunately, these trees also add tannin and other matter to the air that stain the gravestones and give them an orange or brown tinge. Dawn and Dave were successful in lightening the memorial and making the inscription easier to read. Even more importantly, they removed the tannins and lichens that were damaging the stone, thereby helping to preserve it for future generations. The recent cleaning should last approximately ten years, depending on the surrounding vegetation.

Although not a resident of Southport, SHS Member Dawn Taylor has a special family connection to the area. Her great grandfather, Devaney Jennette was an Assistant Lighthouse Keeper (1919-1932) working with Captain Charlie Swan on Bald Head Island. He suffered a heart attack and passed away while at work in the lighthouse. Dawn dedicates much of her work in the Southport area to her great-grandfather. She believes that as a Lightkeeper, he would approve of her calling to preserve the gravestones of those who were lost at sea.

The Pilots' Monument was erected in 1879 by the citizens of Smithville (as Southport was known until 1887). The townspeople were mourning the deaths of ten pilots who had been lost at sea. The men were lost in two separate storms, occurring five years apart, in 1872 and 1877. The first tragedy took the lives of five pilots: Thomas W. Brinkman (34) and Joseph W. Bensell (48) who had been Blockade runners during the Civil War, as well as John D. Trout (24), James R. Sellers (21), and Robert St. George (22). Accompanying the pilots, was Bensell's 16-year-old son, Joseph Bensell, Jr. who was also lost.

The second tragedy occurred five years later when the Mary K Sprunt went down in a storm that was described as one of the fiercest storms that ever visited the coast of North Carolina. It lasted three full days. When it was over, the pilots and crew of the Sprunt were all lost: Thomas B. Grissom (39), Robert S. Walker (32), Christopher C. Penner (25), Charles Doshier, Jr. (26) and Lawrence Gillespie (23).

Funds for the erection of the monument were raised by donations and benefits held in Smithville. Colonel Pennington of Fort Johnston held several nights of entertainment to raise funds so that "those who live after us may find the virtues and gallant deeds of their ancestors

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## A Glimpse of History: Southport's Monument to the Lost Pilots

*continued*

recorded on the imperishable stone".

The monument was dedicated in a ceremony in May of 1879 held at the Smithville Burying Ground and attended by many of the citizens of Smithville. Dignitaries from Wilmington, including the Harbor Master and the Commissioners of Navigation, came downriver on the steamship Passport to attend. They were met by the Committee of Pilots in Smithville, where flags were being flown at half-mast in honor of the fallen men. Wilmington's Front St. Methodist Episcopal Choir sang several hymns, accompanied by Mrs. S.O. Poisson on the organ. Smithville's Reverend Wily gave a prayer which was followed by more speeches and songs. It was estimated that it was the largest assemblage ever congregated in Smithville.



# City of Southport HURRICANE EXPO

**May 13, 2023  
5:00-7:00 pm**

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**Southport  
Community  
Building**

**223 East Bay Street  
Southport, N.C 28461**

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CALL SFD HQ FOR MORE INFO

**(910) 457-7915**

## **Panel Topics**

**Are you Prepared?  
Evacuations & Re-Entry  
Electricity & Generators  
The Do's and Don't of Debris  
Removal  
Protecting Valuable Records  
Animals During an Evacuation  
EMS & Water Rescue  
Special Needs/Home Bound  
Citizens  
Protecting Your House  
Having Your House Firesafe  
Southport Connected/Code Red  
**Open Panel Discussion****



# May 2024 Newsletter

**SOUTHPORT  
CONCERT SERIES**

**SUNDAYS  
ON THE LAWN**

**Fort Johnston Lawn, 2-4 p.m.**

# Girls' Night Out

Southport Community Building

223 E Bay St, Southport, NC 28461

May 10, 2024 ★ 6p-10p

Indulge in the best of what our local businesses have to offer, all in one convenient location. Discover delightful desserts, luxurious skincare products, trendy clothing, and so much more!

# We're Hiring!



COME  
JOIN  
OUR  
TEAM



Scan or click here to apply.

## OPEN POSITIONS:

- **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.

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# May 2024 Newsletter

# May

Years of Service

*Jackie Smith, 5 Years – 5.21.2019*  
Administrative Specialist

*Kelly Tooley, 2 Years – 5.17.2022*  
Utility Billing CSR

*Jaxon Francis, 2 Years – 5.27.2022*  
Camp Counselor

*Eric Mahoney, 1 Year – 5.16.2023*  
Police Officer

# May 2024 Newsletter

## Lemon Blueberry Zucchini Cake with Lemon Frosting

<https://www.ambitiouskitchen.com/lemon-blueberry-zucchini-cake/>

### Ingredients

#### Wet ingredients:

- 1 cup shredded zucchini
- 2 eggs
- ½ cup honey
- zest from 2 lemons
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1/2 teaspoon almond extract

#### Dry ingredients:

- 1 ½ cup packed blanched fine almond flour
- ¾ cup gluten free oat flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- For the blueberries:
- 1 heaping cup fresh blueberries
- 2 tablespoons gluten free oat flour

#### For the lemon frosting:

- ½ cup butter, at room temperature
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon lemon zest

#### To garnish:

- Extra blueberries



### Instructions

- Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Line an 8x8 inch square pan with parchment paper and spray with nonstick cooking spray. Set aside.
- First, measure out 1 cup of shredded zucchini, then place shredded zucchini in a paper towel or cheese cloth and squeeze out all of the moisture/water. This is very important!
- Add shredded zucchini, eggs, honey, lemon zest, lemon juice and almond extract to a large bowl and whisk together until well combined.
- Next, add dry ingredients: almond flour, oat flour, baking soda and salt. Mix together with a wooden spoon until well combined.
- In a separate medium bowl, toss blueberries together with 2 tablespoons of oat flour. (This is to prevent the blueberries from sinking to the bottom of the cake while baking.) Fold coated blueberries into the batter.
- Pour batter into the prepared pan. Bake for 30-35 minutes or until a tester comes out clean. Allow the cake to cool completely on a wire rack before frosting. I know this is difficult but it's critical (otherwise the frosting will melt and become a goeey mess!)
- Make the frosting: beat together butter, powdered sugar, lemon juice and lemon zest together on high with a hand mixer or in the bowl of an electric mixer until smooth. Spread frosting over cooled cake. Garnish with a few blueberries. Cut into 9 slices and enjoy!



# May 2024 Newsletter



JOIN US EACH WEDNESDAY AT THE  
**SOUTHPORT SUMMER MARKET**  
9A - 2P

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, and will be open from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

The market operates rain or shine unless determined otherwise by the Market Committee due to hazardous weather conditions.

Southport encourages all residents and visitors to join in supporting local vendors and savoring the unique charm that the Summer Markets bring to the heart of the city.



	Business Name	Description
1	Kona Ice of South Brunswick County	Tropical Shaved Ice
2	AWR Creations	Unique and whimsical household items
3	SeaVictoriaSew	Quilted home decor
4	Blondie's Bamboo	Bottled bamboo tea
5	Elevated wicks	Candles
6	She Sells Seashells	Paintings and shell art



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	Business Name	Description
7	Willow's Flower Truck	Cut flowers
8	Mocka Cafe DBA Pigs Up in Smoke	Lemonade and crepes cakes, Bbq, hotdog
9	Sherry Eden	Art Paintings, photography & prints
10	341Furniture	Beach House Themed Furniture and Decor
11	Authentic Pawleys Life	Batik and Silk Paintings
12	Your Island Treasure	Resin, wire wrapped Sterling Silver and Gold jewelry
13	StitchedbySass	Handmade crochet plushies and coasters
14	Queens Creation	Hand made adult and children clothing
15	RAWsalsa LLC	Prepackaged salsas, dips and chips
16	The Broken Brush	Products with original art
17	"Half-Full"	Hand-made Beaded Jewelry
18	Abbott Art Creations	Pottery
19	Bella Vita Essentials	Handcrafted spice blends
20	All Beaded Up	Handcrafted find silver and beaded jewelry
21	Beachy Beads	Bracelets and similar
22	Carolina Cannabis Creations, L.L.C.	CBD topicals
23	Carolina Hat Hut	Handmade reversible bucket & sun hats

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	Business Name	Description
24	SONJAS ECLECTIC DESIGNS	Accessories & home decor
25	Lola Blue Designs	Handcrafted home decor with a coastal theme
26	Carolina Coastal Images	coastal photography printed
27	Frances Mae La Boutique	Hand sewn fabric products for pets
28	Frog on a Pond Art and Jewelry	Hand painted one of a kind original art on stretched canvas
29	Dowless Peach Orchard	Fresh fruit (peaches, figs, grapes, blueberries, apples) and value-added products (jams, jellies, salsa)
30	Ginas goods	Sea glass, shells and pebbles art /hand embroidery
31	HH Handmade, Southport, NC	Golf Cart Seat Covers - fabric
32	Jupiter Pies	Local bakery making fresh handmade items
33	angies fresh produce	Fresh produce
34	LK Design Co	Handmade polymer clay earrings
35	Pause Apothecary	Candles with handmade concrete containers
36	Ridge Farm Produce LLC	Fresh Produce
37	peggy's treasures	Jewelry and seasonal floral home decor
39	Jodylou creations	Hand painted ceramic light switches, tiles, clocks, pots
40	Little House Bread Company	bread, granolas, scones, biscuits
41	Koepnick Pottery	Unique, High Fired, High Quality Coastal Sealife Pottery

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	<b>Business Name</b>	<b>Description</b>
42	Katie d photography	Local photography art
43	NRGCreation4U	Ceramics -but quite different from glazed ceramic designs
44	Snak shak nc	Italian Ices
45	Sand Castle Designz	Embroidered kitchen towels rope baskets bowl cozies
46	Reye's Bungalow Boutique	Embellished natural fiber hats.
47	Sandy Beaches Shop	Unique pendants using local sand, resin, pigments, and stainless steel
48	Sarah's Soul Candles	Candles with embedded hearts, lotion candles, wax melts, steamers
49	Sea Love Sea Salt Co.	Solar Evaporated, Hand Harvested Culinary Sea Salt.
50	soulful roots	Copper water fountains, kokedamas, home and garden decor
51	Wax Works	Homemade concrete pots and candles
52	Vintage Swell Designs	Custom made CNC plasma cut aluminum art and custom maps
53	The Birdhouse Project	Handmade Birdhouses
54	Whiskey Run Customs	I use electricity, wood, and resin to create one of a kind charcuterie
55	Seaside Squeezes	Fresh squeezed lemonade, orangeade, and grapefruitade
56	Soul Anchor	Jewelry, specifically jewelry created using fabric and local photos
57	The PVC Bird Lady	Birds made from PVC pipe
58	Treasure by the Sea	Nautical window sun catchers, home decor



# May 2024 Newsletter

	Business Name	Description
59	Three Chords Macrame	Macrame plant hangers, wall hangings
60	Coastal, watercolor, and photography	Photography and watercolor art
61	Permanent Jewelry and toe rings	Permanent jewelry, handmade charms
62	Coastal Tides Soap and Candles	Soap, Candles, Men's Shaving Soap
63	SoulFlow Art	Canvas Art and Jewelry
64	Dixieland Kettle Corn LLC	Fresh site prepared kettle corn
65	Menagerie Design Studio	Mixed media artist & designer



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# May 2024 Newsletter



## AT A GLANCE



### UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS

Historic Preservation Commission  
May 1 @ 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm - ITMH

Board of Aldermen Regular Meeting  
May 6 @ 9:00 am - SCB

ABC Board Meeting  
May 8 @ 1:30 pm - ABC Store

Board of Aldermen Regular Meeting &  
Special Public Hearing  
May 9 @ 6:00 pm - SCB

Forestry Committee Meeting  
May 14 @ 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm - ITMH

Planning & Zoning Board Meeting  
May 16 @ 6:00 pm - SCB

Beautification Committee Regular Meeting  
May 20 @ 5:00 pm - ITMH

Park and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting  
May 21 @ 6:00 pm - Parks & Rec Offices

Cemetery Committee Meeting  
May 22 @ 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm - SCB

City Offices Closed for Holiday  
May 27

Zoning Board of Adjustments  
May 28 @ 4:30 pm - ITMH

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Southport Concert Series  
Sundays @ 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
Fort Johnston Lawn

Southport Summer Markets  
Wednesdays @ 9:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Spt City Gym

Olde Village Shoppes Farmers Market  
Wednesdays @ 9:00 am - 1:00 pm  
Olde Village Shoppes

Plein Air Festival  
May 2 - May 4, Downtown Spt

Spring Crafters Bazaar  
May 4 @ 8:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Brunswick Senior Center

"This is Our Town" Cleanup  
May 4 @ 9:00 am, Old Jail Annex

Girls Night Out at the Southport  
Community Building  
May 10 @ 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Southport Yacht Club is hosting the  
Annual Marine Flea Market  
May 11 @ 9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
Morningstar Marinas Southport

Hurricane Expo  
May 13 @ 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm - SCB

NC Maritime Museum at Southport,  
Third Tuesdays  
May 21 @ 7:00 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

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