

# Brunswick Marketplace

*Bringing You the Best of Brunswick County*

Volume 18 • Number 3

January/February 2024

PRICELESS

## We Salute Our Wonderful Citizens and Businesses. Thank You for Giving Your Time and Love to Help Others. Keep Up the Great Work!



Congratulations to the graduates of the BCSO 34th Citizens' Academy! Many of the graduates will be joining the BCSO family as volunteers and we couldn't be more excited! More information about Citizens' Academy and how to enroll in the class can be found on our website: <https://www.brunswicksheriff.com/communi.../citizens-academy>



On December 14th, local businesses participated in Promote Like Ann Day, a tribute to the late Ann Hollingsworth, Ambassador of the Year, and friend to our business community.



Amazing and caring volunteers and a tiny staff are the heart and soul that allows SOAR to provide love, safety and shelter to the cats and dogs awaiting their forever home.



Oak Island Angels is a community support group for helping those who have fallen on hard times or just need a helping hand. So thankful for volunteers that pick up and deliver donations in a time of need. Bless those who give and they too will be blessed.

Residents and businesses came together in a huge way all over Brunswick County to collect toys for the 2023 Marine Core Toys for Tots campaign.



Dollar General on Southport-Supply Road in Bolivia made a large toy donation, as well as over 200 lbs of food to the Tidings of Joy program and Brunswick Family Assistance.



A HUGE thank you to Chick-fil-A Shallotte, Coastal Carolina Outreach and the volunteers for their help with Samara's Village angel tree for moms and dads in their program. Also thank you to Beach Road Baptist Church, St James Service Club, and St. James Quilters who also generously donated their time and items during the holidays.

## 2024 People's Choice Awards is Here!

Look Inside for the Ballot and QR Code to Vote Online.

Ballots can be mailed to: SeaWay Printing | 4130 Long Beach Road, Southport, NC 28461

Voting Runs January 1st - February 15th.

# LOTS OF NEW STOCK ARRIVING DAILY FOR SPRING 2024



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*-People's Choice Award 2023*  
**Best Outdoor Shopping Experience**  
*-Maggie Award 2023*

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# Vote in the 2024 People's Choice Awards

Voting Runs January 1st - February 15th.

- BEST BAKERY \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST BREAKFAST \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST LUNCH \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST BURGER \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST HOT DOG \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST BBQ \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST RIBS \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST WINGS \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST PIZZA \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST STEAK \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST ASIAN RESTAURANT \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST SEAFOOD RESTAURANT \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST FAMILY RESTAURANT \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST BISTRO \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST ITALIAN RESTAURANT \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST MEXICAN RESTAURANT \_\_\_\_\_
- MOST CREATIVE CHEF \_\_\_\_\_
- MOST ROMANTIC RESTAURANT \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST WATERFRONT RESTAURANT \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST WAIT STAFF \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST ICE CREAM \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST CANDY STORE \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST SEAFOOD MARKET \_\_\_\_\_
- FRIENDLIEST BUSINESS \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST CATERING COMPANY \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST PUB/BAR \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST LOCAL BREWERY \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST BARTENDER \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST WINE SHOP \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST WINE CLUB \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST CRAFT BEER \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST MARTINI \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST LIVE MUSIC VENUE \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST LOCAL BAND \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST CHIROPRACTOR \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST HOSPITAL \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST DOCTOR \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST DENTIST \_\_\_\_\_

- BEST BEACH RENTALS \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST REAL ESTATE COMPANY \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST REALTOR \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST MOVING COMPANY \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST PEST CONTROL CO. \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST GARDEN SHOP \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST FLORIST \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST ACCOUNTANT \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST INSURANCE CO. \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST GOLF COURSE \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST CHILDREN'S AMUSEMENT PLACE \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST BARGAIN STORE \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST GIFT SHOP \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST BEACH WARE \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST WOMEN'S APPAREL \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST MEN'S APPAREL \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST HAIR SALON \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST PLACE TO PAMPER YOURSELF \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST CAR WASH \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST OIL CHANGE \_\_\_\_\_
- BEST PET SERVICES \_\_\_\_\_
- MOST PET FRIENDLY BUSINESS \_\_\_\_\_

## 3 Ways to Vote!



Scan QR Code and Fill Out Ballot on Survey Monkey  
or

Go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Z3L8LY8>

or Mail Your Completed Ballot to:

Seaway Printing to  
4130 Long Beach Road  
Southport, NC 28461

Only 1 Completed Ballot will be Accepted Per Person  
Any Duplicated Ballots will Not Be Counted.



# Happy New Year Brunswick County

by Joanne Thompson

It is time to look forward to a new year with hopes for peace and prosperity for all in Brunswick County. Look forward to new housing, new roads and new businesses. As they say – out with the old, in with the new and that means change. There are new mayors and city counsels and lots of important issues that impact Brunswick County residents.

Last year brought us a new sheriff, Brian Chism who will host the **12th Annual Diamonds and Denim** fundraiser to be held on March 1, 2024. Get your tickets early for an evening of fun, all for a good cause.

**Feltz Family Store**, located at Olde Southport Village Shoppes, 1102 Howe St., is new and open in time for Christmas, promising future tastings and children's events. Capitalizing on locally made jams, jellies, and food stuffs, you can get customized gift baskets and charcuterie boards there. Wooden carved children's toys can also be found at this general store.

**Brookelynn Premium Cigars**, 8164 River Rd., Southport celebrated a grand opening late December. It Features Southport's only walk-in Humidor, as well as fine bourbon tastings, and a full TV sports package. Brookelynn is your man cave away from home. It is a comfortable lounge atmosphere – a perfect place to meet up have a drink and smoke indoors!! Check it out in person or on line [www.brookelynncigars.com](http://www.brookelynncigars.com).

**Seabiscuit Café**, 3370 Stone Chimney Rd., in Supply, 910-842-8445,

always has Beef on Weck, much to the delight of Buffalo folk craving their long time favorite. You can get breakfast and lunch Mon, and Thur – Sat 8am til 2pm; and dinner is now served Fri & Sat 4pm til 9pm.

**Pizzetta's** in Leland's Brunswick Forest shopping center continues to wow diners with great pizzas, pasta, calzones, stromboli, heroes, homemade soups and in house desserts. Dine in or get it to go; but just get it! You will be more than satisfied, if you are not already.

**Mo's Wood Fired Kitchen**, 4956 Old Long Beach Rd. in Southport, only gets better with time. Delight in wood-fired pizza and wood-roasted chicken or enjoy a real fresh had-dock fish fry ... the kind like upstate New Yorkers crave... or mouth-watering burgers and sandwiches. Offering full-service dine in, take out, or catering. If you haven't tried Mo's treat yourself. You just might become a regular.

**Discover Midtown Southport** if you already haven't. Here are some businesses to visit:

Craving soup? You can find gourmet soup made from the highest quality ingredients. If you have not tasted the roasted tomato crab (real crab meat), jalapeno or from-scratch mushroom or potato leek soups offered at **StrEAT Side Café and Catering**, 524 N Howe St. Unit B., you are truly missing out. Rich and creamy, they are a pure delight. Just the trick for warming up on a cold day.

**Cat On A Whisk** at 600 N Howe St., is a treasure trove of all things for the gourmet kitchen and the gourmet cook. If you need the perfect kitchen gadget, sauce or glassware or table linens or just about anything hard to find ... you can find it there.

Looking for the freshest of flower creations? **Wild by Nature Florist & Flower Delivery**, 411 N Howe St., 910-363-5032, specializes in the special. Whether it is fresh, silk or dried arrangements, owner Robyn Weir, AIFD Emc, is a floral genius who can and will assist you no matter what the occasion.

Valentine's Day is approaching and the finest of diamonds, gems, and gold creations can be found at **Renee's Fine Jewelry**, 602 N Howe St. "Your Hometown Jeweler Since 1976", Renee's also offers custom remounting and design.

**Cafe Koa** is launching new dinner menu with small plate vibe with Southern influences and Hawaiian flare. Reservations for dinner only.

Their annual Galentines event is scheduled for Tuesday February 13th, details coming soon!

**Uncorked by the Sea**, 602 N Howe St., has wines, gifts, and a whole bunch more to discover. Enjoy wine and food tastings, travel opportunists and wine dinners. Check out the artwork and locally crafted jewelry as well.

Hungry for something a little different? **Loco Jo's** at 602 N Howe St., Unit C is a Gastropub Asian Fusion restaurant featuring creative dishes,



unique cocktails, and a wide selection of craft beers. Stop in for a fun food experience.

**Las Olas Skin & Body**, conveniently located in South Harbor Marina, 5001 O'Quinn Blvd., Unit A, 910-523-0804, offers quality skin, brow & lash treatments. Treat yourself or a loved one ...maybe with a gift certificate for Valentine's Day.

Speaking of Valentine's Day, **Burney's Bakery of Southport**, 808 N Howe St., is creating cakes and baked goods sure to sweeten your loved one's day. and **Chuck's Homemade**, 5021 Southport Crossings Way, has Valentine ice cream flavors, fine chocolates and hand-dipped strawberries for your sweetheart.

**Tink Boutique** has some trendy fashions for the lady Valentine in your life. Located at 5101 Southport Supply Rd., Unit 2, Tink might just have what you are looking for that is unique.

**Southport Beauty Bar**, 1517 N Howe St., has a special for any day and especially for Valentine's Day... for \$135 you can purchase a gift certificate for a facial AND a massage! Sweet! Call 910-363-8333 today.

Let's all celebrate how sweet it is to live in Brunswick County. Be kind to each other and support our local businesses in 2024. Buy local.



## Feltz Family General Store

Locally Made Honey • Jellies • Jams • Pickles  
Toys • Gifts & More!

Daily Specials & Samples  
Check Out Terrapin Tuesdays for Samples from  
Terrapin Ridge Farms  
Special Order Charcuterie Boards and Gift Baskets

Offering private cooking classes at your personal residence by Chef/Owner  
Greg Feltz for parties of 10-15. Call to Book in advance.

**1102 N Howe St • Southport, NC 28461**  
**910-308-9784 • [www.feltzfamilygeneralstore.com](http://www.feltzfamilygeneralstore.com)**

**NOW  
OPEN!**



## Dosher Foundation Provides Over \$500,000 in Support to Dosher Hospital

**D**osher Memorial Hospital Foundation provided over \$500,000 in funding support to Dosher Hospital in 2023. Funds were used to purchase medical equipment, services, and support programs benefitting the hospital and its patients. Foundation purchases include:

- Operating Room Mako Surgical Instruments - \$30,000
- Emergency Department Cardiac Monitor - \$25,000
- New Hospital Roof - \$350,000
- New Cardiac Rehabilitation Bike - \$3,500
- Cardiology Department EKG Machine and Blood Gas System - \$35,000
- Brunswick Wellness Coalition Support - \$52,000
- Hospital Continuum of Care Software Training - \$50,000
- Brunswick Community College Healthcare Scholarships - \$3,000

The Dosher Foundation remained successful in its mission of securing funds through three community events: The annual Heart to Heart event, the annual Foundation Gala, the Dosher Golf Classic and through grants, employee giving and individual donations.

Said Lynda Stanley, President and CEO of Dosher, "I am extremely grateful for the generosity of our

donors. The funds received by the Dosher Foundation enhance access to local healthcare by enabling us to secure the finest equipment, programs and services to benefit our patients. I thank all community members who have made an investment in local healthcare."

Antonette (Toni) McAndrews, Foundation Development Specialist added, "The Foundation is very thankful for the generosity of all donors and supporters. As we move forward, and with continued support, the Foundation can ensure the residents in our service area receive the very best in healthcare."

The Dosher Memorial Hospital Foundation was established and began operating in March of 2010. The Foundation's primary responsibility is to encourage a steady flow of funds to the hospital from individuals and organization within the hospital's service area. These funds enable Dosher Hospital to continue providing its patients with the finest healthcare equipment, programs and services possible, as well as provide the resources necessary for construction expansion and remodeling projects.

For more information about the Dosher Memorial Hospital Foundation, please call Antonette McAndrews, Foundation Development Specialist, (910) 457-3936 or visit [www.dosher.org/foundation](http://www.dosher.org/foundation).



Dosher Medical Clinics wish you a happy, healthy new year!

Meet our newest primary care providers on Oak Island and in Southport. New patients welcome at both locations!



**Deborah Cobb, FNP-BC**

Dosher Medical  
Oak Island  
4700 E. Oak Island Dr.  
910-278-6414



**Stephen Baxley, Jr., FNP-C**

Dosher Medical  
Long Beach Road  
4222 Long Beach Rd.  
910-457-3996



For a full list of primary care providers, go to [Doshers.org/Clinics](http://Doshers.org/Clinics)

## MENDING Freya's HEART: FUNDRAISER



### Freya's Story

Before our baby girl was born, she was diagnosed with a congenital heart defect, **a double aortic arch with vascular ring**. We fought tirelessly to get her surgeries approved only to be denied and delayed four times. Freya had her first surgery on May 11, 2023, which ultimately was unsuccessful.

**On Feb. 20, 2024, Freya is getting her second chance!** Freya is having open heart surgery at Boston's Children's Hospital, the only hospital in the nation with a concentration on vascular rings!

*How you can help!*



Please join us in **FUNDRAISING** to support Freya and her family in this difficult time. Any and all contributions are welcome and greatly appreciated!



**Thank you for your love and support!**



## Darling Daughter Dance to be Held Sunday, February 4



Fathers, grandfathers, uncles, and special friends are invited to escort their favorite girls of all ages for an evening of fun!

The Darling Daughter Dance will be held Sunday, February 4, from 4-7pm at the Southport Community Building, 223 E. Bay Street.

All proceeds from this even will benefit WAVES 4 K.I.D.S to support

children and teens in foster car and other difficult situations in Brunswick County.

There will be red carpet photos, delicious food and desserts, DJ & dancing, face painting, and prizes; plus a 50/50 raffle, silent auction and door prizes. Tickets are \$30/per person and can be purchased online at galabid.com/ddd

*Time to Relax in the New Year!*

**MASSAGE & FACIAL SPECIAL FOR \$135**  
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**SOUTHPORT BEAUTY BAR**  
910-363-8333  
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WWW.SOUTHPORTBEAUTYBAR.COM

*Happy New Year!*

Now serving dinner on Friday & Saturday from 4-9pm  
Gift Certificates Available.

**THE Sea Biscuit CAFE**

3370 Stone Chimney Rd SW • Supply, NC  
(910) 842-8445  
Breakfast & Lunch Mon & Thu-Sun 8am - 2pm  
Dinner Fri-Sat 4-9pm

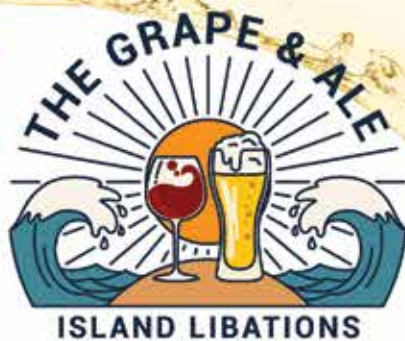
**Free Beer Tastings every Thursday 5:30pm - 7:30pm**  
**Free Wine Tastings every Friday 5:30pm - 7:30pm**  
**Live Music every Saturday 2pm - 4pm**

**Hours**  
Mon-Wed 11am-7pm  
Thu-Sat 11am-8pm  
Sun 1pm-6pm

## Now in Oak Island and Southport!

Join our wine club - the biggest in Brunswick county!  
*Join and receive benefits at both locations!*

Gift Cards Available  
Custom Gifts & Baskets  
Get Your G&A Apparel & Swag!



**Free Wine Tastings every Friday 5:00pm - 7:00pm**  
**Live Music every Week to be Announced.**  
**More Events to Come**

**Hours**  
Mon-Wed 11am-7pm  
Thu-Sat 11am-9pm  
Sun 12pm-6pm

8521 East Oak Island Drive • Oak Island, NC  
910.933.4384

TheGrapeAndAle.com  
the grape & ale grapeandale

102 W. Brown St • Southport, NC  
910.457.5147





### Lowe's to Host Kids' DIY-U Workshops

Time to get to work! This Kids Toolbox Workshop will have your little helper eager to tag along on your next home improvement project.

This fun event will be held on Saturday, January 20, from 10am-1pm at our local Lowe's Home Improvement stores: 5084 Southport-Supply Road in Southport and 351 Whiteville road NW, in Shallotte.

Register at <https://www.lowes.com/events/register/my-first-diy-toolbox>

Registration closes January 19.



The registration deadline for the March Primary is Friday, February 9th.

Voters who are registered with a party will be required to vote on that party's primary.

To register or make changes: <https://bit.ly/3GOsIDS>

To check your registration: <https://bit.ly/3kofHo2>

Contact Brunswick County Board of Elections, (910) 253-2620, [elections@brunswickcountync.gov](mailto:elections@brunswickcountync.gov), <https://www.brunswickcountync.gov/802/Board-of-Elections>



Supporting those that make a **difference.**

We've been providing Community Grants to organizations that make a difference in the lives of our members since 2003. Eligible groups can apply for grants up to \$2,500 each year for projects that fall into these areas:

- Family services
- Civic and community programs
- Cultural and arts programs
- Emergency services
- Economic Development

#### APPLICATION PROCESS

Submit online December 1 through February 15.



**Over \$700K**  
in grant funds awarded

**387 Local**  
projects and initiatives  
funded

### North Carolina Coastal Region Remembers & Honors Veterans!

On a beautiful Saturday in December 2023, at the National Cemetery in Wilmington, NC the community stepped out to Remember and Honor our Veterans.

Every year the Wreaths Across America leads a national initiative to honor veteran's grave site by placing a wreath on each grave in all the National Cemeteries'. The largest crowd of People remembered of all ages from all over the Coastal Carolina area showed up to place the wreaths. During the months prior area organization, lead by the John E. Jacobs American Legion Post #68 of Leland, NC ([ncpost68.org](http://ncpost68.org)) in addition to many other local organizations and businesses conducted a drive to obtain wreaths to cover the 5,127 gravesites. This year their combined efforts were able to obtain 4,700 wreaths. ([wreathscrossamerica.org](http://wreathscrossamerica.org))

LTC Rick de Moya lead the event from the podium. He stated, "It was

an honored to have General Daniel Allyn. US Army (Ret.) as our keynote speaker". Opening with the New Hanover Sheriff's Honor Guard presenting the colors and patriotic music were an outstanding kickoff to the afternoon. Followed by remarks and recognition of honored guests: the American Gold Star Mothers; Blue Star Mothers of America, Wilmington Mayor Bill Saffo, Leland Mayor Brenda Bozeman, NHC Commissioner Vice Chair LeAnn Pierce, along with Commissioners Rod Zapple, Johnathan Barfield Jr. and Dan Scalise.

Wreaths were presented for each branch of the services, sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Civil Air Patrol Cadets. The local Scout troops lead by Troop 747 of Leland assisted with setting up the event along with other area citizen groups.

It was a beautiful event on a beautiful day!

**Happy New Year!**

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Really Fresh Seafood  
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Free Desserts! Free Lunch Specials!  
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SEAFOOD • PASTA • PIZZA

5177 Southport-Supply Road, Southport, NC 28461  
Order & Make Reservations Online: [www.belladiningnc.com](http://www.belladiningnc.com)  
**910-454-4540**  
Open Mon-Sun: Lunch 11 am, Dinner 4 pm

# January/February Events

## BOLIVIA

### February 23-25

#### Beyond the Stars 2024 Tour

10am | Odell Williamson Auditorium/Brunswick Community College | 150 College Rd NE

We are looking forward to another great season of incredible dancing, amazing experiences & unforgettable memories! Now in our 19th year, we promise that our focus will never change; the dancers will always come first! We'll keep working to provide a positive competition experience for dancers and their families. We hope to see you in 2024! For more information, please visit: <http://www.btscomp.com/>

### February 29

#### Supreme Reflections

7pm | Odell Williamson Auditorium/Brunswick Community College | 150 College Rd NE

Direct from Las Vegas! Celebrating the timeless music of Diana Ross & The Supremes! <https://www.etix.com/ticket/p/5910897>

## CALABASH

### February 24

#### Shallotte Dixie Youth Baseball 1st Annual Golf Tournament

10am | Brunswick Plantation Golf Club | 380 Brunswick Dr NW

\$400 per team: Includes 18 Holes, Cart, Range Balls, Lunch and Prizes. Email [sdylgolftournament@gmail.com](mailto:sdylgolftournament@gmail.com) to sign up!

## LELAND

### January 18, February 22

#### Stitchin' Meet Up

7-8:30pm | Leland Cultural Arts Center | 1212 Magnolia Village Way

All are welcome at this monthly fibers get together! Whether you crochet, sew, knit, embroider, or anything else, come stitch with us.

### January 20

#### Matinee Movie: Super Mario Bros.

12:30pm | Leland Cultural Arts Center | 1212 Magnolia Village Way

Avoid the cold and set up an indoor picnic at the Leland Cultural Arts Center while you watch a screening of your favorite movie. Pets and alcohol will not be permitted

at these events. The matinee movies will begin at 12:30 PM. The movie is FREE to attend. Registration is not required.

### January 28

#### Bellydance Class

12-3pm | Gio Fund  
117 Village Ed NE Units E&G

Dance class for beginners & seniors to benefit A Shelter Friend Cat and Dog Shelter. This level of dance instruction is gentle and low impact and comes with the health benefits of improving balance, relieving hip and joint pain, and core and lower body strengthening. Wear comfortable clothes and dance barefoot or in socks. Instructor will have hip scarves to borrow. \$20 advance registration and payment or \$25 at the door. Doors open at 12 noon for check in. Dance instruction begins at 12:45. Dance party after instruction!

### February 10

#### Makers Madness

1-3pm | Leland Cultural Arts Center | 1212 Magnolia Village Way

Support the artists who work at the LCAC during this pop up market! Shop pottery, paintings, drawings, and more during this market.

## OAK ISLAND

### January 11

#### Charcuterie Workshop

5:30pm | Art Time  
6402 E Oak Island Dr

We have partnered with Blamowski's Island Charcuterie to offer you this awesome workshop. Learn how to assemble a charcuterie board in a 45-minute presentation, followed by snacking on our creations. As an added bonus, we will each burn a wooden board to take home for future charcuterie boards. <https://www.arttimenc.com/event.../charcuterie-workshop-2>

### February 2-4

#### Flourish Women's Retreat

5:30pm | Fort Caswell  
100 Caswell Beach Rd

A place where women can come together to cultivate meaningful friendships, deepen spiritual connections, and collaboratively build thriving and Christ centered communities. [www.flourishministry4women.com](http://www.flourishministry4women.com). For more information contact [flourishministry4women@gmail.com](mailto:flourishministry4women@gmail.com)

### March 2

#### Oak Island Lighthouse: The Beacon of Our Shores

2pm | Recreation Center  
3003 E. Oak Island Dr. | Free

Learn the history, interesting characteristics, and little-known facts about the Oak Island Lighthouse! Participants will be entered into a raffle with prizes including a private top tour of the lighthouse, dinner at Oak Island restaurants, and the Oak Island Lighthouse merchandise. To register, simply visit G.V. Barbee Library, 8200 E. Oak Island Dr. or call 910-278-4283 for more information.

## OCEAN ISLE

### January 26

#### Pelicans Author Series: Stacy Willingham Signing

5:30pm | Silver Coast Winery  
6680 Barbeque Rd NW

Stacy Willingham is coming to Silver Coast Winery to promote her book "ONLY IF YOU'RE LUCKY"! Come enjoy an evening of fun with the author, get an autographed copy of the book, and enjoy a glass of wine included with your ticket.

Call the Winery for Tickets! Tickets are limited. (910) 287-2800

### January 30

#### Brunswick Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting

7:30-10am | Seabreeze Restaurant  
1882 Goose Creek Rd SW | Free for Chamber Members

It's that time of the year again! The 2024 Annual Meeting is all set and we can't wait to see you there! This is your chance to connect with our amazing staff and Board, recap the triumphs of the past year, and get a sneak peek at our exciting goals for the upcoming year! Registration is FREE for all our Chamber members! Register:

So mark your calendars, set your alarms, and get registered today! Networking begins at 7:30 AM, Program begins at 8:00 AM and Breakfast will be provided. LIMITED SEATS AND THEY WILL GO FAST! Let's kick off 2024 together in style!

## SHALLOTTE

### January 20

#### Teen Art Club

1-3pm | Rourk Branch Library  
5068 Main St

Make a stuffed animal-TEENS only. This

program is hosted by Coastal Carolina Outreach and the Rourk Branch Friends of the Library. Please register with the following link: <https://brunswick.libcal.com/event/11575455>

Check <https://www.facebook.com/BrunswickCountyLibrary> for other events

### February 24

#### Beach House Harley-Davidson 15th Birthday Bash

9am-5pm | Beach House Harley Davidson | 100 Harley Davidson Dr

Time to celebrate not only us, but all of our awesome customers. It's because of you that makes it all happen! Take a free test ride on any 2024 H-D® motorcycle we have in stock. Up to 50% off end of season Motorclothes® apparel. Free BBQ plates and birthday cake served by our Beach House H-D® HOG chapter from 11:30am - 2:00pm upstairs in the customer lounge. While supplies last! Enter to win a H-D® leather jacket of your choice. \*in stock leather jackets only. Must be present to win. Winner will be announced at 4:00pm inside the dealership.

## SOUTHPORT

### March 9

#### 3rd Annual Cool & Fancy Gala

6-10pm | St James Community Center | 4136 Southport-Supply Road SE | \$75 Per Person

You're invited to a night of entertainment, refreshments and fundraising at Up Your Arts' 3rd Annual Cool & Fancy Gala! We are celebrating the launch of the 2024 "Raise Up Your Arts" pole banner project and the artists whose work was selected ~ come be part of the fun! Dance the night away with acclaimed band leader and saxophonist Leroy Harper, Jr., and his fabulous All Starz: hot jazz, R&B, smooth rock, and silky blues that can't be beat. <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/up-yourarts/1091957>

## SUNSET BEACH

### January 18

#### Book Launch Party - Daughters of Green Mountain Gap

6:30-8pm | 8840 Old Georgetown Rd SW

Launch Party for the new novel Daughters of Green Mountain Gap (by Teri M Brown) at Free Spirit Conservatory of the Arts in Sunset Beach. Doors open at 6:30 for a meet and greet, followed by a reading, Q&A, and book signing.

### For Up-to-Date Information on the Above Events and to Find More Fun Things to Do:

[www.oakislandnc.com/](http://www.oakislandnc.com/) | [www.oakislandnc.com/government/parks-recreation](http://www.oakislandnc.com/government/parks-recreation) | [www.townofshallotte.org](http://www.townofshallotte.org)  
[www.hbtownhall.com](http://www.hbtownhall.com) | [www.sunsetbeachnc.gov/](http://www.sunsetbeachnc.gov/) | [www.ncbrunswick.com/events](http://www.ncbrunswick.com/events) | [www.southport-oakisland.com](http://www.southport-oakisland.com)  
[www.townofleland.com/](http://www.townofleland.com/) | [www.oibgov.com/](http://www.oibgov.com/) | [www.southportnc.org/](http://www.southportnc.org/) | [www.townofcalabash.net/](http://www.townofcalabash.net/) | [www.cityofbsl.org/](http://www.cityofbsl.org/)  
 Also check events on your facebook page



## Beach Bonfire Season 2024 - What You Need to Know



As of Thursday, November 16, 2023 after the official end of Sea Turtle Nesting Season, Beach Bonfires are once again permitted on the public beach areas. While enjoying bonfires on the beach is a time-honored tradition for many, there are some important tips everyone needs to know, whether it's their first-ever fire or just the first for the season.

### Permits

A Beach Bonfire Permit is REQUIRED from the Fire Department before any bonfire can be conducted. Permits are FREE to submit online, and simply provide the Fire Department with a record of when and where to expect open flames on the public beach areas.

**Permit Approval:** The permit process is automated, and no direct approval response from the Fire Department is provided. After submitting, you should receive an email copy of your Permit Application. Retain this copy, either in printed or digital form, as this may be requested by first responders if called to your areas. If you do not receive a copy, be sure to check your email "spam" or "junk" folder; you can also request help through the Fire Department Contact Form.

### Beach Bonfire Permits:

CANNOT be submitted more than 72 hours from the date on the bonfire, to allow for accurate wind-speed forecast

MUST use the wind-speed forecast provided on the Bonfire Permit Application (no third-party apps)

CANNOT cover multiple bonfires or multiple days (one permit per bonfire, per day)

MUST be submitted directly by

the individual they will be used for - others cannot do this for you as part of a free or paid service

**IMPORTANT:** If at any point wind-speed forecasts change to exceed 15 MPH, all permits will be effectively CANCELLED until wind-speeds lower. (NOTE: If wind-speeds return to safe limits before your original bonfire date expires, a new application will not be needed.)

### Beach Bonfire Rules

When conducting a Beach Bonfire, safety is the top priority! This applies to those hosting the bonfire, as well as neighboring properties.

### Beach Bonfires:

CANNOT be placed in the Emergency Vehicle Paths or on any sand dunes / berms (stay in front of Water Safety Station signage)

MUST have a flame size about 4 feet in diameter or smaller

CANNOT burn yard debris, trash, or any materials other than dried firewood

MUST cool and completely remove all burned materials from the beach (DO NOT bury materials in the sand)

If at any point, peak wind-speeds exceed 15 MPH all active bonfires must be EXTINGUISHED immediately, until wind-speeds lower.

Remembering to practice fire safety, and cleaning up after your bonfire is what allows the Town to continue hosting a Beach Bonfire Season. Please do your part to help ensure this community favorite activity remains available for generations to come!

To learn more or submit an application, click the image below or visit [www.OakIslandNC.gov/BONFIRE](http://www.OakIslandNC.gov/BONFIRE).

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## FOCUS Accepting Applications Through February 29th

**F**OCUS Broadband is currently accepting applications through February 29th for the 2024 Community Connections and Smart Connections Grant Programs. FOCUS Broadband will award \$40,000 in Community Connections grant funds to non-profit organizations and \$40,000 in Smart Connections funds will be given to educators in counties served by FOCUS Broadband.

Community Connections Grants are available for programs which provide emergency, disaster relief, arts, culture, civic, health or human ser-

vices to FOCUS Broadband customers living in Brunswick, Columbus, Duplin, Pender, Bladen, or Robeson counties. Smart Connections Grants are also available for educators, preschool organizations, administrators, and other agencies which provide educational services in these same areas. Applicants may apply for up to \$2,500 in funds for qualifying programs.



## Coastal Consumer Showcase to be Held February 8

**H**ighlighting the best in local products and services, area businesses will be on display for area residents and visitors to explore what our business community has to offer.

No matter if you are new to the area or just want to know what's new to the area, the Coastal Consumer Showcase is a must attend event. We know that sometimes it is difficult to find a business that provides a product or service. You can search the Chamber's Business Directory but going to an event where you can see the product or talk with the business owner about their services, is extremely valuable. For this reason, the Chamber holds the Coastal Consumer Showcase.

The Coastal Consumer Showcase is held Thursday, February 8, 2024 from 4pm-7pm at the St. James Community Center, 4136 Southport-Supply Road, St. James, NC.

The Showcase is a public event organized by the Southport-Oak Island Area Chamber of Commerce. There are many free giveaways provided by the participating businesses.

- Free Samples
- Free Giveaways
- \$100 Cash Drawing
- Pick-A-Prize Auction

Sponsored by: Doshier Memorial Hospital, The State Port Pilot, Fulford Heating & Cooling, Southport



Magazine, Novant Health, SPT-OKI Magazine, & Grey Outdoors.

<https://www.sptokimerchandise.com/home/Coastal-Consumer-Showcase-Vendor-Application-p599326389>

For more information contact 910.457-6964. If you are a business and would like a booth at the event or to sponsor the event, please call the Chamber.





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**KEEP PIRATES IN THE PAST AND OFF YOUR PORCH**

Help prevent package theft before it happens! Find helpful tips at: [www.OakIslandNC.gov/PD](http://www.OakIslandNC.gov/PD)

confirmation” options are great tools if available.

- **INSTALL** motion activated lights. Even though it’s getting darker earlier, delivery drivers are still working well into the night. Simple, inexpensive, outdoor lighting with motion sensors can be a big deterrent to thieves.

- **CONSIDER** adding a doorbell camera. These don’t have to be expensive units - you can even repurpose an old smartphone! Their main goal is to have a clear, high quality view of your delivery area when you’re away. This is much easier to do if you’re following the “Special instructions” tip above, and designating a safe space for deliveries.

FINALY, remember to simply be a good neighbor. The holidays can be a stressful time, and delivery drivers are human too. Mistakes happen! With streets named by number AND direction here in Oak Island, we often see packages delivered to the wrong house (ex: a “NE” address instead of “NW” street, etc.). Taking a few minutes to make sure an incorrectly delivered package gets to the right home, could make all the difference in someone else’s holiday. Even “Santa’s Helpers” need a little help sometimes!

For further questions or concerns about safety, or to sign up for a ‘Security Check’ while you’re away traveling, just visit the Police Department’s page of the Town Website at [www.OakIslandNC.gov/PD](http://www.OakIslandNC.gov/PD)

**L**iving in Coastal Carolina, we’re all familiar with PIRATES. They are a common subject in our history. However, we’d like to remind everyone to “keep pirates in the past & off of your porch!”

Modern day “Porch Pirates” seize on the opportunity of easily-swiped packages right from your front steps, sometimes while you are even still inside your home! With recent data showing that 93% of shoppers will buy at least some of their holiday gifts online, here are some helpful reminders:

- **USE** the “Specific Instructions” option. Many online retailers allow you to add specific instructions on where and how to leave packages. Use this feature to let couriers know a more secure or hidden location to leave packages.

- **REQUIRE** a signature. If you can schedule a time to be home when your packages arrive, that’s great! However, there may also be contact-free ways to sign through most delivery services. Adding the “signature required” and “delivery



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## Charity Recipients Selected for Proceeds From the 12th Annual Charity Ball



Sheriff Brian Chism

The Brunswick Sheriff's Charitable Foundation has selected **Christian Recovery Centers, Inc.** and **At Liberty Connections, Inc.** as the two charity recipients of proceeds from the 12th Annual Charity Ball to be held on Friday March 1, 2024.

The proceeds will help CRCI with funding for their Recovery Centers and At Liberty Connections with equine assisted services for Veterans in Brunswick County.

The foundation was established in 2012 and is dedicated to serve the people of Brunswick County by building permanent charitable capital to support programs and provide services that enhance the quality of life for all its citizens. In keeping with the mission of the foundation, the Foundation Board chose this organization from numerous non-profit organizations located in Brunswick County who offer programs specifically benefiting Brunswick County residents.

The Foundation is proud to endorse and support such vital programs through its 12th annual charity ball. This prestigious event, themed "Diamonds and Denim" featuring hors d'oeuvres, a buffet dinner, wine, beer, music by the Tru Sol, dancing and a silent and live auction, will be held on Friday March 1, 2024 from 6pm-10pm at the St. James Community Center on Highway 211 in Southport.

Sponsorship packages are available. Tickets are \$90.00 per person and will go on sale in January.

For more information, guests can visit [www.sheriffscharity.com](http://www.sheriffscharity.com), call 910-253-0922, or email [sheriffscharity@gmail.com](mailto:sheriffscharity@gmail.com).

The Foundation expresses its gratitude to all the supporters, volunteers, sponsors and businesses that have made this event memorable and successful over the past years.

## Ready to Unleash Some Fun while Supporting a Pawsome Cause?

Get ready to hit the dance floor for an unforgettable evening with LunaSea! This night isn't just about grooving to some fantastic music; it's also a chance to help pets in need.

This worthwhile fundraiser will be held Friday, January 19, 2024, from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm at the St James Community Center in Southport.

Tickets are Just \$30. The event BYO - Wine, beer, and appetizers to share with your table. Water and ice provided.

There will be also be a silent auction, Raffle, and 50/50.

Tickets are available now. Contact Kathleen Kranz [kat@overgostudio.com](mailto:kat@overgostudio.com) Phone: 910.880.0257

Tables of 8 or 10 can also be reserved.

What's the best part?

100% of the proceeds go straight to the Paws Pantry, a heartwarming initiative by Paws-Ability that ensures our furry buddies in Brunswick County never go hungry.

So, throw on your dancing shoes (or paws!), grab your friends, and make a difference, one beat at a time. We promise you a night filled with good music, great company, and the heartwarming feeling of helping our four-legged friends.

Book your spot, spread the word, and let's have a tail-wagging good time!

Stay Pawsitive and Rock On!

## Brunswick Marketplace

Volume 18, Number 3 | January/February 2024

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Brunswick Marketplace was established June 14, 2006.

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# BEMC CommUnity Grants

## Community Grants Applications Due February 15

Since 2003, Brunswick Electric has been providing grants to community groups and non-profit organizations who make a difference in the lives of our members through the Community Grants program. Eligible groups may apply for grants up to \$2,500 each year for projects that fall into these five key areas:

- Family services
- Civic and community programs
- Cultural and arts programs

- Emergency services
- Economic Development

Applications are accepted December 1 through February 15. Grants are awarded in the spring.

Funding for this program comes from the equipment auction held during BEMC's Annual Meeting. Since its inception, nearly \$700,000 has been given back to the community through these grants. For more information and to apply, visit [bemc.org/community-grants](http://bemc.org/community-grants).

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## BWC Holds Food Heroes Event

The Brunswick Wellness Coalition (BWC) hosted its second annual Food Heroes Event to honor the many local people who contribute to the food system of Brunswick County. The purpose, to promote countywide awareness and action for those who suffer from hunger and to provide nutritious foods for all, is a shared goal of the Coalition's Food Access Committee. With food pantry use up significantly, volunteers who work at food pantries deliver food through Meals on Wheels and donate healthy foods, including fresh produce, striving to keep people in Brunswick County fed. With 28% of children in Brunswick County living in poverty, local people are keenly aware how critical healthy foods are to development and growth. Working together PORCH South Brunswick, Cape Fear Fitness, Doshier Memorial Hospital, Smart Start of Brunswick County, Brunswick County Health Services, and Neighbor to Neighbor hosted an event to show appreciation to those who give up weekends and time they could be doing other things to ensure food is available, sorted, and distributed to those in need. Other partners including: NC Cooperative Extension-Brunswick County Center Master Food Volunteers, Healthy Families, Healthy Futures, and the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina prepared pear dishes for food tastings. There were several special recognitions and door prizes among the 17 organizations represented. Five award categories were open to receive nominations.

- The Energizer Bunny nominee was an individual who has worked tirelessly to feed the community healthy, nutritious foods and who keeps going and going never stop-

ping for a break.

- The From the Ground Up nominee was an individual or group whose efforts have produced gardening/ground innovation in Brunswick County.

- The Rubber Chicken nominee was an individual who is busy having hands in many food activities but remains flexible and upbeat and who continuously goes with the flow.

- The Duct Tape nominee was an individual committed to nutritious feeding and ensuring a proper running pantry, and who was also the person to depend on to fix anything that came along.

- The Best 'Pear' nominee was a food pantry or an organization that demonstrates a high level of teamwork, consisting of two or more individuals whose commitment to showcasing, prioritizing and offering nutritious foods is stellar throughout Brunswick County communities.

The Coalition's Executive Director, Dr. Leigh Lane, shared how collaborative efforts have resulted in a significant increase of fresh fruits and vegetables provided to food pantries.

The planning team expressed gratitude to Devon Chaney of Chaney's Catering for a delicious, healthy meal and to The Barn at Rock Creek for hosting the event. The Brunswick Wellness Coalition is a united group of individuals and health-minded leaders with the mission to improve the health of the Brunswick community, and the vision of becoming the healthiest county in North Carolina. BWC is funded through Healthy People, Healthy Carolinas, an initiative of The Duke Endowment. To learn more, visit the website: [brunswickwellness.org](http://brunswickwellness.org) or Facebook: @BrunswickWellness.



BWC Food Heroes Event planning team from left to right: Dr. Leigh Lane, Chef John LaTour, Paul Icatar, Abby Berjansky, Mike Claxton, Kaitlyn Beringer, and Rachel Crowder



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**June Baker Names Woman of the Year at Impact Brunch**

Brunswick County Chamber of Commerce celebrated women and named June Baker as Woman of the Year at the 2023 Women of Impact Brunch.

June Baker dabbed at tears and shook her head in disbelief. When she arrived at the Women of Impact Brunch on November 15, she was unaware that she would be named Brunswick County Chamber of Commerce Woman of the Year. More than 100 people attended the event at The Isles Restaurant in Ocean Isle Beach.

“I’m absolutely in awe of all the great people here,” Baker said when she accepted the award. “I’m overwhelmed by this award. I never, ever expected this.”

She explained that health issues caused difficult times over the past few years, but added, “I cannot say enough about the company I work for and the friends I have. I couldn’t have made it without them.”

Baker, who is manager of physician relations/recruitment at Novant Health Medical Group in Bolivia, was diagnosed with breast cancer and underwent surgery.

Laurie Griswell, community engagement partner at Novant, nominated Baker for the award. She told the audience that Baker “has done an amazing job of bringing much needed primary care, especially primary care physicians, to our area.” Griswell added that Baker ensures that the newcomers become part of the community and understand the organizations in the community.

Among Baker’s other achievements are the launch in 2009 of HealthWatch, a television program that focused on health-related issues. It continued until September 2023. She is chair of the New Hope Clinic board and serves on the Brunswick Wellness Coalition board. She is an active member of the Brunswick County Chamber of Commerce and Southport Rotary Club.

“She has made a remarkable difference in Brunswick County and is absolutely deserving of this award,”



Griswell says. Baker recently moved from Oak Island to North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Linda Stinson, chair of the Women in Business committee, explained that the committee at the Brunswick County Chamber of Commerce was organized in 2014 to focus on women in business.

“We wanted to celebrate the businesswomen in our community, so we created the Women of Impact,” she said. “This is our sixth year. The purpose of the award is to honor someone for her exemplary contributions to our community over the years.”

“[This event] means empowering women,” said Regina Lowry, activities life enrichment director at Autumn Care in Shallotte. “It’s helping enrich everyone’s lives.”

Allison Szafarski, operations manager for restaurateur James Lane, said, “It shows growth in the county and what an impact women contribute to make this community better.”

Anna Bowers, chief marketing officer of Comfort Keepers, which was the speaker sponsor, said, “Being part of the Brunswick County Chamber and the Women in Business Committee has been such a blessing for me. It provided an opportunity for me to get to know a fabulous group of professional women, passionate hard-working women, who truly care about our community.”





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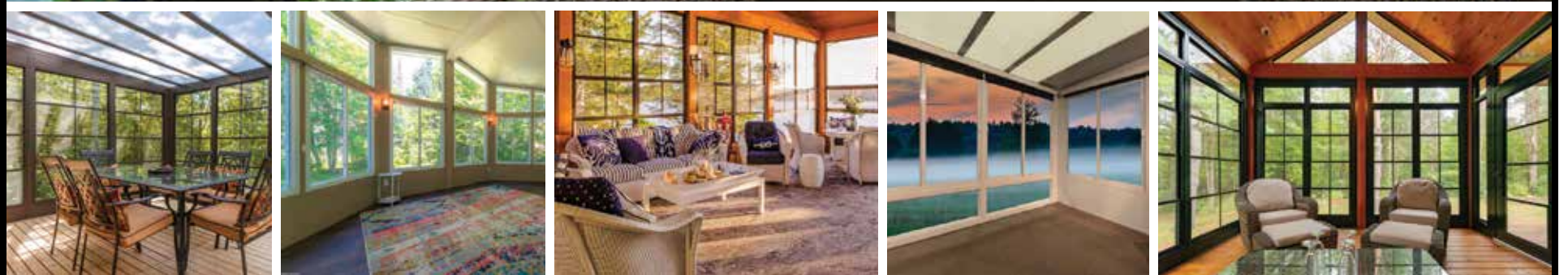
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## Sheriff Chism Appoints Two Chief Deputies

Sheriff Chism has appointed two Chief Deputies to serve under him at the Brunswick County Sheriff's Office, **Chief Laurie Watson** and **Chief Brian Sanders**.



Chief Watson began her career with New Hanover County Sheriff's Office as a sworn Deputy Sheriff. In September 2001, she was hired by The Brunswick County Sheriff's Office as a full-time Patrol Deputy. In December 2002, she was promoted

to the rank of Detective assigned to the Sex Crimes Unit. Chief Watson remained in the Detective Division until October 2008 when she was promoted to Corporal in the Uniform Patrol Division. While serving in the Uniform Patrol Division between 2008 and 2012, she was promoted through the ranks up to Captain. In 2012, she was assigned as the Captain over Uniform Patrol and the Criminal Investigative Unit. In 2015, she was assigned as the Captain over the Criminal Investigative Unit and Vice/Narcotics Unit. Chief Watson was promoted to the rank of Major in 2016. Chief Watson is a graduate of the Department of Homeland Security Leadership Academy, class of 2018. Throughout her tenure as Major she served in every division within our agency with the exception of the Detention Center.

In March 2021, Chief Watson was promoted to the position of Lieutenant Colonel. In June 2023, Sheriff Brian Chism promoted Watson to the position of Chief Deputy. Chief

Watson is one of the most vital and dedicated members of our BCSO family. She currently oversees the day to day operations of the Sheriff Office in addition to supervising four Majors, the IT division, Civil and Warrant division, I.M.P.A.C.T. & Recruiting team, and the Volunteer program.



Chief Deputy Brian Sanders began his law enforcement career as a Detention Officer with the Brunswick County Detention Center in October of 1989. He was quickly assigned to the Brunswick County Sheriff's Office Patrol Division in January of 1990. While serving as a patrol deputy, and after demonstrating his talent for leadership, Chief Sanders began working his way through the ranks. In December of 1994 he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and in July of 2000, was promoted to First Sergeant, both within the Patrol Division. In May of 2006, Chief Sanders was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant overseeing the entire Uniform Patrol Division, which included School Resource Officers. In June of 2008, he was again promoted - this time to the rank of Captain, adding the Brunswick County Detention Center to his supervisor

responsibilities. Again, after demonstrating his strong leadership skills and serving with the upmost integrity, Chief Sanders was promoted to the rank of Major in June of 2013, then promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in June of 2019 - overseeing all divisions within the Sheriff's Office. Chief Sanders was the first individual in Brunswick County Sheriff's Office history to achieve the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Finally, in 2019, after 31 years of dedicated service, Chief Sanders retired from the Brunswick County Sheriff's Office. Because of his love and passion for the Sheriff's Office and the Brunswick County Community, he chose to remain with the agency as a part-time deputy.

In July of 2023, under the command of newly appointed Sheriff Brian Chism, Chief Sanders rejoined the Brunswick County Sheriff's Office team as his Chief Deputy. In this role, Chief Sanders is responsible for numerous divisions including Vice and Narcotics, Investigations, Patrol, Animal Protective Services, School Resource Officers, the Detention Center, Traffic Unit, Bailiffs, Civil and Warrants, and Reserve Deputy divisions. Chief Sanders is extremely involved in each of his divisions and strives to create the most positive working environment possible, focusing on staff morale and camaraderie.

Chief Sanders is a Brunswick County native, born and raised in the community of Northwest. He is a graduate of North Brunswick High School and Cape Fear Community College where he earned his Associates Degree in Criminal Justice. Chief Sanders resides in Leland with his wife Trecie and is the father of three.

## Honor Your Hero. Be a Hero. Donate Blood.

The American Red Cross has issued a Blood Shortage Alert in the Carolina Coastal area, which includes Wilmington and North Brunswick County. The John E. Jacobs American Legion Post #68 of Leland along with WWAY television station have stepped up to try to

fill our community's shortage. Please come to help us with our Blood Drive on January 12th, 2024, at the WWAY television station at 1224 Magnolia Village Way, Leland, NC. We will be there with the Red Cross from 10:AM till 2:30 PM. thank you in advance for your support!

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## New RV & Cabin Village Opens in Bolivia

By Angela Kaminski

A great place for your family getaway recently opened in Brunswick County. Located off George Highway II in Bolivia, you will find **In the Pines RV & Cabin Village**. This family owned business started with their love for camping and spending family time in nature.

As you drive into the 40 acre village tucked away in the pines of Brunswick county, you start to feel a sense of calm. There are quaint cabins, picnic areas, even a dog park for your furry family member.

You will find a playground for the kids with a huge jump pad that will keep them busy for hours.

The village has 30 full hook up RV spots and 8 cozy cabins to choose from for your fun outdoor adventure.

As you check in at the Clubhouse, you will find a country store with all the goodies for a great camping experience from snacks to clothing. How about picking up supplies to make



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## “Normal November” For Brunswick County’s Real Estate Market

In November, Brunswick County’s residential real estate market told a familiar story. The number of homes sold and the prices of those homes didn’t change much from November 2022, while the number of new listings increased slightly and homes continued to sell quickly.

“November’s numbers are 100% on trend with what we’ve seen historically and throughout this year,” said Cynthia Walsh, BCAR CEO. “It’s normal for real estate activity to decrease during the holiday months, so it’s not surprising to see the numbers line up with Novembers of the past. Overall, our market remains strong and steady as we close out the year.”

Brunswick County saw new listings increase 12.3% in November, increasing from 446 to 501. Total sales volume increased 6.6%, from \$179,500,000 to \$191,360,000. The average sales price increased 7.1%, from \$453,283 to \$485,680, while the median sales price decreased 4.6%, from \$384,240 to \$366,495. The number of units sold decreased 0.5%, from 396 to 394. Brunswick County saw 27 sales of \$1 million or higher, with the largest sale at more than \$3 million in Ocean Isle Beach.

Homes spent just over a month on the market in November. The absorption rate, which is the amount of time it would take to sell all the current inventory, hovers at three months.

Year-to-date sales volume through November totaled \$2,317,590,000, down 1.4% from \$2,350,690,000 at the same point in 2022. The average year-to-date sales price dipped 2.9% compared to the same point in 2022, from \$454,135 to \$440,865, while the median sales price decreased 1.2%, from \$370,514 to \$366,224. The number of units sold through November fell 4.6% compared to last year, from 5,168 to 4,930 and the number of new listings decreased 0.1%, from 6,068 to 6,062.

### Brunswick County

#### New Listings

November 2023: 501  
November 2022: 446  
Increase/Decrease: +12.3%

#### Units Sold

November 2023: 394  
November 2022: 396  
Increase/Decrease: -0.5%

#### Average Sales Price

November 2023: \$485,680  
November 2022: \$453,283  
Increase/Decrease: +7.1%

#### Median Sales Price

November 2023: \$366,495  
November 2022: \$384,240  
Increase/Decrease: -4.6%

#### Total Sales Volume

November 2023: \$191,360,000  
November 2022: \$179,500,000  
Increase/Decrease: +6.6%

## Chefs of Brunswick Event to Be Held February 24

As many of you know from past experience, the Chefs of Brunswick event in 2019 was a big hit! The Southport Rotary Club will again host a Chefs of Brunswick event on February 24th, featuring 20 food and beverage vendors. Many of the same participating restaurants from the 2019 event will participate again, along with several of the newer eating establishments from our local area.

Due to the overwhelming success of the last event and the long lines that were experienced, the Southport

Rotary Club will hold the event at the Saint James Community Center. Ticket sales will be limited, so watch your local press for instructions on how to purchase your tickets.



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## BEMC Awards 29 Teachers Bright Ideas Grants

**B**runswick Electric Membership Corporation (BEMC) awarded more than \$34,000 in Bright Ideas education grants to 29 teachers in Brunswick and Columbus Counties. The grants will fund engaging classroom learning projects that will impact thousands of students.

“Brunswick Electric is extremely appreciative of our amazing educators,” said Dan Strickland, BEMC board member. “We are proud to support their classroom innovation, which helps strengthen the communities that we serve.”

BEMC is one of 26 member-owned electric cooperatives in the state offering Bright Ideas grants to local

educators. Since 1994, BEMC has contributed nearly \$800,000 to area teachers, and North Carolina’s electric cooperatives collectively have awarded more than \$15 million in Bright Ideas funding for over 14,200 projects supporting teachers and benefitting more than 3.5 million students.

Grant applications are collected each year through mid-September, and a panel of judges selects winning proposals in a competitive evaluation process.

The application process will reopen for interested teachers in April 2024.

For more information, visit <https://www.bemc.org/bright-ideas-grants/>.

## Professional Portrait Day

**F**reshen up your Professional Portrait in the new year! The Southport-Oak Island Area Chamber of Commerce is partnering with its professional photographers, makeup artists and hair stylists to provide you the opportunity to freshen up your look.

The event will be held on Wednesday, January 31 from 8:30am – 12noon at the Southport-Oak Island Area Chamber of Commerce, 4433 Long Beach Road, SE, Southport

Pretty Plum Beauty, Mitzi Swing-Mary Kay Consultant and Photographers: Ken Worley, Ken Worley Photography Ron Capone, Hearstone Photography will be your Portrait team for the day.

\$75.00 package: two different

poses in two formats (JPEG & PNG). Limited to one person or two-person teams together. Includes hair and makeup touch ups. Complete online form and pay at [www.sptokimerchandise.com](http://www.sptokimerchandise.com)

If you miss the January 31st event, no worries we will host another one in July.

Contact: 910.457-6964

Website: <http://www.sptokimerchandise.com>



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## Shop with a Cop Event Huge Success

The 2023 "Shop with a Cop" program was a huge success. Thankful for all who gave, making it possible for us to help kids and families each year. "We love seeing the smiles and excitement each year." - Chief Coring

What a blessing. We shopped with 100 kids and their families for the 2023 Christmas season. Thank you to our partners with Walmart allowing us to shop again this year. Also thank you to the Saucy Southerner Restaurant for providing breakfast.



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## Vacation Rental Industry Honors Oak Island Accommodations with International Marketing Award



The Vacation Rental Management Association (VRMA) Excellence Awards ceremony showcased outstanding achievements within the short-term vacation rental industry, recognizing the remarkable efforts, contributions, and influence of dedicated professionals over the past year.

Held in conjunction with the VRMA International Conference, the ceremony was held October 22-25, 2023, in Orlando, Fla.,

**Oak Island Accommodations** was awarded Best Marketing Campaign Award (Property Manager)

OIA President Melaney Marshall Bullock, Sales and Finance Manager Destiny Baker, Linen Warehouse, Manager Jessica Lynch and Marketing Communication Specialist Liz Walker accepted the award on behalf of the Oak Island, NC, based company during an awards ceremony at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort. Other marketing team members not in attendance include Stephanie Benegasi, Kristin Goode and Valora McRae.

The award recognized OIA's Find Your Gratitude by the Sea campaign, which utilized social media posts and email marketing to roll out a series of giveaways that encouraged entrants to share positive online feedback about their experiences in the area, highlighted a different local business each month and showcased what makes visitors return to the shores

of Oak Island year after year. Local companies that partnered with OIA over the course of this campaign so far include Swain's Seafood and Cut Restaurant, Throw Baxe Axe House and Board Game Lounge, Paul's of Oak Island, Handcrafted Massage and Crafts, Color Me Carolina, Angie's Fresh Produce, Outer Banks Boil Company, and High Tide Aviation and Helicopters.

Bullock says she chose to nominate the OIA team for the award to recognize the diligent work put in throughout the year to fill the company's vacation rentals. "I also loved when they introduced the Gratitude by the Sea portion of it," she added, "including our local businesses and helping everyone to feel valued and appreciated. The end result was very rewarding, and I could not be prouder of my team!"

For more information about the VRMA Excellence Awards, please visit [www.vrma.org](http://www.vrma.org).

### About Oak Island Accommodations (OIA)

The largest vacation rental management company on Oak Island, OIA has been helping vacationers find their place by the sea since 1991. OIA provides full-service property management for approximately 500 vacation and long-term rental properties between the serene beaches of Oak Island and historic Southport, NC. For more information visit [rentalsthatthebeach.com](http://rentalsthatthebeach.com).






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## Up Your Arts - Your Support Makes a Difference

Southport, North Carolina, is about as close to paradise as you can get. An idyllic coastal community with a small-town feel is what draws many to visit. But Southport isn't the quaint fishing village it was 70 years ago.

Today Southport and the surrounding areas of Brunswick County offer a vibrant arts community that is quickly building a reputation for Southport as one of the coolest coastal art communities in the state.

Up Your Arts was founded to provide a vehicle to help promote and foster the rapidly growing Southport arts community. Part arts council and part grassroots movement, Up Your Arts focuses on four key goals:

### To Promote

We strive to promote the rich creative and performing arts scene in the greater Southport area.

### To Elevate

We seek to elevate the audience's knowledge and appreciation of the wide variety of arts available.

### To Encourage

We work to encourage creative and performing artists to share their art by giving them venues to do so.

### To Connect

We endeavor to provide a welcoming place to raise up new artists and connect existing artists in the Southport area.

Your help matters. Donate to Up Your Arts to make a real difference.



It doesn't take much. With a contribution of \$20 per month - or \$240 per year - you could almost pay for the easels we bought for the 2023 Southport Plein Air Festival last May, so the participating artists could hang their newly painted canvases during the Wet Paint Sale.

Every year, this event attracts over 75 artists from all over the state and brings their talent up close and personal to the more than 250 city residents and visitors who walk the streets to watch them paint, and then line up to buy their work at the sale. That's a heck of a lot of people in one three-day period taking advantage of the rarified atmosphere you maintain in Southport all year long.

### Make a Recurring Donation Take the First Step

We encourage you to release your inner do-gooder with abandon and go to <https://www.upyourarts.org> to donate. We thank you for recognizing the connection between moving and shaking. We welcome you to help us make the world take notice of the coolest, coastal art community IN THE WORLD.

Many, many thanks, from your friends at Up Your Arts

Check out the calender of events at <https://www.upyourarts.org/home/audience/> and make plans to enjoy all the bounty our area has to offer.







**2024**  
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We will be **CLOSED** Jan 8th-11th for inventory and one final remodeling project in the store. We can't wait for you to see this transformation.

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## Oak Island Sea Turtle Protection Program Announces 2023 Season Results

There were a few obstacles but overall, a great season! 2023 was our third-highest number of nests on record! We have had record-breaking years two years in a row! This season we were #1 on the leaderboard on seaturtle.org, and we were third in NC for the number of nests per beach...Cape Hatteras and Cape Lookout beat us! We are so very blessed to be able to help protect and care for the sea turtles that visit our beautiful island! Thank you to those of you who care and continue

supporting our efforts!

There were a total of 133 nests laid, the third highest number on record - with 101 false crawls. The mean clutch count was 110.5 (relocated only), with 53.8 days average incubation.

10,887 eggs hatched, with mean hatch success at 74.3% and nest success at 91.6%.

Emerged hatchlings came in at 9,921, with mean emergence success at 68%, and beach success at

56.8%.

One interesting fact: Nesting Turtle #CC009318 laid 6 nests this season on Oak Island and only laid nests on Oak Island. Since 2016, she has laid a total of 15 nests - 2 on Cape Lookout and 13 on Oak Island, according to records.

Interested in finding out more about the program, how to donate or how to become a volunteer? Visit <https://okiseaturtle.org>





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Thank you for sharing 2023 with us, and our 13th Christmas at the Bistro. As 2024 approaches, we will be starting some renovations during the Winter and Spring but we will remain open. We will however be on our annual break from January 1st through the 10th, reopening on January 11th, 2024. We've been working to serve you since 2011. Please continue to Vote for us and thank you for these prior awards:

- + People's Choice Awards: "Best Bistro" - (2023, 2021, 2019, 2018, 2016, 2013)
- + Maggie Awards: Best International Cuisine (2023); "Most Creative Menu" - (2021, 2019); Most Creative Chef (2020)
- + Wooden Boat Show: Best Chowder (multiple years)



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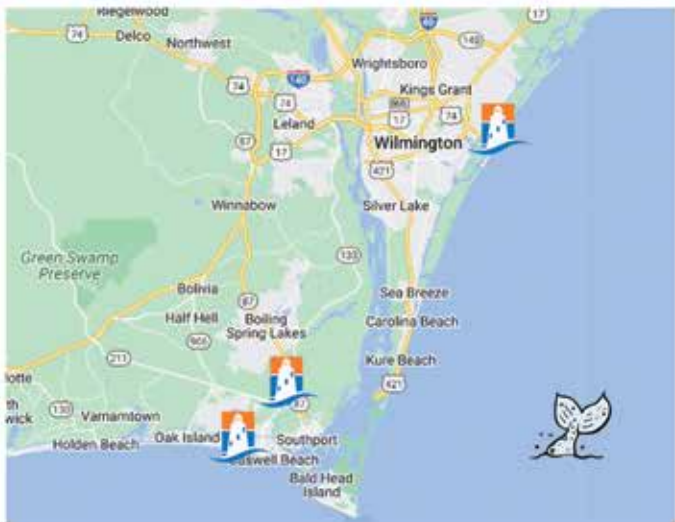
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**W**e all care about our Family, friends and neighbors. The John E. Jacobs American Legion Post #68 of Leland ([www.ncpost68.com](http://www.ncpost68.com)) is asking you to pay attention to those around us that we care about. This time of year those of us with depression, traumatic brain injury (TBI) and other mental health issues may be having a hard time. Post #68 Vice Commander John Hacker is leading a program called, "Veterans Suicide Awareness Community Project". We are also recognizing an often overlooked portion of our population, female veterans. Often female veterans are not recognized for their service. This needs to change, many served side by side with their male counterparts and were exposed to the same trauma. Did you know 1 in every 6 Active Duty members, 1 in every 4 Reserve members and 1 in every 5 National Guard is a woman. Patty Kelly stated, "I want to add another stressor and would like to hear what other female veterans think. I don't believe female veteran's military service is as valued in our society as men's service. Many of us served much longer than some men, but it isn't recognized by many. We all want to feel valued and appreciated." Veterans Crisis Line: dial 988 then Press 1 OR Text 838255

all ages who died by suicide in 2021. Overall, the rate of female veterans of any age dying by suicide jumped by 23.7% from 2020, versus a jump 3.5% among men. Web site: Be The One [www.legion.org/betheone](http://www.legion.org/betheone)

The VA's annual suicide report for 2023 indicates the rate of suicide among women veterans of different age groups versus women with no military ties increased. Women veterans 18 to 34 spiked to over 3.5, meaning veteran women in that age group were 3.5 times more likely to die by suicide than their civilian peers, a record high.



An annual review of suicide among veterans found that rates increased in 2021 during COVID-19 lockdowns, with the largest jumps among young women with some military service, according to a report released Thursday the Department of Veterans Affairs.

One report indicated a lot of the other issues might just be issues that women in the country face that are compounded for veterans. Like lack of childcare due to availability or cost, waning support systems and work-related struggles. They've had not the best experience in the military and a lot of mothers have reached out, saying, how they've been separated from their children or have been the primary caretaker as a woman in the military and then becoming a veteran and trying to find that same income. There's a lot of stressors.

It comes down to Community support and understanding these issues that our Female Veterans are faced with today.

Among young women, when compared to their civilian counterparts who never joined the military, female veterans between 18 to 34 years old were nearly three and a half times (3½X) more likely to take their own lives in 2021, and among women of

Step up and BE THE ONE to help. Now is the Time to CARE and be aware!

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## South Brunswick Students Honored for Being "Good Neighbors"



**E**ighteen students at South Brunswick Middle School were honored on Thursday, November 30th for being "Good Neighbors" in their school and in their communities. Honorees, along with their parents, were invited to attend the award ceremony which took place in the school's media center. Breakfast was shared while South Brunswick Middle School Principal Jaime Rhodes and guest speaker, BMCS Logan Adkisson, Officer in Charge, U.S. Coast Guard Station Oak Island congratulated the students on being a good neighbor. Senior Chief Adkisson encouraged the students to look up from their electronic devices and start engaging by using three principals. The first was to care about people, second was to listen and the third was to act.

Teachers then presented students with their awards while sharing briefly why the student was chosen to be honored.

The Southport-Oak Island Area Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with South Brunswick Middle School, holds the breakfast twice during each school year and is sponsored by Doshier Memorial Hospital and McDonald's of Southport.

Students recognized were Kimie Craven, Tan Dang, Stephen Edwards, Izzy Fess, Gage Francis, Olive Hughes, Alaysha Jackson, Parker Jordan, Michael Long, Hanna Lovell, Alice Menzel, Delani Reinhold, Mason Spine, William Stewart, Bentley Stone, Caroline Swearingin, Stella Templeman, and Adelyn Yow.

## Housing Development Approved Near Brunswick Elementary School

**A**Brunswick County elementary school could soon see 85 new neighbors.

Despite concerns from neighbors and community members, a major subdivision project next door to Jessie Mae Monroe Elementary School was approved by the Brunswick County Planning Board this month.

Dubbed "Pea Landing," the project looks to bring 85 single-family homes to 28.76 acres of land just north of the elementary school on Pea Landing Road. The developer's application indicates all 85 lots will be three-bedroom homes.

Phil Norris of Norris and Tunstall Consulting Engineers addressed the board representing the developer. Norris said the property was previ-

ously agricultural land but it hadn't been farmed in a few years. Norris also added there are no wetlands on the property that would be threatened by the development.

Lifelong Brunswick County resident and neighboring property owner Kevin Pierce expressed concerns about added traffic, flooding, the "overdevelopment" of the south end of the county and the proposed subdivision's close proximity to the elementary school.



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## State Awards \$2.8m to Improve Public Beach, Water Accesses

**N**ine coastal communities have been awarded more than \$2.8 million to improve public accesses to beaches and waters.

The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality's Division of Coastal Management announced Monday the awards for fiscal 2023-24.

"This funding makes our coasts more accessible to all North Carolina residents and visitors, so everyone has the opportunity to enjoy our natural resources," NCDEQ Secretary Elizabeth S. Biser said in a statement. "We are proud to partner with local governments and communities to support projects that also benefit our coastal economy."

The Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Access program provides matching funds to local governments in the 20 coastal counties. Governments that receive grants must match them by contributing at least 25% toward the project's cost. Funding for the grant program comes from the North Carolina General Assembly through the state's Parks and Recreation Trust Fund.

**Sunset Beach** received \$460,734 total to renovate the existing beach accesses at 29th, 34th and 37th streets.

**Holden Beach** received \$420,000 for development of Block Q. This project will create new restrooms and parking for beach access, a boat ramp, and public entertainment area. The project also includes landscaping and stormwater improvements.

**Carolina Beach** received \$600,000 for the acquisition of three adjacent parcels on Canal Drive on the north end of town to provide parking and access to the beach and Freeman Park.

**Kure Beach** received \$71,025 to replace the existing 8-foot wide, 134-foot long wooden walkway with a 10-foot wide Americans with Disabilities Act-accessible walkway to the beach at Public Beach Access No. 140, and \$62,700 to replace the existing 8-foot-wide 97-foot long wooden

walkway with a 10-foot wide, Americans With Disabilities Act-compliant walkway to the beach to Public Beach Access No. 99.

**Nags Head** received \$89,313 for improvements to the Governor Street Public Beach Access. Improvements include a new ADA-compliant elevated dune crossover with associative ADA-compliant parking stalls, and a shower station up-fit.

**Washington** received \$800,000 to complete renovations to the 1,981-foot boardwalk along the Washington Wetlands Boardwalk.

**Hyde County** received \$108,900 to complete boardwalk renovations at Far Creek Boardwalk along Far Creek in Englehard.

**Surf City** received \$10,875 for updates to the Broadway Street Access Site. This project will update the existing public restrooms and outdoor showers to meet federal accessibility standards, pave dedicated handicapped accessible parking spaces and walkways to the restrooms and beach accessway.

**Winton** received \$189,325 for improvements to the Winton Town Park. Improvements include construction of a new fishing pier with boat slips; replacement of the decking on the existing boardwalk; renovation of the restrooms to meet federal accessibility specifications; paving of dedicated handicapped accessible parking spaces and walkways to the restrooms and water accessway; and the addition of riprap to shoreline to secure the eroding shoreline.

The program has awarded 497 grants totaling more than \$53.8 million to improve public waterfront access sites since it began in 1981. For more information about the program, go to the Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Access website.

Access projects may include walkways, dune crossovers, restrooms, parking areas, piers and related projects. Funds also may be used for land acquisition or urban waterfront revitalization. Division of Coastal Management staff selected the recipients based on criteria set by the Coastal Resources Commission.



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## Bald Head Coffee® Celebrates Grand Opening

A grand opening celebration and ribbon cutting was held November 14 at Bald Head Coffee® & Tea House in Boiling Spring Lakes. Owners Steve and Pam Lewis welcomed dozens of well-wishers to the company's new stand-alone drive-thru coffee bar and patio. Located in the Fifty Lakes Commerce Center facing Highway 87, the café offers a wide range of beverages including coffees, fresh teas, smoothies, frappes, and nitro cold brew, breakfast sandwiches, ready-to-go salads and wraps, gelato and much more.

Since their soft opening in October, the business has seen an influx of customers including several who take advantage of free wi-fi and comfortable seating to do homework and more.

The ribbon cutting was assisted by Southport Oak Island Chamber of Commerce of which Bald Head Coffee® is a member.

Bald Head Coffee has been in business in Southport for the past six years, operating an online subscription service as well as selling through retailers across the US. Urged by customers to open a storefront, the couple decided to move into the new storefront where existing tenants include an attorney and a real estate office.

"Our goal is to give our customers a beverage experience; we pair the beverages with an extensive



Steve Lewis, Pam Lewis (with scissors) and Brunswick County Commissioner Pat Sykes cut the ribbon for Bald Head Coffee® surrounded by SOI Chamber members, friends and family.

menu and plan to have special events including music," he said.

They have 24 seats inside including the coffee bar and 24 seats on the dog-friendly patio. They offer team building coffee tastings, tea parties, holiday parties and more. The coffee house offers an app for ordering ahead and offers gift cards and gift baskets perfect for the holidays.

Excited about this location, Lewis points out there's plenty of parking and the drive-through is convenient for customers to grab a brew on the go. "We have customers now who drive an hour to get the beans," he said. "Boiling Spring Lakes is the perfect spot, and this is a beautiful building so we thought it would be a good location for us to grow."

Bald Head Coffee® & Tea House will be and is certified an Ocean Friendly establishment giving back to sea turtles and keeping our oceans clean.

For More Information: Steve Lewis, Bald Head Coffee® 484-432-0952, [www.baldheadcoffee.com](http://www.baldheadcoffee.com)

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