Brunswick Marketplace
Bringing You the Best of Brunswick County
Volume 21 • Number 2 November/December 2026 PRICELESS

Brunswick County Celebrates the Holiday Season

The holiday season brings a special kind of magic to Brunswick County, where coastal traditions and small-town celebrations fill November and December with opportunities to gather, shop and celebrate. From illuminated boat parades and Christmas tree lightings to holiday markets, festive floats and historic celebrations, communities throughout the county are preparing to welcome the season with events for residents and visitors of all ages.

Holiday celebrations on the water

Brunswick County's waterways provide a picturesque setting for several holiday boat parades, with vessels decked out in colorful lights and seasonal decorations.

The 32nd annual **Southport Winterfest Flotilla** will illuminate the city's waterfront on Saturday, Dec. 12, at 6 p.m. Sponsored by the Cape Fear Yacht Club, Downtown Southport Inc. and the City of Southport, the parade begins at the Yacht Basin, follows the waterfront along Bay Street and continues into the Intracoastal Waterway. Spectators are encouraged to bring blankets and chairs to enjoy the display.

The **Holden Beach Flotilla** returns Saturday, Nov. 28, at 5:30 p.m., with as many as 25 decorated boats traveling the Intracoastal Waterway from Sailfish Park toward the Wharf Restaurant and finishing at Holden Beach Marina. The event benefits Brunswick Family Assistance, which provides support to local families in need.

The inaugural **Sunset Beach and Ocean Isle Beach Christmas Boat Parade** on Dec. 5 will introduce another holiday tradition to the southern Brunswick Islands. Beginning at 6 p.m. at Sunset Beach Town Park, decorated boats will travel east along the Intracoastal Waterway before concluding near The Links at Brick Landing Clubhouse.

Viewing areas include Sunset Beach Town Park, the Ocean Isle Beach Commercial Canal NC Wildlife boat ramp and Waterway Tavern at Brick Landing. General admission areas are free, while reserved waterfront seating is available for purchase.

Donations are encouraged for three charitable organizations: *Those Who Served Foundation*, *Empowering Pawz*, and the *Old Bridge Historical Society of Sunset Beach*. Boat registration is free. For seating information or to participate, contact organizer Rhonda Bunker at rhonda@ncompassphotography.com.

Calabash

Calabash welcomes the season Friday, Dec. 4, with its **31st annual Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting**. Activities begin at Callahan's of Calabash, with the parade proceeding along River Road. The community Christmas tree lighting follows the parade at the main stage.

Ocean Isle Beach

The Museum of Coastal Carolina will become a holiday showcase during its seventh annual **Festival of Trees**, running Nov. 12 through Dec. 31, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Decorated Christmas trees sponsored by area participants will fill the museum galleries, with visitors invited to vote for their favorites. A silent auction also offers an opportunity to take home one of the festive creations.

Shallotte

Shallotte's annual **Christmas Parade** takes over Main Street on Saturday, Dec. 5, at 10 a.m. The procession will feature floats from schools, community organizations and local businesses. Motorists should anticipate temporary road closures and traffic delays.

Holiday shopping also comes to the Shallotte Riverwalk with two seasonal Market-Fest gatherings. **The Harvest to Holiday Market** takes place Saturday, Nov. 14, followed by the **Holiday Kringle Market** on Saturday, Dec. 19. Both run from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The markets bring together local artisans and vendors offering handmade merchandise and gifts, along with live music, children's crafts and family activities.

Holden Beach

Holden Beach will celebrate its annual **Christmas Tree Lighting** on Thursday, Dec. 3, at 6 p.m., with entertainment preceding the ceremony.

A decorated low-speed vehicle parade will also join this year's festivities. Participating golf carts and other low-speed vehicles must be street legal and pass a police inspection before entering the procession.

Oak Island

The **Christmas by the Sea Parade** returns to Oak Island on Saturday, Dec. 5, at 2 p.m., bringing a procession of local businesses, organizations and festive floats to East Oak Island Drive.

The parade begins near Town Hall and proceeds east to McGlamery Street. Santa and Mrs. Claus will make their traditional appearance on the final float.

On Sunday, Dec. 6, the town will host its **Holiday Craft Market** from noon to 4 p.m. Nearly 100 small businesses and artisans are expected to participate, offering handmade items and holiday gifts. Admission is free.

Southport

Southport's annual **Winterfest** celebration begins Friday, Dec. 4, at 6 p.m. with the lighting of the community Christmas tree at the Whittler's Bench. Trinity's Children's Choir will provide seasonal music.

On Tuesday, Dec. 8, the Southport Garden Club presents the **Winterfest-ival of Trees** at Franklin Square Park from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Dozens of decorated and illuminated trees sponsored by individuals, businesses, churches and organizations will transform the park into a holiday display, with lights operating on timers for evening visits.

Opening-night activities include children's games and crafts, caroling, appearances by Santa and the Grinch, refreshments, holiday merchandise and a silent auction. Information about sponsoring a tree is available at www.southportgardenclub.org.

The **Light Up the Night Fire-Engine Christmas Parade** follows Friday, Dec. 11, at 6:30 p.m. The procession travels along Moore and Howe streets before returning to the Southport Fire Station.

Children can explore fire engines at the station beginning at 5:30 p.m., and Santa Claus will be available for visits after the parade.

A complete schedule of Southport Winterfest activities appears on page 10B.

Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson State Historic Site

Holiday traditions from centuries past take center stage during **An 18th Century Christmas** at Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson State Historic Site on Sunday, Dec. 13, from 1 to 5:30 p.m.

Visitors can experience colonial-era Christmas customs through traditional games, period refreshments and hands-on crafts, including Moravian paper stars.

The afternoon concludes with a candlelit service in the historic ruins of St. Philips Anglican Church, beginning at 5 p.m. and ending at approximately 5:30 p.m.

Admission is $5 per person, with tickets available at the gate.

Leland

The town of Leland welcomes the return of **Leland in Lights** at Founders Park with **Grand Illumination** at 6 p.m. on Nov. 21. The popular seasonal attraction brings holiday illumination to the park, offering residents and visitors another opportunity to enjoy the sights of the Christmas season.

Brunswick Marketplace
THE 2027 PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS IS COMING IN JANUARY!
Be sure to pick up the January issue for the categories ballot.

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Calling all artists! The 2027 Pole Banner Project Wants you!









Up Your Arts is calling on Brunswick County's creative community to submit artwork for the 2027 Southport Pole Banner Competition.

Now in its fifth year, the annual competition offers local visual artists a unique opportunity to showcase their talents in the heart of downtown Southport. Selected artwork will be reproduced on colorful banners displayed throughout the city, transforming everyday streets into an outdoor gallery for residents and visitors to enjoy.

The project celebrates the area's thriving arts community while bringing creativity and visual interest to Southport's downtown streetscape. For participating artists, it's an opportunity to share their work with a wider audience and contribute to the city's distinctive character.

Brunswick County visual artists interested in participating are encouraged to apply. Applications will be accepted through Dec. 31, 2026.

For competition details, submission guidelines and application information, scan the QR code.



'Tis the Season in Brunswick County

By Joanne Hennessy Thompson

Out with the heat, in with cool weather and kool activities. There's much happening to be enjoyed in Brunswick County during the holidays.

First, sadly, we have some closures in Southport. After more than 15 years **Ports of Call** the classy "whole world on your plate" favorite is closed. We will all miss Jake and Ray!

In Southport**, Bull Frog Corner, Blue Cow Grille,** and **Duck, Duck Goose** (rumored to be replaced with a donut shop), will close their doors by the end of December.

The Pottery Playhouse's location in Ocean Isle Beach is closed but plans to relocate to Shallotte Commons.

Torii Hibachi Express is opening at 4961 Long Beach Rd. bringing fresh-made hibachi, teriyaki, yaki soba, bowls, bento boxes and Asian inspired specialty dishes for quick lunches. Be on the lookout.

Work is rapidly underway for the new **WAWA** in Shallotte and the new **Dunkin' Donuts** in Southport. The huge shopping plaza on Hwy 17 in Leland anchored by **Publix,** is under construction aiming for early spring.

Fall and winter signals homemade soups. If you are in Southport and hankering for homemade soup, check out the following: **StrEatside Bistro** that reigns supreme when it comes to soup **(2026 People's Choice Award winner for Best Soups)**. Roasted tomato crab jalapeno bisque, Italian wedding soup or potato leek... even beef chili... soup sells out fast. Order in advance. **Local Jo's** has Thai/Asian freshly made soups. **Southport Cheese Shoppe** prepares daily soup to go with creative sandwiches on freshly baked breads. **Back Home Butcher** is adding soup to their menu as well. **Dry Street Pub and Pizza**, 101 E Brown St in Southport, is known for fresh novel pizzas, creative salads and soup, popular with their tasty grilled cheese. Lobster bisque and French onion soup at **Oliver's On the Cape Fear** are always top choices.

Calabash Deli, 9929 Beach Dr SW serves chicken noodle soup every day along with Thursday's chef's soup choices to eat in or take home in several sizes. Try the soup and sandwich combo.

Don't forget about the **Burrito Shak**, 5130 Southport - Supply Rd, Southport, for delish lunches and take out, but they cater as well! New to the menu is your choice of baked white or sweet potato decked out in yummy chili and toppings. If you haven' t tried **Burrito Shak** what are you waiting for?

I love it when small businesses work together with each other. Cooperation is a beautiful thing! For instance: At **Porchside Social**, 307 N Howe St in Southport, owners Erica and Keith Hester offer authentic Italian gelato, wines and craft beers by the glass and bottles, charcuteries from the **Southport Cheese Shoppe,** live music nights, a book and podcast club, a songwriter's night, open card game night, mahjong for beginners and pros, craft night.... truly here is where community meets the coast as described. It hosts olive oil and balsamic tastings events presented by **The Salty Olive,** 1669 N Howe St. Southport. **The Salty Olive** offers evening tastings in-store, plus gourmet foods, spices, marinades, charcuterie boards etc. If you are a foodie this is the place for you! Not only can you find **The Salty Olive** at **Porchside Social,** but **The Salty Olive** teams up with Oak Island's **The Grape & Ale**, 8521 E Oak Island Dr., for wine and beers tastings with olive oil and balsamic instructive samplings.

Porchside Social is on fire with clever activities. There is something for everyone. There's a first time ever Gelato Advent Calendar 25 flavors 2oz cup one for everyday Dec. 1-25 gift boxed pre-ordered by Nov. 20. How about a gelato pup cup with doggie biscuit for your fur baby? Yup, you can get it at **Porchside**.

The Southport Cheese Shoppe, 417 N Howe St, provides charcuterie plates for wine shops like **The Grape & Ale** on Oak Island. Want to add something unique to your holiday gathering? Call Nichole at the cheese shop and book the portable charcuterie cart! What fun! Whether family parties, showers, weddings or card and book club get togethers, it is a hit. You might want to join the very popular new **Rind Society Artisan Cheese Club** offering three price point levels for 3, 6, 9 months or a year of highest quality cheeses, along with cheese accompaniments. Gift memberships are available.

Support our local businesses. Book parties. Have in-home catering. Buy gift certificates and wine and gift baskets. Act now. Dates are filling up fast. Restaurants, bakeries, wine and craft beer shops are already gearing up for the holidays. Order early. Don't be disappointed. Plan and reserve your holiday precooked dinners, pies, cakes, cookies, candies, specialty wines and beers as well as turkeys, hams, and specialty fish, shrimp and oysters.

If you like wine pairing dinners you can take your pick. Off season weeknight dinner specials and lunch specials, as well as brunches are popping up all over.

Bridgewater Wines, 48 Waterford Business Ctr Dr in Leland, has $20 Thursday Night entrees available after 4 pm.

A classy restaurant with a perfect ocean view, **La Volte**, 417 W 2nd St, in Ocean Isle Beach, offers Wednesday date night $99 dinners for two, featuring the very best steaks to be had! Sunday dinners for two reservations fill up quickly. If you want the very best steak... try **LaVolte**.

I'm drooling.

Bella Cucina has a wonderfully warm wine pairing dinner evening once a month featuring a Nonna (Italian Grandmother) a family recipe and memories. Food, wine, and family... so satisfying!

Back Home Butcher, 4956Old Long Beach Dr Southport, often has a dinner with wines from Petrea wine suppliers. Wednesdays treat yourself to 1/2 off wine by the glass and 25% off small plates.

Fixin's, 8300 E Oak Island Dr., offers Cooking Class Series by Chef Rick and Sunset Supper Club. Sign up at www.fixinsoki.com.

Off season, always popular **Oliver's on The Cape Fear**, 101 W Bay St, Southport, overlooking the Cape Fear River, offers nightly drink specials like $7 martinis on Thursdays. Enjoy the view, the cocktails and the food.

If you enjoy, and really who doesn't, **Mr. P's Bistro**, 309 N Howe St, well known for "Cuisine of the Lower Cape Fear" stop in to take advantage of their seasonal gift certificate Bistro Bucks promotions.

Don't want to cook but like home cooking? **The Sea Biscuit Cafe** 3370 Stone Chimney Rd SW, Varnamtown, is serving up some mighty fine complete dinners... like prime rib, or lamb chops or salmon... eat in or take home.

The Wharf, 1045 B-Var Rd in Holden Beach, formerly Betty's Waterfront, has a varied menu, a good view, and a 2.5 Tomahawk Ribeye dinner that has folks talking. They are a sponsor of the inaugural Holden Beach Flotilla raising money for Brunswick Family Assistance on Sat. Nov 28. Join **The Wharf** for the flotilla watch party at 5 pm.

Kalani @ the Harbor, 3792 Sunset Harbor Rd Sunset Harbor is open and is quickly becoming a popular destination featuring Polynesian flavored specials and a very popular whole frozen pineapple concoction.

Looking for good Italian take out meals? Well, **Pizzetta's** in Leland is very popular for the freshest of salads, entrees and super pizzas. Locals swear by this choice whether eat in or take home. If you are not a local, but either shopping or going to doctor's appointments in Leland do stop in.

On Oak Island, **Swain's Seafood and Cut Restaurant**, 8317 E Oak Island Dr well known for fresh seafood specialties, is offering early dinner menu choices. At their **Stuffed Cakes** shop located next door, you can buy their famous mile high stuffed cakes by the slice or whole as well as freshly prepared lunch sides and salads like tuna and shrimp. **Stuffed** is transitioning into a bakery and market.

Bella Cucina, besides Nonna dinners, hosts "From Couch to Contest - Your Jeopardy Moment" at Bella Cucina teams 2 to 4 player teams for a night of fun, prizes and small plates and drink specials. Check it out on Thursday nights. December 23, from 5 pm until 8:30 pm experience the traditional **Italian Feast of the 7 Fishes Dinner** with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Wine, traditional specialties a warm family atmosphere shared for the holidays, who could ask for more. Get your tickets now before the dinner is sold out.

Fish Factory restaurant on Long Beach Rd., offers lunch as well as dinner Wednesday through Sunday and now hosts Sunday Brunch from 10 am - 3pm on Sundays. Closed Mondays. Door dash is also available.

If you like reading and want the company of fellow readers, you can find a book club to match your taste. Whether it is any Brunswick County Library branches, or senior centers, even places like **Porchside Social** in Southport which hosts Book Club and Podcasts on Thursdays once a month. **Needful Things**, a delightful comfy, book shop in Southport near the post office welcomes readers to join their book club. Catch an author's book signing often held there. **Moody Bean** offers fresh brews to savor while you browse. A gift certificate for a book of your own choosing fits just about everyone. There is even a **Southport Silent Book Club** that meets where everyone reads a personal choice that meets in places around town.

If you want to shop at a variety of more than 200 shops all under one roof, **Bazar**, 421 S. Collage Rd in Wilmington, is home to craftsmen, artisans, resellers, and designers. **Out of My Closet**, located in the rear area of **Bazar** is home to apparel consigners, each with their own "closet" offering things from out of their closets. The thrill of the hunt awaits!

Holiday parties, social whirls and winter cruises mean time to pamper. **Impressions Aesthetics and Laser** in Leland, newly relocated to 2163 Britton Rd Suite 110, is offering **Co2 Laser Skin** resurfacing, wrinkle reduction, lip and eye lines skin tightening sun damage as well as **IPL Intense Pulsed Light** treatment. Free consultation and gift certificates are available.

Southport Beauty Bar, 1517 N Howe St Suite 11, operated by a team of experienced professionals, is a complete day spa experience that includes lash services, waxing, facials spray tanning, specialized massages, skin therapy, aesthetics, phototherapy, BOTOX and JUVEDERM, as well as an Infrared Sauna. Discover **Southport Beauty Boutique,** part of the experience. Shop for unique fashion choices.

Speaking of pampering yourself, **Lux Nails & Spa** has officially opened its doors at 1513 N. Howe Street, Suite 5 in Southport. The new salon brings a fresh option for manicures, pedicures, waxing and massage to the Smithville Crossing area. Local visitors can stop by for relaxing, polished experience just minutes from downtown Southport and the waterfront.

Spa Bella 1102 N Howe St Southport has a present for the holidays... a Sorella Peel for $75 just in time to get your glow on for the holidays.

Premier Fitness Studio, 4580 Long Beach Rd SE in Southport, is a private personal training studio and wellness center offering medical and golf fitness, stability and balance training, group classes and more. Parkinson training, Bungee exercise classes, make **Premier Fitness Studio** a unique choice. Unwind, relax, and escape the holiday stress with **Coastal Float Spa**. Just in time; buy one session get the second one 50% off. A session for a gift and one for yourself. Who doesn't t love a gift certificate?

RIVI Golf is bringing a new kind of indoor golf experience to the area at 5021 Southport Crossing Way #314, in the Lowe's Foods shopping center. The membership-based studio will feature private TrackMan simulator suites with 24/7 access and more than 250 world-class courses, designed for focused practice and play without crowds of hourly rentals. Grand opening set for November 20th 3-7pm, with an Open House the following day (November 21) 11am-4pm. Check em out!

Winter often means dead car batteries. If you live anywhere in Brunswick County and find your battery dead and are an AAA member, more than likely **Wilson's Speed,** with locations in Southport and Boiling Spring Lakes, will answer your call for assistance. **Wilson's** covers all of Brunswick County for AAA and promises to arrive ASAP.

Take advantage and enjoy some of the interesting and fun events celebrating the holidays in Brunswick County. Shop local. Support our community of small business owners. Have a joyous and peaceful holiday season. We look forward to serving you in 2027. Oh, get ready voting for the **2027 PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS** begins January 15, 2027.

BELLA CUCINA
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PRIVATE EVENTS, LUNCHES AND MEETINGS
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Reserve your spot!
December Wine Dinner:
Feast of the 7 Fishes
with Nonna Maria Basile Moore,
owner - Bella Cucina
co-hosted by Santa and Mrs. Claus!
Wine Dinner
with Nonno, Ron Rezza!
November 18th
Your Jeopardy Moment Awaits!
JEOPARDY! Bar League
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910-454-4540 • belladiningnc.com MENU/RESERVATIONS
CHECK OUT OUR WEEKLY DRINK AND FOOD SPECIALS ON FACEBOOK

Oak Island Celebrates Four-Legged Friends



The Town of Oak Island invites animal lovers and their furry companions to enjoy an afternoon of family-friendly fun during **Doggy Daze of Fall** on Saturday, Nov. 14, from noon to 4 p.m. at the Middleton Park Complex.

This pet adoption and family festival will transform the entire park complex into a celebration of pets and the special place they hold in our lives. The event will feature a variety of games, activities , food trucks and entertainment designed for the whole family, with plenty of attention given to its four-legged guests.

In addition to the festivities, Doggy Daze of Fall will highlight pet adoption, offering an opportunity to learn more about animals in need of loving homes. Whether you're a devoted pet owner, considering adopting a new companion or simply looking for an enjoyable afternoon outdoors, the festival promises something for everyone.

For additional information and to share the event with friends and family, visit OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS.

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Brunswick Bands Brings Holiday Music to Caswell Beach



Brunswick Bands Inc. will celebrate the sounds of the season with two free holiday concerts at Hatch Auditorium, 100 Caswell Beach Road, in Caswell Beach. Performances are scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 12, and Sunday, Dec. 13, both beginning at 3 p.m.

The concerts will feature a festive selection of holiday favorites performed by the Brunswick Big Band, the Brunswick Winds and smaller ensembles from the organization. Audiences can look forward to an afternoon of seasonal music showcasing the talents of local musicians and capturing the spirit of the holidays.

In keeping with the season of giving, Brunswick Bands will also collect nonperishable canned and boxed food at both performances to benefit local food banks. Concertgoers are encouraged to bring a few items to help support neighbors experiencing food insecurity.

Admission is free, and no tickets or reservations are required. Donations to Brunswick Bands Inc. are appreciated and help support the organization's ongoing musical and educational programs.

A nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, Brunswick Bands relies on community contributions, sponsorships and grants to carry out its mission. Beyond presenting free public concerts, the organization supports music education by lending instruments to students and awarding scholarships to graduating Brunswick County musicians.

Through its performances and outreach efforts, Brunswick Bands continues to enrich the area's cultural life while helping foster the next generation of musicians.

For more information about the organization and its upcoming performances, visit brunswickbands.org.





November/December 2026 Events

BOILING SPRING LAKES

December 5

Pancake Breakfast and Santa's Workshop

8a.m.-10:30a.m.
The Lakes Room | 1 Leeds Rd
Our annual Pancake Breakfast will raise money for our Senior Sunshine Fund which will assist senior adults with programs and trips. Your ticket to the breakfast will include pancakes, sausage, bacon, OJ, coffee and sweet tea. Kids will get to have their picture taken with Santa. Buy your ticket in November to receive an early bird discount. For more information contact Amy at 910-363-0166 or asteich@cityofbsl.org.

CALABASH

November 26

Calabash Turkey Trot

7:00am | 9887 Oak Street SW
The largest turkey trot in the Grand Strand Area is in Calabash North Carolina with Coastal Race Productions on Thanksgiving morning. Over 2,000 walkers and runners will start & finish down by the waterfront in Calabash. The morning starts out with a 10K followed by a 5K and 1 Mile. 100's of participants will run all 3 races for a total of 10.3 miles in the 3-race challenge earning some HUGE medals. You must pre-register online as the races typically sell-out prior to Thanksgiving.Register at https://coastalraceproductions.com.

HOLDEN BEACH

November 6

Veterans Appreciation Luncheon

11:30am | 110 Rothschild Street
The event will be held at in the Town Hall Board Room. Please RSVP by emailing Christy at christy.ferguson@hbtownhall.com prior to Friday, October 29th with your name and the name of your guest.

LELAND

November 21-January 3

Leland in Lights

6-8 pm | Leland Town Hall
102 Town Hall Drive
Don't miss the Grand Illumination at where Santa will help count down to the big moment. New themes, whimsical displays, and picture-perfect spots around every corner will make the season shine. This year brings back the Holiday Art Market and the toe-tapping sounds of the Wilmington Big Band, plus a "The Nutcracker" Holiday Meet and Greet, a world of sugarplum dreams.

November 30-December 17

Gallery of Trees

Leland Cultural Arts Center
1212 Magnolia Village Way
The gallery at the Leland Cultural Arts Center will transform into a winter wonderland of festive trees!

December 8

Cookies with Santa

6:30-8 pm | Cultural Arts Center
1212 Magnolia Village Way
A magical evening with Santa. Children will enjoy milk and cookies, festive holiday crafts, and a special reading of The Night Before Christmas by Santa himself. $5 per child. Registration required. Please limit adults/guardians to two (2) per family group.

OAK ISLAND

December 4

Christmas Tree Lighting

5-7pm | Middleton Park
Join us for the annual Christmas Tree Lighting Event. Activities include train rides, live entertainment, craft stations, letters to Santa, markey shopping and even a visit from Santa himself!

December 5

Breakfast with Santa

8-10am | OKI Community Center
102 SE 47th Street
Santa looks forward to seeing you! $10 for pre-registered residents, $12 for non-residents.

December 5

Christmas by the Sea Parade

2pm | E. Dolphin Drive
& Middleton Avenue
Take in the sights and sounds of one of the area's most exciting Christmas parades.

OCEAN ISLE BEACH

November 27

Letters to Santa

6-8pm | Town Center Park
11 E 2nd Street
Join us for a jolly holiday celebration filled with Santa, lighting of the tree and cheerful surprises!

December 31

Noon Year's Eve

11am-12:30pm | Town Center Park
11 E 2nd Street
Let's bring in the New Year with crafts, snacks, dancing and countdown to the "Noon Year!"

SHALLOTTE

November 14

Harvest to Holiday Market

9am-2pm| Riverwalk
158 Wall Street
Artisans, Crafters, Farmers, Live Music, a fun fall event.

November 19

Holiday Kringle Market

9am-2pm| Riverwalk
158 Wall Street
Artisans, Crafters, Farmers, Live Music. A nice way to get into the holiday spirit.

November 21 & 22

Street Brendan Catholic Church Holiday Craft Show

Sat 9am-5pm | Sun 8:30am-3pm
5105 Ocean Hwy W
Seventy vendors with crafts, soup, baked goods, coffee, tea and the Knights of Columbus' awesome homemade bread.

December 3

Christmas Tree Lighting

6:00pm| Mulberry Park
123 Mulberry Street
A great way to kick off the holiday season in Mulberry Park.

December 5

Christmas Parade

10am | Main Street
The decades long tradition getting families ready into the Christmas spirit.

SOUTHPORT

November 7

Holly Days Arts & Crafts Sale

9am-4pm | Southport Baptist Church
200 North Howe Street
More than 70 crafters selling handmade goods, Christmas crafts, baked goods, and more. You can also purchase food like hot dogs, chili, and biscuits.

November 7

Southport Wooden Boat Show

10am-4pm
Downtown Southport along the Yacht Basin, West Moore Street, and Caswell Avenue
The Southport Wooden Boat Show is an annual, 100% volunteer-run nonprofit festival held in historic Southport, North Carolina. It celebrates traditional wooden boat building craftsmanship and honors the region's deep-rooted maritime history.

December 4

Christmas Tree Lighting

6-7pm | Whittler's Bench
Waterfront Park
146–176 E Bay St
Hot cocoa & cookies by the Beautification Committee. Trinity's Children's Choir will provide seasonal music.

December 8

Winterfest-ival of Trees

5:30-7:30pm | Franklin Square Park
130 E West St.
Dozens of decorated and illuminated trees will transform the park into a holiday display.

December 5

Winterfest-ival Tea

1pm | Community Building
223 E Bay St
Holiday tea with entertainment. Tickets sold online. Proceeds benefit local nonprofits.

Bolivia

December 12

Christmas Parade and Vendor Show

11am | Bolivia Fire Dept.
3848 Old Ocean Hwy.
Join us for a chance to see a great parade, an opportunity to see Santa and a chance to peruse the local vendors wares.

For Up-to-Date Information on the Above Events and to Find More Fun Things to Do:
www.oakislandnc.com/ | www.oakislandnc.com/government/parks-recreation | www.townofshallotte.org
www.hbtownhall.com | www.sunsetbeachnc.gov/ | www.ncbrunswick.com/events | www.southport-oakisland.com
www.townofleland.com/ | www.oibgov.com/ | www.southportnc.org/ | www.townofcalabash.net/ | www.cityofbsl.org/
Also check events on your facebook page

Relaxation



Massage Therapy
Lymphatic Drainage
Hot Stones/Aromatherapy



Infrared Sauna



Skin Therapy/Facials
Waxing/Teeth Whitening
Permanent Make-Up

Meets Retail Therapy!

Refresh at our full service spa then shop our boutique



Accessories
Jewelry
Outerwear
Pajamas





Dresses
Jeans/Dress Pants
Sweaters
Jackets
Leisure wear
Casual or Dressy Attire

Ask us about special packages as well as gift cards



SOUTHPORT
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BOLIVIA 910-253-2777
NC 800-672-6379
FAX 910-253-27805

A Holiday Message from Sheriff Brian Chism


Sheriff Brian Chism

There's something special about Brunswick County during the holidays. Maybe it's seeing Christmas lights going up around our neighborhoods, families coming together, churches and community groups helping those in need, or simply seeing people slow down a little and spend time with the people who matter most.

For me, this time of year is also a reminder of just how fortunate we are to call Brunswick County home.

Throughout the year, I have the privilege of meeting people from every corner of our county. I see neighbors helping neighbors, volunteers giving their time, businesses supporting our community, and people stepping up when someone is going through a difficult time. That spirit of looking out for one another is one of the things that makes Brunswick County such a special place.

As Sheriff, I also know the holidays can be a busy and sometimes stressful time. We're shopping, traveling, attending gatherings and trying to fit a lot into a few short weeks. In the middle of all that activity, I simply ask that you take a little extra time to look out for yourself and those around you.

Lock your car when you're out shopping. Keep packages and valuables out of sight. Be cautious of phone calls, emails or text messages asking for money or personal information. If you're traveling, make sure your home is secure and have someone you trust keep an eye on things while you're away. And if your holiday celebration includes alcohol, please plan ahead and make sure everyone has a safe way home.

But holiday safety is about more than preventing crime.

It's also about checking on an elderly neighbor who may be spending more time alone. It's making sure a friend gets home safely. It's being patient with one another when stores are crowded and traffic is heavy. And sometimes, it's simply noticing when someone may be struggling and taking a moment to ask if they're okay.

While many of us will have the opportunity to spend Christmas with our families, our deputies, detention officers, telecommunicators and other members of the Brunswick County Sheriff's Office will continue working around the clock. I am incredibly grateful for their dedication and for the sacrifices they and their families make, not just during the holidays, but throughout the entire year.

I'm equally grateful for the support this community continues to show the men and women of our Sheriff's Office. We never take that support for granted.

As we celebrate this season, I hope we all remember what matters most. Take care of your family. Check on your neighbors. Be kind to one another. Slow down when you can, enjoy the moments that matter, and make choices that help ensure everyone gets home safely.

From my family and the entire Brunswick County Sheriff's Office family to yours, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a safe, healthy and Happy New Year.

Brunswick Marketplace
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Local artists showcase their work at Southport Wooden Boat Show



The Southport Studio Artists will bring an added touch of creativity to the Southport Wooden Boat Show on Saturday, Nov. 7, beginning at 10 a.m. in the city's historic Yacht Basin area.

Members of the local artists' group will set up booths featuring a variety of original artwork available for purchase, giving visitors an opportunity to discover the talents of area artists while enjoying one of Southport's distinctive waterfront events.

The art booths will offer visitors a chance to browse unique creations, meet participating artists and find one-of-a-kind pieces for their homes or as gifts. The Southport Studio Artists' studio will also be open during the event, providing another opportunity to explore their work.

The event is open to the public, and everyone is invited to stop by, enjoy the artwork and support Southport's local arts community.

Sea Notes Ready to Ring in the Season with "Home for the Holidays"



The Sea Notes Choral Society is set to kick off the holiday season with its annual Christmas concert, "Home for the Holidays," an uplifting and memorable performance that captures the spirit of Christmas and being home for the holidays. The Sea Notes Choral Society has prepared a diverse and inspiring program that is sure to delight audiences of all ages.

Performances will take place on Saturday, December 5, 2026, and Sunday, December 6, 2026, at 3:00pm at the Odell Williamson Auditorium on the campus of Brunswick Community College in Bolivia.

Tickets are free but required, and they traditionally go quickly.

Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy an afternoon of exquisite music and celebrate the Holiday season. Mark your calendars and come celebrate with the Sea Notes!

Sea Notes concerts are always free. Tickets are not required.

As always, donations and sponsorships are welcomed to help support the group's ongoing performances. The Sea Notes Choral Society is a nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing quality choral music to Brunswick County and beyond.

For more information, visit www.sea-notes.com.

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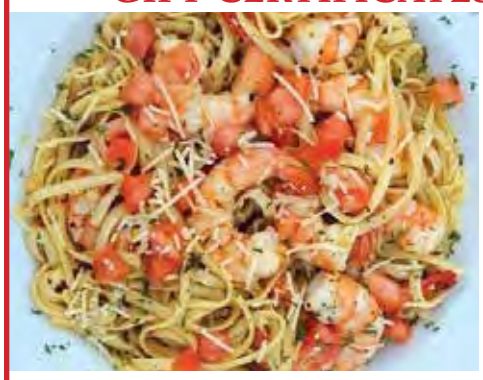
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Why Do I Support the Barbee Expansion Project?

Because libraries have always been special to me — and I've seen first-hand how much Barbee Library means to our community.



FOLSOI Board Member Patty Langer

As a child, I spent countless hours in my local library, reading everything from The Boxcar Children and Nancy Drew to Agatha Christie, Hemingway and Jane Austen. My library card felt like a passport to endless adventures. That feeling has never left me.

When my husband and I moved to Oak Island in 2018, I began volunteering at Barbee Library. I soon became involved with Friends of the Library Southport-Oak Island (FOLSOI), eventually coordinating its popular Meet the Author program and joining the FOLSOI board in 2022.

Over the years, I've watched Barbee continually evolve to serve our growing community. Today, the library offers book clubs, lifelong learning, writing, music and crafting programs, along with children's activities such as Summer Reading, LEGO Mania and STEAM programs. Many programs routinely fill to capacity.

That's why I'm personally supporting "Building Our Next Chapter – The Barbee Library Expansion Project."

FOLSOI has raised funds for books, technology, shelving, programs and so much more. Now, in partnership with Brunswick County, we have an opportunity to expand Barbee's meeting space. The $300,000 project will triple the capacity of the current meeting room and add a smaller room for private use.

Brunswick County has committed $150,000, and FOLSOI is raising the remaining $150,000. We've already reached over $132,000!

I hope you'll join me in helping us reach the finish line and give Barbee Library the space it needs to continue bringing our community together.

Please consider making a donation and helping build Barbee Library's next chapter.

With appreciation,
Patricia Langer
FOLSOI Board Member
Help Us Write the Next Chapter

Help us finish strong and write the next chapter together!

With less than $18,000 left to raise, your gift today can help bring our expanded Barbee Library to life.

Scan the QR code or visit folsoi.org to see how you can help us write the next chapter.

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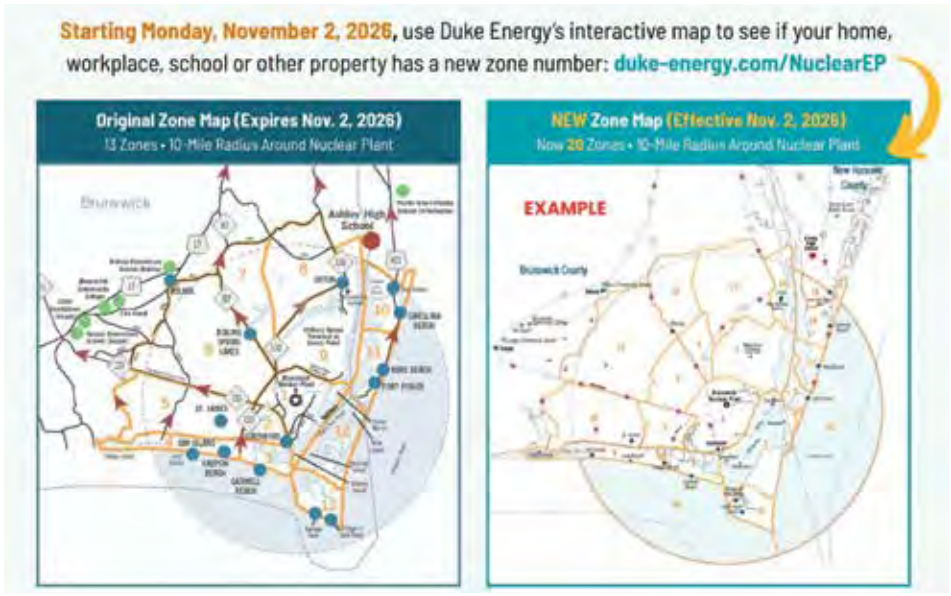
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New Emergency Planning Zones for Nuclear Plant



Heads-up, Brunswick County! If you live, work, or go to school in the 10-mile radius of the Brunswick Nuclear Plant, you may have a new emergency planning zone number starting next month.

Starting Monday, Nov. 2, 2026, community members can use Duke Energy's interactive map to identify a property's specific zone number and relocation center should any local- or state-issued instructions be issued in the unlikely event of a nuclear emergency.

Check Your Zone Number starting Nov. 2 at duke-energy.com/NuclearEP

The Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) covers an area of approximately 10 miles in all directions around the nuclear power plant (located in Southport, N.C.); this area covers specific parts within Brunswick and New Hanover counties.

Homes and properties within the 10-mile radius will also receive a postcard by mail in early November with information about the zone changes and the nuclear plant.

Rain or Shine, Brunswick County Always Shows Up!



A little rain couldn't dampen the spirits at the 2nd Annual Miles for Mammos!

Sheriff Chism joined in on the one-mile walk Saturday morning at Dosher Memorial Hospital in Southport, helping support breast cancer awareness and breast health services in our community.

Despite the rainy weather, it was a wonderful event filled with community spirit, encouragement, and support for those impacted by breast cancer.

Sheriff Chism had such a great time that he's already planning to take on the full 5K next year!

A big thank you to the organizers, volunteers, and everyone who came out to support such an important cause.



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Brunswick Sees Strongest September Home Sales Since 2020

Brunswick County's residential real estate market recorded its strongest September sales since 2020, with 579 homes sold and year-to-date sales volume exceeding $2.56 billion. Excluding 2020, September's home sales were the highest for the month in 20 years. Sales, new listings and prices all increased compared to September 2025.

"September's numbers show that demand for homes is staying strong in Brunswick County," said Cynthia Walsh, CEO of the Brunswick County Association of REALTORS®. "Strong sales, steady prices and more homes to choose from point to continued strength as we head into the typically slower fall and winter months."

September 2026 Compared to September 2025

New listings increased 8.3%, from 744 to 806. The number of homes sold increased 3.9%, from 557 to 579. The average sales price rose 0.3%, from $493,248 to $494,526, while the median sales price increased 2.7%, from $375,000 to $385,000. Total sales volume rose 4.2%, from $274,738,885 to $286,330,600.

Homes spent approximately 80–85 days on the market, down about five days. The absorption rate held steady at nearly five months, indicating a relatively balanced market. Pending listings also trended slightly higher than in September 2025.

A total of 224 homes sold within 30 days, including 124 resales and 100 newly constructed homes. Those resales sold for nearly 99% of list price and ranged from $135,000 to more than $2 million, with properties located throughout Brunswick County.

Year to Date

Through September, new listings increased 5.1% compared to 2025, from 7,079 to 7,439. The number of homes sold rose 6.8%, from 4,769 to 5,092. The average sales price increased 3.8%, from $482,074 to $500,317, while the median sales price rose 4.0%, from $372,044 to $387,075. Total sales volume increased 11.3%, from $2,301,324,417 to $2,560,443,719.

BRUNSWICK COUNTY

METRIC	SEPTEMBER 2026	SEPTEMBER 2025	CHANGE
New listings	806	744	+8.3%
Units sold	579	557	+3.9%
Average sales price	$494,526	$493,248	+0.3%
Median sales price	$385,000	$375,000	+2.7%
Total sales volume	$286,330,600	$274,738,885	+4.2%

BLADEN COUNTY

METRIC	SEPTEMBER 2026	SEPTEMBER 2025	CHANGE
New listings	17	23	-26.1%
Units sold	13	12	+8.3%
Average sales price	$277,215	$224,492	+23.5%
Total sales volume	$3,603,800	$2,693,903	+33.8%

COLUMBUS COUNTY

METRIC	SEPTEMBER 2026	SEPTEMBER 2025	CHANGE
New listings	43	31	+38.7%
Units sold	20	21	-4.8%
Average sales price	$223,695	$247,281	-9.5%
Total sales volume	$4,473,891	$5,192,899	-13.8%

ROBESON COUNTY

METRIC	SEPTEMBER 2026	SEPTEMBER 2025	CHANGE
New listings	15	12	+25.0%
Units sold	7	5	+40.0%
Average sales price	$118,143	$167,000	-29.3%
Total sales volume	$827,000	$835,000	-1.0%







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Maritime Heritage is Center Stage at Wooden Boat Show

Southport's rich maritime past will come to life along the waterfront Saturday, Nov. 7, as the 17th annual Southport Wooden Boat Show returns to the historic Yacht Basin from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



The popular waterfront gathering celebrates the craftsmanship, traditions and history of wooden vessels that helped shape Southport and the surrounding Cape Fear region. Visitors will have opportunities to explore an assortment of boats, meet the people who build and restore them, and discover the skills that have been passed down through generations of boatbuilders.

Long before recreational boating became a familiar part of the local landscape, wooden vessels were essential to the region's economy. They carried fishermen into coastal waters, transported passengers and supplies, and supported the commercial fishing operations that once lined Southport's waterfront.

Among those operations was the menhaden fishing industry, which supplied the processing plants that helped sustain the local economy. Remnants of that industrial past remain visible today, with foundations of former fish factories supporting businesses around the Yacht Basin.

Wooden boats also played an important role in transportation and maritime rescue operations around Bald Head Island and the Cape Fear River, helping connect isolated coastal communities and support the lifesaving efforts of the Cape Fear Rescue Station.

The annual show honors that legacy through a combination of educational exhibits, demonstrations and family-friendly entertainment.

Students from Cape Fear Community College will demonstrate traditional wooden boat construction techniques, offering visitors a closer look at the tools and craftsmanship involved in building these vessels. Other exhibitors will share information about maritime history, while boatbuilders and owners will be available to discuss their boats and the work required to maintain them.

Younger visitors can explore the region's nautical heritage through activities presented by the N.C. Maritime Museum. Children will also have opportunities to construct and decorate miniature boats before testing their creations on the water. Rope-making demonstrations and sailing displays will provide additional glimpses into traditional maritime skills.

Throughout the day, guests can enjoy live music, refreshments prepared by Southport Boy Scout Troop 238 and boat tours offering a different perspective of the Old Yacht Basin and nearby waterways.

The show's Ship's Store will feature commemorative merchandise, including special-edition T-shirts and a collectible event poster created by a local artist.

More than a display of historic watercraft, the Southport Wooden Boat Show serves as a reminder of the ingenuity and determination of the people who built their livelihoods around the Cape Fear's waterways.

By bringing together experienced craftsmen, maritime enthusiasts and younger generations, the event helps ensure that the art of wooden boatbuilding — and the stories behind it — remain an important part of Southport's identity.



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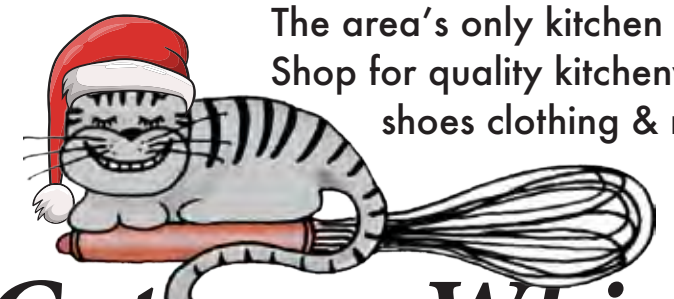
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Chamber Keeps The Summer Spirit Alive



Summer may be a distant memory by November, but the Southport-Oak Island Area Chamber of Commerce isn't ready to let go of the season's laid-back coastal atmosphere. The organization will bring area business professionals together for an evening of food, entertainment and seaside fellowship at its Endless Summer Bonfire Bash on Thursday, Nov. 19, from 5 to 8 p.m. at The Lazy Turtle Bar & Grill.

The gathering offers Chamber members and other local professionals an opportunity to celebrate another busy summer season while strengthening the connections that keep the area's business community thriving throughout the year.

Rather than a traditional networking event, the Bonfire Bash embraces the relaxed atmosphere of the Brunswick Islands. Guests can gather around a beachside fire, catch up with familiar faces and make new acquaintances while enjoying live music and refreshments.

Local musician Justin Crissman will provide the evening's entertainment with live guitar and vocals. Other activities include roasting s'mores around the bonfire and participating in raffles, adding a little fun to an evening centered on community and camaraderie.

The Lazy Turtle Bar & Grill will provide a taco bar, along with tea, water and a selection of sweet treats, including sopapillas and churros.

Although the event promises plenty of opportunities to unwind, its larger purpose is to recognize the businesses and individuals who contribute to the local economy. With the busy tourism season behind them, area business owners and professionals can use the occasion to reflect on the year's accomplishments, exchange ideas and look toward opportunities in the months ahead.

The Chamber hopes the gathering will encourage continued collaboration among local businesses and reinforce the importance of supporting one another beyond the summer season. Building professional relationships, sharing experiences and discovering new opportunities are all part of the evening's focus.

The organization also recognizes the contributions of event sponsors The Lazy Turtle Bar & Grill, Skywalker Roofing and Weikle's Hometown Heating & Air, whose support helps make the celebration possible.

Admission is $30 per person for Chamber members and $40 for nonmembers. Reservations are required and must be made by Friday, Nov. 13.

The Endless Summer Bonfire Bash is open to Chamber members and area business professionals interested in enjoying an informal evening of networking and coastal hospitality.

For additional information or to reserve a place, contact the Southport-Oak Island Area Chamber of Commerce at 910-457-6964.

As Brunswick County moves into the holiday season, the event offers a reminder that the connections formed during the busy summer months remain important year-round. With a warm fire, live music and good company, the Chamber hopes to keep a little of that summer spirit alive well into November.



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Southport's 2026 Holiday Tour of Homes Expanded for Second Weekend of December!

The 35th Annual Holiday Tour of Homes will take place from 11 am to 5 pm on Saturday, December 12, 2026 this year but will also offer a small guided tour on Friday, December 11. The coveted event anchors the City's Winterfest Festival and is presented by the Southport Historical Society (SHS) and Downtown Southport Inc. (DSI).

Saturday's annual event will be held on December 12 from 11 am to 5 pm. In addition this year, a new small-group guided tour will be added on Friday, December 11 from 1 to 5:30 pm. Advance tickets are required for both tours. Tickets are $35 for the Saturday self-guided tour and $75 for the Friday guided tour. All tickets wil go on sale Thursday, November 19 at 10 am through the Southport Historical Society's website. Ticket purchases are limited to four tickets per transaction.



Mary Ellen Poole, President of the SHS announced this year's new Friday addition by saying, "The SHS and DSI board of directors and Holiday Tour of Homes committee members are excited to bring this enhancement to this year's tour. It will provide us the opportunity to host more guests thus expanding the number of people who can enjoy the beauty and features of the homes on tour and the charm of downtown Southport during the holiday season!"

The Holiday Tour of Homes is part of the City of Southport's annual week-long, Winterfest Festival and is always held on the second weekend of December. Over 120 volunteers will be involved in organizing, promoting and hosting this year's Tour along with the gracious homeowners. Every guest ticket-holder will be welcomed by volunteer docents who share the history and special features of the homes. Every home on tour has a story, a uniqueness and a welcoming vibe. After several sold-out years, the Tour Committee is offering 1,000 tickets this year on Saturday and 200 tickets on Friday thus opening the door for more community members and visitors to take part in the tour.

This year, nine (9) homes and one (1) church will be opened to ticket holders. Randy Jones, President of DSI is enthusiastic about the lineup and added, "From historic homes to restored/renovated homes to newly constructed homes, we have a great mix. The homes and church are also in clusters throughout the City thus making getting around even easier." Each year the tour primarily draws people from Southport, Brunswick County, New Hanover County and throughout NC and SC. Jones stated, "It's often a family tradition with people dining in one of our many recognized restaurants, visIting their favorite shops, going on tour, then enjoying the rest of Winterfest's activities."

Tickets for both days go on sale to the public November 19 at 10 am until they are sold out. Tickets are available online only at www.southporthistoricalsociety.org. Supplies are limited and in past years have sold out very quickly.





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We are so incredibly proud of these young philanthropists and so grateful to Carolinas Staffing Solutions, Inc - Shallotte for encouraging their kids to give back and for helping teach them that you are never too young to make a difference in the lives of children in foster care.

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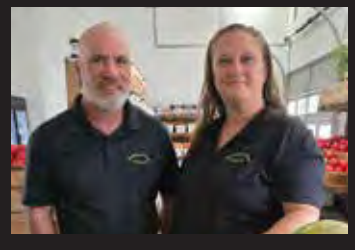
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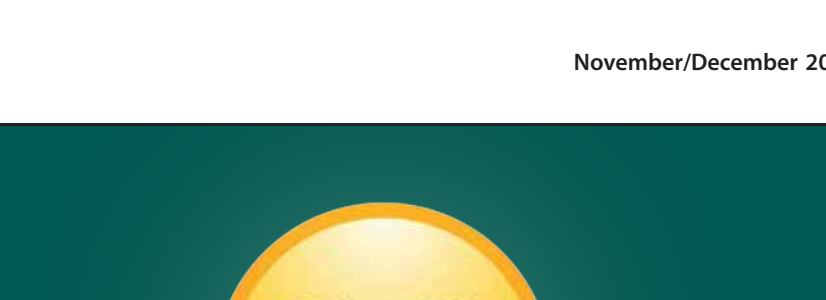
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Unique Gifts & Local Creations



The Artisans Association welcomes holiday shoppers to its largest event of the year, the annual Holiday Boutique on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 6-7, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day.

Held at the Homer E. Wright Event Center, 4136 Southport-Supply Road, the two-day event will showcase the creativity and craftsmanship of local artists and artisans.

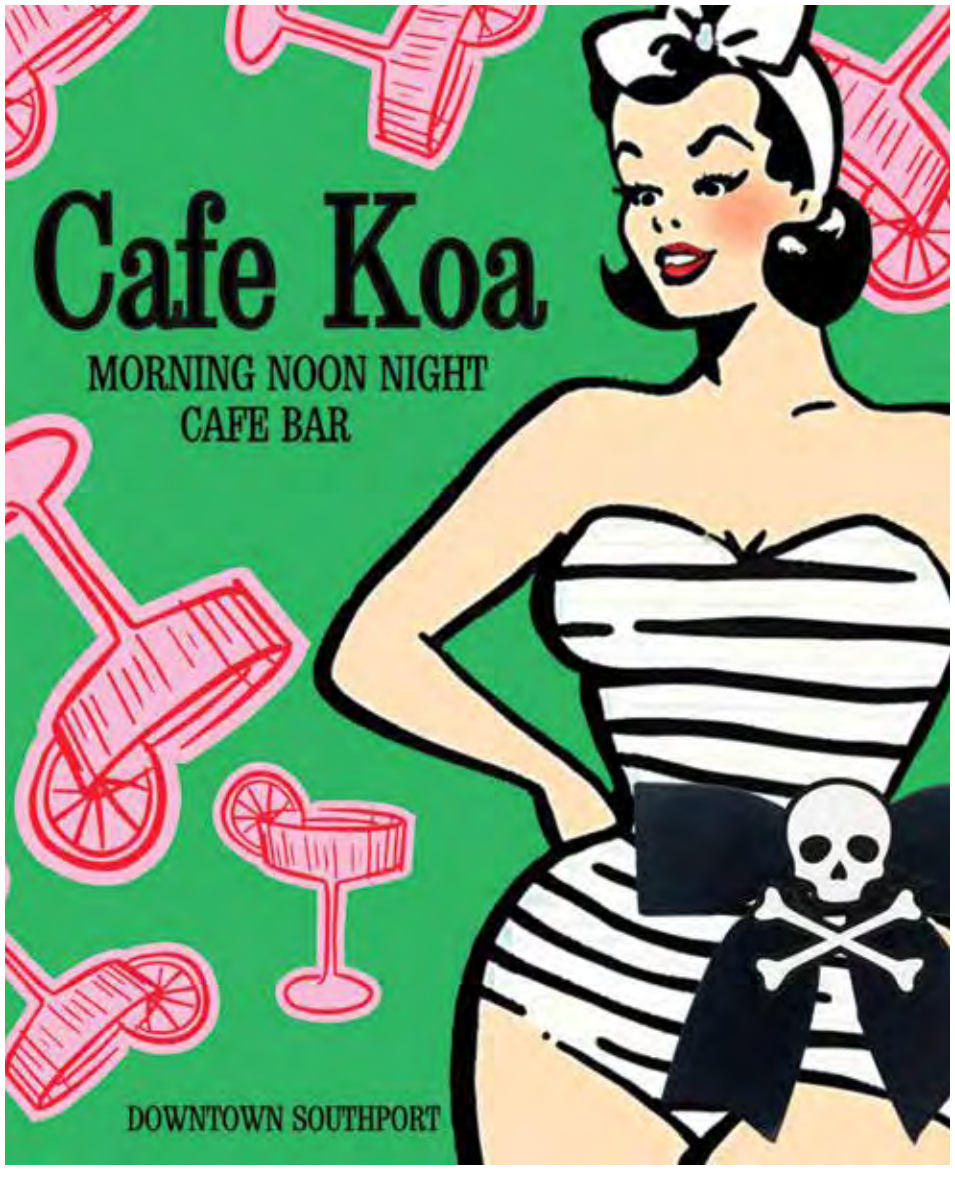
Visitors can browse an assortment of original, handcrafted merchandise, including pottery, paintings, jewelry, textile creations, glasswork and other decorative pieces. With a wide selection of styles and artistic mediums represented, the boutique offers opportunities to find distinctive holiday gifts while supporting the area's creative community.

The event also gives shoppers a chance to discover the talents of local makers and purchase artwork directly from the people who create it. Whether searching for a special gift, a unique addition to the home or something to enjoy personally, visitors will find plenty of inspiration among the handcrafted offerings.

The Holiday Boutique is free and open to the public, inviting residents and visitors alike to celebrate the season while supporting Brunswick County's local artisans.

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Southport Welcomes the Holidays with Winterfest Magic

There's something special about Christmas in Southport. The historic streets, waterfront views and small-town charm provide a picturesque setting for the holidays, and each December, the community embraces the season with a celebration that brings neighbors, families and visitors together.

Winterfest 2026 will fill downtown Southport with music, colorful decorations, family activities and traditions that have become part of the city's holiday identity. From the lighting of the community Christmas tree to a parade of illuminated boats along the waterfront, the festivities offer plenty of reasons to celebrate.

The season begins with the downtown Christmas tree lighting at Whittler's Bench. Mayor Joe Pat Hatem will illuminate the tree as the Trinity United Methodist Church Children's Choir provides seasonal music and the Southport Beautification Committee serves holiday refreshments.

Throughout Winterfest, downtown merchants will contribute to the festive atmosphere with decorated storefronts, seasonal promotions and special shopping opportunities. The sixth annual Storefront Showcase invites the public to admire participating businesses' holiday displays and vote for their favorites.

The Winterfest Tea offers an opportunity to gather for holiday refreshments and entertainment. Meanwhile, the annual cookie contest, presented by The State Port Pilot, gives amateur bakers a chance to share their favorite recipes while visitors sample the entries and vote for their favorites.

Children will find plenty to enjoy at Santa's Workshop at Franklin Square Gallery, with activities including ornament making and cookie decorating. Four-legged family members can join the celebration during Pet Pictures with Santa, featuring seasonal photographs and special treats.

The city's creative community will also play a prominent role. Franklin Square Park will become an illuminated holiday attraction during the Winterfest-ival of Trees, presented by the Southport Garden Club. Christmas trees decorated by local residents, businesses and organizations will create a colorful setting for evening strolls.





Artisans and craftspeople will offer handmade gifts, seasonal decorations and other locally produced merchandise during the Winter Arts & Craft Festival. The Winterfest Performing Arts Program will bring live entertainment to the Fort Johnston lawn.

Families can also settle in for an outdoor showing of The Polar Express, complete with cocoa and snacks, while other gatherings will offer opportunities to celebrate with Santa and familiar holiday characters.

Southport's history provides another distinctive dimension to Winterfest. The Southport Historical Society will offer tours of the Old Brunswick County Jail, a landmark dating to 1904, decorated for the holidays. The popular Holiday Tour of Homes will also return, with both guided and self-guided options available.

For railroad enthusiasts and curious youngsters, the Train & Toy Show will feature traveling model railroad displays, offering a nostalgic look at a pastime that has fascinated generations.

Several events will reflect the community's spirit of generosity. A Shop-With-a-Cop concert will combine entertainment with fundraising activities, while the Once More Bookstore Holiday Open House will encourage shoppers to discover affordable literary treasures while supporting local libraries.

One of Winterfest's most anticipated spectacles will take to the streets when the Southport Fire Department presents its Light Up the Night Christmas Parade. Decorated fire engines will travel through downtown, with opportunities for children to climb aboard before the procession and visit Santa afterward.

The festivities will reach a sparkling conclusion along the waterfront with the 32nd annual Southport Winterfest Flotilla. Decorated boats will glide across the darkened waters, their colorful lights reflecting across the Cape Fear River and Yacht Basin. The procession has become one of the city's signature holiday sights, drawing spectators to the shoreline for an evening that captures the character of a coastal Christmas.

Together, these celebrations reflect what makes Winterfest more than a collection of seasonal activities. Local businesses, civic organizations, volunteers and residents contribute their time and talents to create an experience that feels unmistakably Southport.

A complete schedule of Winterfest activities, including dates, times and locations is below.

ALL WINTERFEST LONG

SHOP, DINE & ENJOY LOCAL
Downtown • SPT-OKI Chamber of Commerce
Holiday promotions, gift guide, and dining updates from local businesses.
Info: www.shopsouthportoakisland.com

6TH ANNUAL STOREFRONT SHOWCASE
Downtown • City of Southport
Vote for decorated storefronts in festive categories. Winners announced Dec. 14.

FRIDAY, DEC. 4

DOWNTOWN TREE LIGHTING
6 PM • Whittler's Bench • City of Southport
Mayor lights the tree with Trinity Children's Choir, plus treats from Beautification.

SATURDAY, DEC. 5

WINTERFEST TEA
1 PM • Community Building • Winterfest Tea Committee
Holiday tea with entertainment. Tickets sold online. Proceeds benefit local nonprofits.

GINGERBREAD AND GIGAWATTS
3 PM • Brunswick Energy and Education Center Brunswick Nuclear Plant
Families design their gingerbread creations.

SHOP-WITH-A-COP CONCERT
6–8 PM • Cape Side Brewing • Police Dept.
Fundraiser concert & golf cart decorating.

SUNDAY, DEC. 6

PET PICTURES WITH SANTA
2–4 PM • Indian Trail Meeting Hall • APS & Police Dept.
Bring pets for photos with Santa plus treats and activities. Donations accepted.

TUESDAY, DEC. 8

WINTERFEST-IVAL OF TREES
5:30–7:30 PM • Franklin Square Park • Southport Garden Club
Community-decorated trees & holiday fun!
Info: southportgardenclub.org

SANTA'S WORKSHOP
4–7 PM • Franklin Square Gallery • Associated Artists of Southport
Kids make ornaments, cookies, and crafts.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 9

COOKIE CONTEST
3–5 PM • Community Building • State Port Pilot
Taste and vote for your favorite cookies.
cookies@stateportpilot.com

THURSDAY, DEC. 10

POLAR EXPRESS MOVIE
Dusk • Ft. Johnston Lawn • Intracoastal Realty
Free outdoor movie with cocoa and snacks.

FRIDAY, DEC. 11

BOOKSTORE HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE
10 AM–4 PM • 727 N. Howe St. • Once More Bookstore & FOLSOI
Hot cider, cookies, and books outside with more treasures inside. Supports libraries.

GUIDED HOLIDAY TOUR OF HOMES
1–5 PM • Downtown • DSI & Southport Historical Society
Tickets $75 via SHS Website for the newly added guided tour.

LIGHT UP THE NIGHT CHRISTMAS PARADE
6:30 PM (kids board at 5:30) • SPT Fire Dept.
Parade along Moore & Howe Streets. Visit from Santa following the parade.

SATURDAY, DEC. 12

WINTER ARTS & CRAFT FESTIVAL
10 AM–4 PM • Bay Street • Community Relations Dept.
Homemade arts & crafts, baked goods, produce, holiday gifts, and much more.

PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAM
11 AM–3 PM • Ft. Johnston Lawn • Up Your Arts
Performances include a feature by Treblesome, a jazz trio.

OLD JAIL TOURS
11 AM–5 PM • Old Brunswick County Jail • Southport Historical Society
Tour the 1904 jail decorated for the season. Tours are free, but donations are appreciated.

HOLIDAY TOUR OF HOMES
11 AM–5 PM • Downtown • DSI & Southport Historical Society
Tickets $35 via Southport Historical Society website for the self-guided tour.

TRAIN & TOY SHOW
12–5 PM • Indian Trail Meeting Hall
Grand Strand Model Railroaders bringing their traveling layouts to share with us.

SPARK THE SEASON
1–5 PM • Southport Community Building • Youth Arts Council & Brunswick Arts Council
Party with Santa and favorite holiday characters for an afternoon of games & music!

WINTERFEST FLOTILLA
6 PM • Southport Waterfront • Cape Fear Yacht Club, DSI & City of Southport
For the 32nd year, boat parade from American Fish with student judges and live broadcast.

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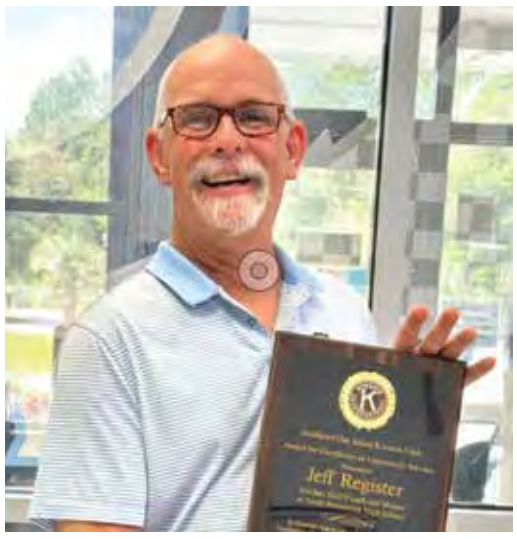
There's a seat here for veterans, active military, first responders, nurses, and their families throughout Brunswick County.

Come see what you might find here. Sign up by scanning the QR code.



Rotary Golf Tournament Honors Longtime South Brunswick Educator

The Southport Evening Rotary Club will bring golfers together Saturday, Nov. 14, for a day of friendly competition and remembrance at Carolina National Golf Club. Now in its 10th year, the annual charity tournament has been renamed in memory of Jeff Register, a longtime South Brunswick High School educator and dedicated supporter of the school's athletic programs.



South Brunswick High School teacher and coach Jeff Register receiving the Southport-Oak Island Kiwanis Club's Award for Excellence in Community Service

Previously known as the Rotary Cougar Classic, the tournament recognizes Register's lasting contributions to the school and the many students whose lives he touched throughout his career.

Register was a familiar presence at South Brunswick High School, where his involvement extended well beyond the classroom. In addition to teaching carpentry and supporting school athletics, he was known for greeting students and families during the daily arrival and dismissal of school buses.

Following his death from cancer, tournament organizers chose to honor his legacy by attaching his name to an event he had helped support for years.

The four-person, captain's choice tournament begins with registration at 7:30 a.m., followed by a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. The entry fee is $125 per player and includes 18 holes of golf, a cart, driving range access, breakfast pastries, coffee and lunch.

Participants will have opportunities to win rounds of golf at area courses, along with door prizes and a 50/50 raffle.

Businesses and individuals interested in supporting the tournament through hole sponsorships, prize donations or other contributions can call 910-352-1928.

Additional information and online registration are available at www.jeffregisterclassic.com.

The event offers an opportunity for golfers, former students, colleagues and community members to celebrate Register's life while continuing the tradition of a tournament that brings people together through golf and community service.















Thousands of Pink Flamingos Invade Oak Island



A sea of pink flamingos transformed Oak Island's Middleton Park into a display of community generosity in October, as the nonprofit Pledge the Pink reclaimed a Guinness World Records title during its annual breast cancer fundraising celebration.

On Oct. 12, volunteers and local supporters arranged 7,654 plastic garden flamingos in an unbroken line stretching 2,954.4 feet through the park. The colorful installation easily surpassed the previous record of 4,280 flamingos, adding another chapter to a friendly rivalry that has continued for a decade.

Pledge the Pink first earned the distinction in 2016, only to lose it two years later to the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy. The organizations traded the title again in 2020 and 2022 before Pledge the Pink's latest record-breaking effort brought it back to Oak Island.

Each flamingo represented a $100 donation, making the sprawling display a striking illustration of the financial support generated by the event. Guinness World Records adjudicator Thomas Bradford attended to verify the attempt, checking that the flamingos met official requirements, the line remained continuous and the final count was accurate.

Founded in 2011 by Laura Morgan, Pledge the Pink combines three 10-mile walking and running events with parties, parades and celebrations honoring breast cancer survivors and their families. The organization has raised more than $7 million for screenings, treatment, clinical trials and research. Morgan developed the event after participating in endurance fundraisers, envisioning a more entertaining experience that could also benefit the economies of host communities.

Pledge the Pink has since traveled to coastal destinations including Hilton Head, Amelia Island and Charleston. Its October visit marked its first return to Oak Island since 2023, when approximately 5,500 flamingos were displayed at Middleton Park.

The record attempt launched a week of activities that included three 10-mile courses, a survivors' celebration, the Mardi Bra Golf Cart Parade, a silent auction, a house decorating contest and an evening of 1980s-themed trivia. The festivities concluded Sunday, Oct. 18, with a community farewell gathering.

Beyond the impressive numbers, the event demonstrated the enthusiasm of volunteers, participants and local residents who helped turn Middleton Park into a memorable celebration of determination, friendship and community spirit.



Leland Searches for Entries to Participate in a Gallery of Trees



The Town of Leland invites local community groups, clubs, businesses, and nonprofit organizations to participate in a Gallery of Trees exhibit from Nov. 30 to Dec. 17 at the Leland Cultural Arts Center (LCAC), located at 1212 Magnolia Village Way. Participating organizations will provide their own trees and decorations. Setup will take place Nov. 30, and trees must be removed Dec. 17. Organizations interested in participating can complete the online application.

Applications close on Monday, Nov. 9. Space is limited, so apply today by scanning the QR code.









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Charitable Foundation Now Accepting Applications

The Brunswick Sheriff's Charitable Foundation, Inc. has begun accepting applications from non-profit organizations located in Brunswick County, NC. One or more organizations will be chosen to receive a donation from proceeds of the 15th Annual Sheriff's Charity Ball. Donations will vary from year to year based on the success of the Charity Ball. The next Charity Ball is scheduled for Friday March 5, 2027.

In keeping with the mission of the Foundation, applications are open to any non-profit organization located in Brunswick County which offer programs specifically benefitting only Brunswick County residents. If the organization is a chapter of a national organization, the donation must be used exclusively in Brunswick County. Interested non-profit organizations should submit their applications no later than Tuesday November 10, 2026. Applications are to be submitted electronically on the Brunswick Sheriff's Charitable Foundation website at www.sheriffscharity.com.

For application guidelines and submission, please go to the Foundation's website at: www.sheriffscharity.com. For additional questions you can email us at sheriffscharity@gmail.com.

Brunswick Sheriff's Charitable Foundation, Inc. P.O. Box 10820
Southport, NC 28461
Phone: 910-253-0922
www.sheriffscharity.com





Leland in Lights Returns!



Leland, we hope you're ready to get merry and VERY bright!

Leland in Lights returns to Founders Park on Saturday, Nov. 21, and this year, we went a little bigger. OK, a lot bigger.

We're talking our most expansive light display ever, with towering new additions throughout the park, a brand-new centerpiece, TWO Leland Express trains and plenty more planned throughout the season.

It all begins with Grand Illumination at 6 p.m. on Nov. 21, when Santa and Mayor Bozeman flip the switch and officially light up Founders Park.

And that's only the beginning. Leland in Lights will shine nightly through Jan. 3, with live music, holiday movies, visits with Santa, food trucks and more joining the fun on select nights.

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Find the full schedule at LelandinLights.com.







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Winter Craft Festival Brings Holiday Shopping to Southport

Southport's Winter Craft Festival returns Saturday, Dec. 12, offering an opportunity to discover unique gifts, seasonal treats and locally made treasures in the heart of downtown.

Held along East Bay Street from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the festival will bring together artisans, craftspeople and local vendors for a day of holiday shopping in a festive coastal setting.

Visitors can browse a colorful assortment of handmade arts and crafts, along with homegrown winter vegetables, fresh-cut flowers, baked goods, honey, jellies, pickles and other specialty items. The variety of offerings makes the festival an appealing destination for anyone searching for thoughtful gifts or simply looking to enjoy an afternoon exploring downtown Southport.

Organized by the City of Southport's Community Relations Department, the event provides an opportunity to support local makers and small businesses while enjoying the charm of the holiday season.

The festival is free and open to the public.

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Seminar on Preparing Your Business for a Successful Sale



Ben Shaw

Whether you're planning to sell your business in the near future or simply want to prepare for the day when you're ready to retire or move on to your next venture, having an exit strategy is an important part of business ownership.

The Southport-Oak Island Area Chamber of Commerce invites business owners and entrepreneurs to attend its next Out of the Box Learning seminar, "Preparing Your Business for a Successful Sale: Business Valuations, Exit Planning, and How to Sell a Business," on Tuesday, November 10, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. at the Chamber office, 4433 Long Beach Road, Southport. The seminar is FREE, but reservations are requested by calling (910) 457-6964.

The featured speaker will be Ben Shaw, Business Broker with Murphy Business Sales, who will share valuable insights into the process of preparing a business for sale, understanding its value, and developing an effective exit strategy.

Topics will include:

Business Valuations: Understanding what your business may be worth and the factors that influence its value.

Exit Planning: Preparing for retirement, ownership transitions, or the next chapter of your professional life.

Selling a Business: Learning about the sales process, preparing for potential buyers, and navigating the steps toward a successful transaction.

This informative session will help participants better understand the steps they can take today to position their businesses for a successful transition in the future.

Murphy Business and Financial is one of the largest business brokerage and lower middle-market mergers and acquisitions (M&A) firms in North America, with offices throughout the United States and Canada.

"Even if selling your business is years away, it's never too early to start planning," said the Chamber. "Our goal with the Out of the Box Learning series is to provide business owners with practical information and resources that help them make informed decisions, strengthen their businesses, and prepare for future opportunities."

The Chamber's Out of the Box Learning series is part of its ongoing commitment to supporting the local business community through education, professional development, and access to valuable resources.

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