



King Mackerel Tournament Returns October 1-3, 2026

The Southport-Oak Island Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce the upcoming 47th Annual U.S. Open King Mackerel Tournament, one of the most anticipated fishing events in the country. This year's event is scheduled for October 1st – 3rd at Dutchman Creek Park in the Southport-Oak Island area.

The U.S. Open King Mackerel Tournament is known for its high-energy atmosphere, cheering spectators, and guaranteed prize structure. This premier event promises excitement both on and off the water, offering cash prizes, family-friendly activities, sponsor showcase and food vendors.

The event is still seeking sponsors. “This event is more than just a fishing tournament,” said Carol Magnani, 2026 Tournament Chair. “It’s a celebration of outdoor tradition, sportsmanship, and community spirit. Sponsors play a key role in making this event successful and memorable.”

The tournament invites businesses, organizations, and individuals passionate about community engagement and outdoor recreation to partner with them. Sponsorship not only provides great exposure but also supports a beloved local tradition. All sponsors will receive prominent recognition before and during the event, including logo placement, media mentions, social media shout-outs, and booth space on-site (where applicable).

The tournament offers a variety of sponsorship levels to fit every budget – from major sponsors to local business shout-outs.

For more information on sponsorship packages or to become a sponsor, please contact: U.S. Open King

Mackerel Tournament, 4433 Long Beach Road, Southport at (910) 457-6964 or go to <https://www.usopenkmt.com/sponsors>.

Captain Goody Bag

A goody bag will be given to the captain of the first 400 boats entered into the 2026 tournament. The Goody Bag will include a bucket sponsored by Battery Tender and a wide brim hat. Goody bags not picked up during Registration/Package Pickup on Thursday, October 1st from 10am-9pm at Dutchman Creek Park will be forfeited.

Eyes on the Prize

The U.S. Open King Mackerel Tournament has a guaranteed prize structure, not based on the payout or the number of entries.

Primary Prizes: A boat entry can only win one Primary Prize. The entrant does remain eligible to win Secondary Prizes with the same fish or additional fish. Fish weights will be entered in an on-site computer. Each fish will be entered in the appropriate category of competition so as to assure the angler of the greatest prize earnings.

- \$25,000- Grand Prize
- \$10,000- 2nd Place
- \$ 5,000- 3rd Place
- \$ 2,500- 4th Place
- \$ 1,500- 5th Place
- \$ 1,400- 6th Place



- \$ 1,300- 7th Place
- \$1,200- 8th Place
- \$1,100 9th Place
- \$1,000- 10th Thru 15th Place
- \$800- 16th Thru 20th Place
- \$600- 21st Thru 22nd Place
- \$600- The Dale Ward

Award 23rd Place

\$600- 24th Thru 25th Place

\$500- 26th Thru 55th Place

1st Place - In addition to the cash you will receive:

Goat BoxCo a grey Hub 70 with the U.S. Open King Mackerel Tournament Logo from Goat Box Co. (\$600 value), a Battery Tender, 2, 3, 4 Bank Wave Charge Pro multibank unit of your choice and a Charge N' Start 4120 2-in-1 Battery Charger and Jump Start (\$650 value) from Battery Tender.

2nd Place - In addition to the cash you will receive:

Goat BoxCo a grey Hub 50 with the U.S. Open King Mackerel Tournament Logo from Goat Box Co. (\$500 value), a Battery Tender WaveChargePro multibank unit of their choice (\$400 value) from Battery Tender.

3rd Place - In addition to the cash you will receive:

Goat BoxCo a grey IC30 with the U.S. Open King Mackerel Tournament Logo from Goat BoxCo. (\$400 value), a Battery Tender Charge N' Start 4120 2-in-1 Battery Charger

and Jump Starter (\$200 value) from Battery Tender.

Other Prizes

There are a large number of other prizes awarded. To view the complete list visit <https://www.usopenkmt.com/prizes>

Tournament Merchandise

Merchandise will be available to purchase online at www.spto-kimerchandise.com until September 20th. Merchandise purchased online will be mailed. You may also purchase merchandise in person Monday thru Friday from 8:30am-5pm at the Southport-Oak Island Area Chamber of Commerce, 4433 Long Beach Road, Southport.

Registration

Online registration opens until Tuesday, September 29th at 11:59pm. After online registration closes you must register at tournament headquarters (Dutchman Creek Park) on Thursday, October 1st from 10am - 9pm.

Competition

The tournament fishing days will be held Friday, October 2 and Saturday, October 3, with the awards ceremony at 8pm on October 3.

Live entertainment will be provided by Almost Blue on Thursday, October 1 from 4-7pm and the Hood's Creek on Saturday, October 2 from 5-8pm. Cape Fear Radio will be on-site Saturday, October 3 from 2-4pm.

The ThePointClickFish.com Team will stream weigh-ins from the scales and the docks LIVE from the U.S. Open King Mackerel Fishing Tournament website www.usopenkmtlive.com

All KMT details are available at: <https://www.usopenkmt.com>.

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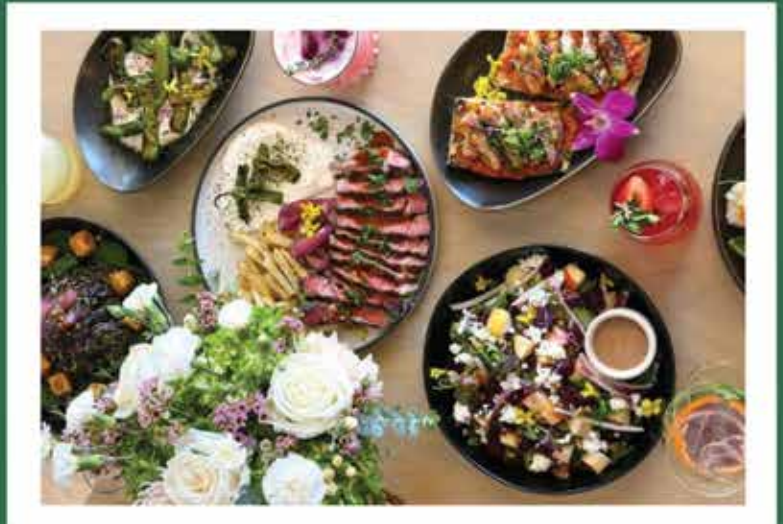
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Finally, it's Fall

by Joanne Hennessy Thompson

The heat, the sun, and lack of rain marked this summer; but finally we're slowly sliding into fall activities in Brunswick County.

Fall mackerel fishing kicks off with **Whack A Mackerel Fishing Tournament** hosted by Brunswick County Fishing Club, Inc. Aug. 29 - Sept. 26. Sign up online. The **3rd Annual Mad Kingz Mackerel Bash** follows Sept. 1st - Sept.30 on Ocean Isle Beach. Fish any 2 days. Lastly the grand jewel is the **2026 47th Annual U.S.Open King Mackerel Tournament** in Southport, Oct 1 - Oct.3, attracting over 400 boats for the pay out of over \$400,000 in cash prizes.

Brunswick County Annual Fall Festival Oct. 24 Government Complex Old Ocean Hwy in Bolivia is always a fun day out for all.

Ocean Isle hosts the **North Carolina Oyster Festival** starting on Oct. 17 for two full days of food, live music and shopping.

North Carolina Festival by the Sea at Holden Beach, Oct. 24-25 features arts and crafts, costume contests and over 100 vendors displaying local wares.

Halloween spooky celebrations abound leading up to and including Halloween Eve. In Ocean Isle the **Museum of Coastal Carolina's Creepy Coastal October Celebration** runs throughout the month concluding with the **Mad Science Masquerade** fundraiser on Oct. 25.

The Great Pumpkin Blowout at Brunswick Town/ Fort Anderson State Historic Site on Nov.1 is always a blast where attendees can blow up their own pumpkins using Civil War-era torpedo technology.

The **NC Maritime Museum** in Southport hosts **Halloween Ghost Ship** event Oct 27. Check out local events calendars or websites like **Life in Brunswick County**.

Witches of all shapes, sizes, and manner of dress mark the festivities that bring hundreds of participants and watchers to Southport and Oak Island. Spot witches on bikes, in golf carts, parading and dancing coven-style Oct 24. Stop at restaurants all over Oak Island and enjoy specialty food and drinks and make a donation to support **Sea Biscuit Wildlife Shelter** and **Oak Island Water Rescue**.

Dress up; join in; dance your witchy dance.

If you want to get crafty for Halloween, the **Pottery Playhouse** in Ocean Isle has some witchy appropriate items like a lighted witches hat for you to work on creating. Google the shop, it's worth a day trip of fun to enjoy together with friends or family.

Porchside Social 307 N. Howe St. Southport next to **Mr P's** restaurant is truly a social gathering place. You can enjoy select wines and beers as well as gelato and espresso. Stop in for live music nights and Thursday open card games. It is a wonderful place to meet up with friends. Plan to have your book club or girls outing at **Porchside Social**. Why not book an afternoon gathering? Contact Erica info@porchside-social.com for more information and coming events.

Looking for something new to do, maybe with a group of friends? Another place that is offering fun-filled nights, is **Bella Cucina** on Southport Supply Rd. next to the **Fairfield Inn**. New owners Maria and Daron Moore have changed things up a bit with **Thursday night Bar Jeopardy**, complete with a select drink and light food offerings. Returning this fall are their very popular wine dinners with a local Nonna or Nonno (Italian grandmother and grandpop) held on the last Wednesday of each month until December 30. The nonna/nonno shares stories and serves up a recipe from the region in Italy where their family comes from for you to taste. It is an evening to be experienced and enjoyed... a four course wine-paired dinner is sure to bring back memories.

It is wonderful to see local businesses sharing together with cooperative happenings - good neighbors creating good business with each other.

Southport Cheese Shoppe brought its traveling charcuterie to Oak Island's **Grape and Ale**. September 10th the traveling charcuterie tray will be at **Cape Side Brewing** for their Crafts and Drafts event, and on September 29th for the Sail Into Christmas: Cruise Night. Check **Southport Cheese Shoppe's** facebook for upcoming event details!

The **Salty Olive** in Southport showed off their premium olive oils and select Balsamic vinegars at the **Grape and Ale** and at **Uncorked by the Sea** in

Southport.



Coastal Blue Gift Shoppe has partnered up with **Elevated Wicks** for a weekly candle bar. Stop by Wednesdays 10am-2pm for a relaxing drop-in candle pouring experience. Design your own custom candle, pick your bowl, scent, pour your candle and even embellish it to make it your very own one-of-a-kind candle or a custom gift made by you!

Southport Spices at 114 N. Howe St. just had a mystery-themed event based on the book *Death by Darjeeling* and served free Darjeeling tea. It was an opportunity to read the book, sip the tea, and solve the mystery. Great fun! On Sept. 12, the shop offers an herb class. If you haven't visited this boutique shop offers curated spices, herbs, teas, and pantry essentials.

Need your knives sharpened or craving knives custom-made and hand-crafted just for you? A master craftsman, Wesley Workman, opened **Oak & Steel Knife Company** at 1206 N. Howe St. in Southport. His beautiful work, personalized, along with premium gifts and accessories can be found there. Stop in or contact sales@oakandsteelknives.com.

On Oak Island, **Fixins** Southern inspired restaurant, open for breakfast and lunch, is branching out into dinners. The **Fixins Supper Club** offers an exclusive series for a discerning few. Experience chef-driven world themes, intimate seating, and limitless flavor. There are a limited number of seats and mandatory reservations. Discover when and what will be on the menu and join the wait list at <http://www.fixinsoki.com>.

In Supply Co No Mo Chef Gerald Pittman offers pop-up wine pairing dinners that fill up fast at 2633 Holden Beach Rd. Interested? Check it out!

Watch for great art on businesses. On Oak Island, **Swain's Seafood and Cut** restaurant is sporting a beautiful

new mural spotlighting its promise of fresh caught local seafood menu offerings.



Southport Cheese Shoppe has officially mooooooooved in and put a mural of Kate and her girls on the back wall. Stop in and snap a pic with them!

For all you bargain hunters, **Out of My Closet**, in Wilmington at 412 College Rd., inside **Bazar**, is a bonanza boutique resale marketplace. Shoppers can browse over 150 curated vendor closets or rent their own booth space to sell their personal clothing, shoes, and accessories. With many people having lost weight there's plenty of new and gently used high-end label finds to be had.

In Leland, you can discover **The Collective Skin & Social** is a newly-formed group of entrepreneurial women, each offering services of luxurious care. They are creating a spa oasis where you can gather grow and glow... and you don't have to cross the bridge! It is located 2163 Britton Rd.

Under construction in Leland is a new **Leland Village** at U.S. 17 and Kingsbridge Rd. that will be home to eleven new businesses due to open late in the spring of 2027. Anchored by **Publix** market, the stores included so far are: **Handel's Ice Cream**, **First Watch**, **Domino's**, **Wingstop**, **Qdoba**, **Hollywood Feed** pet shop, **FS8 Fitness and Pilates**, **Glo Med Spa**, **Matress Firm**, and **Men's Sports Clips**.

Sad news just in... after 15 years serving the "whole world on your plate" **Southport's Ports of Call** will close its doors in mid October. Enjoy retirement **Jake and Ray**, you will be missed

Ok, Brunswick County peeps.... it's fall, time to fall in love with where we live. After all, we live in Paradise! Remember Shop Local Buy Local. Support our Brunswick County small businesses!

The 45th Annual NC Oyster Festival Returns to Ocean Isle Beach

Get ready for a weekend of shell-shucking fun as the North Carolina Oyster Festival returns for its 45th year! Held October 17-18 in Ocean Isle Beach, this beloved coastal celebration draws over 20,000 visitors each year—and for good reason.



Hosted at 11 East 2nd Street, the festival runs Saturday from 9am-6pm and Sunday from 10am-5pm. Admission is \$5 cash per adult, and kids 12 and under get in free. Whether you're a fan of seafood, live music,

local art, or just good old-fashioned festival fun, there's something here for everyone.

The festival kicks off with Community Night on Friday, October 16, a free family-friendly event starting at 6pm. Arrive early when gates open at 4pm to grab a spot for the opening ceremony at 5pm, which features a flag-raising, Honor Guard presentation, National Anthem, and a ribbon-cutting hosted by the Brunswick County Chamber of Commerce. You'll also witness the unveiling of the official 2026 festival t-shirt and poster, designed by local artist



Keith White. The evening wraps up with a free concert by The Extraordinaries from 6-8pm.

The main event Saturday and Sunday is packed with fresh oysters, food vendors, arts & crafts, and live entertainment. Shucking contests, an oyster eating challenge, and an oyster stew cook-off give attendees a chance to show off their skills—or just cheer on the competitors. Main Stage music includes performances by BlackWater Rhythm & Blues Band, The Main Event Band, Chocolate Chip & Company, and Jim Quick & Coastline Band.

Free shuttles run continuously during festival hours from two lots: Lowes Foods (7278 Beach Dr.) and Odell Williamson Municipal Airport (6080 Beach Dr.). ADA-accessible transportation is available from the Lowes lot. Festival grounds are also wheelchair-friendly. Traffic is heaviest between 11am and 2pm, so plan accordingly.



Don't miss this iconic fall tradition on the Carolina coast! For more info, visit ncoysterfestival.com or contact the Brunswick County Chamber of Commerce at 910-754-6644.

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September/October Events

ASH

October 21-25

**Brunswick County
Agricultural Fair & Expo**

Wed.-Fri. 4-11pm

Sat. 11am-11pm

Sun. 11am-6pm

2030 Ash Little River Road NW

A five-day county fair featuring amusement rides and agricultural and livestock exhibits at Stump Hill Farms.

BALD HEAD ISLAND

September 5-6

**Battle of Fort George
Reenactment & Celebration**

Various times | Old Baldy grounds and Marina Park

The Old Baldy Foundation and N.C. Fourth of July Festival commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Fort George with living history, family activities and commemorative events. Sunday includes free battle reenactments at noon and 3:30pm and a ticketed block party from noon-6pm.

BELVILLE

September 12

Feast of the Pirates Festival

10am-4pm | The Belville Riverwalk Park, 580 River Road SE

A day of pirate-themed family fun featuring games, sword-fighting demonstrations, historic encampments, sea battles, artisan vendors and food trucks. Admission is \$5 per group.

BOILING SPRING LAKES

October 17

Boiling Spring Lakes Fall Festival

Time TBA | Community Center

The city's Special Events Committee will host its annual Fall Festival. The rain date is Saturday, Oct. 24.

BOLIVIA

October 29

Brunswick County Fall Festival

6-9pm | Brunswick County Government, 30 Government Center Drive NE

The Brunswick County Sheriff's Office hosts its free annual fall celebration with hot dogs, popcorn, candy and water, a costume contest, games, hay rides and a haunted trail.

CALABASH

September 26

Celebrate Calabash

10am-3pm | Calabash Town Park, 868 Persimmon Road

A community celebration with local vendors, arts and crafts and other activities at Calabash Town Park.

HOLDEN BEACH

October 24-25

NC Festival by the Sea

Sat. 9am-6pm; Sun. 9am-4pm
0 Jordan Blvd.

Holden Beach's annual coastal arts and crafts festival features local artists and craftsmen, live entertainment, food vendors, contests and children's activities. Admission and parking are free.

OAK ISLAND

September 19

Ride the Tide

Starts at 8am | First Baptist Church of Oak Island, 4608 E. Oak Island Drive

Cycling event. For more information and to register, visit ridethetideoki.com.

October 24

Oak Island Witches Ride

Noon-4pm

Participating locations throughout Oak Island

Witches, warlocks and other costumed participants travel by bicycle, on foot or by car among participating restaurants and bars. No registration is required; a suggested \$10 donation benefits the Oak Island Sea Turtle Protection Program and Sea Biscuit Wildlife Shelter. The afternoon concludes with the Witches Dance at Middleton Park.

October 24

National Night Out & Halloween Spooktacular

4-8pm | Oak Island

A free, pet-friendly community celebration featuring a fall market from 4-8pm and activities and music from 6-8pm. Attractions include trick-or-treating, first-responder displays, a costume contest, carnival games, food and an outdoor concert.

OCEAN ISLE BEACH

October 16

NC Oyster Festival Community Night

6-8pm | Town Center Park, 11 E. Second St.

A free community celebration kicks off Oyster Festival weekend with a flag-raising ceremony, Honor Guard, National Anthem, ribbon cutting and unveiling of the 2026 festival T-shirt and print. The Sea-Cruz Band will perform a free concert. Gates open at 4:30pm, with the ceremony beginning at 5:45pm.

October 17-18

45th Annual North Carolina Oyster Festival

Sat. 9am-6pm

Sun. 10am-5pm

Town Center Park, 11 E. Second St.

One of Brunswick County's signature fall festivals returns with oysters and other festival food, arts and crafts, live entertainment and activities throughout the weekend. Free shuttle service is available from designated parking lots.

LELAND

September 3

**Live in Leland:
Dear MariBella and the Pigkickers**

6-8pm | Founders Park

The free Live in Leland series continues with Dear MariBella and the Pigkickers, plus local food trucks, a beer garden and yard games.

September 17

Battle of the Bowls

6-8pm | Founders Park

Leland Fire/Rescue, Leland Police and the Brunswick County Sheriff's Office compete in a community chili cook-off benefiting Manna Ministries. The free family event also includes live music, food trucks, yard games, face painting and a beer garden. Visitors can vote for their favorite chili with canned-food donations or \$1 voting tickets.

October 3

Lend a Hand Leland

8am-noon | Founders Park

A community-wide volunteer day bringing residents together for service projects throughout Leland. Participants check in at Founders Park beginning at 8am before heading to projects involving environmental cleanup, tree planting, food assistance and other community needs. Registration is required.

NORTHWEST

October 30

Northwest Fall Festival

5:30-7:30pm | Northwest

The City of Northwest will host its 2026 Fall Festival. For more information visit cityofnorthwest.com.

SHALLOTTE

September 12

**Brunswick Quilters
Craft Boutique**

9am-1pm | Shallotte Presbyterian Church, 5070 M.H. Rourke Drive

A fall craft boutique featuring work by Brunswick-area quilters and craftspeople.

September 19

Harvest Fest-Market

9am-2pm | Riverwalk
158 Wall Street

A fall festival and market featuring more than 50 vendors, food trucks and entertainment by Mark and Dora..

SOUTHPORT

September 5

**Oak Island Art Guild
Arts & Craft Festival**

10am-4pm | William S. "Bill" Smith Park, 4446 Fish Factory Road SE

The Oak Island Art Guild's annual festival brings

artists and craftspeople together for a Labor Day weekend show featuring original art, handmade items and distinctive creations.

September 12

**MAD Southport Military
Appreciation Day**

Various activities scheduled

Military Appreciation Day honors active-duty service members and their families with a day of activities provided by the community. Contact Hank Pomeranz at 910.274.2400 or at MadSouthportPres@gmail.com for more information.

ST. JAMES

September 18

Dosher Foundation Gala

6-10pm | Homer E. Wright Event Center

The annual Doshier Memorial Hospital Foundation fundraiser brings together community members, businesses and healthcare supporters to raise money for programs, equipment and services benefiting area patients.

SUNSET BEACH

September 3, 10, 17 & 24

Sunset Beach Market in the Park

9am-1pm | Sunset Beach Town Park, 206 Sunset Blvd. N.

The weekly outdoor market features local growers, artisans, craftspeople and other vendors.

September 11

9/11 Remembrance Ceremony

2pm | Sunset Beach Town Park, 206 Sunset Blvd. N.

The Committee to Honor America's Veterans and Town of Sunset Beach will host a ceremony remembering the victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

October 3

Sunset at Sunset

10am-4pm | Sunset Beach Town Park, 206 Sunset Blvd. N.

The 19th annual community block party features live music, more than 120 artists and businesses, food trucks, children's activities and plenty of opportunities to shop from local vendors.

WINNABOW

September 26

**The Carolina Blues:
Indigo on the Cape Fear**

11am-3pm | 8884 Saint Phillips Road SE

Join us at Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson State Historic Site as it hosts this living history program. Call 910-371-6613 for information. This event is FREE. All ages are welcome.

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

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Island Spas and Pools: Serving the Community for More Than 22 Years

For more than 22 years, Island Spas and Pools has proudly served Brunswick County and the surrounding region. As an A+ Better Business Bureau-rated company, they represent four of the nation's top 10 Spa brands and have established themselves as a regional leader in hot tub and swim spa sales, professional pool maintenance, and reliable customer care. Their experienced maintenance team helps keep local pools clean, clear, safe, and ready to enjoy.

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BSCF Board Member Allison Simpson, Vice Chair Felicia Woodard, and Chair Monique Stenquist were honored to accept a generous \$5,000 donation from Robert Cauthen, Jr. and Island Spas and Pools.

throughout every season – supported by guidance from the Island Spas and Pools team.

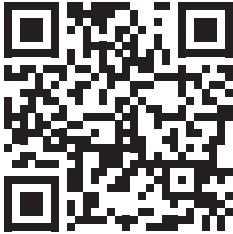
As the cost of building a traditional swimming pool continues to rise, swim

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ation, hydrotherapy, exercise, and family enjoyment in space-saving design, a Swim Spa offers many of the benefits of a pool with greater year-round versatility and a more manageable investment.

Island Spas and Pools also support the Brunswick County Charitable Foundation and its tremendous contributions to our community. The Island Spas and Pools team invites others to join in recognizing and supporting the dedicated officers who work tirelessly to protect the safety and well-being of Brunswick County's families, businesses, and visitors.

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Community is at the Heart of What We Do

There is something special about fall in Brunswick County.

The temperatures begin to cool, school is back in session, Friday nights bring communities together under the lights, and our calendars fill with festivals, church gatherings, community events and traditions that remind us why Brunswick County is such a special place to call home.

For us at the Brunswick County Sheriff's Office, this time of year also provides another opportunity to do one of the things I believe is most important in law enforcement, connect with the people we serve.

You will see our deputies, School Resource Officers, volunteers and staff throughout the county this fall. Sometimes we'll be there because we're working an event or helping with traffic. Other times, we're simply there to meet people, shake hands, talk with families and spend some time with the community.

Those interactions matter.

I have always believed that the strongest communities are built on relationships. People should know the men and women who serve them, and our deputies should know the communities they

protect.

Law enforcement works best when there is trust, communication and a shared commitment to looking out for one another.

As we enjoy everything fall has to offer, I also encourage everyone to keep safety in mind.

With school buses back on the roads and more children walking near schools and neighborhoods, please slow down and stay alert. As the days become shorter, watch carefully for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorcycles. Lock your vehicles, remove valuables and never leave firearms unsecured inside a vehicle. And as we move closer to the holiday season, remember that scammers are always looking for opportunities, if something doesn't seem right, trust your instincts and verify before sending money or providing personal information.

Most importantly, look out for your neighbors.

If you see something suspicious, report it. If you know an older neighbor who lives alone, check on them. If someone in your family is struggling, reach out. And if there is something the



Sheriff Brian Chism

Brunswick Marketplace

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Sheriff's Office can do to help, please let us know.

Public safety isn't something law enforcement accomplishes alone. It takes deputies, first responders, schools, businesses, community organizations and citizens working together.

I am incredibly proud of the men and women of the Brunswick County Sheriff's Office and the work they do every day, but I am equally grateful for the community that stands beside us.

So as the weather cools and another

beautiful Brunswick County fall gets underway, I hope you'll take some time to enjoy it. Attend a festival. Cheer on a local team. Support a small business. Introduce yourself to the deputy you see at a community event. And take a moment to appreciate the neighbors and communities that make this county home.

On behalf of everyone at the Brunswick County Sheriff's Office, I wish you and your family a safe, enjoyable and memorable fall.

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Haunts, Hunts and Halloween Fun



Oak Island

Flashlights come out for spooky egg hunt Oct. 23

Halloween gets an Easter-style twist when Oak Island Parks and Recreation presents its annual Egg-Stras Spooky Flashlight Halloween Egg Hunt on Friday, Oct. 23, at Bill Smith Park.

Children ages one through 10 can come dressed in costume and use flashlights to track down orange and black eggs filled with treats. Hunting areas will be divided by age.

Participants should bring a flashlight and a bucket or basket. The event is free and open to the public.

Spooktacular brings Halloween fun Oct. 24

Middleton Park will be filled with costumes, games and music when Oak Island's Spooktacular returns Saturday, Oct. 24, beginning at 4 p.m.

Presented by Oak Island Parks and Recreation, the celebration will feature carnival games, face painting, food vendors and a local market. A costume contest and Monster March golf cart parade are also planned.

The Cruise Brothers will perform at the Middleton Park Amphitheater at 6 p.m.

Halloween Fishing Derby comes to pier Oct. 27

Costumes and fishing poles come together Tuesday, Oct. 27, when Oak Island Parks and Recreation hosts its annual Halloween Fishing Derby at Oak Island Pier.

Children ages 12 and younger are invited to dress for Halloween and fish from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Prizes and treat bags will be distributed at the conclu-

sion of the derby.

The event is free, but advance registration is required. Visit oakislandnc.gov for more information.

Trunk or Treat offers Halloween stop Oct. 31

Families can fill their candy buckets at the Oak Island Parks and Recreation Trunk or Treat on Saturday, Oct. 31, from 5 to 7 p.m. at 3003 E. Oak Island Drive.

Volunteers will decorate their vehicles and distribute treats from their trunks. Awards will be presented for the first, second- and third-place decorated vehicles.

The event is free. To register a vehicle, visit oakislandnc.gov/programs or contact Emily Kincer at 910-278-5518 or ekincer@oakislandnc.gov.

Southport Cars, costumes and rock 'n' roll return Oct. 31

The 12th annual Classic Cars 'n Rock 'n Roll Car & Truck Show returns to the Southport waterfront Saturday, Oct. 31.

Presented by the Cape Fear Cruisers Car Club, the show will take place around S. Howe and E. Bay streets and is expected to attract more than 250 vehicles, many decorated for Halloween.

Vehicle registration runs from 8:30 to 11 a.m., with awards at 2 p.m. More than 90 trophies will be presented in numerous classes and specialty categories, including Best Halloween Decorated Vehicle and Young Enthusiast. Vintage Voltage Band and DJ Dave will provide music, and a 50/50 cash raffle will be held.

Spectator admission is free. Vehicle

pre-registration is \$20 through Oct. 21 and \$25 on the day of the show. Proceeds benefit local charities.

Visit capefearcruisers.com or call 910-477-4331 for more information.

Bald Head Island

Old Baldy celebrates Halloween and the holidays

Fall brings two special events to historic Old Baldy Lighthouse, beginning with an opportunity to experience the landmark after sunset.

Old Baldy After Dark will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Oct. 30-31. Visitors can climb the lighthouse at night during the family-friendly Halloween event. Reservations are not required, and admission is \$15 for adults and \$10 for children.

Old Baldy will welcome visitors back Saturday, Nov. 28, for Luminary Night from 4 to 7 p.m. Hundreds of luminaries will illuminate pathways around the lighthouse and Village Chapel grounds.

The free evening will include holiday music from the Village Chapel Choir, the annual Christmas Tree Auction, luminary walks and lighthouse climbs.

Boiling Spring Lakes

BSL Fall Festival brings costumes and scares Oct. 24

Boiling Spring Lakes will celebrate Halloween Saturday, Oct. 24, with its annual Fall Festival at the BSL Community Center, 1 Leeds Road.

The free event begins at 4 p.m. with children's games, face painting, a fortune teller and a costume contest for ages ranging from infants through adults. Food will be available for purchase.

At dark, the haunted trail opens,

with a cash prize awarded for the best scene. Individuals and groups interested in creating a scene can call Brenda at 910-471-2394.

BSL Trunk or Treat planned for Halloween

The BSL Parks and Recreation Department will host its annual Trunk or Treat Saturday, Oct. 31, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the BSL Community Center, 1 Leeds Road.

Children can visit decorated vehicles to collect Halloween treats, while residents are invited to register their vehicles and hand out candy.

For information or to volunteer, call 910-363-0018 or contact Connor Pate at cpate@cityofbsl.org.



Grissettown

District 31 Haunted Trail delivers October scares

Those looking for something scarier can head to Grissettown for the District 31 Haunted Trail, hosted by Grissettown Longwood Fire & Rescue.

The attraction operates every Friday and Saturday throughout October, plus Halloween night. Known for its frightening scenes and surprises, the haunted trail is the department's largest annual fundraiser.

Admission is \$20. For more information, call 910-287-3030.

The Southport Fall Market is Coming Soon!

The City of Southport is turning its focus to the new Southport Fall Market, running once a week on Wednesdays from September 23 through November 11 at the Southport Waterfront Park, 146 E Bay Street. The Fall Market provides an exciting opportunity for local growers, crafters, and food vendors to showcase

their products in downtown Southport while engaging with the community in a lively, family-friendly atmosphere.

The Fall Market continues the tradition of "Home Grown & Home Made," celebrating locally sourced foods and handmade arts and crafts. This market is designed to give vendors a platform to connect directly with customers, pro-

mote seasonal products, and expand their local reach. They are also doing several themed weeks throughout this market series to boost engagement, including "It's Spooky Season," and "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like..."

For more information visit explore-southportnc.gov.

- September 23, 9AM-2PM

- September 30, 9AM-2PM
- October 7, 9AM-2PM
- October 14, 9AM-2PM
- October 21, 9AM-2PM
- October 28, 9AM-2PM (It's Spooky Season)
- November 4, 9AM-2PM
- November 11, 9AM-2PM (It's beginning to look a lot like...)

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Pledge the Pink and Join the Flock for Record-breaking Fun!

Pledge the Pink returns to Oak Island this fall, and Oak Island Accommodations (OIA) can't wait to welcome this impactful breast cancer event back to the island. Taking place October 15-18, 2026, and offering multiple charity races, a golf cart parade and eight different parties throughout the festivities, Oak Island Accommodations is thrilled to serve as the host sponsor for this amazing group.

As part of the celebration, Pledge the Pink plans to take back their Guinness World Record for the largest flock of pink lawn flamingos, and you can help! Each pink flamingo represents \$100 worth of donations to provide breast cancer screenings, and by booking during this sale you can help grow their flock.

When you book a weeklong stay

with Oak Island Accommodations using the code *FlamingoWeeks*, you'll save \$100 and OIA will make a \$35 donation to Pledge the Pink in honor of their 35th Anniversary. Save \$50 when you use promo code *FlamingoNights* to book a new stay of three nights or more and OIA will make a \$5 donation to Pledge the Pink for each night booked.

Interested in joining Pledge the Pink yourself or learning more about this awesome charity? Team sign ups are open through September 7th, and right now you can even save \$50 on your entry fee for a limited time. Read more, sign up or donate directly at pledgethepink.com.



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Hurricane Season is here. Are you ready?

Forecasters with NOAA's National Weather Service are predicting a below-normal hurricane season for the Atlantic basin this year. NOAA's outlook for the 2026 Atlantic hurricane season, which runs June 1 to November 30, predicts a 35% chance of a near-normal season, a 10% chance of an above-normal season, and a 55% chance of a below-normal season.

The agency is forecasting a total of 8-14 named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher). Of those, 3-6 are forecast to become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher), including 1-3 major hurricanes (category 3, 4 or 5 with winds of 111 mph or higher). NOAA has a 70% confidence in these ranges. An average season has 14 named storms with seven hurricanes, including three major hurricanes.

"With the most advanced forecast modeling and hurricane tracking technologies, NOAA and the National Weather Service are prepared to deliver real-time storm forecasts and warnings," said Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick. "Our experts are integrating cutting-edge tools to ensure communities in the path of storms receive the earliest, most accurate information possible."

"NOAA's rapid integration of advanced technology, including AI-based weather models, drones, and next-generation satellite data will deliver actionable science to safeguard the lives and livelihoods of the American people," said NOAA Administrator Neil Jacobs, Ph.D. "These new capabilities, combined with the unmatched expertise of our National Weather Service forecasters, will produce the most accurate forecasts possible to protect communities in harm's way."

Stay Informed with ReadyBrunswick

Brunswick County Emergency Management urges all residents to

sign up for the **ReadyBrunswick Emergency Notification System**. This free service allows the county to reach thousands of people in seconds with urgent weather alerts, safety notices, and emergency information.

It only takes a minute to enroll: Sign up online at brunswickcountync.gov/833/EmergencyAlerts or text BRUNSWICK to 888777.

Once registered, you can tailor alerts by location, language, and quiet hours using the online portal. Keeping your contact info up to date is key—this service only works if we can reach you.

Make a Plan & Build a Kit

Create a Family Emergency Plan that covers evacuation routes, shelter options, pet care, important documents, and how your household will stay in touch during an emergency.

Prepare 3-7 days' worth of non-perishable food, water, and medications for each person and pet in your home.

Know Your Zone

Check your evacuation zone at ncdps.gov/KnowYourZone to find out if you live in a high-risk area for storm surge or flooding.

Understand the Terms

A Hurricane Watch means conditions are possible. A Hurricane Warning means they are expected. Learn the difference so you can respond appropriately.

Review Your Insurance

Make sure your property insurance is up to date—and consider flood insurance, which is not typically included in homeowner policies.

Need More Info?

Visit brunswickcountync.gov/294/Hurricanes for more preparedness tips.

Check the latest forecasts at nhc.noaa.gov.

Call Brunswick County Emergency Management at 910-253-5383 or email through the county website.

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Chamber Golden Legacy Celebration

Join the Southport-Oak Island Area Chamber of Commerce as they celebrate 50 years of creating business opportunities. The Golden Legacy Celebration on Thursday, September 17, 2026 will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Southport Community Building, 223 East Bay Street, Southport.

This elegant evening will commemo-

rate five decades of championing local businesses, fostering economic growth, and strengthening the community. Celebrate the Chamber's rich history and recognize the businesses, volunteers, and community leaders whose dedication has helped shape their success over the past 50 years.

Guests will enjoy an unforgettable evening featuring a full dinner, music,

dancing, drinks, and fellowship honoring the past, celebrating the present, and looking to the future of serving and strengthening the Southport-Oak Island business community.

Cocktail attire is requested. The reservation deadline is September 8, 2026. For reservations or information, contact the Southport-Oak Island Area Chamber of Commerce at (910) 457-6964.



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The Feast of the Pirates Festival is Heading to Belville

The Wilmington Harbor Enhancement Trust Inc. is bringing a swashbuckling day of family fun to the waterfront with the Feast of the Pirates Festival, featuring pirate-themed adventures, demonstrations and live entertainment along the Brunswick River.

Visitors can step back into the days of seafaring rogues and coastal legends with activities and attractions throughout the day. The festival will feature pirate games for all ages, interactive sword-fighting demonstrations, historic pirate encampments and exciting sea battle reenactments on the river.

Guests can also explore a variety of artisan vendors and food trucks while taking part in the festival’s “Most Wanted Pirate” hunt, which will send would-be buccaneers searching among participating vendors for some notorious characters.

Costumes are encouraged, so families can bring along their own little pirates and make a day of the festivities at the scenic Belville Riverwalk.

The Festival will be held Sept. 12 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Belville Riverwalk. Admission is \$5 per group, and the event is open to the public.



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Know The School Bus Laws!

With students heading back to school soon, let's all do our part to keep them safe! Slow down, stay alert, and remember the rules when sharing the road with school buses.

For drivers – know the N.C. School bus stop law

Yellow flashing lights: The bus is preparing to stop. Slow down and be ready to stop.

Red flashing lights & extended stop arm: The bus has stopped to load or unload students. Drivers must stop as required by North Carolina law and remain stopped until the red lights are off, the stop arm is retracted, and the bus begins moving again.

Stay alert! Watch carefully for children near bus stops, sidewalks, crosswalks, and throughout neighborhoods. Kids can be unpredictable and may enter the roadway unexpectedly.

For students: Do the following:

- Arrive early to your bus stop.
- Stand at least 6 feet from the curb.
- Wait until the bus stops completely

before approaching.

- Form a line and go directly to a seat when boarding.
- Use the handrail when entering or exiting.
- Listen to and respect your bus driver.
- Look both ways before crossing the street.

Don't...

- walk behind a school bus.
- run or play around the bus stop.
- run in the aisle—stay seated while the bus is moving.
- push or play while boarding or riding.
- touch emergency exits or windows unless directed.

A few extra seconds of patience can help prevent a tragedy. Slow down, put distractions away, and keep your eyes on the road.

Together, we can help make sure every student gets to school safely and back home safely this school year!

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New Hope Clinic warmly invites you to join them as a sponsor of the 14th Annual Rockin' & Laughin' for Hope Benefit Concert. Your sponsorship makes a direct impact on the health and well-being of your neighbors. All proceeds benefit New Hope Clinic's patient care and clinic operations.

Rockin' & Laughin' will be held Friday, September 11, 2026 at the Oak Island Moose Lodge. Doors open at 5p.m. Live music will be performed by Mike's Garage Band. There will also be comic relief with Rich Neilson, raffles, and fun—all in support of the New Hope Clinic's mission.

As a volunteer-driven 501(c)(3) non-profit, New Hope Clinic provides primary care, dental care, and pharmacy services to Brunswick County adults who are in need. Every sponsorship helps ensure our neighbors have access to compassionate, affordable healthcare when they need it most.

A sponsorship is more than a donation—it's an investment in healthier families, stronger communities, and hope for those who might otherwise go without care.

Sponsorship opportunities are available for businesses, organizations, and individuals.

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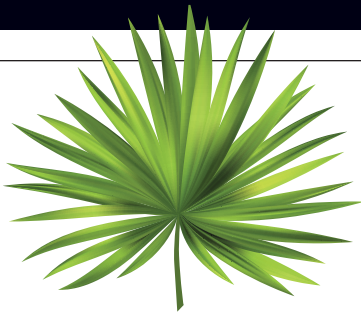


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Doshier Hospital Foundation Funds \$25,862 to Surgery Clinic

Doshier Memorial Hospital Foundation recently allocated \$25,862.00 in funding support to the Doshier Memorial Hospital Surgery Clinic (Dr. Paul Armstrong) to purchase one Midmark surgical bed, two Midmark power tables with tops, and four Midmark standard beds with tops. These new pieces of equipment are needed as the surgical clinic is expanding and moving into the old emergency department once construction is completed.

Said Lynda Stanley, President and CEO of Doshier, “We are grateful for the generous support of our community that enabled Doshier to purchase equipment that will support the care we provide for our general surgery patients. These equipment upgrades enhance patient experience and support Doshier in carrying out our mission of providing extraordinary care.”

Antonette (Toni) McAndrews added, “The Foundation is very pleased to

support the needs of Dr. Armstrong’s Surgery Clinic with these purchases. The purpose of the Foundation is to support Doshier with funds to purchase new equipment, programs, services and training that enhance patient care.”

The Doshier 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 Doshier 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 Doshier Memorial Hospital Foundation, please call Antonette McAndrews, Foundation Development Specialist, (910) 457-3936 or visit www.doshier.org/foundation.

Pushups for Parkinson's

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October 10 is about more than gathering at Sunset Beach Town Park. It’s about raising awareness, supporting families impacted by Parkinson’s, and spending time with a community that continues to show up for one another.

We’re grateful for everyone helping make this year’s event possible, and we can’t wait to see everyone this fall.

Learn more at: pushups4parkinsons.org.


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SEPTEMBER 1	Non-Profit Speaker & WIB Committee Member 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM Tina M. Bowen, Founder & Executive Director of Suds of Love Hosted at Makal Brewing
OCTOBER 6	MONTHLY MEETING: 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM Chamber Office - 112 Pine Street. Shallotte
NOVEMBER 3	MONTHLY MEETING: 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM Chamber Office - 112 Pine Street. Shallotte
NOVEMBER 12	Women of Impact Awards 8:30 AM - Location: TBD
DECEMBER 1	MONTHLY MEETING: 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM Chamber Office - 112 Pine Street. Shallotte

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Meet Your 2026–2027 Chamber Board of Directors!

The Southport-Oak Island Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to welcome its newest Board members and leadership team as we begin a new fiscal year.

Newly Elected Board Members

- James Boatwright – Oak Island Loggerheads
- Ilene Evans – Doshier Memorial Hospital
- Heather Kinlaw – Doodles Market & Convenience, Atmosphaera, and Green Compass Global
- Matt Mansfield – Mansfield Sales & Service and Brunswick Supply House
- Hank Troscianiec – Keller Williams Innovate

Continuing Board Members

- Victoria Bellamy – Novant Health Brunswick Medical Center
 - Michael Blue – Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation
 - Abby Carson – Carolina Resort Company, LLC
 - Steve Lewis – Booster Member
 - Justin Lovin – The Landings of Oak Island
 - Jessica Niedomanski – Coastline Insurance Associates of NC, Inc.
 - Carysa Overcash – Cape Fear Fitness
 - Jeffrey Stites – Southport Magazine
 - Russ Yarrow – Cape Fear Radio
- Together, these dedicated leaders will help guide the Chamber as we continue our mission of creating business opportunities and supporting a thriving business community.

2026 Brunswick County Habitat for Humanity Golf Tournament is SOLD OUT

The 2026 Brunswick County Habitat for Humanity Golf Tournament on September 24 at Thistle Golf Club is SOLD OUT! Brunswick County Habitat for Humanity thanks everyone who registered and can't wait to see them on the course for a day of fun, friendly competition, and community impact.

While player registration is officially sold out, there's still one way to get on the course. In addition to other sponsorship opportunities, one Title Sponsorship remains available, and it includes two foursomes in the tournament. It's a great opportunity to showcase your business while supporting affordable



homeownership in Brunswick County.

Other opportunities to get involved:

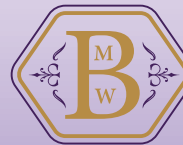
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For sponsorship info, please email theresa@bchabitat.org or call 910-846-2903.

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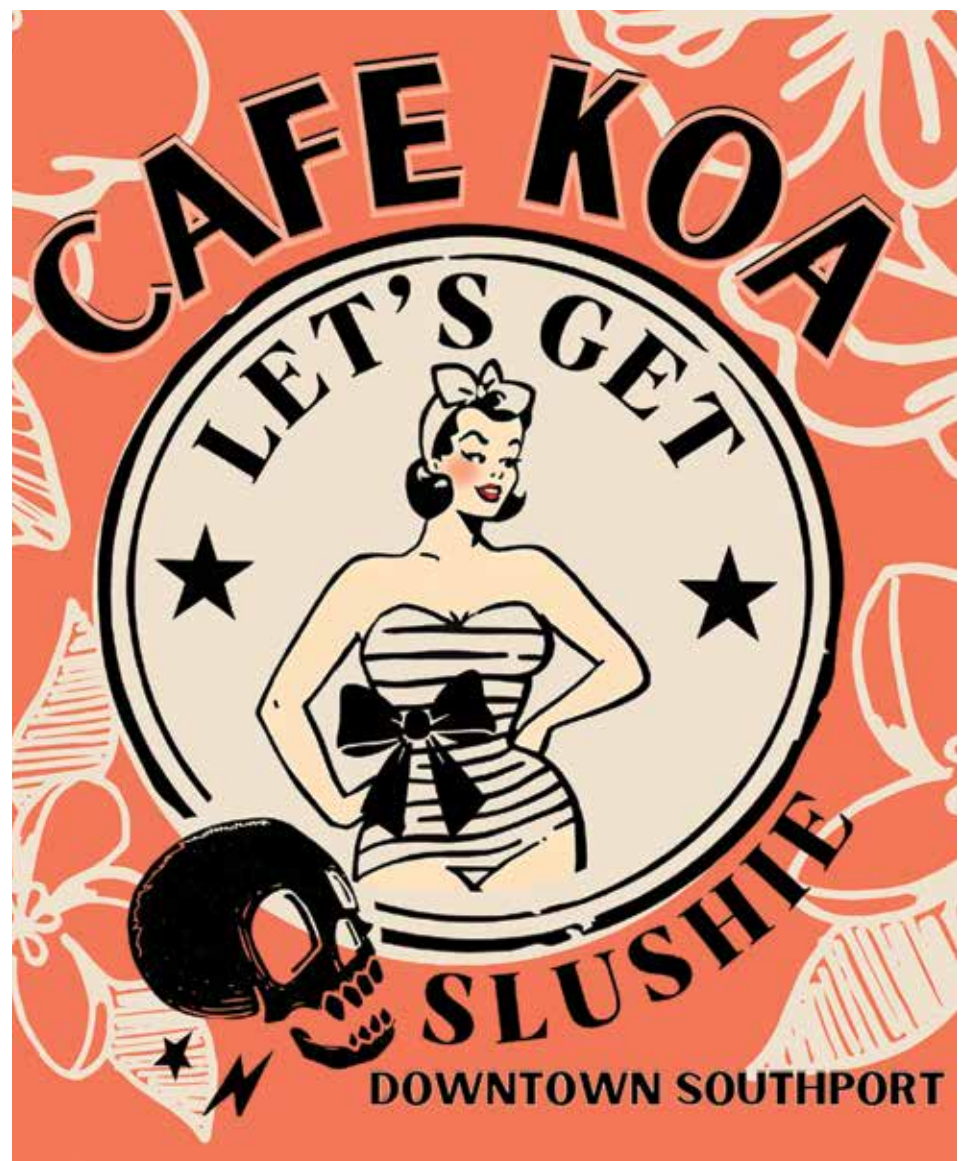


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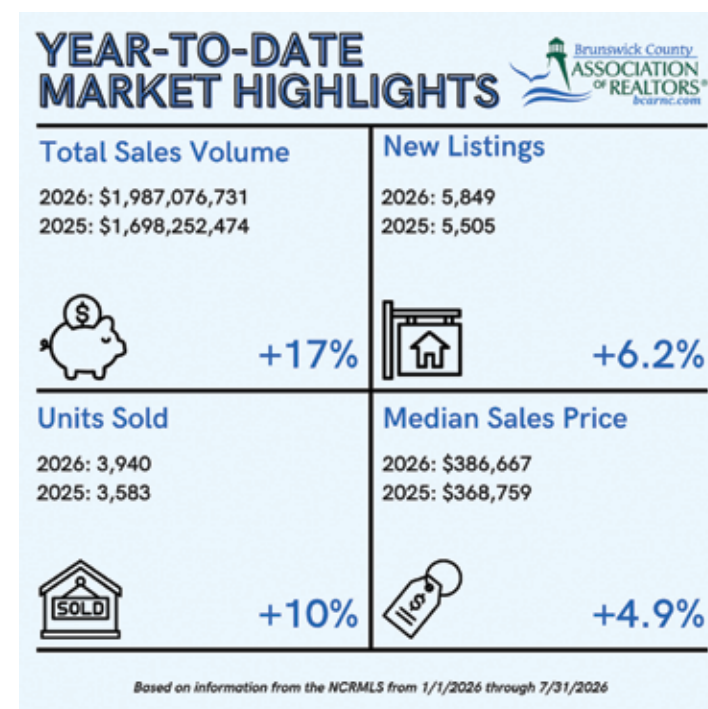


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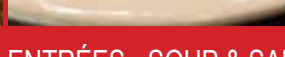


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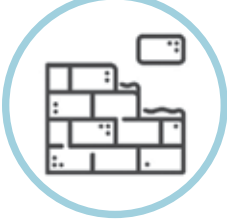




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to keep them safer. They even offer a free downloadable book for parents filled with helpful, easy-to-understand information.

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Learn more from Child Rescue Coalition by visiting their website: <https://childrescuecoalition.org/education/>

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Learn & Share at: OakIslandNC.gov/SOS

Ride With the Witches This October



Brooms aren't required, but bicycles, costumes and a little Halloween spirit will be welcome when the Oak Island Witches Ride returns Saturday, Oct. 24, from noon to 4 p.m.

The adults-only event has grown from a small local gathering into a popular October tradition, bringing witches, warlocks and other costumed characters out for an afternoon of fun around the island. Participants can travel by bicycle, on foot or by car, visiting participating restaurants and bars at their own pace rather than following a set route.

There is no registration fee, although a \$10 donation is suggested. Proceeds benefit two organizations dedicated to protecting local wildlife: the Oak Island Sea Turtle Protection Program and Sea Biscuit Wildlife Shelter.

Costumes are optional, but dressing for the occasion is certainly part of the fun. Participants are encouraged to get creative and make an afternoon of visiting the participating stops, enjoying food and drinks and socializing with fellow witches along the way.

The festivities culminate with the Witches Dance at Middleton Park, providing a lively finish to the afternoon.

The list of participating businesses and other event details may be updated as Oct. 24 approaches. Organizers recommend checking Facebook page for the latest information.

For adults looking for an excuse to enjoy an October afternoon on Oak Island, the Witches Ride offers an appropriately spooky combination of costumes, local businesses, community fun and support for two worthy causes.

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Haunted Brunswick: Local legends for the Halloween Season

Sunny beaches, historic streets and waterfront views may be what Brunswick County is best known for, but some familiar landmarks have a darker side. With Halloween approaching, here are four places where history and local folklore come together — and where, according to the stories, a few former residents may never have left.

Franklin Square Park

By day, Southport's Franklin Square Park is a peaceful downtown gathering place shaded by old trees. After dark, local legend gives the park a different personality.

One story dates to the early 1800s and tells of a mother who promised her three daughters a spring picnic after a difficult winter. The mother died before keeping that promise, but her daughters reportedly held the picnic anyway and later constructed a stone wall at the park in her memory.

All three sisters are said to have died of pneumonia before the summer of 1821 was over. According to local lore, their youthful spirits still return to Franklin Square. On quiet nights, some claim to hear children laughing and playing among the trees.

Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson

Few places look more suited to a ghost story than the ruins of Brunswick Town and Fort Anderson

along the Cape Fear River.

The colonial port of Brunswick Town was established in the 1700s and burned by British forces in 1776. Decades later, the site became part of Confederate Fort Anderson during the Civil War. Today, visitors can walk among colonial foundations, the ruins of St. Philip's Church and remnants of Civil War fortifications.

With centuries of turbulent history concentrated in one place, stories of unexplained sensations and ghostly encounters have become associated with the site. Its atmospheric appearance even earned it a role as a filming location for the television series "Sleepy Hollow."

Old Smithville Burial Grounds

Historic cemeteries inspire ghost stories, and Southport's Old Smithville Burial Grounds has one of the area's best-known legends.

The cemetery contains graves dating to Southport's earliest days and is the resting place of prominent residents and military veterans. But its most enduring supernatural tale may belong to Tony Caseletta, an Italian sailor who died following an 1882 shipwreck.

Visitors have claimed to encounter Caseletta's spirit wandering through the cemetery. Some versions of the story describe a mysterious voice singing among

the graves when no singer can be found.

The weathered stones and centuries of local history make the burial grounds one of Southport's most intriguing links to its past.

Northrop Mall

Not every Southport ghost story takes place outdoors. Northrop Mall, the antiques destination on East Moore Street, has a spectral story of its own.

The building is associated with Samuel Northrop, a businessman whose death reportedly occurred on its second floor in the early 20th century. Visitors and occupants have attributed unusual happenings to Northrop's lingering presence — including the unexplained aroma of cigar smoke.

Today, Northrop Mall houses dozens of vendors selling antiques, collectibles and vintage finds, making it a popular downtown stop — whether or not Samuel happens to be around.

History or haunting?

Are these genuine encounters with Brunswick County's past, or stories polished by generations of retelling? That's for you to decide. Either way, they're reminders that beneath the sunshine and seaside charm lies a long history — and perhaps a ghost or two who still calls the area home.

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- Neck and Back
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- Soft Tissue Injuries (Muscles, Tendons, Ligaments)

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Fall Fun Returns to Brunswick County

The Brunswick County Sheriff's Office will welcome families for its annual Brunswick County Fall Festival on Thursday, Oct. 29, from 6-9 p.m. at the Brunswick County Government Center in Bolivia.

The free community celebration offers a safe, family-friendly way to enjoy the Halloween season. Festival-goers can look forward to free hot dogs, popcorn, candy, and water, along with a costume contest, games for all ages, hay rides and a haunted trail.

The popular event typically attracts thousands of visitors, so motorists should expect heavier-than-normal traffic around the Government Center.

Delays are possible along Old Ocean Highway, Danford Road and Midway Road beginning around 5 p.m., and drivers are encouraged to allow extra travel time.

Candy donations for the festival may be dropped off at participating Dollar General, Family Dollar and Dollar Tree stores, as well as Brunswick County Sheriff's Office locations.

Families are invited to dress up, bring the kids and enjoy an evening of fall fun. Updates and additional information will be available through the Brunswick County Sheriff's Office Facebook page.

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