



2025 People's Choice Awards Is Here!

Time to Vote for Your Favorites! Voting Runs January 15th - February 15th.

BAKERY _____

ICE CREAM _____

CANDY STORE _____

COFFEE SHOP _____

SEAFOOD MARKET _____

BREAKFAST _____

LUNCH _____

BURGER _____

BBQ _____

RIBS _____

WINGS _____

PIZZA _____

STEAK _____

ASIAN RESTAURANT _____

SEAFOOD RESTAURANT _____

FAMILY RESTAURANT _____

BISTRO _____

ITALIAN RESTAURANT _____

MEXICAN RESTAURANT _____

CREATIVE CHEF _____

ROMANTIC RESTAURANT _____

WATERFRONT RESTAURANT _____

WAIT STAFF _____

FRIENDLIEST BUSINESS _____

CATERING COMPANY _____

FOOD TRUCK _____

PUB/BAR _____

LOCAL BREWERY _____

BARTENDER _____

WINE SHOP _____

WINE CLUB _____

LIVE MUSIC VENUE _____

LOCALS NIGHT _____

LOCAL BAND _____

ACOUSTIC SOLO OR DUO _____

CHIROPRACTOR _____

HOSPITAL _____

VACATION HOME RENTAL COMPANY _____

REAL ESTATE COMPANY _____

MOVING COMPANY _____

PEST CONTROL COMPANY _____

HOME REPAIR COMPANY _____

GARDEN SHOP _____

FLORIST _____

ACCOUNTANT _____

CHILDREN'S AMUSEMENT PLACE _____

THRIFT SHOP _____

CONSIGNMENT SHOP _____

GIFT SHOP _____

WOMEN'S APPAREL _____

MEN'S APPAREL _____

HAIR SALON _____

NAIL SALON _____

PLACE TO PAMPER YOURSELF _____

CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION _____

CAR REPAIR SHOP _____

VETERINARIAN _____

DOG FRIENDLY BUSINESS _____

PLACE TO WATCH THE SUNSET _____

3 Ways to Vote!



Scan QR Code and Fill Out Ballot on Survey Monkey or
Go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/N32XXMS>

or Mail Your Completed Ballot to:

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

LOTS OF NEW STOCK ARRIVING DAILY FOR SPRING 2025

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Let's Look Forward

by Joanne Thompson

Last year was filled with ups and downs. To rehash what was last year just holds us back, so let's look forward to a better new year for 2025.

It has been a rough year for many of our small businesses. Remember to support them, especially throughout the winter and early springtime when sales are hard to come by. They are our neighbors. Let's keep them in business.

A big, new **San Felipe** opened in Lowe's Southport Plaza joining the other locations throughout Brunswick County. It has outdoor dining and promises live local music groups. Enjoy the same quality Mexican fare as is always the case at any San Felipe.

Mo's Wood Fire Kitchen located in the Big Lots Plaza 4956 Long Beach Rd., has become a popular place among those in the know for pizza and BBQ, yes, but the fried Haddock dinner is a winner. So, it is great news to hear that the owner, Kevin Morrissey, is now serving breakfast Tues. through Fri. 8-10:30, Sat. 8- 11:30. The reviews are in and they are pretty darn good. Morrissey not only makes his own dough, but now breakfast sausage too. It makes for a sausage gravy and biscuits treat

to die for served with perfectly prepared eggs. If you like French toast, try it at Mo's. Custardy, topped with lots of candied walnuts, ready for maple syrup, this item is a sweet choice. Chicken and waffles can be had as well. Quality ingredients are used to ensure customer satisfaction. Oh, and you can order Mo's fresh baked sourdough bread prepared and baked in house; but order early before it is gone.

Not only is **Fixin's** on Oak Island a delicious spot to enjoy breakfast and lunch. Owner Rick Dombrowski offers limited cooking classes. There is a separate room available for groups to enjoy good food and conversation. Make arrangements for your book club, card group, mahjong group, or any small get together to meet there.

Wanting to escape the doldrums of winter by changing up your décor? **Indigo Blooms** is a good choice for quality state-of-the-art furniture and accessories. With two locations, Southport serves as more of an introductory showcase to the much larger and diversified warehouse size location in Leland at 147 Old Fayetteville Road. You can browse among the newest designs and get expert advice in interior decorating.

A new **7 Brew Coffee** location is

coming to Shal-lotte near Hobby Lobby.

On Mondays **The Sea Biscuit Cafe**, 3370 Stone Chimney Road SW, gives 10% off of your meal when you mention the offer. **Pepe's Pizza** the café's alter ego has Pizza and wings specials perfect for football or basketball season.

Maria B's at 120-7 Causeway Dr., Ocean Isle Beach, has a delicious meatball and ricotta appetizer special on Mondays. Half price on all bottles of wine under \$80 on Mondays too makes it worth a visit.

If anyone remembers the old **Thai Peppers**, a fixture in Southport for many, many years, rejoice because it is coming back in the Southport Lowes Plaza sometime early this year. It will be mostly take out, but the same recipes that everyone loved.

Sadly, a fixture for more than 24 years in Southport, the **Hot Dog Co.**, formerly known as the **Trolley Stop**, has closed doors. It will be missed by locals and visitors alike.

In Southport, **KFC** is no longer to be found in the same building where **Taco Bell** remains.



A new **NC License Plate Agency** comes to Food Lion Shopping Center at 4891 Long Beach Rd., SE #5. It will be open Mon - Fri 9am-5pm.

A **Burrito Shack** is reported to be coming to 5130 Southport Supply Road on Hwy 211, in the Dutchman Town Center.

Salty Olive is opening soon next to the Southport Police Station near Walmart.

Wildlife Grill, long a favorite among fisher folk, located on fish Factory Road, changes chefs in January with Mark Price's grandson taking the helm.

Sadly, **Color Me Carolina**, on Long Beach Road, closed its doors. This specialty shop, run by Paige Marshall will be missed by shoppers and friends alike.

The Saucy Southerner, a casual on-the-sidewalk kind of cafe in Southport on Howe St. Has also closed its doors.

For a winter treat, **Koko Cabana**, on Oak Island, is offering 1/2 price appetizers from 2pm-4pm daily.

Sorry to say, **Seabreeze Restaurant** in Ocean Isle Beach closed its doors on December 31.





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The Golden Ticket!

We've got the golden ticket! AKA we have free WiFi in downtown areas and here's how to join:

1. When in downtown Southport, go to the settings in your cell phone and select "WiFi"
2. Select the "Southport City Guest" or "Park Guest" network to connect
3. Your device should now be connected!

The range for the Downtown WiFi is: W. Nash Street from Bay Street to N. Caswell Avenue, Caswell Avenue from W. Nash Street to Bay Street,



Bay Street from Caswell Avenue to Howe Street | Howe Street from Bay Street to W. Nash Street.

Additional WiFi questions can be directed to Public Information Officer ChyAnn Ketchum at cketchum@cityofsouthport.com or (910) 457-7927 ext. 1040.

Brunswick County is Seeking Volunteers to Form Community Emergency Response Teams

ACERT (Community Emergency Response Team) is being organized for Brunswick County and localities. Brunswick County officials are in the initial phase of accepting the first round of volunteers and plan to start formal training during the early summer. After the initial team is formed and trained, application for team certification can be filed with national authorities and the team would be recognized and certified. That initial team can then be broken down into more local teams.

CERT provides trained volunteers to assume support activities during an emergency and free-up highly trained teams such as the fire department during a large event so they can handle the tasks requiring professional training. Membership in CERT is open to any adults 18 years or older. There is no upper age limit.

CERT falls under FEMA, North Carolina Emergency Management, and Brunswick County Emergency Management. CERT volunteer basic training and certification include light Search and Rescue, disaster

medical triage, distributing disaster supplies, helping with the call center at the county complex, traffic control, and a variety of emergency services. In addition, the trained CERT volunteers will acquire knowledge to help with even personal household or neighbor emergencies.

Additional task forces under Brunswick CERT are planned to be Advanced Technical Search and Rescue and the REVC (Radiation Emergency Volunteer Corps) which falls under the DHHS Medical Reserve Corps and NC State CERT and would provide triage, decontamination, and other services in the event of a radiation event at one the three reactors in North Carolina.

More details are available at https://community.fema.gov/PreparednessCommunity/s/about-cert?language=en_US

Contact Bud McClard (brunswick-cert@gmail.com) for more information or to volunteer. Local meetings are being planned to answer questions for those who may be interested.

Happy New Year!

We Welcome You in 2025!



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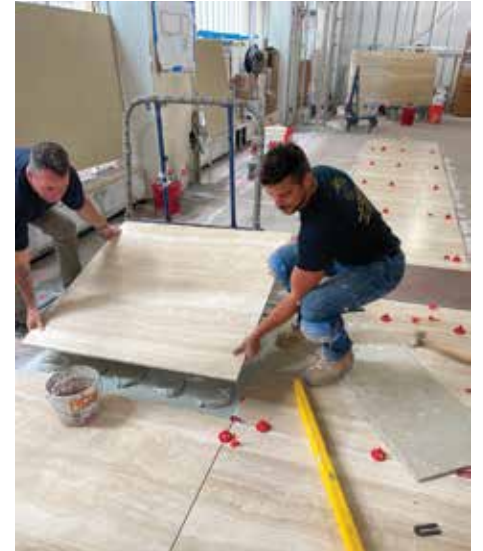
Tues-Sat Lunch: 11am-3pm Dinner: 4-8pm | Sun 12-3pm & 4-8pm

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JGM Tile Group is a leading tile and stone company proudly serving clients in Oak Island, North Carolina and Long Island, New York since 1978. With over four decades of experience, we specialize in high-quality tile, stone, porcelain, marble, and more for a wide range of projects, including bathroom renovations, kitchen backsplashes, flooring installation, and more. Whether you're updating your home, remodeling a restaurant, or handling a large-scale commercial renovation, we are fully insured and equipped to handle all your tile and stone needs.

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US Chamber Releases New Tax Guides

Explore the Chamber's New Tax Guides - The U.S. Chamber has created new tax guides that offer educational information on potential tax credits and deductions accessible to employers regarding their workforce. These benefits may be available for employers providing childcare to employees, hiring

individuals encountering specific barriers to employment, establishing accessible workplaces, and offering various benefits such as deferred compensation and other welfare benefit plans to employees. Feel free to share these guides with your members. <https://www.uschamber.com/taxes/tax-guides>



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Dosher CEO Lynda Stanley Recognized by Becker's Hospital Review

We are proud to announce that Dosher CEO Lynda Stanley has been honored as one of "90 Critical Access Hospital CEOs to Know" by the prestigious Becker's Hospital Review. We are pleased for her recognition and grateful for the tremendous leadership she provides.

With a tenure of 38 years at Dosher, Stanley began as the laboratory manager before ascending through the ranks to become the hospital's president in 2020 and CEO in 2021. Under her leadership, Dosher has achieved a significant financial turnaround, reporting a \$1.4 million positive operating margin by the end of 2021 even amidst a challenging environment for critical access hospitals. Ms. Stanley has driven innovations in patient care, introducing



advanced surgical robotics for hip and knee replacements and recently adding teleneurology services to enhance stroke care.

Dosher Drug Drop Reports Turnout of 250 Households

250 households discarded 5,696 expired or unwanted narcotic pills and 830.3 milliliters of narcotic liquids at Dosher Memorial Hospital's 27th semiannual Operation Medicine Cabinet, held on Tuesday, December 3rd. Medications collected were sorted and then transported from the hospital grounds for safe incineration.

The event had been rescheduled from its original date in October, due to the road closures and detours from damages caused by the September storm known as Potential Tropical Cyclone #8. Said Dosher President and CEO Lynda Stanley. "We thank our local residents for their patience in waiting for the new date and are grateful for everyone who made the effort to empty their medicine cabinets. Proper disposal of unwanted medications saves lives."

In addition to Dosher employees, staff and volunteers from the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department, members of the Brunswick Wellness Coalition, and Coastal Horizons, were onsite to assist and to provide law enforcement. "This event takes a lot of onsite support, and we appreci-

ate the staff and community partners who collected and sorted medication in order to make our community safer," said Stanley.

Operation Medicine Cabinet has become a much-anticipated community event. The next collection of unwanted prescription medication will be scheduled for April, 2025. Check the event calendar at Dosher.org for date and time.



Malcom Little, Brunswick Wellness Coalition Intern, and Carol Lyon, Brunswick County Sheriff's Office Volunteer, accepts a medication drop off from Dosher Board Member Linda Pukenas

THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT

Dosher is proud of the emergency care that we are able to provide today. Wait times are short, our Emergency Department physicians and nurses are highly trained, and our patient experience ratings are extraordinary.

That care will be further enhanced when our new 8,000 square foot Emergency Department (ED) is completed by the end of 2025. The new ED is a testament to our dedication to Brunswick County's growth and to our support for the health and wellbeing of our residents and visitors for years to come.



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January/February Events

BOLIVIA **January 29**

Breakfast Biz Series

8:15-10:15am | The Center of Applied Sciences and Technology
1109 Old Ocean Hwy

Join us for an inspiring morning focused on growth, collaboration, and innovation within our community!

If you own a business—this is your opportunity to connect with local experts and peers to stay ahead.

Secure your tickets now and be part of this key event to explore local business development insights and strategies.

Grab your tickets here: <https://bit.ly/brunscobizbreakfast>

February 8

Can't Get Next to You - A Temptations Concert Experience
7pm | Odell Williamson Auditorium | 50 College Rd

Featuring former members of The Temptations spin off groups, this show is a concert experience like no other. Each member of this group was taught the harmonies and the choreography of The Temptations from for Temptations.

Each member has performed with former Temptations, people like Dennis Edwards, Richard Street, Ali Woodson, Barrington Henderson and the only man to ever front both The Temptations and the Four Tops, Theo Peoples.

No Refunds, No Exchanges

CALABASH **February 5**

Super Bowl Scramble

10am | Brunswick Plantation & Golf Resort | 380 Brunswick Drive

Four player scramble format with box lunch included. 18 hole shotgun start at 10am on Magnolia and Dogwood. Win skill prizes, best dressed, and most points. Football scoring - Par 1point, Birdie 3 points, Eagle 6 points. Sign Up in the Pro Shop or Call 800 332 8576. Special Pricing for Members, Guests are \$70

OAK ISLAND **January 16**

Mah Jongg Madness

9:30am-3pm | Oak Island Senior Center
5918 E. Oak Island Drive

Stop by the Oak Island Senior Center & Gift Shop to register. We are located at

5918 E Oak Island Drive across the street from Food Lion.

Note: The event will be held at Oak Island Evangelical Presbyterian Church located at 1503 E Oak Island Dr, Oak Island, NC 28465.

Space is limited so get your registration form & payment in asap.

January 23

Duplin Winery Tour & Tasting
9:30am-5pm

Register at www.OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS. \$60 Residents, \$75 Non-residents. Learn about a grape's journey from seed to bottle at Duplin Winery. Participants will be responsible for their own lunch tabs and on-site purchases.

OCEAN ISLE

January 19

8th Annual Chili Cook-Off
2pm | Pelican's Perch Bar & Grill
8 E Second St

Join us as we host our 8th annual chili cook off! All Chili's are to be dropped off between 12:30-1:30pm on the day of the event! Free to enter \$10 donation to taste. All proceeds to benefit Brunswick Family Assistance

January 28

Brunswick County Chamber of Commerce 2025 Annual Business Meeting
8-10am | Le Volte | 417 W 2nd St

We're rolling out the red carpet to celebrate all our "WINS" from 2024 and to kickstart an even more successful 2025! This year, we're thrilled to welcome Dr. Mary Hemphill, a beacon of motivation, to inspire us all to Find Your Motivation for 2025!

This event is not just a meeting; it's a morning filled with inspiration, recognition, and networking that you simply CAN'T MISS! Open to all Chamber Members and those curious about joining - see first-hand what the Chamber can do for you and your business in the coming year. We'll also be giving a big round of applause to our outgoing and incoming Board Members.

SEATS ARE LIMITED! Secure your spot NOW! FREE for Chamber Members \$30 for Non-Members (Join us at our meeting, and this will go towards your membership dues!) Tickets: bit.ly/2025annualmeeting

February 7

Wine Dinner to Benefit Ocean Isle Beach Sea Turtle Protection Organization

6pm | Le Volte Oceanfront Restaurant and Venue | 417 W 2nd Street

Mark your calendars for the inaugural dinner fundraiser at Le Volte Oceanfront Restaurant and Venue. Join us for a delicious dinner and wine at OIB's newest oceanfront restaurant. All are welcome to join us for a delicious dinner and raise funds for the OIBSTPO. Time is an estimate. Price and menu coming soon.

If you love Lucca Italian Chophouse, you'll love their sister restaurant Le Volte.

SHALLOTTE

January 13

Family Escape Room: Trapped Again

4:30pm | Rourk Branch Library
5068 Main Street

You're trapped in the library again! Will you escape this time? Grades 3-5. Registration required. Participants' caregiver must also register and be in attendance

To register: <https://brunsc.libcal.com/event/13420618>

January 27, Feb 3, 10, 17, 24

Crochet & Knitting Circle
11am-12pm | Rourk Branch Library
5068 Main Street

Join our Crochet & Knitting Circle. Beginners are welcome and no registration is required.

SOUTHPORT **February 2**

Darling Daughter Dance

4-7pm | Southport Community Building | 223 E Bay St.

Waves 4 K.I.D.S. is thrilled to announce the 2nd Annual Darling Daughter Dance. Join us for an unforgettable evening filled with music, dancing, and special memories. Last year's event was a sell-out, so don't wait to secure your tickets!

Tickets available at: www.waves4kids.org

February 6

Dosher's Annual Heart to Heart Event

5-7pm | St. James Community Center | 4140 Southport-Supply Rd SE

Enjoy food, wine, dessert, guest speaker, raffles and 50/50. Sponsorships and

reservations are open: www.dosher.org/foundation/2025hearttoHeart or call 910-457-3936

February 7

Art & Wine

5-7pm | The Grape & Ale
102 W Brown St

Art & Wine, the perfect combination. Join Southport Studio Artists and Grape & Ale, Southport each first Friday for a wine tasting and an opportunity to meet the artist. Art displays change monthly. Additional art can be seen at our gallery at 715 N Howe St.

February 15

Love in Bloom Bridal Expo

2-6pm | Southport Community Building | 223 E Bay Street

Join us on February 15, 2025, at the Southport Community Building for a day filled with inspiration, creativity, and connection. Discover local wedding vendors, explore the latest bridal trends, and get personalized advice for your big day. Whether you're looking for the perfect photographer, stunning floral arrangements, unique decor ideas, delicious food, or thrilling entertainment, you'll find it here.

Don't miss this opportunity to bring your love story to life!

February 22

Chefs of Brunswick

5-8pm | St. James Community Center | 4140 Southport-Supply Rd SE

Indulge your taste buds and discover new culinary delights at our food and beverage sample tasting event. From savory bites to sweet treats, this event offers a unique opportunity to sample a variety of delicious products from local restaurant and beverage vendors. Whether you're a foodie looking to explore the latest trends or simply looking to enjoy a fun and flavorful experience, our tasting event promises to satisfy your cravings and leave you wanting more. Join us for an unforgettable culinary journey as we showcase the best in food and drink in a vibrant and social atmosphere. Tickets: <https://www.givsum.com/opportunities/chefs-of-brunswick-3c02c2456>

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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Fighting Food Insecurity in Brunswick County

Food insecurity is a defined reality for hundreds of thousands of Americans who cannot keep food on the table. Food banks work every day to nourish people while building solutions to hunger through programming and partnerships, empowering North Carolina communities to thrive.

Brunswick County Population - 137,000

People who are food insecure - 18,000 (13%)

Children under 18 who are food insecure - 3,900 (19%)

People over 65 living below the poverty line - 7,500

Children receiving free/reduced school meals - 1,200 (90%)

Unemployed - (June 2022) 8.5%

To ensure Brunswick County schools and care resources can meet demands, PORCH South Brunswick coordinates monthly neighborhood food drives in 34+ communities across southern Brunswick County. Brunswick County is a vast 1,050 square miles in size. If you live in the Leland area and are interesting in participating or finding out more about a local PORCH program you can contact the PORCH North Brunswick chapter here who also coordinates monthly food drives.

How Porch Works

PORCH is a very simple neighborhood food drive. Here's how it works:

Once a month, during a designated week, participants place grocery items on their front porch

Volunteers pickup these bags and deliver them to local food pantries

At the pantry volunteers weigh and sort the food items collected and place them into categories

That's it! The three-step process is easy, fast and safe.

Making Food Donations

The best items to donate during the food drive have not expired, are non-perishable and are not in glass packaging. We even provide suggestions for items we could use most each month. Email us or check our Facebook Page and we'll connect you to a community lead in your area. We can also point you to the closest drop-off location each month.

Volunteer. Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

There are several things you can do to contribute and help with monthly food sorting and/or making deliveries to recipient organizations. Contact us to learn more.

Volunteer or Make a Tax Deductible Donation

Please complete our Volunteer Form or email us at: southbrunswick@porchcommunities.org and/or call Mike Claxton, (443) 904-0516, <https://porchcommunities.org/south-brunswick>

Upcoming Collection Dates

Jan 15: Southport Area Communities Deliver to the Southport Senior Center, 1513 North Howe Street, Suite 1, Southport

Jan 15: South Brunswick Area Communities Deliver to The Lord's Food Pantry, 3610 Express Drive, Shallotte

Jan 16: South Brunswick Area Communities Deliver to The Lord's Food Pantry, 3610 Express Drive, Shallotte

Feb 12: Southport Area Communities Deliver to the Southport Senior Center, 1513 North Howe Street, Suite 1, Southport

Feb 12: South Brunswick Area Communities Deliver to The Lord's Food Pantry, 3610 Express Drive, Shallotte

Feb 13: South Brunswick Area Communities Deliver to The Lord's Food Pantry, 3610 Express Drive, Shallotte

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Coastal Consumer Showcase to be Held Thursday, February 13

Area businesses will be on display for area residents and visitors to explore what our business community has to offer.

This event is free to attend and is open to the Public. The date will be Thursday, February 13, 2025 at St. James Community Center in Southport from 4pm-7pm.

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

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

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

Admission is free. Register for the \$100 Cash Drawing. Each vendor will donate prize for the Pick-A-Prize Auction. Those who register for the \$100 Cash Drawing will receive one ticket for the Pick-A-Prize Auction. You may purchase as many additional auction tickets as you would like:



5 tickets for \$5.00 and 20 tickets for \$10.00. At 6:30pm the Chamber will draw the winners for the Pick-A-Prize Auction prizes and will notify the winners ASAP by email. Winners will pick up their prize at the business donating the item. The Chamber will notify the winner of the Cash Drawing ASAP as well.

What is a Pick-A-Prize Auction? Register and get a free ticket or purchase additional tickets. There will be a "bag" in front of each prize at every vendor booth. You determine which prize(s) you would like to a chance to win. Then you place your ticket(s) in the bag(s) of that prize(s). The winner of that prize will be selected from the corresponding "bag".

An event of the Southport-Oak Island Area Chamber of Commerce. For more information contact 910-457-6964. If you are a business and would like a booth at the event or to sponsor the event, please call the Chamber to be placed on a list to be notified when applications become available.

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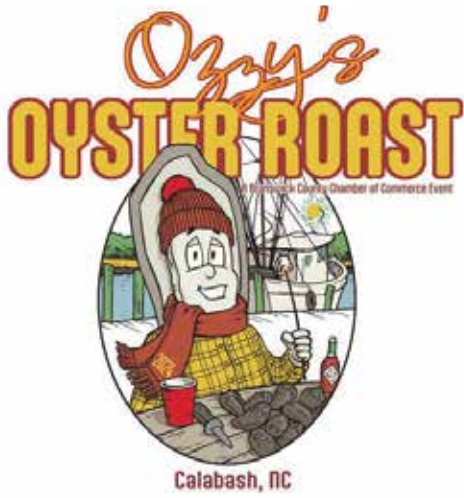




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Join us for the Second Annual Ozzy's Oyster Roast and Low Country Boil, our kickoff to the 44th Annual NC Oyster Festival!

The event will be held on Saturday, February 22, 2025, 2-6pm at the Calabash Marina, 1207 Riverview Drive, Calabash, NC. Not a seafood lover, don't worry, we will have something for everyone. Makai Brewery will be onsite serving your favorite craft beverages. Wine will be served for our wine lovers.

Enjoy a S'mores Experience and sit by a firepit and roast marshmallows for s'mores.

Admission to this event is limited, and the admission includes entertainment, oysters, low country boil, smore experience and 2 drink tickets. You don't want to miss this event!

Bring your lawn chairs! No Outside Food or Drink, No Coolers, No Pets!

Be a sponsor... Contact the Chamber at 910-754-6644

Tickets for Oyster Roast are \$50 each (Ticket includes entertainment, oysters, low country boil, smore experience and 1 drink ticket)

Get Tickets: <https://form.jotform.com/243093572854160>



The Shally Shuttle is Up and Running!



Big news, Shallotte! We were absolutely DELIGHTED to join in the festivities with the Brunswick Transit System, Inc. and the Town of Shallotte for the grand unveiling of the Shally Shuttle! It was an honor to be part of such a significant moment for our community. This fantastic service is a game-changer for our community, offering FREE hourly transportation

for seniors and individuals with disabilities in Shallotte.

Starting January 6, 2025, Monday to Friday, 9am-2pm, the Shally Shuttle is here to make mobility easy and accessible for those who need it most. Thank you Brunswick Transit Authority and the Town of Shallotte for making this dream a reality.

Let's hear it for this wonderful addition to our community!

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Sheriff Brian Chism

The Brunswick Sheriff's Charitable Foundation Selects Two Recipients for Proceeds from the 13th Annual Charity Ball

The Brunswick Sheriff's Charitable Foundation, Inc. has selected New Hope Clinic and Power Walking Ministries to be the recipients of proceeds from their 13th annual charity ball to be held on Friday, March 7, 2025.

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

The Foundation is proud to endorse and support such vital pro-

grams through its 13th annual charity ball. This prestigious event, themed "Diamonds and Denim" featuring hors d'oeuvres, a buffet dinner, wine, beer, music by the Tru Sol, dancing and a silent and live auction, will be held on Friday March 7, 2025 from 6pm-10pm at the St. James Community Center on Highway 211 in Southport.

Sponsorship packages are available on January 1st 2025. Individual tickets are \$90.00 per person and will go on sale February 1st, 2025. For more information, guests can visit www.sheriffscharity.com, call 910-253-0922, or email sheriffscharity@gmail.com.

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

Brushing Scam Alert!

What is it? If you receive an unexpected package you didn't order, it could be a brushing scam. Scammers use your name and address to send items and write fake reviews in your name to boost product ratings.

Why It's Dangerous:

Your personal information (PII) may have been exposed.

Scammers may use it for fraud or identity theft.

Packages may contain QR codes—do NOT scan them, as they can send your info directly to scammers.

What to Do:

1. Notify the retailer.
2. Update passwords and enable

Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA).

3. Monitor bank accounts for fraud.
4. Report suspicious activity and consider a fraud alert on your credit report.

Stay Alert & Protect Your Information!

Contact our office if you suspect a scam.

If you believe you're a target of a brushing scam, or any type of scam, you can report them on our website or via the mobile app: <https://www.brunswicksheriff.com/resources/latest-scams>

Stay alert and informed! Your safety is our priority.

Brunswick Marketplace

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Web: www.brunswickmarketplace.com

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Brunswick Marketplace was established June 14, 2006.

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Southport Forestry Committee Inviting Suggestions for Placing the New 2025 Trees

Each January the Forestry Committee partners with the Public Works Department to plant nearly a dozen new trees as part of the City's annual reforestation program. This year, the Forestry Committee is inviting local citizens to suggest possible sites where the January 2025 trees might be planted.

Recommendations for possible placement of this year's new trees must meet several requirements. First and foremost, the trees can be planted only in the City's rights-of-way or parks, not on private property. Priority is often given to places where there are gaps in the existing canopy. Sometimes existing trees have died or been destroyed by storms. Perhaps past construction projects or City infrastructure projects required the removal of trees. Replacing these lost trees is high on the list of potential sites.

As you walk or drive around town, you will notice that nestled in and among the stately old live oaks are trees of varying sizes. What you are seeing is the result of 25+ years of reforestation since the program began in 1998. To date, over 400 new trees

have been added to the City's urban forest. While live oaks comprise the preponderance of new trees, the Committee also introduces species diversity to protect against devastating loss due to infestation or disease.

Funding for the new trees comes from several sources. Each year, the Neisler Foundation donates to the program in memory of Betty Timberlake, a founding member and past chair of the Forestry Committee. Over the years, various service organizations and individual citizens have also made gifts to the City for the purchase of trees.

Once the trees are in place, the Public Works Department handles weekly watering until the trees are established. Homeowners will sometimes "adopt" trees in the rights-of-way in front of their homes and handle the weekly watering.

If you would like to suggest a possible site for one of the new trees, send an email to scottlialen@hotmail.com, providing the address and a sentence or two about why that would be a good place to plant one of this year's trees.

Kudos & Congratulations

WAVES 4 K.I. D.S. Brunswick County

We appreciate the Oak Island Elks Lodge 2769 helping us serve over 300 children in Brunswick County, embracing the holiday spirit of giving back to the community.



Ocean Isle Fire Department

Congratulations Volunteer **Brant Maples** for completing Cape Fear Community College Firefighter Academy! Welcome to the family.



Welcome to Ms. Jennifer D'Agnese, Fire Department Administrative Assistant-Permits Specialist! We are so glad to have you as a part of the TEAM!



Oak Island Fire Department

While picking up the donations at Fire Station 2, the United States Marine Corps Reserve presented the Oak Island Fire Department with a Commander's Award for "outstand-

ing support of the Brunswick County Marine Toys For Tots Program." Well done!



Banding Together

On Sunday, November 3, 2024 the Town of Oak Island served as host for Banding Together, a four-band concert and donation event to benefit the region of Town of Spruce Pine, NC. following devastation from Hurricane Helene.

This video, <https://www.facebook.com/TownOfOakIslandNC/videos/3928358740754682> highlights the concert & donation event, which raised \$30,000 in financial contributions, and provided 6,000lbs. of donated goods to the Town of Spruce Pine.



Leland Fire/Rescue Earns Several Certifications from NC Association of Rescue and EMS

Leland Fire/Rescue is proud to announce it has recently earned several certifications from the North Carolina Association of Rescue and EMS, showcasing the department's commitment to serve, be ready, and create excellent outcomes. This comes after the department successfully completed a comprehensive inspection conducted by the association.

Leland Fire/Rescue has successfully recertified in several critical areas, including heavy rescue, high angle rescue, confined space rescue, agricultural rescue, and surface water rescue. In addition, the department has earned a new certification in swift water rescue, expanding its capabilities to handle more diverse emergency situations.

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Oak Island Recreation Department Kicking Off the Year with Fun



One of the most celebrated and anticipated events in Town, the **Mardi Gras Festival & Parade** returns to kick off a new year of fun and festivities! The day starts with a traditional parade, which ends at the Middleton Park Complex where food vendors, a craft market, fun "Kids Zone" and live music from Old Man Mafia Band.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, February 22, Noon - 4pm. The Parade starts: 11am at Keziah St, and the Craft Festival will be held at Middleton Park Complex, 4610 E Dolphin Drive, Oak Island.

On Saturday, March 22, Spring into the season with the Town of Oak Island as we say goodbye Winter and hello Spring. The **2025 Spring Fling Market & Music** is free to attend and will feature a full Artisans Market, Food Vendors, a Kids Zone and live entertainment from Hood's Creek.

The event runs from Noon - 4:00 pm at the Middleton Park Complex 4610 E Dolphin Drive, Oak Island.

For More Information about Programs and events with the Oak Island Recreation Center visit www.OakIslandNC.gov/PROGRAMS

WAVES 4 K.I.D.S.

Waves 4 K.I.D.S. assists Brunswick County Department of Social Services (DSS) and the Brunswick County Guardian ad Litem program by providing resources not available through public funds. Social Workers identify unmet needs such as medical needs, sports teams, dance classes and emergency placement needs such as car seats and hygiene supplies.

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The generosity and continued support from our Donors, Grantors, and Sponsors is what paves the road to the success of our organization. Without their support we would not be able to provide the benefits that we do to the children of Brunswick County living in difficult situations.

For more info on the organization or to learn how you can help visit: <https://www.waves4kids.org>

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New Location for Sea Biscuit Wildlife Shelter!

1 50 Birds were the first rescues cared for in 2007 when Mary Ellen Rogers started Sea Biscuit Wildlife Shelter. The first floor of her home and her backyard were the emergency care center, feeding station, and protected environment while recovering from various injuries or illnesses. Forward to 2024, the entire backyard is filled with enclosures, the emergency and care facilities are dealing with maximum capacity.

In 2024 Sea Biscuit has cared for 1,107 birds as of November 20. Sea birds, raptors, song birds ... all have come our way. The need for more room became apparent a while ago. The team tried to develop raw land leased to us by Duke Energy, but the costs involved were too great for our shelter relying entirely on donations.

Fortunately, once the decision was made to look elsewhere for a new facility, Francesca Slaughter, came to our rescue. Finding a place close to the ocean, with a big backyard, a lot big enough to house the enclosures, close to our existing facility so our volunteers could have easy access, and a place for people to visit us were just a few of our requirements. Within just a few weeks after given the guidelines, Francesca found 4260 Long Beach Road. Our beautiful new logo/sign is now out front,

The efforts to bring this up to our mandated wildlife requirements a currently underway. A new "barn" and pelican pool which would house all of the outside birds is being finalized and will be erected as soon as



possible. Moving 17 years' worth of equipment, indoor enclosures, freezers, paperwork, etc. will be done as soon as the enclosures are complete.

In January we will invite all our wonderful supporters to a grand opening/open house to show off the wonderful new facility.

We hope you will be there!



Before and after of rescue, Lexus



Southport's 2025 Springfest to Return Saturday April 19, 2025!

The City of Southport would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Downtown Southport, Inc. for creating and nurturing the beloved Southport Springfest over the years. The event has become an integral part of our community, drawing residents and visitors alike to celebrate the beauty and spirit of Southport each spring.

We are excited to announce that the City of Southport will be assuming the responsibility of organizing Springfest. This transition marks a new chapter in the event's history, and we are committed to maintaining the event's tradition while also exploring new opportunities for growth and innovation.

The City of Southport is dedicated to preserving the essence of Springfest—an event that showcases the charm of our downtown area, promotes local businesses, and provides a family-friendly atmosphere for all ages. We look forward to partnering with local organizations, vendors, and volunteers to ensure that Springfest continues to be a highlight of our community's calendar.

We extend our deepest gratitude to Downtown Southport, Inc. for their vision and tireless efforts in creating such a cherished event. We are excited about the future of Springfest and look forward to working together with the community to make 2025's Springfest the best one yet.

Interested in sponsoring this year's event, signing up as a vendor, or being a part of our entertainment? Please visit us at www.cityofsouthport.com/springfest.

About Springfest

Since its debut in the '90s, Southport Springfest has been a cherished tradition, bringing the community together to celebrate the arrival of spring. Today it is hosted by the City of Southport Community Relations Department, this vibrant festival offers a full day of

activities in Downtown Southport, making it a must-attend event for locals and visitors alike.

Springfest features a wide array of attractions, including live musical entertainment, handmade arts and crafts, children's activities, and a variety of food vendors serving up delicious local fare. Perfect for all ages, Southport Springfest is a celebration of creativity, community, and the season of renewal.

"It will look different," she said. "It's not going to be in the park. It will feel different. We're going to have a different layout. We're going to be in a different area of town, but I think the overall spirit of the event is going to carry through."

The lower part of Howe Street will be closed from Bay to Moore streets and from Moore to Nash streets for Southport Springfest. Plans are for a stage to be set up at the intersection of Moore and Howe streets and for children's activities and events to be held at Ed Harper Waterfront Park.

Make plans to join us on Saturday, April 19, 2025, from 10am-6pm, and discover why this festival has been a favorite for nearly three decades.

Vendor Applications Are Now Open! Sign up at cityofsouthport.com/springfest. Special Offer for Chamber members: Apply between now and March 1st using the code chamber (all lowercase) to receive \$50 off your participation fee (that's half-off!).



For more information, please contact the Southport Community Relations Department at tourism@cityofsouthport.com.

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We have Lasagna Love volunteers in Brunswick County who would love to provide you with a complimentary meal. No matter if your need is financial, health-related, emotional, or just plain exhaustion, we would be happy to deliver a home-cooked lasagna to you or you can also nominate a family in need.

This program is absolutely free. You will receive a lasagna delivered to your home once a month from Angels in your area. You just click the

link below and fill out the form and they will email you back. <https://lasagnalove.org/request-a-meal/>

While some of our Volunteers are able to deliver extras, most of the time you'll get exactly what you're signing up for - an amazing, home-cooked lasagna or main dish. It's important to note that the ingredients for these delicious meals are paid for and graciously donated by the volunteer preparing the lasagna.

Please be kind to our volunteers.



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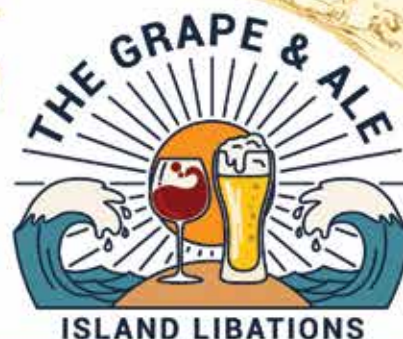
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Help Us Step Up

Please consider making a tax-deductible gift to Samara's Village. Your support will enable us to continue providing life-changing services to young parents and their children in the year to come. Our plans for the coming year include increasing participant enrollment and expanding our services to include:

Healthy Beginnings baby shower at our Resource Center where each new mom or dad will be gifted a new crib/change table and mattress, new baby carrier/car seat/stroller combo, and new convertible highchair/toddler table.

Celebrate! birthday parties each year for each child in our program, and graduation recognition for each family completing our program.

Diaper Days each month to supply our moms or dads diapers/wipes.

Visiting Village community outreach events extending Samara's Villages resources and services beyond our participants to include other struggling parents in Brunswick County.

Thank you for your consideration of support for Samara's Village. Your compassion and generous donation will ensure that we can accomplish our mission to EDUCATE, EQUIP, and EMPOWER pregnant and parenting youth and their families to raise healthy babies. Together, we are creating a brighter future for young families, one child at a time.

How Your Donation can Change Lives:

Hope Giver \$50 Provides essential parenting materials for a week, and basic school supplies to stay on track with education.

Future Builder \$100 Covers one month of tutoring for a young mother or father, which helps them earn their high school diploma or GED,

and provides a safe space for counseling sessions for a young family offering emotional and mental health support.

Mentor Sponsor \$250 Sponsors a full month of parenting workshops for a young family, teaching vital skills like child development, health, and positive parenting techniques, and supports transportation costs for a young parent to attend school or job training programs.

Family Investor \$500 Provides a scholarship for one adolescent parent to attend a vocational program or college preparation course and covers childcare costs for a young parent, allowing them to attend classes or work without worry.

Legacy Champion \$1,000 Fully funds a year of academic and parenting support for a young mother or father, helping them to complete their education while learning critical parenting skills, and provides comprehensive case management and mentoring for a young family for six months, ensuring they have the resources and guidance needed to thrive. Generational

Change Maker \$5,000+ Supports an entire cohort of adolescent parents through a year of intensive programs, including education, parenting classes, counseling, career exploration and job readiness training. A donation at this level will help Samara's Village expand its outreach and impact, bringing hope and support to more young families in need, breaking the cycle of poverty and creating brighter futures.

Prefer in-person? We accept in-person donations Tuesdays and Wednesdays 10am-1pm at our Resource Center.

Samara's Village Resource Center: 1450-F Fifty Lakes Drive, Southport, NC 28461

Happy New Year!



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Brunswick County Bridge Construction Requires Temporary Closure

As part of the N.C. 211 widening project underway in Brunswick County, a portion of NC 133 (Long Beach Road) closed to thru traffic.

The road near Southport Supply Road closed mid-November and is slated to reopen by fall 2025 while an NC Department of Transportation contractor makes several improvements, including the construction of a bridge over NC 211.

Drivers needing to get around the construction will be detoured onto Old Long Beach Road. Drivers should be alert to the new traffic pattern and slowdown in the area.

This project was originally scheduled to begin in mid-September but was postponed due to severe weather

that impacted the area.

To learn more about the work to widen more than seven miles of N.C. 211, visit this NCDOT webpage.

For real-time travel information, visit DriveNC.gov or follow NC-DOT on social media.

*This is a North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) notice. Brunswick County is not responsible for the accuracy of this information. For the most up-to-date information, visit the NCDOT website or contact NCDOT directly.

MEDIA CONTACT:

Lauren Haviland, Communications Officer for NCDOT Divisions 2 and 3

Phone: 919-707-2677



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Every resolution is easier to achieve when you are able to work toward it without the burden of constant pain and decreased mobility. This is what clients are achieving by starting their



wellness journey at Stretch Mobility. If you are ready to get a jump start on your New Years wellness resolution call today to schedule your introductory session or full consultation.

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Brunswick County Real Estate Market Remains Strong Heading Into Winter



Brunswick County's residential real estate market remained strong through October and November, with year-to-date sales volume surpassing \$2.5 billion and continuing to track ahead of last year's pace. In addition to strong sales, inventory increased, reaching levels not seen in several years.

"While rising inventory might be a warning sign of a slowing market in other areas, that's not the case in Brunswick County," said Cynthia Walsh, CEO of the Brunswick County Association of REALTORS®. "Home sales have been steady all year, in part because Brunswick County continues to be one of the fastest-growing counties in the state and nation. The increased supply is needed to meet the continued strong demand."

In November, new listings increased 9.7% compared to last year, from 505 to 554. The number of units sold rose 6%, from 401 to 425. Average sale prices increased slightly by 1.1%, rising from \$486,919 to \$492,324. Median sale prices also grew 2.5%, increasing from \$365,000 to \$374,000. Meanwhile, total sales volume jumped 7.2%, climbing from \$195,254,439 to \$209,237,493. The luxury market remained strong in November, with 31 sales of \$1 million or more. The largest transaction over the past two months occurred in Ocean Isle Beach and topped \$4 million.

Year-to-date sales volume through November totaled \$2,347,027,519, up 7.7% from \$2,528,195,704 at the same point in 2023. The average year-to-date sale price increased 3.2%, from \$464,313 to \$479,328, while the median sales price increased 0.5%, from \$373,859 to \$375,570. The number of units sold through

November is up 5.7% compared to last year, from 4,996 to 5,283 and the number of new listings increased 18.8%, from 6,161 to 7,320.

Brunswick County

New Listings

November 2024: 554

November 2023: 505

Increase/Decrease: +9.7%

Units Sold

November 2024: 425

November 2023: 401

Increase/Decrease: +6.0%

Average Sales Price

November 2024: \$492,324

November 2023: \$486,919

Increase/Decrease: +1.1%

Median Sales Price

November 2024: \$374,000

November 2023: \$365,000

Increase/Decrease: +2.5%

Total Sales Volume

November 2024: \$209,237,493

November 2023: \$195,254,439

Increase/Decrease: +7.2%

The Brunswick County Association of REALTORS® (BCAR) is the local association level of the largest trade association in the nation, presently serving its members, which are comprised of REALTORS®, Appraisers and Affiliate Members. Chartered in 1959 by the National Association of REALTORS® (NAR), BCAR represents the interests of its members in southeastern North Carolina and northeastern South Carolina. For more information, please visit <http://www.bcarnc.com>

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Oyster Habitat Company Chooses Leland For New Facility

Sandbar Oyster Company recently established a new manufacturing facility in Leland's Gateway District.

The company has leased a roughly 2,000-square-foot facility at 131 Division Drive in Leland to manufacture and distribute its Oyster Catcher product, a structure made of cloth and cement that provides a reef framework for oysters to settle and grow on. The structure helps build up oyster reefs to reduce coastline erosion and impacts from sea level

rise, said company co-founder Niels Lindquist.

Lindquist said he expects to employ 12 people at the Leland facility and is hiring for several positions. The company hopes to take advantage of the marine-focused degree programs at the University of North Carolina Wilmington and Cape Fear Community College to recruit those with an interest in the field.

He also sees the potential for the company's continued growth as

homeowners and local governments increasingly favor living shorelines over traditional erosion controls like sea walls and bulkheads.

"We're hoping that we have an opportunity to grow. We had to sort of bootstrap a lot of what we've been doing and just show that we've got a product that works," Lindquist said.



Photo courtesy of SANDBAR Oyster Company

Reprinted in part from an article by Emma Dill on <https://www.wilmingtonbiz.com>







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ness brainstorming session, this meeting room has become a favorite choice.

The weekly Thursday morning women's group, The Island Family, gives rave reviews, citing delicious food, attentive customer service, and a warm, accommodating atmosphere. Their meetings are always a pleasant success.



The Town of Oak Island Citizens Academy, is an interactive program designed to educate and familiarize residents with the departments and services provided by their local government.

Through hands-on class learning and field demonstration, the Citizens Academy helps to provide a deeper understanding of the "who, why, & how" government operates at the municipal level. The program also serves to encourage stronger participation in local government, from residents of all interests.

While in session, Citizens Academy meet two (2) nights per week throughout the month of February, for a total of eight (8) individual classes. Participants learn about a new facet of local government each week, and upon program completion are honored with a special dinner

ceremony where they are presented with graduation certificates.

The 2025 Citizens Academy will begin on Tuesday, February 4, 2025.

Once available, the full course schedule will be posted below. All classes will meet from 6 - 8pm unless otherwise noted:

Tuesday, February 4

Thursday, February 6

Tuesday, February 11

Thursday, February 13

Tuesday, February 18

Thursday, February 20

Tuesday, February 25

Tuesday, February 27

Apply here: <https://www.oakisland-nc.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/2272/638671719976270000>

The North Carolina Rice Festival is Coming in March

Fully telling the story of the region's rice-growing legacy and its Gullah Geechee heritage are the two main goals of the North Carolina Rice Festival. Through fun, insightful, and family-friendly activities, we strive to fulfill our motto of "Education through Celebration" by hosting a series of live, destination events that attract residents and visitors alike to the northern Brunswick County towns of Leland—the official "Home of the North Carolina Rice Festival"—Navassa, and historic Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson in Winnabow, just across the Cape Fear and Brunswick rivers from Wilmington.

Introducing...The North Carolina Rice Festival! March 5, 2025: An eye-opening introductory program featuring two NCRFI-produced documentaries and panel discussion with local historians. (6pm, WWAY3-TV, 1224 Magnolia Village Way, Leland)

African Ancestry Reveal, March 6, 2025: An exciting evening program at which local residents will learn and share information about their DNA-based connections to the Africans of various ethnic and tribal groups who were brought to cultivate rice on southeastern North Carolina's 60+ rice plantations during the 17th and 18th centuries. (6pm, Navassa Community Center, 338 Main Street, Navassa)

Dedication of the Historic Reaves Chapel AME Church, March 7,



2025: An uplifting event celebrating the restoration of this historic African American church, cohosted with the North Carolina Coastal Land Trust and the Cedar Hill/West Bank Heritage Foundation. (1pm, 2042 Cedar Hill Road NE, Navassa)

North Carolina Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Gala & VIP Reception, March 7, 2025: An elegant, Gullah Geechee-themed, three-course dinner that has sold-out four years in a row—featuring savory, Lowcountry-inspired cuisine, live performances, and a silent auction preceded by a VIP reception for sponsors and donors. (5pm, Leland Cultural Arts Center, 1212 Magnolia Village Way, Leland)

The "Big Event" — The North Carolina Rice Festival, March 8, 2025: To be held once again at the Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson state historic site featuring both outdoor and indoor history and cultural presentations; live music, drumming, and dance performances; a children's stage; arts, craft, and food vendors; story tellers; and more. (10am - 5:30pm, Brunswick Town/Ft. Anderson State Historic Site, 8884 St. Philip's Road SE, Winnabow)

Website: <http://www.northcarolinaricefestival.org>



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The new year brought new branding and a new location in Southport. In late November 2024, they opened at 5034 Southport Crossing Way, in the Lowes Foods Shopping Center. Since then, it's been standing-room-only! The community has enthusiastically embraced the new restaurant with its large, open floor plan and inviting outdoor patio.

Expect the same great food and service. We're looking forward to live music on the patio as the warmer weather approaches.

They have also merged their Instagram page, consolidating all locations under one account: [instagram.com/sanfelipenc](https://www.instagram.com/sanfelipenc). Be sure to follow and support this fantastic family business!





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Oak Island Paid Parking Update

During their meeting on December 10, the Town Council decided on some important updates for the 2025 Paid Parking Season. Most notably, there will be NO rate changes for Temporary Parking in 2025, and rates will REMAIN the same for both residents and visitors alike. Similarly, the Season Dates were NOT extended through October, and will REMAIN at April 1 - September 30. The Resident Parking spaces will be continue to be enforced by Otto Connect staff from until 9:00 PM daily, but now at a reduced cost thanks to stronger revenues than previously anticipated.

As for the Seasonal Parking Permits, a total sales limit has NOT been established for 2025 yet, and will be determined during at a later date, but before the start of the 2025 Parking Season. It is important to note, that any potential increase in the total sales of Season Parking Permits could be offset by eliminating the Bulk Permit option that was available to vehicle rental businesses in 2024.

For more details on these and other program updates, just visit the Parking Information page at OakIslandNC.gov/PARKING

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 <https://www.facebook.com/sanfelipenc>

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Practicing Winter Weather Safety

As our region begins to experience colder temperatures, Brunswick County encourages community members to start their winter preparedness efforts. Whether you are a longtime resident or visiting the area, these tips can help keep you safe during the colder months.

Stay Informed

Register for the ReadyBrunswick emergency notification system: <https://member.everbridge.net/311440963535093/new>

Remain alert for updates from the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Wilmington, NC (NWS-Wilmington) at weather.gov/ilm. You can find the latest weather briefing at weather.gov/ilm/briefing and winter weather information at weather.gov/ilm/winter.

Have multiple ways to get weather information (local news and radio stations, NOAA weather radios, National Weather Service, emergency alert notifications, etc.)

Know how to report power outages and downed electrical lines to your electric provider. Visit their websites to learn how to report these hazards to Duke Energy Progress or Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation (BEMC).

Fire Prevention & Heat Safety Tips

Most deaths that occur during winter storms are not a direct result of the weather. Instead, people die from home fires and carbon monoxide poisoning while using alternate ways to heat or power their home. Take time to safeguard your home against these dangers and ensure the well-being of your family, pets, and property.

Check your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. The Brunswick County Fire Marshal's Office offers a Free Smoke Alarm Installation Program and a Free Carbon Monoxide Detector Installation Program to Brunswick County employees, residents, and property owners. Visit the Community Risk Reduction webpage to learn more.

Always plug space heaters directly into wall outlets, and make sure the cords and plugs aren't damaged or frayed. DON'T use an extension cord or power strip.

Place space heaters on a solid, flat surface and keep them at least three feet from other items. Turn them off when leaving the room or sleeping.

NEVER use a stove, oven, or charcoal grill to heat your home.

Operate generators outdoors, away from doors and windows to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.

Keep all heat sources—including fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators, portable heaters, or candles—at least three feet away from anything that can burn.

Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected each year by a professional.

Protect Water Systems from Freezing Temperatures

Your pipes are at risk of freezing any time temperatures drop below 32°F or 0°C. Prevent costly pipe damage this winter by taking precautions to protect household and irrigation water systems from freezing.

Insulate pipes in unheated areas of your home and crawl spaces.

Seal any gaps and cracks in your home's exterior (such as crawl spaces) to prevent cold drafts from reaching your pipes.

Disconnect water hoses from outdoor spigots and turn off irrigation systems.

Open doors to cabinets below your sinks to help warmer air circulate around plumbing at night.

Allow a small amount of water to drip from your faucets. Running water, even at a trickle, helps prevent pipes from freezing.

Always be aware of the main water shut-off valve location for your home in case you should experience a burst pipe and need to turn off your water. Contact Brunswick County Public Utilities or your local water provider if you need assistance.



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FRIDAY

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SATURDAY

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!!! NOTICE !!!

There is a new link to our online catalog

Find the new link on our main web page:
brunswickcountync.gov/library

FIX A FRIEND

Spay and Neuter Clinic



Fixing As Fast As We Can!

Here's a brief report for the best community ever: Your unwavering support since Fix a Friend's flash flood Sept. 19 has encouraged and enabled us to continue our mutual war on pet overpopulation in the area. Waiting to raise and repair the old building has led to creating and adapting to perform as many spay/neuter surgeries as possible.

We've used two loaned mobile units, built an operating suite in a storage building, switched from canopies to tents to protect computers, brought in industrial heaters and solar lights when winter closed in, laid artificial turf when rain brought mud. Two factors made this progress possible: your donations and our people—Fix a Friend staff and Adopt an Angel volunteers.

We are clawing our way back toward the number of surgeries we need to do. Watching improvements to the old building move forward should spur us to even higher production. Thank you for your support and dedication. Take care of your animals, and we'll get to their appointments as soon as we can!

Thank you Petsense Leland and Anchor Bar, Bully's Pub and Grill, Sweet Girlz Bakery and Cafe, Salt 64, Coastal Brunswick County

Jeeps, PT's Grille and Beach Haven Designs for helping raise money to help us rebuild. Thank you to these special people and their pets.

We want to send a big THANK YOU to Needham Animal Hospital and Aunt Kerry's Pet Stop, Irene Katherine Charitable Fund, Winding River-Paws for A Cause, Colonial Capital Humane Society of New Bern, The Brunswick Sheriff's Charitable Foundation, Unleashed, Petsmart #2537 and Kitty Claws Rescue Group for their generous donations! Thank you for your support!!!

Fix a Friend is located at 6033 Ocean Hwy E, Winnabow, (910) 253-8161.



Adopt An Angel was just awarded this fantastic \$10,000 grant to help repair Fix A Friend Spay Neuter Clinic from Mungo Homes Foundation!!



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2025
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to all of our family, friends, and fantastic customers who've shopped with us in 2024.

We are looking forward to 2025 and the opening of our ONLINE STORE - stay tuned for more info.
We will be closed JAN 12th - 15th for a little remodeling, painting and some new displays.

January - a fun Month of WINTER BINGO with 7 other businesses who have formed the "Southport Collective" to promote each others business's in Southport.

February - Traveling Gift Basket just in time for Valentine's Day.



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The Chamber partners with NC Cooperative Extension -Brunswick County to hold this training annually. In 2025, the class will be held on January 27th, February 3rd and February 10th from 12:30pm - 4:00pm. The exam will be held on February 10th @ 2:30pm.

Registration Fee: \$125 - includes the book and test. This includes all instruction, book, handout materials and the certification test.

<https://files.constantcontact.com/7dbdb3b7001/8fd7da3e-2c42-45b3-aaa6-048018122bb0.pdf?rdr=true>

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Sunset Beach PD Holds Public Outreach Event

Detectives of Sunset Beach Police Department conducted a public outreach event focused on educating the community about scams occurring in Sunset Beach. During the event, detectives shared information on common fraudulent schemes targeting residents, including online scams, phone scams, and in-person cons.

The outreach effort emphasized the importance of recognizing warning signs, protecting personal information, and reporting suspicious activity promptly. Detectives provided tips on how to avoid falling victim to scams, such as verifying sources before sharing sensitive data, being cautious of unsolicited communications, and staying informed about new scam tactics.

The event aimed to empower residents to take proactive measures to safeguard themselves against fraud. Attendees were encouraged to ask



questions and share their experiences, promoting a collaborative approach to tackling scams in Sunset Beach.

If your group is interested in scheduling an outreach event, please don't hesitate to contact the Sunset Beach Police Department at 910-579-6297 for more information.

Oak Island Debuts New Baseball Team-The Oak Island Loggerheads!

After months of anticipation, the newest team in the Old North State League officially has a name: the Oak Island Loggerheads! The name, inspired by Oak Island's strong connection to coastal wildlife and its vibrant community spirit, was chosen through a "Name the Team" contest hosted by team owners, the Allred Family.

The Loggerheads will make their debut this coming summer as part of the Coastal Division in the Old North State League. Fans can expect an exciting inaugural season filled with high-level collegiate summer baseball, fun promotions, and a deep connection to the Oak Island community.

In preparation for the season, the Oak Island Baseball team has partnered with Oak Island Parks and Recreation to upgrade the current

baseball field at Bill Smith Park to collegiate-level standards. These improvements will ensure that the team's home games provide an outstanding experience for players and fans alike.

Get Involved with the Loggerheads

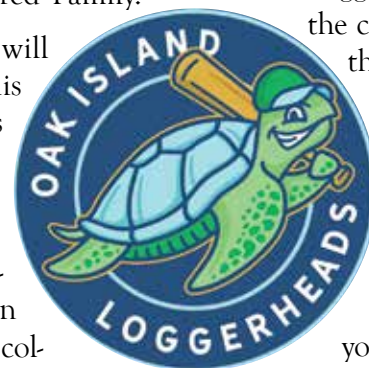
The Loggerheads are calling on the community to join in on this exciting venture! Opportunities include:

Become a Corporate Partner: Support the team while showcasing your business.

Host a Player: Open your home to a collegiate athlete and build lifelong connections.

Work for the Team: Join the Loggerheads family in creating an unforgettable game day experience.

For more information: <https://www.oakislandloggerheads.com>





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