

## SOUTHPORT STRONG

### Healing and Hope



The Brunswick County community came together and continues to act in support of Southport in light of the horrific shooting at American Fish recently. Fundraisers continue to help all the individuals who were affected by the tragedy... those injured and those who were traumatized by the shooting such as

the staff at American Fish. Our little safe haven was shattered, but we as a community continue to remain strong. Thank you to all who responded... locals, police, medical personnel, strangers and bystanders. We hold each other up as family. We stay strong despite the shock.

Some of the many fundraisers are proud-

ly highlighted in this issue but remember there are many quiet gestures that we do not hear about that help many make it through the pain and loss of innocence. Thank you. We move on... changed forever.

**Southport Strong hosted by The Mullet**

Southport came together in a big way October 18. The all-day

Yacht Basin event featured music, food and drinks, merchandise, and raffles, with proceeds supporting the victims through Southport Cares. A \$7,500 match was provided by Cape Fear Radio.

**Down the road**

Nearby in the Builders FirstSource parking lot, Gooney Bird fans were also supporting their neighbors. The

anonymous Gooney Bird creator organized a fundraiser selling t-shirts and raffling unique Gooney Bird paintings.

**KoKo Cabana raises more than \$50k**

The team at KoKo Cabana expressed deep gratitude to the community after their Oct. 4 weekend fundraiser. The event was a huge success, raising more

than \$25,000 through community contributions, which was then matched by one generous donor, doubling the total to more than \$50,000.

**Southport truly cares**

At press time, at least one more event was set to support Southport Cares, with music, raffles and prizes at The Tiki Tavern in Southport Oct. 29.

## Brunswick Marketplace

THE 2026 PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS IS COMING IN JANUARY!

VOTING RUNS JANUARY 1 – FEBRUARY 15

Be sure to pick up the January issue for the categories ballot, which you can mail in or vote online thru the QR Code provided.

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You live each trip 3 times:  
When you *dream* it,  
when you *live* it,  
when you *remember* it.

*SAVE THE DATE*

*SAVE THE DATE*

## Live Tuscan with Chef Vittorio Camorri Cooks in Southport!

Join us for an unforgettable evening with Live Tuscan and listen as we describe our adventures in Tuscany, the Amalfi Coast, Venice and Florence.

Join us following the presentation for our chef Vittorio Camorri's incredibly authentic dinner under the stars, and you will easily be able to imagine yourself there... with us. We are a boutique, small-group agency with over 14 years experience, making us experts in our regions and uniquely qualified to share gorgeous Italy with you like no one else can.

Along with our Live Tuscan experiences, our Terretrusche Events planning services are unmatched, and we can curate a wedding or milestone celebration that will be remembered forever.

Join us for a glimpse of what you can be a part of with us in Italy, then stay for dinner to see, smell and taste Tuscany with her very own Vittorio Camorri in the kitchen. We have hosted hundreds of your friends and neighbors, and look forward to the possibility of hosting you, too.

### Event Info

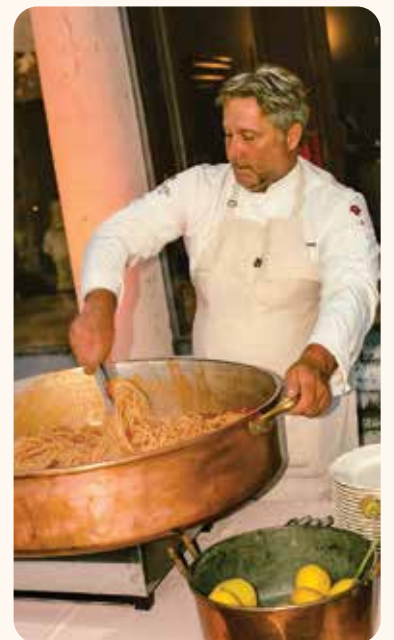
NOVEMBER 14 AND 15, 2025

4 pm with dinner following



Southport Community Center 223 E. Bay St, Southport, NC

\$100.00 per plate, with a portion going directly to several local charities. 80 persons maximum each evening.



Please RSVP by November 1 for each separate event.

Becky Munson - livetuscan@gmail.com





# Happy Holidays to all

by Joanne Hennessy Thompson

As we approach the last part of 2025, we turn to gatherings with family and friends. Thanksgiving brings us to a time of giving thanks for our Brunswick County community. We have shared ups and down and remain strong together. We salute the generosity and pride reflected in the many fundraisers held in support of those individuals effected by the shooting at **American Fish Company** in Southport.

Shop Local. Support Local businesses. There is even a day set aside for this. It is Friday, November 29, 2025, Small Business Day. Remember this off-season time is when locals support local businesses. As a matter of fact, the little village shops behind the **Southport Smokehouse** are planning a special shopping give away to celebrate the day.

Book holiday private parties, order gift baskets and take out trays, pick up gift cards. It is not just food and wine but services make perfect gifts. Massages, lessons, facials, flowers and plants, mani-pedis, offered by local small businesses, can also put a smile on someone's face and help our local economy.

Sadly, some businesses have closed or are closing. **Grape & Ale** in Southport closed but the location on Oak Island is flourishing and is reportedly THE place to enjoy a drink, good conversation and great music. **The Pearl**, in Southport is going out of business. **Southport Trading** is no longer, to be replaced by an ice cream parlor. **Back 2 Shuckers**, formerly **Turtle Island**, on Oak Island, closed its doors and the **Thai Peppers** building in Southport has been leveled to accommodate an even bigger expansion of **Ocean Outfitters**. A new **Thai Peppers**, located in Southport Crossings Plaza is slated to open, offering their long-time favorites for takeout. Located in the same plaza, **Alpaca Peruvian Charcoal Chicken** has closed its doors for the season with the hopes of reopening. **Southern's** building in Southport has been sold so we are hoping the restaurant will relocate and open. **American Fish Company** is closed indefinitely. The new **Cape**

**Side Brewing** is feverishly working to open in Southport.

**Tengu Japanese Steak House and Sushi Bar** reopened under new management in the River Run Shopping Center in Southport. The owners of **Osaka Japanese Steak House** in Shalotte, bring the same high quality of service and food to all. Whether hibachi or sushi they offer fresh and authentic traditional dishes.

**Bridgewater Wines + Dines** in Leland has relocated to Waterford Business Center Way and still serves up great wines and fine food.



**Angie's Fresh Produce**, a long time stop on Long Beach Rd. Southport, has added a second location on Howe Street. Just about every variety of native North Carolina apples can be purchased there. You can also still find locally grown heirloom tomatoes too. Gift certificates and gift baskets filled with unique North Carolina items make for perfect holiday gifts.

If you have not discovered **Coastal Blue** on Howe St. in Southport, you are missing something. New owner Elise Markel has a knack for choosing classic and classy giftware. She offers the possibility of personalizing and customizing your choices. The holidays are a perfect time to shop here. Looking for a hostess gift? Stop in. She also has a beautifully appointed gathering room as well.

**The Salty Olive**, next to the Southport police station near Walmart, is chuck full of eclectic and unique food and gift items and rows of top-notch olive oils and flavored balsamic vinegars that you can taste. The owners Lisa and Mike Rogers are

very knowledgeable and helpful providing recipes and ideas. It is truly a foodie's heaven and the perfect spot to shop for yourself or a hostess gift.

Have you been to **The Fresh Cottage** on Howe St. in Southport? This is a lifestyle store specializing in wardrobe essentials, clean beauty and skincare products, home goods and more. Check it out for the holidays.

If you are a book lover stop into **Needful Things** on Nash St, near the Southport Post Office. You can find the newest books, books by local writers, as well as books set in and around our Brunswick community. Browse and enjoy one of the unique, inviting coffees and teas from the **Moody Bean**, located inside the shop. A coffee shop within a book shop... wow does it get any better? Sit on the soft sofa in front of the fireplace and lose yourself. Owner Amanda frequently invites authors for book signings. On December 6 from 2pm til 4pm, author Seth Sjostrom will be signing his book set in Southport, **A Southern Charm Christmas**. Stop by.

Remember the soup Nazi in Seinfeld? Well, Rhonda at **StrEatside Café** on Howe St. in Southport, is a soup magician. Her roasted tomato and crab bisque is to die for, and her mushroom soup is downright magical, just to name a few of the ever-rotating soup menu choices. Each week brings a new chance to warm your soul. Rhonda's catering is also a top choice among those in the know.

**Koko Cabana** on Oak Island is closing for the season and **Swain's** is closing from Thanksgiving until December 15 for a little R&R.

**The Sea Biscuit Café** at 3370 Stone Chimney Rd. SW, Supply not only offers some mighty fine breakfasts lunches and dinners but is offering a sweet deal. You can get a Family Meal that feeds 4 for \$46.00 pork chops and stuffing or meatloaf served with mashed potatoes and green beans. As always, Mondays means 10% off for locals.

**Heritage Fresh Market** at 20 Sellers Rd. in Supply has opened an

annex in Ocean Isle Beach at 6838 Beach DR. Each has fresh produce, specialized food stuffs and **Katy's Homemade** ice cream.



Holidays are stressful times. This holiday season remember to treat yourself as well. Give yourself a gift that feeds your body, mind and spirit. Some suggestions for pampering experiences found throughout this issue: **Las OlanSkin & Body** for professional grade products and treatments, **The Stretch Coach** for mobility and flexibility, **Family Chiropractic Plus**, for a needed adjustment and supplements, **Coastal Float Spa** at **Premier Fitness Studio**, **SpaBella** has a facial special, **Southport Beauty Bar** offering a free mini facial with the purchase of \$75 or more. And if you are looking for an insight into your inner peace you might try **InSight Readings by Chandra**, with an aim at resting your soul.



Happy holidays from all of us at **Brunswick Marketplace** and **Seaway Printing**. Thank you to our readers and business partners. Get ready... voting for the **2026 People's Choice Awards** starts in January!





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[www.facebook.com/Sebbysbreakfastandlunch/](https://www.facebook.com/Sebbysbreakfastandlunch/)

## Holiday Homes Tour Returns to Southport December 13



Southport's beloved Holiday Tour of Homes returns for its 34th year on Saturday, December 13, 2025, from 11:00am to 5:00pm. Presented by the Southport Historical Society (SHS) and Downtown Southport Inc. (DSI), the event remains a cornerstone of the city's annual Winterfest celebration.

SHS President Liz Fuller shared her excitement about the partnership, saying, "The SHS board of directors and Holiday Tour of Homes committee members are excited to welcome DSI as a partner for the first time this year. We feel the missions of our organizations are a perfect fit to continue to expand upon the value the Tour brings to our community."

More than 100 volunteers will help coordinate and host the tour, welcoming guests into nine homes and one church throughout Southport. Each stop features a unique story, design, and holiday décor, with volunteer docents on hand to share the history and special touches that make each home shine.

"It's a great mix of historic, restored, and newly constructed homes," said DSI President Randy Jones. "They're also conveniently clustered, making it easy for visitors to get around. For many families, this has become an annual tradition—enjoying local shops and restaurants, then touring the homes and wrapping up the day with other Winterfest events, including the annual Flotilla."

Due to the tour's popularity, only 1,000 tickets will be available this year. Tickets go on sale to the public on November 19, 2025, and can be purchased exclusively online at [www.southporthistoricalsociety.org](http://www.southporthistoricalsociety.org) for \$30 each, with a limit of four tickets per purchase. Southport Historical Society members as of September 30, 2025, will receive an opportunity to buy advance tickets via email.

This year's Holiday Tour of Homes promises another festive showcase of community spirit, architecture, and holiday tradition—an event not to be missed in Southport's charming coastal setting.





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# Brunswick County Real Estate Hits Record \$325 Million in August Sales

**B**runswick County's housing market hit a new high in August 2025, recording more than \$325 million in total sales – the strongest month of the year and one of the biggest in county history.

“August was nothing short of historic for Brunswick County's real estate market,” said Cynthia Walsh, CEO of the Brunswick County Association of REALTORS® (BCAR). “We recorded more than \$325 million in sales for the month, including 57 sales of \$1 million or more and a \$4.8 million transaction on Bald Head Island. Those big-ticket deals helped push us past \$2 billion in sales for the year, a milestone that would have been unthinkable just five years ago.”

According to BCAR's monthly report, new listings rose 23.3% compared to August 2024, climbing from 666 to 821. The number of homes sold increased 15.2%, from 539 to 621, with 38% of those

sales being new construction. Total sales volume jumped 23.2%, from \$263.8 million to \$325 million.

The average sales price rose 6.9% to \$523,391, while the median price grew 2% to \$392,082. The county's luxury market played a major role in the record-setting month, with 57 sales over \$1 million – including a \$4.8 million Bald Head Island property and two \$3.5 million homes in Ocean Isle Beach.

As homes continued to move quickly, the absorption rate dipped below five months, and average days on market remained steady at just over two months.

Through the end of August, year-to-date sales reached \$2.01 billion – up 7.6% from \$1.87 billion during the same period in 2024. The number of homes sold rose 6.8%, from 3,913 to 4,180, and new listings climbed 12.2%, from 5,601 to 6,284. The average sales price is up slightly at \$481,618, while the median price held steady at \$375,400.

While Brunswick County continues to lead the region, nearby counties saw more modest results.

Bladen County: 10 homes sold, down 9.1% year-over-year, with an average price of \$208,390.

Columbus County: 25 homes sold, down 16.7%, with an average price of \$239,316.

Robeson County: 5 homes sold, up 66.7%, though the average price fell to \$107,000.

Founded in 1959 and chartered by the National Association of REALTORS®, the Brunswick County Association of REALTORS® serves members across southeastern North Carolina and northeastern South Carolina, including REALTORS®, appraisers, and affiliate members.

For more information about BCAR and the latest market reports, visit [www.bcarnc.com](http://www.bcarnc.com).

## Total Sales Volume

August 2025: \$325,026,307  
August 2024: \$263,823,147



**+23.2%**

## New Listings

August 2025: 821  
August 2024: 666



**+23.3%**

## Units Sold

August 2025: 621  
August 2024: 539



**+15.2%**

## Median Sales Price

August 2025: \$392,082  
August 2024: \$384,315



**+2%**

Based on information from the NCRMLS from 8/1/2025 through 8/31/2025



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## Sea Notes Ready to Ring in the Season with "We Wish You the Merriest"



The Sea Notes Choral Society is set to kick off the holiday season with its annual Christmas concert, *We Wish You the Merriest*, a joyful blend of sacred and secular favorites that celebrate the spirit of the season.

Under the direction of Robert Marks and accompanied by Margaret Smicklas, the concert will feature a mix of traditional and new selections, including the title number "We Wish You the Merriest," "The Very Best Time of Year," and the Hebrew song "Bashana Haba'ah."

Performances will take place on Saturday, December 6, 2025, and Sunday, December 7, 2025, at 3:00pm at the Odell Williamson Auditorium on the campus of Brunswick Community College in Bolivia.

Tickets are free but required, and they traditionally go quickly. Beginning October 15, tickets will be available at the following locations:

Southport-Oak Island Chamber of Commerce, Southport | 910-457-6964

Ricky Evans Gallery, Southport | 910-457-1129

The Shoe Center, Villages at Brunswick Forest, Leland | 910-371-9881

Port City Java, Olde Waterford Way, Leland | 910-383-2429

Scott's Farm and Family, Main Street, Shallotte | 910-755-6055

Scott's Farm and Family, Landville Road, Leland | 910-228-5696

Odell Williamson Auditorium, Brunswick Community College, Bolivia | 910-755-8513

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

For more information, visit [www.sea-notes.com](http://www.sea-notes.com).



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On the Web: <https://www.capefearradio.com/>

On Smart Speaker: Ask your Amazon Alexa to "enable Cape Fear Radio," then just say "Play Cape Fear Radio"

The Cape Fear App: Go to Apple's App Store to download the Cape Fear Radio App — it's free!





## Holden Beach Turtle Patrol Bids Farewell to Longtime Leaders



**T**he 2025 sea turtle season closed on a heartfelt note for the Holden Beach Turtle Patrol as members gathered to honor Pat and Alice Cusack — two dedicated volunteers who have been the heart of the organization for nearly two decades.

Alice joined the patrol in 2006 and has completed 20 sea turtle seasons. From her first year, she took on added responsibilities and quickly became a key leader within the organization. Over the years, she mentored and trained more than 100 members while serving in numerous roles including Morning Caller, Head of Stranding, Assistant Coordinator, T-Shirt Co-Coordinator, and volunteer with the Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Hospital for five years. Known for her kindness, leadership, and passion for sea turtles, Alice's presence on the beach and in the community made a lasting impact.

Pat joined the following year, in 2007, and went on to serve 19 sea turtle seasons. He was an active member from the beginning, taking on roles such as ATV Coordinator, Assistant Coordinator, and eventually Permit Holder and Program Coordinator in 2014. Like Alice, Pat volunteered weekly at the Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Hospital and shared his time mentoring new members. Fellow volunteers often noted that he could be found on the beach even when he wasn't scheduled—always working, teaching, or lending a hand.

When asked what they will miss most, the Cusacks said it will be their friends on the Turtle Patrol, the joy of talking to the public, and the unforgettable experience of watching sea turtles nest and hatch.

During the Turtle Patrol's end-of-season celebration, Mayor Alan Holden and North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission sea turtle biologist Matthew Godfrey attended to help honor the couple. Both Pat and Alice were named Honorary Members of the Holden Beach Turtle Patrol — a distinction reserved for those who have demonstrated extraordinary service and made significant contributions to the program.

"The Cusacks have shaped this organization in so many ways," said members of the patrol. "Their dedication and leadership have inspired generations of volunteers."

As they step away from their active roles, the Cusacks leave behind a strong, compassionate team ready to continue their legacy. Steve McNeill, who shadowed Pat this season, will take over as Program Coordinator. Pat expressed full confidence in his successor, describing McNeill as "smart, calm, and organized."

Though they'll be missed on the sand, Pat and Alice Cusack's influence will continue to guide the Holden Beach Turtle Patrol for years to come.

## THE WAIT IS ALMOST OVER. NEW DOSHER ED OPENING SOON!

Dosher Memorial Hospital is preparing to open its brand new, 8,000 sq. ft. Emergency Department in December. The new ED is designed to deliver faster, more advanced care in a modern, patient-centered environment.

Our dedicated team of physicians and nurses will remain focused on what matters most—caring for the medical needs of residents and visitors across Brunswick County. We know when every second counts, you deserve extraordinary care right here at home.



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# November/December Events

## BOILING SPRING LAKES

### December 5

#### Christmas Parade/Christmas

#### Tree Lighting

5-7pm | Old Fire Dept. Building

## CALABASH

### November 27

#### Calabash Turkey Trot

7:00am | 9887 Oak Street SW

The largest turkey trot in the Grand Strand Area is in Calabash North Carolina with Coastal Race Productions on Thanksgiving morning. Over 2,000 walkers and runners will start & finish down by the waterfront in Calabash. The morning starts out with a 10K followed by a 5K and 1 Mile. 100's of participants will run all 3 races for a total of 10.3 miles in the 3-race challenge earning some HUGE medals.

You must pre-register online as the races typically sell-out prior to Thanksgiving.

## HOLDEN BEACH

### November 10

#### Veterans Appreciation Luncheon

11:30am | 110 Rothschild Street

The event will be held at in the Town Hall Board Room. Please RSVP by emailing Christy at [christy.ferguson@hbtownhall.com](mailto:christy.ferguson@hbtownhall.com) prior to Friday, October 31st with your name and the name of your guest.

### November 28

#### Turkey Trot

8-9am

The Town of Holden Beach will hold its annual Turkey Trot Thanksgiving morning at 8:00 a.m. All individuals interested in participating should email Christy at [christy.ferguson@hbtownhall.com](mailto:christy.ferguson@hbtownhall.com) to pre-register. Price of admission is canned food to donate to the local food pantry.

## LELAND

### December 6-January 4

#### Leland in Lights

6-8 pm | Leland Town Hall  
102 Town Hall Drive

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

### December 9

#### Cookies with Santa

6:30-8 pm | Cultural Arts Center  
1212 Magnolia Village Way

A magical evening with Santa. Children will enjoy milk and cookies, festive holiday crafts, and a special reading of The Night Before Christmas by Santa himself. \$5 per child. Registration required. Please limit adults/guardians to two (2) per family group.

## OAK ISLAND

### December 5

#### Tree Lighting

5-7pm | Middleton Park

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

### December 6

#### Breakfast with Santa

8-10am | OKI Community Center  
102 SE 47th Street

Santa looks forward to seeing you! \$10 for pre-registered residents, \$12 for non-residents.

### December 6

#### Christmas by the Sea Parade

2pm | E. Dolphin Drive  
& Middleton Avenue

Take in the sights and sounds of one of the area's most exciting Christmas parades.

## OCEAN ISLE BEACH

### November 11

#### Santa Paws Photos

12-2pm | Town Center Park

11 E 2nd Street

Celebrate the season with a paw-some holiday photo of your pet and Santa (BYO camera)!

### November 28

#### Letters to Santa

6-8pm | Town Center Park  
11 E 2nd Street

Join us for a jolly holiday celebration filled with Santa, lighting of the tree and cheerful surprises!

### December 31

#### Noon Year's Eve

11am-12:30pm | Town Center Park  
11 E 2nd Street

Let's bring in the New Year with crafts, snacks, dancing and countdown to the "Noon Year!"

## SHALLOTTE

### November 15

#### Holiday Market on Mulberry

10am-2pm | Riverwalk | 158 Wall Street

Artisans, Crafters, Farmers, Live Music

### November 20 & 21

#### Street Brendan Catholic Church

#### Holiday Craft Show

Sat 10-6pm | Sun 9-1pm Hwy 17

Forty vendors with crafts, soup, baked goods, coffee, tea and the Knights of Columbus' awesome homemade bread.

### December 1

#### Christmas Tree Lighting

5:30pm | Mulberry Park  
123 Mulberry Street

### December 6

#### Christmas Parade

10am | Main Street

A festive start to the Christmas season.

### December 13

#### Holiday Market on Mulberry

10am-2pm | Riverwalk | 158 Wall Street

Artisans, Crafters, Farmers, Live Music.

## SOUTHPORT

### November 1

#### Holly Days Arts & Crafts Sale

9am-4pm | Southport Baptist Church  
200 North Howe Street

More than 70 crafters selling handmade goods, Christmas crafts, baked goods, and more. You can also purchase food like hot dogs, chili, and biscuits.

### November 6

#### Southport Historical Society: General Membership Meeting

6:30pm | 223 E. Bay Street

Fort Fisher: Art of the Battle, presented by Chris E. Fonvielle, Jr.

### November 7

#### Harper Library presents: Mahjong for Beginners

10-11:30am | 109 W Moore Street

Join volunteer Kelly McDonald and learn all the skills needed to play Mahjong. Classes will meet for 4 weeks with 4 players.

### December 5

#### City of Southport Tree Lighting

6-7pm | Whittler's Bench, Waterfront Park

Hot cocoa & cookies by the Beautification Committee

### December 11

#### Polar Express Outdoor Movie

5pm | Ft. Johnston Lawn

Bring chairs & blankets—hot cocoa & snacks provided by Intracoastal Realty.

## BOLIVIA

### December 13

#### Bolivia Fire's annual Christmas parade and Vendor Show

11am | Bolivia Fire Dept. | 3848 Old Ocean Hwy.

Join us for a chance to see a great parade and an opportunity to see Santa!

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

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





Happy Holidays  
from our family  
to yours!

Closing 12/1 for  
the season!  
see you in the  
spring!



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705 Ocean Drive



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## Joining is Just the Beginning.

### Here's What You Can Expect After Becoming a Member of the Brunswick County Chamber of Commerce:

- You'll be added to our online member directory, boosting your visibility.
- We'll connect with you directly to discuss your goals and how we can help.
- You'll be invited to networking events, ribbon cuttings, and member-only opportunities.
- You'll gain access to marketing tools, sponsor visibility, and advocacy resources.
- You'll receive ongoing support from a team that's here to help you grow, connect, and lead. The Chamber isn't just a listing, it's a launchpad.

#### ADDED TO OUR ONLINE MEMBER DIRECTORY

Your business is featured on our website, making it easier for locals and visitors to find and connect with you.



#### INVITED TO NETWORKING EVENTS



From PERKS to Business After Hours, you'll have opportunities to meet other professionals and grow your connections.

#### ONGOING SUPPORT FROM OUR TEAM

We're here to answer questions, connect you with resources, and help you make the most of your membership.




#### ACCESS TO MARKETING TOOLS AND SPONSOR PERKS

Members can promote their business through sponsored posts, event partnerships, and Chamber publications.




#### OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW AND GET INVOLVED

Serve on a committee, host a ribbon cutting, or attend workshops. There's always a new way to engage and grow!

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## Celebrate Small Business Saturday

The Southport-Oak Island Area Chamber of Commerce is encouraging residents and visitors alike to keep their holiday spending close to home this season and “Go Local.” While shopping small is a year-round way to support the community, the spotlight shines brightest on Small Business Saturday, happening this year on Saturday, November 29, 2025 – the day between Black Friday and Cyber Monday.

First launched by American Express in 2010, Small Business Saturday quickly became a national tradition. The following year, the U.S. Senate unanimously passed a resolution recognizing the event as a way to celebrate and support the small businesses that are the backbone of local economies.

Locally, the Southport-Oak Island Chamber of Commerce is continuing its efforts to help area businesses thrive. The Chamber’s Online Holiday Guide highlights special offers, hours, and events from favorite local



shops and restaurants. Businesses have until November 3, 2025, to submit their holiday information to the Chamber. The guide can be viewed at: <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Small-Business-Saturday-November-30th.html?oid=1101579148247&aid=oDY-WxtQMqw>.

The Chamber urges everyone to take part in Small Business Saturday to help area shops, restaurants, and service providers succeed during the busy holiday season. Shoppers are invited to “light up social media” by sharing photos of themselves visiting local businesses on November 29 using the hashtag #ShopSmall.

From Southport’s boutiques to Oak Island’s eateries, every local purchase helps strengthen the community. So shop, dine, and enjoy the charm of small businesses this holiday season – and remember, when you support local, you’re giving a gift that keeps on giving.

## Holiday Greetings



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### A Season Of Gratitude

As the holidays approach, it's a time to pause and reflect on the many blessings we've experienced throughout the year. Here in Brunswick County, we've shared moments of joy and triumph, as well as times of challenge and heartbreak. Through it all, one thing has remained constant, the strength, resilience, and compassion of this incredible community.

We've seen our neighbors lift each other up in difficult times, stand together in support of those in need, and show tremendous appreciation for the men and women who serve and protect. It is truly an honor and a blessing to be part of such a caring and united community.

On behalf of the Brunswick Coun-

ty Sheriff's Office, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all who have shown us kindness, encouragement, and trust. Your continued support means more than words can express.

As we look ahead to the holiday season and the new year, let's continue to take care of one another and remember how fortunate we are to call Brunswick County home.

From our family to yours, thank you, and may you have a safe, peaceful, and blessed holiday season.



Sheriff Brian Chism

### Deputy David Casanova Receives Officer Commendation

We're proud to share this message of appreciation for Deputy David Casanova, whose professionalism, compassion, and dedication made a lasting impression on a Brunswick County resident:

"Late Friday night, around 10PM, my mother was stranded on the roadside after both passenger-side tires blew out. It was pitch black, traffic to get there was heavy due to construction, and the situation was stressful and unsafe. Deputy Casanova still made his way through it all to get to us, and from the moment he arrived, he was positive, professional, and ready to help in any way he could.

He jumped right in, offered us a second jack, helped with the tire



change, and when the car's jack started to sink in the sand, he used one of his own training books from his patrol car to keep it stable. That small act showed the kind of person he is: resourceful, selfless, and dedicated to helping others.

Deputy Casanova turned a stressful, late-night situation into one that reminded us what real community service looks like. He's the kind of deputy any county would be lucky to have—someone who leads by example and genuinely cares about the people he serves."

Thank you, Deputy Casanova, for representing the Brunswick County Sheriff's Office with such professionalism and heart.

## Brunswick Marketplace

Volume 20, Number 2 | November/December 2025

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910-457-6158 | teamseaway@gmail.com

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## Pet Pictures with Santa Returns December 7 in Southport

**G**et ready for wagging tails and holiday smiles! The City of Southport Animal Protective Services and the Southport Police Department invite pet lovers to their annual Pet Pictures with Santa event on Sunday, December 7, 2025, from 2:00pm to 4:00pm at the Indian Trail Meeting Hall, located at 113 W. Moore Street in Southport.

Families are encouraged to bring their furry, feathered, or scaly friends for a festive photo session with Santa Claus himself. While waiting for their turn, guests can enjoy pet-friendly activities and treats sure to make the afternoon even more joyful.



A \$10 donation is suggested for each photo, which includes a festive frame. All proceeds will benefit Paws-Ability, a local nonprofit organization that supports animal welfare initiatives across Brunswick County.

"Pet Pictures with Santa is one of our favorite events of the year," said organizers. "It's a wonderful way to celebrate the holidays with your pets while supporting a great cause."

So grab a leash, don your favorite holiday sweater, and head to Indian Trail Meeting Hall on December 7 for a paw-sitively fun afternoon that benefits animals in need.

## Brunswick County Wellness Center now Offering Beginner Chair Yoga

**T**he Brunswick County Wellness Center now offers Beginner and Chair Yoga classes designed for all fitness levels. Sessions are held Mondays at 1pm and Thursdays at 9:30am.

Instructor Diana leads participants through gentle stretching and breathing exercises, perfect for those recovering from surgery or with limited mobility. No experience is needed, and classes are donation-based or covered by SilverSneakers plans. Come enjoy a relaxing, low-impact way to improve flexibility, balance, and peace of mind at the Brunswick County Wellness Center.



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## Leland Holiday Events



### Holiday Art Market

Sat, Dec. 6 2025, 10am - 3pm

Leland Cultural Arts Center  
1212 Magnolia Village Way  
Leland, NC 28451

Don't miss this popular one-day holiday event! The Holiday Art Market features unique handmade gifts that are sure to please everyone on the list.

### Leland Express Train Rides

Sat, Dec. 6 2025, 6 - 8pm

Founders Park  
113 Town Hall Dr.  
Leland, NC 28451

Everyone's favorite train is pulling back into the station this holiday season. Ride the Leland Express through the magic of Leland in Lights in Founders Park for an unforgettable experience. Please arrive early; the Leland Express line will stop accepting riders promptly at 8 p.m.



### Wilmington Big Band

Fri, Dec. 12 2025, 6 - 8pm

Leland Cultural Arts Center  
1212 Magnolia Village Way  
Leland, NC 28451

Dance the night away while Wilmington Big Band plays holiday classics and big band favorites! Tickets will go on sale on October 12 and will be available online or in person at the Leland Cultural Arts Center.

### Grand Illumination

Sat, Dec 6 2025, 6 - 8pm

Leland Town Hall  
102 Town Hall Dr.  
Leland, NC 28451

Join the Town of Leland for the annual lighting of the Leland tree. Mayor Bozeman will welcome guests to the Town Hall plaza at 6 p.m. Once Santa gets clearance to land his sleigh, he'll help flip the switch to illuminate the tree, marking the return of Leland in Lights. Following the Tree Lighting, Santa will greet visitors in Santa's Workshop, and the Leland Express will be running around the park.

### Experience "The Nutcracker": Holiday Meet and Greet

Mon, Dec .15 2025, 6 - 8pm

Leland Cultural Arts Center  
1212 Magnolia Village Way  
Leland, NC 28451

Experience dances from "The Nutcracker," performed by Dance Theatre of Dreams. Meet the characters after a short performance, including Santa! Don't forget wish lists and a camera to capture the moment! Pre-registration required. Tickets are \$5 and will be available online and in person at the Leland Cultural Arts Center closer to the date.

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## Southport Storefront Showcase Spreads Holiday Cheer December 5–13



**D**owntown Southport will sparkle even brighter this season as local shops and restaurants take part in the Fifth Annual Storefront Showcase, a festive decorating contest that invites residents and visitors to experience the magic of the holidays while supporting local businesses.

From Friday, December 5 through Saturday, December 13, 2025, participating businesses will deck their storefronts in holiday style, transforming the city into a walking winter wonderland. Visitors can use the Storefront Showcase map, available online, to explore the decorated shops and cast their votes in several fun categories, including:

- Most Community Spirit
- Most Festive
- Best Classic Christmas
- Biggest Surprise (Wow! Factor)
- Best Overall

Participants may vote more than once in each category, making it easy to show extra love to their favorite displays. Winners will be announced on Monday, December 15, 2025, with a special certificate awarded to the Best Overall storefront.

“The Storefront Showcase has become a wonderful way to celebrate community spirit and creativity,” said event organizers. “It’s about more than decorations — it’s about bringing people together and encouraging everyone to shop local during the holidays.”

Local businesses interested in joining the fun are encouraged to sign up early and help make Southport shine this holiday season. Whether you’re a resident, visitor, or shop owner, the Storefront Showcase is the perfect way to celebrate the season — one twinkling display at a time.

## Supply Elementary PTA Seeking Volunteers for Santa’s Workshop

**S**upply Elementary School’s PTA is seeking volunteers for Santa’s Workshop 2024, happening December 10–13 from 8:30am to 3pm at 51 Benton Road SE, Supply. This cherished annual event lets students shop for holiday gifts, but it can only happen with community support. Volunteers are needed to help wrap presents, assist



students with shopping, and deliver gifts. Holiday snacks and beverages will be provided for all helpers.

To sign up, visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4FACA822A5FACE9> or email [supplyelementarypta@gmail.com](mailto:supplyelementarypta@gmail.com). Your time and kindness help make the season bright for Supply Elementary’s little starfish!



## Southport Garden Club to Host “Winterfest-ival of Trees” December 9

Southport's holiday season will shine even brighter this year as the Southport Garden Club presents its first annual Winterfestival of Trees on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at Franklin Square Park.

Dozens of beautifully decorated and illuminated Christmas trees will fill the park, each designed and displayed by local individuals, businesses, churches, and community organizations. The trees will be set on timers, allowing for magical evening strolls throughout the holiday season.

Visitors can enjoy a variety of festive activities, including children's crafts and games, caroling for all ages, and

even visits with Santa and The Grinch. Holiday items will be available for purchase, along with a silent auction, and light refreshments will be served.

“This event is a wonderful way to bring the community together and celebrate the beauty of the season,” said organizers from the Southport Garden Club. “We're excited to see Franklin Square Park transformed into a twinkling forest of holiday joy.”

Those interested in displaying a tree can register online at [www.southportgardenclub.org](http://www.southportgardenclub.org).

Whether you're decorating, singing, or simply enjoying the sights, come join the fun and be part of Southport's newest holiday tradition.



**NOVEMBER 27, 2025**

## Dosher Welcomes Dr. Brandon McNitt to Oak Island Medical Clinic

Dosher Memorial Hospital announced today that Board-Certified family medicine physician Brandon McNitt, MD, MPH, has joined Dosher's primary care clinic on Oak Island. Dr. McNitt attended Stony Brook University in Stony Brook, New York and prior to medical school, he was recruited by the Houston Astros where he played professional baseball for two seasons. Dr. McNitt went on to enroll in St. George's University School of Medicine where he earned his master of Public Health and his Doctor of Medicine and completed his family medicine residency at Good Samaritan University Hospital in West Islip, New York. Dr. McNitt welcomed the opportunity to relocate to Southeastern North Carolina



with his family and to join the Dosher organization.

Said Dosher President and CEO Lynda Stanley, “Dr. McNitt is a great fit for the team-based approach to healthcare we provide for our Oak Island patients. We are thrilled to have

him on board.”

Dr. McNitt joins the clinical staff at Oak Island at 4700 E. Oak Island Drive with Laura Strickland, DO and Deborah Cobb, FNP-BC. Dr. McNitt is accepting new patients of all ages and can be reached for appointments at 910-278-6414.

Dosher Medical-Oak Island is one of five primary care clinics Dosher operates in Southeastern Brunswick County. Find out more at [www.Dosher.org/Clinics](http://www.Dosher.org/Clinics).

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## Brunswick County Habitat for Humanity Annual Golf Tournament Breaks Records

Brunswick County Habitat for Humanity raised more than \$47,000 at its annual golf tournament on Sept. 25, setting a new fundraising record for the event. The sold-out tournament, held at Thistle Golf Club, hosted nearly 200 golfers to support the nonprofit's mission of building affordable homes.

"Seeing our community come together and raise a record amount is a powerful statement about Brunswick County's commitment to making sure everyone has a decent, safe, affordable

place to call home," said Theresa Murphy, Development Manager for Brunswick County Habitat for Humanity. "Everyone who supported this event directly invested in our community, and the funds raised will translate into lumber, foundations, and roofing, putting more

Brunswick County families on a path to the stability and security of homeownership."

First place was awarded to the following teams: Hagood Homes, Azalea Roofing and Mansfield Sales & Services. In second place were the McDonald Team, the Troxler Team and the Cheek Team.

The 50/50 raffle winner was George Ouelette, who donated \$1,000 of his prize back to the organization.

All funds raised will directly benefit BCHFH's mission to build homes, communities and hope in Brunswick County.

"We are endlessly grateful for all our event sponsors and golfers, Thistle Golf Club for its outstanding hospitality, and the dedicated volunteers who ensured the tournament ran smoothly," said Murphy.



## The Coastal Home & Lifestyle Showcase Returns in November



The fifth annual Coastal Home & Lifestyle Showcase will be held on Saturday, November 8, from 10am to 1pm at the Middleton Park Pavilion Area, 4610 E. Dolphin Drive in Oak Island. Hosted by the Southport-Oak Island Area Chamber of Commerce, this free public event highlights the best in home, garden, and coastal living. Visitors can meet local businesses, find inspiration for home projects, and enjoy free giveaways from participating vendors.

This year's move to fall makes it the perfect time to plan your next home

update—or pick out unique holiday gifts. Businesses interested in participating are encouraged to apply online at [coastalhomeandlifestyleshow.com](http://coastalhomeandlifestyleshow.com) by October 9 to be included in the printed event brochure.

The Coastal Home & Lifestyle Showcase is presented by the Southport-Oak Island Area Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by The State Port Pilot, Southport Magazine, and SPT-OKI Magazine. For more information, call 910-457-6964 or email [info@southport-oakisland.com](mailto:info@southport-oakisland.com).



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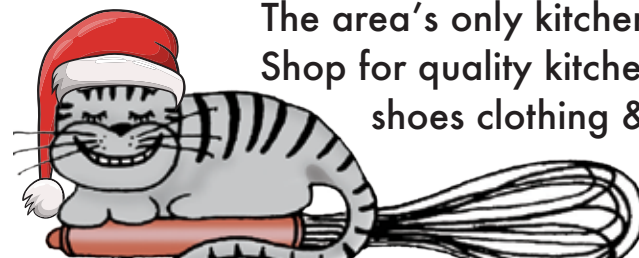
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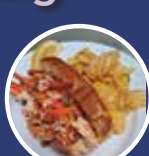
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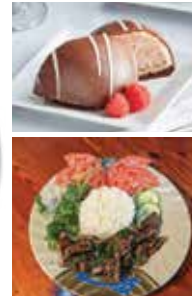
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## Brunswick County Deputy and K9 "TJ" Visit Belville Elementary for Community Helpers Day



Students at Belville Elementary School got an extra-special surprise during Community Helpers Day when Brunswick County Sheriff's Deputy Moore and his K9 partner "TJ" stopped by for a visit. The young students were thrilled to meet both the deputy and his loyal four-legged partner, learning first-hand about the important role law enforcement officers—and their canine counterparts—play in keeping the community safe.

Deputy Moore and TJ spent time interacting with the children, answering questions, and demonstrating some of the ways K9 units assist in daily law enforcement work. The event was filled with smiles, wagging tails, and plenty of excitement as students discovered how teamwork

between an officer and a K9 helps protect Brunswick County.

"Events like these are such a great way to connect with our youngest community members," said representatives from the Brunswick County Sheriff's Office. "They give children the opportunity to see law enforcement in a positive and friendly setting while learning how our deputies and K9s work together to keep everyone safe."

The Sheriff's Office extended a special thank-you to Belville Elementary School for the invitation and for hosting such a fun and educational day. Encounters like this, they said, help build lasting trust and understanding between local law enforcement and the community they serve.

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## The State Port Pilot's Annual Cookie Contest Returns December 10



**G**et ready to satisfy your sweet tooth—The State Port Pilot Annual Cookie Contest is back as part of Southport's festive Winterfest celebration! The friendly baking competition will take place on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, from 3:30pm to 5:30pm at the Southport Community Building. Admission is free, and everyone is invited to stop by, sample cookies, and vote for their favorites.

Now in its annual holiday tradition, the contest brings together some of the area's best home bakers for an afternoon of fun, flavor, and friendly competition. Attendees can enjoy a variety of homemade cookies and help choose this year's winners by casting a vote for their favorite treats.

## Southport Police Hosts 3rd Annual "Shop with a Cop" December 8

**S**outhport Police Department invites the community to get into the holiday spirit at the 3rd Annual "Shop with a Cop" Benefit Concert, Monday, December 8, from 6-8pm at Franklin Square Park, 130 E. West Street in Southport.

The evening will feature live music by fan favorites The Back Porch Rockers. The event serves as a fundraiser for the department's Shop with a Cop program, which brings holiday joy to local families in need by pairing children with police officers for a special shopping day.

Adding to the fun this year is a Best Decorated Christmas-Themed Golf Cart Contest. You can register on-site at the park — let the organizers know you want to take part. Prizes will be

awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place, with winners announced at the close of the concert.

"This event is a local favorite and a great way to spread some holiday cheer," said organizers from The State Port Pilot. "Whether you're baking or just tasting, it's always a fun community gathering during Winterfest."

Look for more details in upcoming editions of The State Port Pilot, the Holiday issue of Coast magazine, on the newspaper's Facebook page, and at [www.stateportpilot.com](http://www.stateportpilot.com).

So grab a friend, bring your holiday spirit, and join The State Port Pilot on December 10 to celebrate cookies, community, and Christmas cheer!



So grab a blanket, bring your family, and help ensure more children experience the joy of the holidays.

"This event is a wonderful way to celebrate the season while supporting a program that makes a real difference for local families," organizers said. "It's also a great kickoff to Winterfest."

So grab a blanket, bring your family, and help ensure more children experience the joy of the holidays.

## Holiday Greetings



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## Southport Police Chief Coring Appointed to North Carolina 911 Board

Southport Police Chief Coring has been appointed to the North Carolina 911 Board by Senator Philip Berger, bringing his decades of experience in emergency communications to a statewide leadership role. Chief Coring was officially sworn in during the board's regular meeting in Raleigh on Friday, August 22, 2025, at 1:00pm. He fills a seat vacated by a retiring chief.



system for improved statewide interoperability.

For Chief Coring, the appointment represents a full-circle moment in his public safety career. His professional journey began as a 911 telecommunicator with the Southport Police Department, followed by a position with Brunswick County's Enhanced 911 Center. He later served as the County's 911 Director under the Brunswick County Sheriff's Office, overseeing major advancements in the county's emergency communications.

During his tenure as 911 Director, Chief Coring supervised a \$4.5 million grant project to build a new 911 call center. The project not only modernized local emergency response operations but also regionalized Brunswick County's 911 services and technology, integrating the county into the state's VIPER radio

"I'm honored to serve North Carolina in this capacity," said Chief Coring. "911 has always been at the heart of my public service career, and I look forward to helping strengthen the systems that keep our residents safe."

The North Carolina 911 Board works to create and maintain a unified statewide 911 system by integrating new communication technologies and providing financial and technical support to local public safety answering points (PSAPs) across the state.

Chief Coring's extensive experience in both local and county emergency operations positions him well to contribute to the board's mission of enhancing public safety and emergency response throughout North Carolina.



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## Volunteers Needed at Fort Johnston Museum & Visitors' Center



If you're looking for a fun and meaningful way to get involved in your community, the City of Southport has the perfect opportunity! The Fort Johnston-Southport Museum & Visitors' Center is seeking enthusiastic volunteers to help welcome guests and share the city's rich history and vibrant events.

Do you love history? Enjoy meeting new people? Consider yourself a "Chatty Cathy"? Then this could be just the role for you. Volunteers are especially needed for Saturday afternoon shifts, helping visitors learn about Southport's fascinating past, local attractions, and ongoing community events.

"This is a wonderful chance to represent our city and connect with people from near and far," organizers said. "Our volunteers play an important role in helping visitors experience the charm and hospitality that make Southport so special."

Whether you're a museum lover, history buff, or just enjoy good conversation, your time and enthusiasm can make a difference.

To learn more or to sign up, call 910-457-7927 or visit <https://buff.ly/CUqxiUW>.

Become part of Southport's story—volunteer today and help keep local history alive!



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## **Brunswick County Streetreach: Hope for the Hopeless This Holiday Season**

As the holiday season approaches, Brunswick County Streetreach is once again calling on the community to help bring comfort and hope to those most in need. With colder weather ahead and families facing seasonal hardships, the organization is preparing to provide shelter, meals, and essential support to the homeless and struggling residents of Brunswick County.

"We are filled with gratitude for the unwavering support of our community for Streetreach," the organization shared. "We are humbled by the selfless generosity of our volunteers and donors, and we celebrate the profound impact of your contributions."

Streetreach volunteers are the heart of the mission—serving meals, offering encouragement, helping with shelter, and providing dignity and care to those who need it most. "Your time is a precious gift that inspires hope and transformation," the organization said.

As the holidays near, gift cards have become one of the most valuable and meaningful ways to give.

Streetreach is collecting Burger King, Taco Bell, Jersey Mike's, Food Lion, and Walmart gift cards to distribute throughout the fall and winter seasons.

"These cards are a blessing for innocent Angel Tree children, foster care youth, and the homeless," the organization explained. "During this time of year, kids are home without



school lunches, caregivers face extra grocery needs, seasonal layoffs affect families, and the homeless have no means to cook. Gift cards help meet those immediate needs with warmth and compassion."

Streetreach continues to rely on the generosity of donors to provide shelter, meals, showers, and life-changing support. "Every dollar and every card you give represents faith in our mission," the organization said. "Even when the impact may seem invisible, know that it is real—and it is transforming lives right now."

Donations and gift cards may be mailed to:

Streetreach  
P.O. Box 1331, Shallotte, NC 28459

"From the depths of our hearts," Streetreach shared, "thank you for believing in our mission. Your kindness kindles hope—for us, for those we serve, and for our community."



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## Start Your Holiday Season in Historic Downtown Southport



**T**his year, we welcome back many of our traditional WINTERFEST favorite events. Southport WINTERFEST 2025, the umbrella under which most of the city's holiday events fall, will include everything from a "Winterfest Tea" to the "Southport Christmas Flotilla." Twenty action-packed events of WINTERFEST 2025 include many events that will entertain adults and children of all ages.

### Shop, Dine & Enjoy Local

All Winterfest long, the Southport-Oak Island Area Chamber of Commerce reminds you to "Shop, Dine, and Enjoy" local businesses! Discover unique gifts, holiday dining options, and seasonal promotions from area merchants all in one convenient place. From the Holiday Gift Guide to updated restaurant hours, there's something for everyone. Explore more at: [www.shopsouthport-oakisland.com](http://www.shopsouthport-oakisland.com)

### Southport Downtown Tree Lighting Ceremony

In the Spirit of the Holiday Season, The Mayor will light the City of Southport's Downtown Christmas Tree at Whittler's Bench for Southport's Downtown Tree Lighting Ceremony. The Trinity United Methodist Church Children's Choir will serenade us with time-honored Christmas Carols. The Southport Beautification Committee will provide hot chocolate and cookies. Join us on Friday, December 5, at 6 pm to share in the Joy of the Season.

### Winterfest Tea

Join us for Southport's Winterfest Tea, an enchanting tea with special holiday entertainment sponsored



by the City of Southport Community Relations Department and the Winterfest Tea Committee. Saturday, December 6, at 1:00 p.m. at the Southport Community Building, located at 223 East Bay Street. Tickets will be \$50 and are available at the Ft Johnston Visitors Center and Museum. Proceeds from this year's event will benefit three local organizations.

Tickets, priced at \$50, go on sale November 1 and can be purchased at the Ft Johnston Visitors Center and Museum. Ten-top tables can be reserved for \$450. To reserve tickets and arrange for will-call at the Visitors Center, please call 910-457-7927.

### Supper with Santa's Elves

Bring your children to enjoy Supper with Santa's Elves on Wednesday, December 10, from 5-6:30pm. Parents will be able to drop their children off, shop at local stores, or have a romantic dinner. The children will enjoy a pizza dinner and watch a movie. This fun event is sponsored by the Southport Parks & Recreation. You must pre-register by calling 910-457-7945. The cost is \$5 per child and is located at 209 Atlantic Ave., beside Southport Gym.

*Continued on page 35*

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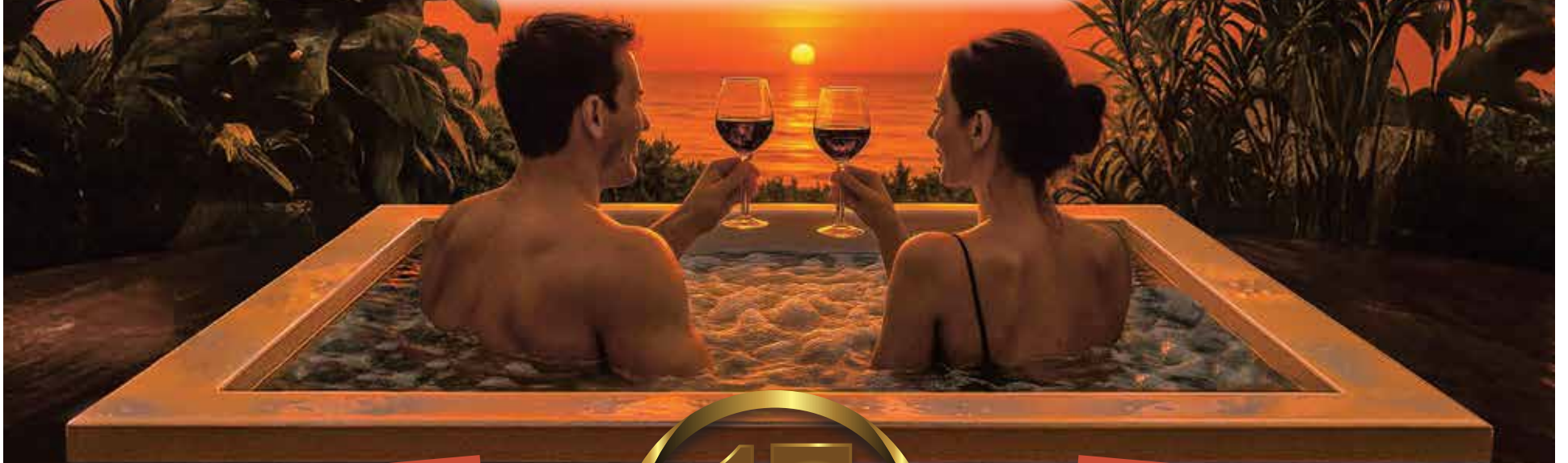
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## Southport Cares Assisting Police with Outreach to Families



Southport Cares has been working with the families of those tragically killed in the mass shooting. They are all very appreciative of the support from our community during such a difficult time. The family of Michael Durbin reached out and wanted to share their thanks to the community as well. We are honored to share the following from Michael's daughter, Jamie. Please continue to keep them all in your thoughts and prayers.

Hello, my name is Jamie and my dad, Michael Durbin, passed away during the tragedy at American Fish Company. My family and I wanted to reach out and express our deepest gratitude to the Southport community for your kindness, prayers, and support.

Southport was my Dad's happy place. He began vacationing at Oak Island as a kid and the tradition continued as our family grew bringing friends and family together here year after year. Two years ago, my parents built their dream vacation home in Southport. The town is an integral

part of our family and we have thousands of wonderful memories here. It was my parents' happy place. My Dad had many local friends and we even got the State Port Pilot delivered to our home in Ohio. He loved to read all the "happy news". The weekend my Dad was taken from us, he had just picked up his dream boat and was taking it out for test drives. He capped off his perfect day by visiting his favorite bar. I take a lot of comfort in knowing that he passed in his favorite place, at his favorite bar, listening and dancing to music.

My dad was a happy and faithful-filled man. He found joy in each day and that joy could be felt by all who knew him. He was a loving husband, father, son, brother, friend, and soon-to-be grandpa. The world was a brighter place with him in it, and he will be deeply missed. Thank you again for all the thoughts and prayers, we appreciate it more than you know. —The Durbin Family



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## Shallotte Christmas Event Schedule

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## Winterfest *Continued from page 27*



### Christmas Movie "Polar Express"

The Christmas Movie "Polar Express," an annual favorite WINTERFEST event, will be shown on the Fort Johnston Garrison Lawn at dusk on Thursday, December 11. This event is sponsored by Southport Parks and Recreation. Chairs/blankets are encouraged, and hot chocolate and snacks will be provided by Intracoastal Realty, Southport.

### Once More Bookstore's Holiday Open House

Step into the spirit of the season at Once More Bookstore's Holiday Open House on Friday, December 12th, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, at 727 N Howe St, in the back of Southport Realty. Enjoy hot cider, cookies, and books under the outdoor tent, then step inside to discover treasures like books, puzzles, signed pottery, and whimsical baubles. With donations arriving bi-weekly, our shelves are always changing, from bestselling fiction to rare finds and genres like nature, nautical, fantasy, and more. Hosted by Friends of the Library Southport Oak Island (FOLSOI), this festive day adds a touch of literary magic to your holidays. Gift certificates make great stocking stuffers, and every purchase supports local libraries!

### Light Up the Night Christmas Parade

Children, grownups, residents, and visitors, look forward to the annual Light Up the Night Christmas Parade, sponsored by Southport Fire Department. On Friday, December

12, at 5:30 p.m. the children will begin to board the fire engines at the Southport Fire Station. The parade begins at 6:30 p.m. Parade route: follows along Moore and Howe back to the Southport Fire Station. Following the parade, children are invited to visit with Santa.

### Winter Craft Festival

Homemade Arts and crafts, home-grown winter vegetables, cut flowers, homemade baked goods, honey, jellies, and pickles are only a few items that you will find at the Winter Craft Festival on Saturday, December 13, from 10am - 4pm on Bay Street.

### Santa's Workshop

Get your children into the holiday spirit at Southport's Santa's Workshop on Saturday, December 13. Children will be making ornaments, decorating cookies, and creating other fun crafts. The workshop is from 10-11am at 209 Atlantic Ave., beside the Southport Gym.

### Winterfest Performing Arts

Not to be missed, is the popular Winterfest Performing Arts program, sponsored by Up Your Arts. Enjoy the performing arts, this year featuring a barbershop quartet on Saturday, December 13, 11-3 p.m. on the Fort Johnston Lawn.

### Old Brunswick County Jail Museum Tours

The Old Brunswick County Jail Tours sponsored by the Southport Historical Society will take place on Saturday, December 13, from 11-5 pm at the Old Jail, decorated for the

season. The jail was built in 1904 when Southport was the county seat, located on the corner of Nash & Rhett Streets. This is a perfect time to come learn a piece of Southport's history.

### Southport Train and Toy Show

The Southport Train and Toy Show will take place at the Indian Trail Meeting Hall on December 13th from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m., thanks to the Grand Strand Model Railroaders, who will be bringing their traveling layouts to share with us. Among the highlights will be an N scale model railroad layout, built from a Woodland Scenics foam kit to create realistic hills and terrain. The display also features buildings, vehicles, people, and scenery from hobby shops and online finds, showcasing how modelers use N scale to create intricate, life-like scenes in a compact space.

### Charlie Brown Makes New Friends Christmas Party

Get ready to enjoy family fun at the Charlie Brown Makes New Friends Christmas Party on Saturday, December 13, from 3-5 pm at the Southport Community Building. Join us for a Christmas play featuring BAC Community Players. Then party with Santa and many of your favorite Holiday Christmas Characters (and Pirates) together for an afternoon full of fun, games & music! For kids of all ages, including entertainment, snacks, drinks, an Ugly sweater contest, Holiday Photo Booth, and more surprises! This event is hosted by the Brunswick Arts Council. In the spirit of giving, we invite you to bring along a donation—whether it's cash, a can, or a boxed food item—to help us spread holiday cheer.

### Southport Winterfest Flotilla

For the 31st year, the Southport Winterfest Flotilla, sponsored by Cape Fear Yacht Club, Downtown Southport, Inc. (DSI), and the City of Southport, will illuminate the waterfront. Bring chairs and blankets to enjoy the beauty of Christmas



lights bouncing off the water on Saturday, December 13, 6 p.m., along Southport's Waterfront. The Flotilla route will showcase vessels from Old American Fish to Marker 19 near The Landings, then return to continue down the ICW. This year, Cape Fear Radio will broadcast live, and students from the Southport Elementary School Art Program will be judging the sail and power boats of the Flotilla. The Judges' Artwork will be on display at the NC Maritime Museum at Southport during the month of December. Come on down to the waterfront and support all the flotilla participants and enjoy the celebration

Register at [cityofsouthport.com](http://cityofsouthport.com).

'Tis the season for fun, family, and community. So, join Southport for the week-long 2025 Christmas Season celebration.

The following Winterfest Events are covered elsewhere in this issue.

### Fifth Annual Storefront Showcase

on page16.

### Pet Pictures with Santa

on page13.

### Shop-with-a-Cop Concert

on page13.

### Winterfest-ival of Trees

on page17.

### The State Port Pilot Annual Cookie Contest

on page 23.

### Annual Holiday Tour of Homes

on page4.





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