

Spring 2025



Letter from the President



Randy Jones

As we welcome the Spring Season and I start my term as President of DSI, I would like to let you in on all the exciting things that we have planned for 2025. We will be sending out quarterly newsletters to keep you up to date.

Before I can talk about the upcoming activities and events I want to take a moment and give a huge THANK YOU!!! to Peggy Popelars. She was our President for 17 years and has been the leading force in keeping DSI a thriving and vital community organization. Luckily, she is now our Treasurer and I will have the luxury of her knowledge to help me as I lead DSI forward as it evolves.

The Board of Directors has voted to change our By-Laws from a paid membership to a volunteer service organization. This decision was made because we believe that our mission should give the opportunity for everyone to “sit at the table” and to get involved. DSI has worked and will continue to work hard to enhance the quality of life for Southport and

believe that anyone who is interested in volunteering should have the opportunity to be a part of making DSI stronger as it works to benefit the whole community.

As our calendar for 2025 shows we have a full year ahead! We are still active in our cosponsoring of events we have helped with in the past: Concerts in the Park, The Naturalization Ceremony that is part of the NC Fourth of July Festival and the Winterfest Flotilla. DSI will also continue to support the Up Your Arts Banner Project and the Southport Boat Show.

We are excited to announce some new events that will take place this year. In collaboration with other nonprofits and Brunswick Community College, (see the Calendar of Events), DSI will be co-sponsoring the Southport Arts May-nia event. And we are in the development stage of planning with others a major event in the Fall. These new events are ways in which DSI, in conjunction with partner organizations, will provide opportunities for everyone to enjoy the area and give DSI a chance to shine and do what it does best—Put On A Great Event.

Now, we ask that you learn about us, join us in support of the activities and events with which we help and get involved as volunteers assisting DSI to continue to make Southport the place that we love.

I am looking forward to the next two years as your President and can’t wait to see what else we all can do.



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Phone: (910) 279-4616
E-mail: info@downtownsouthport.com
Web: www.DowntownSouthport.com

DSI Mission Statement

Downtown Southport, Inc. is a non-profit volunteer independent organization. It is dedicated to preserving the heritage and charm of Southport. We encourage and support preservation projects, cultural activities, education programs, and tourism making the downtown Southport area a vital, vibrant, year-round community for citizens and guests.

Downtown Southport, Inc. Board of Directors

- Randy Jones / President
- Dina Rousset / Sr. Vice President
- Vacant / Vice President
- Dottie Nixa / Secretary
- Peggy Popelars / Treasurer
- Tish Hatem / Ex Officio
- Linda Pukenas / Emeritus
- Marion Martin / Festivals and Market Chair
- Paul Fisher
- Emily Humphreys
- Sharon Lightbourne
- Mary Ellen Watts Poole
- Joanne Wesson

Content for the DSI Newsletter is due by the 20th of the month preceding issue date. Please provide any announcements or ads in pdf or jpg format.

Judy Beers
Newsletter Editor
judy@southcoastnc.com

Downtown Southport, Inc. 2025 Calendar of Events

Southport Arts MAY-nia

Date: May 17, 2025
Location: 701 N. Lord Street, Brunswick Community College Campus
Time: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

DSI, Co-sponsored with Brunswick Community College, Southport Garden Club
Southport Unity Committee, Caswell Ave Community Garden

Concerts in the Park

Date: Thursdays, May 29 through August 28, 2025 (except July 3rd)
Location: Franklin Square Park, Southport
Time: 6:00 – 8:00 pm

DSI, Co-sponsored with City of Southport, Up Your Arts, Cape Fear Radio

Naturalization Ceremony – North Carolina Fourth of July Festival

Date: July 3, 2025
Location: Fort Johnston, Garrison Lawn
Time: 12 Noon

Fall Festival

TBD
DSI

Winterfest Flotilla

Date: December 13, 2025
Location: Southport Waterfront
Time: 6:00pm

DSI, Co-sponsored with Cape Fear Yacht Club, Rickey Evans Gallery, Fizzy Jane's

Dosher to Host American Red Cross Blood Drive April 25th

*To be held at Jaycee Building in
Southport.*

Dosher Memorial Hospital will host an American Red Cross Blood Drive on Friday, April 25th, from 8:30am -1:30pm at the Jaycee Building, located at 309 N. Fodale Ave. Community members who would like to donate blood are encouraged to sign up on-line at www.redcrossblood.org and enter in zip code 28461 in the “Find a Blood Drive” search tool. Look for the Jaycee Building and event date and click, “See times,” to check schedule availability. Tap on the donation time of your choice and fill in the requested information. All donors are welcome. Please bring a photo ID.

Community members who have questions may call the Red Cross at 910-762-2683 or go to RedCrossBlood.org.



Blessing of the Fleet 2025

Annual Blessing of the Fleet



**Sunday, April 6, 2025
@ 1500 (3:00pm)
Southport Waterfront**

All boats, of all types, are invited to participate
Event sponsored by the Cape Fear Yacht Club

The Cape Fear Yacht Club will sponsor the 2025 Blessing of the Fleet at 3 p.m. sharp on Sunday, April 6 at the Southport Waterfront.

Participants should gather between Morningstar Marina and Indigo Marina and line up in a single file to the west. The Blessing will be initiated with a prayer on Channel 78

Boaters are asked to arrive by 2:30 PM to allow for logistics and safety guidance. VHF radio channel 78 will be used for all communications leading up to and including the start of the ceremony.

All boats; power, sail, big, small, pleasure, commercial, kayaks and Coast Guard are encouraged to participate in this annual event.

and boaters will be asked to file as close to the deck at American Fish Company as you are comfortable then slow down or hesitate while you receive your individual blessing. A Cape Fear Yacht Club banner will indicate the position on the deck where the Chaplin will be stationed. Once blessed, continue for a safe distance then turn to starboard to loop back around to your home port. The procession should move in a clockwise direction.

The Blessing of the Fleet is a tradition that began centuries ago in Mediterranean fishing villages and is meant to ensure a safe and bountiful season. For decades it has been embraced by fishing fleets and yacht clubs to mark the beginning of the sailing/boating season. This event is free to all and all are welcome. ■



WHO IS DSI

Downtown Southport, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, all-volunteer organization supporting other volunteer organizations.

We are dedicated to:

- Preserving the heritage & charm of historic, downtown Southport
- Promoting & encouraging educational, cultural & preservation programs
- Promoting business, tourism & responsible growth in the downtown area
- Making downtown Southport a vital, year-round community for citizens & visitors

Since 2013, CONTRIBUTED over \$210,000 within southport including ...

- Way Finding/Directional Kiosks & Signs throughout Southport
- Funding, creation and printing of new city walking maps with the City
- Southport's Parks & Recs Department for Franklin Square Park & Garrison Lawn
- Fourth of July Naturalization Ceremony
- John N. Smith Cemetery Restoration & Preservation
- Shop Local Project, NC Maritime Museum at Southport, Spt-Oki Interchurch Pantry
- Up Your Arts Banner Project
- Friends of the Library Spt-OKI Harper Library Reading Garden
- Weather Tower Preservation Donation
- Southport Wooden Boat Show, Military Appreciation Day, Garden Club Wreath Project, Shred Events in Southport, Historic Society and so much more
- Southport Planter Boxes to further enhance the beauty of Southport

Our previous sponsorships and/or co-sponsorships include:

- Southport Concert Series
- Southport Summer Market
- Southport Spring Festival with the Kiwanis Club of Southport-Oak Island
- Winterfest Celebration (Festival, Flotilla & celebration overall)
- Support of local businesses via monthly newsletters to over 900 people & co-op opportunities as well as the execution of a Duke grant to help post Covid
- Support of area organizations and businesses via website & social media & sponsorships



To learn more, please visit DowntownSouthport.org



Southport, Inc. (DSI) Donated to the Friends of the Library



Dosher to Participate in Ceremony to Honor Organ and Tissue Donors

Dosher Memorial Hospital is among dozens of hospitals that will partner with HonorBridge on Wednesday April 2nd to simultaneously hold a statewide Donate Life flag raising ceremony and moment of silence. This event promotes the mission of organ, eye, and tissue donation and honors donors, donor families, recipients, and those waiting for a life-saving transplant in North Carolina.

The **Pause to Give Life** event includes hospitals throughout North Carolina. The observance occurs annually in April to kick off the start of National Donate Life Month.

Dosher's flag raising ceremony will take place outside the hospital front entrance on April 2nd at 10:08 am followed by a moment of silence for 30 seconds to honor organ donors and their families. The time of 10:08 highlights that one donor can save eight lives, and the 30 second moment of silence recognizes that

over 3,000 patients are waiting for a life-saving organ transplant in North Carolina.

Dosher invites local residents to attend this brief ceremony at the front entrance of the hospital. Also at the hospital on the morning of April 2nd is Dosher's semi-annual Operation Medicine Cabinet drug take back event from 9:00am-1:00pm. Dosher staff members look forward to connecting with community members at one or both events.

About Dosher

Dosher is an independently owned critical access hospital in Southport and operates a network of medical and surgical services in their service area. Dosher runs five primary care clinics, a walk-in clinic, a general surgery practice, and a women's health clinic, in addition to a nationally recognized Wound Care Center, cardiac rehab, joint replacement, and a full spectrum of therapy services, including physical, occupa-

tional, and speech. Dosher's hospital services include a 24-hour Emergency Department and a 25-bed inpatient care unit. Dosher has 450 employees, 100 medical staff members and 150 volunteers. For more detailed information on service lines, visit Dosher.org.

About HonorBridge

HonorBridge, formerly known as Carolina Donor Services, is the federally designated not-for-profit procurement organization serving 7.5 million people in 77 counties in North Carolina and Pittsylvania County in Virginia. HonorBridge is devoted to building connections that save and heal lives through organ and tissue donation with offices in Chapel Hill, Greenville, and Winston Salem. In North Carolina, over 3,000 people are currently waiting for organ transplants, and nationally, over 100,000 people are on the organ waiting list. For more information, visit HonorBridge.org or call 1-800-200-2672. ■



NC Maritime Museum April Events



Skipper’s Crews

Hop into Reading

April 5, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Designed for all ages, but specifically geared toward younger patrons, Skipper’s Crew features hands-on activities and take-home crafts focusing on combining arts and history. Join us to make Easter Bunny themed bookmarks during the April program. Lights will be dimmed and interactives muted during the first two hours to

provide a calmer environment for those with sensory sensitivities. Programs run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The program is free, but donations are accepted and appreciated.
Deep Dive Into History: Revolutionary Everyman
April 19, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Join us as we delve into the life of an 18th century North Carolina militiaman and learn how they played a key role in the events that

would occur in July of 1775 here on the Cape Fear. The program is part of the museum’s Deep Dive into History series. The drop-in program is designed to give visitors a deeper understanding of our shared past through costumed interpretation. Programs run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and visitors can interact one-on-one with the presenter at any time during the program. ■



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HOLD the DATE! The FIRST ever.....

Southport Arts MAY-nia

MAY 17, 2025 from 9 am-4 pm



Southport Arts MAY-nia

Let The Arts Be With You !! Downtown Southport Inc. (DSI) and Brunswick Community College (BCC) are sponsoring the upcoming Southport Arts MAY-nia. This event is also in collaboration with the Southport Garden Club, Southport Unity Group and Caswell Avenue Community Garden. Please join us at the Brunswick Community College ARTS LAWN, 701 N. Lord Street, Southport, NC, May 17, 2025, 9am-4pm for arts and crafts, plant sales, food vendors, art demonstrations, entertainment and kids activities.

....more GREAT information to come....

Southport Carriage House Inn Opens in Southport



Left to Right: Front row
Savannah Mann
Jack Hamilton, Chamber Board Member
Amy Coggins, Owner
Whiskey
John Mann, Owner
Ben Frazier, Chamber Ambassador
Left to Right: Back Row
Tracy Demeraski, Chamber Ambassador
Sam Coggins
Faye Coggins
Lisa Fosbury
Alan McDonald
Brandon Hill, Chamber Ambassador
Suzanne Foster
Clark Moore

A Southport-Oak Island Area Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting Ceremony was held on March 19th for Southport Carriage House Inn located at

209 E. Moore Street, Southport. Southport Carriage House is a pet-friendly bed and breakfast, the perfect destination for solo travelers, couples seeking a romantic escape,

or families desiring a relaxing getaway. Walking distance of downtown shops, waterfront restaurants and scenic views. <https://carriagehouse-innsouthport.com/>. ■

Beam Signing Ceremony Marks Milestone in Emergency Department Construction



Pictured: Members of the Doshier staff stand behind the hospital leaders in the foreground as they sign the “Last beam.” They are L-R, Doshier Trustee Randy Jones, Chief Medical Officer Mesha Chadwick, MD, Chief Financial Officer Ed Tusa, and President and CEO Lynda Stanley. In the background is the construction site of the new Doshier Emergency Department, which will stand at the corner of E. 9th St. and N. Howe St. in Southport.

Doshier Memorial Hospital marked a significant milestone in Phase 1 of their Master Facility Plan with a beam signing ceremony on Monday March 17th. Hospital staff and leaders gathered to sign the last structural beam to be placed in Doshier’s new Emergency Department, with completion expected in late 2025. The construction of a new Emergency Department was first announced in April 2023 along with several other hospital and clinic expansion and renovation projects, and site preparations began in early 2024. The new Emergency Department will be 8,000 square

feet, doubling the size of the current Emergency Department, and will increase current treatment spaces from 10 to 14, including 9 beds and 5 vertical care chairs to streamline wait times and care for patients of lower acuity.

The signing of the last beam is a time-honored tradition in the construction world that is said to bring good fortune to future occupants of a building. Said Doshier President and CEO Lynda Stanley, “The signing of the last beam commemorates our progress and is a gesture of the shared vision we have for the future of healthcare in our community. I am

touched by the messages of kindness and inspiration that were left by our dedicated team members on the beam and am grateful that the Master Facility Plan upgrades will enable us to meet the growing needs of our service area.”

To stay up to date with Doshier Emergency Department construction and other Master Facility Plan projects, go to Doshier.org/MFP.

Doshier Café will provide healthy refreshments for showcase attendees. There is no cost to attend the showcase or the seminars, and these events are open to the public.■

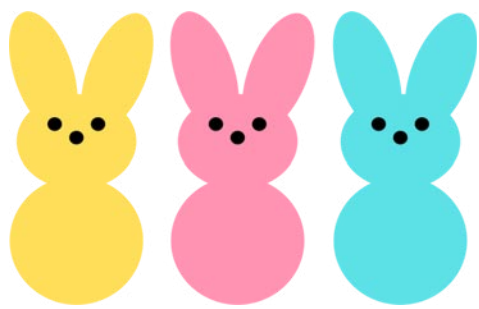
CPR & First Aid Class at Chamber



The Southport-Oak Island Area Chamber of Commerce and We Help at Home teamed up on March 18th to provide the business community a American Heart Association CPR & First Aid Class. Attendees learned skills needed to respond and manager a first aid, choking, or sudden cardiac arrest emergency in the first few minutes until EMS arrives. They also had the option to attend the class for the information or to become certified. Presenters for the training were Stacy Jacobson, RN, BSN, NC-BC, We Help at Home and Joe Snapp, Town of Oak Island Fire Marshal.

We Help at Home provides professional caregivers who assist with daily living activities and household tasks like meal preparation, cleaning, laundry, transportation coordination, errands, and medication reminders.

<https://www.wehelpathome.com/> ■



April
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Maritime Museum program explores the art of 18th century clothing creation



A program at the North Carolina Maritime Museum in Southport helped build to a bigger event scheduled to be held later this year.

Eighteenth-century fashion was the focus of “Stitching the 18th Century,” part of the museum’s Deep Dive into History series. On March 29, attendees had the opportunity to explore the craftsmanship, creativity, and history behind the clothing of the 1700s. This interactive program featured a mantua maker, a professional seamstress who crafted intricate gowns by hand directly on women’s bodies. Visitors were also able to try on various pieces of clothing representing both men’s and women’s attire from the 1740s to the 1780s during the program.

“Fashion in the 18th century was not just about appearance. It communicated who you were, what you did, and where you stood in society,” said Shannon Walker, education cu-

rator at the museum. “Clothing was an important marker of social identity, and creating it was a painstaking and skillful process.”

Walker, who started learning how to sew 18th century clothing more than a decade ago, drafted a mantua — a popular style of draped and pleated dress worn in the 17th and 18th centuries — on a live model over the course of the program.

“The clothing you’ll see and touch in this program is something you couldn’t buy off the rack – it had to be made by hand,” Walker explains. “It’s a very personal and intricate process.”

As part of the museum’s Deep Dive into History series, “Stitching the 18th Century” also ties into the museum’s larger theme this year, marking the 250th anniversary of the burning of Fort Johnston. The burning and destruction of Fort Johnston by more than 500 Whig militiamen during the summer of 1775 spurred the colony of North Carolina into a war. Museum programs planned during the first half of the year will feature several related programs focused on this pivotal historical event and time period, culminating in a special July program.

The museum in conjunction with the City of Southport will host “In The Glorious Cause of Liberty: The 250th Anniversary of the Burning of Fort Johnston” July 19 starting at 9 a.m.

There will be a symposium, living history demonstrations and an evening commemoration focused on the stories and individuals behind this turning point in history.

The April Deep Dive into History also builds toward the July program. “Revolutionary Everyman,” which will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on April 19, delves into the life of an 18th century North Carolina militiaman and how militiamen played a key role in the July 1775 events on the Cape Fear.

These programs are part of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources’ America 250 NC initiative, commemorating the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 2026.

“Stitching the 18th Century” is free and open to the public. Visitors are encouraged to drop in throughout the day to explore the exhibits, interact with the presenters, and immerse themselves in the rich history of 18th-century fashion and craftsmanship.

The museum is located at 204 E. Moore St. in downtown Southport. It is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free. For more information on the museum and its programs, call 910-477-5151 or visit ncmaritimemuseumssouthport.com. ■

2025 Southport Plein Air festival

Mark your calendars for May 1-3, 2025, when one of Southport's most treasured events will be held, the Southport Plein Air festival.

This annual event, hosted by Up Your Arts and the City of Southport, is a favorite amongst artists from near and far and is open to all talent levels. Last year more than 90 artists participated in this 3 day event.

Plein Air, a French term for 'in the open air' means the public will have the opportunity to observe the artists painting outdoors all day Thursday and Friday, and Saturday morning. Southport is enriched with many

scenic painting locations which makes this a favorite spot amongst the artists. Popular painting locations include the Cape Fear River, Southport's historic buildings, impressive live oak trees, and the waterfront with its colorful buildings, serene salt marshes, marinas, and wildlife. The public is encouraged to take a stroll around town and to interact with the artists as they have repeatedly expressed how much they enjoy Southport's hospitality.

Two receptions will be held to welcome the artists to Southport and give them an opportunity to meet and interact with their fellow artists. Haven

Plein Air, where children can try their hand at painting. There will also be a variety of other art forms that will be demonstrated by local artisans and all members of the public are invited to participate and try something new free of charge thanks to the generosity of grants from the North Carolina arts council, via Brunswick Art Council.

At 3 p.m. guests will be asked to leave Franklin Square Park for one hour while the artists set up for the much anticipated wet paint sale. At 4 p.m. guests will be invited to return to the park to view and purchase the paintings the artists created during the 3 day festival.

Following the sale, a panel of judges comprised of selected local artists, will present awards for their favorite paintings. The premier award, the People's Choice Award, is selected by the public. The People's Choice Award recipient has the honor of having their work featured on T-shirts and other graphics promoting the 2026 Plein Air festival.

A raffle will be held for two paintings created and donated by last year's People Choice winner, Denise Nelson. Tickets will be available at the event all day Saturday. The raffle for the paintings will be held at 6 p.m. following the awards ceremony. The winner does not need to be present to win. ■

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of Southport, 307 N. Howe Street, will host them on Thursday, May 1, from 4 to 6 p.m. This happy hour event is open to the public. On Friday, May 2, a private event will be held for the artists at Frying Pan, 319 West Bay Street.

On Saturday, May 3rd, beginning at 10 a.m. music and festivities will be held in Franklin Square Park. The day will start with the ever popular Kids

Caribbean Night on the Cape Fear

Friday April 11, 6 to 9pm

Join us on a private Southport estate for an
unforgettable evening in support of the
NC Maritime Museum at Southport

Live Music

Listen to the gentle
rhythms of Caribbean
music including a steel
drum

Delicious Cuisine

Savor the delicious
Caribbean flavors with

- Dinner
- Wine
- Beer
- A special cocktail

Auction Raffle

Bid on unique items and
experiences, including:

- Golf outing for 4 at BHI
- Boozy Bourbon Box
- Original painting by
renown artist, Karen
Scott



Tickets are \$100 ea.
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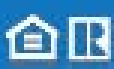
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Healthcare Workers



Teachers

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Dosher Staff Members Support Heart Walk



L-R: Doshers CEO Lynda Stanley, with Margie Guyton and Cindy Register from Environmental Services, who helped raise over \$1,000.00 for the American Heart Association.

Last fall, a team of walkers represented Doshers Memorial Hospital at the Cape Fear Heart Walk in Wilmington. The team, organized by Doshers Environmental Services lead Cindy Register, raised over \$1,000.00 in donations for the American Heart Association. Staff members were encouraged to support the team by purchasing paper hearts in the Doshers Café, where donations of any amount were welcomed. These contributions enhanced fundraising efforts to net a total donation amount of \$1,013.87. Said Doshers President and CEO Lynda Stanley, “I appreciate how our employees rallied to support the important work of the American Heart Association and the initiative that Cindy took to motivate the investment of our staff.”

While American Heart Month is observed in February, the need for heart health awareness continues year-round. Said Stanley, “As we head into spring, this is the perfect season to commit to heart healthy habits. With the warmer weather finally here, now is a great time to follow the physical activity recommendations of the American Heart Association by getting outside to walk or take a bike ride.

With March being National Nutrition Month, we encourage everyone to incorporate heart healthy habits into their eating.”

Doshers provides care for community members recovering from cardiac events through their Cardiac Rehabilitation program and just last year, expanded stroke care with tele neurology technology which enables Doshers to diagnose and treat symptoms of stroke sooner. Said Stanley, “The impact the American Heart Association makes in the realm of heart disease and stroke are meaningful to us and the lives we aim to improve at Doshers.” ■



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*Santa Cruz Australian Wool w/Dove
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Retro Boater w/Navy Brim

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Retro Boater w/Black Band

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Text Judy: 910-523-1107

Member: Downtown Southport, Inc.

Dosher to offer hospital tour Wednesday May 7th

All are welcome

Dosher Memorial Hospital invites community members to take an in-person tour of the hospital on Wednesday, May 7, 2025 at 1:00 pm. This is to give local residents an opportunity to get an up-close look at the services offered and to have questions about the hospital answered by knowledgeable professionals. Tour group will meet in the front lobby of the main hospital building at 924 N. Howe St., Southport. Space is limited therefore an RSVP is requested. Call 910-457-3900, or email marketing@doshier.org to reserve your spot. ■

When submitting ads & articles for the DSI Newsletter, *please remember...*

- ◆ Ads/articles are due by the 20th of the month prior to publication!
- ◆ Send your ads as a PDF and JPG. (At least a PDF).
- ◆ Remember the ads usually publish at the very end of the month prior (FYI on timing of message).
- ◆ Make sure if you are promoting an event that you are following all City, State & CDC guidelines as well as you include all relative information on who to contact for questions.
- ◆ One ad or article per month as a standard guideline.
- ◆ Realtors should not submit ads for specific properties.
- ◆ DSI has the right to reject any material that is not deemed appropriate for public viewing.



When ads/articles are submitted, they are included in our newsletters to almost 500 emails. And...put on our "Events" page on our website and on our social media pages. By submitting your material, you agree to all these vehicles.

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Golf Cart Registration

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WEDNESDAYS 11AM-1PM
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<https://cityofsouthport.com/police-department/#police-issued-permits>

