



Another Successful Big Toy Day



Rain or shine - Kids need Kiwanis! And rain and shine it did on Saturday, October 14, 2023, during this year's Kiwanis Club of Southport-Oak Island-sponsored Big Toy Day! But the weather did not keep families of Brunswick County away. Throughout the five hour event, car after car arrived to enjoy the day. It is estimated

that over 2000 people attended this year's event at the Cape Fear Regional Jetport in order to allow children of all ages an opportunity to climb aboard vehicles including firetrucks, ambulances, military and law enforcement vehicles and even a dump truck. Besides the "big toys" the children also had fun on bouncy castles; practicing good dental hygiene and collecting



trinkets distributed by the generous volunteers that accompany the vehicles. Hot dogs; ice cream, slushies and a variety of other food completed the day. A coordinated blowing of the horns and sirens closed the day's activities. One Mom on the way out said it was her favorite part of the day!!

The Kiwanis Club of Southport-Oak Island wishes to thank all those that made the day a success, to include the wonderful volunteers on the Big Toy Day Committee and all those who volunteered throughout the day; even in the rain!



November 2023

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Membership Meetings

November 2nd @ 8:00 AM

Tyffanie Paganello
Brunswick Family Assistance

November 9th@8:00 AM
BOD Meeting

November 16th @ 8:00 AM
TBD







Kiwanis Club of Southport-Oak Island Installs New Officers and Members to the Board of Directors



At the October 5, 2023 Membership Meeting, Mr. Joe Crostic presided over the installation of new Officers and new members to the Board of Directors (BOD) for the Kiwanis Club of Southport-Oak Island. Congratulations to Jeff Mount who is now the new Club President; Donna Healy-Dean the new President-Elect. Kathleen Bradcovich is on the BOD as the immediate Past President; Peter Berg continues as Vice President; John Ertlschweiger as Secretary; Peg McDonald as Treasurer. New members to the Board of Directors are Jim Nelson, Christy Carleton and Mike Horgan. They join Larry Trainor, Don Halbert and John Cardillo to complete the new Board of Directors for the 2023/2024 year.

(pictured from left to right back row: Joe Crostic, Mike Horgan, Jeff Mount, Kathleen Bradcovich, Jim Nelson, Don Halbert, John Ertlschweiger, and Pete Berg. Front row from left to right: Peg McDonald, Christy Carleton, John Cardillo and Donna Healy-Dean)

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Thursday, November 2nd @8:00 AM

Tyffanie Pagamento
Brunswick Family Assistance

Thursday, November 9th @ 8:00 AM

Board of Directors Meeting (all members are invited)

Thursday, November 16th @ 8:00 AM

TBD



Kiwanis Distinguished Service Award Jeff Johnston

The Kiwanis Club of Southport-Oak Island honored Jeff Johnston at their October 5, 2023 Membership Meeting. Jeff celebrated 34 years of service with Kiwanis International being a member of four (4) different Kiwanis clubs throughout those years. He has been a longstanding member of the Southport-Oak Island Club. He has served on several club and district committees focused on achieving the Kiwanis Mission Statement of improving the world one child and one community at a time. He has held Board positions in all four (4) clubs and was President in two. His signature programs and true loves have been his active involvement and leadership with the Brunswick County Peer Court and volunteering for bi-weekly Meals on Wheels deliveries to those in need of a good meal and thoughtful conversation. Jeff is a tireless volunteer who always says “yes” when you need him.

Congratulations Jeff on your recent Kiwanis retirement and Distinguished Service Award- we salute you!



<https://www.soikiwanis.com/>



Remember that Helenea Grace is the Club's Sunshine Lady. If you are or know one of our club members who is ill, have had surgery, or is experiencing a lengthy health issue, please let Helenea know. She would welcome the opportunity to send out a Kiwanis greeting card to let you/ them know that the Club is thinking of you/them. Likewise, if you are celebrating a momentous occasion — like a significant birthday or anniversary, Kiwanis would like to help you celebrate by mailing you a card.

Helenea Grace heleneagrace18@gmail.com 910-599-6902

John Cardillo



John Cardillo is our “spotlight” member for the month of November. John has only been a member of Kiwanis since September 2021, but he is a huge contributor to the Club. He is on the Board of Directors and Chairs the Club’s Communications Committee. He is an avid volunteer at events like Big Toy Day, Spring Festival, Show our Colors Flag distribution and pick up, etc. The Club is lucky to have John as a member. Read below five fun facts about John and get to know him a bit more.

1. How did you come to live in Southport? Why?

Although I knew I wouldn’t retire before 2020, Kim, my wife, insisted that we start early to look for a place to call home after full-time employment. I think we came to Southport in 2012 or 2013 and simply fell in love with the area. The quaint beauty of downtown Southport, the proximity to the ocean, the wonderful restaurants, and, of course, the friendly people were all very attractive to us. The fact that nearly everyone we met was originally from the Northeast sealed the deal for us!

2. What do you enjoy most about Kiwanis?

Certainly, I enjoy my fellow Kiwanians! But I also enjoy being involved in a club that truly makes a difference. With 30% of the county’s children living in poverty and 60% receiving free or reduced-cost school meals, it’s clear these young people need help overcoming the challenges they face. The opportunity to make a difference in a child’s life and the chance to work on projects that improve the communities in which we live is rewarding.

3. If you could, what would you change about Kiwanis?

I don’t have a specific change in mind, but I do think our club should take the time to analyze what we’re doing and how we’re doing it. To ensure our continued effectiveness, we should determine what’s working, what’s not, and what we can do better. I’d be shocked if some changes didn’t come out of such honest self-reflection.

4. Where did you go to college?

I attended Marietta College, a small liberal arts school in southern Ohio, located on the border of West Virginia. I went there sight unseen (1) because they recruited me hard for their journalism program and (2) because my girlfriend’s stepfather was a graduate, and I was trying to win points! I ended up loving both the school and the community, and I briefly considered staying beyond graduation. Our baseball team was (and is) a Division III powerhouse!

5. What is one thing most people do not know about you?

If you’re from the Northeast, you’re likely familiar with the electronic toll collection system known as E-Z Pass. I was part of the multi-state, multi-agency marketing team that came up with the name



Evening Meeting October 2023



The Kiwanis Club of Southport-Oak Island held an Evening Social Meeting on Thursday, October 26, 2023, at Uncorked by the Sea in downtown Southport. Over 10 Kiwanians and several guests attended the evening event. Our guest speaker was Mr. Paul Witmer who spoke about the Brunswick County Homeless Coalition (BCHC). The Coalition serves as an advocate for people who are homeless and for those in need by increasing awareness and educations of issues, and by providing resources to meet those needs. The BCHC, on average, services 25 households per month who are at-risk or who are already homeless.



The organization maintains a toll-free information and assistance number. Most times they assist residents with power, water and rent needs. They rely mostly on donations and grants and volunteers to complete their mission. If you would like to donate, you can do so at <http://brunswickhomeless.com>



This was our last evening meeting for 2023. Look for future evening meetings to resume in 2024.

Important Dates and INFORMATION

November 8, 2023

Kiwanis Club Blood Drive - Moose Lodge

November 14, 2023

**Rescheduled Speaker Series - Ron Daise 7:00PM
St James Community Center**

February 29, 2024

Tentative - Kiwanis Open House



November Birthdays:

Jim Blackburn, Pat Boyce, Earl Crotts, Joe Day, John Dean, Ed Dougherty, John Ertlschweiger, Jeremy Jones, Greg McDonald, Marta McKenna, Dave Smith, Beth Van Doren, and Patty Voigt.



October Meeting Notes

by Jim Blackburn

October 5, 2023

New Officer and Board Member Installation

- Joe Crostic formally installed the new leaders for 2023-2024

Officers

- President: Jeff Mount
- President-Elect: Donna Healy-Dean
- Past-President: Kathleen Bradcovich
- Vice-President: Pete Berg
- Treasurer: Peg McDonald
- Secretary: John Ertlschweiger

Board Members

- Christy Carleton
- John Cardillo
- Jim Nelson
- Larry Trainor
- Mike Horgan
- Don Halbert

Guest Speaker: Greg McDonald reviewed the Youth Protection Policies and Procedures

- An annual review is required by each club member. If a member was not at this session, another review session will be held after a regular club meeting.
- 1-4 youth suffer some type of abuse or maltreatment. 88% of these cases goes unreported.
- Suicide is the second leading cause of death in children and adolescents
- Kiwanians should act with the highest standard of care when working with the youth.
- Rule of 3: Don't be one-on-one with a child. There should always be 2 adults with one youth present. Or at least two youth present with one adult. Also avoid one-on-one social media, email or text interactions with youth.

October 19, 2023

Jeff Mount convened a small group discussion on the following topics:

1. Thoughts on a later meeting time
2. Where we need help?
3. Member engagement/socials

Each table reported the results of their discussion to the group. Ideas included:

- Changing the meeting start time to 8:30 and to hold occasional evening meetings
- Add an administrative position to the board
- Consider having a social at Joe Crostic's house or perhaps having dinners at a local restaurant. In general, create opportunities for more face-to-face engagements with club members.