



Re-Elect Rich Alt Southport Mayor

Continuing Southport's Path Forward

Weather Tower

The weather tower reconstruction project is another example of citizen participation in supporting the historic nature of Southport. The tower collapsed in 2020 after being subject to the salt air and numerous hurricanes over its nearly 120 years.

Fund-raising hit a slowdown period of several years. As the new mayor, I turned to one of the city's premier fundraisers, Fire Chief Charles Drew, of the Southport Fire Department, to close the gap. In short order the \$79,000 cost for this project was obtained from individual donations and the *Cannon Foundation*.

An archeological company was hired to examine the historic nature of Ft. Johnson as required by state regulations, to ensure that any needed digging would not have a negative impact on this overall historic area.

The tower is being constructed off site in parts that will be assembled at the corner of Bay Street and Dry Street in the same location as the original.

Once erected, the city will hold a ribbon cutting to honor the 60 years that Jessie Stevens Taylor served as the volunteer who raised the storm flags to warn vessels of an approaching storm. President Eisenhower award Ms. Taylor a presidential commendation for her efforts during Hurricane Hazel.

Many hands went into making this slice of Southport history a reality, Thank you one and all.