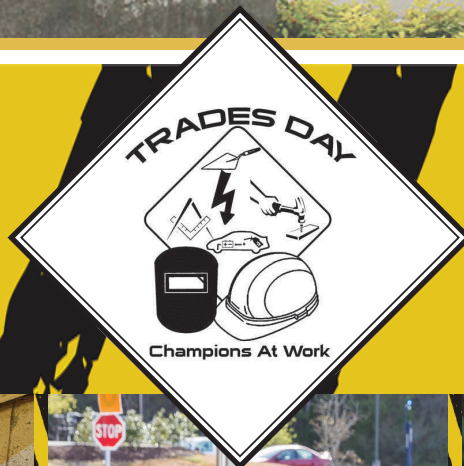


Chamber CONNECTION

CONNECTING BUSINESS, MILITARY & COMMUNITY



See
page 4
for more
info.



Our Chamber Staff

Chamber Officials:

Laurette Leagon, President
president@jacksonvilleonline.org

Anthony Harvey, Chairman

Staff:

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Director of Operations and Governmental Affairs
operations@jacksonvilleonline.org

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Membership Manager
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businessservices@jacksonvilleonline.org

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admin@jacksonvilleonline.org

Alexis Tate
Receptionist
receptionist@jacksonvilleonline.org



1099 Gum Branch Road, Jacksonville NC 28540

The Jacksonville•Onslow Chamber of Commerce’s mission is to be the voice of business in collaborative partnership that work to build and enhance a healthy business climate and a vibrant quality of life.

The Jacksonville•Onslow Chamber of Commerce’s vision is to be recognized as a model in building collaborative partnerships that encourage business growth and sustainable community development.

Thank you to Jesse McDonald of Eastern Sky Photography-NC for her wonderful photos of our various Chamber events.

Eastern Sky Photography-NC
www.easternskyphotographync.com



Better Business Bureau of Eastern NC
5540 Munford Road, Suite 130
Raleigh, NC 27612
Mallory Wojciechowski @ (919) 277-4221
www.bbb.org
mwojciechowski@raleigh.bbb.org
Non-Profit Organizations

Camp Mutt
2441 Onslow Dr, Jacksonville, NC 28540
Ms. Kandi Burkhardt @ (910) 548-3257
www.campmutt.com • info@campmutt.com
Pet Services

Royal Throne Lavatories
441 Buck Newsome Rd., Fremont, NC 27830
Mr. Daniel Newsome @ (919) 920-0368
royalthronelavatories.com
royalthronelavatories@gmail.com
Portable Sanitation Rental/Service

Pelican’s Snowballs
200 S. Marine Blvd, Jacksonville, NC 28540
Ms. Anita Fiscante @ (910) 777-3620
pelicanssnowballs.com
pelicansofjacksonville@gmail.com

Star Medical Clinic
1703 Country Club Rd Ste 103&104,
Jacksonville, NC 28546
Mr. Kevin Scyoc @ (910) 333-0283
www.starmedicalclinic.com
starmedicalclinic1@gmail.com
Medical Office - Family Practice

9 Yards Fitness
113 Eillis Parkway, Jacksonville, NC 28546
Mr. Shaun Jones @ (910) 378-5392
www.9yardsfitness.com
jones.shaun@gmail.com
Fitness Club

Diamond Interior Cleaning
100 Walnut Creek Rd., Jacksonville, NC 28546
Ms. Jessica Riemann @ (949) 413-9303
DiamondInteriorCleaning.com
jessriemann@yahoo.com
Cleaning Service - Commercial Janitorial

Harry Brown Insurance Agency
2223 N Marine Blvd Suite 1
Jacksonville, NC 28546
Mr. Philip Morton @ (910) 219-3244
www.allstate.com
philip.morton@allstate.com
Insurance

Ozoroc LLC, dba Brewed Awakenings
2355 Western Blvd
Jacksonville, NC 28546
Mr. William Corzo @ (910) 219-1776
www.brewedjacksonville.com
corzo5200@gmail.com
Coffee Shops

Onslow County Shrine Club
6 East Thompson St
Jacksonville, NC 28540
Mr. Howard Kahn @ (910) 346-9482
Non Profit

Member Renewals

| | Member Since | |
|---|-------------------|--|
| 92.7 The Beacon | November 16, 2015 | MED First Immediate Care & Family Practice February 25, 2013 |
| Achieve Medical Weight Loss | December 3, 2013 | Missiles & More Museum, Historical Society of Topsail Island October 8, 2013 |
| Advanced Office Solutions Inc. | March 10, 2005 | Moseley TruFoods-Five Guys-Popeyes Fried Chicken August 25, 2011 |
| American Red Cross Blood Services | May 7, 2013 | Omega Psi Phi Fraternity (Phi Lambda Lambda) December 15, 2014 |
| Auto Detail Specialist | March 24, 2016 | Onslow Caregivers, Inc. October 10, 2013 |
| Badcock Furniture | June 23, 2014 | Onslow Grading & Paving, Inc. April 25, 1996 |
| Bear Trail Golf Course | March 10, 2008 | Onslow Water & Sewer Authority March 16, 2005 |
| Carolina Ale House | September 4, 2012 | Pampered Chef January 28, 2016 |
| Century 21 American Properties | February 2, 1999 | Pools Patios and Spas, LLC March 5, 1997 |
| CopyPro | July 21, 2006 | Sanders Ford/Swansboro July 16, 1987 |
| Dairy Queen | April 8, 2014 | Sara Margaret Inn Bed & Breakfast August 22, 2002 |
| E.C. Barton & Co. dba Surplus Warehouse | May 19, 2008 | Scholastic Dreams February 28, 2011 |
| Emerald Coast Construction and Home Inspections | November 11, 1991 | Secure Background Screeners February 6, 2014 |
| Equine Country USA, Inc. | March 7, 2016 | Servpro of Pender/West Onslow April 17, 2012 |
| Gayle Alvis | February 28, 2014 | Southeastern Steel Construction, Inc. March 8, 2006 |
| Grant Sparks | March 27, 2012 | Southern Touch Painting March 9, 2014 |
| Habitat for Humanity, Crystal Coast | February 26, 2010 | Special Events Catering March 23, 2004 |
| Huffman Landscape & Lawn Professionals | January 1, 2001 | Swetang Patel, M.D., P.A. April 26, 2013 |
| J & T Siding Inc. | February 16, 2006 | TEAM Construction, LLC August 12, 2008 |
| J E Thomas and Sons Moving | April 21, 2010 | The Flower Shoppe December 1, 1997 |
| Jacksonville Rotary Club | March 14, 2014 | The Plantation at Jacksonville March 29, 2011 |
| Kixx Builders, Inc. | May 23, 2000 | The Reserve at Jacksonville Commons December 15, 1999 |
| Lazzara’s Pizza | October 13, 1993 | Through the Looking Glass February 29, 2012 |
| Lendmark Financial Services | June 11, 2013 | Ward and Smith, PA October 14, 1997 |
| Liberty Auto Spa | January 20, 2016 | WNCT-Channel 9 December 16, 1998 |
| Longhorn Steakhouse | March 12, 2013 | Woleslagle Enterprises January 9, 2006 |
| | | Your Time Vacations February 22, 2016 |



Ribbon Cuttings

For more information, please call 910-347-3141
or visit us online at www.jacksonvilleonline.org



March 13

Onslow County Kiosk at Albert J. Ellis Airport - Richlands



March 17

The Escape Trials - 1207 Hargett St, Jacksonville



March 18

Marine Chevy Detail and Tint Center - 1408 Western Blvd., Jacksonville



Small Business Week

May 15-19, 2017
Dream Big, Start Small

Monday, May 16, 2017 at 12:00 pm

Duke Energy Citizenship & Service Award Luncheon

Jacksonville Conference Center

800 New Bridge Street

Reservations: \$15.00 per person



Friday, May 19, 2017 at 8:00 am

First Citizens' Small Business

Person of the Year Breakfast

Onslow Memorial Hospital - Cafeteria

Reservation: \$10.00 per person



Limited Seating—Please RSVP to Lisa Murabito at (910) 347-3141 ext. 251 or
businessservices@jacksonvilleonline.org by Tuesday, May 9, 2017



Small Business COMMITTEE
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Congratulations to

Jill Chrislie

from Omega World Travel,

the Chamber's

March Ambassador

of the month





2017 Trades Day Winners:

Automotive:

- 1st: Garrett Harris – Southwest High School**
 2nd: Sam Montague – Southwest High School
 3rd: Bailey Fisher – Southwest High School

Construction:

- 1st: Justin Fried – Jacksonville High School**
1st: Matthew Hofe – Jacksonville High School
 2nd: Dylan Goodwin – Swansboro High School
 2nd: Jacob Jones – Swansboro High School
 3rd: Jacob Parker – Dixon High School
 3rd: Clayton Parker – Dixon High School

Culinary Arts:

- 1st: Ariana Rodriguez – Northside High School**
 2nd: Zach Sharpless – Dixon High School
 3rd: Acquiese Harris – Northside High School

Digital Electronics:

- 1st: Thomas Cluen – White Oak High School**
 2nd: Scott Siler- White Oak High School
 3rd: Brian Carrington – Richlands High School

Electrical Trades:

- 1st: Anthony Rowcliffe – Richlands High School**
 2nd: Will Holley – Richlands High School
 3rd: Trevor Tate – Jacksonville High School

Masonry:

- 1st: Noah Chanthongthip – Swansboro High School**
 2nd: Justin Cortese – Swansboro High School
 3rd: Thomas Edwards – Swansboro High School

Technical Drafting – Level I:

- 1st: Dylan Pirtle – Richlands High School**
 2nd: Dylan Lichenstein – Richlands High School
 3rd: Allison Goodman – Richlands High School

Architectural Drafting – Level II:

- 1st: Chandler Futrell – Richlands High School**
 2nd: Nicklaus Reyer – Richlands High School
 3rd: William Price – Richlands High School

Welding I: Cutting

- 1st: Jason Starr – Richlands High School**
 2nd: Eddie Armfield – Swansboro High School
 3rd: Zoe Gibson – Swansboro High School

Welding II: SMAW

- 1st: Chase Brinson – Richlands High School**
 2nd: Chris Diaz – Swansboro High School
 3rd: Corey Smith – Dixon High School

Thank you to the sponsors and partners:

Signature Sponsor:



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 Under Construction Safety
 Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board
 Onslow County Home Builders Association

Partners:

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 Coastal Carolina Community College
 Onslow County Schools
 Onslow County Home Builders Association
 Eastern Carolina Workforce Development

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 Hilton Garden Inn • Excel Body Works
 Southern Auto Parts • Krispy Kreme
 WyoTech • Marine Federal Credit • Union
 Zaxby's • Jacksonville Builders Supply
 Starbucks – 370 Western Blvd.
 Marrakesh • United Rental

Thank you to all who competed
 and made this competition possible!



Leadership Group

In March the Leadership Group had the pleasure of visiting MCB Camp Lejeune and MCAS New River. Thank you to BGen Weidley and Col Burton for allowing us to tour their installations. Thank you LtCol Adam for the Air Station brief, and Mark Bettler and Julie Robertson for being excellent tour guides.

Thank you to BGen Weidley for his brief at Camp Lejeune. Thank you, also, to Tim McCurry for his brief and to our tour guide Mark Dayoc.



Twenty-Second Annual State of the Community Breakfast

Presented by the Chamber's Governmental Affairs Committee

MCAS New River hosted the State of the Community Breakfast on February 28th. Thank you to Col Burton, Mark Bettler and Julie Robertson for hosting and the assistance. Approximately 240 people attended the event. Thank you to Diana Hensen, Heather and all of the staff at the Officers' Club for the delicious breakfast. Thank you to our speakers: BGen Thomas Weidley, Col Russell Burton, Superintendent Rick Stout, Chairman Jack Bright, Mayor Sammy Phillips, Dr. Deal and CCCC President David Heatherly. These seven speakers presented valuable information to the attendees. Thank you Jones/Onslow EMC who once again was the Corporate Sponsor for The SOC. The SOC will appear periodically on G-10 and Charter 14.



**Jones-Onslow Electric
Membership Corporation**

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Economic Indicators & Other Charts

How to read the Charts:
The Airport Passengers Chart, Tax Reports, Healthcare Stats and Utilities Connect and Disconnects are shown as monthly or quarterly comparisons on the specific rows. The totals shown at the bottom are the Year to Date totals for each year and does not include the numbers shown in Italics.

| TAX REPORTS | | | | |
|---|----------------------|-----------|-----------------|----------|
| MONTHLY TAXABLE SALES: SOURCE: NC DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE | | | | |
| OCCUPANCY TAX: SOURCE: ONSLOW COUNTY | | | | |
| Monthly Report of Taxable Sales | | | | |
| 15-16 | Taxable Sales | 16-17 | Taxable Sales | % Change |
| Jul-15 | \$168,845,706 | Jul-16 | \$173,654,795 | 2.85% |
| Aug-15 | \$165,312,504 | Aug-16 | \$171,787,640 | 3.92% |
| Sep-15 | \$159,849,446 | Sep-16 | \$172,438,330 | 7.88% |
| Oct-15 | \$157,269,722 | Oct-16 | \$157,979,134 | .45% |
| Nov-15 | \$144,167,556 | Nov-16 | \$149,558,400 | 3.74% |
| Dec-15 | \$146,587,089 | Dec-16 | \$159,084,149 | 8.53% |
| Jan-16 | \$175,397,878 | Jan-17 | \$188,820,250 | 7.65% |
| Feb-16 | <i>\$134,525,688</i> | Feb-17 | | |
| Mar-16 | <i>\$146,002,613</i> | Mar-17 | | |
| Apr-16 | <i>\$170,363,433</i> | Apr-17 | | |
| May-16 | <i>\$156,324,629</i> | May-17 | | |
| Jun-16 | <i>\$159,961,445</i> | Jun-17 | | |
| YTD Total | \$1,117,429,901 | YTD Total | \$1,173,322,698 | 5.00% |
| *YTD Total does not include numbers in <i>Italic</i> | | | | |

| Occupancy Tax Report | | | |
|--|---------------------|------------------|-------|
| | <u>2015-2016</u> | <u>2016-2017</u> | % |
| July | \$348,493.26 | \$402,706.74 | 13.4% |
| August | \$301,788.91 | \$284,130.83 | -5.8% |
| September | \$164,132.88 | \$157,461.88 | -4% |
| October | \$102,761.02 | \$120,219.03 | 14.5% |
| November | \$73,658.64 | \$83,262.30 | 11.5% |
| December | \$50,277.54 | \$64,805.58 | 22.4% |
| January | \$62,893.54 | 67,525.27 | 6.8% |
| February | <i>\$64,855.84</i> | | |
| March | <i>\$83,947.63</i> | | |
| April | <i>\$100,502.00</i> | | |
| May | <i>\$125,805.86</i> | | |
| June | <i>\$241,690.37</i> | | |
| Total: | \$1,104,005.79 | \$1,180,110.76 | 6.4% |
| *YTD Total does not include numbers in <i>Italic</i> | | | |

| UTILITIES | | | | |
|--|----------|-------|-------------|-------|
| UTILITIES: SOURCES: CITY OF JACKSONVILLE & ONWASA | | | | |
| City of Jacksonville & ONWASA Water | | | | |
| | Connects | | Disconnects | |
| | 2016 | 2017 | 2016 | 2017 |
| 1st Qtr | 4,538 | 2,861 | 3,074 | 2,012 |
| 2nd Qtr | 5,297 | | 3,768 | |
| 3rd Qtr | 5,397 | | 3692 | |
| 4th Qtr | 3,696 | | 3,003 | |
| YTD Total | 18,928 | 2,861 | 13,537 | 2,012 |
| *YTD Total does not include numbers in <i>Italic</i> | | | | |

| HEALTHCARE | |
|---|--|
| OMH ER: SOURCE: ONSLOW MEMORIAL HOSPITAL | |
| OMH BIRTH: SOURCE: ONSLOW MEMORIAL HOSPITAL | |
| NAVAL HOSPITAL ER: SOURCE: NAVAL HOSPITAL, CAMP LEJEUNE | |
| NAVAL HOSP BIRTHS: SOURCE: NAVAL HOSPITAL CAMP LEJEUNE | |

| Onslow Memorial Hospital Emergency Room Visits | | |
|--|--------|--------|
| | 2016 | 2017 |
| 1 st Quarter | 15,193 | 10,355 |
| 2 nd Quarter | 15,279 | |
| 3 rd Quarter | 15,616 | |
| 4 th Quarter | 15,160 | |
| YTD Total | 61,228 | 10,355 |
| Onslow Memorial Hospital Live Births | | |
| | 2016 | 2017 |
| 1 st Quarter | 363 | 222 |
| 2 nd Quarter | 379 | |
| 3 rd Quarter | 412 | |
| 4 th Quarter | 384 | |
| YTD Total | 1,538 | 222 |
| *YTD Total does not include numbers in <i>Italic</i> | | |

| Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune Emergency Room Visits | | |
|--|--------|-------|
| | 2016 | 2017 |
| 1 st Quarter | 12,638 | 9,070 |
| 2 nd Quarter | 12,039 | |
| 3 rd Quarter | 12,840 | |
| 4 th Quarter | 8,938 | |
| YTD Total | | 9,070 |
| Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune Live Births | | |
| | 2016 | 2017 |
| 1 st Quarter | 467 | 333 |
| 2 nd Quarter | 522 | |
| 3 rd Quarter | 485 | |
| 4 th Quarter | 313 | |
| YTD Total | | 333 |
| *YTD Total does not include numbers in <i>Italic</i> | | |

| TRANSPORTATION | | |
|--|----------|------------|
| PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION: SOURCE: OUTS, JTS | | |
| ONSLow NEW VECh SALES: SOURCE: ONSLOW COUNTY | | |
| ALBERT ELLIS AIRPORT: SOURCE: ALBERT J ELLIS AIRPORT | | |
| Public Transportation Riders -2016 | | |
| System | February | Fiscal YTD |
| Onslow United Transit System | 7,350 | 59,474 |
| Jacksonville Transit System | 10,843 | 78,260 |
| Military Express | 954 | 8,921 |
| Total | 19,147 | 146,655 |

| Onslow County New Vehicle Sales | | |
|------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| | Jan 17 | Feb 17 |
| Cars | 353 | 285 |
| Trucks | 529 | 401 |
| Total | 882 | 686 |
| Year to Date | | |
| Cars | 353 | 638 |
| Trucks | 529 | 930 |
| Total | 882 | 1,568 |

| Albert J Ellis Airport Total Passengers | | | |
|--|--------|--------|----------|
| | 2016 | 2017 | % Change |
| January | 20,658 | 22,039 | -6.2% |
| February | 18,832 | 22,607 | 16.6% |
| March | 23,287 | | |
| April | 24,827 | | |
| May | 26,584 | | |
| June | 27,668 | | |
| July | 29,349 | | |
| August | 27,962 | | |
| September | 25,765 | | |
| October | 25,164 | | |
| November | 26,296 | | |
| December | 26,530 | | |
| YTD Total | 39,490 | 44,646 | 11.5% |
| *YTD Total does not include numbers in <i>Italic</i> | | | |

| HOUSING | |
|--|--|
| ONSLow ABSORPTION RATES: SOURCE: JACKSONVILLE NC MARKET CENTER | |
| Onslow County Absorption Rates 2017 | |

Information provided by Coldwell Banker Fountain Realty, William Sanders.
As of 2/28/17, info obtained from the Jacksonville Board of Realtors MLS.
These numbers do not include: REO, Short Sales, & Townhomes.

| Price of Home | # of Months | # Sold | Sales Rate Per Month | # Currently Active* | # of Month's Of Inventory |
|-----------------------|-------------|--------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| ≤ \$150,000 | 2 | 104 | 52.00 | 307 | 5.90 |
| \$150,001 - \$200,000 | 2 | 56 | 28.00 | 186 | 6.64 |
| \$200,001 - \$250,000 | 2 | 23 | 11.50 | 96 | 8.35 |
| \$251,001 - \$300,000 | 2 | 16 | 8.00 | 41 | 5.13 |
| \$300,001 + | 2 | 22 | 11.00 | 128 | 11.64 |
| TOTAL | | 221 | | 758 | |

| New Construction Price | # of Months | # Sold | Sales Rate Per Month | # Currently Active* | # of Month's Of Inventory |
|------------------------|-------------|--------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| ≤ \$150,000 | 2 | 2 | 1.00 | 10 | 10.00 |
| \$150,001 - \$200,000 | 2 | 34 | 17.00 | 133 | 7.82 |
| \$200,001 - \$250,000 | 2 | 23 | 11.50 | 112 | 9.74 |
| \$251,001 - \$300,000 | 2 | 6 | 3.00 | 49 | 16.33 |
| \$300,001 + | 2 | 6 | 3.00 | 41 | 13.67 |
| TOTAL | | 71 | | 345 | |

BUSINESS STATS

COUNTY PERMITS: SOURCE: ONSLOW COUNTY

CITY PERMITS: SOURCE: CITY OF JACKSONVILLE

City of Jacksonville Building Permits

| February 2017 | # | Value |
|---------------|------------|--------------------|
| Residential | 16 | \$1,069,807 |
| Commercial | 52 | \$1,179,359 |
| Other | 184 | \$26,500 |
| Total | 252 | \$2,275,666 |

County Building Permits

| FY2015-16 | Res BPs | Com BPs | Total Value |
|------------------|-------------|------------|----------------------|
| 1st Qtr Totals | 481 | 102 | \$27,485,456 |
| 2nd Qtr Totals | 340 | 72 | \$74,356,186 |
| 3rd Qtr Totals | 401 | 103 | \$32,447,965 |
| 4th Qtr Totals | 481 | 117 | \$23,980,273 |
| FY Totals | 1703 | 394 | \$158,269,880 |

| FY2016-17 | Res BPs | Com BPs | Total Value |
|------------------|--------------|------------|----------------------|
| 1st Qtr Totals | 457 | 88 | \$23,999,727 |
| 2nd Qtr Totals | 439 | 92 | \$59,968,234 |
| 3rd Qtr Totals | 354 | 111 | \$13,227,243 |
| 4th Qtr Totals | | | |
| FY Totals | 1,250 | 291 | \$106,235,574 |

CAMP LEJEUNE & MCAS

NR GOVERNMENT AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS (GER) CAMP LEJEUNE, NC.

**Camp Lejeune Area Active Duty
USN/USMC Statistics**

| Location | 10/20/2016 | 1/15/2017 |
|---------------------|------------|-----------|
| Camp Lejeune | 29,356 | 29,426 |
| MARSOC | 2,215 | 2,209 |
| New River | 6,725 | 6,728 |
| TECOM Schools | 4,315 | 6,412 |
| Total | 42,611 | 44,775 |
| USMC Deployed Total | 5,454 | 3,021 |

UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES

SOURCE: NC DEPT OF COMMERCE

**Unemployment rates from NC Works
- NC Dept of Commerce**

| | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Area Name | Onslow County |
| Year | 2017 |
| Month | January |
| Labor Force | 63,516 |
| Employed | 59,546 |
| Unemployed | 3,970 |
| Unemployment Rates | 6.3% |

ONSLOW COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS

ASSUMED BUSINESS NAMES, DEATHS, BIRTHS AND MARRIAGE CERTIFICATES FOR THE PREVIOUS 3 YEARS. SOURCE: ONSLOW COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS

Register of Deeds

| Assumed Names | | Deaths | |
|---------------|-----|--------|-----|
| 2014 | 595 | 2014 | 751 |
| 2015 | 568 | 2015 | 786 |
| 2016 | 560 | 2016 | 812 |

| Births | | Marriages | |
|--------|-------|-----------|-------|
| 2014 | 3,948 | 2014 | 2,599 |
| 2015 | 3,718 | 2015 | 2,584 |
| 2016 | 3,519 | 2016 | 2,677 |

EDUCATION

SOURCE: ONSLOW COUNTY PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN

**Onslow County: Child Care Snapshot
Feb. 2017 (State Regulated for children birth to 12)**

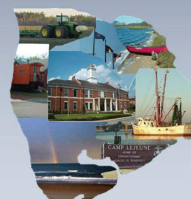
| License Type | # facilities | # slots | # enrolled | Capacity | # staff |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| NC 5 star | 22 | 2,796 | 2,496 | 89.0% | 406 |
| NC 4 star | 13 | 494 | 355 | 72.0% | 66 |
| NC 3 star | 19 | 469 | 394 | 84.0% | 75 |
| NC 2 star | 2 | 13 | 10 | 77.0% | 2 |
| NC 1 star | 10 | 74 | 60 | 81.0% | 10 |
| NC Religious | 6 | 493 | 444 | 90.0% | 82 |
| NC Temporary | 2 | 96 | 34 | 35.0% | 11 |
| NC Provisional | | | | | |
| NC Probationary | 2 | 158 | 136 | 86.0% | 25 |
| Totals | 76 | 4,593 | 3,929 | 76.8% | 677 |

(910) 347-3141 | <http://www.jacksonvilleonline.org>
1099 Gum Branch Rd. Jacksonville, NC 28540**Member
Referral
Program****Your Referrals = New Chamber Members + New Chamber Connections**

The Member Referral Program is a continuous campaign to grow the Chamber and provide Rewards and Recognition Opportunities to participants who forward prospects to the Chamber that result in memberships.

Help Your Chamber Grow...Refer a Member!**How Does It Work?**

- Identify a business, vendor or acquaintance that you feel would benefit from membership in the Jacksonville Onslow Chamber of Commerce.
- Fill out the form below.
- We will contact the referred business and mention your company as the referring business.
- Upon receipt of payment, you will receive a special incentive.
- Your company will be recognized in the Chamber Connection Newsletter along with the new member announcement.



**Referred member must be a new member to the Jacksonville Onslow Chamber

...Onslow County, growing one business at a time.**YOUR INFORMATION:**

(Needed for proper credit to be given)

Name: _____
 Business Name: _____
 Phone: _____
 E-mail: _____
 How has your company benefitted from chamber membership? _____

REFERRED BUSINESS INFORMATION:

Contact Person: _____
 Title: _____
 Business Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____
 E-mail: _____

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Keynote address by Emily Ballance

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DATE: Tuesday, April 25, 2017

TIME: Registration begins - 8:30 am | Program starts - 9:00 am

LOCATION: Marston Pavilion, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune

COST: \$18 (includes breakfast)

Call 910.347.3141 x235 or email
specialevents@jacksonvilleonline.org to register.

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EXECUTIVE SPONSORS



SAVE the Date

Ribbon Cutting

Saturday, April 15th @10:00am
Onslow County Farmers Market
4024 Richlands Hwy, Jacksonville NC

Member Reception

Tuesday, April 18th @ 12:00pm-2:00pm
Open to new, existing or businesses interested in learning more about the Jacksonville•Onslow Chamber.
Get a refresher course on your benefits!
Sports Hall of Fame Meeting Room
1099 Gum Branch Rd. Jacksonville NC
Light Lunch Sponsored Bock Wellness Group

Small Business Committee presents - TAP Talks

Thursday, April 20th @ 8:30am- 4:00pm
1 DAY, 10 SPEAKERS, 100's of Practical and Actionable Business Lessons, Tips, and Tactics to Implement Immediately!
Sports Hall of Fame Meeting Room
1099 Gum Branch Rd. Jacksonville NC

Registration – Use the Member Save Promo Code <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07edwlu9e4b37d8af8&llr=8d4vydyab&showPage=true>

Ribbon Cutting

Saturday, April 22nd @1:00pm
Fallen Saints Tattoo
353-C Western Blvd, Jacksonville NC

Administrative Professionals' Celebration

Tuesday, April 25th, Registration begins – 8:30am
Keynote Address by Emily Ballance
Marston Pavilion, MCB Camp Lejeune
For more information contact Sabrina Thomas at
SpecialEvents@jacksonvilleonline.org and Registration at
www.jacksonvilleonline.org/project/administrative-professionals-celebration/

Ambassador Committee Meeting

Wednesday, April 26th @12:00– 1:00pm
Logan's Roadhouse
1177 Western Blvd, Jacksonville, NC 28546
Operation Thank You following meeting from 1:00-2:00pm
(Open to all Chamber Members)

Jacksonville•Onslow Small Business Week

May 15-19, 2017
Duke Energy Citizenship and Services Award Luncheon Tuesday, May 16, 2017
First Citizens Small Business of the Year Breakfast – Friday, May 19, 2017
For more info contact Lisa Murabito at BusinessServices@jacksonvilleonline.org
Registration and Nominations Forms Available -
www.jacksonvilleonline.org/project/small-business-week/



First Benefits
Insurance Mutual, Inc.
North Carolina Workers' Compensation

25 Years of Successful Worker's Comp Coverage Celebrated

*Partnership between NC Retailers and
First Benefits Insurance Mutual Continues to Grow*

Raleigh, NC - Twenty-five years ago the North Carolina Retail Merchants Association (NCRMA) created a workers' compensation self insurance fund and made it available exclusively to its members; "Created by retailers, for retailers" was the tagline. In the years since, this member-service has transitioned and expanded, but the goal to provide a valuable benefit at a competitive price has remained constant.

In 1992, NCRMA began its worker's compensation program as the North Carolina Retail Self Insurance Fund (dba CompCarolina), providing coverage in the retail business niche focused on three key goals: knowing our product, our customers, and our marketplace. In the last 25 years, there have been changes, but the focus has remained the same.

On January 1, 2008, CompCarolina officially converted from a self-insured fund to a mutual insurance company, known as First Benefits Insurance Mutual, Inc. (First Benefits), a new insurance company licensed by the North Carolina Department of Insurance. The company's reputation grew based on outstanding service and competitive rates.

Now, First Benefits Insurance Mutual is the 20th largest workers' compensation carrier in North Carolina with over 2,100 insured North Carolina businesses represented by over 200 independent insurance agencies statewide. First Benefits is filed with the NC Department of Insurance as an association-based insurance company requiring membership as part of eligibility. In order to serve a more diverse population of NC businesses, First Benefits now partners with additional Associations and, today, more than 70 Chambers of Commerce in North Carolina offer First Benefits Mutual workers' comp insurance as a benefit to their members.

"First Benefits achieved this milestone through the hard work and dedication of the staff and the culture of customer service that exists throughout the entire organization of NCRMA," said Bo Biggs, chairman of the board for First Benefits. "They have dedicated themselves to 25 years of personal attention, timely response and claims efficiencies to provide customers with quality workers' comp coverage and incomparable customer service."

Biggs was a director on the NCRMA board when the workers' compensation program was launched. "As comptroller for K.M. Biggs (in Lumberton, North Carolina) and a longtime policyholder with First Benefits, I have seen the history of service and the efficiency of claims management firsthand."

With competitive pricing and strong attention to detail, First Benefits Insurance Mutual is proud to be firmly grounded in the industry and the state where its business began. Building on its success, over the years First Benefits has expanded its accepted class codes beyond retail to include additional industries such as wholesale, restaurants and lodging, other service industries, agricultural, and light manufacturing, while also looking for opportunities to extend this valuable member service to retailers and other businesses in neighboring states.

As First Benefits has transitioned and expanded its customer base over the last 25 years, their key goal has always been and will remain: to provide quality coverage at a competitive rate with excellent customer service.



Small Business Center SEMINARS



For
April

Small Business Roundtable

Pete Ellis, Jr. • FREE Seminar
Wednesday, 4/19/17 • 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Melton Skills Center, Room 104

In this session, participants will learn best practices and share secrets of success to effectively operate their small businesses.

Small Business Record Keeping

Kim Beauchamp • FREE Seminar
Thursday, 4/20/17 • 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Melton Skills Center, Room 104

This seminar is designed to help small business owners, who are in the start-up and early phases of their business, learn the basics of sound record keeping and involves a mixture of hands-on exercises and detailed record keeping principles.

Weekend Business Boot Camp

Pete Ellis, Jr. • FREE Seminar
Saturday, 4/22/17 • 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Melton Skills Center, Room 104

Learn the key steps for starting a business in this fast-paced seminar. You'll discover how to navigate the battleground of business regulatory agencies, take away a proven business plan template, and leave motivated to reach your small business goals. Topics include: determining if small business ownership is right for you; 5 ingredients for a successful business plan; myths and realities of small business grants; developing your niche; and resources for start-up success.

To see a complete listing of our April seminars, please visit
<http://www.coastalcarolina.edu/sbc/monthly-seminars/>.



MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The Committee's purpose is to maintain and continually improve the relationship between the military and civilian communities.

FEB Service Member of the Month SERGEANT PAUL O. AKINWANDE

Sgt Akinwande (A.K.) was born in Lagos, Nigeria. He moved to the US with his parents when he was 5 years old.

He grew up in Bristol PA; he graduated from Truman High School in Levittown, PA.

During High School A.K. devoted his non-school hours to caring for his mother who suffered with some medical issues. After high school, he immediately joined the Marine Corps. He reported to Boot Camp at Parris Island on 7/29/13, then went to MCT @ Camp Geiger and graduated in Nov '13; he next went to Ft. Leonard Wood for his Engineering Equipment Operator School.

His 1st duty station was at Camp Lejeune with 10th Marine HQ Battery. Less than a year ago he became an NCO.

Awards, Decorations and Medals:

- Earned a Meritorious Mast at MCT SOI-East
- Certificate of Commendation x3
- Letter of Appreciation x7 or more
- Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal
- Good Conduct Medal
- Marine of the 3rd Quarter for 10th Marine Regiment and 2nd Marine Division

- 2nd Marine Division NCO of the YEAR for 2016

He recently re-upped his enlistment for a 2nd term and will execute orders to Iwakuni Japan to serve back in his MOS as an equipment operator. He would like to climb Mt. Fuji while he is there.

He hopes he'll eventually be selected for SSGT but if not, he is interested in a career in law enforcement or as a corrections officer.

Congratulations to the Military Affairs Committee's February Service Member of the Month SGT Paul O. AKINWANDE.



MAR Service Member of the Month CORPORAL PAUL R. COFFEY

CPL Coffey is an Indianapolis Indiana native and a graduate of New Paltz High School. His family moved to Lenoir, NC about the time he finished High School.

CPL Coffey enrolled in college after High School but did the math and realized the dollars were not in his favor and knew he'd eventually join the USMC anyway so he went ahead and did it.

He graduated boot camp in San Diego in April 2013. Next went to MCT at Camp Pendleton, then to Camp Johnson for Financial Management School graduating in Oct '13; he reported to the 3rd Marine Logistics Group in Okinawa Japan and served there for 3 years before reporting to 2nd Marine Logistics Group Camp Lejeune in Jan 2017 where he serves as an accounting NCOIC. His job is to ensure Marines can operator and execute travel arrangements and supplies. He oversees spotting accounting errors and looking for process improvements.

Awards, Decoration and Medals:

- Joint Service Commendation Medal
- Sea Service Deployment Ribbon
- Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal
- Afghanistan Campaign Medal
- Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal
- Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
- National Defense Service Medal

- Letter of Appreciation
- NATO Medal-ISAF Afghanistan

On his last PFT he scored a 270 running the 3 mi in 20:19 and a perfect 300 on his Combat Fitness Test. He has earned his DOD Financial Management Certification Level 1. He describes himself as passionate about his service and never settling. In his off time, he likes to deer hunt and fish for bass on his father's pond up in Lenoir and read about history.

Congratulations to the Military Affairs Committee March Service Member of the Month, CPL PAUL R. COFFEY.



engaged onslow™

Bridal Expo
engagedonslow.com



Congratulations to
Shantoria Palmer,
winner of the
Ultimate Honeymoon Giveaway
from Omega Travel & Cruise.com



Brides-to-be received the royal treatment at the Progressive Dinner Tour the night before the Bridal Expo



Best in show at the Expo!



Best Rookie Booth



Most Interactive Booth



Business Expo Best Overall Presentation



From the desk of Kristen Loflin

The last month has been quite busy for Onslow County Tourism. We have been to Branson, Missouri to Greenville, NC and everything in between. At least, that is how it feels! From conferences to ongoing projects here at home, there is a lot going on. My favorite part? Our partnerships. In the last month, we have promoted Onslow County at a number of travel shows, conferences and travel writers. Without collaboration, many of our projects would not be finished with the quality that we desire.

At the Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, Onslow County Tourism was able to partner with MCCS Lodging to attend the travel expo. This provided an opportunity to promote not only our main attractions out in town but also the services provided to those with D.O.D. access, like Onslow Beach and Inn of the Corps. Airmen and their dependents become aware of an easy beach destination in a very friendly military community.

Through a relationship with the Jacksonville Onslow Sports Commission (JOSC), we are able to double on marketing efforts for events. JOSC has done a wonderful job in bringing in sports related activities and events. In March, Hot Import Nights took to the pavement. We were grateful to assist JOSC with marketing by utilizing our tools and network. Thus, are reach is even greater.

Our biggest partnership has developed with the Jacksonville Tourism Development Authority (JTDA). Both offices have small staffs and by collaborating we are able to accomplish more. Over the next year, we will be rolling out several projects together. From a brand new visitor guide to some new advertising, a new collaborated look will add a more quality to our efforts. We have also come together in bringing travel writers to town. These writers focus on certain



attractions and interests that will encourage visitors to travel to new destinations. When you can get a story out of these writers your return in investment is great. Most publications will only let you buy a one-page advertisement at the most. When a writer features your destination, you are receiving multiple pages of advertisement. Last month, we were grateful to assist the JTDA with several writers and bloggers who came in for a weekend. These writers focused on outdoor recreation and history.

At the Visit NC 365 conference in Greenville, NC, we were able to once again combine efforts at a Public Relations roundtable. By packaging the city attractions with the county's, we are able to easily sell a "weekend" destination. The more there is to do, the longer the stay. Over the next few months we will be able to see the results of this combination.

Also in March, a lodging study was launched to assist our marketing efforts moving forward. This survey, sent to our hotel partners, will determine what audiences are currently coming and where we need to improve.

We hope that efforts such as these will continue to bring awareness to Jacksonville and Onslow County. I can speak on behalf of Onslow County Tourism and say that we are grateful for the community partnerships. Without this support, our jobs would be much harder. Thank you! I am excited to see where the next year takes us!

Service Rewards

A community is only as good as the citizens that live and work within its borders. This month we celebrate the frontline employees that go the extra mile to make your visits an above average experience in Swansboro, Sneads Ferry, Richlands, and Jacksonville! The five individuals, representing five area businesses; have performed their duties with a positive outlook, a kind word, and valued information for our visitors and citizens - they went the extra mile! Onslow County Tourism and the Jacksonville•Onslow Chamber of Commerce want to thank them for their efforts and encourage you to do the same. Good service is good business!



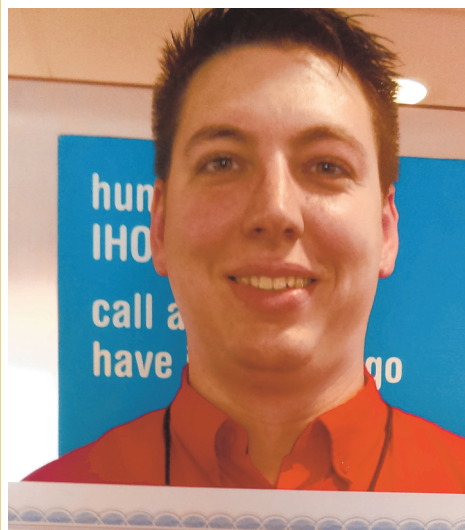
Jadie Miller
Port City Java



Iesha Owens
Food Lion



Ricky Gorges
Spencer's



Bradley Reagan
I Hop



Annette Taylor
Quality Inn, Sneads Ferry