



2017 Small Business of the Year ~ Mike's Farm



The Small Business Committee and the Chamber Board decided, that after 27 years, it was time to rename the award from Small Business Person of the Year to the First Citizens Small Business of the Year to better encompass businesses with multiple ownership and family ownership. The First Citizens Bank Small Business of the Year demonstrates:

- Excellence of knowledge and integrity in their business or professional field
- Is an active Chamber member
- And demonstrates the Chamber's Mission to support to our citizens, the military, and local business community.

It is fitting that the 2017 Small Business of the Year falls into that family-owned category. As a lot of the stories around here start, it all began when a young man was stationed at Camp Lejeune and after his service to his country decided to call Onslow County home. He and his wife raised corn, tobacco, farm animals, and four children in Back Swamp. In the mid 80's Mike and Theresa Lowe took over that farm and raised Christmas trees.

In the true spirit of entrepreneurship, they began to diversify. First a small gift shop was added, then a full-service bakery, and then a restaurant that is now known as the jewel of Onslow, Mike's Farm. In the height of the season 120 employees make Mike's Farm run like a well-oiled machine. Mike's Farm is one of those unique family friendly places that travel writers just love to visit. It has received more media coverage than any attraction in our county.

Mike and Theresa could have certainly stayed with the status quo and had continued success, but once again that entrepreneurial spirit kicked in.

When their daughter Caitlin was making wedding plans and looking for a location, the Father-of-the-bride, like most, was a bit taken aback by the prices to rent a venue, and decided to build one instead of renting one, which works out wonderfully because Theresa has a gift for and loves planning weddings. The success was immediate. So, if you want to have a wedding at Mike's Farm in 2018, you better get on the books NOW! The Lowe family also gives back to the community in many ways without a lot of fanfare. It's just their nature. They are strong supporters of this chamber and its effort in tourism development.

They participate in the Engaged Onslow Bridal Expo, treat the Hospitality Group and Tourism Advisory Committee to a wonderful meal and Christmas light show, provides wonderful gifts for travel writers and other visitors, and is always open to a photo shoot. The school programs at the farm teach the youth about growing and harvesting crops. Students get to see how apple cider is made from an old timey cider mill, and they get a little taste of "life on the farm" as Granny

Mae share her stories of days gone by.

Mike's Farm also supports the Back Swamp Ruritan Club and the Richlands Future Farmers of America. The 80 acres at Mike's Farm lends itself to future growth. What's on the horizon? Who knows, but I am sure it will be just as successful as their previous endeavors. Congratulations to the 2017 Small Business of the Year award for Mike's Farm.

Budda Howard, Senior Vice President for First Citizens Bank present Theresa and Mike Lowe with the Small Business of the Year Award.



Our Chamber Staff

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president@jacksonvilleonline.org

Anthony Harvey, Chairman

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910.347.3141

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 Lara E Photography for her wonderful photos of our various Chamber events.

www.laraephoto.com

New Members

Felicity Thrift Shop

1108 Maplehurst Rd., Jacksonville, NC 28546
Ms. Jennifer-Jade M Morton @ (910) 554-9861
penniesforfelicity@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/ShopatPenniesforFelicity
Non-Profit Organizations

Unprofane Rider Inc.

Jacksonville, NC 28546
Mr. Mathew Hershner @ (229) 548-0169
unprofaneriders@gmail.com • www.unprofaneriders.org
Non-Profit Organizations

OVM Financial

Jacksonville, NC 28540
Mr. Chris Reagan @ (910) 526-0017
info@ovmfinancial.com • www.ovmfinancial.com
Mortgage Companies

EZ Medical Weight Loss

29 Office Park Dr., Jacksonville, NC 28546
Ms. Joy Mozie @ (910) 478-6311
ezmedicalweightloss@gmail.com • ezmedicalweightloss.com
Health and Wellness

Neverland and Main Travel

Jacksonville, NC 28540
Ms. Jennifer Kellum @ (910) 389-6359
jennifer@neverlandandmaintravel.com
www.neverlandandmaintravel.com
Travel Agencies

Princess For Paws

Jacksonville, NC 28540
Ms. Anna Pastor @ (910) 358-0368
princessforpaws@gmail.com • www.princessforpaws.org
Non-Profit Organizations

Heart and Soul Barbecue

521 Yopp Road Suite 100, Jacksonville, NC 28540
Mr. Raymond Burnett @ (910) 333-1276
heartandsoulbarbecue521@gmail.com
Restaurants

Gadget Geeks

445 Western Blvd, Jacksonville, NC 28546
Mr. Dean Ingraham @ (910) 382 3532
info@wefixgadgets.com • www.wefixgadgets.com
Cellular Sales and Service

Member Renewals

| | Member Since |
|---|--------------------|
| Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority-Tau Omega Omega Chapter | April 8, 2009 |
| Alpha Mortgage Corporation | June 3, 2014 |
| Anew Hearing Care, LLC | April 8, 2015 |
| Ashlie Fortune Agency - Nationwide Insurance | May 7, 2012 |
| Bailey & King Insurance | September 28, 1980 |
| Bayada Home Health Care | April 9, 2014 |
| BG Digital Group | March 31, 2009 |
| Budget Blinds of Jacksonville | September 23, 2004 |
| Cabin Creek Campground Inc. | March 19, 2008 |
| Century 21 Sweyer & Associates | June 20, 2011 |
| Childrens Museum of Jacksonville dba Zing Zumm | June 6, 2011 |
| Cleveland Enterprises | April 22, 1997 |
| Col Mike Williams | May 18, 2010 |
| Convergys | March 17, 2008 |
| Courtyard by Marriott | May 27, 2014 |
| CRI Properties | April 14, 1999 |
| Crystal Coast Tent & Event Rentals, LLC | April 27, 2011 |
| Dell Military Program | June 19, 2014 |
| Eastern N.C. Chapter Alzheimer's Association | May 13, 2016 |
| Fayetteville Publishing Company | March 16, 2015 |
| Feeling Great! Sleep Medical Center | April 14, 2005 |
| Flying Dutchman Travel Agency | April 1, 1982 |
| Heartland Payment Systems | March 13, 2006 |
| Holiday Inn Express | September 3, 1985 |
| Inner Banks Media | July 17, 2012 |
| Thunder Country 96.3 WRHT; Talk of the Town - 94.1 WNBU | |
| Jacksonville - Alumnae Chapter-Delta Sigma Theta | January 31, 2011 |
| Jacksonville Breakfast Rotary Club | June 21, 1989 |
| Jacksonville Mall | September 1, 1981 |
| Jacksonville Rotary Club South | May 14, 2014 |
| Jacksonville Storm | April 26, 2016 |
| JFG Inc. | April 27, 2011 |
| Lashea Cavers - LegalShield Independent Associate | April 21, 2016 |
| Liberty Tire, Inc. | April 3, 2012 |
| M & S Sanitation | March 24, 2011 |
| MOJJJO: Mayfields Martial Arts Academy | May 1, 2012 |
| Montessori Children's School, Inc. | April 26, 1996 |
| Mr. Chuck Quinn | January 14, 2011 |
| Mr. Philip Law | April 15, 2015 |
| Museum of the Marine | November 12, 2010 |
| NABVETS Military Women's Chapter (NMWC) | March 18, 2016 |
| New River Harmony Barbershop Chorus | June 20, 2005 |
| North Carolina Division State Parks | May 2, 2016 |
| Olive Garden | June 19, 2008 |
| Onslow Pregnancy Resource Center | July 30, 2014 |
| Peak Performance Sports & Physical Therapy | Dec. 21, 2004 |
| PEERS Family Development Center | May 24, 2003 |
| Pepsi Cola / Minges Bottling Group | September 25, 1979 |
| Philippians Place | February 25, 2015 |
| Public Radio East | July 22, 2009 |
| Rock Creek Golf & Country Club | April 15, 2002 |
| SgtMaj Scott T. Booth, USMC (Ret) | April 7, 2015 |
| Shepard Floors | June 4, 2002 |
| Southeastern Medical Oncology Center | June 5, 2013 |
| Southeastern Outdoor Products, Inc. | May 6, 2015 |
| Special Olympics Onslow County | August 20, 2003 |
| The Accidental Artist | June 2, 2015 |
| The Houser Law Firm, P.C | May 9, 2016 |
| The Sue Cruddas Real Estate Team | May 26, 2006 |
| Twin Peaks Restaurant Jacksonville | April 10, 2015 |
| Uniquely You Photographs | April 29, 2010 |
| Valencia Park Executive Offices | August 20, 2003 |
| Vital Signs | October 1, 1999 |
| Webster University | March 9, 2014 |
| Welch and Avery, Attorneys at Law | May 6, 2011 |
| Williamsburg Place Apartments | April 26, 2011 |



Ribbon Cuttings

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



May 1

NorthStar Cafe - 2355 Western Blvd, Jacksonville NC



May 12

CPR (Cell Phone Repair)



May 12

Firehouse Subs - 4200 Western Blvd



May 15

The Morgan Building (Onslow Community Outreach) - 1 Dewitt St., Jacksonville



May 18

Blank Canvas Awareness Art - Commerce Center



May 20

Duck Donuts - 1092 Hampton Inn Way, Jacksonville



May 26

Diamond Interior Cleaning - 1099 Gum Branch Rd, Jacksonville

Chamber Superstar! ★

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Thank you for being such a strong supporter of the Chamber.

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 | \$134,525,688 | Feb-17 | \$142,931,810 | 6.25% |
| Mar-16 | \$146,002,613 | Mar-17 | \$152,227,168 | 4.26% |
| Apr-16 | \$170,363,433 | Apr-17 | | |
| May-16 | \$156,324,629 | May-17 | | |
| Jun-16 | \$159,961,445 | Jun-17 | | |
| YTD Total | \$1,400,958,202 | YTD Total | \$1,468,481,676 | 5.04% |
| *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 | \$64,855.84 | \$71,982.00 | 9.8% |
| March | \$83,947.63 | \$92,556.64 | 9.3% |
| April | \$100,502.00 | \$110,117.39 | 8.73% |
| May | \$125,805.86 | | |
| June | \$241,690.37 | | |
| Total: | \$1,353,311.26 | \$1,444,766.79 | 6.3% |
| *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 | 4,753 | 3,074 | 3,193 |
| 2nd Qtr | 5,297 | 1,458 | 3,768 | 995 |
| 3rd Qtr | 5,397 | | 3692 | |
| 4th Qtr | 3,696 | | 3,003 | |
| YTD Total | 4,538 | 6,211 | 3,074 | 4,188 |
| *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 | 15,173 | 15,609 |
| 2 nd Quarter | 15,279 | 4,795 |
| 3 rd Quarter | 15,616 | |
| 4 th Quarter | 15,160 | |
| YTD Total | 15,173 | 20,404 |
| Onslow Memorial Hospital Live Births | | |
| | 2016 | 2017 |
| 1 st Quarter | 363 | 365 |
| 2 nd Quarter | 379 | 86 |
| 3 rd Quarter | 412 | |
| 4 th Quarter | 384 | |
| YTD Total | 363 | 451 |
| *YTD Total does not include numbers in <i>Italic</i> | | |

| Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune Emergency Room Visits | | |
|--|--------|--------|
| | 2016 | 2017 |
| 1 st Quarter | 12,638 | 13,326 |
| 2 nd Quarter | 12,039 | 3,724 |
| 3 rd Quarter | 12,840 | |
| 4 th Quarter | 8,938 | |
| YTD Total | 12,638 | 17,050 |
| Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune Live Births | | |
| | 2016 | 2017 |
| 1 st Quarter | 467 | 514 |
| 2 nd Quarter | 522 | 150 |
| 3 rd Quarter | 485 | |
| 4 th Quarter | 313 | |
| YTD Total | 467 | 664 |
| *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 - 2017 | | |
| System | April | Fiscal YTD |
| Onslow United Transit System | 6,375 | 73,596 |
| Jacksonville Transit System | 9,426 | 97,203 |
| Military Express | 2,058 | 12,659 |
| Total | 17,859 | 183,458 |
| Onslow County New Vehicle Sales | | |
| | Mar 17 | April 17 |
| Cars | 353 | 306 |
| Trucks | 425 | 368 |
| Total | 788 | 674 |
| Year to Date | | |
| Cars | 991 | 1,297 |
| Trucks | 1,365 | 1,733 |
| Total | 2,356 | 3,030 |

| Albert J Ellis Airport Total Passengers | | | |
|--|--------|--------|----------|
| | 2016 | 2017 | % Change |
| January | 20,658 | 22,039 | -6.2% |
| February | 18,832 | 22,607 | 16.6% |
| March | 23,295 | 25,629 | 9.1% |
| April | 24,831 | 26,552 | 6.4% |
| 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 | 87,618 | 96,827 | 9.5% |
| *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 4/30/17, 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 | 4 | 251 | 62.75 | 302 | 4.81 |
| \$150,001 - \$200,000 | 4 | 138 | 34.50 | 197 | 5.71 |
| \$200,001 - \$250,000 | 4 | 61 | 15.25 | 103 | 6.75 |
| \$251,001 - \$300,000 | 4 | 35 | 8.75 | 55 | 6.29 |
| \$300,001 + | 4 | 47 | 11.75 | 137 | 11.66 |
| TOTAL | | 532 | | 794 | |

| | | | | | |
|------------------------|-------------|--------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| New Construction Price | # of Months | # Sold | Sales Rate Per Month | # Currently Active* | # of Month's Of Inventory |
| ≤ \$150,000 | 4 | 3 | 0.75 | 9 | 12.00 |
| \$150,001 - \$200,000 | 4 | 91 | 22.75 | 121 | 5.32 |
| \$200,001 - \$250,000 | 4 | 50 | 12.50 | 88 | 7.04 |
| \$251,001 - \$300,000 | 4 | 15 | 3.75 | 40 | 10.67 |
| \$300,001 + | 4 | 9 | 2.25 | 45 | 20.00 |
| TOTAL | | 168 | | 303 | |

BUSINESS STATS

COUNTY PERMITS: SOURCE: ONSLOW COUNTY

CITY PERMITS: SOURCE: CITY OF JACKSONVILLE

City of Jacksonville Building Permits

| April 2017 | # | Value |
|--------------|------------|--------------------|
| Residential | 16 | \$390,749 |
| Commercial | 45 | \$1,562,426 |
| Other | 192 | \$155,475 |
| Total | 253 | \$2,108,650 |

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 | 595 | 163 | \$31,527,943 |
| 4th Qtr Totals | 206 | 42 | \$6,758,608 |
| FY Totals | 1,697 | 385 | \$122,252,512 |

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 | March |
| Labor Force | 64,060 |
| Employed | 60,854 |
| Unemployed | 3,206 |
| Unemployment Rates | 5.0% |

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
April 2017** (State Regulated for children birth to 12)

| License Type | # facilities | # slots | # enrolled | Capacity | # staff |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| NC 5 star | 21 | 2,641 | 2,432 | 92% | 397 |
| NC 4 star | 14 | 640 | 501 | 78% | 75 |
| NC 3 star | 18 | 472 | 425 | 90% | 74 |
| NC 2 star | 2 | 13 | 10 | 77% | 2 |
| NC 1 star | 10 | 123 | 95 | 77% | 16 |
| NC Religious | 6 | 493 | 447 | 91% | 82 |
| NC Temporary | 2 | 59 | 42 | 72% | 5 |
| NC Provisional | - | - | - | - | - |
| NC Probationary | 2 | 158 | 134 | 85% | 252 |
| Totals | 75 | 4,599 | 4,086 | 82.8% | 903 |

May Ambassador of the Month

In April, the Ambassador Committee formed a Task Force. The Task Force which consists of skilled and highly involved members of the Chamber. It is through this Task Force that our members are greeted by an Ambassador who acts as their guardian angel; whose main mission is to ensure that our new members are integrated, educated and guided through the Chamber benefits with ease.

During the month of May, one Task Force member made the two-hour trek to visit Better Business Bureau of Eastern NC and Royal Throne Lavatories two of our newest members based in Raleigh! It was through the Task Force that Lashea Cavers solidified her connections and educated herself on the businesses she was visiting. She and in turn applied and became an accredited business of the BBB! Lashea's outgoing personality, positive attitude, and drive for success is an inspiration to others and it is why Lashea is May's Ambassador of the Month!



Jacksonville • Onslow
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
(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!**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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*When you care about
where you live*

Congratulations to the 2017 Jacksonville•Onslow Leadership Graduates

Jennifer Andrews
Project Chair

Laura Bigley
Graduation Chair

Naomi Thompson
President

Rachel Griffin
Sergeant-At-Arms

Riley Eversull
Secretary

Brent Williams
Vice-President

Crystal Beard
Vanessa Ervin
Latonya Lettley Frost

Kristen Loflin
Linda Mathiasen
Justin Meadows
William Rogers

Heather Shafer
Wanda Bryant Wills
Luke Woodruff



The Leadership group had a busy May.

They traveled to Raleigh to meet with our Legislators. It was a very informative day. Thank you to Sen Brown, Rep Cleveland and Rep Shepard for your time and your valuable input. Thank you to Pamela Ahlin for taking care of the arrangements and for your time. The group finished their project, renovation of the kitchen area of one of the homes at Carobell. Carobell was pleased with the outcome. The class worked hard and the kitchen is beautiful. They also held their graduation.



MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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

MAY Service Member of the Month Sgt Pamer, Eric M.

Sgt Pamer, Eric M. from Barabton, OH son of Laura Kempel and Rodney Pamer distinguished as the Service Member of the Month (SMOM) for the month of May by the Jacksonville•Onslow Chamber of Commerce.

Sgt Pamer has always been extremely active and engaged, during high school he played football, baseball, and worked for a tree service company. Upon graduation of high school Sgt Pamer enlisted in the Delayed Entry Program (DEP) and continued to work until he shipped to recruit training.

Sgt Pamer went to recruit training in June of 2010 and graduated in September of 2010. He completed Marine Combat Training (MCT) in October of 2010 and was sent to Twentynine Palms, CA for Field Radio Operators Course. Upon completion of his formal Military Occupation Specialty (MOS) training he joined 5th Battalion, 10th Marines, Sierra Battery until June of 2012. His next duty station was 2d Marine Regiment, Headquarters Company from June of 2012-August 2014. Sgt Pamer then executed a Permanent Change of Station (PCS) to Okinawa, Japan to work at 4th Marine Regiment from August 2014-October 2016. While at 4th Marine Regiment, Sgt Pamer deployed to South Korea, Australia, and participated in numerous training exercises on mainland Japan. Currently Sgt Pamer is

serving as the Assistant Radio Chief the 8th Communication Battalion. Sgt Pamer hopes to get promoted to Staff Sergeant in the near future and with the ultimate goal of obtaining the rank of Master Gunnery Sergeant.

Sgt Pamer has been described by his leadership as an enthusiastic and devoted Marine who gets involved in his Marines personnel lives and has built a trust where they are comfortable seeking his guidance on and off duty. He embraces the objective of Marine leadership of mission accomplishment and troop welfare. His moral courage is exceptional and his energy is endless.

Recently, Sgt Pamer was recognized as the Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) of the 2nd quarter for 8th Communications Battalion and took home the award for II MEF Headquarters Group for the same period. He was recognized as the Honor Graduate at Transmission Supervisor Course. In his off duty time Sgt Pamer enjoys hunting, building firearms and hopefully will get his '97 Camaro Z28 over to the race track.

His personnel awards include: Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Meritorious Mast x3, and numerous Certificates of Appreciation.



The Richlands C.H.E.W. Backpack Program honored with the 2017 Duke Energy Citizenship and Service Award

Duke Energy recognizes stand-outs in our communities with the Duke Energy Citizenship and Service Award. This is a tribute to individuals, businesses or groups who make a difference by using their time, talents, and compassion to positively impact the lives of others. Recipients of the award help foster a culture of citizenship and service that acts as a catalyst for others to become involved in civic and social activities. Onslow County is home to over 187,000 citizens. 25,250 of that total population accounts for students. More than 40% of the student population is receiving free or reduced lunches due to their socio-economic status. Of that number, over 10,000 children are only receiving or at risk to only receiving, these meals solely due to the school breakfast and lunch system.

In the Richlands community, there are approximately 690 at risk children in both our primary and elementary schools. This alone sets the path for a much more massive achievement gap in education based on income—much more so than the base achievement gap that is now twice the black- white achievement gap.

As an effort to veer our youth and future leaders away from that course, a collaborative effort from our neighborhood churches, businesses, and towns officials partnered together to create the C.H.E.W. Backpack Task Force. Beginning in May 22, 2014, these organizations launched the C.H.E.W. Backpack Program in Richlands. (C.H.E.W.) Children Healthy Eating on Weekends Backpack Program is currently impacting the lives of at least 100 of the most vulnerable children and their families in the Richlands community. The C.H.E.W. Backpack Task Force provides oversight in the implementation of the C.H.E.W. Backpack Program in the Richlands community. Every Friday, volunteers pack food items at the Mission Center @ Richlands United Methodist Church and distribute backpacks to at least 100 children identified by schools' social workers as "vulnerable children." They represent students from Richlands Primary School, Richlands Elementary School, Stateside Elementary School and Trexler Middle School.

The program partners and collaborates with local churches, schools, United Way, Richlands Rotary Club, Richlands Community Outreach Ministry (RCOM), and Piggly Wiggly totaling up to over 60 volunteers. Since the program's launching, the task force has reached from 9 vulnerable children (1 school) in 2014 to 101 vulnerable children (4 schools) as of March 2017.

By incorporating holism, community listening, and empowerment they push these students as well as the community to grow and develop beyond their potential.

Their mission to fight systemic food insecurity among our children in the Richland community is the reason why they were chosen to receive the 2017 Duke Energy Citizenship and Service Award.



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From the desk of Kristen Loftin

Happy Summer!

Beach season is well upon us and it's obvious that we are in tourism season. In celebration of the heavy tourist season, Onslow County Tourism has been traveling to get word out of the best beaches around (in our opinion anyway). The first full week of May annually marks National Travel and Tourism Week, as designated by US Travel Association. In celebration, Visit North Carolina Welcome Centers invite any tourism partners to set up a booth to meet visitors who are passing through. A big thank you to the centers located on the NC/VA border and the NC/SC border for allowing us to come celebrate with you!

Another way we are encouraged to celebrate is sharing our tourism stories based on a chosen theme. This year's theme focused on the individuals behind our industry. We chose several "Faces of Travel" throughout Onslow County and the story behind their business. So who are some of these faces behind Onslow County Tourism? Let me introduce you to some special people:

Meet Lisa Whitman-Grice of the Onslow County Museum. Lisa is Onslow County's unofficial historian. If you need to know something about our area, she is the resource to ask! Lisa is definitely a native as her grandmother's families both lived here since the 18th century. Lisa thrives on the stories of Onslow County from the past, present and future. It's these stories that she enjoys sharing with others, especially the school groups that come through the museum. Do you know the history of Onslow County? Take a visit to the museum and learn where our community started. After all, Lisa challenges all of us to be "a tourist in our own back yards".

Let me introduce you to Lance and Marilyn Ledoux of Bayonet Enterprise Cruises, a luxury yacht charter. You can find this Captain and his First Mate cruising the waters of the New River in first class fashion. The best part? You can join them! The Ledoux decided to retire in Jacksonville after a career in the Marine Corps. Tired of hearing Marines lament that there isn't anything fun to do here, the Ledoux decided to provide something cool and unusual. Being able to meet all the guests and rejoicing in their adventure on the water is what Lance and Marilyn enjoy about their business. Do you want a few hours of relaxation on the water? Reserve a cruise with the Bayonet now!

You may know the history of the Montford Point Marines but do you know their local storyteller?

Meet Houston Shinal of the Montford Point Marines Memorial and Museum. Houston, a Marine himself, decided to stay after developing meaningful relationships. His passion is fueled by his personal interaction with many of the original Montford Point Marines. Seeing the expressions of these men during their stories and the pride they hold leaves quite an impression. Have you visited the memorial?

We all love food, right? Riverview Café in Sneads Ferry has been serving delicious dishes to customers since 1946. Danny Wood has been the manager for 17 of those years. Like many residents, Danny came to the area after his other married a Marine and he has chosen to stay ever since. A restaurant known for their fresh seafood, shrimp in particular, Danny strives to make every year a little better than the previous year for Riverview Café. When you walk in the door, expect Danny and the staff to come say hey as he loves conversing with all patrons. Do you have a favorite dish at Riverview Café?

Swansboro is becoming known for their local eateries and shopping. But, did you know one restaurant in particular also has boutique hotel rooms available for your next vacation? Church Street Pub is one of the popular choices in town but next time check out Church Street Inn as well. Marty and Harriette Proctor, owners and beloved residents of Swansboro, came to the area for its beauty and safety for their family. Initially started as a simple coffee and bake shop, the deli was added after many occurrences. The need for more space drove another expansion and the Irish pub was added. Seeing a need for downtown waterfront lodging, the Proctors decided to add the second story and five suites opening the Church Street Inn. Their favorite part? You guessed it; the people they get to meet! The waterfront views and safe, small town environment doesn't hurt either.

North Carolina is becoming known for all the craft breweries within her borders. Onslow County may not have a signature beer but we do have our own whiskey and moonshine! Meet Don Walton, owner of Walton's Distillery. A native of Jacksonville, Don came home after attending law school at University of Kentucky. While living outside of Lexington, Don toured a lot of distilleries. Thus, his interest in distilling himself was born. Shortly after returning back to Onslow County, Don began his search into opening Walton's Distillery. Turns out that Don is continuing the family business as his mother's family has made moonshine for generations. He enjoys sharing the distilling process with those interested and who he gets to meet. If you have the chance to tour the facility, make sure Don is there and will get to learn twice as much! Have you tasted any of Walton's products? Look into a tasting and tour today!

Learn more about these 'Faces of Travel' at www.onlinonslow.com. We hope to continue sharing the individuals behind our industry with you each month. Who knows? Maybe you will learn about something and someone new. After all, sometimes learning the story behind our attractions is the best part.

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!



Jeanette Dattilo
I Hop



Shaquille Shorter-Porter
Dairy Queen



Timothy Hines
CC'S Pizza



Cory Carpenter
Arby's



Lindsey Simpson
Logan's