

# Chamber CONNECTION

CONNECTING BUSINESS, MILITARY & COMMUNITY



*Thank you to our sponsors*



*Honoring  
our Local  
Public Safety  
Professionals  
9th Annual  
Public Safety  
Awards*

DETAILS ON PAGE  
**3**

# Our Chamber Staff

## Chamber Officials:

**Laurette Leagon**, President  
president@jacksonvilleonline.org

**Cindy Edwards**, Chair

## Staff:

**Janet Bowen**  
Director of Operations and Governmental Affairs  
operations@jacksonvilleonline.org

**Tricia Purcell**  
Membership Manager  
membership@jacksonvilleonline.org

**Lisa Murabito**  
Military Affairs Manager  
mac@jacksonvilleonline.org

**Sabrina Thomas**  
Special Events Manager  
specialevents@jacksonvilleonline.org

**Donna Hammonds**  
Tourism Manager  
tourd@jacksonvilleonline.org

**Melissa Maloney**  
Administrative Services Manager  
admin@jacksonvilleonline.org

**Caitlin Diaz**  
Business Services Manager  
businessservices@jacksonvilleonline.org

**Rebecca Gamboa**  
Commerce Center Coordinator  
coordinator@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.

# New Members

## JULY

**Phase1Safety, LLC**  
423 Scott Ave, Jacksonville  
Mr. David Degnan @ 910-378-9807  
First Aid Training

**Arby's**  
408 South Marine Blvd., Jacksonville  
Ms. Kelsey Layer @ 910-577-0038  
Restaurant Franchisee

**TV & Stage Productions**  
400 Forest Grove Ave, Jacksonville  
Mr. Chris Parr @ 910-650-9518  
Entertainment

**Franco Design Concepts and Consulting for Brand and Image**  
131 Windy Point, Sneads Ferry  
Mr. Scott Franco @ 574-220-5331  
Graphic Design

**St. Julia A.M.E. Zion Church**  
112 Kerr St., Jacksonville  
Rev. Dr. Amy S. Ciceron @ 910-346-6899  
Churches

**ContactUS LLC**  
3700 Fishinger Blvd., Columbus  
Mr. Trevor Friesen @ 614-984-2399  
Customer Service Center

**Wise Fox Wellness**  
1368 Piney Green Rd, Jacksonville  
Mr. Jeffrey W. Fox, L.Ac. @ 910-233-5081  
Health and Wellness

# Member Renewals

## JULY

	Member Since
American Red Cross Onslow County Chapter	8/1/1991
Caro-Vettes, Inc.	2/1/2012
City of Jacksonville	1/1/1991
Coastal Carolina Community College	9/12/1979
Coldwell Banker Fountain Realty	4/29/1998
Excel Body Works Inc.	5/15/1984
Jacksonville Country Club	8/4/1989
M&A Pro Cleaning, Inc.	4/7/2004
Milestones Preschool & Enrichment Center	9/13/2016
Mr. Dan T. Oliver	8/23/2012
OVM Financial	5/11/2017
Princess For Paws	5/25/2017
Special Events Catering	3/23/2004
Stillwater at Southbridge	6/2/2014
Thompson, Brown and Company	7/8/2013
University of Mount Olive at Jacksonville	7/24/2006
Viamark Advertising	9/6/2013

# Onslow County Government Center

234 NW Corridor Blvd  
Jacksonville, NC

MISSION BBQ



11:30am



12:00pm

Public Safety  
**AWARDS**

**THURS, AUG 30th**



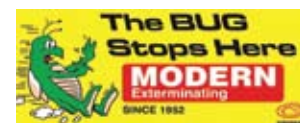
**JOEMC**  
Jones-Onslow Electric  
Membership Corporation

A Touchstone Energy® Partner



Jacksonville • Onslow  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**SANDERS**   
Savings. Service. Sanders.



RSVP to Sabrina Thomas 910-347-3141 ext. 235  
[SpecialEvents@JacksonvilleOnline.org](mailto:SpecialEvents@JacksonvilleOnline.org)





## MED Week Awards Luncheon

*Monday, October 1st 12:00-1:00pm Cost \$12*

Join us as we present the Fairfield Inn & Suites Minority Entrepreneur of the Year to **Barbara Holder of Jacksonville Beauty Supply** and the Linda L. Richardson Minority Business Advocate of the Year to **Carobell**

Montford Point Marine Association, 148 Brynn Marr Road, 28540

## MED Week Mingle

*Tuesday, October 2nd 4:00-7:00pm*

Legends of Onslow recognition begins at 5:30pm.

Mix, mingle and consider a donation to the African-American Heritage Trail Restoration!

Jacksonville Center for the Arts 826 New Bridge Street, 28540

*Legends of Onslow: Lashea Cavers, Fernando Schiefelbein, Craig and Carla Torrey*

## African-American Heritage Trail Ribbon Cutting

*To be determined*

Join us for a ribbon cutting as we honor the Woodson Elementary School of Richlands as our 21st African-American Heritage Trail Historical location.

Richlands High School, 8100 Richlands Hwy, 28574



**Jacksonville • Onslow**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

***2018 Minority Enterprise Development Week***  
**October 1-5, 2018**



Modern Exterminating  
Jones-Onslow EMC  
Marine Federal Credit Union  
Ray Properties & ABA Rentals  
National Automotive Group  
Uniquely You Photographs  
Richlands Chamber of Commerce  
Richlands STAR Chapter 342  
Omega Lodge 292 Richlands

Buy Tickets at [www.JacksonvilleOnline.org](http://www.JacksonvilleOnline.org) or contact Lisa Murabito at (910) 347-3141 ext. 226, [MAC@jacksonvilleonline.org](mailto:MAC@jacksonvilleonline.org)



# Ribbon Cuttings



*June 20th*

## ContactUS

3085 Richlands Hwy Suite 8. Jacksonville, NC 28540



*July 13th*

## Arby's Grand Opening

408 South Marine Blvd. Jacksonville, NC 28540



*July 31st*

## Fresh Blends

Jacksonville Mall Food Court



# MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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

## July's Service Member of the Month Sergeant Brandon A. Robinson, USMC

Sgt Brandon A. Robinson is distinguished as the Service Member of the Month (SMOM) for the month of July by the Jacksonville•Onslow Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee.

Sgt Robinson was born in Marion, OH. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in August 2011. Recruit Robinson attended boot camp at Parris Islands, SC. After graduating, Private Robinson was then transferred to Camp Geiger, NC where he attended the School of Infantry (SOI). Pvt Robinson was promoted to Private First Class in February 2012. Upon completion of SOI, PFC Robinson was stationed at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, HI with 1st BN 3rd MAR DIV in February 2012 where he served as a Rifleman.

While assigned to 1st BN 3rd MAR DIV, PFC Robinson was promoted to the rank of Lance Corporal in August 2012. LCpl Robinson deployed to Okinawa, Japan in December 2012 to support the Marine Corps Unit Deployment Program. During his deployment, he attended exercise Cobra Gold in March 2013 as an Infantry Automatic Rifleman. LCpl Robinson then attended the Joint Exercise between the United States Armed Forces and the Republic of Korea Marines in 2013.

LCpl Robinson was then promoted to the rank of Corporal, meritoriously, in March 2014. Cpl Robinson later deployed in June 2014. For his second deployment to Okinawa, Japan in support of the Marines Corps Unit Deployment Program.

In March of 2015, Cpl Robinson lateral moved to be a V-22 Flight Line Mechanic. He received orders and was then stationed at New River, NC with VMM-264, MAG-26, 2nd MAW. He then attended the Center of Naval Aviation Technical Training Center (CNATT) in New River, NC. Upon completion, he was assigned the Military Occupational Specialty of 6116 and transferred back to VMM-264. Shortly after, Cpl Robinson was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in November 2015. Sgt Robinson then went on to become the only Combat Marksmanship Trainer in VMM- 264 in December 2015.

In June of 2016, while assigned to VMM-264 (REIN), Sgt Robinson deployed for his third deployment with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit aboard the USS Wasp. During his deployment, he served as a Flight Line Mechanic & an Aerial Observer in support of Operation Odyssey Lightning. He later returned back to New River, NC in December 2016 serving as a Flight Line Mechanic, Plane Captain, Collateral Duty Inspector & Aerial Observer. Later, Sgt Robinson went on to become the Phase Division Chief/Coordinator in March 2017. Sgt Robinson later received orders in September 2017 to the Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training located at Marine Corps Air Station New River, NC where he is currently serving as a MV-22B Flight Line Instructor Evaluator.

Sgt Robinson's leadership state that his dedication to instructing and

advancing his personal qualifications and influence, established him as an invaluable asset to the Flightline Division. They continue to state that as a qualified Flightline instructor, Sgt Robinson not only continues to directly mentor and train the initial accession Marines in his class, but extends his positive and motivational influence to all those around him.

Sgt Robinson's future plans include finishing his Intelligence Studies degree at American Public University and continues to play a part in the community of Jacksonville as a volunteer. While at CNATT, he plans to become a Master Training Specialist within the year and submit a Warrant Officer package.

Sgt Robinson's personal awards include (1) Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, (2) Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, (1) National Defense Service Medal, (1) Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, (1) Global War on Terrorism Medal, (2) Korean Defense Medals, (3) Sea Service Deployment Ribbons, (2) Certificates of Commendation, (1) Meritorious Mass, (2) Rescue Citations, and (3) Letters of Appreciation

Congratulations to the Jacksonville Onslow Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee July Service Member of the Month, Sgt Brandon A. Robinson, USMC.







**Discover...** new ideas!  
**Learn...** about science & nature!  
**Laugh...** with new friends!

## Upcoming Programs

Check out all of the programs we have coming up at Sturgeon City! To be taken to our website for more information just click on the picture above the program name!



### Little Learners

August 21: Animal Movements

September 4: Storytime! Under the Sea

September 18: Ocean Commotion



### Parent's Night Out

August 10: Reach for the Stars

September 14: Heads Up



### Homeschool Street Science

September 6: Session A - Sensational Senses

September 19: Session B - Sensational Senses



### Interession Programs

September 17-21: Journey to the Center of the Earth

September 24-28: Nature Navigators



### Saturday Street Science

September 15: Sensational Senses

50 Court St, Jacksonville, NC 28540  
 (910) 938-5079. [www.sturgeoncity.org](http://www.sturgeoncity.org)

On June 22nd the Jacksonville-Onslow Chamber of Commerce partnered with Sturgeon City Institutes to host their annual business before hours at the Youth Center. This event is centered around Sturgeon City Institute students testing out their networking skills with distinguished members of the community. Pictured is Lindsey Gress of NC Works, Laurette Leagon, President of the Jacksonville-Onslow Chamber of Commerce, Bob Dupois, chairman of Military Affairs Committee and lastly Scott Smith, Director of Jacksonville Sports Commission.





# 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				
16-17	Taxable Sales	17-18	Taxable Sales	% Change
Jul-16	\$173,654,795	Jul-17	\$176,001,283	1.35%
Aug-16	\$171,787,640	Aug-17	\$175,923,030	2.41%
Sep-16	\$172,438,330	Sep-17	\$170,773,046	-0.97%
Oct-16	\$157,979,134	Oct-17	\$166,205,341	5.21%
Nov-16	\$149,558,400	Nov-17	\$158,839,850	6.21%
Dec-16	\$159,084,149	Dec-17	\$166,147,995	4.44%
Jan-17	\$188,820,250	Jan-18	\$190,951,446	1.13%
Feb-17	\$142,931,810	Feb-18	\$145,494,737	1.79%
Mar-17	\$152,227,168	Mar-18	\$157,865,496	3.7%
Apr-17	\$183,028,780	Apr-18	\$184,676,634	0.90%
May-17	\$167,072,441	May-18	\$172,895,493	3.49%
Jun-17	\$163,332,351	Jun-18		%
YTD Total	\$1,821,582,897	YTD Total	\$1,865,774,351	2.36%
*YTD Total does not include numbers in <i>Italic</i>				

Occupancy Tax Report			
	2016-2017	2017-2018	%
July	\$402,706.74	\$391,718.29	-2.7%
August	\$284,130.83	\$345,186.90	21.49%
September	\$157,461.01	\$184,118.54	16.93%
October	\$120,219.03	\$123,496.32	2.73%
November	\$83,262.30	\$96,428.37	15.81%
December	\$64,805.58	\$69,491.16	7.23%
January	\$67,525.27	\$81,254.97	20.33%
February	\$71,982.00	\$85,695.58	19.05%
March	\$92,556.64	\$110,256.28	19.12%
April	\$110,117.39	\$120,142.13	9.10%
May	\$154,642.07	\$150,439.80	-2.71%
June	\$247,486.99	\$324,388.74	31.07%
Total:	\$1,856,895.85	\$2,082,617.08	12.15%
*YTD Total does not include numbers in <i>Italic</i>			

UTILITIES				
UTILITIES: SOURCES: CITY OF JACKSONVILLE & ONWASA				
City of Jacksonville & ONWASA Water				
	Connects		Disconnects	
	2017	2018	2017	2018
1st Qtr	4,753	4,953	3,193	3,821
2nd Qtr	5,185	5,378	3,194	4,983
3rd Qtr	5,311		4,713	
4th Qtr	4,284		4,077	
YTD Total	9,938	10,331	6,387	8,804
*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		
	2017	2018
1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	15,609	15,280
2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	14,779	15,462
3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	15,124	
4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	15,124	
YTD Total	30,388	30,742
Onslow Memorial Hospital Live Births		
	2017	2018
1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	365	307
2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	325	303
3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	388	
4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	358	
YTD Total	690	610
*YTD Total does not include numbers in <i>Italic</i>		

Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune Emergency Room Visits		
	2017	2018
1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	13,326	13,134
2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	11,538	13,393
3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	13,686	
4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	13,925	
YTD Total	24,864	26,527
Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune Live Births		
	2017	2018
1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	514	480
2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	483	459
3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	542	
4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	350	
YTD Total	997	939
*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 - 2017-18		
System	June	Fiscal YTD
Onslow United Transit System	7,787	90,230
Jacksonville Transit System	10,378	120,279
Military Express	1,147	14,446
Total	19,312	224,955
Onslow County New Vehicle Sales		
	FEB 18	MAR 18
Cars	242	256
Trucks	388	435
Total	630	691
Year to Date		
Cars	620	876
Trucks	954	1,389
Total	1,574	2,265

Albert J Ellis Airport Total Passengers			
	2017	2018	% Change
January	22,039	19,905	-9.6%
February	22,607	21,064	-6.8%
March	25,629	27,481	6.7%
April	26,552	26,425	-0.5%
May	28,701	28,587	-0.4%
June	27,482	26,867	-2%
July	28,753		%
August	29,818		%
September	25,210		%
October	27,400		%
November	25,138		%
December	24,586		%
YTD Total	153,010	150,329	- 1.7%
*YTD Total does not include numbers in <i>Italic</i>			

HOUSING	
ONSLow ABSORPTION RATES: SOURCE: JACKSONVILLE NC MARKET CENTER	

Onslow County Absorption Rates 2018					
Information provided by Coldwell Banker Fountain Realty, William Sanders. As of 6/30/18, 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	6	507	84.50	231	2.73
\$150,001 - \$200,000	6	427	71.17	210	2.95
\$200,001 - \$250,000	6	205	34.17	122	3.57
\$251,001 - \$300,000	6	75	12.50	48	3.84
\$300,001 +	6	103	17.17	113	6.58
TOTAL		1317		724	
New Construction Price	# of Months	# Sold	Sales Rate Per Month	# Currently Active*	# of Month's Of Inventory
≤ \$150,000	6	5	.83	7	8.40
\$150,001 - \$200,000	6	124	20.67	124	6.00
\$200,001 - \$250,000	6	158	26.33	99	3.76
\$251,001 - \$300,000	6	61	10.17	51	5.02
\$300,001 +	6	29	4.83	46	9.52
TOTAL		377		327	



**BUSINESS STATS**

COUNTY PERMITS: SOURCE: ONSLOW COUNTY

CITY PERMITS: SOURCE: CITY OF JACKSONVILLE

**City of Jacksonville Building Permits**

June 2018	#	Value
Residential	12	\$201,493
Commercial	49	\$339,034
Other	216	\$33,572
<b>Total</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>\$574,099</b>

**County Building Permits**

FY2017-18	Res BPs	Com BPs	Total Value
1st Qtr Totals	678	174	\$31,124,290
2nd Qtr Totals	697	123	\$40,257,582
3rd Qtr Totals	713	143	\$34,061,981
4th Qtr Totals	889	181	\$34,853,330
<b>FY Totals</b>	<b>2,977</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>\$140,297,183</b>

FY2018-19	Res BPs	Com BPs	Total Value
1st Qtr Totals			
2nd Qtr Totals			
3rd Qtr Totals			
4th Qtr Totals			
<b>FY Totals</b>			

**CAMP LEJEUNE & MCAS**

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

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

Location	10/15/2017	3/15/2018
Camp Lejeune	29,896	31,243
MARSOC	2,255	2,287
New River	6,454	6,535
TECOM Schools	4,748	4,800
Total	43,353	44,865
USMC Deployed Total	4,338	5,638

**HEATING  
AND  
COOLING**

**IS OUR SPECIALTY....**

Jacksonville Area 910-347-7133  
Wilmington Area 910-686-4442

[www.humphreyheating.com](http://www.humphreyheating.com)**Unemployment rates from NC Works  
- NC Dept of Commerce**

Area Name	Onslow County
Year	2018
Month	May
Labor Force	64,812
Employed	62,121
Unemployed	2,652
Unemployment Rates	4.1%

**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	
2015	568	2015	786
2016	560	2016	812
2017	580	2017	804

Births		Marriages	
2015	3,718	2015	2,584
2016	3,519	2016	2,677
2017	3,535	2017	2,629

**EDUCATION**

SOURCE: ONSLOW COUNTY PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN

**Onslow County: Child Care Snapshot  
June 2018** (State Regulated for children birth to 12)

License Type	# facilities	# slots	# enrolled	Capacity	# staff
NC 5 star	21	2,720	2,556	94%	416
NC 4 star	8	218	202	93%	28
NC 3 star	21	534	492	92%	87
NC 2 star	2	13	10	77%	2
NC 1 star	10	123	106	86%	16
NC Religious	6	504	466	92%	71
NC Temporary	3	350	324	93%	34
NC Provisional					
NC Probationary					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>4,462</b>	<b>4,156</b>	<b>93.0%</b>	<b>654</b>

**COLDWELL  
BANKER**

**FOUNTAIN REALTY**

**910.455.2977**

**PREMIER OFFICE**

**Calendar of Events**

**Aug 17th & 18th**  
27th Annual King Mackerel Tournament  
Sneads Ferry

**August 23th**  
McDonalds Ribbon Cutting 404 Western Blvd  
11am

**August 23th**  
Richlands Elementary School Ribbon Cutting  
12noon

**August 29th**  
Jacksonville Board of Realtors Ribbon Cutting  
1pm

**Aug 30th**  
Public Safety Awards 11:30am-1:00pm  
Onslow Government Center

**Sept 11th**  
Patriot Day Observance 8:15am  
Lejeune Memorial Gardens Jacksonville

**September 13th**  
Fairway Outdoor 510 Court Street  
Ribbon Cutting  
9am

**Sept 22nd & 23rd**  
Moore Buick New River Splash Jacksonville  
Saturday SUP Races- start at 10am.  
Sunday Triathlon- start at 7:30am,  
5k- start at 8:30am.

**Sept 21st & 23rd**  
Topsail Island Jeep Week-Topsail Island  
(Spanning six towns and two counties)

**ABA**  
RENTAL PROPERTIES INC.  
910-347-4049 | Jacksonville, NC

*When you care about  
where you live*



**MOTIVATIONS PRESENTS**

**3<sup>rd</sup> THE ANNUAL**

**Pillar Of Strength Awards Banquet**

Gloria Taylor's  
"Motivations"  
Worldwide Broadcast  
[www.MotivationsWithGloriaRadioShow.com](http://www.MotivationsWithGloriaRadioShow.com)

**CONGRATULATIONS 2018 HONOREES!**  
**GET YOUR GOWN AND TUXEDOS READY!**

Psalmist: Vivian Hargett

Master/Mistress Of Ceremony  
Torrey & Lajuan Mills

Guest Speaker:  
Ashley Medina

Guest Speaker: Tyrone Jr.  
(NSHS)

**Honorees For 2018:**

Mrs. Lois Jamison	Mrs. Monique Black	McMike Foye	Principal Jerome Gidrey
Mrs. Mary Moore	Mrs. Cathy Darden	Pastor Reginald Brindley	Judge Mr. Albert Kirby Jr.
Mrs. Alice Sutton	Alderman Victor Taylor	Mr. Terrence Reese	Mr. James Abrams

DOORS OPEN AT 5PM | EVENT STARTS AT 6PM  
**THE FLAME CATERING & BANQUET CENTER**

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
910.526.1873 • GLORIA TAYLOR

**SATURDAY  
SEPTEMBER  
22**

**TICKETS COST  
\$35.00**

The Jacksonville.Onslow Chamber of Commerce Governmental Affairs Committee will present three Meet the Candidates Forums September 26, 2018.

The line-up is shown below

**10:30** – NC Senator and NC House of Representatives

**3:30** – Onslow County Board of Education

**5:30** - Onslow County Commissioner

Sponsored by:



All Forums will be held in the City Council Chambers, Jacksonville City Hall, 815 New Bridge Street, Jacksonville.

If you have questions please call Janet Bowen at the Chamber office 347-3141 ext. 224 or email [operations@jacksonvilleonline.org](mailto:operations@jacksonvilleonline.org)



# Conference Room Rental Information



**Jacksonville • Onslow**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## Sports Hall of Fame Room

1-4 hours Member Rate: \$75

Non-member Rate: \$150

5-8 hours Member Rate: \$150

Non-member Rate: \$300

Seats: 28-68



## Executive Room

1-4 hours Member Rate: \$50

Non-member Rate: \$110

5-8 hours Member Rate: \$100

Non-member Rate: \$220

Seats: 20-40



## Virtual Office

Member Rate: \$7 per hour

Non-member Rate: \$14

Complementary beverages are not included

Seats: 4



## Past Chairman's Room

1-4 hours Member Rate: \$30

Non-member Rate: \$65

5-8 hours Member Rate: \$60

Non-member Rate: \$130

Seats: 8



## Storm Room

1-4 hours Member Rate: \$40

Non-member Rate: \$90

5-8 hours Member Rate: \$80

Non-member Rate: \$175

Seats: 16



## Need a room?

The Jacksonville Onslow Chamber of Commerce has rentable rooms that can provide a comfortable environment to fit your business needs.

Almost every room is customizable. We have conference, classroom, and theater style set up available.

Each room comes with free Wi-Fi. Complementary soda, coffee, and ice vary by room.

For more information or to reserve a room, please contact the Commerce Center Coordinator at (910) 347-3141 ext. 221 or [coordinator@jacksonvilleonline.org](mailto:coordinator@jacksonvilleonline.org)

Joe Ramirez, Director Government and External Relations, Regional Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Coordinator, Camp Lejeune and Marine Corps Air Station New River was the speaker at the Governmental Affairs Committee meeting in June.

He discussed public partnership relationships and why they are important. There are several military/public working groups. Some of the groups include: public works, law enforcement, fire departments, education and recreation. Installations are having cuts in budgets as the money is going to expeditionary forces. Due to the cuts the installations are looking into service agreements. Cities are working on partnerships with the Base for services.



**Pictured left to right: Ron Massey, Luke Woodruff, Joe Ramirez and Junie Christian.**

## Partnership. Powered by Duke Energy.

At Duke Energy, we're committed to building business relationships that bring innovative ideas to the table and create new opportunities – for our business and for yours.



[www.duke-energy.com](http://www.duke-energy.com)



# WORKERS' COMP THAT WORKS FOR YOU.



Delivering personalized customer service, professional underwriting, competitive pricing and efficient claims management for over 25 years.

**Experienced. Responsive. Efficient.**

**FirstBenefits.org**  
**888.393.2667**



**FIRST Benefits**  
INSURANCE MUTUAL  
WORKERS COMPENSATION



# Lejeune Memorial Gardens

## *Honoring Our Heroes*

Lejeune Memorial Gardens is located at the gateway to downtown Jacksonville on Montford Landing Road off of Lejeune Boulevard. This is where residents, military members and visitors come to honor those who serve our country and remember those who have given the greatest sacrifice for our freedom.

**Beirut Memorial** - This is the largest military memorial paid for from private funds and reflects the devastating loss suffered by the Marines and our community on October 23, 1983. Now viewed as the opening salvo in the War on Terrorism, the memorial honors those who lost their lives when a truck bomb destroyed the Marine barracks in Beirut Lebanon and the subsequent actions. The words "They Came In Peace" reflects how the Marines were assigned as peacekeepers in this dangerous space.

**Vietnam Veterans Memorial** - The Vietnam Veterans Memorial is the second largest Vietnam Veterans Memorial in the nation and one of only a few that lists all the names of the fallen. The Memorial includes an entry wall with symbols for all branches of the military, a walkway and bridge with French design, a dome, a fountain, and a glass wall with etched names of those MIA, POW or dead.

**Montford Point Marine Memorial** - From 1942 to 1949, the first Black Marines, reluctantly admitted to the Marine Corps in a time of segregation, had to "fight for the right to fight" while serving in the segregated base now named Camp Johnson in honor of one of their own. While no official record exists of all the Marines who served during this time, the wall of more than 20,000 stars reflects each member of a group who became distinguished in their warfighting.

**9/11 Memorial Beam** - This World Trade Center beam was the first one out of New York City and the only one delivered to a Marine Base on the back of a New York City fire engine. From the leather helmets of the fire service to the leathernecks of the Marine Corps, it reflects the appreciation of the fire service for the Marines being the first in to Afghanistan after September 11, 2001 to seek out those who caused the attack on the Twin Towers.

**Eagle, Globe, and Anchor** - The statue is located at the entryway to the future Museum of the Marine and is the largest Eagle, Globe and Anchor statue in the world. Each star on the globe represents places where Marines have routinely deployed.

**Freedom Fountain** - The Freedom Fountain is a short walk away from the Gardens and flows proudly all year long to honor those who have passed through Onslow County while in service to their country. Most nights, the fountain is lit red, white and blue.



Freedom Fountain



Eagle, Globe, and Anchor Statue



9/11 Memorial Beam



Montford Point Marine Memorial



Beirut Memorial



Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall and dome



Learn more at [VisitJacksonvilleNC.com](http://VisitJacksonvilleNC.com)



# ADVERTISE

*in the Chamber's Monthly Newsletter*

## THE CHAMBER CONNECTION



- Printed the second Monday of every month
- Distributed in the *Daily News*
- Posted on the Chamber website [www.jacksonvilleonline.org](http://www.jacksonvilleonline.org)
- Included in every relocation package
- Copies available and on display at the Chamber

**FREE** ad design assistance and Multiple Month Advertising Discounts offered

Email the size of Ad requested, your ad, how many months you want it published and you will be billed monthly

Please send request [president@jacksonvilleonline.org](mailto:president@jacksonvilleonline.org)

Ad Size	Monthly	3 Months (per month)	6 Months (per month)	12 Months (per month)
3.15 in (w) x 1.75 in (h)	\$70.00	\$63.00	\$59.50	\$56.00
3.15 in (w) x 3 in (h)	\$90.00	\$81.00	\$76.50	\$72.00
4.7 in (w) x 5 in (h)	\$180.00	\$162.00	\$153.00	\$144.00
Half Page 10 in (w) x 4.7 in (h)	\$360.00	\$324.00	\$306.00	\$288.00
Full Inner Page 10 in (w) x 9.6 in (h)	\$720.00	\$648.00	\$612.00	\$576.00
Full Back Page 10 in (w) x 9.6 in (h)	\$900.00	\$810.00	\$765.00	\$720.00

# RESERVE YOUR SPACE TODAY!

# From the desk of Donna Hammonds



Travel and tourism has a profound impact not just on the accommodations industry, but on numerous other businesses and industry types (probably including yours for those business owners reading my August newsletter!).

There are so many factors that play into Onslow's tourism successes. As I learned early in my career to the present, as cliché as it may sound, there is no "I" in team when getting the job done. It truly takes a village...hoteliers, attractions, event planners, restaurants, non-profit groups, the townships and I could go on and on.

When I received the June occupancy tax collection numbers from the County, I was so thrilled and taken aback all at the same time, \$324,388.74 for June alone, a new record. Onslow finished up the fiscal year at \$2,082,617.08 total in collections setting a new benchmark of 12.15% higher than the

year-end total for 2016-2017. Onslow County Tourism along with the Jacksonville Tourism Development Authority, the Swansboro TDA, MCCS Camp Lejeune, the Jacksonville Onslow Sports Commission and ALL of the tourism related partners within the County had an impact producing these tremendous numbers. Truly a proud accomplishment for Onslow County, thank you!

Onslow Tourism will be hosting several press trips with travel writers spanning over a wide array of media outlets during the next few months helping to share our story. One that I'm especially excited about are two millennial travel writers/bloggers Caroline Eubanks and Blake Guthrie. Caroline is an up-and-coming millennial, Atlanta-based freelance writer and publisher of This Is My South an online travel guide. She also blogs at Caroline in the City: Responsible Travel for Millennials and

is a contributor to BBC.com Travel, National Geographic Traveler, Simply Buckhead, Fodors, Thrillist, Afar and Her Packing List to name a few. Blake is an adventurous Georgia-based freelance writer and regular contributor to the travel section of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, the Travel Tips section of the USA Today website, and Simply Buckhead magazine, among others.

The millennial generation has overcome the baby boomers as the largest living generation and are also the largest generational group currently feeding their need to travel. Millennials are known for placing a high emphasis on being unique, and a major part of that is growing their identity through culturally rich experiences and exploration of the unknown. Having Blake and Caroline choose Onslow County as a place to come discover and embrace is such a rewarding feeling. Our Onslow village will be key in making these folks feel welcome and have a memorable experience to share with others. I have no doubt that you'll do an outstanding job!

It's an exciting time for Onslow County. Enjoy your summer and have fun exploring where heroes are our heritage and the great outdoors is our playground.

## 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!



Cassie Guy  
Hampton Inn, Swansboro



Marissa Wenrick  
Hampton Inn & Suites, Sneads Ferry



Regina Triche'  
Hampton Inn and Suites, Jacksonville



Bobby Hughes  
TownPlace Suites, Jacksonville



Lennoah Thomas  
Villa Capriani, North Topsail Beach