

Chamber CONNECTION

CONNECTING BUSINESS, MILITARY & COMMUNITY

*Minority Entrepreneur
of the Year*

*Minority Advocate
of the Year*



Barbara Holder, Owner
Jacksonville Beauty Supply



Carobell

Our Chamber Staff

Chamber Officials:

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president@jacksonvilleonline.org

Cindy Edwards, Chair

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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

NOVEMBER

Carolina Shores Natural Soap
108 Fishermans Cove. Surf City, NC
910-508-6599
Dr. Lisa Keenan

Avirett Stephens Plantation LLC
270 Hogans Rd. Hubert, NC
910-389-3880
Mr. John Engelhard

**Infant of Prague Catholic School,
Infant of Prague Thrift Store &
Infant of Prague Catholic Church**
205 Chaney Ave. Jacksonville, NC
910-347-4196
Ms. Rhonda Fullerton

Ronnie's Classic Auto Sales
1796 Gum Branch Rd. Jacksonville, NC
910-353-4200
Mr. Ronnie Henderson

Keith Educational Seminars
143 Winding Creek Rd. Rocky Point, NC
910-231-4002
Mr. Gene Keith

PSP Group
254 N Broad St. Monroe, GA
770-207-6187
Mr. Eli Lussiana

BB&D Enterprises
125 Mardella Way. Holly Ridge, NC
910-238-9062
Mr. Henry Burwell

Member Renewals

NOVEMBER

	Member Since
Allen Goodson Logging Company	5/7/1998
BBB&D Enterprises	2/13/2013
Booz Allen Hamilton	10/21/2009
Bradley's Jewelers	12/2/2005
Charles F. Riggs & Associates, Inc.	5/11/1988
Coldwell Banker Sea Coast Advantage	1/24/2008
Diana's Dance Academy	1/22/2002
Doyle Evans Realty, Inc.	10/11/2001
Hadley Family Chiropractic	8/1/2001
Handy Mart/Which Wich Superior Sandwiches	11/14/2013
High Point Furniture	4/30/1993
Infant of Prague Catholic School	3/1/1999
J.C. Hardee	10/11/2001
Johnson Funeral Home	7/1/1995
Jones Pest Control	10/31/2014
Katrina Carrington, CPA, PLLC	9/23/2013
Lawson-Wagner Insurance and Financial Agency	4/24/2009
Marine Chevrolet Cadillac	9/1/1979
Miski Delight	11/15/2017
Mr. Ralph Leeds	1/4/2016
Onslow United Transit Systems, Inc.	1/28/2000
Platinum Corral, LLC	10/1/2003
Robert A. Brown, An Aflac Agent	7/30/2012
Shaun's Lawn Service	11/7/2012
Sun Tan City	2/26/2015
TapSnap1143	3/5/2015
The Daily News	9/1/1979
The Home Depot	6/6/2005
Vocational Rehabilitation Services	10/2/2002

63rd Christmas Holiday Parade Professional Float Winners

1st Place Professional

The Queens of Miss Swansboro
Scholarship Beauty Pageant &
Eastern North Carolina Classic
Beauty Pageant 2018 – 2019



2nd Place Professional

Residential Mortgage Services, NMLS#
1760, Equal Housing Opportunity



3rd Place Professional

The Filipino-American community
of Jacksonville, NC celebrating and
preserving the unique Filipino culture.



63rd Christmas Holiday Parade Amateur Float Winners



1st Place Amateur

IQuOLIOC which strives to enable people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to reach their full potential while promoting inclusion and awareness.

2nd Place Amateur

The Door Christian Fellowship Church



3rd Place Amateur

Friends of Animal Services- supporter of Onslow County Animal Services.





Marine

Federal Credit Union

Everybody Loves a Parade!

SUPERB
WALLPAPERS



Carobell named Chamber's 2018 Linda L. Richardson Minority Business Advocate of the Year

Carobell, Inc. is a private non-profit organization licensed by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services that provides care for developmentally disabled individuals with multiple medical needs.

Carobell is a community service provider dedicated to providing self-directed supports for individuals with Intellectual Developmental Disabilities, empowering them to reach their fullest potential.

Congratulations to Carolbell.



Front Row L-R: George Reynolds, Carobell, Inc. Board Chair; Vanessa Ervin, President & CEO; Paula Harris, Board Member
Back Row L-R: Scott Riggs, Board Member & Don Swingler, Board Member

Honored Guests and Minority Business Services Committee Leadership at the MED Week Luncheon.



Terence Cooper Jr. is a logo & website designer, and owner of Royal Tee's Jewelry & Accessories. Terence Cooper is a Kidpreneur with many goals and aspirations. Terence is also Vice President of 4-H STEAM Warriors and a Community Service Advocate.



Ms. Barbara Holder, owner of Jacksonville Beauty Supply named Fairfield Inn & Suites 2018 Minority Entrepreneur of the Year.

Barbara Holder, owner of Jacksonville Beauty Supply started it all in October 1984, and has been in the same location for 31 years, 1215 Hargett St in the New River Shopping Center. Barbara was honored with this award because she demonstrates excellence in her business, provides valuable service to the community and exhibits initiative and creativity. Congratulations to Barbara!



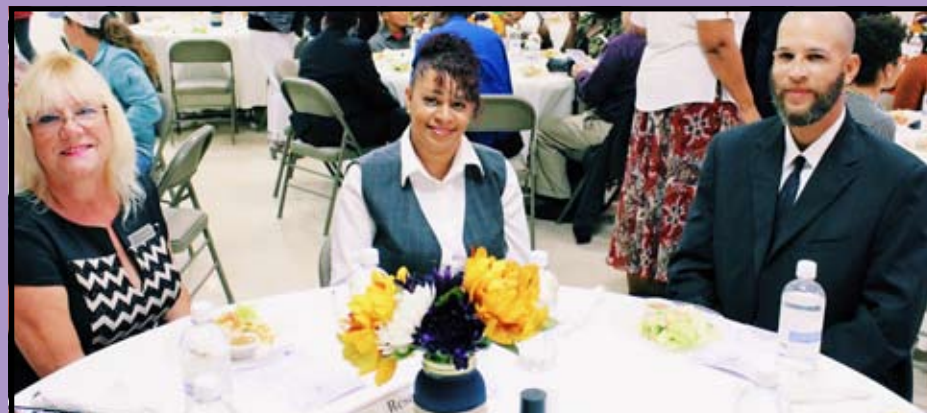
Barbara and her husband Eddie Holder

Thank you to Duke Energy for your continuing support of MED week.

Thank you to Fairfield Inn and Suites for sponsoring our Minority Entrepreneur of the Year Award continuing support of MED week.



Onslow County Commissioner Mark Price, Onslow County Commissioner Royce Bennett, Duke Energy District Manager for Government and Community Relations Millie Chalk, Owner, Flying Dutchman Travel Lois Dupuis



Fairfield Representatives l-to-r Shelley Plaster, Natasha Hairston-Akins, Jonathan Gandy

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				
17-18	Taxable Sales	17-18	Taxable Sales	% Change
Jul-17	\$176,001,283	Jul-18	\$194,582,338	10.56%
Aug-17	\$175,923,030	Aug-18	\$191,474,148	8.84%
Sep-17	\$170,773,046	Sep-18	\$179,899,105	5.34%
Oct-17	<i>\$166,205,341</i>			
Nov-17	<i>\$158,839,850</i>			
Dec-17	<i>\$166,147,995</i>			
Jan-18	<i>\$190,951,446</i>			
Feb-18	<i>\$145,494,737</i>			
Mar-18	<i>\$157,865,496</i>			
Apr-18	<i>\$184,676,634</i>			
May-18	<i>\$172,895,493</i>			
Jun-18	<i>\$177,433,672</i>			
YTD Total	\$522,697,359	YTD Total	\$565,955,591	8.28%
*YTD Total does not include numbers in <i>Italic</i>				

Occupancy Tax Report			
	<u>2017-2018</u>	<u>2018-2019</u>	%
July	\$391,718.29	\$462,461.06	15.29%
August	\$345,186.90	\$352,178.40	1.7%
September	\$184,118.54	\$202,988.75	9.2%
October	<i>\$123,496.32</i>		%
November	<i>\$96,428.37</i>		%
December	<i>\$69,491.16</i>		%
January	<i>\$81,254.97</i>		%
February	<i>\$85,695.58</i>		%
March	<i>\$110,256.28</i>		%
April	<i>\$120,142.13</i>		%
May	<i>\$150,439.80</i>		%
June	<i>\$324,830.51</i>		%
Total:	\$921,023.73	\$1,017,628.21	9.5%

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	<i>5,311</i>	3,800	<i>4,713</i>	4,058
4th Qtr	<i>4,284</i>	762	<i>4,077</i>	846
YTD Total	9,938	14,893*	6,387	13,708*
*Numbers from ONWASA were unavailable at press time *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 st Quarter	15,609	15,280
2 nd Quarter	14,779	15,462
3 rd Quarter	15,124	14,824
4 th Quarter	15,124	4,964
YTD Total	45,512	45,566
Onslow Memorial Hospital Live Births		
	2017	2018
1 st Quarter	365	307
2 nd Quarter	325	303
3 rd Quarter	388	357
4 th Quarter	358	118
YTD Total	1,079	1,085
*YTD Total does not include numbers in <i>Italic</i>		

Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune Emergency Room Visits		
	2017	2018
1 st Quarter	13,326	13,134
2 nd Quarter	11,538	13,393
3 rd Quarter	13,686	11,582
4 th Quarter	13,925	4,051
YTD Total	38,550	42,160
Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune Live Births		
	2017	2018
1 st Quarter	514	480
2 nd Quarter	483	459
3 rd Quarter	542	499
4 th Quarter	<i>350</i>	156
YTD Total	997	1,594
*YTD Total does not include numbers in <i>Italic</i>		

TRANSPORTATION		
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION: SOURCE: OUTS, JTS		
ALBERT ELLIS AIRPORT: SOURCE: ALBERT J ELLIS AIRPORT		
Public Transportation Riders - 2017-18		
System	October	Fiscal YTD
Onslow United Transit System	7,198	28,117
Jacksonville Transit System	8,803	35,486
Military Express	639	2,532
Total	16,640	66,135

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	29,082	1%
August	29,818	30,838	3.4%
September	<i>25,210</i>		%
October	27,400		%
November	<i>25,138</i>		%
December	<i>24,586</i>		%
YTD Total	211,581	210,249	- 0.6%
*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 10/31/18, 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	10	812	81.20	101	1.24
\$150,001 - \$200,000	10	710	71.00	78	1.10
\$200,001 - \$250,000	10	340	34.00	66	1.94
\$251,001 - \$300,000	10	137	13.70	31	2.26
\$300,001 +	10	157	15.70	65	4.14
TOTAL		2156		341	

New Construction Price	# of Months	# Sold	Sales Rate Per Month	# Currently Active*	# of Month's Of Inventory
≤ \$150,000	10	6	0.60	8	13.33
\$150,001 - \$200,000	10	196	19.60	77	3.93
\$200,001 - \$250,000	10	243	24.30	116	4.77
\$251,001 - \$300,000	10	103	10.30	48	4.66
\$300,001 +	10	62	6.20	41	6.61
TOTAL		610		290	

BUSINESS STATS

COUNTY PERMITS: SOURCE: ONSLOW COUNTY

CITY PERMITS: SOURCE: CITY OF JACKSONVILLE

City of Jacksonville Building Permits		
Oct 2018	#	Value
Residential	43	\$1,336,000
Commercial	111	\$13,430,173
Other	404	\$377,454
Total	558	\$15,143,627

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
FY Totals	2,977	621	\$140,297,183

FY2018-19	Res BPs	Com BPs	Total Value
1st Qtr Totals	779	135	\$26,959,313
2nd Qtr Totals	471	54	\$14,690,412
3rd Qtr Totals			
4th Qtr Totals			
FY Totals	1,250	189	\$41,649,725

CAMP LEJEUNE & MCAS		
NR GOVERNMENT AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS (GER) CAMP LEJEUNE, NC.		
Camp Lejeune Area Active Duty USN/USMC Statistics		
Location	3/15/2018	10/15/2018
Camp Lejeune	31,243	31,172
MARSOC	2,287	2,258
New River	6,535	6,374
TECOM Schools	4,800	4,817
Total	44,865	44,621
USMC Deployed Total	5,638	3,829



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UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES	
SOURCE: NC DEPT OF COMMERCE	
Unemployment rates from NC Works - NC Dept of Commerce	
Area Name	Onslow County
Year	2018
Month	October
Labor Force	65,249
Employed	62,396
Unemployed	2,835
Unemployment Rates	4.4%

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 Sept 2018 (State Regulated for children birth to 12)					
License Type	# facilities	# slots	# enrolled	Capacity	# staff
NC 5 star	22	2,919	2,754	94%	431
NC 4 star	8	256	228	89%	41
NC 3 star	19	409	371	91%	66
NC 2 star	3	21	15	71%	3
NC 1 star	7	99	93	94%	13
NC Religious	6	504	451	89%	71
NC Temporary	3	352	276	78%	37
NC Provisional					
NC Probationary					
Totals	68	4,560	4,188	92.0%	662



RENTAL PROPERTIES INC.

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Thank you to EVERYONE who made the 2018 Christmas Holiday Parade a Success

Jane Anderson	Brian Lapell
Terri Bock	Laurette Leagon
Janet Bowen	Arnold Maloney
Jeb Brown	Melissa Maloney
Sandy Crews	Paula Manuel
Diana DeVusser	Steve Marshall
Caitlin Diaz	Lisa Murabito
Rebecca Gamboa	Lorena Parker
Anne Gerichten	Richard Patane
Bill Gerichten	Lisa Peele
Glenn Gerichten	Tricia Purcell
Kandy Gerichten	James Quinn
Donna Hammonds	Shirley Riedel
Bill Hitch	Fernando Schiefelbein
Joe Houle	Karen Salefsky
Russ Jamison	James Smallwood
Wanda Jarman	Glenn Spradling
Amanda Jasinski	Brian Standridge
Wanda Jones	Sabrina Thomas
Mary Kay	Eileen Wagner
John Kopka	



FOUNTAIN REALTY

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MED Week Mingle Celebrates the Legends of Onslow.



Craig and Carla Torrey

As part of the Chamber's Minority Enterprise Development Week we honor local legends that, because their successes, efforts and achievements have left a historical mark on our community. This year's honorees are:

Craig and Carla Torrey. Their efforts, events and initiatives have salvaged and improved the history of a special part of Onslow County. As founders of the Ocean City Jazz Festival, these two amazing individuals go beyond to preserve and celebrate the mile strip of land in North Topsail Island known as Ocean City; the first NC coastal community in which Blacks could purchase land, 15 years before the Civil Rights Act.



Fernando Schieflebein

Fernando Schieflebein. He has immense dedication to Onslow County including memberships in Rolling Thunder®, Inc., Chapter NC-5, the Second Marine Division Association, the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). He serves as a Beirut Memorial Advisory Board member, is an Honorary Life Member of the Beirut Veterans of America and is currently serving as Chairman of the MCB Camp Lejeune Military Retiree Council (MRC).



LaShea Caver

LaShea Caver. After serving 20 years in the Marine Corps retired from the line of military service in February 2016 to enter a new line of work by serving the public as an Independent Consultant for Legal Shield. She is a member of the Jacksonville Onslow Chamber of Commerce and proudly serves on the Ambassador Committee, Small Business and the Minority Business Services Committee. She continues to pursue her academic career and will graduate this month with a Bachelor's degree, majoring in Psychology and minoring in Business with plans to achieve her Masters and PhD in Industrial/Organizational Psychology.



Ribbon Cutting



November 2nd

Remember Everyone Deployed
403 N Bayshore Blvd, NC 28540



November 30th

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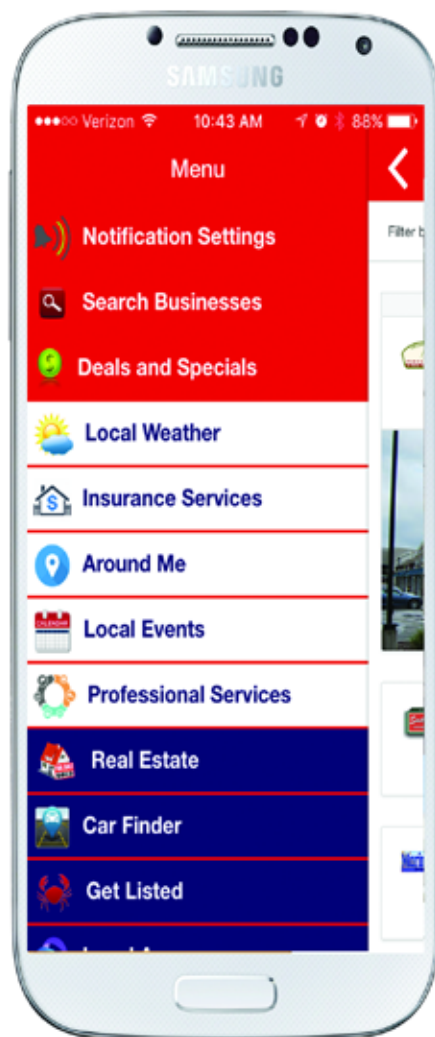
- INCLUDES FRIDAY REHEARSAL DINNER
TOUR & SATURDAY EXPO ADMISSION

SATURDAY ONLY: \$10 ONLINE; \$12 AT THE DOOR



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Jacksonville • Onslow

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Dear Chamber Member:

The Jacksonville • Onslow Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce the new edition of our **Resource Guide & Membership Directory**, celebrating the Chamber's 75th Anniversary.

This publication helps tell our story about all of the wonderful amenities our area has to offer including our superior educational systems, top-notch recreational opportunities, and first-class healthcare professionals and facilities to name a few. As the voice of the business community, the Chamber boasts many member companies and organizations offering an array of products and services that are also a very important piece of our message. We encourage you to become part of the Chamber's 75th Anniversary Celebration and participate in our Resource Guide & Membership Directory to help solidify our message and maximize your marketing potential.

This publication offers:

- Completely *revamped* and *revised* for 2019
- One year of printed & online exposure for your business
- A targeted distribution aimed at individuals and other companies you want to reach
- Several advertising sizes, rates & opportunities so any Chamber Member can participate



2018 Issue

A sales representative from our *new* publishing partner and *fellow Chamber Member*, **PSP Group**, will be in our area and will contact you soon. Please schedule a short meeting with them to discuss the project and available opportunities. **To secure a prime location or be one of the first to learn more, please send your interest via email to Laurette Leagon at the Jacksonville • Onslow Chamber at president@jacksonvilleonline.org.**

Thank you for supporting your community and your Chamber. We look forward to serving you further as we continue to bring new businesses, visitors, and residents to Onslow County!

Sincerely,

Laurette Leagon, *President*

MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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



November's Service Member of the Month Sgt Coley C. Chestnut II, USMC

Sgt Coley Chestnut is distinguished as the Service Member of the Month (SMOM) for the month of November by the Jacksonville•Onslow Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee.

Sgt Chestnut was born in 1993 in Selma, Alabama to Coley and Tonya Chestnut. While growing up Sgt Chestnut was continuously active in sports, specifically baseball and football. In May 2101, he graduated high school from Selma High School. That summer he enrolled into Concordia College Alabama to further his education, but during his second semester, he decided to enlist into the Marine Corps. In May 2013, he went to recruit training at Parris Island, South Carolina. In August of 2013, he graduated recruit training and continued his follow on training at Camp Geiger, North Carolina and then on to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri to earn his Military Occupation as a Motor Vehicle Operator. After the completing of Motor Vehicle Operators Course, he checked into General Support Motor Transportation of CLR-2 in January of 2014. In May 2014, he was assigned TAD orders to be an instructor at the 2d MLG Motor Vehicle Incidental Drivers School. He was promoted to the rank of Corporal in August 2015 and returned back to his parent command, 2d Transportation Support Battalion. On March 23 2017, he and his wife had their first son and on the day, he was named Non-Commissioned Officer of the Quarter for his battalion at 2d Transportation Support Battalion. He was promoted to the rank of Sergeant on October 1, 2017. Sgt Chestnut and his wife had their second son in August 2018. On October 1, Sgt Chestnut was announced as the Non-Commissioned Officer of the Quarter for his battalion, and on October 2, 2018, he was announced as the regimental NCO of the Quarter.

Sgt Chestnut's leadership states that he ability to lead, train, and mentor directly contributed to him being nominated for 2d Transportation Support Battalion Non-Commissioned Officer of the Quarter and Combat Logistics Regiment 2 Non-Commissioned Officer of the Quarter. They continue to state that his impeccable record lead him to winning both Non-Commissioned Officer of the Quarter boards and being nominated for 2d Marine Logistics Group Non-Commissioned Officer of the Quarter.

Sgt Chestnut's future plans include to graduate with a bachelor's degree in psychology in the next 3 years. Following his tour, he would like to be a drill instructor at Parris Island to train Marines.

Congratulations to the Jacksonville Onslow Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee November Service Member of the Month, Sgt Coley C Chestnut II, USMC.

The Jacksonville Onslow Leadership class held their "County Session" on November 8th.

Thank you to Assistant County Manager Sheri Slater for providing a very informative day. Thank you also to all the County Personnel who gave their time and shared their expertise with the group. Included, among other tours, was a visit to the Emergency Management Center, the Onslow County Museum and the Sheriff's Department.



Joe Lawrence, Jessica Coston, Sabrina Thomas, Jeb Brown, Amanda Garrett, Amy Davis, Rosh Foskey, Teresa Miller, Janis Steele, Sheri Slater, Terri Campbell, and Lisa Whitman-Grice.

Governmental Affairs Committee meeting on November 5th



Brent Anderson, Jeff Wilke, Ken Reddic, Steve Meyers and Earl Taylor.

The Speakers for the Governmental Affairs Committee meeting on November 5th were Brent Anderson and Steve Meyers. They gave the group an update on Onslow County Schools. Board of Education member Ken Reddic also attended. They gave a slideshow revealing the tremendous damage done to our schools. All the facilities had some damage; ten schools had major damage and 14 had moderate damage. Due to the time without power all the schools had mold. Some students and staff are still displaced from their homes. The short-term repairs are underway. The long-term repairs may take one to two years. All the schools have had air quality testing and all passed. Earl Taylor, also a Board of Education member, is a GAC member. He commended Superintendent Rick Stout and all of his staff for the excellent job they have done in handling this disaster.



Leadership Group with Sheriff Hans Miller and members of the Sheriff's Department.



The Leadership Association Alumni event was held on Tuesday, November. 20th. We attended a seminar on "Genealogy" at the Onslow County Museum. Attendees from left to right Adrienne James, Diana King Barnes, Angela Lee, Sheri Slater, Laurette Leagon, Julie Keoho, Brenna Leger, Jennifer Pearce and facilitator Lisa Whitman-Grice. Thank you to Sheri Slater, Assistant County Manager and Leadership Advisory Chair for arranging the session. For more information on how to trace your family tree contact the Onslow County Museum.

The Leadership Association Alumni event was held on Tuesday, November. 20th.



Diana King Barnes, Laurette Leagon, and Adrienne James, 2nd row left to right Brenna Leger, Jennifer Pearce and Julie Keoho.

From the desk of Donna Hammonds



As we hurry about this December buying gifts, planning schedules, and closing out the old year, remember the magic you felt as a child, and take time to enjoy this most wonderful time of the year.

The best gifts are those that can't be repaid... gifts like visiting a shut-in, helping those in need, and spending quality time with family and friends. Those are gifts that make us better people and makes the community around us better. And don't forget yourself! Take time to enjoy the season by attending a local celebration around the County. Although many have already taken place, there's still plenty of holiday happenings to enjoy.

Nov 30 – Dec 22 | A FishStrong Winter Wonderland Lighted Hayride – Hubert, Friday and Saturday evenings 6 -8pm.

Proceeds from this event will go to the FishStrong Foundation to raise money for families with life altering illnesses.

December 13 | North Carolina Symphony Holiday Pops – White Oak High School, Jacksonville, 7:30 –

9:30pm.

A spectacular holiday celebration filled with joyful symphonic arrangements of holiday classics including music from Miracle on 34th Street and The Polar Express, White Christmas, and Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer—plus our popular sing-a-long!

Mike's Farm Festival of Lights Hayride | Nightly until December 23rd. An encore hayride will be held Dec 26 – Dec 29. No reservations needed.

A festive holiday hayride through and around the farm accompanied by Christmas music. Along the way are lighted holiday scenes and a live nativity. Held nightly (weather permitting).

The new Zing Zumm Children's Museum in Jacksonville celebrated their grand opening on Nov 30, and is a perfect place to entertain your young ones during the Christmas holidays. The museum is designed for children of toddler age through ten years and provides a safe and nurturing environment for families to spend quality leisure time together. This wonderful addition

to Onslow's business community will be serving not only our residents, but will be embraced by visitors alike throughout the year.

Many museums are places to observe collections of objects that depict a specific theme. But, not at Zing Zumm...the museum is interactive, hands-on, and unstructured to allow children to follow their own interests for as long as desired. Your children can play, create, explore and discover, while lifelong learning is being nurtured.

Zing Zumm will be hosting field trips as well as parties...Planning your child's next birthday party will be a breeze with two hours in their party area, unlimited play time, t-shirt or cape for the birthday child and balloons. Parties are \$175 for 10 children and 10 adults, \$10 for each additional child, and \$5 for each additional adult. Birthday parents, child, and one sibling are free. Please contact their birthday party coordinator at zingzumm@gmail.com to schedule your event. For more information please call (910) 650-2769.

Onslow County's tourism partners, business community and residents have endured many obstacles since September 13th. Our community is persevering by working together, crying together, and helping our neighbors in need. We are blessed to live in such a special place. On behalf of Onslow County Tourism, enjoy this holiday season! I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a new year filled with love, peace, happiness and prosperity.

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!



Derrick Lauderdale
Starbucks



Elizabeth Horne
Mike's Farm



Patricia Herndon
Speedway