



#### **Our Chamber Staff**

#### **Chamber Officials:**

Laurette Leagon, President president@jacksonvilleonline.org

Tiffany Choice, Chair

#### Staff:

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Director of Operations and Governmental Affairs operations@jacksonvilleonline.org

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#### Sabrina Thomas

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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.

# Chamber welcomes new Military Affairs Manager



Meggie Cook has been named as the new Military Affairs Manager for the Jacksonville Onslow Chamber of Commerce. Meggie's background includes being a Life Enrichment Coordinator for Bickford Senior Living, a Recreation Programmers for Stafford County (VA) Parks and Recreation, and she has held several jobs in the hospitality industry. Meggie received her Bachelor of Business Administration in Business Management and a minor in American Sign Language from Radford University in Virginia, and finished in the top 10% of her Business Management Class. Please send a note of welcome to Meggie Cook at mac@ jacksonvilleonline.org

# 29th Annual Chamber Education Golf Tournament

Congratulations to the winner foursome from National Automotive Group: Trent Cloninger, Mike Whaley, Adron Whaley and Forrest Whaley.

A big Thank you to our longtime signature sponsor

And welcome to our new presenting Sponsor



A Touchstone Energy® Partner



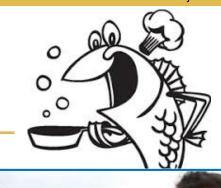
We also want to thank the 13 Chamber members that were Hole Sponsors at the Tournament.

The monies raised go to: student scholarships, the Salute to Excellence Program that recognizes a Teacher, Assistant Principal and Principal of the Year, and the Sturgeon City Youth Leadership Program. The following schools are received funding as a result of the tournament Richlands Heritage, Richlands High School, White Oak High School.



The traditional golf tournament Kick-off: Jones Onslow EMC Ball Drop

# Fish Fry



Why yes, I do

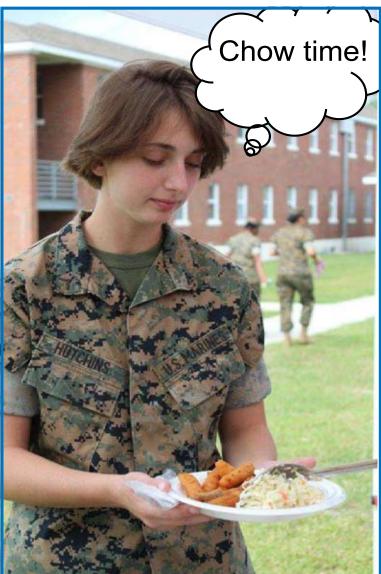


one of the many prizes.



Marines load their plates with fish at the military affairs fish fry in June.







When it HAS to be done right..call Ricky Maready.



The Military Affairs Committee would like to recognize Robert Daniels of the Texas Roadhouse in Jacksonville for his help during the June 19 fish fry. MAC manager Meggie Cook writes: "He was awesome! He was able to solve any problem that arose that day! He was a key player and making sure the June Fish Fry at Camp Johnson was amazing."

# Ribbon Cuttings



Zing Zumm Children's Museum 625 New Bridge St, Jacksonville, NC 28540



Sturgeon City Environmental Education Center 50 Court St, Jacksonville, NC 28540



Longley Supply
1520 N Marine Blvd, Jacksonville, NC 28540

# Congratulations to the Curtis Media Team!



106.5 WSFL and V103.3 were both recognized by the North Carolina Association of Broadcasters as the NORTH CAROLINA'S RADIO STATIONS OF THE YEAR! They were also recognized as #1 RADIO STATIONS FOR NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT! The Program Directors are such amazing leaders. Colleen Jackson from V103.3 and Cindy Miller are simply the best in the business! The entire radio station staff really came together to work through Hurricane Florence. They all worked in different areas to get the job done. Not only were they able to keep the stations on the air and the public informed, they served all over Eastern North Carolina delivering food, water, and supplies to those in need.

## MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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

## June's Service Member of the Month Lance Corporal Tyler J. Schuler

LCpl Tyler J. Schuler is distinguished as the Service Member of the Month (SMOM) for the month of June by the Jacksonville•Onslow Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee.

Lance Corporal Schuler was born on 20 March 1994 in Lansing, Michigan. He was raised and lived in Howell, Michigan for 23 years. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps on 15 May 2017, and completed Recruit Training at MCRD Parris Island, South Carolina on 11 August 2017 where he was meritoriously promoted to the rank of Private First Class. He attended Marine Combat Training at Camp Geiger, North Carolina in September 2017. Lance Corporal Schuler reported to MOS training at the Field Artillery School (MOS 0811) in Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He distinguished himself with the third highest grade point average in his graduating class.

Lance Corporal Schuler was assigned to Battery C, 1st Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment at Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina on 11 November 2017. He quickly assumed the billet of Recorder as a Private First Class, a billet regularly appointed to the most trusted and experienced noncommissioned officers. During his time as a recorder, he assisted in the safe, timely, and highly accurate firing of approximately 2,100 155mm projectiles for his howitzer section. Lance Corporal Schuler ultimately assisted in the success of Battery C during Exercise Rolling Thunder, where his battery earned the title "Top Battery" in 10th Marine Regiment. Lance Corporal Schuler completed the M777A2 Howitzer Gunner's Course on 20 September 2018 and become a certified gunner for his section.

Lance Corporal Schuler deployed to Okinawa, Japan and was stationed at Camp Hansen on 17 August 2018 to participate in the unit deployment program. He held the billet of Assistant Howitzer Section Chief. Lance Corporal Schuler proved himself to be worthy of this billet by consistently out performing his peers and multiple superiors, which is a testament to his knowledge and his superior ability to effectively lead others.

Lance Corporal Schuler returned from deployment on 12 February 2019. In March 2019, Lance Corporal Schuler won the Marine of the Quarter Board at the 10th Marine Regiment. In May 2019, Lance Corporal Schuler won the Meritorious Corporal Board at the 10th Marine Regiment. Lance Corporal Schuler was determined to become a Howitzer Section Chief. The Howitzer Section Chief Course is reserved for the most proficient and experienced "noncommissioned officers" in the Regiment. The strict rank requirement to attend the course was waived by the 10th Marine Regiment Field Artillery Chief and Lance Corporal Schuler was enthusiastically nominated to attend. Lance Corporal Schuler graduated

the Howitzer Section Chief Course on 13 May 2019. He distinguished himself amongst the 18 noncommissioned officers in attendance when he graduated with a grade point average of 92 percent, the second highest in the class. Additionally, Lance Corporal Schuler demonstrated his superior performance throughout the duration of the course and scored a 273 on the physical fitness test, earning the highest score in his graduating class.

Lance Corporal Schuler currently serves as an Assistant Howitzer Section Chief and Records Management Noncommissioned Officer in Charge for Guns Platoon, Battery C. On 2 June 2019, Lance Corporal Schuler will be meritoriously promoted to the rank of Corporal. Following his meritorious promotion, Lance Corporal Schuler will receive his appointment as a Howitzer Section Chief in Battery C, where he will be trusted with the accountability and maintenance of approximately three million dollars of gear and the lives, personal and professional development of the ten Marines under his charge.

Lance Corporal Schuler's personal decorations include (1) Certificate of Commendation, (2) Meritorious Mast, and (1) Certificate of Appreciation.



# 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

Мо	nthly Repo	ort of	Taxable Sa	ales
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	\$166,205,341	Oct-18	\$162,662,167	-2.31%
Nov-17	\$158,839,850	Nov-18	\$205,477,971	29.36%
Dec-17	\$166,147,995	Dec-18	\$209,559,140	26.13%
Jan-18	\$190,951,446	Jan-19	\$221,950,803	16.23%
Feb-18	\$145,494,737	Feb-19	\$183,143,879	25.88%
Mar-18	\$157,865,496			
Apr-18	\$184,676,634			
May-18	\$172,895,493			
Jun-18	\$177,433,672			
YTD Total	\$1,184,188,733	YTD Total	1,548,749,551	14.69%

\*YTD Total does not include numbers in Italic

Occupancy Tax Report				
	2017-2018	2018-2019	%	
July	\$391,718.29	\$462,461.06	18.06%	
August	\$345,186.90	\$353,283.12	2.35%	
September	\$184,118.54	\$203,610.20	10.59%	
October	\$123,496.32	\$196,372.41	37.11%	
November	\$96,428.37	\$179,777.01	86.41%	
December	\$69,491.16	\$151,254.46	117.66%	
January	\$81,254.97	\$139,425.68	41.72%	
February	\$85,695.58	\$139,912.25	63.26%	
March	\$110,256.28	\$169,653.98	35.00%	
April	\$120,142.13	\$171,338.39	30.00%	
May	\$150,439.80		%	
June	\$324,830.51		%	
Total:	\$1,401,950.83	\$2,024,895.86	31.00%	

#### UTILITIES

City of looksomeille 9 ONIMACA Weter

Utilities: Sources: City of Jacksonville & ONWASA

City of Jacksonville & UNWASA water				
	Connects		Disconnects	
	2018	2019	2018	2019
1st Qtr	4,953	4,550	3,821	4,513
2nd Qtr	5,378	3,471	4,983	3,243
3rd Qtr	3,800		4,058	
4th Qtr	1,775		1,911	
YTD Total	4,953* 8,021		3,821*	7,756

\*YTD Total does not include numbers in Italic

#### 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** 2018 2019 1st Quarter 15.280 13.547 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 15.462 9,155 3rd Quarter 14,824 4th Quarter 14,731 15,280 **YTD Total** 22,702 **Onslow Memorial Hospital** Live Births 2018 2019 1st Quarter 307 313 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 303 221 3rd Quarter 357

Total 307 5

\*YTD Total does not include numbers in *Italic* 

348

534

4th Quarter

YTD Total

#### Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune Emergency Room Visits

YTD Total	13,134	21,426
4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	11,909	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	11,582	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	13,393	8,390
1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	13,134	13,036
	2010	2019

#### Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune Live Births

	2018	2019
1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	480	458
2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	<i>4</i> 59	242
3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	499	
4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	449	
YTD Total	480	700

#### TRANSPORTATION

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION: SOURCE: OUTS, JTS

ALBERT ELLIS AIRPORT: SOURCE: ALBERT J ELLIS AIRPORT

Public Transportation Riders - 2019-20				
System	May	Fiscal YTD		
Onslow United Transit System	7,505	79,266		
Jacksonville Transit System	8,945	101,012		
Military Express	1,219	14,715		
Total	17,669	194,993		

#### Albert J Ellis Airport Total Passengers 2018 2019 % Change 19,905 23,549 18% January February 21,064 22,739 8% 27,481 28,582 March 4% April 26,425 28,667 8% May 28,587 29,202 June 26,867 % 29,082 July August 30,838 September 18,324 % 26,168 % October November 27.468 % December 26,451 YTD Total 123.462 132.739 7% \*YTD Total does not include numbers in Italic

#### Housing

ONSLOW ABSORPTION RATES: SOURCE: JACKSONVILLE NC MARKET CENTER

#### **Onslow County Absorption Rates 2019**

Information provided by Coldwell Banker Fountain Realty, William Sanders.

As of 4/30/19, 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	5	477	95.40	113	1.18
\$150,001 - \$200,000	5	541	108.20	132	1.22
\$200,001 - \$250,000	5	266	53.20	85	1.60
\$251,001 - \$300,000	5	68	13.60	43	3.16
\$300,001 +	5	86	17.20	119	6.92
TOTAL		1438		492	

New Construction Price	# of Months	# Sold	Sales Rate Per Month	# Currently Active*	# of Month's Of Inventory
≤ \$150,000	5	3	0.60	1	1.67
\$150,001 - \$200,000	5	83	16.60	51	3.07
\$200,001 - \$250,000	5	141	28.20	121	4.29
\$251,001 - \$300,000	5	59	11.80	53	4.49
\$300,001 +	5	49	9.80	51	5.20
ΤΟΤΔΙ		335		277	

#### BUSINESS STATS

COUNTY PERMITS: SOURCE: ONSLOW COUNTY CITY PERMITS: SOURCE: CITY OF JACKSONVILLE

City of Jacksonville Building Permits				
May 2019	#	Value		
Residential	20	\$907,300		
Commercial	98	\$1,583,042		
Other	281	\$266,422		
Total	339	\$2,756,764		

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	1,257	163	\$40,163,911		
3rd Qtr Totals	1078	164	\$44,634,113		
4th Qtr Totals	749	147	\$37,069,395		
FY Totals	3,863	609	\$148,826,732		

#### CAMP LEJEUNE & MCAS

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

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

001110011					
Location	10/15/2018	04/15/2019			
Camp Lejeune	31,172	31,374			
MARSOC	2,258	2,330			
New River	6,374	6,325			
TECOM Schools	4,817	6,010			
Total	44,621	46,039			
USMC Deployed Total	4,914				



www.humphrevheatina.com





UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES

#### Source: NC Dept of Commerce

Unemployment rates from NC Works - NC Dept of Commerce			
Area Name	Onslow County		
Year	2019		
Month	April		
Labor Force	65,259		
Employed	62,477		
Unemployed	2,782		
Unemployment Rates	4.3%		

#### ONSLOW COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS

Assumed Business Names, Deaths, Births and Marriage Certificates for the PREVIOUS 3 YEARS. SOURCE: ONSLOW COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS

	Register	(	of Deeds	
Assume	d Names		Dea	iths
2016	560		2016	812
2017	580		2017	804
2018	556		2018	863
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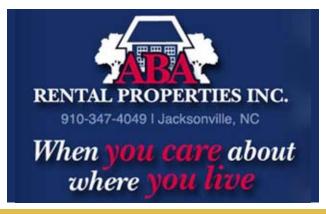
Bir	ths	Marri	ages
2016	3,519	2016	2,677
2017	3,535	2017	2,629
2018	3,267	2018	2,698

#### EDUCATION

Source: Onslow County Partnership for Children

#### **Onslow County: Child Care Snapshot** April 2019 (State Regulated for children birth to 12)

License Type	# facilities	# slots	# enrolled	Capacity	# staff
NC 5 star	22	2,894	2,764	96%	435
NC 4 star	10	371	347	94%	52
NC 3 star	18	503	451	90%	91
NC 2 star	1	8	8	100%	1
NC 1 star	7	133	133	100%	16
NC Religious	6	460	440	96%	71
NC Temporary	3	59	49	83%	18
NC Provisional					
NC Probationary					
Totals	67	4,428	4,192	95.0%	684



#### MARKETING DIVISION REPORT

Source: Facebook Analytics

Soc	cial
Facebook	4,319
Followers are women (Engaged Onslow page followers are 95% women)	77%
Followers are men	22%
Average posts per week	14
People reached through photo post	420
People reached through videos	431
Followers in Jacksonville	1,696
Followers in surrounding areas	439

From May 30- June 27, 4,626 people were reached through the chamber's Facebook page. This is down compared to May's reach statistics, although social media trends may fluctuate drastically month to month

The page received 3,036 engagements, which is a 21% decrease from May. However. The Jacksonville Onslow Chamber of Commerce ranks consistently well compared to other non-profits in the area. It is No. 2 in a list of five similar pages, where the Onslow County Partnership for Children is No. 1. Tweets earned 3,000 impressions over the last 28 days.

Web	site
Page views from June 1-27	6,514
Web visitors are new members	69%
Returning Visitors	31%

A total of 2223 website sessions were reported by Monster Insights for jacksonvilleonline.org in June.

Popular pages this month were the home page and business directory. Of interesting note is where the chamber's online referrals come from. Most referrals in June were directed from the Weblink site, where members can log in and view their profiles.

\* These numbers are based on organic visitors to the chamber's Facebook page and website, without the use of paid promotions.



Hosted by:





Tailgate Village Sponsor



BOB MILLS MITSUBISHI

August 16, 2019 Northside High School











\$7 ADMISSION I GATES OPEN AT 4:30PM

www.playjosc.com



# LEADERSHIP IN ACTION Program

#### What is LEADERSHIP?

A program designed to create a corps of informed and dedicated emerging leaders qualified to lead Jacksonville and Onslow County into the future.

How are Participants Selected? The class is open to 20 applicants. Members or those employed by members in good standing of the Jacksonville. Onslow Chamber of Commerce will be given first consideration. Participants must be approved by the Leadership Advisory Committee.

What is the Cost? Program cost is \$625 for Chamber members and \$725 for non-members. The tuition fee includes all course materials, meals, transportation to and from Raleigh and certificate. This price also includes a lifetime membership in the Leadership Association.

What is the Meeting Schedule? LEADERSHIP usually meets the second Thursday of each month beginning in August and continuing through May, unless otherwise specified. Most sessions will be from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., some sessions will vary. Additional meetings are necessary for the class project and graduation and will be determined by the class.

What Topics are covered? Individual sessions focus on city, county, and state government, business and economic development, education, military, health care, and agriculture. The program also intense leadership training

What are the Attendance Requirements? Participants are expected to attend all sessions. No more than two days can be missed in order to graduate. Attendance will be taken in the mornings and after lunch. Leaving early will be counted as a half day's absence. This is not meant as a punitive measure but a participant will not receive the full benefit of the program if they do not attend the sessions. Missed sessions can be attended the next program year in order to graduate.

Are There Any Additional Requirements? Participants are required to attend one Onslow County Board of Commissioner's meeting, one Jacksonville City Council meeting and one designated Governmental Affairs Committee meeting on their own time. Those who reside in other towns within Onslow County may receive credit for attending a town council meeting in their own town of residence. Participants are also to choose a committee/advisory board on which to serve in a shadow leadership capacity. The committee/board may be associated with government, chamber of commerce, or a community organization, but must be approved by the Leadership Advisory Committee. These committees usually meet once a month and the shadow should attend each meeting



#### LEADERSHIP IN ACTION APPLICATION

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# Chamber 75th Directory

The 75th Anniversary edition of the Chamber's Community Guide and Business Directory is now available for pick up at the Commerce Center (1099 Gum Branch Road, Jacksonville). Stop by to get your copies or call 910-347-3141 to ask about distribution at your business.





#### 10th Annual Onslow County Public Safety Awards Ceremony

The Jacksonville•Onslow Chamber of Commerce takes pleasure in announcing the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Onslow County Public Safety Awards Ceremony on August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019. During the ceremony we will formally recognize a deserving public safety professional from the fields of law enforcement, fire fighting, emergency medical services, emergency communications and volunteer fire fighting.

The goal of the ceremony is to recognize public safety professionals who, through the exemplary conduct of their duties, have best served the citizens of Onslow County, its municipalities, Marine Corps Base (MCB) Camp Lejeune and Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) New River, during the past year. Nominations will be evaluated by a selection committee comprised of public safety professionals from outside Onslow County. We accept up to three nominations per agency. The deadline for nomination submissions is July 15, 2019.

We formally request you consider one of your Officers/911 Tele-Communicators/ EMTs/ Paramedics/Fire Fighters/Volunteer Fire Fighters for nomination to receive this award. We respectfully request that you provide the nominee's full name, title, brief biography, nominee's photo in uniform, and summary of professional accomplishments at work as well as his/her involvement with the community and at home during the past year. Within the summary, an explanation as to how these accomplishments best served the citizens of Onslow County, its municipalities and/or MCB Camp Lejeune/MCAS New River, should also be included. The summary may refer to a specific occasion/incident or multiple ones, over time. Please limit the summary to approximately 350 words.

The Public Safety Awards will take place on August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019. This year it will be a buffet style lunch. All nominees will receive a certificate and the winner will receive an award and a gift.

Please help us inform the community about the accomplishments of its dedicated public service professionals and forward your nomination as soon as possible to Sabrina Thomas at <a href="mailto:specialevents@jacksonvilleonline.org">specialevents@jacksonvilleonline.org</a> or by fax at (910) 347-4705.

Sincerely,

Sabrina Thomas
Special Events Manager
910-347-3141 ext 235
Jacksonville•Onslow Chamber of Commerce



## **NEW MEMBER RECEPTION**

12 - 1:30 pm

**JULY 17, 2019** 

#### 1099 Gum Branch Rd

Join us, meet the Chamber staff, enjoy lunch, and enter to win great prizes while learning about how the Chamber can benefit you and your business! We will see you there!



LIMITED SEATING
PLEASE RSVP AT HTTP://BIT.LY/NMR717
FOR QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL (910) 347-3141 EXT 236
OR EMAIL MEMBERSHIP@JACKSONVILLEONLINE.ORG

### EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

# Diana

Member Development Manager



"Ms. Diana is just amazing at what she does. I had the pleasure of working with her for a day to see what she does. She is well respected in the organization and community as well! I love her motivation, inclusion, and determination! She is a great example of the type of employee, friend, mentor we all need! She is also always very helpful. I have reached out to her several times and she has always been very pleasant and helpful with anything I may need."

Carmen, Branch Manager

#### HOW DO YOU MAKE BANKING EASY FOR MEMBERS?

I relate to members by both listening to and caring about their issues. Also, I do my best to execute truthful answers to make sure the member understands the situation.

### WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT WORKING AT MARINE FEDERAL?

The opportunity to network and my Marine Federal family.

### WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES?

Spending time with my family and Life Coaching seminars.

#### WHAT DO YOU DO AT WORK?

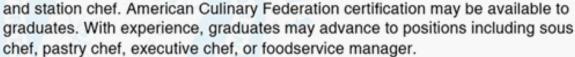
Starting out in my busy day I begin by promoting and highlighting the products and services that Marine Federal offers with various business affiliates. Next, on the agenda, my favorite part of the day is meeting with my fellow co-workers or community leaders and discussing how we can improve our local community while promoting Marine Federal Credit Union. I help with our annual golf tournament preparation, business expo's, marketing strategies to help out the local community, and events at local schools.

In addition to meetings based on community outreach, I am also a heavy participant in conducting educational workshops and seminars for high school students as well as adult members. I also attend events, ribbon cuttings, and Business After Hours with the Chamber of Commerce. I thoroughly enjoy helping others accomplish their goals and being a positive image for Marine Federal Credit Union.

# Night Culinary School

The Culinary Arts curriculum provides specific training required to prepare students to assume positions as trained culinary professionals in a variety of foodservice settings including full service restaurants, hotels, resorts, clubs, catering operations, contract foodservice, and health care facilities.

Graduates should qualify for entry-level opportunities including prep cook, line cook,



Coastal Carolina Community College | Culinary Department | kennamerj@coastalcarolina.edu 444 Western Boulevard Jacksonville, NC 28546 | 910.938.6347

### August 15

Coastal Carolina
Community
College will
launch a
Night School
offering studies
in professional
cooking in a
commercial
kitchen and
culinary arts.

# From the desk of Donna Hammonds

### beach!

Few experiences are as fun, relaxing or more memorable than long summer days spent at the beach. Onslow County's over 30 miles of wide, unspoiled beaches, as well as our coastal waters and abundant marine life are some of our area's greatest assets.

Visitors and residents alike flock to our beaches each year to bask in the sun and spend quality time with family and friends. Beach front and soundside homes, condos and charming beach bungalows at North Topsail Beach are in high demand. Some of the most beautiful sunrises and sunsets found at the North Carolina coast are experienced here.

The last few months have consisted of a significant recovery effort from damage sustained during Hurricane Florence. We are grateful to our local tourism partners, the Onslow County community, and all those who have worked and continue to work diligently to return to our area and beaches to pre-Florence status, and better than ever!

Onslow County Parks and Recreation has made great strides. Crossovers and beach accesses are open and operational at North Topsail Beach. For more information, please visit their website at www. onslowcountync.gov/parks or call (910) 347-5332.

#### **Operational Accesses**

Beach Access #1 - 1795 New River Inlet Rd

Beach Access #2 - 2950 Island Dr.

#### **Operational Crossovers**

1st, 2nd, 5th, 7th, 9th, 11th, 15th, 18th, 21st, 23rd, and Chestnut St.

A crown jewel of the North Carolina coast is

Summer is here and it's time to hit the Bear Island—a 3-mile-long, undeveloped barrier island accessible at Hammock's Beach State Park in Swansboro by the park's passenger ferry or private ferry, or by paddling a canoe or kayak.

> Due to ongoing post Florence recovery efforts, the Hammocks Beach State Park ferry to Bear Island is not yet operational due to dock repairs that continue, both on the mainland and the island. Park staff are hopeful that full operations will resume by late summer, including ferry service to Bear Island.

> For those that wish to venture over to Bear Island, a great way to travel is via the water taxi services of The Lady Swan Boat located in historic downtown Swansboro. Captain George will ferry you over so that you can get some sand between your toes. Private marsh/eco excursions are also available. Please call (910) 325-1200 to schedule your adventure. From Swansboro, shuttle service to local beaches, including Bear Island, run seven days a week.

> Enjoy your summertime in Onslow County, where beauty and pride come together. We are thankful for our local residents and glad our visitors are here!



### Service Awards

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 three individuals, representing three 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



**Denise Simmons** Dunkin Donuts, Marine Blvd



Kaila Curley Duck's



Tina Dubrey Logan's Roadhouse