

Chamber CONNECTION

CONNECTING BUSINESS, MILITARY & COMMUNITY

Workforce for the Future



SEE PAGE
4
For Details

Our Chamber Staff

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Tiffany Choice, Chair

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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.

Are You Getting Our Emails?

The Jacksonville Onslow Chamber of Commerce uses mass email services to communicate with its members about upcoming events and special offers.

If you are not seeing Chamber emails, check your spam or junk folder. Certain email servers block communications based on certain red flags. For example, mass emails sent to over 100 hundred people can be a sign of spam. Our email list spans over 1,000 users – which may be a red flag for your email service.

How to unblock our emails:

1. Check your junk email or spam folder for emails from auth.ccsend.com or constantcontact.com.
2. If you find mail from these addresses or from “Jacksonville-Onslow Chamber of Commerce,” right click the message and select “Junk” then “Not junk/spam.”
3. If you're an Outlook user, you have the option to block or unblock certain senders. Select “Never block this Sender” to make sure you get our email communications!
4. You can also unblock based on a domain name, meaning any email sent from our mass emails will be allowed. Right click the message then select “Junk” > “Never Block Sender's Domain” through Outlook.

Google vs. Outlook Users

- Our name on Google appears: Jacksonville - Onslow Chamber of Commerce membership@jacksonvilleonline.org via auth.ccsend.com
- Our name on Outlook appears: Jacksonville - Onslow Chamber of Commerce <NAME@jacksonvilleonline.org>

If you use a quarantine service or a third party spam folder

1. Log into your quarantine account
2. Select any email you wish to unblock or receive to your inbox.
3. Select the option to “Release and Allow” and then “Allow Domain.” This lets any email from that group of addresses to enter your inbox.

Christmas Parade

Organization Name: _____

Contact Person: _____

Phone Number : _____

Fax Number: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Parade Contact Name and Email if different from above:

Parade Contact: _____

Email: _____



Deadline October 31, 2019

Quantity	Float Category	Entry Fee
	Motor vehicle only - passenger car or pickup truck (one per entry), no company logo on vehicle	\$110.00
	Walking unit only - up to 100 walkers	\$110.00
	Equestrian units - must clean up after horse and provide appropriate clean up crew (discounts do not apply)	\$35.00/animal
	Vehicle oriented group - minimum of 5 passenger vehicles	\$50.00 per vehicle
	Motorcycle oriented group - minimum of 10 motorcycles	\$30.00 per motorcycle
	Commercial vehicle or vehicle with business advertisement (additional commercial vehicle \$50.00 each)	\$130.00
	Amateur float - float or trailer decorated by an individual, business or organization. Provide own vehicle to pull	\$110.00
	* Amateur float dimensions must be no more than 9 feet wide and 40 feet long*	
	** Additional walkers with an entry (up to 50 walkers)	\$40.00
	Refundable Animal Deposit	\$100.00
	Chamber Member Discount	-\$10.00
	Professional float - beautiful, professional decorated float with tow vehicle (discounts do not apply)	\$520.00
	Total enclosed	

1. Do you want your Amateur or Professional float to be judged? NO YES
2. Will your float/entry have music? NO YES If so, what kind (Live band, Stereo...etc)? _____

- All entries MUST have holiday theme decorations however Santa Claus costumes are not to be worn.
- Please provide a **"20 word narrative" about your entry no later than October 31st**. The narratives MUST be submitted by email **ONLY** to specialevents@jacksonvilleonline.org and will be used by the television and radio station for live broadcast of the parade.
- **A PHOTO OR DRAWING MUST ACCOMPANY ALL ENTRY FORMS. PLEASE PROVIDE SPECIFICATIONS OF YOUR ENTRY: EMPHASIS ON HOLIDAY THEME, COLORS, TYPE OF MUSIC, SIZE AND NUMBER OF RIDERS.**
- **AMATEUR float participants only:** provide the following information for staging purposes: size of float (approx. dimensions), type of vehicle (i.e. pick-up truck with hitches, etc) NOTE: Tractor trailers will not be permitted for any amateur floats wishing to be judged.
- **All entries must meet the approval of the Holiday Parade Committee.** Fees accompanying rejected applications will be returned promptly. Incomplete applications will not be considered for entry and will be returned.
- Walkers must be at least **12 or older**. Anybody under 12 years old must ride on a float or in a vehicle.
- No hand-outs or candy is permitted to be distributed by any parade participants. **Must be in your area, on your float by 8:00am**
- Registrations will not be accepted without full payment. **All entry fees are not refundable.**

BRING THIS ENTRY FORM AND FEE NO LATER THAN OCT 31, 2019:

Jacksonville•Onslow Chamber of Commerce — Attention: Holiday Parade

1099 Gum Branch Rd., Jacksonville, NC 28540

Phone: (910) 347-3141 ext.235 Fax: (910) 347-4705

Email: specialevents@jacksonvilleonline.org



Presenting Sponsor:



Eastern North Carolina Regional Skills Center

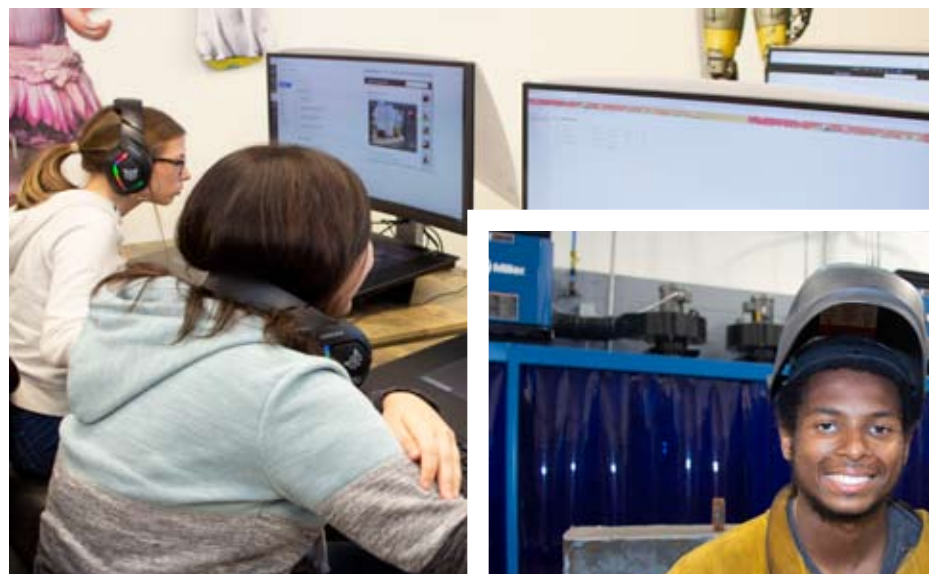
The Small Business Council and Workforce Advisory Committee gathered for a tour of the Eastern North Carolina Regional Skills Center Sept. 20. Members of both groups toured the facility and met some of the high school students at work. The center trains students in trades subjects including automotive repair and collision repair, welding, IT, game design, cyber security and culinary studies.

According to Chris Bailey, Career and Technical Education (CTE) Director for Onslow County Schools, juniors and seniors take the courses as an elective and come to the skills center during class time. Teachers at the ENC Regional Skills Center have a high level of experience – ranging from 12 years to 22 years. And class times are longer at 2 hours 35 minutes, he added.

The students are also held to a higher standard than traditional high school, according to John Shannon, ENC Regional Skills Center Director.

“This is not your typical high school ... this is your next level of training,” Shannon said.

Onslow County CTE offers internship and shadow programs for local high school students. If you or business would like to participate, please contact Chris Bailey at chris.bailey@onslow.k12.nc.us.





Governmental Affairs Committee presents

FORUM ONSLOW

Military Construction Overview

Oct. 16, 2019

11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Learn more about the \$1.7 billion scope of work for continued hurricane recovery and general work aboard Camp Lejeune, New River and Cherry Point. The NC Military Business Center will also speak on the process. This Forum Onslow is supported by Coastal Carolina Community College, the North Carolina Military Business Center (NCMBC), the Jacksonville Onslow Chamber of Commerce and Jacksonville Onslow Economic Development.

Sponsored by:



Jacksonville City Hall
City Council Chambers
815 New Bridge Street

Contact Janet Bowen
operations@jacksonvilleonline.org
Phone: 910-347-3141
Fax: 910-347-4705



Ken Hagan

Sammy Phillips



Governmental Affairs Committee presents

FORUM ONSLOW

October 16, 2019

6 p.m.– 7 p.m.

Candidates for Mayor City of Jacksonville

Sponsored by:



Jacksonville City Hall
City Council Chambers
815 New Bridge Street

Contact Janet Bowen
operations@jacksonvilleonline.org
Phone: 910-347-3141
Fax: 910-347-4705



Beyond Recognizes Chamber of Commerce

JoAnne DeRossett of Beyond Business Tools and Services presented Chamber President Laurette Leagon with a certificate for outstanding commitment to academic achievement. Through Beyond's beneficiary, Give Something Back, they provide college scholarships and mentoring to students who have faced economic hardship and other adversities.

Save the Date for These Signature Events

Christmas Holiday Parade

November 23, 2019 Western Blvd.

Small Business Week

May 3-9, 2020

Annual Membership Celebration

February 20, 2020 Marston Pavilion

Business Expo

May 15, 2020 Jacksonville Commons

Engaged Onslow Bridal Expo

March 14, 2020 Jacksonville Commons

Education Golf Tournament

May 29, 2020 Jacksonville Country Club

Administrative Professionals Celebration

April 21, 2020 Marston Pavilion

CCCC Small Business Center

Oct-16 to 17-2019 Boots to Business

Oct-16-2019 Small Business Roundtable

Oct-17-2019 Building Small Business at the Speed of Relationships

Oct-17-2019 Successful Board Chair

Oct-22-2019 How to Start a Small Business, MCAS New River

Oct-23-2019 Top 10 HR Issues for Small Businesses

Oct-24-2019 The ABC's of Business Registration including DBAs

Oct-29-2019 Business Networking for Artists and Crafters

Oct-29-2019 How to Start a Small Business, MCB Camp Lejeune

Oct-30-2019 Financing Your Small Business

Nov-06-2019 WHERE'S THE MONEY? State Rules on Raising Capital to Finance Your Small Business

Nov-06 to 07-2019 Boots to Business

Nov-07-2019 Starting a Small Business on a Limited Budget

Nov-12-2019 How to Start a Small Business, MCAS New River

Nov-12-2019 How Small Business Owners Can Manage Employee Performance

Nov-13-2019 Veteran Entrepreneurship Programs by the SBA



To register please visit the Small Business Center at Coastal Carolina Community College

www.ncsbc.net or call (910) 938-6302/6389



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Economic Indicators & Other Charts

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

TAX REPORTS				
MONTHLY TAXABLE SALES: SOURCE: NC DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE				
OCCUPANCY TAX: SOURCE: ONSLOW COUNTY				
Monthly Report of Taxable Sales				
18-19	Taxable Sales	18-19	Taxable Sales	% Change
Jul-18	\$194,582,338	Jul-19	\$219,273,246	12.69%
Aug-18	\$191,474,148	Aug-19	\$	%
Sep-18	\$179,899,105	Sep-19	\$	%
Oct-18	\$162,662,167	Oct-19	\$	%
Nov-18	\$205,477,971	Nov-19	\$	%
Dec-18	\$209,559,140	Dec-19	\$	%
Jan-19	\$221,950,803	Jan-20	\$	%
Feb-19	\$183,143,879	Feb-20	\$	%
Mar-19	\$185,838,020	Mar-20	\$	%
Apr-19	\$223,668,086	Apr-20	\$	%
May-19	\$208,840,729	May-20	\$	%
Jun-19	\$211,682,639	Jun-20	\$	%
YTD Total	\$2,378,779,025	YTD Total	\$219,273,246	12.69%
*YTD Total does not include numbers in <i>Italic</i>				

Occupancy Tax Report			
	<u>2018-2019</u>	<u>2019-2020</u>	%
July	\$462,461.06	\$461,147.13	-0.002%
August	\$353,283.12	\$358,532.19	1.46%
September	\$203,610.20		
October	\$196,372.41		
November	\$179,777.01		
December	\$151,254.46		
January	\$139,425.68		
February	\$139,912.25		
March	\$169,653.98		
April	\$171,338.39		
May	\$206,013.03		
June	\$337,169.01		
Total:	\$815,744.18	\$819,679.32	0.48%

UTILITIES				
UTILITIES: SOURCES: CITY OF JACKSONVILLE & ONWASA				
City of Jacksonville & ONWASA Water				
	Connects		Disconnects	
	2018	2019	2018	2019
1st Qtr	4,953	4,550	3,821	4,513
2nd Qtr	5,378	5,242	4,983	4,983
3rd Qtr	3,800	4,422	4,058	4,087
4th Qtr	1,775		1,911	
YTD Total	10,331	14,214	8,714	13,583
*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		
	2018	2019
1 st Quarter	15,280	13,547
2 nd Quarter	15,462	13,497
3 rd Quarter	14,824	8,207
4 th Quarter	14,731	
YTD Total	30,742	35,251
Onslow Memorial Hospital Live Births		
	2018	2019
1 st Quarter	307	313
2 nd Quarter	303	333
3 rd Quarter	357	234
4 th Quarter	348	
YTD Total	610	761
*YTD Total does not include numbers in <i>Italic</i>		

Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune Emergency Room Visits		
	2018	2019
1 st Quarter	13,134	13,036
2 nd Quarter	13,393	12,326
3 rd Quarter	11,582	7,450
4 th Quarter	11,909	
YTD Total	26,527	32,812
Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune Live Births		
	2018	2019
1 st Quarter	480	458
2 nd Quarter	459	390
3 rd Quarter	499	338
4 th Quarter	449	
YTD Total	939	1,186

TRANSPORTATION		
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION: SOURCE: OUTS, JTS		
ALBERT ELLIS AIRPORT: SOURCE: ALBERT J ELLIS AIRPORT		
Public Transportation Riders - 2019-20		
System	August	Fiscal YTD
Onslow United Transit System	7,621	15,579
Jacksonville Transit System	8,365	17,886
Military Express	1,108	2,230
Total	17,094	35,695

Albert J Ellis Airport Total Passengers			
	2018	2019	% Change
January	19,905	23,549	18%
February	21,064	22,739	8%
March	27,481	28,582	4%
April	26,425	28,667	8%
May	28,587	29,202	2%
June	26,867	29,217	8%
July	29,082	31,802	8.5%
August	30,838		%
September	18,324		%
October	26,168		%
November	27,468		%
December	26,451		%
YTD Total	179,411	193,758	7.4%
*YTD Total does not include numbers in <i>Italic</i>			

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 8/31/19, 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	8	781	97.63	164	1.68
\$150,001 - \$200,000	8	1009	126.13	154	1.22
\$200,001 - \$250,000	8	522	65.25	108	1.80
\$251,001 - \$300,000	8	169	21.13	38	2.40
\$300,001 +	8	147	18.38	136	7.40
TOTAL		2628		600	

New Construction Price	# of Months	# Sold	Sales Rate Per Month	# Currently Active*	# of Month's Of Inventory
≤ \$150,000	8	5	0.63	0	0.00
\$150,001 - \$200,000	8	135	16.88	58	3.44
\$200,001 - \$250,000	8	228	28.50	121	4.25
\$251,001 - \$300,000	8	97	12.13	62	5.11
\$300,001 +	8	80	10.00	62	6.20
TOTAL		545		303	

Business Stats		
County Permits: Source: Onslow County		
City Permits: Source: City of Jacksonville		
City of Jacksonville Building Permits		
August 2019	#	Value
Residential	40	\$1,748,187
Commercial	62	\$1,947,595
Other	299	\$285,600
Total	401	\$3,981,382

County Building Permits			
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	1,078	164	\$44,634,113
4th Qtr Totals	1,094	220	\$50,139,085
FY Totals	4,208	682	\$161,896,422
FY2019-20	Res BPs	Com BPs	Total Value
1st Qtr Totals	890	155	\$54,080,910
2nd Qtr Totals			
3rd Qtr Totals			
4th Qtr Totals			
FY Totals	890	155	\$54,080,910

Camp Lejeune & MCAS		
NR Government and External Relations (GER) Camp Lejeune, NC.		

Camp Lejeune Area Active Duty USN/USMC Statistics		
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	



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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	2019
Month	July
Labor Force	64,099
Employed	60,730
Unemployed	3,369
Unemployment Rates	5.3%

Onslow County Register of Deeds			
Assumed Business Names, Deaths, Births and Marriage Certificates for the previous 3 years. Source: Onslow County Register of Deeds			
Register of Deeds			
Assumed Names		Deaths	
2016	560	2016	812
2017	580	2017	804
2018	556	2018	863
Births		Marriages	
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 August 2019 (State Regulated for children birth to 12)					
License Type	# facilities	# slots	# enrolled	Capacity	# staff
NC 5 star	20	2,593	2,487	96%	402
NC 4 star	9	363	312	86%	51
NC 3 star	17	495	461	93%	90
NC 2 star	1	8	8	100%	1
NC 1 star	6	125	112	90%	15
NC Religious	6	450	427	95%	70
NC Temporary	3	59	34	58%	18
NC Provisional					
NC Probationary					
Totals	62	4,093	3,841	94.0%	647



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When you care about where you live

Marketing Division Report	
Source: Facebook Analytics	
Social	
Facebook (50 new followers)	4,398
Followers on Instagram	334
People reached through photo post	769
Average post reach average on Facebook (the number of people who see our content on their news feed)	785
People reached on high-performing posts (Howard Farms teaser)	1.6K
People reached through video post this month	824

From Sept. 1- Sept. 29, 8,846 people were reached through the chamber’s Facebook page. This is up 7% from last month’s post engagement statistics. The page received 3,586 engagements, which is a 22% increase compared to last month. There were 1,8693-second video views this month, which is up 56%. The chamber page continues to rank No. 2 against other non-profit pages in the area, with the Onslow County Partnership for Children at No. 1. Goals hit: Consistent posting helped us get 50 new “likes” on Facebook in September. We also reached the 300 mark on Instagram. Goals for next month: Continue to grow page following and welcome new page “members.”

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

Website	
Page views from Sept. 1-29 (17% decrease)	5911
New Visitors	72%
Returning Visitors	28%

Popular pages this month were the home page, business directory and Christmas Parade pages. Registration for the Christmas Parade is open and based on web traffic, people are using the link to download the form and register their business.

Goals for next month: Continue routine updates and updating information to the website with a focus on usability.

PRESS

Members Publix Supermarket, Howard Farms and Excel Body Works were featured in the The Daily News this month. Publix held its Grand Opening Sept. 3- the day before Hurricane Dorian passed through. Howard Farms was featured in JDN and on WNCT for its grand opening held Sept. 21, despite challenges including Hurricane Florence in 2018. Excel Body Works made the news for its drive benefitting Dorian victims in Myrtle Beach.

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

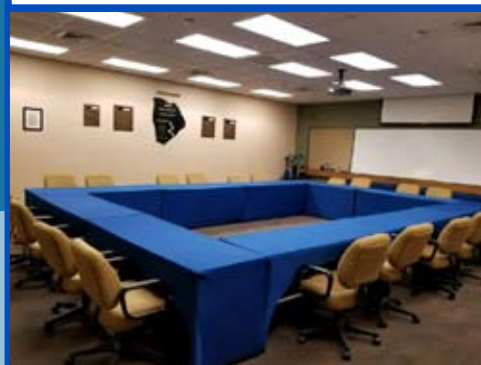
1-4 hours Member Rate: \$50

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

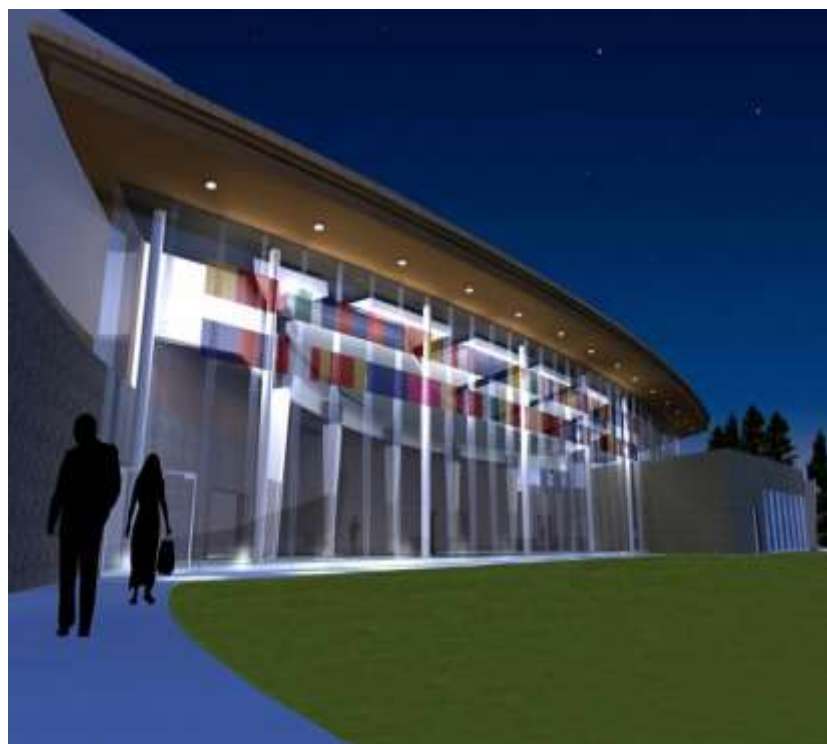
Lower Cape Fear Hospice Hosts Lunch and Learn About Grief and the Holidays

Wilmington, NC – Lower Cape Fear Hospice will host a free lunch and learn workshop about coping with Grief and the Holidays on Monday, Nov. 4 in Jacksonville.

The workshop will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Jacksonville Christian Church, 2429 Commerce Road in Jacksonville. Lunch will be provided; registration is required by Thursday, Oct. 31. To register or learn more, call 910-796-7991.

Most of us have loved and lost special people in our lives and we understand that coping with grief is a challenging process. If you or your friends and family are having difficulty dealing with the loss of a loved one, Lower Cape Fear Hospice is here to help. Throughout the year, we offer compassionate care, educational and enrichment opportunities that support many types of loss in safe and familiar environments. Because of our generous donors, these caring, no cost groups, camps and workshops are available to all. Your donation is always appreciated.

Lower Cape Fear Hospice is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing the highest level of care and comfort to patients with life-limiting illness; support and counseling to families; and education to the community. For more information, visit lcfh.org.



Countdown to Groundbreaking!

Carolina Museum of the Marine and Citizenship Institute is poised to receive a significant grant in July 2020 - bringing us to 93% of our \$28M goal. \$2M left to raise!

Be a part of this historic event in Jacksonville, NC by contributing to the Long Live the Legends Campaign.

We thank you!

Carolina Museum of the Marine and Citizenship Institute | 910-937-0033 |
907 Lejeune Blvd, Jacksonville, NC 28540

LEADERSHIP

The Jacksonville Onslow Chamber of Commerce Leadership In Action 2019-2020 participants held their second session on September 12th. This year's participants are Mary Avery, Kelly Cannon, LaShea Cavers, Allis Ellis, Anthony Futrell, Kelly Glass, Tondrea Leach, Nicole Lovejoy, Melissa Maloney, Wendy O'Brien, Jeff Pittman, Vic Reyes, Mitch Sprunger, and Reva Sullivan. For this session they were learning about Onslow County by participating in a Community Scavenger Hunt.





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Service Awards

A community is only as good as the citizens that live and work within its borders. Each 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 two individuals, representing two 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!



Kaylay Durrell
Hampton Inn



Jeanette Walks
Days Inn

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From the desk of Donna Hammonds



Happy Fall Y'all!

Finally, there's a crispness in the air. We can open the windows and let in the cool breezes. It doesn't seem possible that it's October and the year has flown by at such a rapid pace. It's Fall y'all!

As the leaves begin to turn brilliant colors of red, gold and orange our beautiful county becomes a playground for outdoor fall activities, I encourage you, your family and friends to attend one or all of these wonderful events and happenings.

The 65th Annual Swansboro Mullet Festival of NC kicks off its two-day weekend event on Saturday, October 12 through October 13. The festivities begin with a parade down Highway 24 at 9 a.m. A wide array of vendors including arts & crafts, commercial and food will line the various streets throughout historic downtown Swansboro and are open for patrons at 10 a.m. There's a kids' area that opens at 10 a.m. with a wide mix of activities geared towards children of all ages. Live music begins at 11 a.m. at the Pug Pavilion in the heart of downtown Swansboro and continues throughout the day and into the evening on Saturday and Sunday. To accent the meaning behind the festival, the Swansboro Rotary Club serves fried mullet throughout the event. Parking and shuttle services will be offered from behind the Hampton Inn & Suites at Ward Farm. For more information visit www.swansborofestivals.com or call (910) 326- 2600.

Mullet Moon/Fireworks Cruise aboard the Lady Swan in downtown Swansboro. Celebrate the Annual Swansboro Mullet Festival like never before. Embark on a marsh cruise, view the sunset and full moon followed by the dynamic festival fireworks display...all in one night! This will be a popular cruise, so claim your seats early. You can register for either the Lady Swan or the Carolina Swan for this event. Reserve your seat at www.ladyswantours.com/ or visit their Facebook page.

Join the USO of North Carolina at their downtown Jacksonville location for their Beirut Memorial Ruck on Sunday, October 20. The Memorial Ruck will start at 8:00 a.m. marking the beginning of a week of remembrance in honor of the 241 Marines, Sailors and Soldiers who paid the ultimate sacrifice for freedom on October 23, 1983 in Beirut, Lebanon. Starting at the Beirut Memorial, traveling along the green-way to the Camp Lejeune Main gate, back to the Memorial - 10.23 miles. Participation is \$35 per person. If you're interested in participating at this year's event you can register at <https://northcarolina.uso.org/events/364>.

The Beirut Memorial Observance at the Lejeune Memorial Gardens on October 23 at 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. marks 36 years since the Peace Mission to Beirut Lebanon. The Beirut Memorial was a gift from the citizens of Onslow County to honor those men that lived among us and gave so much. A solemn tribute to 273 Marines who gave the last full measure of devotion in Lebanon and Grenada on October 23, 1983. The names of each man are engraved in granite along with the words "They Came in Peace." Set in a wooded site with beautiful landscaping, this is a fitting tribute to our military men and women who answer the call every day without regard to personal safety. Each year, a Remembrance Observance takes place of October 23 at the Beirut Memorial to remember those who gave the greatest sacrifice for their country.

The last stop on the Jacksonville Onslow Sports Commission Race Series is the Freddy's Frozen Custard Challenge & 5K on October 19. Challengers run the flat course around the Jacksonville Commons Loop and then head into a nature trail filled with frozen custard and a few challenges. 5k runners run the flat course around the Commons Loop and then enjoy some frozen custard at the finish line. There will be vendors, a DJ and frozen custard bar for everyone to enjoy! For more info visit www.playjosc.com or call (910) 347-3141 ext.248.

It's time for Walton's Distillery Open House (Distillery Session) season to start on October 19, 12:00 – 5:00 p.m. Come on out and join them for the first Open House event of the year! There will be live music featuring "Firewater Express" for your enjoyment. All events are completely Free for their guests and include lunch provided from Smithfield's as well as sides and desserts from the family. Free tours will be conducted hourly and free tastings will be set up at the tasting bar. All ages are welcome to enjoy the festivities, but you must be 21 or older to sample the spirits. Visit Walton's Distillery Facebook Page for more information or call (910) 347-7770.

Huffman Vineyards is calling all cooks and chili fanatics for their 2nd Annual Chili Cook-Off on October 19! They had
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so much fun last year with the cook-off that they decided to do it again. First place takes home a \$200 cash prize. This is a cook-off for those creative chefs to display their most prized or most unique chili recipes. Contact them at (910) 324-3997 to sign up and compete. The “Carolina Swamp Dogs” will serenade you with their cool bluesy jams as you sample the goods...wine and beer will cool off those taste buds. This is a family friendly event with a \$5 tasting fee for all you can eat chili samples!

Celebrating the Bavarian culture and flowing pints of beer at the Annual Oktoberfest Festival at Riverwalk Park in downtown Jacksonville Saturday, October 26, 10 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Featured festivities include amusement rides, games, food court, beer garden, arts & crafts, vendors, children performances, Last Man Standing Contest and Miss Oktoberfest Pageant. Headlining performance by “Mike Corrado” who will take the main stage at 6:00 p.m. Proceeds benefit charitable programs offered by Onslow Community Outreach, a 501c3 nonprofit. For more information on event happenings visit the Onslow Oktoberfest Facebook page.

Dancing Stars of Onslow County 2019 will foxtrot across the floors of the American Legion Burton Cowell Post 265 in Jacksonville on October 26. This annual event benefits the Onslow Women’s Center in the cause to stop domestic violence. Attendees will enjoy a spectacular evening of dancing that includes dinner, silent auction, a 50/50 raffle, and a cash bar! Local stars throughout Onslow County will be pairing up with the best dancers in town to put on an amazing show for a great cause. This event is based off the hit television show “Dancing with the Stars”. The evening will consist of 10 local celebrities paired with 10 professional dancers to compete for two awards, all while raising money through your votes. The awards include the “People’s Choice Award” (given to the Star with the most votes by raising the most money) and the “Dancing Star Award” (given to the Star with the highest Judge’s Score). In just one captivating night of fun and performances, Onslow Women’s Center, Inc. continues to raise funds and awareness to help put an end to domestic violence! Be sure to donate to your favorite dancer and purchase your tickets before the night of the event to ensure to save your seat. For Dancing Star information visit their website at www.onslowwc.org/dancing or call the Women’s Center Main Office at (910) 238-2941.

Trunk or Treat at Hammocks Beach State Park Sunday, October 27, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. Bring the kiddos out to the park in their scariest or funniest costumes to enjoy this Annual Ghoulish Halloween event. Some of the spook-tacular activities you can enjoy will include: a haunted house, hay rides, games, candy, prizes, and more! This event is free and fun for all ages! For more information call (910) 326-4881.

Experience Onslow’s newest fall fun family attraction, Hog Wild at Howards Farm on Friday’s through Sunday during the month of October. Their 5-acre corn maze, kiddie maze, barrel train ride, tube slides, corn hut, hayrides, pumpkin patch and s’mores pit...kids will go wild roasting their marshmallows creating the perfect outdoor fall treat! Please visit their Facebook Page, Hog Wild at Howards Farm, the reviews say it all.

Down the lane and around the pond to the pumpkin patch you go! Come out and enjoy an old-fashioned hayride around the farm, Mike’s Farm that is! During the fall season “Pumpkin Pickin’” is one of the most popular events that’s so much fun to do. During the fall hayrides, both kids and adults will enjoy a relaxing and scenic ride which often times breaks out into a “singing jubilee” that can be heard all over Onslow County! You can walk through the fields and select the perfect pumpkin to bring home. The hayride schedule for October runs Tuesday & Wednesday from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m., Thursday & Friday from 1:00 - 8:00 p.m., and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. The cost is \$2.00 per person for ages 3 and older. Pumpkins are weighed and run \$0.69 per pound with a \$3.00 minimum. That’s not all folks...the farm’s new NC Products Barn is open! And, don’t forget to visit the bakery for some delicious home-made sweets and treat the family to a country dinner complete with crispy fried chicken with all the fixin’s. More information on all the fall festivities can be found at www.mikesfarm.com and on their Facebook page.

There’s lots to see and do during the month of October in Onslow County. Get out and enjoy! For more additional events and happenings please visit our calendar of events at www.onlyinonslow.com and visit our Facebook page.

