

Chamber Tidings

June 2023 – The Monthly Newsletter of the Swansboro Area Chamber of Commerce – Volume 23, Number 8



Military is appreciated

By Mike McHugh

They arrived by the carload. No sooner had the morning light begun filtering through the hammock and well into the post median carload after carload of people continued to pour into the state park situated at the edge of eastern Onslow County.

The 2023 Military Appreciation Day hosted by Hammocks Beach State Park and presented

by the Swansboro Area Chamber of Commerce's Military Affairs Committee and under written by a generous donation from Marine Federal Credit Union was a smashing success.

The day had something for everyone. A chance to say "thank you for your service" to those who served to those actively serving and to a very special person who wore the uniform during World War Two.

This year's crowd crushed precious year's attendance tallies. Park officials believe more than 4,700 people entered the park on June 3, 2023.

Once the throng entered they were entertained by a bevy of exhibitors from a lawn foam party to face painters and balloon artists. Static displays from the Marine Corps to law enforce-

(See VETS, page 2)



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Tideland News



Vets ...

(Continued from front)

ment, first responders and non profits such as Jacksonville Onslow Crime Stoppers and the USO greeted visitors in front of the Visitors Center.

Did we mention the food? There was plenty of food.

More than 80 pizzas and close to 2,000 hot dogs were consumed that were splashed down by gallons of Culligan bottled water and canned Shasta soda. Guests cooled down eating 900 sno-cones that consumed 16 gallons of syrup.

Two state ferry boats whisked passengers to Bear Island aboard for a day at the beach.

During an afternoon ceremony, the Keys to City of Swansboro were presented to Maj. Gen. Calvert Booth Jr. by its mayor the Honorable John Davis.

Guests were also treated to an extraordinary experience when a World War Two veteran was recognized. Bear Creek resident Virginia Reavis was recognized for her service. The spry, 102-year-old, a member of the Greatest Generation, attained the rank of E-5 upon her discharge. During the war, she flew with the wounded as they were being transported to the states. She was in the same command as her husband who flew P-47s. Tough as nails, Virginia survived a plane crash during the war and just a few years ago an automobile wreck.



WWII veteran Virginia Reavis, 102, of Bear Creek was recognized for her service. During the war, she flew with the wounded as they were transported to the states. (Mike McHugh photo)

Courtesy golf carts shuttled patrons from the lower parking lots to the Visitors Center throughout the day. The carts were loaned for the day from

Cherie Bedford, Phil Bossart and Mary Pat Smey.

Mike McHugh is executive director of the SACC.

Property sale noted

By Mike McHugh

A major Swansboro real estate transaction settled on May 30, 2023.

MJA Investments LLC purchased four parcels in historic Swansboro from Port O'Swannsborough and its surviving owner William David Pinsky. The properties encompass the structure occupied by Saltwater Grill, Port of Swannsborough—housing retail stores Through the Looking Glass and Candy Adventure-- and parking areas adjacent to the restaurant and shops plus a waterfront dock.

The closing price was \$3,300,500, according documents on file with the Onslow County Tax Office.

David said it will be “business as usual” for his retail shop “Through the Looking Glass” which was busy Thursday morning as long-time staffers continued to help customers and build flower arrangements.

For decades David, the late Dr. Henry “Oscar” Schindelar and the late Hal Silver were the owners of the LLC with Dave and Hal acting as the faces of Through The Looking Glass. Oscar passed away in Nov. 2019 followed by Hal in Oct. 2022.

MJA Inverstmnts LLC is a Jacksonville entity whose managing member is Melissa J. Anderson, according to the N.C. Secretary of State’s website.

Melissa told the SACC she is “only a property owner.” Her brother Tim Anderson, she said owns the Saltwater Grill. Melissa said for the short term there won’t be any changes to the existing retail establishments but things will change after the summer tourist season ends.

“CandyAdventure is planning to move to another location after their busy season this summer and I already have new businesses waiting to come in behind them,” Melissa said.

Reached by phone Jessica Radley, owner of Candy Adventure said they are planning to relocate their business to another Swansboro location but declined to say where since she is still in negotiations for the desired space.

Mike McHugh is executive director of the SACC.



Lawmakers planning road work

By Mike McHugh

If patience is a virtue then drivers of Swansboro Loop Road will need to be virtuous until 2025.

The Swansboro Area Chamber of Commerce reached out to Onslow County's two state representatives in Raleigh: Rep. Phil Shepard and Rep. George Cleveland to express concerns about the condition of Swansboro Loop Road between Norris Road and Belgrade Swansboro Road.

Shepard and Cleveland sit on the Transportation Committee with Shepard acting as its chair.

Shepard's office through its legislative assistant Ethan Nichols shed some light on future plans for the 3.2 mile roadway that connects Main Street Extension with Belgrade Swansboro Road.

Nichols' email reply was received on Thursday, June 15, 2023, using data and responses from officials within the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

Nichols wrote that an "NCDOT Onslow County Maintenance Engineer will review the road for any immediate pavement repairs that may be necessary," Nichols wrote. "The Department has a section of the road from Belgrade-Swansboro Road and Norris Road in our Highway Maintenance Improvement Program (HMIP) which is currently planned for resurfacing in fiscal year 2025. Until the resurfacing of the roadway can be accomplished, the Onslow County Maintenance office will continue to monitor this area and perform any pavement repairs as needed."

Nichols pointed out that the section of the road from Norris Road to Main Street Extension was last resurfaced in 2018.

2025 may prove to be a challenging year for area motorists with the Loop Road resurfacing project



coupled with the planned replacement of the Queens Creek Bridge.

With several new subdivisions and an assistant living center now occupying land that was formerly agricultural fields, the roadway has seen an increase in vehicular traffic. Nichols said the annual average daily traffic (AADT) for Swansboro

Loop Road as last reported in 2021 on Swansboro Loop Rd near Mainstreet Ext was "2500 vehicles per day and the AADT near Belgrade-Swansboro Rd was 1500 vehicles per day."

Nichols said the widening of Swansboro Loop Road is not currently a funded project, however the DOT does have an interest in developing a roadway widening project for this road. The roadway shoulders on this route are not wide enough to accommodate bike lanes, however 2-3 feet width of paved shoulders could be added on each side of the road to benefit vehicular traffic, as well as providing additional space for bicycle use. The DOT will continue to seek any potential opportunities for funding a roadway widening project for Swansboro Loop Road.

Nichols recommended the planning for any sidewalks on the roadway to be coordinated with the Town of Swansboro and the Jacksonville MPO. The Jacksonville MPO helps identify future potential funding opportunities and long range planning opportunities, and the Town would ultimately be responsible for maintaining a sidewalk facility. The Division can also assist for identifying possible funding options.

Nichols said the staff would be happy to schedule a meeting with the Town officials to discuss these options.

Mike McHugh is executive director of the SACC.

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Accompanied by members of the Trail Life USA Honor Guard, representatives from the Navy, Marines, Army, Air Force and Coast Guard held wreaths during a Memorial Day service inside the Swansboro United Methodist Church on Monday, May 29, 2023. They are, from left, Chaplain Jonathan Shour, Ret. MSgt Timothy Vannoy, Ret. CWO4 Joseph Brown, Ret. Lt. Col. Pete Benton and Chief Boatswain Mate Heather Scheer. (Mike McHugh photo)



Swansboro hosts Memorial Day service

By Mike McHugh

“Too many Americans don’t know or don’t care what Memorial Day means. Thanks to you all here today, we all know what Memorial Day means,” said retired USMC Lt. Gen. Robert Hegelund in his prepared remarks before several hundred people Monday morning during Swansboro’s Memorial Day service.

The threat of inclement forced organizers of the 10 a.m. event to be moved from Sanders Park to inside the Swansboro United Methodist Church.

Hegelund was one of many speakers who spoke about the meaning of Memorial Day during the 42-minute service organized by Swansboro Mayor John Davis. Davis said planning for the event started “four to six weeks ago.”

USMC Lt. Col. Veronica L. Kaltrider reminded the assembled that “freedom is not free” and while some may view the holiday as a day off from work it’s a “solemn day” and urged people to embrace the day by “participating in a parade, fly a flag or wear a poppy.”

Kaltrider said she was inspired by her uncle who joined

the Marine Corps because of “his strength and love of our nation.”

Hegelund, too, said he was inspired by a close relative he never met. “My uncle Bob served overseas in the Army as Combat Engineer. He hit a land mine and did not survive. He was 21 years old.” Hegelund decided to join the Marine Corps and feels his

uncle was looking down when he made the decision saying “it’s your choice.”

A ceremonial Laying of the Wreaths followed the singing of “God Bless the USA.”

Representatives from the Navy, Marines, Army, Air Force and Coast Guard were joined by members of the Trail Life USA

Honor Guard. They were Chaplain Jonathan Shour, Ret. MSgt Timothy Vannoy, Ret. CWO4 Joseph Brown, Ret. Lt. Col. Pete Benton and Chief Boatswain Mate Heather Scheer, respectively.

The gathered were entertained with music from the Marine Corps Brass Quintet and several

songs performed by local resident Curtis Hyler.

Near the conclusion of the service as representatives from five branches—Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines and Navy—held wreaths along side five Young Marines, a Marine Corps Rifle Team executed a 21-gun salute at the entrance to the church.

A rendition of Taps and a reminder and benediction by Pastor Stan Budd brought the service to a close.

Afterwards groups of Marine Corps League veterans and spouses posed for pictures while youngsters climbed on and inside several military vehicles and other first responder equipment brought from Swansboro Fire and Police and the Onslow County Sheriff’s Office.

In addition to Mayor Davis, other elected officials attending Monday’s service were N.C. Rep. Phil Shepard, Onslow County Sheriff Chris Thomas, Onslow County Commissioner Walter Scott and Swansboro Commissioner Larry Philpott.

Mike McHugh is executive director of the SACC.



Support and have a blast

Are you ready for some pyrotechnics? Well, you can have a blast and support a great non profit.

Volunteers, parents and athletes from the Carteret Onslow Youth Football League Falcons have set up a TNT Fireworks tent at the corner of Corbett Avenue and Queens Creek Road. Proceeds from the sale will be used for upcoming COYFL programs.

June Renewals

Thank you to all the Swansboro Area Chamber of Commerce members who renewed their memberships in June ...

Advanced Office Solutions, Ann Herrick, Battlefield Tire, Ben & Jerry's, Carolina Party, Cecil Hargett, Cedar Point Tire, Class Act Catering, Coastal Carolina Orthodontics, Coldwell Banker Sea Coast Advantage-Susan Cummings, Broker/REALTOR®, Crystal Coast Family Practice, Crystal Coast Habitat for Humanity, Curtis Media Group, Darden Insurance Agency, Dave Brown, Devoted Nutrition, Don Williamson Nissan, Dudley's Marina, Emerald Isle Realty, Emerald Isle Wine Market, George Cleveland, H&R Block, Hearing Life, Hurst Realty, Island Essentials, Islanders Suites, James W. Bean, Jerri Builders, John E. Tantum, Jones-Onslow EMC, Mandala Yoga, Marine Federal Credit Union, MCCC Camp Lejeune, National Dodge, Navy Federal Credit Union, NC Farm Bureau, Pinnacle Tax, Rooms Unlimited, Scarlet Harris, Secure Background Screeners, SecureCare Storage, Swansboro High School, Swansboro Historical Association, Swansboro HS Century Club, Swansboro Rotary Foundation, The Mustard Seed, The Trading Post, Through the Looking Glass, Tunnel to Towers-Swansboro, Walmart and Waters Ace Hardware.



Swansboro Food & Beverage celebrated its first year in business under the guidance of Preston and his wonderful team. The downtown location serves breakfast, lunch and dinner. (Mike McHugh photo)

New Members

Onslow United Transit System Danny Ferucci (910) 346-2998	Trademasters Heating & Cooling Silver Sponsor Joey Urban (252) 503-2760
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SACC Calendar

The chamber's board of directors will not meet in June or July.

August 8 – The Swansboro Area Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee board of directors will meet at 5:30 p.m. at the Hampton Inn & Suites.

August 9 – Swansboro Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Board of Directors will meet at 8 a.m. at the Hampton Inn & Suites.

August 16 – The Swansboro Area Chamber of Commerce General Membership meeting at Swansboro Food and Beverage begins at 7:45 a.m.



Sanders Ford said "Thank You" to veterans and first responders on Thursday, June 15, by providing them lunch and fellowship in their Swansboro and Jacksonville showrooms. Sanders Ford Inc. is in the midst of a 3-day sale with Marine Federal Credit Union on the lots to provide financing. Sanders Ford is located at 1006 W. Corbett Ave. in Swansboro and at 1135 Lejeune Blvd. in Jacksonville. (Mike McHugh photos)



Military Appreciation Day 2023

MajGen Calvert Worth Jr. was presented the Keys to the City by Swansboro Mayor John Davis. (Mike McHugh photos)

