



# Your Onslow County Connection

## April is National County Government Month



April is National County Government Month. Since 1991, the National Association of Counties has encouraged counties across the country to actively promote county government programs and services. National County Government Month is celebrated each April by the nation's counties to raise public awareness and understanding about the roles and responsibilities of county government. This year's theme is "Counties Moving America Forward: The Keys are Transportation and Infrastructure."

Onslow County is the state's 11<sup>th</sup> most populated. We occupy 767 square miles of flat, gently rolling land whose climate is the envy of many states, ranking us #12 in land mass. Named in honor of Arthur Onslow, a longtime speaker of the House of Commons in Britain, many settlers came to Onslow from northeastern North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland and the New England states. Onslow County wasn't recognized by the North Carolina General Assembly until 1734. By the late 1730s approximately 200 families lived here and by 1794 the number had swelled to 695. Today our population is nearly 194,000 and is projected to grow to more than 240,000 by 2025.

Drawn by extensive Longleaf pine forests, it is no surprise that lumber, tar and pitch were main industries. Onslow's access to navigable water led to naval stores rapidly ascending as a vital economic venture. Two hundred years later the word got out. In 1939 the Army surveyed the area and the Navy took notice, resulting in the largest amphibious base on the East Coast calling Onslow home.

Both cities and counties were created by the state as political units as their primary purpose. Counties were historically established to serve state functions and purposes rather than satisfy the needs of a community. Over time counties became authorized to carry out a wide variety of urban functions in addition to fulfilling state functions. In North Carolina counties serve as the primary local government for nearly half the state.

According to A. Fleming Bell, II's 'An Overview of Local Government, counties are both state agencies and local governments, while cities are local governments only. So what does a county provide?

Onslow County proudly provides or arranges for the following services that, by statute, only counties can provide: agricultural extension services support, community college support, surveyor, land drainage, medical examiner/coroner services, contract mental health services, public health services, public schools support, register of deeds, senior services and soil and water conservation. Onslow also provides the following services that can be provided by cities or counties: airport service, ambulance service, animal services, museums, contract fire protection, a jail, law enforcement (sheriff's office), libraries, parks and recreation services including parks, planning, contract rescue squads, solid waste disposal and veterans' services.

### Commissioner Meetings

- Monday May 4
  - Monday May 18
  - Monday June 1
  - Monday June 15
  - Monday July 6
  - Monday July 20
  - Monday August 3
  - Monday August 17
  - Wednesday September 9
  - Monday September 21
  - Monday October 5
  - Monday October 19
  - Monday November 2
  - Monday November 16
  - Monday December 7
  - Monday December 21
- Meetings will be held at the Onslow County Government Center, 234 Northwest Corridor Blvd, Jacksonville. Meetings will be held on the first and third Mondays, with the exception of listed Wednesdays.*

### Onslow National County Government Month 2015 Proclamation

*State of North Carolina  
County of Onslow  
Proclamation  
National County Government Month, April 2015*

*Whereas*, the United States is home to approximately 3,069 counties that provide essential services to more than 300 million citizens; and,

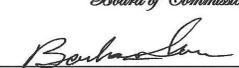
*Whereas*, the counties move America forward by providing essential services to create healthy, safe, vibrant and economically resilient communities; and

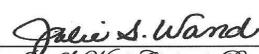
*Whereas*, Onslow County proudly employs more than 1,200 employees in approximately 25 departments who provide outstanding service to more than 180,000 citizens; and,

*Whereas*, National County Government Month is celebrated each April by the nation's counties to raise public awareness and understanding about the roles and responsibilities of county government; and

*Now, therefore, be it proclaimed*, that the Onslow County Board of Commissioners declares the month of April 2015 as County Government Month, and encourages all county officials, employees and citizens to participate in the celebration activities during the week of April 20-24, 2015.

Presented this 20<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2015.

*Onslow County  
Board of Commissioners*  
  
*Barbara Anon, Chairman*

*Attest:*  
  
*Julie S. Ward, Clerk to the Board*




Onslow County Board of Commissioners Vice Chairman Paul Buchanan presents a proclamation honoring emergency response personnel for National Telecommunicator's Week. Norman Bryson, Emergency Services Director, Leslie Sumerall, E911 Training Officer and Christine Whaley, E911 Shift Supervisor accepted the proclamation on behalf of all telecommunicators April 8.

### Summers Earns Professional Accreditation

Christina Summers, an Onslow County Purchasing Department purchasing agent, recently passed her exam for certification. Summers was notified by the Carolinas Association of Governmental Purchasing (CAGP) that she has earned recognition from the CAGP by receiving the Certified Local Government Purchasing Officer credential.

The voluntary certification program for government purchasing officers is designed to provide greater service to taxpayers through more efficient purchasing, recognize achievement of an established level of competency and proficiency among purchasing officials and provide continuing professional development of purchasing officials and enhance their professional image. Summers has worked for Onslow County since 2010.

### Guys Night Out @ OCPL

This program is just for the guys! Boys in 3rd grade and up are invited -- along with their parent, relative, friend, or caregiver -- to talk about fun books and crazy characters! The first five (5) to register each month will be contacted to visit the Main library to pick up a free copy of a book! Each monthly book is voted for at the previous month's meeting. Our April book is James Patterson's "Middle School the Worst Years of my Life!" We meet at the Main library in Jacksonville on the 4th Tuesday of every month, at 6:30pm. Find out about all programs at [www.onslowcountync.gov/library/](http://www.onslowcountync.gov/library/)

**PIRATE FEST:** Hammocks Beach State Park, Swansboro May 2, 10am to 5pm.

**PARK AFTER DARK** camping @ Onslow Pines May 8.

**SENIOR GAMES AWARDS BANQUET & PERFORMING ARTS.** May 16.

**RICHLANDS LOOP BIKE RACE** May 31. 910-347-5332 [www.onslowcountync.gov/parks](http://www.onslowcountync.gov/parks).

**Did you know? Telecommunicators handled nearly one call per Onslow County resident last year. More than 188,000 calls!**

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 @OnslowPIO