



Jacksonville, Richlands, Sneads Ferry, Swansboro, and North Topsail Beach



Women Making an Impact on Tourism in Onslow County, NC

Onslow County is home to many interesting and inspired local women entrepreneurs and business owners that help make our communities a great place to live and visit. Their love and passion is woven into what they do, and it's what brings people back to Onslow County, time and time again. Creating family legacies, combined with a strong work ethic, and a deep love for the central coast of North Carolina are all part of the unique stories they share.



OnslowCountyTourism



OnlyInOnslow

Theresa Lowe // Mike's Farm

What started as a small family-owned tobacco farm, Mike's Farm has evolved into a multi-faceted agri-business that includes one of the most renowned restaurants in Onslow County. Back in 1986, when Mike and Theresa Lowe took over the reins, they changed gears and started growing Christmas trees and did that successfully for many years. With each successive year since then, the Lowe family has continuously developed the farm, starting with the addition of a full-service bakery, as well as hayrides and their annual Festival of Lights and Ho Ho Christmas Show, followed by the addition of an event venue and wedding barn. Families from all around Eastern North Carolina and beyond come to the farm for the simple pleasure of picking strawberries in the Spring and pumpkins in the Fall.

It was Theresa's vision that convinced her husband to expand to offering a farm-to-table restaurant, complete with fried chicken, pork loin, mashed potatoes, collards, homemade biscuits, and tea, served all you-can-eat, family-style. Keeping platters filled with hot food was a family affair. Aunt Liz was known for her crispy, cast-iron skillet, fried chicken and Aunt Gertrude was known for her delicious biscuits. Both ran the kitchen well into their 80's, and helped make the restaurant the success that it is today. The farm-themed dining room includes a collection of country memorabilia as well as a gift shop, and a front porch with an endless row of rocking chairs that loyal patrons enjoy while waiting to be seated.

NC Product Barn @ Mike's Farm

In September 2019, Theresa's inspiration resulted in what could eventually become the crowning jewel at Mike's Farm. Having been born and raised in Eastern North Carolina, Theresa wanted to create a place to showcase and sell locally made products. From the Mountains, to the Piedmont, to the Coastal Plains, the NC Products Barn @ Mike's Farm is home to the largest variety of products that are produced, manufactured, and crafted in the great state of North Carolina. Theresa hopes to eventually have all one hundred North Carolina counties represented, and we're sure she will do just that.



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www.OnlyInOnslow.com

Evelyn Moore // Yana's Ye Old Drugstore Restaurant

Evelyn Moore, aka "Yana Mama," was inspired to open her restaurant nearly forty years ago to share her love of cooking and the recipes that were passed down to her by her family from her ancestors, who were descendants of an American Indian tribe, named "Yana."

In 1983, she leased the old Bell's Drugstore in downtown Swansboro and filled the dark, wood-paneled walls of the dining room with 1950s memorabilia, a passion of Moore's since going to rock 'n' roll shows at the Charlotte Coliseum as a teen. Moore carried the '50s theme through the menu, mixing family recipes for pancakes, fritters, and coconut pie with classic diner fare.

As the sun rises on Saturday mornings in downtown Swansboro, the line of folks from as close as Raleigh and as far as Argentina, Sweden and France forms outside as the sweet aroma of her famous fruit fritters fills the air.

While waiting in line, patrons enjoy taking photos while standing next to the life-size statue of handsome, hip-shaking Elvis at the front door. Without a doubt, a memorable experience!



More Great Ladies of Swansboro

In addition to being one of the most unique and historic towns at the coast of North Carolina, Swansboro is known for its over forty unique shops, boutiques and restaurants.

- **Charlene Nichols, owner of Lovely's Boutique**, was inspired by her grandmother, Oma, to open her women's clothing boutique, located on the 2nd floor of Swansboro's historic landmark, The Olde Brick Store.
- **Jessica Radley and her husband Ed, owners of Candy Edventure and Sweet Edventures Dessert Bar**, make Swansboro uniquely sweet! Within a few steps are both storefronts where customers can load up on an amazing assortment of candy or delight in a dessert with one of their signature cocktails while enjoying some live music and entertainment.
- **Eva & Kitty, owners of Bamboo Asian House**, are childhood friends and former school teachers that grew up in China. As fate would have it, they both moved to the US and became business partners and restauranteurs.



Charlene Nichols // Lovely's Boutique



Jessica Radley // Candy Edventure



Eva & Kitty // Bamboo Asian House

Jane Simpson // Lady Swan Boat Tours

For the past 32 years, Jane and her husband, Tim, have called Swansboro their home. In addition to a career working in the school system, Jane followed her passion and love for Swansboro's beautiful intracoastal waterways, and Hammocks Beach State Park, and pursued her captain's license to further assist with Tim's boat towing business.

In 2012, they followed their hearts and took a leap of faith by purchasing a tour boat. Since then, they have been offering sunset cruises, birding and eco tours, as well as a shuttle service to Bear Island. Jane loves to share her passion with their guests by entertaining them on the boat as well as educating them on environmental issues and the history of Swansboro.

In addition to Lady Swan Boat Tours, Jane and Tim manage **Sand Island Retreat**, a private island cottage that offers outdoor adventurers a truly unique stay in Swansboro.

