



CARTERET COUNTY
Chamber of Commerce

Chamber News

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Carteret County Chamber of Commerce

Director profile: Sandy Howard

Local restaurateur enjoys coaching young talent

Sandy Howard can talk for hours about his business, Amos Mosquito's Restaurant & Bar in Atlantic Beach, but what really gets him fired up is "staff development."

"I spend much of my time during peak season teaching and coaching the young people on our wait staff," Sandy said, "and what's really gratifying is to see their customer service skills blossom. We empower them to make each diner's experience pleasant by taking charge of the tables they serve. I tell them, 'If there's ever a problem, acknowledge it and fix it.'"

Investing in good talent is the Amos Mosquito's way.

Sandy's wife Hallock, a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, went on to gain certification from The Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, N.Y.

Executive Chef Richard Alexander completed his studies at the College of Culinary Arts at Johnson & Wales University in Charleston, S.C. The Howards are now sending another key employee, Jeremy Turberville, to Johnson & Wales for advanced training.

"We have longevity on the staff," Sandy said. "That ensures the consistency that customers deserve and expect." Among the valued veteran employees is late Lupton, who not only cooks but rolls the sushi on Thursday nights and makes all the desserts.

"It's a fact that Hallock and I live and breathe Amos Mosquito's," Sandy said. All that's about to change somewhat...as the couple is expecting their first child mid-December. "We timed this so she'll be back in



Sandy Howard of Amos Mosquito's Restaurant & Bar

the kitchen next summer," he laughed.

Amos Mosquito's in Atlantic Beach celebrates its 8-year anniversary in April 2007, and business continues to grow about 15 percent a year, Sandy said.

"People come back because we have excellent food, great value and a passion for cleanliness. Our sanitation record is impeccable; we consistently receive among the highest health ratings from the county.

"We stay busy well into the fall, and business picks up earlier in the spring than it used to," he said. "This tells me that shoulder season is shrinking. Second home owners seem to be spending more time at their

Chamber works for all businesses

Sandy Howard begins his second term on the Carteret County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors in January 2007.

"I have really enjoyed serving on the Board; it's been a great experience," he said. "Having a strong Chamber benefits all businesses.

"This is a great place to live and work. It's a safe community with good schools. I like the way the Chamber has gotten involved in education, making it one of our top priorities.

"The Chamber is working with the tourism people to attract more visitors, and as a business owner, I appreciate that. Transportation and infrastructure improvements are areas that we need to keep hammering on and pushing for.

"I hope we can get some traction for improving the appearance of our gateways, to make them more appealing, inviting and attractive to visitors. This is an area where the Chamber can take a leadership role in 2007."

beach houses."

The restaurant business is all about hard work and long hours. Sandy developed his work ethic at a tender age. A native of Durham, he started selling cars for a Raleigh dealership, while a student at North Carolina State University. He quickly moved up the ladder there.

Before becoming a restaurateur...and the Chamber's official "Minister of Fun," Sandy was the general manager of an auto dealership in New Bern. He says he likes to spend his leisure time playing golf and reading.