

The Mike's Bites Team: Lupe Franco, Rachael Velasquez, Mike Thomasen, Preston Plotts and Jonathan McAfee.

Where Summer Meets Service: Mike's Bites at the Heart of the Island

If you've ever walked away from Mike's Bites with a sandwich in one hand and an Italian ice in the other, you already know it's more than just a food stand. It's a summer tradition, and a local favorite with heart.

Mike Thomasen, the man behind the bites, first dreamed of running his own business while studying Business Management and Small Entrepreneurship at VCU. "The location chose me," Mike says. In 2012, while helping his father with renovations at the Conservancy, a connection formed that would eventually lead to the birth of Mike's Bites in the former generator house.

Fast forward to today, and Mike's Bites is humming with a tight-knit team of four. Lupe Franco, the seasoned sandwich artist, crafts every wrap and sub with care. Jonathan McAfee keeps the hot dog station sizzling, while high schoolers Rachael Velasquez and Preston Plotts manage customer service and daily upkeep. Small team, big energy.

Mike sees his stand as more than a business; it's a way to spread joy. From hungry beachgoers to families looking for a treat, Mike's Bites has become a staple of summer on the island. And his community commitment runs deep. He's a proud Silver Sponsor of the Conservancy, donates generously to local causes, offers discounts to island employees, and participates in island events like the 4th of July picnic. You'll even find Mike's Bites shirts and stickers at Turtle Central, with profits supporting sea turtle research.

What makes Mike's Bites so special? Mike puts it simply: "We do three things—hot dogs, sandwiches, and Italian ice—and we do them better than anyone." Add in quick service, friendly faces, and affordable prices, and it's easy to see why the line gets long.

So how can you support Mike's Bites? Just keep coming back. Grab lunch, tell a friend, and enjoy one of the best parts of summer on Bald Head Island. They are open Monday through Saturday, from 11a.m. to 5p.m.

