



# *Talk of the Town*

February 01, 2013  
6th Edition

## *Town Tidbit:*

**Did you know?** The Smithfield Fire Department was established in 1906 and its first fire apparatus was a horse drawn hand pumper purchased new from the Howe Engine Company. It took 20 men to operate the pump and additional firemen to handle the hose and suppress the fire.

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## *Heating-related House Fires* Safety Tips

Heating equipment is a leading cause of home fire deaths. Almost half of home heating equipment fires are reported during the months of December, January, and February. Some simple steps can prevent most heating-related fires from happening.



- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
  - Have a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
  - Never use your oven to heat your home.
  - Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer's instructions.
  - Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
  - Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
  - Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.
  - Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.
  - Test smoke alarms monthly.
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## Image of Smithfield

What do you think?



Downtown Smithfield Development Corporation would like to know what you think. What is Smithfield known for? What is the Town's image? What would you like it to be? Here is a chance to be heard! Please complete the [linked survey](#) or call Executive Director Chris Johnson at 919-934-0887.

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## NC Public Power Awards of Excellence

Town of Smithfield Earns Three!

The Town of Smithfield was recently one of nineteen public power communities across the state to receive 2012 Public Power Awards of Excellence. The awards received honor outstanding efforts in key areas of Energy Efficiency, Financial Stability and Service Excellence. Much appreciation goes out to a truly dedicated and deserving staff. [More information](#) on the awards and Electricities of North Carolina, visit their website at [www.electricities.com](http://www.electricities.com).

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## Around Town

*For fun or to help others in our community*

**Arlo Guthrie** - In Concert - February 9th, 7pm at Paul A Johnston Auditorium, 245 College Road, Smithfield. Folk music icon Arlo Guthrie is a legendary artist who shares timeless stories and unforgettable classic songs as he carries on the Guthrie family legacy. With his singular voice as both a singer-songwriter and social commentator, he has maintained a dedicated fan base that spans the globe. A celebrated figure in American music, Arlo connects with communities far and wide leaving a lasting impression of hope and inspiration. For [more information](#), call 919-209-2099.

**2013 Daddy Daughter Dance** - Daddys and Daughters, You are cordially invited to attend the 2013 Daddy-Daughter Dance sponsored by the Smithfield Parks & Recreation Department. Saturday, February 16, 2013 from 7:30pm - 10:30pm at the Smithfield Recreation and Aquatics Center. For daughters aged 3-14 years old. \$45/couple (Smithfield resident) / \$50/couple (non-resident) - \$5 each additional daughter. Price includes a photo of your special night and appetizers. Contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 919-934-1408 for [more information](#) or to register.

**Ham & Yam** - Now in its 29th year, the Smithfield Ham & Yam Festival is scheduled for Friday, May 3 and Saturday, May 4, 2013. Up-and-coming country trio, The Farm Inc. will kick-off the festival with a free 8:30 p.m. concert on Friday at the Stevens Sausage Pavilion at the Neuse River Amphitheatre. Americal Idol contestant, Casey James will close the festival with a free concert at 8:30 p.m. on Saturday. Craft vendors will take to the streets on Saturday, May 4, along with entertainment on two stages and fun activities for the entire family. For [more information](#), contact the Downtown Smithfield Development Corporation at 919-934-0887.

**Community Service** - Many of our citizens have fallen on tough times. Some have medical problems, are elderly or just can't financially put the pieces together. Some can't cut their grass, need minor help with construction and repairs or just need a hand hauling limbs and debris away from their home. If your church or civic organization is looking to lend a hand, our community could use a hand and would certainly appreciate it. If you or your organization is interested, please contact Brent Reck at 919-934-2116 or email at [brent.reck@smithfield-nc.com](mailto:brent.reck@smithfield-nc.com).

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## Parks & Recreation / SRAC



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**Kids Night** - Saturday, February 9th from 5:30pm-8:30pm. The night off for Mom and Dad offers swimming, gym time, snacks and organized activities for children ages 5-10. Registration in advance is \$8 per Smithfield resident and \$12 per non-resident. Each additional child is \$5. On the night of the event, the cost is \$10 for Smithfield residents and \$15 for non-residents. For more information, call 919-934-2148.

**Swimming Stroke Clinic** - SRAC is offering a swimming stroke clinic for children 5-18 years old. The sessions take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Participants must be able to swim 25 yards freestyle and backstroke. [More Info](#)

**Swimming Lessons** - SRAC is offering Saturday swimming lessons for children 3-12 years old. \$40 Smithfield residents / \$50 Non-Smithfield residents. [More Info](#)

**Kids Nature Series** - This hands-on class will focus on one specific theme for the day. Participants will hike, create, experiment, and learn about the natural world around them! 18 sessions - 18 opportunities for kids to learn about the wonderful world around them! Ages: 3-5 (with an adult); Fee: \$4.00 - Smithfield Resident / \$6.00 - Non-Smithfield Resident (Fee applies to each child participating). [More Info](#)

**Doodlebugs Classes** Every Friday, 9:30am-10:15am - Doodlebugs Art Class (Ages 18 months-3 years old) This 45 minute class introduces your child to all mediums of art! More Information Here! [Registration Info](#)

**Join the SRAC!** The area's most modern and well-equipped aquatics and fitness center is right in your own backyard. Check here for membership rates and special offerings for seniors, Johnston County School System employees and short-term memberships for Johnston County Community College students. Get Fit! [Membership Info](#)

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## US 70 Bridge Replacement Project at Half-way Point



A new year means new milestones met on the construction of the U.S. 70 Business/West Market Street bridge over the Neuse River in downtown Smithfield. The entire bridge replacement project is now halfway complete.

This week, crews finished installing girders for the new bridge. A girder is a long beam that extends across the span of the bridge and supports the bridge deck. There are a total of nine girders for each of the three spans of the bridge, totaling 27 girders. Once the girders were in place, crews began installing diaphragms between each of the girders for support.

Starting next week, weather permitting, crews will begin construction of the bridge deck. In addition to this work, crews are also currently installing piping on the north side of the bridge that will be part of the bridge's drainage network.

The N.C. Department of Transportation awarded a \$5.3 million contract to D.H. Griffin Construction Co. of Raleigh in March 2012 for the replacement of the 89-year-old bridge. Crews closed the original bridge to traffic on the night of Sept. 25 and the new bridge is on schedule to open in the spring of 2013.

The contract included plans to replace the five-lane bridge with a new bridge that also includes five lanes, as well as a six-foot wide pedestrian walkway on the north side and a 10-foot wide multi-use path on the south side to accommodate bicycle and pedestrian traffic. For more information, as well as pictures of the bridge replacement, visit the project website.

NCDOT reminds motorists to watch signs for construction information, stay alert and obey the posted speed limit.

For real-time travel information at any time, call 511, visit [www.ncdot.gov/travel](http://www.ncdot.gov/travel) or follow NCDOT on Twitter at [www.ncdot.gov/travel/twitter](http://www.ncdot.gov/travel/twitter). Another option is NCDOT Mobile, a phone-friendly version of the NCDOT website. To access it, type "m.ncdot.gov" into the browser of your smartphone. Then, bookmark it to save for future reference. NCDOT Mobile is compatible with the iPhone, Android and some newer Blackberry phones. [More Info and Detour Map](#)

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## *Employment Opportunities*

with the Town of Smithfield

- **Utility Line Mechanic / Collections ORC**
- **Firefighter I**
- **Police Officer I**

Full [Job Descriptions and Applications](#) may be obtained at the Smithfield Town Hall, 350 East Market Street, Smithfield, NC 27577, by visiting our website at [www.smithfield-nc.com](http://www.smithfield-nc.com) or by calling 919-934-2116. Only qualified applicants should apply. The Town of Smithfield is an ADA/EEO Employer.

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Contact: **Tim Kerigan** - HR Director / Public Information Officer  
350 E Market Street, Smithfield, NC 27577  
919.934.2116 x1109

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