



## *Talk of the Town*

February 22, 2013  
7th Edition

### *Town Tidbit:*

**Did you know?** The Smithfield Fire Department partners to provide new smoke detectors to needy families free of charge. This program was developed more than 10 years ago and has continued through the generosity of corporate partners and provides lifesaving equipment to families that otherwise could not afford it. We administer this program with the help of Johnston County Social Services.

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### *Child Safety Seat Checks*

Free inspections and education available.

Car crashes are the number one killer of children 1 to 12 years old in the United States and about 85% of all child safety seats or booster seats are improperly used. The best way to protect them in the car is to put them in the right seat, at the right time, and use it the right way.

There are so many car seat types and models, how do you know which one is right for your child? The right car seat or booster fits your child and your car, and is one you will use correctly every time you travel. Not only will your child ride as safely as possible, you will be establishing the foundation for a lifelong habit of seat belt use every time your child travels.

The Smithfield Police Department currently has two officers who are nationally certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians. The CPS Technician is prepared to assist you in selecting the proper child safety seat, teach you the proper way to install the seat, and to answer any questions you may have regarding securing your child in the seat. Technicians who are certified have successfully taken and completed a 32-hour course which includes both a written and a two-phase practical exam.

Along with properly installing the safety seats, the police department also provides educational information to parents/caregivers about the importance of correctly utilizing the seats to provide the greatest degree of safety for the child.

This one-on-one education typically takes 20-30 minutes, depending on the car seat and the vehicle. The CPS Technician will take the time necessary to ensure that you feel confident in re-securing the car seat into the vehicle and re-buckling your child into the car seat on your own.

Due to the time needed, all Safety Seat Checks are by appointment only.

Requests for child safety seat installations can be made by calling the Smithfield Police Department at (919)934-2121.



## *Council Meeting Highlights*

February 05, 2013



Reg. Meeting(s) summary - the Town Council approved:

- A conditional use (CUP-12-10) for an above-ground fuel tank on South Brightleaf Blvd. and a rezoning of property (S-12-03) located on East Market Str. near Futrell Way from R-6 to B-3 CU.
- A conditional use (CUP 12-11) for the farmer's market to be located on N. Brightleaf Blvd. and a conditional use (CUP 12-12) for a multi-family housing complex with 64 units on W. Market Str.
- Resolution #518 allowing certain Town property to be used for the Miracle League Program.
- Resolution #519 conveying surplus targets to Johnston Community College.
- The purchase of the previously-budgeted video recording system for use by the Police Department and authorized the purchase of a van for police duty using forfeiture funds.
- An amendment to the Town's fee schedule.
- Applications for grant funding for engineering fees to study improvements of the water intake system and to seek money from NC Rural Development for revolving loan funds to assist new and expanding businesses.

The Town Council meets the first Tuesday of each month beginning at 7:30pm at the Town Hall Council Chambers located at 350 East Market Street - unless rescheduled. The next Regular Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 5th, beginning at 7:30pm. Come join us and get involved!

[View Minutes of Past Meetings Here](#)

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## *Fire Department Retirement*

### Town Council Honors Assistant Chief Elmer Owens

At the regular Town Council meeting on February 5th, Mayor Pro-Temp Emery Ashley issued a proclamation honoring Assistant Chief Elmer Owens for his years of dedicated service to the Town of Smithfield. Elmer Owens has announced his retirement after over 40 years. Serving with Johnston county Civil Defense Rescue Squad in the early 1960s and then becoming a fireman in 1975, Elmer Owens has responded to thousands of emergencies and assisted his fellow citizens and their families in their most difficult times of disaster and hardship. Serving as firefighter, Lieutenant, Captain, and in 2005, becoming Assistant Fire Chief, Elmer Owens has truly dedicated himself and his life to serving others.

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## *Police Department Promotion*

### Congratulations to Sergeant O'Branovich

The police department has recently promoted Brian O'Branovich to the position of patrol sergeant supervising "D" Team operations. Sergeant O'Branovich is a Master Police Officer employed by the Smithfield Police Department for over eight years. He has held positions in the Patrol Division, Housing Authority and most recently as a General Investigator. Please congratulate Sergeant O'Branovich when you see him. A formal badge pinning is scheduled to take place at the March 5th Regular Council Meeting. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

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## *Around Town*

## *For fun or to help others in our community*

**Pancake Dinner and Auction** - SSS High School Denmark Exchange Partnership - Feb 23, 2013 at 6PM at the SSS Cafeteria. Cost is \$6.00 at the door per person. For more info, contact Robin Monteith Cook at 919-622-4684.

**Congressman Mike McIntyre** - Meet & Greet - The Johnston County Visitor's Bureau, DSDC, the Greater Smithfield Selma Chamber of Commerce and the Town of Smithfield will host a meet and greet event with Congressman Mike McIntyre on Monday, February 25, 2013 from 8-9 am at the Ava Gardner Museum located at 325 East Market Street. Light breakfast refreshments will be available. The public is welcomed and encouraged to attend this event.

**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).

**Downtown Smithfield Development Corporation** - Want to stay up to date with what's happening in Downtown Smithfield? [Click here](#) to sign-up for their newsletter or call 919-934-0887 for more information.

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## *Parks & Recreation / SRAC*



**Soccer Skills Camp** - Smithfield Parks & Recreation will be holding a Soccer Skills Clinic on Thursday nights, beginning March 14th, and continuing until April 18th, from 6:15 to 7:30 pm. (They will NOT meet on Thursday, 4/4). The clinic is open for boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 9 (as on March 1, 2013). The Clinic will be held at Smithfield Community Park Soccer fields, and the cost is \$10 for Smithfield Residents and \$15 for Non-Residents. Registrations submitted On or After 3/14 are \$20.00. The Clinic will focus on skills, drills, improving footwork and learning a little more about the game of soccer. [Registration forms available here](#) or at SRAC!

**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](#)

### **Additional Notes:**

- "Last Call for youth baseball and softball".....[registration](#) ends Friday 2/22.

-Hosting a High School Girls Softball Tournament 2/23 & 2/24 to benefit the Miracle League of Johnston County at Smithfield Community Park.....20 High School softball teams from around the state.....  
-Hosting the girls JC Athletic Association basketball tournament 2/23 & 2/24 at SRAC....32 teams from around the county  
-Time to pick up info packets at P&R if your church is interested in spring "Fun N Fellowship Softball League"  
-Circle it on your calendar.....March 23 at 3 pm is Smithfield's annual Easter Egg Hunt at Smithfield Community Park.

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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**
- **Police Officer I**
- **Finance Director**

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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