



Talk of the Town

August 09, 2013
16th Edition

Town Tidbit:

Did you know? Smithfield-Selma High School is one of only 3,560 schools in 144 countries to become an IB World School. The International Baccalaureate® (IB), founded in 1968, is a non-profit educational foundation, motivated by its mission, focused on the student. There are four programs for students aged 3 to 19 to help develop the intellectual, personal, emotional and social skills to live, learn and work in a rapidly globalizing world. For more information, visit www.ibo.org.

Chris Johnson Steps Down as Director of the Downtown Smithfield Development Corporation

After a long and successful 13 years, Chris Johnson has announced that he will be resigning as Executive Director of the Downtown Smithfield Development Corporation. Johnson was offered and has accepted the position of Economic Developer for Johnston County.

"It is with bittersweet emotions that I must announce today that I have submitted my resignation dated at the end of the day on September 20, 2013," states Johnson. "I have dearly loved every moment as your Downtown Director and allowing me to be your public servant. The last 13 years have been such a joy, such a blessing and such an honor. There is nothing else in the world I would have rather done than to be your public servant in Smithfield. I greatly look forward to taking the same passion I hope was seen on the streets of Smithfield and applying them to Johnston County and the other municipalities I will serve." The Downtown Smithfield Development Corporation was first formed in 1984 and has had 4 other directors, with Johnson serving the longest tenure. Downtown Smithfield became a North Carolina state-certified Main Street Program in 1986. Over the past 27 years, Downtown Smithfield has been seen as a leader across the State with innovative business development incentives, assisting entrepreneurs with new construction and redevelopment projects, streetscape projects and improvements, and hosting community festivals and events.

During Johnson's time as Executive Director, those include: adoption of the Smithfield Master Plan, burying of the overhead utility lines, completion of the Market Street Streetscape Project, construction of the Neuse Riverwalk and Buffalo Creek Greenway, renovation of the Historic Hastings House, securing a permanent home for the Ava Gardner Museum, implementation of the Historic Brooklyn and North Smithfield Neighborhoods, implementation of the SHARP Grant program, expansion of the Ham & Yam Festival and countless other promotional events.



"In these 13 years, I really truly believe we not only met the goals set out by our board but succeeded (in) them," continued Johnson. "When you reach goals like that, you start looking for new things to do, or move on to something else that's going to challenge you. We have such great communities and a wonderful county. I will wake up every morning with the drive to make sure the rest of the world knows about it."

During the transition time, administrative assistant Sarah Edwards will assume the role of Interim Director until the Downtown Smithfield Development Corporation Board of Directors determines when and how the position will be filled.

"We are obviously saddened that Chris will no longer be our Director, but we are more than confident in Sarah's abilities and leadership," states Barry Long, DSDC Board Chairman. "She has had opportunities in the past to take leadership positions in other communities in the State. We are very lucky she has remained with us."

Edwards has a Bachelor's degree in Public Policy Analysis from UNC Chapel Hill and has completed coursework toward a Masters degree in Public Administration at UNC Wilmington. She has worked with the Downtown Smithfield Development Corporation since July 2009.

To learn more about the Downtown Smithfield Development Corporation and the businesses it represents, please call the DSDC Office at 919-934-0887 or visit them on the web at www.downtownsmithfield.com.

Johnston County LEO of the Month

Smithfield's Officer Victor Denoble



Johnston County District Attorney Susan I. Doyle, in an effort to recognize and thank law enforcement officers, recently began a program to publicly honor a Johnston

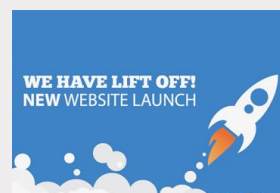
County officer each month for their hard work and dedication to the citizens of Johnston County. Doyle stated, "Our officers do invaluable work to protect our community; however, they rarely get thanked or recognized. This award is a way for my office to express our appreciation for the tireless and dangerous work that these men and women do on a daily basis."

The District Attorney's Office presented the August 2013 Johnston County Officer of the Month Award to Officer Victor Denoble with the Smithfield Police Department. Doyle presented the award to Officer Denoble during the Smithfield Town Council Meeting held Tuesday night. "Officer Denoble has the qualities of a great officer. He genuinely cares for the people and takes his job of serving the public literally. He is also a hard worker, a team player and continues to be involved in his cases until the resolution. He knows that his work is not over just because he makes an arrest in a case. Many times there is a lot more work to be done, and Officer Denoble always follows through with every case," stated Doyle.

The Town Has a New Website!

With Even More to Come Soon

Please visit our new [website](http://www.smithfield-nc.com) at www.smithfield-nc.com and [let us know what you think](#). The Town's IT/PC Specialist, Brian Adams, developed a completely new site with great focus being on ease for the user.



The website provides information for all - citizens, employees, visitors and potential relocating businesses. The improved navigation and abundance of forms will allow everyone to access their information quickly and save time. In many cases, they can save themselves a trip to Town Hall to retrieve forms by just printing at home or completing and submitting online.

Additional exciting features that will be unveiled soon are:

- Online real-time streaming of the Town's TV station SJCCTV 18
- On-Demand feature for all content and programs featured on SJCCTV 18
- Online Utility Bill Payment

Please let us know what you think of our new website and provide suggestions for how we may continue to improve. If you have photos or videos of local people, places and events, please send us those as well.

Parks & Recreation / SRAC



FALL SPORTS:

SMITHFIELD Red Devil Football - There are still some spots remaining in the following age groups: Rookie(7-8) and Varsity (11-12). (Our JV (9-10) group is full - anyone interested in playing in this age group will be placed on a waiting list.) The child's age as of 8/1/13 determines playing age. Registration is \$40 for Smithfield Residents and \$80 for Non-Smithfield Residents. The Smithfield Red Devils play in the Johnston County Youth Football League. Games will be played in the fall on Saturdays, beginning in September. Practices begin mid-August.

SMITHFIELD Red Devil Cheerleading - The last day to register for Red Devil Cheerleading (girls ages of 5-12), is Friday, August 16. Registration is \$25 for Smithfield Residents and \$50 for Non-Smithfield Residents. Uniform cost should be around \$50 - which you purchase and keep. The only time we offer cheerleading is with our football program. The Smithfield Red Devils play in the Johnston County Youth Football League. Games will be played in the fall on Saturdays, beginning in September. Practices will begin mid-August.

SMITHFIELD Fall Soccer - The last day to register for Fall Soccer (for boys and girls between the ages of 5-12) is Friday, August 16. (The child's age as of 8/1/13 determines playing age.) Registration is \$35 for Smithfield Residents and \$70 for Non-Smithfield Residents. Games will be played in the fall, on weeknights, with an occasional Saturday game. Season will begin in September and wrap up around the end of October.

SMITHFIELD Volleyball - The last day to register for Fall Volleyball for girls (ages 9-14) is Friday, August 23. (The child's age as of 10/15/13 determines playing age.) Registration is \$35 for Smithfield Residents and \$70 for Non-Smithfield Residents. Games will be played in the fall, on weeknights, with an occasional Saturday game. Season will begin in September and wrap up around the end of October.

SMITHFIELD Men's Open League Softball - The last day to register for Mens Open League Softball is Friday, August 23. Registration is \$475 per team. (Maximum number of teams is 12.) All fees must be paid BEFORE the season begins, which will be after Labor Day.

SMITHFIELD Kinder Soccer - Register during August for Kinder Soccer (for boys and girls ages 3-4). Our Kinder Programs only meet 4 times, and will basically be an introduction to the sport of soccer. Actual play dates will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays, September 3, 5, 10 and 12. The cost is \$20 for Smithfield Residents and \$40 for Non-Smithfield Residents.

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](#)

Around Town

For fun or to help others in our community

Smithfield Farmer's Market - Has closed for the season.

SMITHFIELD Pottery: Handbuilding Class - Tuesday mornings, 10:30am-12:30pm, August 27-Oct 1, 2013
Smithfield Resident-\$100 Non-Smithfield Resident-\$125. Learn the techniques for building beautiful functional pottery as well as decorative pottery. Participants must also purchase a 20lb bag of clay (sold at the front desk of the Aquatics Center).

SMITHFIELD/SELMA Youth Council - Smithfield and Selma Parks & Recreation Departments are starting a Youth Council. Looking for an opportunity to be involved in your community? Are you a high school student interested in being a part of a club that takes trips, does rewarding work, and starts the building blocks of your resume? For more information, contact Tiffany Pearson at tpearson-parks@ncrbiz.com or 919-934-2148.

SMITHFIELD Matter of Balance Class - Starting September 3rd Tuesdays & Thursdays, 1-3PM (8 sessions)

Do you have concerns about falling? Many older adults experience concerns about falling and restrict their activities. A MATTER OF BALANCE is an award-winning program designed to manage falls and increase activity levels. This program emphasizes practical strategies to manage falls. Who should attend this class? Anyone concerned about falls, anyone interested in improving balance, flexibility and strength, anyone who has fallen in the past, anyone who has restricted activities because of falling concerns. Register for the class at the Smithfield Recreation and Aquatics Center. For more information or questions contact Tiffany Pearson 919-934-2148, or tpearson-parks@ncrbiz.com.

SMITHFIELD Senior Coffee Corner - Starting Tuesday August 6th every Tuesday & Thursday from 8:30AM to 10:30AM we will have FREE coffee available to all 55 and older adults. There will be occasional breakfast treats and brain teasers available. You do not have to be a member of SRAC to come hang out with your friends, read the paper, and enjoy a cup-a-joe. Where: The Smithfield Recreation and Aquatic Center. Questions: contact Tiffany Pearson 919-934-2148 ext.112, or tpearson-parks@ncrbiz.com.

SMITHFIELD River Rats Running Club - The summer has caused routine to go out the window. Join us in reestablishing your routine with running on Thursday evenings at 6:30PM. We are meeting under the large picnic shelter. Looking for all running types and abilities so bring your running goals, come out and meet other people who enjoy running as much as you. Club dues: \$20. This fee includes a T-shirt. For more information or questions contact Tiffany Pearson at 919-934-2148 ext.112, or tpearson-parks@ncrbiz.com.

SMITHFIELD Robotic Legos Workshop - October 25th - Play-Well TEKologies: Engineering FUNDamentals with LEGO Workshops: 10/25/13, 10AM-1PM Become a Play-Well Engineer this Fall! With over 100,000 pieces of LEGO®, take on real-life engineering challenges that explore concepts in physics, engineering, and architecture! This is a hands-on, brains on Workshop suitable for LEGO® novices to building "maniacs". Price \$35 per person. For more information, contact Tiffany Pearson at 919-34-2148, ext. 112, or tpearson-parks@ncrbiz.com.

Book Club - The Public Library of Johnston County and Smithfield welcomes new members to its daytime book club. Meetings are at 12:30pm on the third Tuesday of every month. Club members suggest the titles to read, and the library lends copies of each month's selection to the members. For more information, call Morgan Paty at 919-934-8146 or email mpaty@pljcs.org.

Operation Helping Hand - 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.

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.

Council Meeting Highlights

August 06, 2013

Regular Meeting summary:



1. Administered Oath of Office to New Police Officers Rickey Lloyd Parker, Jr. and Shayna Lee Ptack.
2. District Attorney Susan Doyle honored Officer Victor Denoble as Johnston County Officer of the Month.
3. Approved CUP-13-04 - State Employee's Credit Union.
4. Approved CUP-13-05 - State Employee's Credit Union.
5. Approved CUP-13-06 - Parker Gas Company.
6. Approved CUP-12-09 - ESA Renewables, LLC.
7. Pulled items 9, 10 and 11 from Consent Agenda for discussion. Approved items after discussion.
8. Approved remaining Consent Agenda items.
9. Reviewed and approved the petition for voluntary annexation of the Julian Marshall property.
10. Approved a contract between the Town of Smithfield and the Wooten Company to provide

- professional services for Raw Water Intake Study - pending a Rural Center Grand funding release.
11. Received update from Fire Chief Harris on proposed changes from the Insurance Services Office.
 12. Approved the Town Manager's recommendation of an Impact Fee to be paid by ESA Renewables for use of the Town's substation.
 13. Received the Town Manager's presentation of preliminary FY 2012-13 Budget Summary.

The Town Council regularly 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, September 3rd, beginning at 7:30pm. Come join us and get involved! [View Minutes of Past Meetings Here](#)

Employment Opportunities

with the Town of Smithfield

- **Police Officer I**
- **Finance Director**
- **Water Plant Operator 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 or by calling 919-934-2116. Only qualified applicants should apply. The Town of Smithfield is an ADA/EEO Employer.

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

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