



Talk of the Town

December 20, 2017

66th Edition

Town Tidbit:

Did you know?

The oldest artificial Christmas trees date back to the late 1800s and were made of green raffia (think grass hula skirts) or dyed goose feathers. Next the Addis Brush Company used their machinery that wove toilet brushes to create pine-like branches for artificial Christmas trees that were less flammable and could hold heavier decorations.



Christmas Decoration

Smithfield's Public Works and Utilities departments have been working hard to bring the spirit of Christmas to the Town's residents and visitors. To make this happen in a reasonable time, the staff of the Public Works and Utilities Department had to brave rainy days and unfavorable condition during the months of October and November.

With all the hard work, the Christmas display now covers 3.7 miles from the West Market Street welcome sign to the East Market Street welcome sign. Decorations also cover two city blocks located on Third Street between Bridge Street and Johnston Street.

On utility poles throughout Smithfield, you will find:

116 (6ft) Angels, 15 (6ft) Snow Flakes, 7 (6ft) Candy Canes and 28 (3ft) Snow Flakes making the Town of Smithfield a Christmas wonderland! Public Works and Utilities Department continued the decoration by adding 23 Garland wrapped poles, an animated Santa displayed in Town Garden that stands 10ft, and wreaths placed on all welcome signs and town owned facilities.



Town of Smithfield Oaths Of Office

The Town of Smithfield held their Oath of Office ceremony for newly elected officials on December 5th. Two outgoing council members were also recognized.



Smithfield Mayor Andy Moore received his Oath of Office for a new term as mayor by Clerk of Court Michelle Ball.



Councilman Marlon Lee receives his Oath for his second term by District Court Judge Addie Rawls.



Newly elected town councilman David Stevens receives his Oath of Office from Clerk of Court Michelle Ball.



Town Councilman Travis Scott receives his Oath of Office for a new term by District Court Judge Joy A. Jones. Scott was later appointed Mayor Pro Tem for 2018 in unanimous vote by the council.



Councilman David Barbour receives his Oath of Office by Clerk of Court Michelle Ball.



Outgoing Councilman Perry Harris receives a plaque and honorary Key to the City by Mayor Andy Moore.



Outgoing Councilman Roger Wood receives a plaque and honorary Key to the City by Mayor Andy Moore.

Courtesy of the [JoCo Report](#)

Johnston County Public Schools - Smithfield-Selma High celebrates first Rho Kappa induction

Smithfield-Selma High added seven students to the Rho Kappa National Social Studies Honor Society at the program's inaugural induction.

Rho Kappa is a social studies honor society sponsored by the National Council for the Social Studies, which includes history, politics, economics, sociology and other subjects in the humanities. Smithfield-Selma High is the only school in Johnston County with a Rhos Kappa chapter.

The Smithfield-Selma High inductees were junior Daniel Barton, junior Genevieve Brindle, senior Brittney Caporale, junior Sarah Duncan, junior Brandon Hammon, junior Hampton Moore, and junior Jessica Wojcik.

"I am proud to advise the Sparta Nation chapter of Rho Kappa," said Rho Kappa adviser and social studies teacher Lauren Casteen. "Although we have other opportunities to recognize academic excellence, such as NHS, French Honor Society, and Mu Alpha Theta, I believe it is important to recognize the students who thrive in the rich variety of social studies courses we offer at our school."

Criteria for selection includes meeting the required grades in social studies courses and an ability to talk about complex humanities-related topics.

Once selected, students are expected to uphold the Rho Kappa values of truth, knowledge, wisdom, and service.

"I am extremely proud of Ms. Casteen and the inaugural Rho Kappa Social Studies Honor Society students. The Humanities are an integral part of the curricula at Smithfield-Selma High," said Principal David Allen. "Courses like history and politics, psychology, economics, and geography continue to shape the mindset of the next generation."

The Smithfield-Selma High chapter of Rho Kappa will select officers at their first meeting. The inductees plan to offer social studies tutoring for the remainder of the school year.

"Rho Kappa students' pledge a commitment to truth, knowledge, wisdom, and service. This demonstrates their willingness to approach the world with greater critical thinking skills and contextual knowledge," said Allen. "I feel good knowing that our students will be able to have intelligent conversations about what is going on in and around them."

Rho Kappa is planning to work on projects to compete against Rho Kappa chapters from other high schools at the local and regional level in the spring.

"The induction ceremony was really nice, and I consider it an honor to be in the first Rho Kappa chapter the school has had," said Wojcik. "I look forward to what we're going to do in the future."

The next round of Rho Kappa inductions at Smithfield-Selma High will begin in the spring.

(Article courtesy of [Johnston County Public Schools](#))

The Town of Smithfield Sanitation Department schedule for Christmas Holidays

Household waste and yard debris collections for Friday, December 22, 2017 will be collected on Wednesday, December 20, 2017 and Monday, December 25, 2017 will be collected on Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2017. All other customers will have their household waste and yard debris collected on their regular scheduled day. Please have your curbside container and or all debris at curbside after 5:00 pm on the day before your collection day. All curbside containers must be removed from curbside no later than 8:00 am on the day after collection.

The Convenience Center at 231 Hospital Road will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holidays from Nov. 24 - Nov. 26, 2017. The Convenience Center will reopen on Monday Nov. 27, 2017.

Neuse Charter School Science Fair Winners

Neuse Charter School has announce its 2017-2018 Science Fair winners.

Science Fairs allow students to pursue their interests in science and technology. Students conducted science fair experiments in the following areas: Biology, Chemistry, Earth and Environmental, Engineering, Physics and Mathematics, and Technology.

The winners of our school fair will advance to our Regional Fair, giving them the opportunity to move on to the NC Science and Technology Fair.

Students advancing to the state level have the chance to win scholarships and monetary awards. Neuse Charter School provides innovative approaches to learning by focusing on high academic standards, critical and creative thinking skills, character development, and multicultural experiences for grades K-12.

The grade level science fair winners are pictured as follows: Wesley Joyner, Hung Hoang, Eli Cummings, Ava Narron,



[\(JoCo Report\)](#)

Council Meeting Highlights

December 5, 2017



Regular Meeting Summary:

1. Public Utilities Director Ted Credle presented the 2017 North Carolina American Water Works Association & Water Environment Federation Award for Potable Water Distribution System of the Year to Public Utilities Staff.
2. Public Utilities Director Ted Credle presented the 2017 North Carolina American Water Works Association & Water Environment Federation Award for Sanitary Sewer Collection System of the Year To Public Utilities Staff.
3. The Town Council approved a Rezoning Request and Site Plan for Thomas Concrete.
4. The Town Council approved the Consent Agenda.
5. Mayor Moore presented a Proclamation to outgoing Councilman J. Perry Harris.
6. Mayor Moore presented a Proclamation to outgoing Councilman Roger Wood.
7. The Honorable Clerk of Court, Michelle C. Ball, administered the Oath of Office to returning Mayor M. Andy Moore
8. The Honorable District Court Judge, Addie Harris Rawls, administered the Oath of Office to returning Councilman representing District 1, Marlon Lee.
9. The Honorable Clerk of Court, Michelle C. Ball, administered the Oath of Office to newly elected Councilman representing District 2, David Stevens.
10. The Honorable District Court Judge, Joy A. Jones, administered the Oath of Office to returning Councilman representing District 3, Travis Scott.
11. The Honorable Clerk of Court, Michelle C. Ball, administered the Oath of Office to newly elected Councilman representing District 4, David Barbour.
12. The Town Council elected Travis Scott to serve as Mayor Pro-Tempore for a two year term.
13. The Town Council approved the 2018 Town Council Meeting Schedule

The Town Council regularly meets the first Tuesday of each month beginning at 7:00pm at the Town Hall Council Chambers located at 350 East Market Street - unless rescheduled. The next Regular Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 14, 2017. Come join us and get involved! [View Minutes of Past Meetings Here](#)

Local Business Spotlight: Oak City Collection



Welcome to Oak City Collection! We began this endeavor in 2013 with the hope to provide a more easily identifiable way for locals and transplants alike to support all things local. We love this state and especially this region, and want to give you the opportunity to share in that emotion. We promote local merchants, breweries, and artists that all call this beautiful area home. We strive to offer locally inspired products to those who share in our passion for the great state of North Carolina, with emphasis on the Raleigh, Durham, and Chapel Hill (Triangle) area. Our goal is to continually add new designs and products to reflect the growing popularity of North Carolina as a place to live and work.

Address: 105 S. Third Street
Smithfield, North Carolina

Phone: [\(919\) 810-7472](tel:(919)810-7472)

[Oak City Collection](#)

Quote Of The Week:

God never gives someone a gift they are not capable of receiving. If he gives us the gift of Christmas, it is because we all have the ability to understand and receive it.

Smithfield Appearance Commission



Available to anyone who signs up: a gardening newsletter available through NC Cooperative Extension, State University, A&T University called "Gardeners Dirt". Master gardeners, industry & university experts contribute to the article.

To request a copy via email contact: mhwarren@ncsu.edu. Or cblassit@ncsu.edu

Volunteers Needed

Opportunities Available to Serve on a Town Board



- Appearance Commission - 3 Position
- Historic Properties Commission - 3 Position
- Parks and Recreation Advisory Board - 1 In-Town position and 2 High School Representatives (2 year term)
- Planning Board: 1 ETJ Alternate position

Current Volunteer Town Board Opportunities:

All positions are three year terms, unless otherwise specified. Interested citizens can download an "[Application for Board Appointment](#)" on the [Town's website](#) or you may call Town Clerk Shannan Williams to request one by mail at 919-934-2116.

Parks & Recreation / SRAC



Upcoming Events

For more information on the below events without links, please visit: http://www.smithfield-nc.com/page/parks_programs

Smithfield - BASKETBALL REGISTRATION

Youth Basketball Registration will be September 11th - October 20th, for boys ages 5-15 and girls ages 5-12. (Players age as of December 31, 2017 determines playing age.)

Smithfield - Alligator Steps

is offering swim lessons for children 6 months - 10 years of age.

For more information or to register please visit www.alligatorsteps.com.

Smithfield - Tadpoles

Moms and dads bring out your little tadpoles and swim in the splash park.

Wednesdays, September - April 25, 2018

Smithfield - Smithfield Marlins of Raleigh

To register, or for more information, go to www.marlinsofraleigh.com; or contact John Fischetti at jfischetti@aol.com.

Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays - September-November / December-February / March-May

Smithfield - Doodlebugs - Fridays

Pre-registration required the Wednesday before each class so that accurate supplies are provided.

Holiday Programs & Events

Smithfield - JEDI LEGO Camps - December 27-29, 2017

ADULT ACTIVITIES

Smithfield - STERLING SILVER SENIORS CLUB

Class is designed for those interested in learning the art of pottery making using handbuilding techniques and an introduction to using the wheel. Through a combination of demonstrations and individual work time, students will develop their pottery skills while making distinctive pieces that they can call their own. During the 6-week class session, students may come in during open studio times to work freely on projects.

Around Town

For fun or to help others in our community

The JoCo Scrabble group - meets on Monday nights from 6 pm to 8 pm at the McDonald's in West Smithfield (W. Market Street). There is no cost beyond whatever food you choose to buy. This is a social group of adult (or teen) Scrabble players. Players vary in ability levels, so don't hesitate to come and play. For more information, please email southerner@earthlink.net. Please put Scrabble in the subject line so that we know what the message is about.

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. **Youth Adult Book Club** - Meetings are 6:30pm on the third Monday 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 Katie Barbour at 919-934-8146 ext.3 or email kbarbour@pljcs.org.

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.

Employment Opportunities with the Town of Smithfield

- Electric Line Technician
- Equipment Mechanic
- Part-time Lifeguard(s)
- Sanitation Equipment Operator
- Sanitation Worker

Applications may be obtained at the Smithfield Town Hall, 350 East Market Street, Smithfield, NC 27577 or by visiting our website at www.smithfield-nc.com. Full Job Advertisements may be obtained at the Smithfield Town Hall or by visiting our website at www.smithfield-nc.com/jobs. Full Job Descriptions may be obtained upon request at the Smithfield Town Hall. 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

