



Talk of the Town

May 12, 2017

59th Edition

Town Tidbit:

Did you know? Smithfield had no church until 1832 when North Carolina's newly formed Baptist State Convention spearheaded one. The Methodists soon followed in 1839, and these two churches were the town's only religious institutions until 1875.

Neuse Charter School Wins \$5,000 Grant

CenturyLink, Inc has announced the winners of the CenturyLink Clarke M. Williams Foundation's Teachers and Technology grant program. The program, which began in 2008, awards grants of up to \$5,000 to schools in CenturyLink's local service areas on behalf of teachers who have developed specific plans to innovatively implement technology in their classrooms.

"The winning teachers' grant applications outlined a clear plan for how they would use the requested technology to help grow their students and enrich their classroom experience," said Rondi Furgason, CenturyLink vice president of operations for North Carolina. "We are pleased to be able to help these passionate educators expose their students to science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) concepts in their daily school lives."

Neuse Charter School in Smithfield was awarded \$5,000 to purchase 10 robotic kits that students will use to design and code robots. Teacher Angela Jenkins submitted the project.

"Our robotics program just started this year, so this grant comes at an important time for our school," said Jenkins. The elementary technology teacher explained that the program was so popular at the Johnston County K-12 charter school this year that two more teams were added to meet the need of various grade-level interests in the program. "Our students are so engaged with this program and the STEM concepts it helps build. This grant will go a long way in shaping these young minds for many years."

Across the United States, more than 2,300 grant applications were submitted and 309 were awarded. Grants were awarded based on the impact they will have on students in the classroom and the overall innovation of the project.

Courtesy of jcoreport.com



Pictured (left to right): Susan Pullium, Jeff Matisoff, Peter Raines, Arthur Morgan, Derek Kelly, Angela Jenkins, Jennifer Cade, and Sharon Johnson represent Neuse Charter School in Smithfield/Selma and CenturyLink as the K-12 school receives a \$5,000 grant to support technology.

Road Repairs Updates



Venture Drive – Road Repairs Begin Sunday, May 7th @ 8am Expected to be complete in a couple weeks

For more information visit:

www.smithfield-nc.com/page/article/260



Changes To The Traffic Flow



New Police Officer Has Spent His Life Helping Others



Officer Joseph Atkinson receives his Oath of Office from Smithfield Mayor Pro Tem Emery Ashley. Town of Smithfield Photo

At the request of the Downtown Smithfield Development Corporation (DSDC), the Town of Smithfield will be installing 15 minute parking signs in Downtown Smithfield. A Robeson County native whose life has been spent helping others has joined the Smithfield Police Department.

Joseph Atkinson was born and raised in Lumberton. At the age of 16 he became a junior member of Lumberton EMS. He continued as a volunteer with both the East Howellsville Fire Department and Northwoods Fire Rescue for the next 10 years.

Atkinson graduated from Basic Law Enforcement Training in 2009 from Robeson Community College. Afterwards, he began work as a Detention Officer and Deputy Sheriff with the Robeson County Sheriff's Office, a position he held until December 2014. He accepted as job as patrol officer with the Whiteville Police Department. He then joined the Smithfield Police Department.

"We are glad to be able to add to our department an officer with experience and a background helping others," Police Chief Keith Powell told WTSB News.

Atkinson received his Oath of Office on May 2nd from Smithfield Mayor Pro Tem Emery Ashley.

Courtesy of jccoreport.com

New Payment Drop Box

Introducing Our New Drive-Up Payment Drop Box

The Town of Smithfield just made it easier to pay your utility bill. Now there's no need to leave the comfort and safety of your vehicle. The New Drive-Up Payment Drop Box is located in the rear corner of Town Hall at 350 East Market Street.

SMITHFIELD

Entrance To Drop Box

Flow Of Traffic

- Balances may also be paid by:
 - **Bank Draft** - customers can sign up for drafts online or by filling out a form and submitting it by mail, fax or email. Instructions can be found on the Town's website at <http://www.smithfield-nc.com>
 - **Online** - bills can be paid by credit card, debit card or electronic check through the Town's website at <http://www.smithfield-nc.com>
 - **Mail** - payments can be sent to Town of Smithfield, PO Box 63027, Charlotte, NC 28263-3027. Payment must be received before 5 p.m. on your bill's due date to avoid penalties and/or disconnection.
 - **Phone** - bills can be paid by credit card, debit card or electronic check by calling 1-800-487-4567, Ext. 3 for (General Customer Service). You will need your account number and know the amount you wish to pay.
 - **In person** - at Town Hall, 350 East Market Street St. between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Notice: Not for Johnston County Water Customers

Quote Of The Week:



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 - 1 Position
- Historic Properties Commission - 1 Position
- Planning Board, ETJ Alternate - 1 Position
- Parks and Recreation Advisory Board - 1 Position and 2 High School Representatives (2 year term)

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.

Local Business Spotlight: Simply Bliss



Simply Bliss Studio is a full service studio located in Historic Downtown Smithfield, North Carolina.

Simply Bliss Studio offers high quality professional photography, on-location and in-studio. Specializing in photographing faces of young and old, from birth and beyond. Offering a variety of portraiture and proudly serving the triangle, including: Johnston, Wake & Harnett Counties. Available for domestic/international travel.

Location: 108 South 3rd Street, Smithfield, NC 27577

Phone: 919-279-8148

Email: simplyblissstudio@gmail.com

Visit: [SimplyBliss](#)

Council Meeting Highlights



Regular Meeting Summary:

1. Mayor Pro-Tem Ashley administered the Oath of Office to new Police Officer Joseph Atkinson.
2. The Town Council approved the Conditional Use Permit request by Ample Storage (CUP-17-04).
3. The Town Council approved the Consent Agenda.
4. The Town Council approved Resolution # 602 (07-2017) accepting the Connect NC Bond Grant for the Mirade Inclusive Playground and the DAV Fitness Trail and entered into a grant agreement with the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.
5. The Town Council approved an Agreement with NCDOT for the conversion of traffic signals at various major intersections in the Town of Smithfield.
6. The Town Council approved Resolution # 603 (08-2017) to enter into an agreement with NCDOT for the construction of sidewalks along the Booker Dairy Road Project between Buffalo Road and Bradford Street, at an estimated cost to the Town of Smithfield of \$56,040.
7. The Town Council recessed the meeting until Wednesday, May 10, 2017 at 6:30pm. The purpose of this meeting is to continue discussion on the FY 2017-2018 budget.

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, April 4, 2017. Come join us and get involved! [View Minutes of Past Meetings Here](#)

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 - SHARKS Summer Swim Team Registration** - Registration Mon., May 8th, and continues until June 1st
- Smithfield - Alligator Steps** - Register please visit www.alligatorsteps.com
- Smithfield - Walk to Run - Dates:** Monday nights, May 8 - July 17 - Time: 6:30-7:30pm
- Smithfield - Work it Circuit** - Dates: Saturdays, May 6 - 27 - Time: 11am-Noon
- Smithfield - Milk & Cookies with a Cop** - Register by May 12 - Time: 10-11:30am
- Smithfield - Adult Tennis Program by USTA called "Try Tennis"** - Register, at TryTennis.net - Sat., May 20th, 10am
- Smithfield - Teen Night at SRAC** - Saturday, May 27th - Time: 6-10pm
- Smithfield - Cup of Joe with a Cop** - Tuesday, June 6th -Time: 10-Noon
- Smithfield - The Chick-Fil-A 3 Little Pigs Triathlon** -Date: Saturday, June 17th - Time: 7:30am
Register: <https://fsseries.com/ra/r/3-little-pigs-triathlon/> - www.fsseries.com
- Smithfield's Fourth of July Celebration** - Sunday, July 2nd - Time: 6:30pm

Smithfield - WIFFLE BALL TOURNAMENT

For more information, please contact Jeff Davis at 919-915-2280 or go to the official website at <http://newwiffleball.weebly.com>.

July is National Parks & Recreation Month..

- Friday, July 28th, from 5-8pm

SUMMER CAMPS - 2017

Smithfield - SRAC SUMMER CAMP

Smithfield - NETWORKS BASKETBALL BOOT CAMP - Dates: Tuesdays / Beginning June 13th until August 8th
Register at www.networksbasketball.com

Smithfield - Younger Basketball Camp

Smithfield - Basketball Camp

Smithfield - KIDZ @ PLAY SPORTS CAMP

Smithfield - POTTERY CAMP

Smithfield - VOLLEYBALL Camp

Smithfield - TENNIS CAMPS

Smithfield - SPARTAN FOOTBALL CAMP

Smithfield - SPARTAN BASEBALL CAMP

Smithfield - EARTH ART CAMP

Smithfield - ARTZY KIDZ CAMP

Smithfield - SPARTANS TENNIS CAMP

Smithfield - SPARTANS Soccer Camp

Smithfield - YOUNG REMBRANDT'S SUMMER DRAWING CAMP

Smithfield - ART SMART CAMP

Smithfield - YOUNG REMBRANDT'S SUMMER DRAWING CAMP

Smithfield - PLAY WELL LEGO SUMMER CAMPS

Intro to STEM with LEGO - register.play-well.org/registration/new/60324

Mine, Craft, Build Adventure Game - register.play-well.org/registration/new/60326

UPCOMING SPRD FALL SPORTS / WITH SUMMER REGISTRATIONS:

Smithfield - FOOTBALL REGISTRATION - Red Devil Football registration will be June 12th - July 14th

Smithfield - RED DEVIL CHEERLEADING- Registration begins in mid-June

Smithfield - FALL SOCCER REGISTRATION - Fall Soccer registration will be July 10th - August 11th

Smithfield - MENS OPEN LEAGUE SOFTBALL REGISTRATION - Registration will be July 10th - August 18th

Smithfield - KINDER SOCCER - Kinder Soccer registration will be August 1st - 25th

Smithfield - BASKETBALL REGISTRATION - Youth Basketball Registration will be September 11th - October 20th

ADULT EVENTS

Smithfield - STERLING SILVER SENIORS CLUB

All 55 and older adults are welcome.

Meet 2nd Wednesday of each month, 10:30 AM

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

- Facility Maintenance Specialist II - Parks & Recreation
- Planning Director
- Police Officer
- Sanitation Equipment Operator

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

