



# *Talk of the Town*

August 25, 2017

63rd Edition

## *Town Tidbit:*

**Did you know?** Aug. 15, 1945 - Farmers Day in Smithfield celebrates the end of World War II.

## *Beware: This phone scam just needs you to say 'yes.' Hang up instead*



If you get a call from a stranger asking, "Can you hear me?" hang up the phone.

That's what the Better Business Bureau is advising consumers who might become victims of the latest scam it says is circulating the country.

Jim Hegarty, president of the BBB serving Nebraska, South Dakota, the Kansas Plains and southwest Iowa, said the region has already received hundreds of reports about the scam.

The con aims to get victims to say the word "yes" so scammers can record it. The affirmative response is used by the fraudster to authorize unwanted charges - whether it's to a credit card, a cable or phone account or subscriptions.

Here's how it works: You might receive a call from someone - recent reports say the scammers are claiming they're from a home security agency, a cruise line or associated with Social Security. After the introduction, the recording will ask if you can hear the caller clearly. If you answer "yes," there's a possibility the scam artist has recorded you and will use the response to sign you up for a product or service, and then demand payment. If you refuse to pay, the caller may use your recorded "yes" to confirm your purchase agreement.

In many cases, the scammers already have the person's phone number, which can be used to authorize third-party charges; or they may have a victim's credit card number or cable bill as the result of a data breach. When the victim disputes any charges to an account, the scammer can counter that they have your consent on a recorded line.

Businesses were targeted by the scam last year, but targeting consumers is new, Hegarty said.

"It started to blow up with consumers last Friday," Hegarty said. He estimated that hundreds of thousands of the calls had already been received nationally.

If you are targeted by this scam, the BBB recommends hanging up, even if you are unsure.  
(Article courtesy of [www.omaha.com](http://www.omaha.com))

## *Bullet Proof, Stab Proof K-9 Vests Donated*

### Smithfield PD Thanks "Friends of Hometown Heroes"



Two Smithfield Police K-9s will be safer on patrol thanks to donated vests.

On Wednesday, Friends of Hometown Heroes Inc. donated two new bullet proof and stab proof vests to the Smithfield Police Department for use with their K-9s Diesel and Argo.

Wade Rosar, Event Coordinator for Friends of Hometown Heroes, said the organization holds fundraisers and uses the money to provide necessary equipment for local heroes so they can perform their daily duties as safely as possible. The company has provided ballistic vests to other agencies, turnout gear to local fire departments, and equipment for volunteer EMS agencies.

The company also supports active duty military personnel and their children.

Friends of Hometown Heroes was formed in 2015 and initially served only Wake County. In 2016 they began providing assistance to first responders in Johnston County. They hope to expand to more counties in the next few years with the vision of being large enough to help departments throughout the Southeast within 20 years.

Smithfield Police Chief Keith Powell said he was appreciative of the two donated K-9s vests which costs \$700 each. "The department was very grateful for the donation of these vests, which will further help protect Diesel and Argo in the performance of their duties."

(Article courtesy of [www.jocoreport.com](http://www.jocoreport.com))

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## *"Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over"*

### Have a responsible end of summer

This Aug. 18 to Sept. 4, law enforcement will be stepping up their "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign. This means police officers will be focused on spotting impaired drivers and pulling them over.

There were nearly 10,000 people killed in alcohol-impaired motor vehicle crashes in 2014, according to the CDC. This accounts for nearly 33 percent of all traffic-related deaths in the United States. Keep this sobering statistic in mind when attending gatherings with alcohol, like barbecues, beach parties or work events.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) created a [smartphone app](#) to help drivers who cannot safely drive home. The app can help tell you where you are, help you call a taxi or help you call a friend. Other useful apps include [Uber](#) and [Lyft](#), as both can get you home if it's not safe for you to drive.

For more information on the Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over campaign, visit the [NHTSA website](#).

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## *Spotlight:*

**Smithfield Electrical Dept received (No lost time injuries award for 2016) at the Electricities annual meeting.**



## *Book Club Meeting:*

**Book Club Meeting Tuesday, September 19**

On Tuesday, September 19 at 12:00 noon, the Public Library of Johnston County and Smithfield is hosting a Book Club Meeting at SoDoSoPa restaurant, located at 146 South 3rd Street, Smithfield, NC 27577.

Regular members of the Book Club will be in attendance to welcome anyone interested in discussing their favorite books, authors, or recent reads.

No reservation is required. Please call the library to receive Book Club E-mails.

## *Spotlight on SSS Students:*



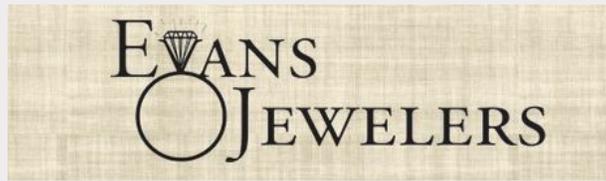
Jacob Ivey, a Smithfield-Selma High School (SSS) student, has been honored for his exemplary volunteer service with a



Congratulations to Smithfield-Selma High School (SSS) student Rachel Pazur who has been accepted into Governor's School for Chorus!

Courtesy of [SSS](#)

## Local Business Spotlight: Evans Jewelers



Evans Jewelers is a second generation family owned jewelry store that strives to keep family, tradition, and excellence a top priority. Evans Jewelers has been in business for over thirty years serving Smithfield, Selma, Clayton, Princeton, Benson, and surrounding areas in Johnston County. The first Evans Jewelers was opened by Mr. & Mrs. Wilbert Evans who helped build the foundation of the store name. In the year 2000, Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Evans decided to venture out and open a store of their own in the heart of downtown Smithfield.

Today they are still the friendly, happy faces you see when you walk through the door. We hope to continue to grow and expand our store for many years to come. The Evans family wants to thank all of their loyal customers who have brought them to where they are.

Evans Jewelers  
320 E. Market St. Smithfield NC 27577 us  
Phone: 9199382929  
E-mail: [evansjewelers103@gmail.com](mailto:evansjewelers103@gmail.com)  
Visit: [www.evansjewelersnc.com](http://www.evansjewelersnc.com)

## 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.



- Balances may also be paid by:

- o **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>
- o Online - bills can be paid by credit card, debit card or electronic check through the Town's website at <http://www.smithfield-nc.com>
- o **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.
- o **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.
- o **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:

**"Be yourself; everyone else is already taken."**

*\_Oscar Wilde*



## 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](mailto:mhwarren@ncsu.edu). Or [cblassist@ncsu.edu](mailto:cblassist@ncsu.edu)

## Volunteers Needed

Opportunities Available to Serve on a Town Board

- Appearance Commission - 1 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 In-Town Alternate position and 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](http://www.smithfield-nc.com/page/parks_programs)

**Smithfield - Alligator Steps** - Register please visit [www.alligatorsteps.com](http://www.alligatorsteps.com)

### UPCOMING SPRD FALL SPORTS / WITH SUMMER REGISTRATIONS:

**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

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## *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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

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## *Employment Opportunities with the Town of Smithfield*

- **Electric Line Technician**
- **Licensed Water Plant Operator**
- **Police Officer**
- **Sanitation Equipment Operator**
- **Sanitation Worker**
- **Utility Line Mechanic**

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](http://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](http://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

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