



Talk of the Town

February 13, 2018

68th Edition

Town Tidbit:

Did you know?

Until the Town of Smithfield was chartered in 1777, its location was widely known in North Carolina as "Johnston County Court House." The rise of this immediate forerunner of Smithfield coincided with beginnings of the Revolutionary War, which ended British rule in Johnston County and all America. Indeed, the place identified as Johnston County Court House became the scene of significant events leading up to the American Revolution.



Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Parade presented by the Johnston County NAACP is scheduled for February 24, 2018 starting at 3 pm.

*Kenneth Baker, 90, Former Smithfield Mayor
Passed Away on February 9th*

Kenneth Bryan Baker passed away on Friday three days before his 91st birthday. Baker was born February 12, 1927 in Smithfield, the youngest of six children of Levi Cicero (L.C.) Baker and Nettie Johnson Baker. After graduating from Smithfield High School in 1944, at age 17 he volunteered for service in the U.S. Navy, where he served stateside as a hospital corpsman.



Upon his discharge from the Navy he returned to Smithfield and began work at Underwood Funeral Home, which at time was located on Market Street downtown. He then enrolled in Gupton Jones College of Mortuary Science in Nashville, Tennessee, graduating in 1948 and returning to spend the rest of his career as a funeral director and community leader in Smithfield.

In 1949, Mr. Baker met Eva Mae Pittman and they were married in Centenary United Methodist Church on December 17 of that year. They were married for 68 years and were the proud and loving parents of four daughters.

Mr. Baker became a partner in Underwood Funeral Home upon the death of J.D. Creech in 1953. He worked in partnership with Mr. Creech's widow, Emma, until her retirement. In 1962, the business moved from downtown to its current location on Brightleaf Boulevard. Mr. Baker became the sole proprietor 1972. Eva Baker worked alongside her husband in the business for many years.

Underwood Funeral Home, founded in 1897, is one of the oldest and most respected businesses in Smithfield. In January of 1999 Mr. Baker sold the business to Parrish Funeral Homes but continued to work there until his retirement in 2004.

Mr. Baker was very active in the civic and political life of Smithfield for many years. He was a past president of the Smithfield Kiwanis Club, of which he was a member for more than 50 year, and was a Master Mason. He was a Member for Life of the American Red Cross, having donated more than 170 pints of blood. He served on the board of directors of the Day by Day home of Johnston County from 1978-1984 and on the board of the Smithfield Chamber of Commerce for many years. As a member of the Methodist Men at Centenary United Methodist Church, he was renowned as the organizer and chief cook for the monthly breakfasts enjoyed by the members for many years.

Kenneth served Smithfield as a member of the Public Housing Authority from 1963-65.

He was elected to the Board of Commissioners in 1965 and served two four-year terms, ending in 1973 when he decided not to seek another term.

In 1979 he was elected Mayor of Smithfield, serving 10 years until his retirement from politics. During his decade as Mayor, Mr. Baker also served as a director of the North Carolina League of Municipalities from 1986 until 1988 and as president of Electricities of North Carolina from 1983-84. He was selected to be among a small group of mayors from across the state who greeted President Ronald Reagan during a visit to Durham in the mid-1980s.

"Mayor Kenneth Baker was a true leader in and for the Town of Smithfield," stated current Mayor Andy Moore. "Mayor Baker faithfully served the citizens of Smithfield as a civic leader, a political figure and a business owner. His involvement in the community spanned over fifty years of dedicated service; an honorable trait we all should aspire to achieve. As Mayor of the Town of Smithfield, I wish to offer my deepest condolences to the Baker family. The Town is truly grateful for the dedicated service of Mayor Kenneth Baker."

A memorial service will be conducted at 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 13th in the Centenary United Methodist Church. The family will receive friends from 12:30 - 1:45 p.m. just prior to the service in Wesley Hall.

Surviving are his wife of 68 years, Eva Pittman Baker; daughters, Barbara B. Elliott and husband David of Frankford, WV, Margaret Baker Krakover and husband Neal of Hillsboro, WV, Virginia B. Cooper and husband Jeff of Raleigh and Emily B. Everett and husband Eugene of Cary; four grandchildren, Lauryn Johnson and husband Jimmy, Bryan Ulma, Matthew Krakover and wife Suzanne and Sandra Winfrey and husband Brad.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that memorial contributions be made to Centenary United Methodist Church, 140 West Market Street, Smithfield, NC 27577. Online condolences may be sent to the family at this link.

[JOCO Report](#)

Utility Billing Delayed



Public Notice Regarding the January 31, 2018 Utility Bill For The Town of Smithfield
The Town of Smithfield is in the process of replacing its Billing Software. As a result, the mailing of the January 31, 2018 utility bills were delayed by several days. The bills were delivered to the post office on February 7th. The due date of February 20th is being extended to February 23rd for this month. Since the 23rd falls on a Friday, late charges won't apply until February 26th. Normal billing and due dates will resume next month. We appreciate your patience during this transition period and are thankful

Local Gymnast Places First At State Meet

A local gymnast, Megan Mustgrave, a senior at Neuse Charter School in Smithfield, placed first on vault, beam and floor and

second on bars during the NC High School State Gymnastics meet held Friday, Jan. 26th at the Raleigh School of Gymnastics.

Megan finished first in the all-around.

Megan, 18, is a gymnast at Morgan's Gymnastics and has been competing for 14 years.

Megan is in the National Honor Society, has a GPA of 4.607, and has been a level 10 gymnast for four years. She is also a member of Selma Freewill Baptist Church.

She is the daughter of David and Tanya Mustgrave of Smithfield.

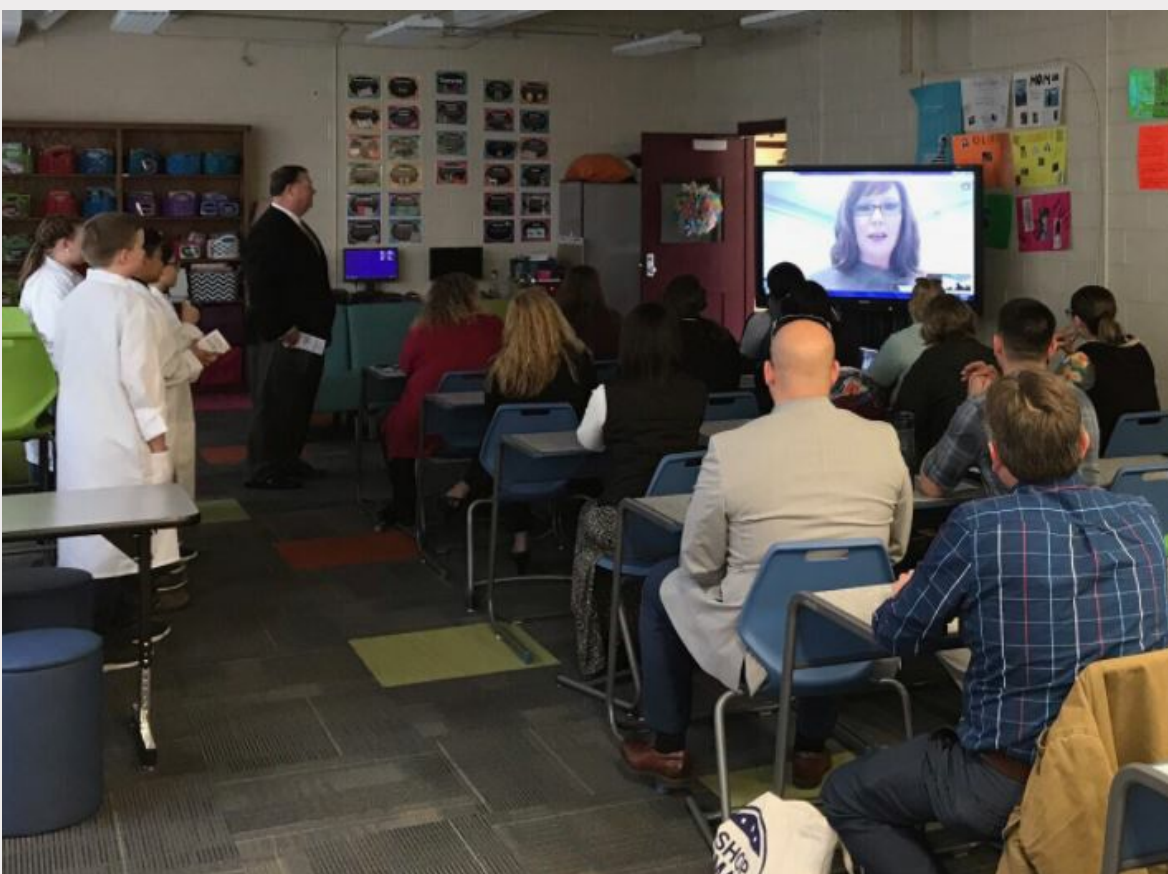
Courtesy of the [JOCO Report](#)



Dr. Renfrow and Cabinet along with Leadership Johnston Visits Innovation Academy

We welcomed Dr. Renfrow and Cabinet along with Leadership Johnston today. Our Pioneer Ambassadors represented our school well, and our Lead Learner Mrs. Johnson was in two places at once, thanks to modern technology!





[JCPS News](#)

Council Meeting Highlights

February 6, 2018



Regular Meeting Summary:

1. Public Utilities Director Ted Credle and Johnston County Public Utilities Director Chandra Farmer provided an update to the Town Council on the sewer smell.
2. Jason Morado of ETC Institute presented the results of the Town Survey to the Town Council.
3. The Town Council approved an amendment to Town of Smithfield Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) Article 6.5, ZA-17-07 Steve Bryant
4. The Town Council approved Special Use Permit SUP-18-02, Boykin Investments, LLC.
5. Approved the Consent Agenda
6. The Town Council appointed the following members of Council to the below respective boards/committees:
 - a. Mayor Moore was selected to serve on the Triangle J. Council of Governments Delegate
 - b. Mayor Moore was selected to serve on the Upper Coastal Plain Area Rural Planning Organization - Rural Transportation Advisory Committee
 - c. Councilman David Stevens was selected to serve on the Appearance Commission
 - d. Councilman David Barbour was selected to serve on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
7. Alan Thompson of the auditing firm Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams & Co. PA presented the FY 2016-2017 Town of Smithfield annual audit.

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:

Burney's Sweets & More



We sell the famous Burney's glazed croissant as well as 14 plus fillings to satisfy our customers demands. We carry a variety of donuts and other pastries as well as cheese cakes and old-fashioned round cakes. We serve coffee, tea and Coca Cola drink products. Much more is to come and we invite you to bring that family recipe to us to bake for you.

Address: 517 Outlet Center Dr, Smithfield, NC 27577

Phone: (919) 300-1691

Quote Of The Week:

Live Life to the fullest, and focus on the positive.

Matt Cameron

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

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**
- **Part-time Lifeguard(s)**

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

