



Talk of the Town

September 25, 2012

Town Tidbit:

Did you know that on average 25,000 vehicles cross the Hwy 70/Neuse River Bridge, one of Smithfield's gateway entrances, each day?

Fall is Here!

Kids return to school and weather gets cool

Officially on September 22nd, we say goodbye to Summer and welcome in Fall. Over the past few weeks we have experienced cooler temperatures and school buses with students have become a familiar sight. Be sure to be on the lookout for children and be courteous to the bus drivers who carry that precious cargo - drive safely! During the US 70 Bridge Replacement

Project (see below), care and patience will be necessary especially near the Smithfield Middle School and SSSHS in the mornings and afternoons on Buffalo and Booker Dairy Roads. [Johnston County Schools](#)



US 70 Bridge Replacement

Road Closure / Construction Begins September 25th

Starting the night of Tuesday, September 25, 2012, the North Carolina Department of Transportation is replacing the bridge over the Neuse River on U.S. 70 Business in downtown Smithfield. The bridge will be closed for approximately 240 days, equivalent to eight months. The contractor for this development hopes to complete the project in six months, weather permitting. The bridge which was originally constructed in 1923 will maintain its five-lanes when complete but also will feature a six-foot wide pedestrian walkway on the north side as well as a ten-foot wide multi-use path on the south side to accommodate bicycle and pedestrian traffic. Several signed detour routes will be in place for the period of construction [More Info and Detour Map](#)



Town Government 101

Boards and Committees Do the Work

The Town of Smithfield operates under the Council-Manager form of government. In this form of government, the elected Mayor and Town Council set the policy for the Town by approving budgets, ordinances, land use matters, and similar items. The appointed Town Manager and other staff conduct the daily operations of the Town. In addition to these roles, the Town relies heavily on appointed boards and commissions to make recommendations to the elected officials to assist the council in its policy-adoption responsibilities. These boards and commissions include: the Appearance Committee, Planning Board, Board of Adjustment, Historic Properties Commission, Public Library Board of Trustees, Recreation Advisory Committee, and others. Thanks to these board and committee volunteers for lending their time and serving our community! [See the Council Meeting Agendas](#) and [Minutes](#)



Parks and Recreation/SRAC

Youth Basketball Registration **NOW! Boys Ages 5 - 18 and Girls Ages 5 - 15 register now at the SRAC!** Resident fees are \$40 and non-residents are \$80. Registration ends October 12th. The season will begin in early December and run through February 2013. **Kinder Basketball for Ages 3 - 4** can register from February 4th through 22nd (\$20 for residents and \$40 for non-residents) and play a 4 session learning season focusing on the fundamentals during the month of March 2013. [Registration Info](#)

Doodlebugs Classes Every Friday, 9:30am-10:15am - Doodlebugs Art Class (Ages 18 months-3 years old) This 45 minute class introduces your child to all mediums of art! More Information Here! [Registration Info](#)

October 25th is the **Halloween Egg Haunt** at the Community Center Park. 7PM for ages 2-7 years old.

December 13th is the **Smithfield Christmas Parade** in Downtown Smithfield. Arrive early! Starts at 7PM.

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

Ava Gardner Festival, FOP Event & Meetings

The **8th Annual Ava Gardner Festival** scheduled for October 5-7, 2012, will commemorate Gardner and Gregory Peck's life-long friendship with new exhibits, heritage tours, and vintage movies.



Peck once said, "It's very hard to dominate Ava because of her essential strength of character, her honesty and this almost unreal beauty." Their friendship lasted the entirety of their careers and upon her death he called Ava "outspoken", "refreshing" and a "fine actress." [More Info](#)

The **SRAC** will close early (5pm) on October 11th to host the annual **Friends of the Park** event to support the SRAC. The event begins at 5:30pm on Thursday, Oct. 11th and will continue until approximately 8:30pm. Please contact 919-934-2148 for tickets and more information. Make a commitment to your community by attending the Friends of the Park Dinner and Reverse Raffle event at the SRAC. 1st Prize: \$5,000! A total of \$10,000 will be given away and a limited number of raffle tickets will be sold. Auction items include: vacations, sports memorabilia, jewelry, and more great stuff! [More Info](#)

The next **Regular Council Meeting** is scheduled for Tuesday, October 2nd, beginning at 7:30pm at the Town Hall Council Chambers located at 350 East Market Street. The Town Council meets the first Tuesday of each month beginning at 7:30pm unless rescheduled. Come join us and get involved! [Meeting Agenda](#)

Contact: **Tim Kerigan** - HR Director / Public Information Officer
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