



Talk of the Town

November 06, 2012

Town Tidbit:

Did you know? The Town of Smithfield now offers a service that will remove unwanted junked vehicles at NO cost to you? All you have to do is make the request and we'll take care of the rest. Call the Town of Smithfield's Code Compliance Officer Brent Reck at 919-934-2116 to set up an appointment.

Code Compliance

Ensuring Healthy Neighborhoods

Smithfield Code Compliance investigates minimum housing issues, junk cars, tall grass, sign violations, use violations and most of the topics covered in the Town of Smithfield Unified Development Ordinance and Code of Ordinances.

How many code officers do we have? The Town of Smithfield currently has 1 code compliance officer (Brent Reck) located in the Town Hall Planning Department. With over 12 years of Code Compliance experience, Brent was awarded the State of North Carolina Zoning Enforcement Official of the Year presented by the NCAZO with more than 400 nominees throughout the state of North Carolina.

What happens next? When you file a code complaint we will research the issue within our ordinance. We will also physically make a site visit and document what we find. If the site is in violation we will issue a notice of violation and contact the property owner to correct the issue. Most issues are corrected within 30 days.

What if they don't comply? The Town of Smithfield will issue civil citations for non-compliance. If the citizen disagrees with our decision they have the right to appeal. Appeals are heard by the Department Director and or Town Manager. If the issue cannot be resolved at that level, the case will be reviewed by the Zoning Board of Adjustment (where applicable). In some cases the process can take several months to resolve, but that is the exception to most cases.



They do it, Why can't I? If you see a violation, report it (even if you're not sure if it's a violation). Many times other violations that you observe are already being addressed or are in process. Treating all businesses and citizens equally is what we do.

It's not my job! You won't hear that from Smithfield Code Compliance Officer Brent Reck. At times, the question of who addresses what can be a little confusing. Some issues are enforced by Johnston County Building Inspections and some are Police, Public Works or Animal Control. If you're not sure, give Brent Reck a call at 919-934-2116 or email Brent at brent.reck@smithfield-nc.com and he'll get you connected with the right people to address the problem.

Around Town

For fun or to help others in our community

Veteran's Day -

Johnston County Veterans' Day Event - Monday, Nov. 12th at 11 a.m. The event will feature MSG Steven W. Peterson, a 31-year-old decorated soldier with four Bronze Stars and five tours to Iraq, including the invasion of Iraq in 2003. Performing will be the all-county band and chorus and the Jr. ROTC units from Clayton, North Johnston, Smithfield-Selma, South Johnston, and West Johnston high schools. After the hour-long program, a special Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings will be served in the school cafeteria to those in attendance. The event will be held at Smithfield-Selma High School. For more information, call 919-934-6031, ext. 241.

Town Hall Closed - Town Hall will be closed on Monday, November 12th.

Waste Collection - Household waste and yard debris collections for Monday, November 12th will be collected on Wednesday, November 14th. All other customers will have their household waste and yard debris collected on their regular scheduled day. Please have your curbside containers and/or all debris at curbside after 5:00PM on the day before your collection day. All curbside containers must be removed from the curbside no later than 8:00AM on the day after collection.

Community Service - Many of our citizens have fallen on tough times. Some have medical problems, are elderly or just can't financially put the pieces together. Some can't cut their grass, need minor help with construction and repairs or just need a hand hauling limbs and debris away from their home. If your church or civic organization is looking to lend a hand our community could use a hand and would certainly appreciate it. If you or your organization is interested, please contact Brent Reck at 919-934-2116 or email at brent.reck@smithfield-nc.com.

Gobble Waddle 5K/10K Run or Walk - Presented by the HealthQuest Wellness Center. Saturday, November 17, 2011 @ 9:00 AM. Event check-in and start will be in Downtown Smithfield at the corner of 2nd Street and Church Street. The entry fee for the 5K race is \$20 up to and including October 31st or \$25 up to and including November 17th. The entry fee for the 10K race is \$25 up to and including October 31st or \$30 up to and including November 17th. But for those who choose to donate food instead of paying an entry fee, the donations are 30 cans/boxes of food, 35 cans/boxes of food, and 40 cans/boxes of food, respectively. Those using the food option must register in person at the HealthQuest Wellness Center located at 514 North Brightleaf Boulevard in Smithfield. Proceeds from the event will be donated to local food banks. Awards will be given to the top three male finishers and to the top three female finishers in both races. T-shirts are guaranteed only if registered by November 1st. [Register Online](#)

Give Thanks/Give Food - From now through Monday, November 19th, all Town of Smithfield employees are hosting a Thanksgiving food drive. Donation boxes are located at all town buildings, including the primary donation location of Town Hall at 350 E Market Street. All donated items must be non-perishable and not be beyond their expiration date. All collected items will be used to assist local families during the holiday season.

Neuse Little Theatre - The Amorous Ambassador - When Harry Douglas, the new American Ambassador to Great Britain, tells his family he is going to Scotland to play golf, his wife and daughter announce weekend plans of their own. Their newly hired butler, Perkins, watches stoically as each leaves and secretly returns for a romantic rendezvous in the empty house. Harry's secretary and Captain South of Marine Corps Embassy Security then arrive in the wake of a bomb threat and the embassy is sealed off, with hilarious results. Even the imperturbable Perkins is drawn into the shenanigans. Show Dates: November 9, 10, 16 & 17, 2012 at 8PM; November 11, 2012 at 3PM. Tickets are \$12 in advance or \$14 at the door. For more information, [click here](#) or call 919-934-1873.

Stomp Your Feet - to end domestic violence at the Downtown Smithfield Wine Walk. The Wine Walk is scheduled for 5:30 to 7:30PM Friday, November 16th in downtown Smithfield. Walkers will visit downtown businesses to sample wines. The walk will begin at Pizazz, 119 N. Third Street, where tickets will be available for \$20. Commemorative wine glasses will be available to the first 100 walkers. Proceeds will go to Harbor, which provides aid, including shelter, to victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. For [more information](#), call 919-938-3566.

The Grinch - Stink, Stank, Stunk Toy Drive & Fun Run - Come support a great cause on December 8th @ 10AM at this 5K Run and 1-mile Fun Walk (strollers welcome). Please bring a new, unwrapped toy as your registration fee. T-shirts will be available for purchase. All toys will go to the Johnston County DSS Angel Tree and Harbor. Get into the Spirit of Christmas and bring your favorite characters of WHOVILLE to life... Bring out the WHO in YOU! Prizes will be awarded for: Best Kid Costume, Best Adult Costume, Best Dog Costume, Best Who Duo and 1st, 2nd & 3rd place in the 5K Run. Sponsored by Smithfield Parks & Recreation / SRAC and the Smithfield Police Department. For more information, call 919-934-2148.

Parks & Recreation / SRAC



Kids Nature Series - This hands-on class will focus on one specific theme for the day. Participants will hike, create, experiment and LEARN about the natural world around them. Upcoming topics include: Clouds, Tracks! and Senses. This program for children 3-5 years of age (with an adult) is held on Wednesdays from 10-11AM through November 23rd and requires pre-registration. The fee is \$4 for Smithfield residents and \$6 for non-Smithfield residents. For [more information](#), call 919-934-1408.

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](#)

Splash Park hours have changed. [Click here](#) for the new Fall/Winter hours.

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](#)

Fire Safety Programs

Smithfield Fire Department

The Smithfield Fire Department provides Fire Safety Programs to hundreds of adults and children annually. Recently, they presented this educational program to approximately 250 students and adults at Smithfield Elementary. This information is given to all ages to illustrate a clear understanding of how to prevent fires from occurring and how to protect yourself in the event of a fire or disaster. Children are taught to have two ways out of every room in the home or school and to plan and practice their escape plans with their parents. Smoke detectors are emphasized as a necessity for early warning and escape from the dangers of fire. Fires can occur at any time of the day or night and can cause catastrophic loss of life and property. Our goal is to prevent fires before they occur. The Smithfield Fire Department reminds you to plan and practice your escape plans and work to prevent fires from happening. For more information on the Fire Safety Programs, please call the Smithfield Fire Department at 919-934-2468.



US 70 Bridge Replacement

One Month Update

Just over one month ago, the N.C. Department of Transportation closed the bridge on U.S. 70 Business/West Market Street over the Neuse River in downtown Smithfield for a replacement project. The bridge will be closed to traffic for approximately 240 days, or the equivalent of eight months. The bridge is still on track to open within that time frame.



Since the closure in September, crews with Smith-Rowe LLC of Mount Airy, the subcontractor hired to demolish the bridge, have removed about half the concrete barrier rail on the existing bridge, as well as two of the six spans.

Sandbags have been placed in the river from the west bank to around the middle bent, which is the structure of columns and piles that supports the bridge deck. The sandbags enable crews to pump out water from around the bridge, allowing for the removal of the existing bridge deck and bent. This will also give crews an area to work when drilling shafts (or columns) for the new structure.

D.H. Griffin Construction Co. is currently working on construction of a temporary work bridge, which must be complete before construction of the new bridge can begin. The temporary work bridge is expected to be complete by mid-November, weather permitting. The work bridge will have steel piles driven into the river that will be 35 feet apart. Steel girders will be approximately 12 feet above water, with exact height varying depending on rainfall amounts. Flashing lights and reflective panels will be in place on both sides of the bridge piles and trestle to warn river traffic of the bridge clearance. All river traffic is urged to use safe boating practices and caution when approaching this area of the Neuse River.

A \$5.3 million contract was awarded to D.H. Griffin Construction Co. of Raleigh in March for the project, which includes replacing the five-lane bridge that was constructed in 1923 with a new bridge that also includes five lanes, as well as a six-foot wide pedestrian walkway on the north side and a 10-foot wide multi-use path on the south side to accommodate bicycle and pedestrian traffic.

[More Info and Detour Map](#)

Employment Opportunities

with the Town of Smithfield

- **Licensed Water Plant Operator**
- **Police Officer I**

Full [Job Descriptions and Applications](#) may be obtained at the Smithfield Town Hall, 350 East Market Street, Smithfield, NC 27577, by visiting our website at www.smithfield-nc.com or by calling 919-934-2116. 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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