



Talk of the Town

April 10, 2013
9th Edition

Town Tidbit:

Did you know? During 2012, the Town of Smithfield Police Officers responded to 1,653 residential and business burglar alarms. These were alarms that were activated accidentally, by Mother Nature or by equipment malfunction. Officers are dispatched and respond to these calls to make certain the properties are secure.

Stay Cool!

Simple Tips on Saving

Heating and cooling costs make up nearly 50 percent of your annual energy costs. Small changes to your thermostat can add big savings to your home's heating and cooling costs.

- Keep your thermostat no lower than 78F. Each additional degree below 78F adds about 3% to your energy costs.
- To keep air circulating freely, check filters at least once a month and change them when needed. Also, clean dust and lint from air outlets.
- Use fans instead of, or in addition to, air conditioning.



[Click here for more information](#)

Tax Time!

Deadline - April 15th!

The deadline to file individual tax returns or request an automatic extension is April 15th!

Whether you have already filed or are preparing to file, take the opportunity to boost your savings for the

future.

- Establish an emergency fund - Deposit a portion of your tax refund into a product with your financial institution that is interest bearing and easily accessible. This cash can be used in place of credit cards or payday loans for unexpected expenses.
- Save for retirement - Increase your contributions to your NC 401(k) or NC 457 plan.
- Pay off debt - Use a portion of your tax refund to pay off a high interest credit card or other outstanding debt.

Free tax preparation services are available to households earning \$51,000 or less per year, military personnel and the elderly. Free or low cost options are also available if you income exceeds \$51,000. Visit www.nctreasurer.com/FinancialLiteracy or call 919-508-5176 for more information.

Around Town

For fun or to help others in our community

Ham & Yam - Now in its 29th year, the Smithfield Ham & Yam Festival is scheduled for Friday, May 3 and Saturday, May 4, 2013. Up-and-coming country trio, The Farm Inc. will kick-off the festival with a free 8:30 p.m. concert on Friday at the Stevens Sausage Pavilion at the Neuse River Amphitheatre. Americal Idol contestant, Casey James will close the festival with a free concert at 8:30 p.m. on Saturday. Craft vendors will take to the streets on Saturday, May 4, along with entertainment on two stages and fun activities for the entire family. For [more information](#), contact the Downtown Smithfield Development Corporation at 919-934-0887.

Smithfield Farmer's Market - Opening Day: April 12th; Time: 9AM-1PM; Days: Friday & Saturday. Kickoff Event: FREE LEMONADE, BOUNCE HOUSE & RAFFLE April 13th. New location - 724 N. Brightleaf Blvd. Smithfield, NC 27577. Come enjoy fresh vegetables, fruits, plants, and flowers from local farmers. Also come enjoy locally made items from people in the community. We are looking forward to a new year with new produce and a new location. Come check us out.

2nd Annual 5K Walk For The Prevention Of Child Abuse - Saturday, Apr 20th @ 8am - Neuse River Amphitheater, Smithfield - Every 5 seconds a child is abused. This could be going on in your neighborhood! Learn the signs and help a great cause by participating in this 2nd Annual event! There will be refreshments, entertainment, and awareness booths about many issues we face in our communities. Call 919-550-9144 or [click to register online](#).

Relay for Life Bluegrass Concert - Hope Floats NC is sponsoring a Bluegrass concert on April 20th at the amphitheater in Smithfield Commons. Admission to the concert is free but we will be encouraging and accepting donations for the American Cancer Society throughout the event. The concert will start at 3:00 P.M. and is scheduled to run until 6:00 P.M. Visit www.hopefloatsnc.com for more info.

5K Hog Trot and Piglet Stampede - The 5K Hog Trot will be a timed event and prizes will be awarded to the top finishers by gender/age group. Participants may run or walk during the event. Both races will begin near the corner of 2nd Street and Church Street in Smithfield. The 1 Mile Piglet Stampede is geared for kids ages 12 and under for a short run or walk. Each participant registered by April 17th will receive a race shirt. Registration fees are \$20 for the 5K and \$10 for the 1 Mile. Please call Amy Brown at 919-938-7599 or more info or register at www.active.com.

Sterling Silver Seniors - Meet: second Wednesday of each month; Time: 10:30AM; Who: 55 and older; Fee: \$12 per year (plus money for trips that you wish to take); What: We are a club that takes field trips, fellowships together, and has fun doing different activities and crafts throughout the year. Our next local trip is to the Atkinson Grist Mill on March 18, 2013. On April 30th we are leaving for Wilmington. If you are interested in joining the Sterling Silver Seniors please contact Tiffany Pearson. My phone numbers is 919-934-2148 ext. 112 or email Tiffany Pearson at tpearson-parks@ncrbiz.com.

301 Endless Yardale -The first annual 301 Endless Yard Sale will be held in Johnston County's towns along US 301 on June 14 and 15. The two-day event is designed to attract visitors from a 50-100 mile radius and off the interstates to the communities along 301 in Johnston County to buy and sell antiques, collectibles, and yard sale items. The event encourages businesses and residents to participate by having yard sales, sidewalk

sales and special promotions for a continuous stretch from one end of the sale route to the other. Once established, the organizers hope to extend the sale to all the counties along US 301 in North Carolina and other states as well. Visit www.301endlessyardsale.com for more info.

3 Little Pigs Triathlon - The Fourth Annual 3 Little Pigs Triathlon will be held June 15th. (Chick-fil-A is the title sponsor.) Races begin at 7:30 a.m. (Our third year had 462 racers - so register early.) The race is comprised of a 250 yard swim, a bike portion (14 miles) and a running portion (5 km). The swim portion is in the Smithfield Recreation and Aquatics Center; the bike portion takes you from SRAC into rural Johnston County, on a scenic but flat course; and the run portion is an out and back course that takes you through Smithfield's Community Park and onto its new Buffalo Creek Greenway and back to SRAC. Feel free to bring your family - your kids can play at the park while you do all the work! All proceeds raised during the event will be split between Smithfield Parks and Recreation Department/Friends of the Park and the Rotary Club of Central Johnston County. [Click Here for Registration Info](#)

Free Foreclosure Prevention Services - The Raleigh Area Development Authority has expanded to Smithfield to provide free foreclosure prevention services to Johnston County residents in need of assistance with mortgage payments. Services are free and authorized by HUD. Eligible clients include those who have lost a job, suffered a major injury, or lost a spouse. Smithfield office hours are by appointment only. Call 919-807-8400 to schedule a consultation or visit www.rada-nc.org for more information.

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.

Operation Helping Hand - 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.

Parks & Recreation / SRAC



Kids Night - Saturday, April 13th from 5:30pm to 8:30pm. When SRAC closes, the fun begins! Drop your kids off in a safe, supervised environment that is kid friendly and parent free. Swimming, gym time, snack and other organized activities are offered throughout the night. For ages 5-10 years old. Pre-register for lower fees. For [more information](#), call 919-934-2148.

SRAC Summer Camp 2013 - It's that time again! Time to register your child or children for one of the most popular summer camps in Johnston County! This year we're offering another eight weeks of art, swimming, sports and outdoor fun from 8:30am until 4:30pm each day. [Click here](#) for complete details or stop by the front desk at the SRAC for an official registration form.

Red Cross Lifeguard Training - Smithfield Recreation and Aquatics Center is offering the American Red Cross Lifeguard Training class. Participants must be at least 15 years old to participate. If you are interested in participating or would like more information, [click here](#) or stop by the front desk at the SRAC.

Swimming Stroke Clinic - SRAC is offering a swimming stroke clinic for children 5-18 years old. The sessions take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Participants must be able to swim 25 yards freestyle and backstroke. [More Info](#)

Swimming Lessons - SRAC is offering Saturday swimming lessons for children 3-12 years old. \$40 Smithfield residents / \$50 Non-Smithfield residents. [More Info](#)

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! 18 sessions - 18 opportunities for kids to learn about the wonderful world around them! Ages: 3-5 (with an adult); Fee: \$4.00 - Smithfield Resident /

\$6.00 - Non-Smithfield Resident (Fee applies to each child participating). [More 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](#)

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](#)

BCBS will now pay for your membership at the Smithfield Recreation and Aquatics Center!
[HEALTHWAYS](#) Prime program now offered at the SRAC! Healthways Prime program is an insurance based Fitness program paid through BCBS! No need to pay any out of pocket expenses for your facility membership, let BCBS pay it for you. The Healthways Prime program reimburses the SRAC for each time you visit on a monthly basis! STOP BY NOW for your tour and to get started at the SRAC! For more information, contact Dale Ham at the Smithfield Recreation and Aquatics Center at 919-934-1408.

Council Meeting Highlights

April 02, 2013



Regular Meeting summary:

1. Lease Agreement for the farmer's market on No. Brightleaf Blvd. was finalized and is awaiting signatures by property owner.
2. Strategic Plan as approved by the Council was dispersed to the Department Heads to begin action on all items relevant to their departments.
3. 1108 Fuller Street - Complaint for remediation has moved forward with required notices.
4. RFPs for both primary and ancillary health insurance services are complete and has been issued for advertisement in local newspaper.
5. Special Event permits were approved for Edgerton Church pumpkin Sale; the Endless yard sale on June 14 and 15th; the ham and yam festival on May 3rd and 4th and other 3rd Thursday events for the summer; the Relay for Life event on May 30th; and other special events.
6. Subdivision requests (minor) for property on W. Market Street; and another on N. Johnston Road near Galilee Road intersection.
7. The annual street resurfacing project was approved and issued to Turner Construction as the low bidder;
8. The OPEB actuarial study was approved for Cavanaugh Macdonald Consulting, LLC to perform for the Town; and,
9. Proclamations: May is Exercise Medicine Month and the week of May 5 - 11 declared as Municipal Clerks Week.

The Town Council regularly meets the first Tuesday of each month beginning at 7:30pm at the Town Hall Council Chambers located at 350 East Market Street - unless rescheduled. The next Regular Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 7th, beginning at 7:30pm. Come join us and get involved!

[View Minutes of Past Meetings Here](#)

US 70 Bridge Replacement

Nearing Completion

RALEIGH - Crews are continuing to make significant progress on the construction of the U.S. 70 Business/West Market Street bridge over the Neuse River in downtown Smithfield.

All three spans of the bridge over the Neuse River, as well as the approaches connecting each end of the bridge to the road have been constructed and poured with concrete.

Curb and gutter work is complete on both sides of U.S. 70 Business/West Market Street near the bridge on the downtown side of the project and sidewalks have been constructed in this area. To make the bridge compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, wheelchair ramps have been constructed leading up to the pedestrian walkway and multiuse path on each side of the bridge.

Crews this week will begin pouring concrete for the vertical barrier rail for the bridge. Weather permitting, paving will begin on U.S. 70 Business/West Market Street on both sides of the bridge later this week. Once a base layer of asphalt is applied, an intermediate layer will go down, followed by the surface layer. The rails separating the travel lanes from the pedestrian walkway and multi-use path will be in place before the bridge is open to traffic; however, the outside rail for the bridge will not be in place until after the bridge has opened to traffic. Therefore, pedestrian and bicycle traffic will not be able to use the bridge immediately until the barrier rails are complete.

The N.C. Department of Transportation awarded a \$5.3 million contract to D.H. Griffin Construction Co. of Raleigh in March 2012 for the replacement of the 89-year-old bridge. Crews closed the original bridge to traffic on Sept. 25, 2012. The new bridge is currently scheduled to open to traffic later this spring.

The project includes plans to replace the five-lane bridge 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. For more information, as well as pictures of the bridge replacement, visit the project website at www.ncdot.gov/projects/smithfieldneuseriverbridge.

NCDOT reminds motorists to watch signs for construction information, stay alert and obey the posted speed limit.

NCDOTFor real-time travel information at any time, call 511, visit www.ncdot.gov/travel or follow NCDOT on Twitter at www.ncdot.gov/travel/twitter. Another option is NCDOT Mobile, a phone-friendly version of the NCDOT website. To access it, type "m.ncdot.gov" into the browser of your smartphone. Then, bookmark it to save for future reference. NCDOT Mobile is compatible with the iPhone, Android and some newer Blackberry phones.

[More Info and Detour Map](#)



Donate-A-Tree Project

Be a part of making Smithfield beautiful!

The Donate-A-Tree Project was introduced to the public in December of 2010 at the Annual Festival of Trees event. Previous to the launch of the project, The Appearance Commission voted to adopt the Crepe Myrtle tree as Smithfield's town tree. The Commission had a vision to have these beautiful, long blooming trees planted around the town. With the help and dedication of the Public Works Department, the Donate-A-Tree Project has enhanced the landscape of the community.

Honor someone or celebrate someone's memory with a beautiful Crepe Myrtle Tree. For a donation of \$50.00, a beautiful 8 to 12 foot tall Crepe Myrtle tree will be purchased, planted and maintained in honor or memory of someone special in your life. That person's name will be listed on a plaque erected in the Town Hall Park on



Market Street. Trees will be planted during the fall of the year and will be placed in a public location determined by the Public Works Department, Appearance Division. For more information, please contact Public Works Director Lenny Branch at 919-934-2596 or download the Donate-A-Tree [brochure](#).

Employment Opportunities

with the Town of Smithfield

- **Police Officer I**
- **Finance Director**

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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