



Talk of the Town

July 09, 2013
13th Edition

Town Tidbit:

Did you know? Through the first 8 days of July, Smithfield has already received more rain than its monthly average for July of 5.14 inches.

Town Adopts New Budget

Fiscal Year 2013-2014

The Town of Smithfield recently adopted its new budget for FY 13/14 which started on July 1. The general fund budget, which includes the general operations of the Town, Police, Fire, Public Works and Parks & Recreation, scheduled \$13,073,878 in expenditures which was a reduction in spending of over \$550,000 from the prior year - or 5%. In the utility funds, including Water/Sewer, Water Plant and Electric, the Town also reduced expenditures some \$680,000 from the prior year to the present fiscal year. The Town has made a concerted effort to reduce its expenditures and costs where possible and the results have been extremely positive. Removing fixed costs from the budgets, the Town has reduced its total budget over 8% from last year to the new fiscal year and will increase its fund balance or "savings account" significantly this year. [Click here to see the Adopted Budget.](#)



DSDC Receives Grant For Smithfield

Projects to Create 40+ Jobs

The Downtown Smithfield Development Corporation has received notification from the Rural Center of NC that its grant application, written on behalf of the Town of Smithfield and St. Joseph of the Pines, has been awarded \$200,000 through the Rural Hope grant program. This grant was offered by The Rural Center of NC for the renovation of former Heilig-Myers building located on US 70 Business in West Smithfield.



The secured funding will assist renovating the vacant building for use by a comprehensive medical and social services center for the elderly. Construction on the \$2.9-million dollar project is anticipated to begin later this summer and is projected to create 40 jobs immediately. Visit www.downtownsmithfield.com/ to continue reading.

Historian Julia McCullers

Order of the Long Leaf Pine Inductee

Julia McCullers of Smithfield got a big surprise when she arrived at the Johnston County Heritage Center Saturday morning, June 29. She thought she was going to be making a presentation about "1913 - The Way It Was A Hundred Years Ago." Instead, she was greeted by a gathering of friends and admirers who applauded her as a new inductee into the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, one of North Carolina's highest civilian honors.



"Throughout her professional life, Julia Allen McCullers has been an advocate for education and for the preservation of history," proclaimed a nominating statement read by Ann Lee Huckenbeck, one of Julia's closest friends and a collaborator on several recent projects regarding local history.

One of those signature projects was establishing a Smithfield High School museum inside the recently renovated A.G. Glenn Building, the school's former home now in use for offices of the Johnston County school system. "This was a three-year marathon of planning, collecting artifacts that had been discarded, organizing displays, and planning a grand opening attended by over 700 alumni of Smithfield High School," Mrs. Huckenbeck noted.

Mrs. McCullers also published a history of the school, which closed in 1969.

As a member of the Johnston County Heritage Commission, Mrs. McCullers has helped "bring to life" several projects of the Johnston County Heritage Center, including its annual Ghost Walk and several major exhibits.

In addition, she has produced a number of narratives about her own encounters with history, including her family's evacuating the U.S. Navy base at Guantanamo Bay during the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962. Many of her memories are included in a book, "Never Far From Home" - a compilation of personal columns she wrote for The Smithfield Herald for almost 20 years.

Sewer Backups

Recipe for a Ruined Day

Sewer backups are not only a nuisance but happen at the most inopportune time. It seems like they never happen on a bright sunny day when help can be easily found. Most often, these pesky backups happen on a holiday when family members are gathered having dinner. They may even happen while you are on vacation or enjoying a leisurely weekend. No matter when they occur, you can always expect a stressful and grueling experience. Here are a few tips to lessen the possibility of this happening to you.



- Avoid pouring cooking oil and other grease based products into your drains. Although these oils are liquid when poured into the drain, they solidify when cooled and can play a major role in clogging your sewer system.
- Do not flush paper and cloth products down the toilet. Examples are paper towels, disposable diapers, baby wipes and sanitary napkins. These products do not break down the way toilet paper does and can cause serious blockages.
- Keep water out of all drains until the problem has been corrected.
- Never pour dangerous and toxic liquids such as motor oil, epoxies, paint, and pesticides down your drain. Dispose of them in the proper manner.
- Avoid planting trees and bushes near your sewer line. Roots seeking moisture will invade even the smallest crack in your sewer line and possibly necessitate the replacement of your entire sewer service.
- Never connect gutter down spouts to the sanitary sewer system. A sewer system is designed to carry a finite amount of wastewater. Rain water not only overloads the sewer system, but it increases treatment costs and ultimately increases sewer rates.

The sewer service line from your house to the right of way edge is the responsibility of the property owner. If you experience a service line blockage, please call the Smithfield Public Utilities Department first. We will dispatch a technician to help verify who has repair responsibilities. The Operation Center Office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 to 5:00. Our phone number is 919-934-2798. For after-hours needs, you may call our emergency number at 919-934-1117.

Around Town

For fun or to help others in our community

Town Utilities Emergency Line - 919-934-1117 - We are sorry for any inconvenience occurred June 22nd and 23rd while our emergency phone line from Century Link was not operational. This emergency line is very critical during holidays, weekends and especially during severe weather such as what we experienced that weekend. We are looking at some options to improve our system to help us better handle situations like this in the future.

Register Of Deeds Public Shred Event - The Johnston County Register of Deeds Office, along with event sponsors WTSB Radio, WMPM Radio, Hinson's Printing, and Legal Shield, will host the event on Saturday, July 20 from 10am until 1pm in the Pine Needle Square parking lot in front of Edward's IGA at 721 North Brightleaf Boulevard in Smithfield. Identity theft is the fastest growing crime in the United States, Olive says. Every 3 seconds someone's identity is stolen. Johnston County is located near major cities that rank fourth and twentieth for identity theft complaints in the nation. During the shred event, the public can bring old files, receipts, credit card offers, bank statements, returned checks, or any other sensitive information they want to be discarded and shredded. **There is no cost to the public.** For more information about the event contact Mr. Olive at 919-989-5160.

Senior Coffee Corner - Starting in August (Tuesday August 6th) on Tuesday & Thursday mornings SRAC will have FREE coffee available to all 55 and older. There will be occasional breakfast treats and brain teasers available. You do not have to be a member of SRAC to come hang out with your friends, read the paper, and enjoy a cup-a-joe. Where: The Smithfield Recreation & Aquatic Center Questions contact Tiffany Pearson 919-934-2148 ext.112 or email tpearson-parks@ncrbiz.com.

Running Club - Do you like to run? Do you want to meet other people who have your same interest? Join the Smithfield River Rats Running Club. We will meet on Thursdays at 6:30pm at the large picnic shelter in Smithfield Community Park. \$20 membership fee includes a t-shirt. This is a club for beginners as well as seasoned runners. All ages and abilities are welcome. Run distances will vary and assistance will be provided for meeting personal goals. All runs will be followed by a light stretch or cool down. Contact Tiffany Pearson at 919-934-2148 x112 or email tpearson-parks@ncrbiz.com for more info.

Smithfield Farmer's Market - Time: 9AM-1PM; Days: Friday & Saturday. 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.

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.

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.

Parks & Recreation / SRAC



Fitness Classes - We offer Fitness Classes in the following: Cycling, Zumba, Hip Hop Hustle, Piyo, Turbo Kick, Total Body, Tai Chi, Inferno Cycle, P90X and Cycle Fusion. For more information regarding classes, please call 934-1408. All classes are roughly 1 hour long.

Soccer Camp - For boys and girls ages 5-14, July 15-18, from 8:30am until 11am. Cost is \$50. Camp is located at Smithfield Community Park, and the instructor is Steve Brush. (All checks should be made payable to Steve Brush.)

Softball Camp - for girls ages 7-16, July 15-18, from 9am until noon. Cost is \$60. Camp is located at Smithfield Community Park, and the instructor is Britney Smith. (All checks should be made payable to Britney Smith.)

Cheerleading Camp -Grades 1-5, July 25-26, 10am until noon. Cost is \$35. Camp located at SRAC, and the instructor is Jessica Brank. (All checks should be made payable to Jessica Brank.)

Tennis Camps - Ages 5-7, July 22-24, from 6pm until 7pm. Cost is \$30. For Ages 8-14, July 22-24, 7pm until 8:30pm. Cost is \$50. Camp is located at Smithfield Community Park, and the instructor is Doug Simmons. (All checks should be made payable to Doug Simmons.)

Summer Camps - SRAC offers week long camps for children between the ages of 5-12 from June 10 until August 9. Camp starts at 8:30am and goes until 4:30pm. \$100/week for Smithfield Residents and \$125/week for Non-Smithfield Residents. Early drop off and late pick up are available for an extra \$25 per week. At camp kids can enjoy art, swimming, sports, being outdoors, etc. Children must bring 2 snacks and lunch, a swim suit and towel. For more information contact Kristin Sasser at ksasser-parks@ncrbiz.com.

Pottery Camp - SRAC offers a Pottery Camp for kids between the ages of 8-15 years, from 9am until noon, July 15-

18. The cost is \$85 for Smithfield Residents and \$100 for Non-Smithfield Residents. (There is an additional charge for a 25 pound bag of clay - \$20.) Projects made will go home as treasures! For more information contact Kristin Sasser at ksasser-parks@ncrbiz.com.

Red Devil Football - Registration is underway for Red Devil Football, for the following age groups: Flag (5-6); Rookie(7-8); JV (9-10); and Varsity (11-12). The child's age as of 8/1/13 determines playing age. Registration is \$40 for Smithfield Residents and \$80 for Non-Smithfield Residents. The Smithfield Red Devils play in the Johnston County Youth Football League. Games will be played in the fall on Saturdays, beginning in September. Practices will begin in August.

Red Devil Cheerleading - Registration is underway for Red Devil Cheerleading, for girls between the ages of 5-12. Registration is \$25 for Smithfield Residents and \$50 for Non-Smithfield Residents. Uniform cost should be around \$50 - which you purchase and keep. The only time we offer cheerleading is with our football program. The Smithfield Red Devils play in the Johnston County Youth Football League. Games will be played in the fall on Saturdays, beginning in September. Practices will begin in August.

Fall Soccer - Registration is underway for Fall Soccer until August 2nd, for boys and girls between the ages of 5-12. (The child's age as of 8/1/13 determines playing age.) Registration is \$35 for Smithfield Residents and \$70 for Non-Smithfield Residents. Games will be played in the fall, on weeknights, with an occasional Saturday game. Season will begin in September and wrap up around the end of October.

Men's Open League Softball - Registration begins July 8 through August 2 for Mens Open League Softball. Registration is \$475 per team. (Maximum number of teams is 12.) All fees must be paid BEFORE the season begins, which will be after Labor Day.

Sterling Silvers Senior Club - Must be 55+ in order to join this group. The club meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at SRAC, 10:30 am. Dues are \$12/year. Members have the opportunity to go on trips and enjoy activities outside of regular meeting days. For more information, contact Tiffany Pearson at tpearson-parks@ncrbiz.com or 919-934-2148.

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

July 02, 2013



Regular Meeting summary:

1. Administered Oath of Office to New Police Officers James Brian Sittig and Duane-Douglas Calvin Ealy.
2. Approved Abrilla Robinson to a first term on the Appearance Commission.
3. Approved Resolution #529 (16-2013) to apply for a NC PARTF Grant assisting "Partnership to Build a Miracle".
4. Town Manager Paul Sabiston updated Council on the Town's Strategic Plan for FY 2013-2014.
5. Town Manager Paul Sabiston updated Council on the SmartGrid process for the Town's water/sewer and electrical systems.
6. Approved to increase the County's pass-through bulk sewer treatment rate of \$0.15 per 1,000 gallons effective the first billing in August 1013.
7. Approved that effective immediately, all new hires, promotions and salary increases must be approved by Council.
8. Approved that effective immediately, any budget line expenditures that move monies in excess of \$1,000 must be approved by Council.
9. Approved a directive for Town Manager Paul Sabiston to prepare a completed year end budget report that provides the initial approved budget amount as well as the year end actual amount.
10. Approved a motion giving the Crossing Project Utility Entities (Progress Energy, Century Link and Time Warner) a July 19th deadline for submitting a schedule with specific dates as to when they will move their underground utility lines.
11. Scheduled a Special Meeting for a Public Hearing to discuss RADA Grant on Monday, July 15th at 6:00pm.

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, August 6th, beginning at 7:30pm. The Town Council has scheduled a Special Meeting for a Public Hearing to discuss RADA Grant on Monday, July 15th at 6:00pm. Come join us and get involved!
[View Minutes of Past Meetings Here](#)

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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