



Talk of the Town

July 19, 2013
14th Edition

Town Tidbit:

Did you know? If you plan on being away and would like your residence checked periodically, you can request a House Check. You can complete the [online form](#) or come to the Police Department to fill out the request.

The Hazards of Excessive Heat Keep Yourself, Your Children and Your Pets Safe!



During extremely hot and humid weather the body's ability to cool itself is affected. When the body heats too rapidly to cool itself properly, or when too much fluid or salt is lost through dehydration or sweating, body temperature rises and heat-related illnesses may develop.

Heat-related illnesses can range from heat cramps to heat exhaustion to more serious heat stroke. Heat stroke can result in death and requires immediate medical attention.

Factors or conditions that can make some people more susceptible to heat-related illnesses include age (older adults and young children), obesity, fever, heart disease, mental illness, poor circulation, prescription drug and alcohol use, and sunburn. Sunburn, caused by ultraviolet radiation from the sun, can significantly retard the skin's ability to shed excess heat.

[Click here](#) for additional valuable information, alerts and tips.

Smithfield Police Department

Find Us On Facebook

The Smithfield Police Department is now utilizing Facebook to keep citizens informed of helpful notices and alerts. Scam alerts, street closures, power outages, safety tips, community notices, event announcements - we cover it all.

However, please remember that for emergencies, Facebook is not an alternative to calling 911.

If you have administrative questions or concerns, you may call 919-934-2121. If you would like to provide an [anonymous tip](#), you may call 919-989-8835.

Please visit us on [Facebook!](#)



Free Residential Energy Check-ups

Call Today to See if You Are Eligible

Johnston-Lee-Harnett Community Action's Weatherization division continues to offer free energy audits to eligible residents in Johnston, Lee, and Harnett counties.

Waymon Gainey, the division's director, said this fiscal year the department has conducted nearly 50 audits that have led to venting repair, refrigerator replacement, attic insulation, and floors and attic sealing to protect homes from outside temperatures, conserve energy and decrease utility bills.

Residents may call the main office at 919.934.2145 to get eligibility information. Once deemed eligible, staff will then conduct an audit on the home to determine its eligibility for services. The house must have a working HVAC system, said Gainey.

**For more information, please call:
Waymon Gainey, Director
Weatherization/Energy
Johnston-Lee-Harnett Community Action, Inc.
919.934.2145**



Mortgage Payment Help

For Workers Losing Unemployment Benefits

The Raleigh Area Development Authority (RADA) is one of 40 counseling organizations statewide offering assistance to unemployed workers who lost their unemployment benefits July 1. The workers may be eligible for mortgage help through the NC Foreclosure Prevention Fund's Mortgage Payment Program while they continue their search for a job or complete training in a new field.

About 70,000 North Carolina residents stopped receiving federal extended unemployment benefits June 30 - the result of a state law that went into effect July 1. The law reduces the maximum state benefits a laid-off worker can receive by roughly one-third. It also reduces the maximum weeks of benefits funded by the state. Extended benefits, which kicked in after the 26 weeks of state-funded benefits had been exhausted, provided up to 47 additional weeks of benefits for those unable to find work. Workers who started receiving unemployment benefits before January 1, 2013 were immediately affected by the change. Over the next several months, 91,000 additional workers, now receiving state-funded benefits, will lose their unemployment benefits as well.

The Mortgage Payment Program (MPP) is a mortgage assistance program offered through the N.C. Housing Finance Agency using funds from the U.S. Treasury.

RADA-which now has an additional office in Johnston County at 1535 Booker Dairy Road, Smithfield- serves homeowners in Durham, Edgecombe, Franklin, Johnston, Nash, and Wake counties. Since 2010, the Agency has helped more than 500 families avoid foreclosure through the Mortgage Payment Program. Statewide, the N.C. Foreclosure Prevention Fund has helped more than 11,000 families by making mortgage payments for unemployed workers while they seek jobs or complete job training in a new field. To qualify for assistance under the Mortgage Payment Program, the homeowner must have a good mortgage



payment history prior to their job loss or other eligible financial setback. They must also demonstrate the ability to begin making their mortgage payments once the MPP assistance ends.

Assistance under the Mortgage Payment Program is provided as a zero-interest, deferred payment loan of up to \$36,000 or 36 months. Mortgage payments are made directly to the lender for homeowners who qualify. The homeowner will resume making their mortgage payments at the end of the MPP assistance period. If they continue to live in their home for 10 years, the loan will be forgiven and no repayment will be due.

Homeowners do not need to be behind on their mortgage payments to seek help. Homeowners who do not qualify for MPP may be eligible for other assistance. For more information about eligibility, contact a RADA HUD-Certified Housing Counselor at 1-919-807-8400 or go to <http://rada-nc.org/>.

Around Town

For fun or to help others in our community

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.

Science in the Summer - Once again, the Public Library of Johnston County & Smithfield is participating in Science in the Summer, an educational science program sponsored by Glaxo Smith Kline and the Morehead Planetarium.

Each year, Morehead sends their mobile science laboratory (bus) to the class location for more in-depth experimentation. This year the lab will be here on Wednesday July 24th and Wednesday July 31st, both days from 9 am until noon. We will be blocking off parking places (first 8 spaces closest to 3rd Street) for the bus early each Wednesday and open the spaces up as soon as the bus leaves. For more information, contact Margaret Marshall, Library Director at 919-934-8146.

Back to School and Tax Free! What event in August can combine two favorite things for women -- shopping and saving money? It's the Back to School Events at Carolina Premium Outlets in Smithfield and the NC Tax Free weekend (August 2 - August 4). Carolina Premium Outlet's Back-to-School & Fall Preview Sale is scheduled for Thursday - Monday, Aug 1 - 5 where shoppers will enjoy extra savings on top of everyday savings of 25% to 65% off retail at national brand stores like Tommy Hilfiger, The Gap, Banana Republic and many more. [More Info](#)

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



Courts & Pool Closed - The basketball and racquetball courts will be closed today, July 19th through Sunday, July 21st for resurfacing. The Pool and basketball courts will be closed Saturday, July 27th for a swim meet.

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.

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 some Saturday games. 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](#)

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. 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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