



## Talk of the Town

February 28, 2014  
24th Edition

### *Town Tidbit:*

**Did you know?** Smithfield was granted a US Post Office on March 20, 1793, and its first Postmaster was Mr. John Bryan. It has been in continuous operation ever since.

### *Ham & Yam Festival*

Celebrates 30 Years with Throwback to the 80's

The 30th Annual Ham & Yam Festival will be throwing back to the 1980s and the origins of the festival with its free concerts on Friday, May 2 and Saturday, May 3.

The Stevens Sausage Pavilion at the Neuse River Amphitheatre will be rocking when The Breakfast Club, America's Favorite 1980s Tribute Band takes the stage at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, May 2. The Breakfast Club brings real hair, real 1980s clothes, real vocals, and real music talent. They are the real deal, performing live '80s pop "better than the original artists," according to the Wilmington Star News.

The festival will close on Saturday, May 3 with a concert featuring Who's Bad: The Ultimate Michael Jackson Tribute Band that starts at 8:00 p.m. Selling out arenas around the world with their power-packed performance of the King of Pop's expansive catalog of hits, Who's Bad made a name for itself by studying Michael Jackson's every original groove and gravity-defying dance move.

"Great tribute bands like Who's Bad and The Breakfast Club offer an entertaining show and appeal to a wide audience with songs that everyone knows," states Sarah Edwards, festival organizer and Interim Director of Downtown Smithfield Development Corporation. "The energy both of these bands bring will have everyone on the hill singing, dancing, and moonwalking along."

In addition to the free concerts, a full schedule of events on Saturday, May 3 will attract thousands of people to Downtown Smithfield, where the festival occupies several blocks. Craft and commercial vendors line the streets, food vendors offer a variety of fair foods and menu items featuring country ham and sweet potatoes, and local bands and dance groups perform on three stages. For a complete schedule of events, please visit the Ham & Yam Festival website.

The Ham & Yam Festival is organized by the nonprofit Downtown Smithfield Development Corporation. To learn more about the Ham & Yam Festival, please visit [www.hamandyam.com](http://www.hamandyam.com), or call Sarah Edwards at 919-934-0887.



## "Coffee with a Cop"

March 7th, 9am - 11am

The Smithfield Police Department will be hosting "Coffee with a Cop" on March 7, 2014 from 9am to 11am at Chic-fil-A in Smithfield. Join your neighbors and Police Officers for coffee and conversation. No agenda or speeches, just a chance to ask questions, voice concerns and get to know the officers in your neighborhood. For more information, visit the website [www.coffeewithacop.com](http://www.coffeewithacop.com), watch a short [video](#), or contact Sgt. Brian O'Branovich at 919-934-2111 or [bkobranovich@smithfieldpd.org](mailto:bkobranovich@smithfieldpd.org).



## Downtown Smithfield Community Economic Vision Forum

Monday, March 17th @ First Presbyterian Church



Residents, community leaders, business and property owners from downtown and throughout the Town of Smithfield are invited to participate in the Downtown Smithfield Community Economic Vision Forum on Monday, March 17 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at First Presbyterian Church, located at 215 S. Third Street in Downtown Smithfield. The main purpose is to develop a five-year vision for Downtown Smithfield. The public is invited, but everyone should register in advance. The forum will be facilitated by Liz Parham, Director, Urban Development Division, North Carolina Department of Commerce.

The purpose of the forum is to gather input from citizens, business and property owners regarding their views of:

- What is good about downtown
- What needs improvement
- What downtown should become in the future

During the forum, participants will work together in small groups to identify downtown's strengths and weaknesses and write vision statements, based on Smithfield's economic drivers, describing what they want downtown to be. Everyone will then determine the best themes and ideas to develop a single vision statement for Downtown Smithfield, which will help update the long-range plans for the central business district.

"Ensuring the long-term success of Downtown Smithfield should be a collaborative effort involving everyone who benefits from having a healthy downtown" said Sarah Edwards, Interim Director of Downtown Smithfield Development Corporation. "We hope to have 75-100 participants that represent Smithfield's diverse population" That representation includes residents and property owners from throughout town, representatives from civic organizations, arts and cultural groups, educational community, industry, civic leaders, church leaders, high school youth, commercial and residential real estate agents, bankers, accountants, attorneys, and town staff, especially from public safety, utility and public works departments.

If you would like to participate in the Downtown Smithfield Community Economic Vision Forum on March 17, please contact Downtown Smithfield Development Corporation Interim Director, Sarah Edwards, at (919) 934-0887 or [DSDCSarah@aol.com](mailto:DSDCSarah@aol.com). It is essential that all participants register in advance.

## SSS Recognizes Inaugural IB Students

Application Deadline for Rising Freshmen and Sophomores is March 15th!



Smithfield-Selma High School has officially recognized candidates for the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme, who will be the 2015 inaugural class.

The following students were honored for their accomplishments in the IB program: Emma Lampe, Daniel Avila, Emma Szczesiul, Ashton Makey, Ina Colon and Sarah Wieland.

IB students follow a rigorous, two-year college-level curriculum that develops traits of the IB Learner: knowledgeable, open-minded, reflective, principled, balanced, caring, risk-taking inquiring and communicating. Smithfield-Selma hosted an informational meeting about the IB Diploma Programme for Johnston County Schools' middle school parents and students interested in learning more about IB on February 27th. The application deadline for rising freshmen and sophomores is March 15, 2014. For more information and IB student applications, visit [www.johnston.k12.nc.us/SSSIB](http://www.johnston.k12.nc.us/SSSIB).

Photo: Members of the 2015 Inaugural International Baccalaureate Class and teachers (from left) on the front row are Emma Lampe, Daniel Avila, and Emma Szczesiul. On the middle row are Ms. Kelly Hardin, Mrs. Kalie Acquarulo, Mr. Kevin Daughtry, Ashton Makey, Ina Colon, Sarah Wieland and Mrs. Ellen Ennis-Smith. On the back row are Dr. Therese Polito, Mr. John Cabascango, Mr. Peter Kelly, Mr. Joseph Smith and Ms. Cynthia Hutchings. [\(Click here for larger version of picture\)](#)

## Severe Weather Awareness Week

March 2nd - March 8th

2014 North Carolina Severe Weather Awareness Week and Statewide Tornado Drill

- Awareness Week Dates: Sunday March 2 through Saturday March 8, 2014
- North Carolina Statewide Tornado drill date and time: Wednesday, March 5 at 9:30 AM
- If there is actual severe weather occurring on the morning of March 5, 2014, the statewide tornado drill will be postponed. The alternate date for the drill is Friday, March 7, 2014 at 9:30 AM EST.
- EAS Alert product for the drill: Required Monthly Test (RMT). The drill will commence with the issuance of the RMT. This product will be used instead of the required weekly test (RWT).
- For more information, please visit [www.weather.gov/rah/2014ncswaw](http://www.weather.gov/rah/2014ncswaw).



## Lifeguard Training Classes

to be held at Smithfield Recreation & Aquatic Center

Must pass Pre-Course Swim Test in order to continue in class.  
For Boys and Girls - Must be at least 15 in order to take this class

Cost: \$175.00 / Smithfield Residents  
\$200.00 / Non-Smithfield Residents

You MUST attend 100% of all classes.

The Lifeguard Training we offer is the American Red Cross Lifeguard Training Class.

To register for the class, you must submit a \$25 non-refundable deposit upon registration. If you pass the Pre-Course, this deposit will be applied to your balance. Upon passing Pre-Course, you will pay the remainder fee at the first class.

Pre-course swim test includes: 1) A 300 yard swim with rhythmic breathing and breath control. You may use the following strokes all or in combination: freestyle and breaststroke. You may NOT swim on your back. 2) You must tread water for 2 minutes using only your legs, with your hands placed under your armpits. 3) You must swim 20 yards to retrieve a brick in 9 feet of water, then swim the brick back 20 yards to the wall, using only your legs. All this must be done in a time limit under 1 minute and 40 seconds. You may NOT use goggles for #2 & #3. You MUST complete all of the above requirements in order to continue in the class.

Available Class Dates:

First Session/Option - Friday, March 7 from 4:00 PM until 8:00 PM  
Saturday, March 8 from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM & Sunday, March 9 from 1:00 until 6:00 PM

Second Session/Option - Friday, April 4 from 4:00 PM until 8:00 PM  
Saturday, April 5 from 9:00 AM until 6:00 PM & Sunday, April 6 from 1:00 until 6:00 PM

Third Session/Option - Friday, April 25 from 4:00 PM until 8:00 PM  
Saturday, April 26 from 9:00 AM until 6:00 PM & Sunday, April 27 from 1:00 until 6:00 PM

Fourth Session/Option - Friday, May 16 from 4:00 PM until 8:00 PM  
Saturday, May 17 from 9:00 AM until 6:00 PM & Sunday, May 18 from 1:00 until 6:00 PM

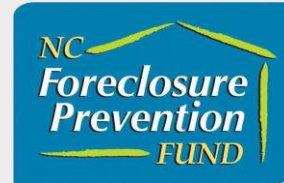


YOU MUST BE IN ATTENDANCE AT ALL DATES IN THE CLASS SESSION YOU SIGN UP FOR. SESSIONS CAN NOT BE MIXED.

For more information, contact Laura Crumpler at 919-934-1408 or [lcrumpler-parks@ncrbiz.com](mailto:lcrumpler-parks@ncrbiz.com).

## *N.C Foreclosure Prevention Fund*

### Help for the Hardest Hit Homeowners



The N.C. Foreclosure Prevention Fund™ offers help to North Carolina homeowners who are struggling to make their mortgage payments due to job loss or other temporary financial hardship, such as separation or divorce, serious illness or the death of a co-borrower. The Fund also assists veterans who are seeking work or are in job training after being honorably discharged.

The N.C. Foreclosure Prevention Fund™ is offered by the N.C. Housing Finance Agency, a self-supporting state agency, and funded through the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Hardest Hit Fund™. Services are provided by participating HUD-approved counseling agencies statewide and there is no charge to the homeowner.

Homeowners may be eligible for help through one of the following programs designed to help them prevent foreclosure. For more information, call 919-934-2145 or visit [www.ncforeclosureprevention.gov](http://www.ncforeclosureprevention.gov).

## *Parks & Recreation / SRAC*



**SMITHFIELD/SELMA Youth Council** - Smithfield and Selma Parks & Recreation Departments are starting a Youth Council. Looking for an opportunity to be involved in your community? Are you a high school student interested in being a part of a club that takes trips, does rewarding work, and starts the building blocks of your resume? For more information, contact Tiffany Pearson at [tpearson-parks@ncrbiz.com](mailto:tpearson-parks@ncrbiz.com) or 919-934-2148.

**Kids in Nature Series** - Dates: Every Wednesday, Time: 9:30-10:30am, Ages: 3-5 years (with an adult). 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. PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED by the Monday before each class. Minimum 4 students. Fee: \$4.00-Smithfield Resident or \$6.00-Non Smithfield Resident (Fee applies to each child participating).

**Doodlebugs** - Dates: Every Friday, Time: 9:30-10:15am, Ages: 18 mos-3yrs. Dribble, drip, squish and squeeze. Delight in watching your child as together you get messy while creating and experimenting with different materials. Experiment with dough, pudding, gelatin, crayons, watercolors and more. Watch your young artist blossom! One child per adult please! You can sign up for one class at a time or for a 4 week session. PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED by the Wednesday before each class so that accurate supplies are provided. Fee: \$5/class or \$19.00/4 classes-Smithfield Resident , \$7/class or \$27.00/4 classes-Smithfield Non Resident.

**Senior Coffee Corner** - Every Tuesday & Thursday from 8:30AM to 10:30AM we will have FREE coffee available to all 55 and older adults. 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 and Aquatic Center. Questions: contact Tiffany Pearson 919-934-2148 ext.112, or [tpearson-parks@ncrbiz.com](mailto:tpearson-parks@ncrbiz.com).

### **Specialty Pottery Workshops -**

Feeling creative? Want to try express your creativity through clay? Come learn how to build a specific clay project in just a few hours. Materials provided.

Gnome Doors-March 15, 2014

Fee: \$20/person

Time: 9-11am

Ages: 8-adult

### **Be A Tadpole -**

Beginning in February, we've got some time for moms and their little ones to bond, spend time with other children, and get out of the house! Come bring your little ones... "tadpoles"... and swim and play in the SRAC Splash Park from 10am-Noon on Wednesdays. There will be additional activities for the little ones at this time. The price is \$5 for mom and one child. Additional children are \$3/each.

### **St. Paddy's Day Pool Party -**

Mark your calendars for Friday, March 14th, to come to the St. Paddy's Day Pool Party at SRAC, from 5:30-7:30

pm. We don't want you to be green with envy - so join the party! Who knows, maybe some Leprechauns will turn up. Questions contact Tiffany Pearson at 919-934-2148. For St. Paddy's Day - SRAC will be charging ½ off day passes beginning at 5pm.

#### **Pirate & Princess Party -**

Date: March 29

Time: 10:30am - Noon

Ages: 2-8 years old

Fee: \$15

Deadline to register is the Wednesday before.

**Baseball Registration** - Registration extended until Friday, 2/28. Baseball is open to boys, ages 7-14 years of age. (The child's age as of 5/1/14 determines playing age.) Registration is \$35 for Residents of the Town of Smithfield, and \$70 for Non-Smithfield Residents. (A Smithfield Resident resides within the Town limits of Smithfield and pays taxes to the Town of Smithfield.) Practices will begin mid-March with games beginning in April.

**Softball Registration** - Registration extended until Friday, 2/28. Softball is open to girls, ages 7-14 years of age. (The child's age as of 1/1/14 determines playing age.) Registration is \$35 for Residents of the Town of Smithfield, and \$70 for Non-Smithfield Residents. (A Smithfield Resident resides within the Town limits of Smithfield and pays taxes to the Town of Smithfield.) Practices will begin in April.

**T-Ball Registration** - Boys and girls between the ages of 5-6 can register for T-Ball beginning February 10 until March 7. (The child must be 5 years old as of 5/1/14 to be eligible to play.) Registration is \$30 for Residents of the Town of Smithfield, and \$60 for Non-Smithfield Residents. (A Smithfield Resident resides within the Town limits of Smithfield and pays taxes to the Town of Smithfield.) Practices will begin in April.

**Kinder Basketball Registration** - Boys and girls between the ages of 3-4 can register for Kinder Basketball beginning February 10 until March 7. Registration is \$20 for Residents of the Town of Smithfield, and \$40 for Non-Smithfield Residents. (A Smithfield Resident resides within the Town limits of Smithfield and pays taxes to the Town of Smithfield.) Our Kinder programs only meet 4 times, and it is basically an introduction to the sport of basketball. Play will be in mid to late March. Actual Playdates will be Tuesday nights and Saturday mornings: March 18, 22, 25 & 29. Tuesday nights from 6:30 - 7:15pm and Saturday mornings 10:00 - 10:45am.

**Fun & Fellowship Softball League** - Team registration for Fun & Fellowship Softball begins February 10 until March 7. Due to budget restraints and field availability, we can only accept the first 24 teams to register. To be registered, a team must turn in the Team Registration form and pay the fee. Due to limited space, spots can NOT be held. The entry fees for this year's league will be \$475 per team. A coach's meeting will be held around the end of March, with play beginning in April. Teams should expect to play two games per week on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and/or Fridays depending on field availability. For further information, call 934-2148, or pick up a packet at SPRD.

**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](#)

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## *Around Town*

*For fun or to help others in our community*

**Loving Logan SMA Walk'N'Roll** - scheduled for 10am Saturday, March 22nd at Community Park, 600 E. Booker Dairy Road. The fundraiser is in memory of Logan Moore, a victim of spinal muscular atrophy. The walk follows a one-mile paved path. Strollers, wheelchairs, families and pets are welcome. A raffle, children's activities, games, food, and entertainment will follow the walk. For more information, email [vinglogansma@gmail.com](mailto:vinglogansma@gmail.com).

**The AARP is assisting elderly and low-income taxpayers with their tax returns.** Through April 12th, from 9am-2:30pm Fridays at the Johnston County Community and Senior Services, 1363 W. Market St., Smithfield. For an appointment, call 919-934-6066.

**Book Club** - The Public Library of Johnston County and Smithfield welcomes new members to its daytime book club. Meetings are at 12:30pm on the third Tuesday of every month. Club members suggest the titles to read, and the library lends copies of each month's selection to the members. For more information, call Morgan Paty at 919-934-8146 or email [mpaty@pljcs.org](mailto:mpaty@pljcs.org).

**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.

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# Council Meeting Highlights

February 04, 2014



Regular Meeting summary:

1. Received FY 2012-2013 Annual Audit Report.
2. Moved Consent Agenda Items #2 and #3 to Business Items #4.5 and #1, respectively. Moved original Business Item #1 to Consent Agenda Item #2.
3. Approved Consent Agenda.
4. Considered Approval of Budget Schedule for FY 2014-2014; no action taken.
5. Approved the Police Department to submit a grant application to the Governor's Highway Safety Program to purchase three video cameras for the patrol division.
6. Approved the Naming of New Roadways from the Crossing Project - "Outlet Center Drive".
7. Received mid-year financial report for FY 2013-2014.
8. Approved a Fire Department Capital Equipment Budget Amendment.
9. Discussed Employee Compensatory Time; no action taken/Committee to discuss.

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, March 4th. Come join us and get involved! [View Minutes of Past Meetings Here](#)

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## Employment Opportunities

with the Town of Smithfield

- **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](http://www.smithfield-nc.com) or by calling 919-934-2116. Only qualified applicants should apply. The Town of Smithfield is an ADA/EEO Employer.