



Talk of the Town

March 21, 2014
25th Edition

Town Tidbit:

Did you know? The Town of Smithfield's water plant has the ability to produce up to 6.2 million gallons of clean drinking water each day. On average we distribute 3.4 million gallons per day: 2.2 million gallons per day to our Town of Smithfield customers and 1.2 million gallons per day amount is sold to Johnston County. On a peak day in June, our Water treatment plant produces 4.5 million gallons per day of clean drinking water.

Officer of the Year

Smithfield Master Police Officer Ricky Conerly

The police department recognizes one officer annually as "Officer of the Year." This employee is nominated by secret ballot, completed by every member of the police department. The officer receiving the most votes is then reviewed by a recognition committee consisting of four lieutenants and the Patrol Commander. The committee then makes a recommendation for Officer of the Year to the Police Chief, who has the final say as to this award. The Officer of the Year for the Smithfield Police Department, 2013 is Master Police Officer Ricky Conerly.



Officer Conerly has been employed by the Smithfield Police Department since February of 2007. He has held the ranks of Police Officer, Narcotics Detective, and Field Training Officer. During his tenure as a member of the Smithfield Police Department he was part of a local/federal task force that investigated a large drug trafficking organization resulting in several federal prosecutions and significant drug seizures. He has been extremely instrumental in training new officers for the Smithfield Police Department and preparing them for success within the Smithfield P.D.

Officer Conerly will publicly receive this award proclaiming him 2013 Police Officer of the Year at the regularly scheduled Town of Smithfield Council Meeting on Tuesday, April 1st beginning at 7:30pm.

Please Take A Quick Survey for the Miracle League Field / Inclusion Park

The Smithfield Parks and Recreation Department wants your input!! We're gathering feedback for the Inclusion Playground and the Miracle League Field. Have your voice be heard regarding this important local project.

The survey takes about 5 minutes. We appreciate your participation.

You can find the survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WZKZSLS>



Ham & Yam

May 2nd and 3rd

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.

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, or call Sarah Edwards at 919-934-0887.



Vendor Information & Applications

For Ham & Yam

With less than two months until the 2014 Ham & Yam Festival presented by Stevens Sausage, vendor applications have been rolling in, and space is filling quickly.

"The festival continues to grow each year, and with most vendors returning to this popular event, space is certainly at a premium," stated Sarah Edwards, Interim Director of the Downtown Smithfield Development Corporation, the host of the festival. "With that growth, we are adapting to improve the experience for festival-goers."

The 2014 Ham & Yam Festival is scheduled to take place May 2 and 3. The festival will see a few changes in its thirtieth year. Most notably, all food vendors will offer items that prominently feature country ham or sweet potatoes. New partnerships with community organizations will also offer more events and activities throughout the day.

"I wanted the festival to offer more than it has in the past," continued Edwards. "I think those changes will help to attract more attendees, which should only benefit our vendors. As always, we are looking for quality vendors that will offer a variety of goods and services."

Street-side vending spaces are 10' x 12' and start at \$110. Space is limited to 175 booths, with early-bird registration ending on Monday, March 31. To download an application, or for more information about the Ham & Yam Festival, please visit www.hamandyam.com.



Ham & Yam Festival Pageant

Contestant Information / Applications Due March 28th

Applications are being accepted for those interested in competing in the 2014 Miss Ham & Yam Festival Pageant, **scheduled for Saturday, April 5.**

The Miss Ham & Yam Festival Pageant will begin at 1:00 p.m. A preliminary competition for the Princess of North Carolina State Pageant, the contest is open to young ladies 26 and under. Contestants 6 and under will compete in beauty/party dress and off-the-rack casual wear. Contestants 7-26 will compete in beauty, talent, and interview. Optional competitions include: photogenic, most beautiful, best wardrobe, best model, talent (12 months-6 years), and swimsuit (7-26).

Titles of Community Service Young Miss and Community Service Miss will be given to the young ladies 0-6 and 7-26, respectively, that raise the most money for the Me Fine Foundation. The mission of the Me Fine Foundation is to voluntarily provide necessary resources and financial assistance to parents and caregivers with children being treated at Duke and UNC Children's Hospitals regardless of race, diagnosis, economic status or religion in memory of Folden Lee, IV. Over the past ten years, Miss Ham & Yam Festival Pageant contestants have raised more than



\$26,000 for the Me Fine Foundation.

"The Miss Ham & Yam Pageant showcases some of the bright and beautiful young ladies that are proud to call Johnston County home," stated Pageant Director Deborah Rosenberg. "The winners are wonderful ambassadors for the community, and often continue as representatives at the state pageant level."

Pageant information and the application for contestants can be found on the Ham & Yam website, www.hamandyam.com. Contestants' completed **applications must be submitted on or before Friday, March 28**. For more information regarding the 2014 Miss Ham & Yam Festival Pageant, please call Deborah Rosenberg at 919-291-2336 or email her at mixedblessings@aol.com.

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.

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.

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 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.

Be A Tadpole -

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.

Pirate & Princess Party -

Date: March 29
Time: 10:30am - Noon
Ages: 2-8 years old
Fee: \$15
Deadline to register is the Wednesday before

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 is 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.

Easter Egg Hunt - Sunday, April 13th at the Community Park (soccer field). A free event for children ages 2-7. For more information, call Tiffany Pearson at 919-934-2148 x112 or email her at tpearson-parks@ncrbiz.com.

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](#)

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.

Chat & Chew - Community gathering held at Family Life Center, 909 E Lee Street, Smithfield. March 29th at 10am. On the agenda: Positive youth activities; Health, Life and Final Expense Insurance; Summer Camp Registration; Straight Talk Forums and Other Support Groups; Volunteer Opportunities; Partnership & Collaboration; and Business Potential & Resources. For more info, call 919-989-9441.

Walk to Prevent Child Abuse - Hands of Protection is holding a Walk on Saturday, April 12th at 8:30am. There will also be a KIDZ ZONE this year that includes fun for the children. For more information, visit www.handsofprotection.org or see the [flyer here](#).

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@plics.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.

Council Meeting Highlights

March 04, 2014



Regular Meeting summary:

1. Received a presentation on the West Smithfield Beautification Project Proposal.
2. Approved the Consent Agenda.
3. Considered and approved Career Ladder Promotions and pay increases for three Police Officers.
4. Considered and approved the amended audit contract with Petway, Mills & Pearson, PA.
5. Considered and approved a change of vendor for the Merchant Credit/Debit Card Agreement.
6. Discussed and approved the contract to update the Town's Strategic Economic Development Plan with Sanford Holshouser.
7. Discussed and approved changing the location of the May 6, 2014 Regular Town Council Meeting from the Council Chambers to the Fire Station Training Room.
8. Approved proposed changes to the Employee Handbook and the Compensatory Time Policy.
9. Approved the FY 2014-2015 Budget Schedule.
10. Considered and approved to contract with Power Services.
11. Considered and approved to replace one of five pool heaters and UV systems at the SRAC.
12. Received Town Manager's report.

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, April 1st. Come join us and get involved! [View Minutes of Past Meetings Here](#)

Employment Opportunities

with the Town of Smithfield

- **Police Officer I**
- **Sanitation Equipment Operator**
- **Sanitation Worker**

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.