



## *Talk of the Town*

April 03, 2014  
26th Edition

### *Town Tidbit:*

**Did you know?** The Town of Smithfield's Fire Department was created in 1906, fully equipped with a horse drawn fire wagon, when a group of dedicated citizens had a vision for a safer Smithfield.

### *Operation Helping Hand Volunteerism Done Right!*

#### **Operation Helping Hand 2014**

In 2013 the Town of Smithfield partnered with many of our local churches, civic organizations and private citizens to launch the Operation Helping Hand Program. We at the Town of Smithfield found that many of our citizens are in need of a helping hand. Some folks could use a little help cutting the grass or raking leaves, painting the interior or exterior of their home, replacing rotting boards, hauling trash and debris or even help with basic construction. Our volunteers are often able to help with some or all of these issues. Last year we had more than 300 volunteers help resolve issues with over 100 personal residences within the Town of Smithfield.



#### **Could you use a hand?**

If you find yourself and your property in need of a helping hand please contact Brent Reck, CZO, and Code Compliance Officer at 919-934-2116 x1116, by email at [brent.reck@smithfield-nc.com](mailto:brent.reck@smithfield-nc.com) or in person at the Town of Smithfield Town Hall Planning Department, 350 E. Market Street, Smithfield, NC 27577.

#### **Would you like to volunteer?**

We are always happy to accept volunteers from all churches, civic organizations and private citizens to help with our program.

#### **We need your help**

We are currently looking for volunteers to cut grass, rake leaves and collect trash and debris from around the property and haul it to the curb for town pick-up. We have had requests to help paint homes, mend roofs and help with general carpentry. Additionally, we also have had multiple requests to limb trees or remove them completely. If you can provide one or more of these services please help us help our citizens. If you have additional questions or you would just like to know a little more about the program, please contact Brent Reck in Town Hall. We are extremely thankful for all who have volunteered and all future volunteers for their help, this

program couldn't be a success without your help.

We look forward to seeing you this spring and summer!

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## *Distracted Driving Video*

Help Promote Safety and Awareness - Especially During Prom and Graduation Seasons



Distracted driving is at an all-time high and we are seeing more and more accidents from cell phone use among all age groups. For teen drivers though, inexperience and accessibility to smartphones has made for a lethal combination. This is something to always keep in mind, but especially during this Prom and Graduation seasons.

[Please view this video](#) and share with all of your friends, family members and loved ones. **"CRASH"** is a collaborative effort between Backwards Man Productions & Johnston County EMS. Intro is provided by Johnston Community College. This short film aims to show teens the dangers of distracted driving.

You can also view more teen driving safety tips from Johnston County Teen Drivers (JCTD) at [www.jocoteendrivers.com](http://www.jocoteendrivers.com). Johnston County Teen Drivers (JCTD) is a peer-to-peer safety program for young drivers, involving teenagers directly in developing and delivering driving safety messages. Our goal is to raise awareness of the top driving dangers for teens and prevent crashes involving young drivers. The program empowers teens to spread the word among their peers about deadly driving risks and encourage them to make smart choices while behind the wheel and as passengers.

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## *NC Public Power Awards of Excellence*

Town of Smithfield Earns Three!



The Town of Smithfield was recently one of nineteen public power communities across the state to receive 2013 Public Power Awards of Excellence. The awards received honor outstanding efforts in key areas of Energy Efficiency, Financial Stability and Service Excellence. Much appreciation goes out to a truly dedicated and deserving staff. For more information, visit the [Electricities](#) website or [click here](#).

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## *Smithfield Town Council Schedule*

Meeting Time Changed



At its regularly scheduled meeting on April 1st, the Town Council discussed and approved changing its meeting time from 7:30pm to 7:00pm going forward. The meeting will continue to be held on the first Tuesday of each month in the Council Chambers located within Town Hall at 350 East Market Street, unless rescheduled.

**The next Council meeting will be held at the Town of Smithfield's Fire Department Training Room. The Fire Department is located across the street from Town Hall at 111 South 4th Street.**

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# Getting to Know You

Audrey Mitchell, Customer Service Representative



Customer Service Representative Audrey Mitchell has worked for the Town of Smithfield for over five (5) years. If you have been to Town Hall to pay a utility bill or ask for any information regarding the Town, you've likely had the privilege of speaking with Audrey; truly one of the nicest people you will ever meet.

Many times the good work of government employees gets overlooked by the public, and even co-workers or supervisors. However, recently, the Town received an email applauding Audrey and her efforts to serve the citizens of the Town of Smithfield.

The email came from an office manager of a local property rental company and was in regards to a water pipe that had busted during one of our winter storms and lasted about four (4) days. Audrey was able to quickly assist and resolve all worries. In summary, the pleased customer wrote, "I just wanted to compliment Audrey on her excellent customer service and help. If she assists everyone else the way she helped me, you must have some very happy customers."

Please join us in applauding Audrey when you see her; or email the Town at [news@smithfield-nc.com](mailto:news@smithfield-nc.com) or Audrey directly at [audrey.mitchell@smithfield-nc.com](mailto:audrey.mitchell@smithfield-nc.com).

Here is a little more about Audrey:

Q: Do you have a spouse and/or any children. If so, please tell us about them.

A: I am divorced and have raised my two children as a single mother for the past 19 years. Shane (24) works for Wells Fargo and lives in Raleigh. Amber (20) will be getting married in July. She currently works at SRAC and CarQuest, but plans to attend Nursing School after marriage. I love my children with all of my heart.

Q: What is your ideal vacation location?

A: I love the beach and the mountains - too hard to choose. They both make me feel at peace.

Q: Who are some of your favorite authors or musicians?

A: My favorite radio station is 107.3 FM (contemporary Christian). I love the group "Mercy Me". I also like country music.

Q: What are you most proud of?

A: I would have to say I am most proud of my children, Amber and Shane; and being a Christian.

Q: What does your perfect day look like?

A: Just getting out of bed makes it a perfect day. But, a more perfect day is being on vacation with family and friends and just forgetting all of your problems and leaving them behind.

Q: What one thing would you change if you had to do it over?

A: While there are a lot of things I would change if I could, I am happy with my life. There is no one certain thing.

Q: How would your friends describe you?

A: They would describe me as caring, devoted to family and friends and gullible; but mostly one that will always be there for them.

Q: If you could spend an evening with anyone, living or dead, whom would it be?

A: I would spend an evening with Jesus.

Q: Have you ever had something happen to you that you thought was bad, but it turned out to be for the best? Explain.

A: I have realized that with every bad thing that happens, there is a reason and something good does come from it.

Q: What is the one thing that should be, or is, taught in school that would best prepare our youth for adulthood?

A: They should teach kids how to handle problems; teach them how to go out and look for jobs; give them classes that they can use at their jobs.

# Smithfield-Selma Sports Academy

## Youth Travel Basketball Team

We are excited to announce the start of The first annual Smithfield Selma Sports Academy travel basketball team. Tryouts for a 6th/7th grade travel basketball team will be held on Monday, April 7th from 6pm to 7:30pm at the AIG gymnasium located at the old Smithfield Elementary School campus. The address is 514 S. 3rd Street in Smithfield. (The gym is at the back of the campus on 2nd Street). Any and all current 6th and 7th graders are welcome to tryout. Cost for each player is expected to be around \$125.00 for the season. We are currently working on obtaining scholarships for those interested. For more information contact: Woodie Woodall @ 919-631-1967 or James Robinson at [jdlarobinson@nc.rr.com](mailto:jdlarobinson@nc.rr.com).



## Lifeguard Training Classes 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 (**Completed**)

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).



## Parks & Recreation / SRAC



**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).

**Be a Tadpole** - Come bring your little ones... "tadpoles" ... (18 months to 3 years) 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. This program continues until the end of April. Moms - please be prepared to get in the Splash Park with your child.

**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](mailto:tpearson-parks@ncrbiz.com).

**Craft Fair** -Looking for Vendors for an upcoming Craft Fair to be held on Saturday, June 21st, from 9am-4pm, in the parking lot of Smithfield Recreation & Aquatics Center (SRAC). This should be a good weekend for the craft fair, as there will be a baseball tournament in the park and a basketball tournament in the Aquatics Center! Vendor fee is \$25 for an 8x10 space. Looking for vendors with hand-crafted items, re-purposed or unique finds, antiques, plants/herbs, jewelry, pottery, photography, paintings, woodwork, hand-sewn items, mixed media, etc. Contact Kristin Sasser ([ksasser-parks@ncrbiz.com](mailto:ksasser-parks@ncrbiz.com)) or Tiffany Pearson ([tpearson-parks@ncrbiz.com](mailto:tpearson-parks@ncrbiz.com)) or 919-934-2148 for more information or to secure your spot.

**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*

**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](http://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@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

April 01, 2014



## Regular Meeting summary:

1. Recognized 2013 Smithfield Police Department's Officer of the Year - Richard Conerly.
2. Recognized Smithfield's Public Utilities Department for 2013 NC Public Power Awards of Excellence.
3. Received update from Raleigh Area Development Authority (RADA) concerning the Talent Enhancement Grant.
4. Considered and approved Rezoning: RZ-14-01 George Mack Langdon, Jr.
5. Considered and approved Conditional Use Permit: CUP-14-02 St. Joseph of the Pines.
6. Approved the Consent Agenda.
7. Received an update and approved a process for replacement of pool heaters/UV systems at the SRAC.
8. Discussed and approved a bid award for 2014-2014 Street Resurfacing Project.
9. Considered and approved a change of vendors for copier services.
10. Received an update regarding water plant improvements.
11. Received an update regarding electric rate review by Power Services and new sales tax charge by the State of NC.
12. Discussed and approved to change the time of the regularly scheduled monthly Council meeting from 7:30pm to 7:00pm.
13. Received Town Manager's report.

The Town Council regularly meets the first Tuesday of each month beginning at 7:00pm at the Town Hall Council Chambers located at 350 East Market Street - unless rescheduled. The next Regular Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 6th at the Smithfield Fire Department Training Room, as elections will be held in the Council Chambers.. Come join us and get involved! [View Minutes of Past Meetings Here](#)

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## Employment Opportunities

with the Town of Smithfield

- **Part-time Collections Assistant**
- **Part-time Lifeguard**
- **Police Officer I**
- **Sanitation Equipment Operator**
- **Sanitation Worker**
- **Water/Sewer Pump Station Mechanic**

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.

Contact: **Tim Kerigan** - HR Director / Public Information Officer  
350 E Market Street, Smithfield, NC 27577  
919.934.2116 x1109

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