



## Talk of the Town

July 8, 2014  
30th Edition

### *Town Tidbit:*

**Did you know?** NOAA's Climate Prediction Center is forecasting a near-normal or below-normal season. The outlook calls for a 50 percent chance of a below-normal season, a 40 percent chance of a near-normal season, and only a 10 percent chance of an above-normal season. For the six-month hurricane season, which began June 1, NOAA predicts a 70 percent likelihood of 8 to 13 named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher), of which 3 to 6 could become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher), including 1 to 2 major hurricanes (Category 3, 4 or 5; winds of 111 mph or higher).

### *Please Vote Now!*

#### Bring Ty Pennington and \$50,000 to our Miracle

Partnership to Build a Miracle of Johnston County NC has been chosen as a semi-finalist in the nationwide Guarantee Rate Ty Pennington Community Improvement #GiveBackChallenge. The Give Back Challenge winner receives \$50,000 from Guaranteed Rate and Ty Pennington (of television's Extreme Home Makeover) will come and spend a day helping with the build.



Partnership to Build a Miracle (PTBAM) is a large natural outdoor play space for kids of all abilities to play together and a baseball field for children with special needs. An estimated 4,000 children with special needs are currently enrolled in Johnston County Schools and there is no outdoor play space or ball field that will accommodate kids who wheel instead of run.

"The whole idea behind the park is to let kids of all kinds play together," said Beth Moore, M.Ed, Senior Childcare Director and Public Relations Chair for PTBAM. "Shared experiences build tolerance and acceptance, but also friendships. All children are special, just in different ways."

Partnership to Build a Miracle will use the prize money to build wheel chair accessible dugouts on the baseball field. The dugouts will be named in honor of Hogan Teem, a young baseball player and volunteer at the Miracle League who died unexpectedly on a Clayton baseball field in 2012 from a heart defect no one knew he had.

"We received so many donations in Hogan's name," says Chris Key, PTBAM Capital Campaign Chair. "He was out there on the weekends, helping to get kids around the bases in the dirt. I think he'd be proud to have his name on this field. It's just another piece of the miracle."

Facebook users can vote for the project by going to [www.partnershiptobuildamiracle.com](http://www.partnershiptobuildamiracle.com) and following the link

"Please vote for us," adds Moore. "\$50,000 AND Ty Pennington? Talk about a miracle!"

#### **About Partnership to Build a Miracle**

Partnership to Build a Miracle is a collaboration between the Partnership for Children and the Miracle League both of Johnston County. The park will be located on East Booker Dairy Road as part of the Smithfield Aquatic and Recreation Center. The campaign to fund the park is entirely run by volunteers and has been generously supported by the county commissioners, the Town of Smithfield, numerous businesses, civic organizations, individuals and the faith-based community.

Please visit our website for more information: [www.partnershiptobuildamiracle.com](http://www.partnershiptobuildamiracle.com).  
[Vote on Facebook Here!](#)

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## Severe Weather

Are you prepared for severe weather?



Experts suggest preparing a severe weather safety kit so that you're ready, should storms strike.

**Developing a Severe Weather Safety Kit** First, determine where in your home your family will shelter in the event of severe weather, and make sure every family member knows where to go. Your severe weather safety kit should be stored in the same place, or nearby. Here are some suggested items to include in your kit:

### Battery-operated weather radio and flashlights

It's important to be able to monitor the latest weather information without the need for electricity. In many communities, at least one local news station will also broadcast on the radio. Be sure to check batteries regularly.

### A map to track storms

You need to be able to track the progress of the storm. Since warning texts include county names and highways, a map of your area can prove handy.

### Spare shoes

If a weather emergency comes at night, you may not have time to stop and grab footwear. Having shoes is very important if your home is damaged and you must walk across broken glass or other debris!

### Identification

Photocopies of important information like a driver's license, birth certificates, eyeglass and current medical prescriptions and insurance policies can be important to have at hand, should significant damage occur.

### Car keys

If your car is drivable, you will need the keys. It's a good idea to keep an extra set in your shelter area.

### Cell phone and charger

You'll be glad you have it, though it's important to keep in mind that cellular service may be disrupted after or during a storm.

### Water and non-perishable food

Things that don't need preparation like crackers, granola bars, nuts and dried fruit can be helpful to have on hand, especially with young children.

### Blankets or sleeping bags

These items can help make huddling in a basement or other small space a little more comfortable.

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## Parks & Recreation Survey

Please share your opinions!



The Johnston County Sports Council, a subcommittee of the Johnston County Visitors Bureau, is conducting a survey for the county-wide Parks & Recreation Master Plan project and seeks your input. The purpose of the plan is to bring together parks & recreation departments and county-wide sports organizations to help identify recreation resources in the county and determine the need for future facilities which will ensure there are physical and educational recreational opportunities available to all users. This survey will gather information on community use and need for facilities throughout the county and no personal data will be shared from this survey.

Your help is needed in completing and circulating the online survey for community input as our goal is to reach at least 10% of the households in Johnston County. Recreation is the third most important factor for families looking to move here, aside from home location and prices and schools. As Johnston County continues to grow, the need to provide quality recreation opportunities for existing and new residents will be in high demand.

Please share this survey and encourage your contacts to share with their friends, family and co-workers.

[Complete the quick survey here!](#)

Thank you for your help. Results of the survey will help complete the Master Plan, which will be available to the community in early 2015.

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## Residential Electric Rates

### Understanding What and Why



Recently, there has been growing discussion about electric rates for the Town of Smithfield. Council has entertained discussions at their monthly meetings and have also asked staff to conduct a public forum in the month of September.

As of April 2014, Smithfield has the second lowest residential rate amongst the 32 NCEMPA (North Carolina Eastern Municipal Power Agencies) towns. Smithfield is higher than Duke Energy Progress by approximately 15% and is currently working on ways to lower rates. Operationally, the Town's electric department fares quite well also. The national average for these non-purchase power costs is approximately 25-35% of its total budget. Smithfield's non-purchase power cost is at approximately 15.5%, which is very lean and, again, at the low end of the spectrum when compared to other NCEMPA entities.

In summary, the Town's residential electric rates are some of the lowest in the entire NCEMPA group and this region. On average, depending on seasonal rates, we are 13% to 15% higher than DEP's rates. On the operational side, our electric department is operating at an extremely lean ration (15.5%) when the costs of the wholesale power are removed from the expense calculation and you only consider true operation costs.

More information about the upcoming public forum will be provided when available.

## Marathon Man

### SSS Student Overcoming Brain Tumor

In June of 2007, Obed Morales was diagnosed with a brain tumor. After its successful removal, Obed woke up and realized that he would have to learn how to talk and walk all over again.

With the support of his classmates, his teachers Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Scarboro, Physical Therapist Emily Brock and Adapted Physical Education Specialist Vicky Loose, walking is now a reality.

For his senior year, Obed set a goal of walking the equivalent of a marathon: 26.2 miles. Using a PACER walker, which supports his upper torso and provides balance and stability, Obed met that goal on May 23, 2014 to the loud and proud congratulations of his classmates.



When asked about his journey, Obed said that there was a time when it was sad, but he does not remember it. Here's to Obed remembering this achievement for life as the SSS Marathon Man!

## Certified Employee of the Month

### Ashley Wheeler - West Smithfield Elementary

Ashley Wheeler, assistant principal at West Smithfield Elementary, has been named the Johnston County Schools Certified June Employee of the Month.

Mrs. Wheeler was recognized during the June 10, Johnston County Board of Education meeting.

The Employee of the Month program is a time-honored Johnston County Schools tradition, and for the past several years, Johnston County Schools' administrators have participated in seminars devoted to understanding, implementing, and enhancing leadership. One of the books read and discussed in these seminars is "Good to Great" by Jim Collins. In this book, Mr. Collins advocates for making sure you have the right people in the right seats in your organization. He asserts that people are not an organization's most important asset. The right people are, which is why the Human Resources Department uses the Employee of the Month program to recognize employees who demonstrate the qualities of a caring and dedicated individual.



The nomination form for Certified Employee of the Month reads...

"Mrs. Wheeler has been at West Smithfield for about 13 months. From day one she has given 110 percent. She can never be seen in slow motion. She handles discipline, buses, and all the other things that an assistant principal has to do, but the most impressive thing is how calm and professional Mrs. Wheeler has been this year. She truly shined when the school had to release students before noon due to winter weather. She was very organized, calm, got lunches taken care of, car pool released, buses gone, and got all her staff out and home safely. Mrs. Wheeler deserves being recognized as an Employee of the Month."

The Johnston County Board of Education congratulates Ashley Wheeler. This employee makes Johnston County Schools great!

## Body Language

What are you really saying?

Body language affects how others see us, but it may also change how we see ourselves. Social psychologist Amy Cuddy shows how "power posing" - standing in a posture of confidence, even when we don't feel confident - can affect testosterone and cortisol levels in the brain, and might even have an impact on our chances for success. [Click here](#) to see what Amy has to say - definitely interesting and will make you think...



## Parks & Recreation / SRAC



**SRAC Summer Camp** - Art, swimming, sports, and outdoor fun are just some of the activities your child will be involved in! Space is limited! Registration begins April 1, 2014. Children will be responsible for bringing 2 snacks, a lunch, swimming suit and towel. Remaining dates: July 14-18, July 21-25, July 28-Aug 1, Aug 4-8, Aug 11-15; Time: 8:30am-4:30pm Early drop off and late pick up are available for an extra \$25 per week. Ages: 5-12yrs; Fee: \$100-Smithfield Resident; \$125-Non-Smithfield Resident

**Red Devil Football** - Registration for Fall Football now through July 18, 2014. The Smithfield Red Devils will be participating in the Johnston County Youth Football League. Games will be played in the fall on some Saturday mornings and some weeknights, beginning in September. Practices will begin mid-August. Football is broken in to the following age groups: Rookie (6-8 year olds); JV (9-10 year olds); and Varsity (11-12 year olds). The child's age as of 8/1/14 determines playing age. The fee is \$40 for Smithfield Residents and \$80 for Non-Residents.

**Red Devil Cheerleading** - The only time Cheerleading is offered is during football season. Girls will cheer at games that will be played in the fall on some Saturday mornings and some weeknights, beginning in September. Practices will begin mid-August. Cheerleading open to girls between the ages of 5-12. The fee is \$25 for Smithfield Residents and \$50 for Non-Residents. Uniform cost should be around \$50, which you purchase and keep.

**Fall Soccer** - Registration for Fall Soccer begins July 7 through August 8, 2014, for boys and girls between the ages of 5-12. The child's age as of 8/1/14 determines playing age. The fee is \$35 for Smithfield Residents and \$70 for Non-Residents.

**Pottery Camp** - Come play in the clay! Students will learn the techniques for handbuilding with clay as well as basic wheel throwing. Projects will be made that can go home. A 25lb bag of clay must be purchased separately at the front desk. (Clay is \$20) Dates: July 7-11, 2014 and/or August 4-8, 2014. Time: 9am -12pm. Ages: 8-15yrs. Fee: \$85-Smithfield Resident \$100-Non-Smithfield Resident

**Artz Kidz & Play** - SRAC & SPRD are partnering to bring a craft and activity camp to Smith Collins Park. Camp will end with an ice cream social on Friday. 20 Kid Maximum. Ages: 5-13 yrs. July 21-25. 9am - Noon. \$2/day or \$10/week.

**Tennis Camp** - July 28-30; 5-7 yr olds - \$30 / From 6-7pm; 8-14 yr olds - \$50 / From 7-8:30pm @ Smithfield Community Park Tennis Courts. (Make checks payable to Jimmy Jernigan)

**Girls Basketball Camp** - August 4-7; 7-18 yr olds; 9am-Noon; \$40 (payable to William Sanders) @ SRAC.

**Pour It & Paint** - Ladies grab your girlfriends and plan some girl time!!! Our new series will be offered in June, July and August once a month. You must pre-register and be at least 21 years old to participate. We supply the canvas and the paint, you supply the wine. Classes run from 7-9pm, and the cost is \$35/class. For remaining dates contact 919-934-2148 or 934-1408, Tiffany or Kristin.

**Cheerleading Camp** - Grades: 1-6th ; Remaining dates: July 28-30; Time: 9-11am; Fee: \$50.00 (Make checks payable to Jessica Brank). Location: SRAC Gym. For more information contact Jessica at [brankncs@gmail.com](mailto:brankncs@gmail.com)

**Soccer Camp** - Ages: 5-14 yrs.; Dates: July 14-17; Time: 8:30 -11:00 am; Fee \$50.00 (Make checks payable to Steve Brush). Location: Smithfield Community Park Soccer Fields. Steve Brush, USSF Nat. D & NSCAA National Coaching

Diploma, and will be assisted by Morgan Brush, a former Barton College player, and Amber Brush, a current Barton College player.

**Pickleball** - Now through August 22nd, ON FRIDAYS ONLY, from 2-4pm, Pickleball will be offered at SRAC. If you are not a member of SRAC, it will be \$2 per session to come out and play. We will provide the paddle, balls and net. For questions, contact Tiffany at 919-934-2148, ext 112.

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

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## Around Town

*For fun or to help others in our community*

**The JoCo Scrabble group** - meets on Monday nights from 6 pm to 8 pm at the McDonald's in West Smithfield (W. Market Street). There is no cost beyond whatever food you choose to buy. This is a social group of adult (or teen) Scrabble players. Players vary in ability levels, so don't hesitate to come and play. For more information, please email [southerner@earthlink.net](mailto:southerner@earthlink.net). Please put Scrabble in the subject line so that we know what the message is about.

**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

July 1, 2014



Regular Meeting summary:

1. Considered and approved CUP 14-03: Nitro Solar Farm, LLC.
2. Approved the Consent Agenda.
3. Discussed and approved holiday and overtime pay for non-exempt employees.
4. Discussed and tabled compensation for Advisory Boards.
5. Discussed and approved the Employee Cell Phone Policy.

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, June 3rd. Come join us and get involved! [View Minutes of Past Meetings Here](#)

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## Employment Opportunities

with the Town of Smithfield

- **Assistant Aquatics Supervisor**
- **Part-time Lifeguard**

- **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.

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