



Talk of the Town

December 11, 2014
34th Edition

Town Tidbit:

Did you know? According to the October 2014 Strategic Economic Development Plan Update performed by Sanford-Holshouser, the Town of Smithfield property taxes are \$0.57/\$100 valuation vs. Johnston County's rate of \$0.78/\$100 valuation.

Duke Energy/NCEMPA

FERC Approval of Planse for Purchase



Duke Energy Progress has received approval from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to proceed with plans to purchase the North Carolina Eastern Municipal Power Agency's (NCEMPA) generating assets.

The FERC ruling, issued late yesterday, was based on a filing made by Duke Energy Progress on Oct. 10, 2014.

The ruling is an important milestone of the approximately \$1.2-billion transaction with NCEMPA, announced July 28, 2014.

NCEMPA currently maintains partial ownership interest in several Duke Energy Progress plants, including Brunswick Nuclear Plant Units 1 and 2 (Brunswick County), Mayo Plant (Person County), Roxboro Plant Unit 4 (Person County) and the Harris Nuclear Plant (Wake County).

The Power Agency's ownership interest in these plants represents approximately 700 megawatts of generating capacity. NCEMPA members' distribution assets are not part of the agreement, and will continue to be owned and maintained by those members.

"We are pleased to receive these approvals toward our goal of completing this purchase and providing positive benefits for both Duke Energy Progress customers and NCEMPA members," said Paul Newton, Duke Energy President - North Carolina. "We will now turn our attention to securing the state approvals necessary to close the transaction."

"This is a positive development for NCEMPA and is good news for eastern North Carolina," ElectricCities CEO Graham Edwards said. "We still face additional regulatory approvals before the transaction can be closed. We continue to be optimistic that we will finalize the agreement and secure a long-term, reliable and competitively-priced power supply for NCEMPA members."

Smithfield Christmas Parade

Johnston County HS Bands to March as One

What is likely the county's largest marching band ever will parade through Smithfield and Clayton later this month.



More than 600 band members, representing Johnston County's eight high schools, are preparing to play in unison at the two towns' holiday parades on Dec. 11 and Dec. 13.

Clayton High band director John Pearson said it's the first time each band, in its entirety, will play as one.

"When we come around the corner, it's going to be pretty crazy," Pearson said.

"I don't think there's ever been a band with this many high-school students playing together in North Carolina."

The idea started about two years ago, Pearson said, when Smithfield-Selma High band director Brian Jones approached the other directors in the county about a way to get young people involved in music.

Jones said in today's society, children have few opportunities to see a traditional band with a wide range of instruments. One of them is during a parade.

"The thought was if we combined all of our schools together, someone would remember that for a long time - how massive that was," Jones said.

The directors tried to get the band going in 2013 but ultimately couldn't find time to practice during the holiday season, which was booked with other performances. This year, though, they're more committed and are using technology to make sure everyone's prepared.

The bands are practicing separately. And while instrumentalists are learning the same sheet music, color guard members are practicing with a shared online video.

Jones said using file-sharing technology via Google, the different bands can send videos back and forth, adding comments and edits along the way.

The bands will practice together on the afternoon of Thursday, Dec. 11, before the Smithfield Christmas Parade that evening. The band, which does not yet have a name, will play together again at the Clayton parade on Dec. 13. "We are really excited about putting all the kids together," Jones said. "They are all strong individually, but this is something people should remember for a long time."

Jones and Pearson said the ultimate goal for the large band is to enter a bid to play at the Rose Parade in Pasadena, Calif.

"Trying to put in a bid separately would be tough, but by combining forces and working together, it makes it more of a possibility," Jones said. "But we are hoping that everything goes smoothly, as we are doing it for the first time this year." (Courtesy www.smithfieldherald.com)

For More Info - <http://smithfield-nc.com/Documents/Other/2014HolidayEvents.pdf>

Stink, Stank, Stunk!

Despite the rain, benefit run was a huge success

The Smithfield Parks & Recreation Department & the Smithfield Police Department co-hosted the 3rd annual Grinch 5k & Jingle Bell Jog, which took place on Saturday, December 6th at 10am. Thank you to all of our sponsors: Smithfield Kiwanis Club, Sheetz, Bullock Brothers, Sweet Frogs of Smithfield, Local Government Federal Credit Union, and Zaxbys. All of the toys went to Johnston County Department of Social Services and Harbor. Hundreds of toys were donated for a great cause.



Our 5k Grinch top three finishers for male were Jesus Rodriguez first place, Michael Lee second place, Clay Carver third place. Our 5k Grinch top three finishers for female were Gwyn Reece first place, Erin Smith second place, and Shayln Turbyfill third place.

(Pictured right - Ms. Jessica Barefoot - Best Kid Costume)

Town of Smithfield - Leaf Collection

Leaf Season is Here Again - What to do?

From the months of November - February the Town of Smithfield Public Works Department provides curbside leaf collection for its citizens. Crews are using large self-contained vacuum equipment to pick up loose leaves and pine straw. The Public Works Department urges residents to put their loose leaves and pine straw close to the curb line where vacuum equipment can reach it. Do not place debris in the street, ditch or gutter areas as this causes serious flooding issues during rain events. Keep all debris such as stones, dirt, branches and litter from leaves and straw. It is also important not to place your loose leaves and pine straw over water meters near fire hydrants, mailboxes and light poles. Please do not park vehicles near piles of leaves on scheduled days of pickup so crews can maneuver in and extract the debris with vacuum trucks. Citizens



are asked to be patient with the removal process and expect some delays during heavy times.

Other options for leaves

- Shred while mowing your lawn in small amounts. The chopped up leaves will decompose into natural nutrients for your grass.
- Use the leaves as mulching material around trees, shrubs, landscapes and natural areas.
- Using bagging devices on your mower collect the leaves mixed with grass and place them in compost bins. Till the organic matter in your vegetable gardens and spring planting projects.

What not to do with your leaves

- Raking or blowing your leaves into the street, ditch and gutter areas. This method causes flooding issues by stopping up storm drain systems and driveway culverts.
- Burning your leaves inside the city limits. This method causes a host of problems such as fire hazards, respiratory problems and smoke issues inside neighboring residents.

Anyone who wishes to receive a truck load of leaves (for their gardens etc.) should contact the Public Works office at 919-934-2596.

Upcoming NC 210 Bridge Closures

Work Beginning January 5, 2015



The [N.C. Department of Transportation](#) has scheduled the closure of a section of N.C. 210 near Smithfield in Johnston County to begin on January 5, 2015, weather permitting. The closure will be in place for approximately eight months.

The closure is necessary for crews with S.T. Wooten Corp. of Wilson to replace two bridges over Swift Creek and the Swift Creek overflow. Both bridges were constructed in 1934 and are classified as Functionally Obsolete, which means they were built to design standards that are no longer in use. The new bridges will be built to modern design standards.

During the closure, through traffic on N.C. 210 will use [U.S. 70 Business/Market Street, Swift Creek Road and Cleveland Road](#) as a detour route around the closure. Local traffic will be able to use N.C. 210, but will not be able to cross the bridges. Message boards will be put in place near the intersection of N.C. 210 and U.S. 70 Business/Market Street, and at the intersection of N.C. 210 and Swift Creek Road to alert traffic of the upcoming closure.

These replacements are part of a \$10.4 million express design-build contract awarded to S.T. Wooten Corp. in 2013 to replace 12 bridges in Johnston County with new bridges by late 2015.

To date, nine of the 12 bridges in Johnston County have been replaced, including bridges on N.C. 96, Juniper Church Road, Benson-Hardee Road, Old Stage Road, Eldridge Road, Bizzell Grove Church Road, Old Beulah Road and two on Shoeheel Road. A bridge on Micro Road is currently under construction and is expected to open in mid-April, weather permitting.

Express design-build allows construction to go from zero to completion in less time for each bridge. This is more efficient than traditional design-build for less complex projects. The express design-build method allows the design, environmental permitting, utility relocation and construction to take place at the same time, under one contract. This method reduces overall construction time, helps the department avoid cost inflation, allows the contractor to make innovations that save taxpayers money, lessen environmental impact and alleviate driving delays for motorists.

Motorists are advised to use caution while traveling in the area and to expect delays. NCDOT reminds motorists to watch signs for construction information, stay alert and obey the posted speed limit.

For real-time travel information at any time, visit the Travel section of the [NCDOT website](#), call [511](#), or follow NCDOT on [Twitter](#). Another option is [NCDOT Mobile](#), a phone-friendly version of the NCDOT website.

Smithfield-Selma High School

Math Department Receives \$3,000 Grant



Smithfield Selma High School was selected to receive a grant in the amount of \$3,000 through the Classroom Technology grant program, sponsored by Wake Electric.

The Classroom Technology grant program strives to enhance innovative classroom projects that would not otherwise be funded. The proposed project, Spartans Soar, was written by math teacher, JoEllen Holder, to purchase Chromebooks specifically to be used in Math I classrooms.

As the Math I state exam is computer based, she wanted the students to have instant access to practice EOC (End of Course) style questions on a daily basis.

"The purchase of Chromebooks for my classroom will be a huge benefit to my students," said Holder. "My students take a computer based end-of-course test. They will now have daily access to Chromebooks in our classroom where they will be able to practice computer based math problems on a weekly basis."

According to Holder, the practice EOC questions are designed to mirror EOC questions the students will be tested on in June.

"I believe we will see a direct correlation with my students' test scores and their access to the EOC practice material," she said. "I will also have the ability to supplement lessons with more differentiation, meeting a student's needs for remediation by watching a tutorial video or acceleration by flipping the classroom and helping peers."

PHOTO: Julisa Gonzalez (left) and Megan Benjamin (right) use Chromebooks to review in their math class.

Parks & Recreation / SRAC



SMITHFIELD CHRISTMAS PARADE - Christmas really arrives with the Christmas Parade!!! Join us on Thursday night, December 11th, at 7:00pm. If you would like to be in the Parade, applications can be picked up at SRAC, or found online at the Town's website: www.smithfield-nc.com. For questions contact Tiffany Pearson at tpearson-parks@ncrrbiz.com; or 919-934-2148 x112. The application deadline is Friday, November 28, 5:00pm.

Clay Ornament Workshop - Homemade clay ornaments are the best gifts to give. Participants will learn how make their own ornaments which will be ready just in time for Christmas.

Date: December 6, 2014

Time: 10am-12pm

Ages: 7-12yrs

Fee: \$10 first child

\$8 each additional sibling

KIDS IN NATURE - If your child is between the ages of 3-5, bring them for a hands on nature class. (A parent must be with them in the class.) Your child will hike, create, experiment and learn about the world around them. The class meets on Wednesdays, from 10-11am at SRAC. Class fee is \$4.00 - Smithfield Resident, and \$6.00 for Non-Smithfield Resident. (Fee applies to each participating child - but there is a 10% discount for additional children.) Upcoming classes are as follows: November 5 - Bats; November 12 - Snakes; November 19 - Animal Athletes; December 3 - Mammals; December 10 - Owls and December 17 - Natural Ornaments. Must Pre-register for classes by Tuesday a.m.

DOODLEBUGS ART CLASS - Bring your 18 mos. to 4 year old and you and your child can enjoy Art Class together! This 45 minute Parent/Child class meets Friday mornings, 10:00 am, beginning September 12. This class introduces your child to all mediums of art. Dribble, drip, squish and squeeze your way to fun while experimenting with dough, paper, watercolors, glue and much, much more! \$5/Class or \$19/4 Classes - Smithfield Resident or \$7/Class or \$27/4 Classes - Non-Smithfield Resident. PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED THE WEDNESDAY BEFORE CLASS.

TADPOLES - Be a Tadpole, a SRAC Tadpole that is... Moms and dads can bring your little tadpoles and swim in the splash pool on Wednesdays, at 10:00 a.m. We will have additional activities for the kiddos too. Play groups are welcome. Price is \$5 for mom and 1 tadpole and \$3 for each additional tadpole. Starts on September 3rd. Questions contact Tiffany Pearson 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.

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](#)



Why Advertise

At the Smithfield Recreation & Aquatic Center
& with Smithfield Parks & Recreation?

Approximately 110,000 indoor visitors per year
Approximately 108,000 outdoor visitors per year

(These numbers do not even include events such as basketball tournaments, gym rentals, and special events where numbers are estimated by the booking party.)

Indoor Option:

Advertisement banner around the indoor track

Time period	Cost
1 month	\$100.00
3 months	\$250.00
6 months	\$500.00
12 months/ 1yr	\$1,000.00

(This cost is hanging the banner that is provided by your company.)

We are able to provide the banner with your company logo and advertisement for \$75 for a 3x6 or \$130 for a 4x8.

Outdoor Option:

4x4 panel on scoreboard magnetic or sheetmetal outside at ballfield. (1 year is February-November)

Time period	Cost
1 year	\$300.00
2 years	\$500.00
3 years	\$600.00

(This cost is hanging the panel that is provided by your company.)

However we can provide the panel with your company logo for \$115.

Corporate Option:

\$3,000 per year (which can be paid in full or in four payments of \$750)

- Your business logo on the back of our newsletter. We print 9,000 copies per year.
- Your company logo will be placed on our webpage. (We have approximately 7,500 views per month.)
- Your company will receive one free shelter reservation or banquet room rental per year. (This would allow you to hold an employee picnic, company event, or meeting at our facility.)
- Your employees register for SRAC memberships at the corporate rate. (As members they have access to racquetball, basketball, indoor running, walking track, water aerobics classes, fitness classes, workout room, weight room, lap swim, splash park, child care, and more!)
- Your company can pick the indoor or outdoor option for advertising for the year.

A minimum of one year contract must be signed by the manager or business owner agreeing to pay our fee for advertising your business.

Our Team Wants To Help Your Team!
Call 919-934-1408 for more details!

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. 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.

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

December 02, 2014



Regular Meeting summary:

1. Mayor Lampe administered the oath of office to new Police Officer, David Sholes.
2. Town Manager Paul Sabiston recognized Public Utilities Director Ken Griffin for obtaining certification as a Public Power Manager by the American Public Power Association.
3. Phyllis Pearson of Petway Mills and Pearson, PA presented the FY 2013-2014 Audit to the Council.
4. Approved Zoning Text Amendment ZA-14-04 to the Town of Smithfield Unified Development Ordinance, Article 19-4, On-Premise Signs which will allow for properties located within commercial zoning districts with more than one street front one additional ground sign.
5. Approved the Consent Agenda.
6. Approved a request by the Parks and Recreation Department to reallocate funds to purchase two scoreboards for the Community Park
7. Authorize staff to advertise for a Public hearing to be held 2015 for the closing of the right of ways on two alleys.
8. Planning Staff gave the Council an update on the West Smithfield Beautification Project.

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, January 6th. Come join us and get involved!

[View Minutes of Past Meetings Here](#)

Employment Opportunities

with the Town of Smithfield

- **Parks and Recreation Director**
- **Part-time Firefighter**
- **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 or by calling 919-934-2116. Only qualified applicants should apply. The Town of Smithfield is an ADA/EEO Employer.
