



Talk of the Town

October 13, 2015
40th Edition

Town Tidbit:

Did you know? The Town of Smithfield has official ordinances for trick-or-treating? Here you go:
Sec. 11-8. - Trick or treat visitations.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to appear on or in any public street or alley of the town or upon any property than his own premises for the purpose of making trick or treat visitations, except as provided in subsection (b) of this section.

(b) Subsection (a) of this section shall not apply to children twelve (12) years of age and under before the hour of 8:00 p.m. on each Halloween night in the residential areas of the town.

(c) It shall be unlawful for any parent, guardian or other person standing in loco parentis to knowingly permit any minor child or ward in his care and custody to violate the provisions of this section.

(Code 1967, § 11-14.1)

Trick-or-Treating Safety

Town of Smithfield

Observing Saturday October 31st, 5pm - 8pm



For young children, Halloween night is one of the best of the year. But trick-or-treating can be dangerous if kids and parents aren't careful. Take a look at some vital trick-or-treating tips before you accompany your child.

1. Plan a route in advance.

Trick-or-treating could take you several streets away from your house, which can cause sore legs and a bit of frustration. Avoid long paths by mapping out a route before leaving the house. Stick to paths that you and your child are familiar with to avoid getting lost.

2. Wear comfy shoes.

Make sure you and your children are in comfortable, well-fitting shoes. Girls in dresses should avoid heels, and all shoelaces should be double-tied to avoid tripping in the dark.

3. Stay well-lit.

Apply reflective tape to your child's costume to ensure they are seen by drivers on the road. Also, carry a flashlight with you to keep your child's path lit at all times.

4. Make sure all costumes are short.

Long costumes that drag on the ground can be dangerous, especially at night. After purchasing your child's costume, make sure it's an appropriate length, and hem anything that's too long to avoid tripping.

5. Avoid masks.

Masks can make it difficult for your child to see or breathe. If possible, skip the mask altogether and use non-toxic make-up to complete the costume instead.

6. Use flexible props.

Try to avoid costumes that have weapons as accessories. But if your child's costume won't be complete without a weapon, make sure it is rubber or plastic. Choose a prop that won't cause injury to your child or their friends.

7. Check your child's candy.

When sorting through candy at the end of the night, be sure to throw away any candy that is not in its original wrapper, or looks as though it has been opened

Work-life Balance is Not a Myth

by Faith Thompson, Ombuds for Town of Chapel Hill



Wikipedia shares the following definition for work-life balance: "a concept including proper prioritizing between "work" (career and ambition) and "lifestyle" (health, pleasure, leisure, family and spiritual development/meditation)". If we lived in a generic world, this definition would cover most of us. However, we live in a world that has innumerable nuances, and "balance" means different things to different people. Like most buzz words, work-life balance has taken on a life of its own; and an employer and employee can both use the phrase correctly with two totally different meanings.

For me, work-life balance is a myth that every person who works for someone else believes in. Let me be clear: Balance is not a myth. Qualifying balance in one and as one way, however, is. For example, I love people. I love talking to people, hearing their stories and celebrating success. As an Ombuds, there is sometimes a great distance between hearing a story and getting to the celebration of success. This may entail meeting with one person several times at different times of the day and week. An outsider looking at my schedule might remark that I don't have sufficient "down" time factored in during the work week since many of my days start at 0400hrs and don't end until 2000hrs. What that same outsider is missing, is that during those 16 hours, I get to talk to no less than five different people. I get permission to breathe into the lives of some people that I might never have had the good fortune to meet - and do because of this job. I get the pleasure of someone looking to me for assistance in unraveling a knot in their lives. That sounds like a pretty good day to me! Balance is not just about hours put in and hours put out. It is about being fulfilled by our activities and connections in that time.

So I used all of the previous words to say one simple sentence. Only YOU can define what is a good work-life balance for YOUR life! In elementary school, I was presented a plaque for scholarship (yup, I had that work-life balance thing together even then!). This plaque was a copy of the famous Desiderata. I still have that plaque, and one line continues to ring true for me in 2015 (42 years after reading it for the first time): "And whatever your labors and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life, keep peace in your soul. With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be cheerful. Strive to be happy". Sounds so simple, but you and I know that there is a legion of folks out there who act like it is their life mission to keep us from doing just that!

So that you may find some useful fodder in this blog, I can share with you my ideas on how not to achieve work-life balance.

- **Try to schedule an equal number of hours for each of your various work and personal activities.** You will soon go crazy or find yourself unemployed. The balance comes in how you feel not the amount of hours you apportion to each task. Life is unpredictable. We are unable to plan for every eventuality. You will live longer and have more fun if you remain flexible.
- **Believe that your work-life balance will be the same at 25 as it is when you are 45.** Read note #1 again! Life is unpredictable, but there are some absolutes: you will get older, your preferences will change, and what brings you joy at 25 may be (should be) radically different than what brings you joy at 45. The right balance for you today will probably be different for you tomorrow. The correct balance for you when you are single will be different when you marry, or if you have children; when you start a new career versus when you are nearing retirement.
- **There is no perfect "one-size fits all" balance you should be striving for.** The best work-life balance is different for each of us because we all have different priorities and different lives. And how we define balance is different. Don't compare your life to that of your friends, co-workers or TV reality show stars.
- **Concentrate on the really big changes you have to make right now.** You can bring more balance to your life right now by simply lifting up a pencil. Identify the areas you want to change and identify how you will track your progress. Put the pencil down. You have already brought greater balance into your life by simply identifying the areas where you want to work. Your next steps are dependent upon how quickly you want to make that proposed balance a reality.

I hope you discover the strategies and tactics necessary to achieve the balance you desire.

Students Program Tiny Robots

Smithfield Elementary School

Students at South Smithfield Elementary are learning coding with one of the school's new Ozobots.



Ozobot is a powerful tiny robot that expands STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) and computer science learning through a collection of game based activities and digital apps. Ozobot's easy to understand color code language is the ideal choice to introduce young minds to concepts that are vital to their success in the 21st century.

During a recent coding acceleration class students learned how to program the golf ball sized robot to follow the path of specific colored lines. Students were able to discover that the line-following robot works on a tablet, and will also follow a fat line drawn on a piece of paper.

In addition to the Ozobots, students as young as five years old are also learning basic block coding using the Code.org website. There they can program the popular Angry Birds to navigate mazes in order to reach a goal.

(PHOTO: Tanner Broughton, a first grader at South Smithfield Elementary School, programs an Ozobot to tell it how to move using an iPad application on Oct. 1.)

11th Annual Historical Ghost Walk

October 29th, Beginning at 7pm

Six characters from Johnston County's past will be brought back to life Thursday, October 29th during the 11th annual Ghost Walk in Smithfield's historic Riverside Cemetery. This unique event, sponsored by the Johnston County Heritage Center begins at 7 pm at the corner of Church and Second streets.



The line-up includes Royal Governor Gabriel Johnston (portrayed by Donald Ross), business tycoon Ashley Horne (portrayed by Jody McLeod), Buddy the child textile worker (portrayed by Jake Roberson), pioneer school administrator Mary Wells (portrayed by Judy Daniels), Tuskegee Airman Hernando Palmer (portrayed by Major Roy C. White), and Hollywood star Ava Gardner (portrayed by Shenan Lee).

"This is a fun educational event for all ages that a lot of people look forward to," says event chairman Tom Howerton. "It's a great way for families to learn about interesting personalities from our history."

Visitors will be given guided tours through the cemetery where they will meet each ghost character. The tour concludes with light refreshments at the Hastings House, a circa 1850 house which served as Confederate headquarters during the Civil War. Admission charge is \$3 for adults and \$2 for students, payable at the event. No advance tickets will be sold. For further information, call the Heritage Center at 919-934-2836, or visit the Center's website at www.jcheritagecenter.org

Spartan Zombie Run

Saturday, October 31st at 8am

Smithfield-Selma High School
700 Booker Dairy Road

Course will encompass a 5k run through the woods, trails, and alternating pavement.

You will be chased and pursued by a pack of running ZOMBIES.

Your mission, if you accept it, is to negotiate the course and make it to the finish line unscathed from any ZOMBIE attack.

Register and read more about race at: <http://spartanzombierun.com>



\$1 Movie at Howell Theatre!

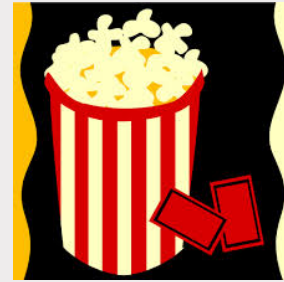
Friday, October 23rd at 10am

Fourth Annual Spooktacular Event at the Howell Theatre!

On Friday, October 23rd, join us at the Howell Theatre for \$1.00 Movies at 10am. We are offering: Your choice of any Current Movie!!!

While you're at the Theatre, enjoy the Kid's Combo Special for only \$3.00. It consists of a popcorn, drink and a spooky treat.

The Howell Theatre is located at 141 S. Third Street in Historic Downtown Smithfield. For showtimes, please visit the theatre's website, www.howellmovies.com, or call the Movie Line at 919-934-8202. Regular admission is \$4.00 and matinees, Monday-Friday before 6pm, are \$3.00. For more information about the Howell Theatre, please call 919-938-1201.



Parks & Recreation / SRAC



YOUTH BASKETBALL REGISTRATION

Registration begins September 14 and continues to October 16 for boys ages 5-18 and girls ages 5-12. The child's age as of 12/31/15 determines playing age. Practices will start in November, with games beginning in January. Registration fee is \$40 for Town of Smithfield Residents and \$88 for Non-Residents. For more information contact 919-934-2148.

PICKLEBALL

Beginning October 2nd, and running until November 20th, Smithfield Parks & Recreation will be offering Pickleball on Fridays, from 11:30am-1:30 pm. All ages are welcome. We have paddles for you to borrow ... so come learn and play. Wear some comfy clothes, tennis shoes, and bring a water bottle! For Pickleball, non-members of SRAC get in for \$3. For more information contact 919-934-2148, Tiffany.

TENNIS OPEN PLAY / CLINICS

If you are between the ages of 7-16, and want to work on your tennis game, join James Reid (SSS Tennis Coach) at Smithfield Community Park Saturday mornings in September - October, from 9-11am, and work on your game and your skills! Coach Reid will be there to assist with your game, and to run some drills. No registration is required! Don't have any equipment? No Worries - racquets and balls will be available for you to borrow!

Tadpoles

Come to SRAC on Wednesday mornings, 10am-Noon, and bring your little "tadpoles" to SRAC Splash Park. Resident rate is Adult Smithfield Resident: \$3, and \$2 Resident Child (Ages 3-12); Adult Non-Resident: \$5.50, and \$4 Non-Resident Child (Ages 3-12). Each additional child \$3. Questions contact Tiffany Pearson at 919-934-2148, ext 107.

SENIOR COFFEE CORNER

Senior Coffee Corner is back at SRAC for the Fall ya'!!! If you are 55 and older, join us for FREE coffee and occasional breakfast treats every Tuesday and Thursday morning, from 8:30 to 10:30am. You do not have to be a member of SRAC to join us for coffee these mornings.

ROBOTIC LEGOS WORKSHOP

JEDI Engineering Challenge Using LEGO & JEDI Master Engineering Challenge Using LEGO: October 23rd, 9am-12 Noon (Ages 5-7); 1-4pm (Ages 8-12). Become a Play-Well Engineer this Fall! With over 100,000 pieces of LEGO, take on real-life engineering challenges that explore concepts in physics, engineering and architecture! This is a hands-on, brains on workshop suitable for LEGO novices to building "maniacs". Price is \$40 per person. For Registration Details and Workshop Descriptions, please visit: <http://bit.ly/LEGO-Teacher-Workdays>.

HALLOWEEN EGG HAUNT

Join us Thursday night, 10/29, as we hunt for Halloween Eggs filled with candy! This event is for children between the ages of 3-12. Come in your Halloween costume, with your jack-o-lantern or pillowcase to collect your loot! The Egg Hunt is at Smithfield Community Park, around small playground area.... Don't be late - or all the loot will be gone in a flash!

SWIM LESSONS

SRAC offers swim lessons on an individual basis. Each participant will have a specific lesson plan to meet his or her needs. Sign up year round. Request forms can be picked up at the front desk of SRAC. For more information, please contact Laura Crumpler, Aquatics Director, at lcrumpler-parks@ncrbiz.com or 919-934-1408. 3 Lessons/Smithfield Residents - \$45; NR - \$66. 5 Lessons/Smithfield Residents - \$85; NR - \$110.

BOOMER Wii FIT

If you are 50 and older, come try Wii and games beginning September 10th, 11:00am. Come work on coordination, balance, and overall physical fitness. The games are located in the banquet room of Smithfield Recreation & Aquatics Center (SRAC), every Thursday. If you are NOT a member of SRAC, there is a \$3 charge for Smithfield Residents and \$4 for Non-Smithfield Residents.

STERLING SILVER SENIORS CLUB

This Club meets the second Wednesday of every month, 10:30am at SRAC. Club members have the opportunity to go on day trips, occasionally overnight trips, as well as participate in other activities outside of regular meeting days. Members must be 55+, and dues are \$12/year.

DOODLEBUGS

Dribble, drip, squish and squeeze... delight as you watch you and your child get messy 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 the time or for a 4-week session. **PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED BY THE WEDNESDAY BEFORE EACH CLASS** so that accurate supplies are provided. Fee is \$5/Class or \$19/4 Classes - Smithfield Resident; and \$8/Class or \$30/4 Classes - Non-Smithfield Residents.

SRAC KIDS NIGHTS

Schools back in session, and SRAC kids nights crank back up!!! When SRAC closes, the fun begins! Drop your kids off in a safe, supervised environment that is kid friendly and parent free. Swimming, gym time, snack and other organized activities are offered throughout the night. Please contact the center to find out the activities for each night, as activities will vary. October kids night is our "Spooktacular" ... no swimming that night, and kids come dressed up for some trick or treating! Kids Nights Dates in the fall are: September 19th, October 24th, and December 19th, from 5:30-8:30pm, for kids ages 5-10. Fee is \$8/Smithfield Resident (pre-registration); \$13.50/Non-Smithfield Resident (pre-registration). \$5/Each additional child during pre-registration. \$10/Smithfield Resident (Register day or night of); and \$16.50/Non-Smithfield Resident (Register day or night of).

KIDS NATURE SERIES

This hands on class will focus on one specific theme for the day. Spiders, clouds, plants, wildlife and so much more of the natural world will be discovered as participants hike, create, experiment and LEARN about the natural world around them. Class meets on Wednesdays, from 10:00-11:00 am, for kids ages 3-5 (With an adult present). Fee is \$4/Smithfield Resident or \$15/4 Classes/Smithfield Resident; \$6.50/Non Smithfield Resident or \$25/4 Classes/Non-Smithfield Resident.

GHOST POTTERY WORKSHOP

Join us on October 17th, from 9-11am, as we make spooky, but cute, Halloween decorations to liven up your Halloween décor! Class is open to boys and girls between the ages of 8-15 years of age. Fee is \$10/Smithfield Residents and \$12/Non-Smithfield Residents. \$8 for Additional Siblings.

POTTERY: BEGINNING AND CONTINUING HANDBUILDING

This class is designed for students interested in creating pottery without using the wheel. Through a combination of demonstrations and individual work time, students will develop their handbuilding skills while making distinctive pieces such as plates, vases, and bowls. The variety of construction techniques include stiff slab and soft slab. During the 6-week class session, students may come in during open studio time to work freely on projects. An instructor will be available to answer questions. Clay can be purchased at SRAC for \$20/25 lb. bag. Class Max: 5. Fee: \$100/Smithfield Resident; \$137.50 Non-Smithfield Resident. Class Dates Tuesday Days: October 13-November 17, from 10am-12:30pm; or Thursday Nights: October 15-November 19, from 6pm-8:30pm.

OPEN STUDIO FOR POTTERY

Need a place to create? Want to network with other artists or just have a quiet, yet social art time? The pottery studio at SRAC will be open for all potters participating in classes to come in and work on their creations at their own pace. All supplies are brought in by the participant and all projects need to be taken home. Studio is open during regular SRAC operating hours, except when a class is in session. Fee \$100 for 6 months of studio time. Members get a 10% discount.

FUN WITH ACRYLICS FOR ADULTS

Beginning Painting: Materials provided unless you have your own paints, brushes, etc. and want to bring your own. Students will learn acrylic paint techniques and color blending while painting canvases worthy of framing. Dates: Wednesday nights, 6:30-8pm. Fee \$100/person/6 months.

Advanced Painting/Open Studio: Students will use this class as time to collaborate with peers while working on their own acrylic painting projects. Students must provide their own painting materials. Must have completed a beginning painting class to participate in open studio time. Dates: Tuesday mornings, 9:30-11:30am. Fee \$100/person/6 months.

Judy Boyette is the instructor for these classes, and has 25 years of art experience teaching at Princeton HS and is the current president of the Johnston County Arts Council. She has been painting murals for 35 years.

SRAC GROUP FITNESS CLASSES

Free fitness classes are offered to SRAC members throughout the week. Water Aerobics, Cycling, Hybrid Fitness, Tai Chi, Yoga and Zumba are available. The schedule is distributed monthly and can be picked up in the SRAC lobby, or viewed online at www.sraconline.com. If you are NOT a member of SRAC, but wish to attend a fitness class, you may purchase a day pass.

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

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

October 06, 2015



Regular Meeting summary:

1. Approved Resolution # 567 (17-2015) endorsing the naming of the US Highway 70 West, Neuse River Bridge in memory of fallen Johnston County Sheriff Deputy Clendon Paul West, Sr.
2. Proclamation - Proclaiming the last Wednesday in October (the 28th) as a day in honor of survivors of domestic violence and in memory of those that have lost their lives due to domestic violence.
3. Approved Rezoning Request RZ-15-03: McFayden and Company, LLC
4. Approved Rezoning Request RZ-15-04: Atlantic Resources Incorporated
5. Approved Resolution # 563 (13-2015): The issuance by the Public Finance Authority of a portion of its \$75,500,000 Multifamily Revenue Bonds, Series 2015 FFAH. This is not a debt of the Town.
6. Approved Resolution # 568 (18-2015): Authorizing the filing of an Application to the Local Government Commission for Installment Financing of the Inflow and Infiltration and Raw Water Intake Projects.
7. Approved the Consent Agenda.
8. Authorized the Police Department to submit a grant application to the Governors Highway Safety Program to create a traffic safety team.
9. Authorized the Police Department to solicit applications for an Accreditation Manager and authorized changes to the salary schedule.
10. Approved an amendment to the Pay and Classification Plan to add a Career Ladder Plan for the Electric Department.
11. Bid Award to Clearwater, INC. in the amount of \$125,744.91 for the Sand Removal - River Project.
12. Approved the date of November 10, 2015 to hold a public hearing in accordance with NCGS 159B-16.1. Revenues - NCEMPA Members for receiving final rate study recommendation and to possibly set new rates.
13. Approved the date of November 10, 2015 to hold the regular Town Council meeting. This meeting was rescheduled due to the Municipal Election.
14. Directed staff to solicit more detailed bids for the demolition of the Old Water Treatment Plant and to allow those interested in purchasing the building to submit site plans for renovations and financial information.

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, November 10th.** Come join us and get involved! [View Minutes of Past Meetings Here](#)

Employment Opportunities

with the Town of Smithfield

- **Accreditation Manager (Police Department - Non-Sworn)**

- **Police Officer I**
- **Public Utilities Director**
- **Sanitation Equipment Operator**
- **Town Manager**

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.

Online Bill Pay Now Available

Smithfield utility customers may now pay their bill online via the Town's website (www.smithfield-nc.com) or by calling 1-855-331-7952. The town accepts Visa and MasterCard credit/debit cards or checks.



There is a nominal transaction fee of \$2.45 and payments are limited to \$700 or less. When entering your Town of Smithfield account number, please remove the decimal. Example: Account number 23001234.0091 should be entered as 230012340091

Customers can still take advantage of other payment options, including, bank draft, the afterhours drop box, walk in, and mail.

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

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