



Talk of the Town

November 20, 2017

65th Edition

Town Tidbit:

Did you know?

Chartered in 1777, Smithfield, the county seat, is the hub of business and government activity for Johnston County. Smithfield was named for John Smith who owned much of the land on both sides of the Neuse River on which he created the town commons as a public park. Today, Town Commons is the location of the Historic Hastings House, the Boat Ramp and the Mountains to the Sea Trail that connects downtown to Smithfield Community Park, a 3-mile walk.

Also in downtown Smithfield, you will find several blocks of revitalized stores, historic buildings, restaurants, shopping and attractions like the Ava Gardner Museum, Neuse Little Theatre and the Johnston County Heritage Center.

Family Life Center Named In Honor Of Sarah Yard



Smithfield Mayor Andy Moore presents Sarah M. Yard with a plaque Nov. 14th commemorating the renaming of the Family Life Center in her honor. A ribbon cutting for the Sarah Yard Community Center will be held Sunday, Nov. 19th at 3:00pm at 909 E. Lee Street. The public is invited. JoCoReport.com Photo



In 1991, with a passion for addressing injustices, her love for education, community and families, Sarah M. Yard founded the Family Life Center of Smithfield. The Center, located on Lee Street and next to Smith Collins Park, was a program that grew out of the work of the National Council of

Churches' Black Families Ministry Project designed to enhance the lives of individuals, families and their communities. Mrs. Yard worked tirelessly at the non-profit facility providing after school and summer youth programs, workplace training, educational opportunities, a meeting place, place of fellowship, heritage festivals, celebrations, and even a weekly food distribution center.

Over the last 2 years, the Town of Smithfield acquired the Family Life Center Building. Town staff and volunteers cleaned the building, removed debris, repaired, painted and outfitted the building for use as a recreational center for local youth.

Tuesday night, the Smithfield Town Council unanimously adopted a request by Town Manager Michael Scott to dedicate the building in honor of Mrs. Yard and also rename the facility the Sarah Yard Community Center.

Mrs. Yard and her relatives were on hand to receive a plaque and a round of applause from the council and citizens attending the meeting.

(Article courtesy of www.jocoreport.com)

The Town of Smithfield Sanitation Department schedule for Thanksgiving Holidays

Household waste and yard debris collections for Thursday, November 23, 2017 will be collected on Wednesday, November 22, 2017. All other customers will have their household waste and yard debris collected on their regular scheduled day. Please have your curbside container and or all debris at curbside after 5:00 pm on the day before your collection day. All curbside containers must be removed from curbside no later than 8:00am on the day after collection.

The Convenience Center at 231 Hospital Road will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holidays from Nov. 24 - Nov. 26, 2017. The Convenience Center will reopen on Monday Nov. 27, 2017.

Thanksgiving Tips:

8 Thanksgiving Safety Tips,

COURTESY OF THE SMITHFIELD POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENT.

- 1) When frying a turkey, be sure to stay away from wooden decks, your patio, garages and wooded areas. **Do not** fry a turkey indoors.
- 2) Make sure your turkey is well thawed out before **slowly** dipping it into the fryer.
- 3) Do not have one cook for indoor and outdoor cooking. If any cooking has to be left unattended be sure to **turn all burners off** to prevent unwanted heat/ fire.
- 4) All Smoke detectors should be checked and ensure that they are **working**.
- 5) Fire extinguishers class A,B, and C can put out a grease fire if used from a great distance. This will ensure that the grease wont spread. It is recommended to use a **Class K fire** extinguisher for those who wish to deep fry a turkey.
- 6) **Do not drink and drive**.
- 7) Ensure that there is a minimum of **3 feet** around any cooking source that children know not to enter. Three feet in minimal safe distance.
- 8) Make sure that when your done cooking, **all burners are off** when you are done cooking and everything is away from the cooking location until it has cooled off, A burner that is still hot and in the off position can still catch items on fire,



*If you want to contact us, we're located at
110 S. Fifth Street Smithfield, NC 27577,
(919)-934-2121 (Police) or at 111 S. 4th Street
Smithfield, NC 27577, (919)-934-2452 (Fire)*

In case of Emergency dial 911.



Police Officers Receive Life Saving Award

Two members of the Smithfield Police Department received the department's Life Saving Commendation Award for saving a man's life earlier this year

On September 1st, Officers James Barbour and Michael Jernigan were the first on the scene of a medical call reporting a 25 year-old man was unresponsive. They determined the man was not breathing and swift action was needed to save the person's life.

The officers saw a family member was attempting to perform life saving measures without success. The officers started CPR on the victim and continued CPR until paramedics arrived on the scene.

Their quick response ultimately saved the man's life and at last report he was still doing okay, according to Police Chief Keith Powell.

Police Captain J. Grady said, "The professionalism and compassion they displayed is not only a reflection of their dedication to public safety but a credit to the Police Department and the Town of Smithfield."

Officer Barbour and Jernigan received the Commendation Award at the Nov. 14th meeting of the Smithfield Town Council.

Officer Barbour, a Clayton area resident, has been on the department since 2015. Officer Jernigan is originally from



(Left to right) Smithfield Police Chief Keith Powell, Mayor Andy Moore, Officer Michael Jernigan, Officer James Barbour, and Captain James Grady, JoCoReport.com Photo

Smithfield Hires New Planning Director



The Town of Smithfield has announced the hiring of Stephen Wensman, RLA/AICP as Planning Director.

Stephen hails from St. Paul, Minnesota where he was Planning Director for a fast-growing suburb of Lake Elmo. As Director, Stephen brings a depth of experience in development review, parks planning, city planning and landscape architecture. "It's an exciting time to engage with the community as the Town kicks off its comprehensive plan update," says Wensman, "There are a lot of opportunities here to do some creative and innovative planning to ensure the entire community thrives as it grows."

Stephen is a registered Landscape Architect and certified planner through American Planning Association's American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP). He holds a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture and a Master of Public Administration. He has served on neighborhood planning committees, planning commissions and has led and been involved in numerous community planning groups. Outside of work, Stephen enjoys traveling, being outdoors, playing tennis and cycling.

On July 1, 2017, Paul Emblar retired as Planning Director for the Town after 14 years of service. Since that time, Steve Medlin, after retiring with 30 years of service with Durham, has acted as the Town's Interim Planning Director. Mr. Wensman will report directly to Town Manager Michael Scott.

"We're excited to welcome Stephen to our team," comments Mr. Scott. "Being a Town poised for growth and measured change, we are fortunate to add someone with great experience, knowledge and a high level of focus on customer service."

Wensman began his full-time duties with the Town of Smithfield on November 1st. He will be paid \$82,014.40 annually with a \$3,000 one time bonus after 6 months on the job.

Council Meeting Highlights

October 3, 2017

Regular Meeting Summary:

Regular Meeting Summary:



1. Council approved the renaming of the Family Life Center to the Sarah Yard Community Center in honor of Sarah McDaniel Yard. Mayor Moore presented a Proclamation to Sarah Yard and her family.
2. Mayor Moore and Captain James Grady presented Life Savings Awards to Police Officers Michael Jernigan and James Barbour.
3. Mayor Moore administered the Oath of Office to new Police Officer Samuel Adams.
4. Mayor Moore administered the Oath of Office to new Police Officer Christopher VanHalen.
5. The Town Council approved a Rezoning Request by Twin States Farming.
6. The Town Council approved a Special Use Permit and Site Plan for Atlantic Coast Pipeline.
7. The Town Council approved the Consent Agenda.
8. The Town Council approved donations to the following area schools: South Smithfield Elementary School in the amount of \$1,000, West Smithfield Elementary School in the amount of \$1,000 and the Smithfield Selma High School Robotics Team in the amount of \$1,000.
9. The Town Council accepted a Golden Leaf Grant in the amount of \$70,000.
10. The Town Council approved to spend \$5,374.40 for the emergency replacement of one Lochinvar boiler on the roof of the Public Library of Johnston County and Smithfield.
11. The Town Council approved entering into an agreement with WithersRavenel to conduct a street condition study.
12. The Town Council approved the reappointment of Mike Fleming to the Johnston County Economic Development Committee representing the Town of Smithfield.
13. The Town Council accepted a Stream Restoration Grant in the amount of \$148,890 from the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

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 14, 2017. Come join us and get involved! [View Minutes of Past Meetings Here](#)

Local Business Spotlight: SoDoSoPa



Whether from Tennessee, Texas, Georgia, Louisiana, or the Carolinas, southern BBQ is the sweetest and most sultry taste around. Complete with all the fixins, our southern comfort food is sure to satisfy any appetite. Our recipes have been gathered over six generations and across three families with strong roots in the south and its tradition of BBQ and soul food. Bring the whole family and experience our down home cookin for yourself. You'll never forget your first time! You'll be back for more.

Outdoor seating, Private Room and Take-out also available.

Address: 146 S. Third St.,
Smithfield, NC 27577

Phone:(919) 205-1076

[Welcome To Sodosopa](#)

Quote Of The Week:

My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style.

Maya Angelou

Smithfield Appearance Commission



Available to anyone who signs up: a gardening newsletter available through NC Cooperative Extension, State University, A&T University called "Gardeners Dirt". Master gardeners, industry & university experts contribute to the article.

To request a copy via email contact: mhwarren@ncsu.edu. Or cblasit@ncsu.edu

Volunteers Needed

Opportunities Available to Serve on a Town Board

- Appearance Commission - 3 Position
- Historic Properties Commission - 3 Position
- Parks and Recreation Advisory Board - 1 In-Town position and 2 High School Representatives (2 year term)
- Planning Board: 1 ETJ Alternate position



Current Volunteer Town Board Opportunities:

All positions are three year terms, unless otherwise specified. Interested citizens can download an "[Application for Board Appointment](#)" on the [Town's website](#) or you may call Town Clerk Shannan Williams to request one by mail at 919-934-2116.

Upcoming Events

For more information on the below events without links, please visit: http://www.smithfield-nc.com/page/parks_programs

Smithfield - BASKETBALL REGISTRATION

Youth Basketball Registration will be September 11th - October 20th, for boys ages 5-15 and girls ages 5-12. (Players age as of December 31, 2017 determines playing age.)

Smithfield - Alligator Steps

is offering swim lessons for children 6 months - 10 years of age.

For more information or to register please visit www.alligatorsteps.com.

Smithfield - Tadpoles

Moms and dads bring out your little tadpoles and swim in the splash park.

Wednesdays, September - April 25, 2018

Smithfield - Smithfield Marlins of Raleigh

To register, or for more information, go to www.marlinsofraleigh.com; or contact John Fischetti at jfischetti@aol.com.

Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays - September-November / December-February / March-May

Smithfield - Doodlebugs - Fridays

Pre-registration required the Wednesday before each class so that accurate supplies are provided.

Smithfield - KIDS NIGHT at SRAC - Saturday, October 28; December 2

pre-registration

Holiday Programs & Events

Smithfield - Swim with Santa - Friday, December 1

Smithfield - The Grinch Stink, Stank, Stunk 5k & Jingle Bell Jog Saturday, December 2

If you'd like to purchase a t-shirt, you must register by 11/17/17. T-shirts are \$15 each. No extra shirts will be available.

Smithfield - Christmas Tree Lighting - Thursday, December 7, 7:00pm

Smithfield - Christmas Parade - Thursday, December 14, 7:00pm

Applications due no later than 12/2/17.

Smithfield - JEDI LEGO Camps - December 27-29, 2017

ADULT ACTIVITIES

Smithfield - STERLING SILVER SENIORS CLUB

Smithfield - Clay Night Out

Dates: October 6, November 17, December 8

Smithfield - Clay Pendants & Beads - October 14

Smithfield - Beginning Handbuilding and Wheel Throwing Class - Session 3 Thursday nights, November 2 - December 14, 2017

Class is designed for those interested in learning the art of pottery making using handbuilding techniques and an introduction to using the wheel. Through a combination of demonstrations and individual work time, students will develop their pottery skills while making distinctive pieces that they can call their own. During the 6-week class session, students may come in during open studio times to work freely on projects.

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. **Youth Adult Book Club** - Meetings are 6:30pm on the third Monday 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 Katie Barbour at 919-934-8146 ext.3 or email kbarbour@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.

Employment Opportunities with the Town of Smithfield

- **Part-time Lifeguard(s)**
- **Sanitation Equipment Operator**
- **Sanitation Worker**

Applications may be obtained at the Smithfield Town Hall, 350 East Market Street, Smithfield, NC 27577 or by visiting our website at www.smithfield-nc.com. Full Job Advertisements may be obtained at the Smithfield Town Hall or by visiting our website at www.smithfield-nc.com/jobs. Full Job Descriptions may be obtained upon request at the Smithfield Town Hall. 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

