



## Talk of the Town

November 25, 2015  
42nd Edition

### *Town Tidbit:*

**Did you know?** The Neuse River is the longest river in North Carolina. It stretches 248 miles from Falls Lake Reservoir Dam in the Piedmont to its mouth at Pamlico Sound. At its mouth, the Neuse is the widest river in America at 6 miles across. Learn more at <http://www.neuseriver.org>.

## Thanksgiving Safety

The kitchen is the heart of the home, especially at Thanksgiving. Kids love to be involved in holiday preparations. Safety in the kitchen is important, especially on Thanksgiving Day when there is a lot of activity and people at home.



- Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the stovetop so you can keep an eye on the food.
- Stay in the home when cooking your turkey and check on it frequently.
- Keep children away from the stove. The stove will be hot and kids should stay 3 feet away.
- Make sure kids stay away from hot food and liquids.
- The steam or splash from vegetables, gravy or coffee could cause serious burns.
- Keep the floor clear so you don't trip over kids, toys, pocketbooks or bags.
- Keep knives out of the reach of children.
- Be sure electric cords from an electric knife, coffee maker, plate warmer or mixer are not dangling off the counter within easy reach of a child.
- Keep matches and utility lighters out of the reach of children - up high in a locked cabinet.
- Never leave children alone in room with a lit candle.
- Make sure your smoke alarms



### Did you know?

#### Helpful Tip:

Have activities that keep kids out of the kitchen during this busy time. Games, puzzles or books can keep them busy. Kids can get involved in Thanksgiving preparations with recipes that can be done outside the kitchen.

Courtesy of the National Fire Protection Association  
[www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)

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# 15 Turkey Fryer Safety Tips

It's hard to beat the speed of deep-frying a turkey-or the irresistible flavor and juiciness that result.

But turkey fryers have the potential to cause fire and serious injury, which is why organizations like Underwriters Laboratories and the National Fire Protection Association advise against using them.

If you plan to deep-fry your holiday bird, be sure you know how to safely use the fryer, and take these precautions to protect yourself, your guests and your home:



1. Keep outdoor fryers off decks, out of garages and a safe distance away from trees and other structures.
2. Make sure the turkey is thawed and dry before cooking. Ice or water that mixes into the hot oil can cause flare-ups.
3. Watch the weather. Never operate a fryer outdoors in the rain or snow.
4. Place the fryer on a level surface, and avoid moving it once it's in use.
5. Leave 2 feet between the tank and the burner when using a propane-powered fryer.
6. Follow the manufacturer's instructions to avoid overfilling. Oil can ignite when it makes contact with the burner.
7. Choose a smaller turkey for frying. A bird that's 8 to 10 pounds is best; pass on turkeys over 12 pounds.
8. Never leave fryers unattended.
9. Purchase a fryer with temperature controls, and watch the oil temperature carefully. Cooking oil that is heated beyond its smoke point can catch fire. If you notice the oil is smoking, turn the fryer off.
10. Turn off the burner before lowering the turkey into the oil. Once the turkey is submerged, turn the burner on.
11. Wear goggles to shield your eyes, use oven mitts to protect your hands and arms and keep a grease-rated fire extinguisher close by.
12. Skip the stuffing when frying turkey, and avoid water-based marinades.
13. Keep children and pets away from the fryer at all times.
14. Once finished, carefully remove the pot from the burner, place it on a level surface and cover to let the oil cool overnight before disposing.
15. Opt for an oil-less fryer. This uses infrared heat, rather than oil, to cook the turkey.

Courtesy of State Farm

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## The Johnston County Sports Council Has Completed the First-Ever County-Wide Parks and Recreation Master Plan.



The Johnston County Tourism Authority undertook the project of a county-wide Parks & Recreation Master Plan in February 2014, by selecting [SageDesign](#), a consulting firm from Wilmington, NC. Owned by Sara Burroughs, the firm had extensive knowledge of Johnston County and in particular the Town of Clayton, as the firm just recently completed Clayton's revised parks plan.

The staff of the Johnston County Visitors Bureau in coordination with the Sports Council, contacted all eleven municipalities, civic/sports groups, and community partners to embark on completing the many layers of the project. Each community partner approved a Resolution of Support for the Sports Council endorsing the project.

The community kick-off meeting for the Steering Committee was held May 21, 2014 where the work ahead was outlined, base maps were reviewed, and facility matrices forms were completed by all parties involved in the project. This meeting was well attended with representatives from all corners of the county.

By the time summer came around, the inventory of existing parks and recreation facilities began with field investigations and assessments. As the county is quite large, the Steering Committee worked closely with the SageDesign staff to travel the county with a host or guide.

Step three involved an extensive amount of Public Input through several methods or ways of gathering data throughout the county. The Visitors Bureau staff identified through Chambers, Towns, top ten employers, schools, parks and recreation departments, and many others ways to email out online surveys and in smaller amounts hard copy surveys. Input from county residents concerning the future development of parks and recreation was a key factor for our county leaders as we continue to grow at a rapid pace in Johnston. Just over 2,500 responses were received for the study.

Finally data was analyzed and recommendations were developed based on the evaluation matrix, field observations, public input results, demographics and cultural trends and national standards such as involvement of the County data in the National Recreation and Park Association PROGRAGIS program. Workshops were held with the Steering Committee to review recommendations before final reports are completed.

A public presentation was held on March 18, 2015 at the Paul A. Johnston Auditorium in Smithfield, so that the public could understand the process and hear the recommendations for the county's recreation needs in the future.

#### **Online and Printed Reports**

All participating organizations will receive a hard-copy printed version of the Master Plan and the Visitors Bureau will have the project notebook for history purposes on site at the office. As the county and all its individual municipalities grow and continue to offer recreational opportunities to residents and visitors alike, we all will have working guidelines on which to rely for vision, strategy, grant writing; which will ultimately lead us to improving existing facilities, building new facilities, completing the Mountains to the Sea trail...and more.

The goal of having this county-wide Parks & Recreation Master Plan is to provide direction for our leaders as the county continues to grow and the need for recreation facilities grows as well. Recreation is a key component of quality of life for new residents and something that visitors seek out as well. The JCVB staff and members of the Sports Council are excited to see where this study leads us in the next 5 to 10 years.

[Download the Master Plan](#)

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## ***4th Annual Grinch Stink, Stank, Stunk 5k Toy Run & Jingle Bell Jog***

**Saturday, December 5, 2015**

**Time: 10:00 am 5K Run**

**10:05 am 1 Mile Jingle Bell Jog/Walk (Strollers Welcome)**

**Smithfield Community Park-Rotary Shelter**

Please bring a new, unwrapped toy as your registration fee.  
Toys will benefit Harbor and the Johnston County DSS Angel Tree Project

Get into the Spirit of Christmas and bring your favorite characters of WHOVILLE to life... Bring out the Who in You!

Prizes will be awarded for:

- Best Kid Costume
- Best Adult Costume
- Best Dog Costume



- Best Who Duo or Family
- 1st, 2nd & 3rd place in 5k Run (Male & Female)

Pre-register by 12/01/15 to order t-shirt. Registrations located at Smithfield P&R; [SRACOnline.com](http://SRACOnline.com); or Town of Smithfield [www.smithfield-nc.com](http://www.smithfield-nc.com). Call 919-934-2148 for questions.

## *Parks & Recreation / SRAC*



### **POUR IT & PAINT**

Sign up now for Saturday, November 21st, to paint a Christmas Ornament wooden cutout to hang on your door and bring in the season! We provide the cutout and the paint - you bring the fun!! Bring a friend to make one too, before the rush of the season begins!! Preregistration is required by November 17th! The Class will be from 10am-12 Noon, and the cost is \$40 per person.

### **CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING**

Join us as we light the Town's Christmas Tree and officially bring in the Christmas Season on Thursday, December 3rd, 7:00 p.m. The tree is located at the corner of Third & Market Streets, in front of the Library. Join enjoy hot chocolate, entertainment and a special visitor from the North Pole!!!

### **SWIM WITH SANTA**

Bring your bathing suit and towel and join Santa for a little swim before he gets too busy with the Christmas Rush, on Friday, December 4th, from 6-8pm. Swim a little, and enjoy cookies and milk - Santa's favorites!!! SRAC members are free, and non-members are as follows:

Adults: \$3.00 / Smithfield Residents  
           \$5.50 / Non-Smithfield Residents  
 Children (3-17): \$2.00 / Smithfield Residents  
                       \$4.00 / Non-Smithfield Residents  
 (Children under the age of 5 REQUIRE an adult in the pool with them.)

### **GRINCH STINK, STANK STUNK 5K AND JINGLE BELL JOG**

Don't be a GRINCH ... Join us Saturday, December 5th, as we partner with Smithfield Police Department, Smithfield Kiwanis Club, WTSB Radio, Bullock Brothers and Friends of the Park in a race that collects toys to benefit Harbor House and the Johnston County DSS Angel Tree Project!!! The registration fee for this race is an unwrapped toy!!! That's it! There will also be prizes awarded for some of your favorite "Who from Whoville" characters, so dress up, have fun, and enter the costume contest! Even your dog can get in the act ... maybe he can look a little like Max!! We promise, you can't leave this event without your heart growing several sizes! Register early at SRAC, or race day registrations begin at 8:30 a.m. Actual 5k begins at 10:00 a.m., with Jingle Bell Jog beginning at 10:05 a.m. (The Grinch should arrive around 9:30 a.m.) Registration forms are available at SRAC, or can be downloaded from the Town's website at [www.Smithfield-nc.com](http://www.Smithfield-nc.com). For those who pre-register, your race packets can be picked up Friday, 12/4/15, from 3-7pm at SRAC. If you would like to order a LS T-Shirt, you must register by 12/1/15 - and pay \$15. No extra t-shirts will be available.

### **SMITHFIELD CHRISTMAS PARADE**

Christmas really arrives when the Christmas Parade rolls into town!!! Join us on Thursday night, December 10th, 7:00pm for the Smithfield Christmas Parade! If you are interested in participating in the Parade, applications can be picked up at SRAC in the lobby or you can download one from the Town's website at [www.Smithfield-nc.com](http://www.Smithfield-nc.com). Deadline for entries is Friday, November 27th.

For questions or more information contact Tiffany Pearson at 919-934-2148 ext. 107.

### **LEGO WINTER WONDERLAND WORKSHOP**

If you love working with LEGOS, you'll love this! Join us for our LEGO Winter Wonderland Camp at SRAC on December 30th & 31st. Dive into our massive collection of LEGOS, and build to your heart's desire! The experience is joyful, and the impact long-lasting!

Winter Wonderland Using LEGO

5-7 Year Olds	8-12 Year Olds
9:00am - 12:00 Noon	1:00pm - 4:00pm
Cost \$55	Cost \$55

For Registration Details and Workshop Descriptions, please go to <http://bit.ly/LEGO-Winter-Break-Camp>

### **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.

### **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'll! 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.

### **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@ncrrbiz.com](mailto:lcrumpler-parks@ncrrbiz.com) or 919-934-1408. 3 Lessons/Smithfield Residents - \$45; NR - \$66. 5 Lessons/Smithfield Residents - \$85; NR - \$110.

### **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.

### **RAC KIDS NIGHTS**

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. . The remaining Kids Night for 2015 is 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.

### **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 instruction 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.

### **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](http://www.sraconline.com). If you are NOT a member of SRAC, but wish to attend a fitness class, you may purchase a day pass.

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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*

November 10, 2015



Regular Meeting summary:

1. Presented a Proclamation in Memory of Town of Smithfield Firefighter Christopher "Chris" Daniels to his family
2. 2015 Public Power Awards of Excellence were presented to staff.
3. Appearance Commission Annual Report was presented to the Council
4. Marquel Gathers of Good Karma Services explained a Youth Mentoring and Community Outreach Program
5. Mayor Lampe administered Oath of Office to new Police Officer James David Barbour II
6. Denied Zoning Text Amendment Request by Ross W. Lampe (ZA-15-03)
7. Approved proposed rate reduction of the Electric Rates per the Cost of Service and Rate Study by Utility Financial Solutions, LLC.
8. Approved the Consent Agenda.
9. Approved beginning the NCDOT's process of allowing the Town to prohibit truck traffic on South Third Street
10. Authorized the Police Department to hire a reserve/part-time Police Officer
11. Instructed the Town Attorney to assure that the old Water Treatment Plant was not a part of the Historic Registry. If not on the Historic registry, staff was instructed to proceed with demolition of the building.
12. Approved Library's request for additional funds to repair an HVAC compressor

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, December 1st.** Come join us and get involved! [View Minutes of Past Meetings Here](#)

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## *Employment Opportunities*

with the Town of Smithfield

- **Police Officer I**
- **Public Utilities Director**
- **Sanitation Equipment Operator**
- **Town Manager**
- **Water/Sewer Superintendent**

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.

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## *Online Bill Pay Now Available*

Smithfield utility customers may now pay their bill online via the Town's website ([www.smithfield-nc.com](http://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