



Talk of the Town

November 21, 2016

52nd Edition

Town Tidbit:

Did you know? The Smithfield Fire Department was established in 1906 and its first fire apparatus was a horse drawn hand pumper purchased new from the Howe Engine Company. It took 20 men to operate the pump and additional firemen to handle the hose and suppress the fire.



The Town of Smithfield will be closed on November 24th and 25th to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday!
Happy Thanksgiving from our family to yours!

JOHN ASHLEY RECEIVES EAGLE SCOUT

John Brinson Ashley, a member of Boy Scout Troop 77 at First Baptist Church in Smithfield,

received his Eagle Scout during a special ceremony held on October 30th.

John, the son of Emery and Kim Ashley of Smithfield, joined scouting as Tiger Cub and worked his way through the ranks, completing his Eagle just before his 18th birthday. His first years in Boy Scouts were with Troop 31 at Wilson Mills Baptist Church under the leadership of Scout Master David Wright. Upon David's retirement, John returned to his home Troop 77 at First Baptist Church where he spent the bulk of his scouting.



John graduated with high honors from Smithfield-Selma High School in June 2016. At SSS, John played on the varsity tennis team for four years earning Most Improved Award, Most Valuable Player Award; Coach's Award; Sportsmanship Award; as well as Athletic and Academic All Conference Awards. John also participated in the Marching Band, Concert Band, and Jazz Band for four years. As Senior he won Most Outstanding Jazz Band Member, and played 1st chair trumpet in all three bands. John was a member of the 2013 Marching Band that won the National Championship in MetLife Stadium at the Meadowlands in New Jersey.

John's Eagle Project was building and installing a message/bulletin board between the tennis courts and the soccer field at SSS as well as cleaning up the landscaping around the tennis courts.

In addition to his fellow scouts, John is indebted to Mike Scott, Ted Credle, and Rodney Johnson with the Town of Smithfield for their guidance and expertise in locating the board; and Steve Burgess, Evans Horne, and Joseph Wheeler for their expertise and guidance in the construction of the board.

John's hobbies include playing the trumpet, piano, guitar, tennis, and basketball. John attends Campbell University with the intention of majoring in Trust and Wealth Management.

John is grateful for the many influences and relationships along his journey including his parents and grandparents, his siblings; Lee Colbert, Tommy Cook, and the leaders of First Baptist Church; his Scout leaders; his teachers and coaches.

Courtesy of www.jocoreport.com

REGISTER OF DEEDS KICKS OFF "THANK-A-VET" PROGRAM

The Johnston County Register of Deeds Office officially launched their "Thank-A-Vet" program on November 1st.

Since Register of Deeds Craig Olive announced the program back in August, the Register of Deeds Office has recorded 161 Military Discharges. In contrast, the office only recorded 55 discharges between January 1, 2014 and July 31, 2016.

"I am very pleased with the program that we have implemented for our Veterans," Olive told WTSB News. "We are helping our Veterans by recording their military discharges. Recording the document protects them from identity theft, and at the same time, provides them a program to get discounts from area businesses".



(Left to right) 93 year-old Alexander Obrizok receives his Thank-A-Vet card from Register of Deeds Craig Olive. Obrizok is the oldest veteran to date to receive the card.

Often veterans would carry around their military discharges to show area businesses to order to get discounts. There was a chance of the military discharges getting stolen, lost or soiled from being carried around in their back pockets. Social Security numbers and other vital information are on the military discharges. Now, veterans will have a Johnston County Register of Deeds "Thank-A-Vet" photo ID card to provide, courtesy of Olive's office. The program currently have about 60 participating businesses and the number is still growing.



(Center) Gerald I. Young of Benson is the first veteran to receive a Thank-A-Vet card. He is pictured with Veterans Service Director Robert Boyette (left) and Register of Deeds Craig Olive (right).

Olive said the first Thank-A-Vet customer on November 1st was Gerald I. Young from the Benson area. And the oldest veteran to obtain an ID card to date has been 93 year-old Alexander Obrizok.

Olive said he is humbled to be able to provide the service to county veterans. One veteran told Register of Deeds employees that when he came home from serving our country overseas, he was spit upon and now he is being rewarded for his service.

The Register of Deeds office is open Monday - Friday from 8:00AM to 5:00PM inside the Johnston County Courthouse in Downtown Smithfield. Veterans must record their original DD214 or a certified copy of it to enroll in the program.

Courtesy of www.jocoreport.com

Quote Of The Week:

Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Willing is not enough; we must do.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Safety Tips:

Top Ten Red Cross Cold Weather Safety Tips

As temperatures drop this winter, the American Red Cross offers ten steps people can take to stay safe during the cold weather.

1. Layer up! Wear layers of lightweight clothing to stay warm. Gloves and a hat will help prevent losing your body heat.
2. Don't forget your furry friends. Bring pets indoors. If they can't come inside, make sure they have enough shelter to keep them warm and that they can get to unfrozen water.
3. Remember the three feet rule. If you are using a space heater, place it on a level, hard surface and keep anything flammable at least three feet away - things such as paper, clothing, bedding, curtains or rugs.
4. Requires supervision - Turn off space heaters and make sure fireplace embers are out before leaving the room or going to bed.
5. Don't catch fire! If you are using a fireplace, use a glass or metal fire screen large enough to catch sparks and rolling logs.
6. Protect your pipes. Run water, even at a trickle, to help prevent your pipes from freezing. Open the kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to allow warmer air to circulate around the plumbing. Be sure to move any harmful cleaners and household chemicals out of the reach of children. Keep the garage doors closed if there are water lines in the garage.
7. Better safe than sorry. Keep the thermostat at the same temperature day and night. Your heating bill may be a little higher, but you could avoid a more costly repair job if your pipes freeze and burst.
8. The kitchen is for cooking. Never use a stove or oven to heat your home.
9. Use generators outside. Never operate a generator inside the home, including in the basement or garage.
10. Knowledge is power. Don't hook a generator up to the home's wiring. The safest thing to do is to connect the equipment you want to power directly to the outlets on the generator.



Courtesy of www.redcross.org

Local Business Spotlight: Willowrun Veterinary Hospital



Willowrun Veterinary Hospital was established in 1946 by Dr. Ed Boyette. The original structure was a 940 square foot building located at 710 South Brightleaf Boulevard. Dr. Boyette managed the practice until it was purchased by Dr. Charles "Bug" Swearingen, a graduate of Auburn University's veterinary college. Dr. Swearingen owned and operated Willowrun Veterinary Hospital until his retirement in 1985.

Although he never had a business partner, Dr. Swearingen served as a mentor to many future veterinarians. One of his interns, Dr. Tom Vaughan, went on to become the dean of the veterinary school at Auburn. Another intern, Dr. John Booker, practiced nearby and served several terms on the Johnston County Board of Commissioners. Dr. Morgan Reed worked with Dr. Swearingen for several years before he opened his practice in West Smithfield.

In the early days, Willowrun Veterinary Hospital was a rural large animal practice and much of the veterinary work was done on farms and at area livestock markets. Dr. Swearingen, however, had a strong interest in working with companion animals and in 1952 he was one of the first practitioners in the state of North Carolina to achieve accreditation by the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA). Apex Veterinary Hospital bought Willowrun Veterinary Hospital when Dr. Swearingen retired and brought in Dr. Kurt Zimmerman, a graduate of Purdue University to run the practice. He was joined a year later by Dr.

Willie Smith, a graduate of North Carolina State University's new veterinary school. In 1991, Drs Zimmerman and Smith acquired full ownership from Apex. That same year, they were joined by Dr. Eileen Langdon, who had attended Auburn University - under the leadership of Dr. Tom Vaughan!

After several years of private practice, Dr. Zimmerman was chosen to join the faculty at Virginia-Maryland Regional Veterinary College where he currently serves as a professor of pathology. The dream he shared with Dr. Smith and Dr. Langdon of expanding the original building into a modern facility became a reality in 2003 when Willowrun Veterinary Hospital moved into its current home. The new building has provided an excellent opportunity for Willowrun Veterinary Hospital to focus on providing a complete range of small animal medicine and surgery services, while maintaining a nod to the practice's history by continuing to offer care to large animal patients on a haul-in basis.

In recent times, Willowrun Veterinary Hospital has been blessed with many talented associate veterinarians who studied at North Carolina State University's College of Veterinary Medicine, which graduated its first class in 1985. Many of them have gone on to have their own practices. Dr. Smith and Dr. Langdon currently share veterinary duties with Dr. Rebecca Curry, a member of the NCSU's Class of 2012.

In March 2002, Willowrun Veterinary Hospital received recognition for fifty consecutive years of membership in AAHA at the national convention in Boston. The doctors and staff continue to honor the tradition established by Dr. Swearingen by undergoing a vigorous accreditation process covering more than 900 standards of care every 3 years. Of more than 3,500 accredited practices, less than 50 have been members for as long as Willowrun Veterinary Hospital. This practice has a long and wonderful history of service to Johnston County, and continues to evolve to meet the needs of the people and pets of this community!

Visit: www.willowrunvet.com or call: 919-934-1504 for more info.

Heating safety tips

Heating equipment is a leading cause of home fire deaths. Half of home heating equipment fires are reported during the months of December, January, and February. Some simple steps can prevent most heating-related fires from happening.



- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
- Have a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer's instructions.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month.

courtesy of <http://www.nfpa.org/>

Parks & Recreation / SRAC



Smithfield Tadpoles

Moms and dads bring your little tadpoles and swim in the splash park! Additional pool play activities may occasionally be provided. Play groups are welcome!

Dates: Wednesdays, September 7th - April 26th, 2017

Time: 10am-Noon

Fee: Adults - \$3/Smithfield Resident

\$5.50/Non-Smithfield Resident

Children (3+) - \$2/Smithfield Resident

\$4/Non-Smithfield Resident

Each additional child \$3 each.

Smithfield SRAC Kids Night

Date: December 3, 2016; 5:30-8:30pm

Ages: 5-10yrs

Fee: \$8-Smithfield Resident (pre-registration)
\$ 13.50-Non-Smithfield resident (pre-registration)
\$5/each add. child during pre-registration
\$ 10-Smithfield Resident (register day/night of)
\$ 16.50-Non-Smithfield Resident (register day/night of)

Smithfield Doodlebugs Art Class

Dates: Every Friday, Beginning September 2nd

Time: 9:30-10:15 AM

Ages: 18 mos-3yrs

Fee: \$5/class or \$ 19.00/4 classes-Smithfield Resident

\$8/class or \$30.00/4 classes-Smithfield Non Resident

Pre-registration required by Wednesday.

Smithfield - Marlins of Raleigh Development Fall Swim League

Tuesday/ Thursday/ Saturday

November 8 -29

No class November 24 or November 26

10 & under 6:30pm - 7:15 pm

11 & up 7:15 pm - 8:00pm

Sign up at www.marlinsofraleigh.com

Smithfield SRAC Swim Lessons

Are you ready to get in and SWIM? Our individual swim lessons will begin to build a foundation of swimming lessons. We have instructors for all ages to teach the life learning skill of swimming.

Individual swim lessons allow clients to have one-on-one training in the pool with a qualified instructor at their own pace.

Private swim lessons are offered year around. We offer 3 lessons and 5 lessons packages. Each lesson is 30 minutes in length.

We follow American Red Cross guidelines. Instructors are flexible with meeting dates and times, and we encourage lessons more than once a week for optimal learning. All ages and skill levels welcome. Please visit our website http://www.smithfield-nc.com/page/srac_pool to download the registration form. For more information contact Laura Crumpler at 919-934-1408 or laura.crumpler@smithfield-nc.com

ADULT EVENTS

SMITHFIELD - STERLING SILVER SENIORS CLUB

All 55 and older adults are welcome.

Meet 2nd Wednesday of each month, 10:30 AM

Fee: \$12/year dues (plus money for trips that you wish to take)

We are a club that takes trips together, fellowships together, and has fun doing different activities and crafts throughout the year. If interested in joining or if you have questions contact Tiffany Pearson at 919-934-2148.

HOLIDAY & SPECIAL EVENTS:

Smithfield Christmas Tree Lighting

Mark your calendars, and let's bring in the Holiday Season with the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting, on Thursday night, December 1st, 7pm, at the corner of Third & Market Street. Join us for hot chocolate, entertainment, and a special guest from the North Pole!

Smithfield 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 2nd, between 5-8pm. Swim a little, and enjoy cookies and milk - Santa's favorites!!!

(Santa should be available to visit between 5:30-7pm.) SRAC members are free. Non-SRAC Member Adults: \$3/Smithfield Resident; \$5.50/Non-Smithfield Resident. Non-SRAC Member Children (Ages 3-17): \$2/Smithfield Resident; \$4/Non-Smithfield Resident.

Smithfield 5th Annual Grinch Stink, Stank, Stunk 5k & Jingle Bell Jog

No one wants to be a "bad banana with a greasy black peel!!!" Join us Saturday, December 3rd for our 5th Annual Grinch Stink, Stank, Stunk Run and give until your heart is 3 sizes too big! All participants are asked to bring a new, unwrapped toy or gift card. All toys will benefit Harbor and the Johnston County DSS Angel Tree Project. There will also be prizes awarded for some of your favorite "Whoville" characters ... so dress up and have fun! Registration forms will be available at SRAC beginning in September or at www.smithfield-nc.com. If you would like to order a Grinch t-shirt, the cost is \$15 and must be registered and paid by 11/18/16. (No extra shirts will be available.) Race packets will be available for pickup on Friday afternoon, 12/2/16, between 3-7 pm. Run begins at 10 am with Jog/Walk beginning at 10:05 am.

Smithfield Christmas Parade

Go ahead and mark your calendars - Thursday night, December 8th, 7pm and plan to attend Smithfield's Christmas Parade!! If you want to be in the Parade, applications can be found at SRAC or at www.smithfield-nc.com under Holiday events.

Smithfield Winter Wonderland with LEGO

It's not too early to be thinking about your child's Christmas break and what they'll be doing... Have them join us as they apply engineering, architecture, creativity and fun to create a magical Winter Wonderland!! Build motorized contraptions like

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

November 1, 2016

Regular Meeting Summary:

1. Finance Director Greg Siler presented the FY 2015-2016 Audit to the Council.
2. Public Utilities Director Ted Credle presented information to the Council on the South Smithfield Water District
3. Mayor Moore expressed his appreciation to Town Employees and distributed service awards to all full-time Town employees
4. Approved Conditional Use Permit CUP-16-10, Victor Hugo Garcia Rizo
5. Approved the Consent Agenda
6. A bid was awarded to Superior Recreation in the amount of \$39,991.89 for the acquisition and installation of playground equipment at Gertrude B. Johnson Park.
7. Approval was given to the Fire Department to apply for an AFG (Assistance to Firefighters Grant) to replace aging Air-Packs (SCBA's) and the Air compressor.



The Town Council regularly meets the first Tuesday of each month beginning at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall Council Chambers located at 350 East Market Street - unless rescheduled. The next Regular Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 6th. Come join us and get involved! [View Minutes of Past Meetings Here](#)

Employment Opportunities with the Town of Smithfield

- **Animal Control Officer**
- **Licensed Water Plant Operator**
- **Police Officer**
- **Sanitation Equipment Operator**
- **Zoning & Minimum Housing Code Compliance Officer**

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

