



Talk of the Town

March 19, 2013
8th Edition

Town Tidbit:

Did you know? In his free time, the Town of Smithfield's Town Planner Paul Emblar enjoys restoring Volkswagen Beetles and sail boats.

Grease is a Sticky Problem

Most of us know grease as the byproduct of cooking. Grease enters the plumbing systems primarily through the kitchen drains. Grease will not only stick to household plumbing pipes but also in the sewer mains and manholes at the street. Over time, grease can build up inside these pipes causing sewer blockages. Repairs are often very expensive and unsightly.



Garbage disposals only shred food and do nothing to prevent grease from going into the system. Detergents and other additives that claim to dissolve grease may just cause the grease to move further down the line compounding the problem.

Grease Generators:

- Baking Goods
- Butter, Margarines and Cooking Oil
- Dairy Products, Food Scraps, Meat Fats and Sauces.

Grease Issues:

- Sewage overflows in your home and neighborhood.
- Expensive repairs and unpleasant clean ups
- Raw sewage overflowing into yards, streets and parks.
- Higher sewer bills

Grease Disposal:

- Never pour grease down your sink, drains, or toilets.
- Deposit all uneaten food and grease residue into the trash for proper disposal
- Don't pour grease into the garbage disposal.
- Put strainers or baskets in sinks

Please help keep our environment safe. Your cooperation in the proper disposal of grease will help your community in dealing with this **Very Sticky Problem!**

Community Clean-up

East Smithfield - Friday Customers

The Town Of Smithfield will be having a community cleanup (removal of yard debris, household items, old tires, etc.) from March 25, 2013 - March 29, 2013 for Friday's regularly scheduled/routed customers. Debris for this special cleanup will be collected throughout the week.

This clean-up is the first of four to come. Each district/resident will have an opportunity to take advantage of a community clean-up event that will be scheduled soon. The Public Works department is striving to enhance the appearance of the Town of Smithfield one community at a time.

Please use the reference list below to help us remove your items without issues.

- Yard debris, household items, construction debris, tires, etc. must be separated and stack neatly by the curbside.
- Any piles of debris not separated will not be removed.
- The town will not remove any debris left by a contractor.
- No hazardous material will be collected. These items can be taken to our convenience site at 231 Hospital Road.
- Paint must be solidified with an absorbent material such as sand or cat litter in order to be collected.

Due to the holiday schedule Friday's regular pickup day will be moved to Wednesday, March 27, 2013. Debris for this special cleanup will be collected throughout the week with the final collection being on Friday, March 29, 2013.

Please help us make Smithfield attractive one community at a time.

Contact the Public Works Office at: (919) 989-6570 with questions regarding this cleanup.

Tax Time!

Save More During Tax Season

Save More During Tax Season - The 2013 tax filing season has arrived and is drawing to an end. Whether you have already filed or are preparing to file, take the opportunity to boost your savings for the future.

- Establish an emergency fund - Deposit a portion of your tax refund into a product with your financial institution that is interest bearing and easily accessible. This cash can be used in place of credit cards or payday loans for unexpected expenses.
- Save for retirement - Increase your contributions to your NC 401(k) or NC 457 plan.
- Pay off debt - Use a portion of your tax refund to pay off a high interest credit card or other outstanding debt.

Free tax preparation services are available to households earning \$51,000 or less per year, military personnel and the elderly. Free or low cost options are also available if you income exceeds \$51,000.

Visit www.nctreasurer.com/FinancialLiteracy or call 919-508-5176 for more information.

Four Ways to Make Yourself Happier at Work

Even the best jobs can be a drag sometimes - and many of us have far from the best jobs. In a recent article, Forbes magazine offered some sage advice on how to make your work life a more pleasurable part of your real life.

- Ask your boss to make small alterations to your job description. There may be skills you aren't using to your

- fullest, and a little bit of variety can stop your job from becoming repetitive and boring.
- Try to cultivate more opportunities to work with people you get along with, both internally and externally. They're the ones who make your job less burdensome, after all.
 - Work on office friendships. Having a confidant in the office can be important for managing the day-to-day stress of your job. Don't be a loner.
 - Treat your body right: On tough days, it can be hard not to sack out after work. But if you maintain your exercise routine, eat healthy, and try to get a good night's sleep, you'll not only be a better, more productive worker, but happier and more energetic - and in a better position to negotiate the kind of changes you'd like to make in your job.

Council Meeting Highlights

March 05, 2013

Reg. Meeting(s) summary - the Town Council approved:

- To proceed with securing a lease agreement at 724 North Brightleaf Blvd. for the moving of the Smithfield Farmers' Market.
- The Strategic Plan as outlined by the Town Manager.
- To authorize the Town Attorney to file a complaint for remediation by having the house at 1108 Fuller Street demolished and the property cleaned-up and landscaped.
- To advertise RFP/RFQs for Primary and Ancillary Health Insurance Coverage for the Town Employees.

The Town Council regularly meets the first Tuesday of each month beginning at 7:30pm at the Town Hall Council Chambers located at 350 East Market Street - unless rescheduled. The next Regular Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 2nd, beginning at 7:30pm. **Two upcoming Budget Workshops will be held in the Town Hall Council Chambers on Wednesday, March 20th and Tuesday, March 26th at 6:15pm.** Come join us and get involved! [View Minutes of Past Meetings Here](#)



Congressman McIntyre

Smithfield Office Ribbon Cutting

On Tuesday, March 12, U.S. Congressman Mike McIntyre was in Smithfield to open a 7th Congressional District Office! This office will be located at Town Hall and will be open Monday-Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. The telephone number is 919-934-2116 X1103.

The opening of this office was a collaborative effort between the Congressman, Mayor Evans, and city officials. Congressman McIntyre is thrilled that Johnston County is now part of the 7th Congressional District, and he is honored to open a new congressional office to serve Smithfield, Johnston County and surrounding area citizens.

Congressman McIntyre stated, "Public service is a commitment to serving others, and this new congressional office is dedicated to that. Whether you have a problem with the IRS, Veterans Administration, Social Security, or you need a passport renewed, or you need help with economic development information, we are here to serve others, solve problems, and strengthen our communities!"



Around Town

For fun or to help others in our community

Community Senior Services of Johnston County will meet in Smithfield at the Centenary Methodist Church on Wed., March 20th at 10:30am to better inform our senior citizens of opportunities and benefits directed toward seniors in our area.

The Town of Smithfield Sanitation Department schedule for Good Friday will be as follows:

Household waste and yard debris collections for Friday, March 29, 2013 will be collected on Wednesday, March 27, 2013. 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 5:00pm 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.

Ham & Yam - Now in its 29th year, the Smithfield Ham & Yam Festival is scheduled for Friday, May 3 and Saturday, May 4, 2013. Up-and-coming country trio, The Farm Inc. will kick-off the festival with a free 8:30 p.m. concert on Friday at the Stevens Sausage Pavilion at the Neuse River Amphitheatre. Americal Idol contestant, Casey James will close the festival with a free concert at 8:30 p.m. on Saturday. Craft vendors will take to the streets on Saturday, May 4, along with entertainment on two stages and fun activities for the entire family. For [more information](#), contact the Downtown Smithfield Development Corporation at 919-934-0887.

Smithfield Easter Egg Hunt - Sunday March 24th at 3:00PM (arrive early) for ages 2-7 years - Free! Located at the Smithfield Community Park (small playground and soccer field). Bring your children or grandchildren out to collect candy filled eggs and meet the Easter bunny. We will be giving away six Easter baskets to the six children who find the prize eggs. Please be sure and bring your Easter Basket!

Smithfield Farmer's Market - Opening Day: April 12th; Time: 9AM-1PM; Days: Friday & Saturday. Kickoff Event: FREE LEMONADE, BOUCE HOUSE & RAFFLE April 13th. New location - 724 N. Brightleaf Blvd. Smithfield, NC 27577. Come enjoy fresh vegetables, fruits, plants, and flowers from local farmers. Also come enjoy locally made items from people in the community. We are looking forward to a new year with new produce and a new location. Come check us out.

Sterling Silver Seniors - Meet: second Wednesday of each month; Time: 10:30AM; Who: 55 and older; Fee: \$12 per year (plus money for trips that you wish to take); What: We are a club that takes field trips, fellowships together, and has fun doing different activities and crafts throughout the year. Our next local trip is to the Atkinson Grist Mill on March 18, 2013. On April 30th we are leaving for Wilmington. If you are interested in joining the Sterling Silver Seniors please contact Tiffany Pearson. My phone numbers is 919-934-2148 ext. 112 or email Tiffany Pearson at tpearson-parks@ncrbiz.com.

Free Foreclosure Prevention Services - The Raleigh Area Development Authority has expanded to Smithfield to provide free foreclosure prevention services to Johnston County residents in need of assistance with mortgage payments. Services are free and authorized by HUD. Eligible clients include those who have lost a job, suffered a major injury, or lost a spouse. Smithfield office hours are by appointment only. Call 919-807-8400 to schedule a consultation or visit www.rada-nc.org for more information.

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.

Community Service - Many of our citizens have fallen on tough times. Some have medical problems, are elderly or just can't financially put the pieces together. Some can't cut their grass, need minor help with construction and repairs or just need a hand hauling limbs and debris away from their home. If your church or civic organization is looking to lend a hand, our community could use a hand and would certainly appreciate it. If you or your organization is interested, please contact Brent Reck at 919-934-2116 or email at brent.reck@smithfield-nc.com.

Parks & Recreation / SRAC



Soccer Skills Camp - Smithfield Parks & Recreation will be holding a Soccer Skills Clinic on Thursday nights, beginning March 14th, and continuing until April 18th, from 6:15 to 7:30 pm. (They will NOT meet on Thursday, 4/4). The clinic is open for boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 9 (as on March 1, 2013). The Clinic will be held at Smithfield Community Park Soccer fields, and the cost is \$10 for Smithfield Residents and \$15 for Non-Residents. Registrations

submitted On or After 3/14 are \$20.00. The Clinic will focus on skills, drills, improving footwork and learning a little more about the game of soccer. [Registration forms available here](#) or at SRAC!

Swimming Stroke Clinic - SRAC is offering a swimming stroke clinic for children 5-18 years old. The sessions take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Participants must be able to swim 25 yards freestyle and backstroke. [More Info](#)

Swimming Lessons - SRAC is offering Saturday swimming lessons for children 3-12 years old. \$40 Smithfield residents / \$50 Non-Smithfield residents. [More Info](#)

Kids Nature Series - This hands-on class will focus on one specific theme for the day. Participants will hike, create, experiment, and learn about the natural world around them! 18 sessions - 18 opportunities for kids to learn about the wonderful world around them! Ages: 3-5 (with an adult); Fee: \$4.00 - Smithfield Resident / \$6.00 - Non-Smithfield Resident (Fee applies to each child participating). [More Info](#)

Doodlebugs Classes Every Friday, 9:30am-10:15am - Doodlebugs Art Class (Ages 18 months-3 years old) This 45 minute class introduces your child to all mediums of art! More Information Here! [Registration Info](#)

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](#)

BCBS will now pay for your membership at the Smithfield Recreation and Aquatics Center! [HEALTHWAYS](#) Prime program now offered at the SRAC! Healthways Prime program is an insurance based Fitness program paid through BCBS! No need to pay any out of pocket expenses for your facility membership, let BCBS pay it for you. The Healthways Prime program reimburses the SRAC for each time you visit on a monthly basis! STOP BY NOW for your tour and to get started at the SRAC! For more information, contact Dale Ham at the Smithfield Recreation and Aquatics Center at 919-934-1408.

Donate-A-Tree Project

Be a part of making Smithfield beautiful!



The Donate-A-Tree Project was introduced to the public in December of 2010 at the Annual Festival of Trees event. Previous to the launch of the project, The Appearance Commission voted to adopt the Crepe Myrtle tree as Smithfield's town tree. The Commission had a vision to have these beautiful, long blooming trees planted around the town. With the help and dedication of the Public Works Department, the Donate-A-Tree Project has enhanced the landscape of the community.

Honor someone or celebrate someone's memory with a beautiful Crepe Myrtle Tree. For a donation of \$50.00, a beautiful 8 to 12 foot tall Crepe Myrtle tree will be purchased, planted and maintained in honor or memory of someone special in your life. That person's name will be listed on a plaque erected in the Town Hall Park on Market Street. Trees will be planted during the fall of the year and will be placed in a public location determined by the Public Works Department, Appearance Division. For more information, please contact Public Works Director Lenny Branch at 919-934-2596 or download the Donate-A-Tree [brochure](#).

US 70 Bridge Replacement

Project at Half-way Point

At the end of February, crews began pouring concrete this morning on the three spans of the new bridge on U.S. 70 Business/West Market Street over the Neuse River in downtown Smithfield. Photos from this morning can be found [here](#).



Pouring the concrete is the next step in the replacement of the bridge, which has been under construction since last fall. One span of the bridge will be poured at a time starting with the span closest to downtown Smithfield, followed by the span closest to West Smithfield and finishing with the middle span. The entire

concrete pour is scheduled to be complete by mid-March, weather permitting.

Once the concrete pour is done, several items still need to take place before the new bridge is complete, such as constructing the approaches leading to each end of the bridge, paving the bridge surface and constructing railings. The new bridge is on schedule to open this spring.

The N.C. Department of Transportation awarded a \$5.3 million contract to D.H. Griffin Construction Co. of Raleigh in March 2012 for the replacement of the 89-year-old bridge. Crews closed the original bridge to traffic on Sept. 25, 2012.

The contract includes plans to replace the five-lane bridge with a new bridge that also includes five lanes, as well as a six-foot wide pedestrian walkway on the north side and a 10-foot wide multi-use path on the south side to accommodate bicycle and pedestrian traffic. For more information, as well as pictures of the bridge replacement, visit the project website.

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, call 511, visit www.ncdot.gov/travel or follow NCDOT on Twitter at www.ncdot.gov/travel/twitter. Another option is NCDOT Mobile, a phone-friendly version of the NCDOT website. To access it, type "m.ncdot.gov" into the browser of your smartphone. Then, bookmark it to save for future reference. NCDOT Mobile is compatible with the iPhone, Android and some newer Blackberry phones.

[More Info and Detour Map](#)

Employment Opportunities

with the Town of Smithfield

- **Police Officer I**
- **Finance Director**

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.

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

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