



Talk of the Town

January 15, 2016
43rd Edition

Town Tidbit:

Did you know? Smithfield, Johnston County's first town, grew up at the site of Smith's Ferry on the Neuse River. The courthouse was moved there in 1771, and the town was incorporated in 1777.

CSX Johnston County Terminal Will Add Hundreds of Local Jobs



Johnston County will be home to a major transportation hub for CSX Railroad known as an intermodal terminal. CSX officials are calling the 450 acre site, between Selma and Micro, the Carolina Connector (CCX).

CSX-Intermodal-Terminal Officials from CSX Transportation joined county leaders Thursday announcing plans for the \$272 million terminal, which will facilitate the movement of containerized cargo around the eastern U.S.

"We are excited about developing infrastructure within North Carolina that makes the state's ports more competitive, lowers transportation costs for business, and promotes reliance on freight rail, the most fuel efficient and environmentally-friendly form of land transportation," said Louis Renjel, CSX vice president, strategic infrastructure initiatives. "CSX has committed to working closely with Johnston County officials and community members to build an environmentally responsible terminal that benefits the local economy and surrounding area."

CSX-"This large-scale infrastructure project will drive long-term economic growth, position eastern North Carolina as a major transportation hub, and create both short- and long-term jobs," said Chris Johnson, director of the Johnston County Office of Economic Development. "Our office supports this exciting project and looks forward to its many benefits."

When complete, CCX will serve as a key logistics hub for the transfer of goods across trucks and trains - everything from agricultural products to consumer goods. Its impact will spur obvious economic benefits across the county and beyond, but will also have positive impacts on the environment and public safety.

Construction of the terminal will create as many as 300 short-term jobs, according to estimates by CSX. The Jacksonville, Fla.-based company is committing \$150 million towards the total cost. Company officials expect that ultimately 1,500 jobs will be generated statewide as a result of CCX. Officials hope to terminal can be operation by 2019.

CSX-FI" This is going to give a great boost to our communities along the I-95 corridor and in the eastern part of the county, and we need that boost," said Tony Braswell, Chairman of the Johnston County Board of Commissioners. In addition to CCX's direct economic impact, Braswell believes the terminal's presence will also draw large distribution centers nearby - "big-box" retailers, for example, who can receive goods from around the globe and route them to stores across the eastern U.S.

"Our ports are also going to benefit from this, given Johnston County's convenience to both Morehead City and Wilmington," said Braswell.

CCX will be comparable to CSX's Northwest Ohio Intermodal Transfer Hub, which handles about 900,000 containers annually. Opened in 2011, the facility employs approximately 300 workers.

Given Johnston County's central location within the eastern U.S., CCX may prove an even more pivotal hub, said Selma Mayor Cheryl Oliver. "When you look at our community on a map, you see that everything a facility like this needs is right here," Oliver said. I-95 cuts through the county from north to south, while U.S. Highway 70 provides an east-west connection. I-40 also moves through Johnston County, linking Wilmington to North Carolina's Piedmont Crescent. Moreover, two major railroads intersect in Selma. "This is really a good omen for all of eastern North Carolina," she said.

CSX-3As a facility that eases the transfer of cargo from road to rail, CCX will result in a net reduction of truck traffic. "The project will actually mean less congestion on our roads," said Chris Johnson. "That also means reduced greenhouse gas emissions, fewer highway injuries and fatalities, and

a cost-avoidance on highway maintenance."

Johnston County leaders expect CCX to catalyze the county's logistics and distribution industry. In recent years, Becton, Dickinson and Company and Sysco Corporation have opened large distribution centers in Four Oaks and Selma, respectively. "Today's distribution jobs are technology-driven jobs that offer a good living," said Allen Wellons, Chairman of the Johnston County Economic Development Advisory Board. "CCX will bring additional economic diversification to our county, adding employment opportunities in logistics and transportation to the bio-manufacturing, medical, retail, construction and agribusiness jobs we're also growing."

Governor Pat McCrory said, "Enhancing freight movement through eastern North Carolina and the State Ports is a key part of my 25 Year Transportation Vision. I am enthusiastic that CSX, with support from local governments and planning organizations, has proposed this project for North Carolina."

On Thursday, CSX officials began reaching out to property owners in Johnston County to secure options on land close to Interstate 95 where the proposed facility would be constructed.

CSX, based in Jacksonville, Florida provides rail, intermodal and rail-to-truck transload services across a broad array of markets, including energy, industrial, construction, agricultural, and consumer products. In North Carolina, CSX operates and maintains nearly 1,800 miles of track and employs approximately 1,120 workers. In 2014, CSX handled more than 915,000 carloads of freight on the rail network in North Carolina.

Courtesy of <http://www.jocoreport.com/>

Local Business Spotlight

Smithfield Products Used by Smithfield Firefighters

Penn Compression Moulding began business in 1970 near Pittsburgh, PA. The company quickly grew into an industry leader in custom thermoset plastic molding and today has a large production facility here in Smithfield. Smithfield firefighters use protective helmets produced by Penn (see photo).



Penn molds any type of thermoset material including polyester, phenolic, diallyl phthalate (DAP), epoxy, melamine, and urea. We also have extensive experience molding military spec components.

Penn serves a wide range of markets including electrical, electronic, transportation, power tools, lighting, appliance, material handling, communications, defense and more.

They have a full range of thermoset capability including injection, compression, and transfer molding with equipment from 12 tons to 600 tons. In addition, PENN provides additional services including drilling, tapping, riveting, assembly, testing and painting. PENN also provides full tooling support and engineering assistance.

For more information on Penn Compression Moulding, Inc., visit www.penncompression.com

Tom Suiter Extra Effort Award

Congratulations to Smithfield Selm Highschool senior, Raequan Smith. He is the recipient of WRAL's Tom Suiter Extra Effort Award which was presented Wednesday, January 6, 2016. ([See Video Here](#))



Elections Board Plans to Eliminate 6 Voting Precincts and Move 5 Others



The Johnston County Board of Elections has asked the State Board of Elections for permission to relocate 5 voting precincts in the county and consolidate 12 precinct locations into six just in time for the March 2016 elections.

Leigh Anne Price, Director of the Johnston County Board of Elections, said the county election board adopted the resolutions at their meeting on Wednesday.

Under the first request from the state, 5 voting sites would be permanently relocated starting with the March elections . This includes relocating the South Boon Hill voting site from the Brogden Fire Station to Tee's Chapel Freewill Church, moving the North Clayton 1 precinct from the Clayton Fire Station to Hocutt Baptist Church, moving the East Smithfield precinct from the Smithfield Town Hall to the Smithfield First Baptist Church Ministry Center, relocating the Southeast Cleveland precinct from the Cleveland Fire Department to the Oakland Presbyterian Church, and the South Clayton precinct from the Mount Calvary Baptist Church to Christ Community Church.

In the second request, 12 voting precincts would be consolidated into six. The reason is because of the large numbers of early voters in the precincts, which in turn results in a light turnout on Election Day.

The proposed combinations include: North Clayton 1 and 2, West Clayton 1 and 2, North Cleveland 1 and 2, North Smithfield 1 and 2, Archer Lodge and Flowers Plantation, and Southeast Cleveland and Southwest Cleveland.

State elections officials are expected to make a decision within a few weeks on the two requests.

Should the precinct combination plan be approved, Johnston County would slim down its precincts from 36 to 30.

Courtesy of <http://www.jocoreport.com/>



BASEBALL REGISTRATION

Registration for Baseball is underway until February 12th for boys ages 7-14. (Age as of 5/1/16 determines playing age.) Practices will begin late March with games beginning in April. Fee is \$35 for Town of Smithfield Residents and \$77 for Non-Residents. Forms available in lobby of SRAC.

SOFTBALL REGISTRATION

Registration for Girls Softball is underway until February 12th for girls ages 7-12. (Age as of 1/1/16 determines playing age.) Practices will begin in April. Fee is \$35 for Town of Smithfield Residents and \$77 for Non-Residents. Forms available in lobby of SRAC.

T-BALL REGISTRATION

Registration begins February 15th and runs until March 11th for boys and girls ages 5-6. (Players must be 5 years old as of 5/1/16.) Practices will begin in April. Fee is \$30 for Town of Smithfield Residents and \$66 for Non-Residents.

KINDER BASKETBALL

Registration begins February 8th and runs until March 4th for boys and girls ages 3-4. Our Kinder programs only meet 4 times, and it is basically an introduction to the sport of basketball. We will have two sessions per night - Session 1 from 6pm-6:45pm; and Session 2 from 6:50-7:35pm. Each session can take 15 kids. Actual play dates are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3/8, 3/10, 3/15 and 3/17. Fee is \$20 for Town of Smithfield Residents and \$44 for Non-Residents.

FUN & FELLOWSHIP SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Registration begins February 8th and runs until March 7th. Due to budget restraints and field availability, we can only accept the first 24 teams that register. To be registered, a team must turn in the Team Registration form and pay the fee. Due to limited space, spots can not be held. A coach's meeting will be held the last week of March and league play will begin in April. Teams should expect to play two games per week, on Mondays, Tuesdays and/or Thursdays. For more information, call 934-2148, or pick up a packet at SRAC. Registration fee per team is \$475.

VALENTINE'S DAY POTTERY

Date: February 6, 2016

Time: 10-11:30AM

Ages: 6-14yrs

Children will have fun creating handbuilt Valentine's Day pieces out of clay that they can make for themselves or give away as a Valentine's gift.

Pre-registration is required by February 1, 2016.

Fee: \$10 first child; \$8 each additional sibling

DADDY DAUGHTER DANCE

Dads and your girls (ages 3-14) ... time to register for our Daddy-Daughter Dance on February 20th. Registrations must be made by February 17th. The Dance begins at 7:30pm and goes until 10:00pm. Come enjoy the music, dancing, pictures and Appetizers! Fees are \$45 per couple / Smithfield Residents; \$55 per couple / Non-Smithfield Residents. There is an additional \$5 charge for each additional daughter. Registration forms available in lobby of SRAC, or on Town's website at www.smithfield-nc.com.

ST. PADDY'S DAY POOL PARTY

SRAC will be charging ½ off day passes from 5-8pm on Friday, March 18th in honor of St. Paddy! So bring your bathing suit and come help look for pesky little leprechauns, and enjoy green snacks!!

EASTER EGG HUNT

Easter comes early this year, so mark your calendars for Sunday, March 20th. The Easter Bunny will be at Smithfield Community Park that day, 3:00pm, near the Soccer Fields/Small Playground area. Come hunt for Easter Eggs!! Prizes will be awarded to the first, second and third place egg collectors! Everyone will receive a little something from the Easter Bunny! Bring your Easter Basket, and don't be late!!!

SRAC SUMMER CAMP

It's not too early to start thinking about where your children will go this summer and what they'll be doing... Registration for SRAC Summer Camps for kids ages 5-12 begins in May. Camp weeks are as follows: June 13-17; June 20-24; June 28-July 1; July 5-8; July 11-15; July 18-22; July 25-29; August 1-5; and August 8-12. Register for one week or all of them! Registration forms will be available in the lobby of SRAC. Children will be responsible for bringing their lunch, 2 snacks, drinks, and a bathing suit. Please inquire at front desk of SRAC. Regular camp hours are 8:30am until 4:30pm. Remember - space is limited, so sign up May 1st! Camp fees are \$100 for Smithfield Residents and \$137.50 for Non-Smithfield Residents. Early drop off and late pick up are available for an additional fee. For questions contact 919-934-1408.

SRAC LEGO CAMP

SRAC will be offering two LEGO camps this summer - July 11th-15, and August 1st-5th! Registration for Lego camps are online. Register at www.playwell.org. Morning Session is from 9am-12pm, for Ages 5-7. Afternoon Session is from 1pm-4pm, for Ages 8-12. Camp will be held at SRAC, in the Banquet Room. A snack will be provided each day. If your child has specific allergies, please note at time of registration. For questions contact Tiffany at 919-934-2148.

LIFEGUARD TRAINING CLASSES

SRAC will be offering American Red Cross Lifeguard Training again this spring. You must be at least 15 years of age in order to take the class. You must also pass a Pre-Course Swim Test in order to continue in the course. You must also attend 100% of the classes in your session, and you can't mix sessions. Registration fee is \$200 / Town of Smithfield Residents and \$225 / Non-Smithfield Residents. A non-refundable deposit of \$25 is due with your application. If you pass the Pre-Course swim test, then this will be applied to your balance for the course. Upon passing Pre-Course Swim, remainder balance for class due in full at the first class. Pre-Test Swim includes the following: 1) A 300 yard swim with rhythmic breathing and breath control. You may use the following strokes all or in combination: freestyle and breaststroke. You may NOT swim on your back. 2) You must tread water for 2 minutes using only your legs, with your hands placed under your armpits. 3) You must swim 20 yards to retrieve a brick in 9 feet of water, then swim the brick back 20 yards to the wall, using only your legs. All this must be done in a time limit under 1

minute and 40 seconds. You may NOT use goggles for #2 and #3. YOU MUST COMPLETE ALL OF THE ABOVE REQUIREMENTS IN ORDER TO CONTINUE IN THE CLASS.

Available Class Dates are:

First Session: Sunday, February 21, 2-4pm; Friday, February 26, 3-8pm; Saturday, February 27, 9am-6pm; and Sunday, February 28, 1-7pm.

Second Session: Sunday, March 13, 2-4pm; Friday, March 18, 3-8pm; Saturday, March 19, 9am-6pm; and Sunday, March 20, 1-7pm.

Third Session: Sunday, April 17, 2-4pm; Friday, April 23, 3-8pm; Saturday, April 24, 9am-6pm; and Sunday, April 25, 1-7pm.

Fourth Session: Monday, May 9, 5-7pm; Friday, May 13, 3-8pm; Saturday, May 14, 9am-6pm; and Sunday, May 15, 1-7pm.

Class sizes are limited, so sign up early.

For more information, contact Aquatics Supervisor Laura Crumpler at 919-934-1408.

SMITHFIELD 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.

SMITHFIELD 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.

SMITHFIELD 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.

SMITHFIELD 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.

SMITHFIELD 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.

SMITHFIELD SRAC 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, 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).

Dates:

Saturday, February 13, 2016

Saturday, April 9, 2016

Saturday, June 4, 2016

OPEN ART STUDIO

This art studio is ongoing. Anyone may join at any time. This is not a class where everyone paints with the instructor but is a diverse group with a variety of art projects going on at any time. Participants bring the projects on which they are working and use this time to collaborate with peers, show what they have been doing, get critiques, get help with a problem they've encountered, get inspiration, and learn about new techniques from other participants, etc. Media that can be used include any water based materials and oils if you use odorless products. The facilitator for the group is Judy Boyette, who taught art in public schools for 37 years and is president of the Johnston County Arts Council. She paints murals, charcoal portraits, does drawing and book illustrating. Come by and visit and check out the studio! We meet in the multi-purpose room!

Time: Tuesday Mornings, 9:30-11:30AM

Wednesday Evenings, 6:00-8:00PM

Fee: \$100/6 months

POTTERY: BEGINNING HANDBUILDING AND WHEEL INTRODUCTION

This class is designed for individuals interested in creating pottery using the slab method. 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. There will also be a brief introduction into using the wheel. During the 6 week class session, students may come in during open studio times to work freely on projects. An instructor will be available to answer questions. Clay can be purchased @ SRAC for \$20/25lb bag. Class max: 6 people

Dates: Monday Nights: January 11-February 22, 2016

Time: 6PM-8:30PM

Thursday Days: January 14-February 18, 2016

Time: 10AM-12:30PM

Fee: \$100-Smithfield Resident

\$137.50-Smithfield Non-Resident

SMITHFIELD 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.

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@plics.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

December 1, 2015



Regular Meeting summary:

1. The FY 2014-2015 Audit was presented to the Council
2. Approved Rezoning Request by Steven H. Gower (RZ-15-05)
3. Approved the Consent Agenda.
4. The Honorable Senior Resident Superior Court Judge, Thomas H. Lock administered the Oath of Office to newly elected Mayor M. Andy Moore
5. The Honorable Retired District Court Judge, T. Yates Dobson, Jr. administered the Oath of Office to returning Councilman Emery Ashley
6. The Honorable Senior Resident Superior Court Judge, Thomas H. Lock administered the Oath of Office to newly elected Councilman John A. Dunn
7. The Honorable Retired District Court Judge, T. Yates Dobson, Jr. administered the Oath of Office to newly elected Councilman Stephen Rabil
8. Presentations were made to outgoing Mayor John Lampe and outgoing Councilman Charles A. Williams
9. Emery Ashley was unanimously elected to serve as Mayor Pro-Tempore.
10. Council unanimously approved the 2016 Meeting Schedule

January 5, 2016

Regular Meeting summary:

1. Mrs. Mary Nell Ferguson presented to the Council her ideas on Public Schools in the Smithfield-Selma area
2. Approved Conditional Use Permit request by Triangle Marketing Associates, Inc. (CUP-15-04)
3. Approved Conditional Use Permit request by GrayCliff Enterprises, Inc. (CUP-15-05)
4. Approved the Consent Agenda.
5. Approved a Contract Agreement for grant Number 2016-018-3201-2538 - Project "Atlantic Resources - Brightleaf Blvd Building Renovation Project"
6. Approved a Fund Balance Retainage Policy for the Water and Sewer Fund
7. Delayed a decision to amend the Water and Sewer rates until the January 14th recessed meeting.
8. Appointed Councilman Roger Wood to serve as the Delegate to the Triangle J. Council of Government's Board of Delegates and Councilman Travis Scott to serve as the Alternate
9. A decision regarding participating in the State Health Plan for Town employees was tabled.
10. Councilman Lee and Councilman Wood agreed to serve on a committee to investigate the feasibility of pursuing a Parks and Recreation grant application for land acquisition.

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, February 2nd.** Come join us and get involved! [View Minutes of Past Meetings Here](#)

Employment Opportunities

with the Town of Smithfield

- **Police Officer I**
- **Licensed Water Plant Operator**
- **Utility Line Mechanic**

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.

