



## Talk of the Town

March 9, 2016  
45th Edition

### *Town Tidbit:*

**Did you know?** In 1759, John Smith began operation a ferry across the Neuse River in an area that came to be known as Smith's Ferry. The community was chartered as Smithfield eighteen years later, only ten months after the Declaration of Independence was signed.

## JCC Selected Among 150 Colleges For Aspen Prize

Johnston Community College is one of 150 two-year institutions eligible to compete for the \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence.

Two-year colleges are considered for the award based on their performance in three key areas: student outcomes, consistent improvement in outcomes over time; and equity in outcomes for students of all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds. Aspen Institute used institutional publicly available data to narrow the pool from more than 1,000 two-year colleges across the U.S. to 150 eligible institutions.

JCC is the only North Carolina community college eligible to apply for the 2017 award, which recognizes two-year institutions that have demonstrated exceptional student results.

"Johnston Community College is extremely honored to be named to this list of outstanding two-year colleges," said Dr. David Johnson, JCC president. "This recognition is a true testament to the institutional commitment by our faculty and staff each and every day to provide accessible, high-quality educational opportunities for the successful development of our students."

Applications from the 150 eligible institutions are due in March, and then 10 finalists will be announced in the fall of this year. The Aspen Institute will conduct site visit to finalist campuses, and a jury will select a winner and finalists with distinction in early 2017.

For the first time, institutions that apply for the prize are also eligible for the Siemens Technical Scholars (STS) Program, which will award scholarships to students in programs that provide outstanding preparation for high-demand jobs in energy, health care, information technology, and advanced manufacturing.

The \$1 million Aspen Prize, awarded every two years, has brought a new level of public attention to community colleges, defined new measures of excellence in outcomes for community college students, and uncovered and disseminated practices that help exceptional colleges ensure great outcomes for their students.

Santa Fe College won the prize in 2015; Santa Barbara City College and Walla Walla Community College shared the award in 2013; and Valencia College won the inaugural prize in 2011.



## Smithfield Names Full Time Fire Chief

After serving as interim fire chief for several months, John Blanton officially took over in February as the permanent fire chief of the Smithfield Fire Department.



Blanton had been serving as the interim since the retirement of former Chief Patrick Harris on July 1, 2015.

Chief Blanton's career has included approximately 30 years of progressively responsible work in fire service. In 1984, Chief Blanton began his service as a Volunteer Firefighter with the Bethany Volunteer Fire Department in Cumberland County at the youthful age of 16 years old. Since 1990, Chief Blanton has served the Town of Smithfield's Fire Department, advancing from Fire Engineer to the Fire Chief.

Chief Blanton will report directly to Interim Town Manager Jim Freeman. "The Town conducted a thorough search for our new Fire Chief," comments Mr. Freeman. "I am pleased with the selection of John. He has shown great initiative and leadership during his tenure as the Interim Fire Chief."

"I am truly blessed," Blanton said. "I am both honored and humbled to be able to serve the great citizens of the Town of Smithfield. We have a wonderful staff that is always ready to serve. Our doors are always open for visitors and comments."

Chief Blanton lives in Smithfield with Marla, his wife of nearly 25 years. He has two children; daughter Amanda Blanton Hicks, 24, and son Dillon Blanton, 23.

## Town Parking Lot Temporary Closure



The Town of Smithfield will be temporarily closing off the parking lot that is located behind Wells Fargo on Friday March 11th in order to replace large areas of curb and gutter. The parking lot will be closed off late Thursday night and will not be reopened until Saturday March 12th. Please make arrangements to accommodate your parking for this construction phase.

The Town of Smithfield appreciates your patience and cooperation during this time.

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## Smithfield Appearance Commission

Our Commission has been very busy this past year and we are looking forward to the projects ahead for 2016. Beautification of our town is so important not only for each of us but also for attracting new businesses and welcoming people to our community.

### **We need your Ideas!**

We have four vacant positions and our Commission is looking for new member. If you have a passion to help make Smithfield a Beautiful Town that prospers and grows, please consider volunteering your time. We meet just once a month every 3rd Tuesday from 5:00-6:00 pm in the conference Room of Town Hall. Feel free to sit in on a meeting to see who we are, and what we do. The wonderful staff at the Public Works Department takes care of the labor; we keep them busy with the beautification projects! If you would like to volunteer, you can obtain an application from Town Clerk Shannan Williams at [shannan.williams@smithfield-nc.com](mailto:shannan.williams@smithfield-nc.com) or by calling 919.934.2116 ext. 1108 or by visiting the website, [www.smithfield-nc.com](http://www.smithfield-nc.com).

"Donate a Tree" is one of the projects we continue to promote. To date, 129 Crepe Myrtle trees have been planted around the town. There are three plaques in the park area next to Town Hall with memorials to those people that have been honored with a tree. The cost is only \$50.00 and it is a wonderful way to show appreciation for a loved one or even a civic group. The brochures and applications for this program are available in Town Hall; on the town's Web Site; Town Buildings; local businesses: the Chamber of Commerce and local Funeral Homes.

### **Just a few things we are working on or finished:**

- Beautiful Ironwork Railings along the Neuse Theater sidewalk on Front Street.
- The Public Works Dept. started a Tree Nursery.
- Enhancements of Plantings on Bus US 70; the Cemetery; and Hastings House.
- Removal and replacement of trees and plantings at town Hall.
- Market Street has new Paper Bark Maples.
- Public Parking area across from the court house, on Market street had old trees removed and Paper Bark Maples planted.

The Appearance Commission has been in existence over 10 years and been involved in numerous projects as a volunteer organization we welcome new ideas and hope to see you at the next meeting.

Courtesy of **Smithfield Appearance Commission**

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# *SSS Student Selected as HOBY Ambassador*



Congratulations to SSS sophomore Lane Baggett who has been chosen as the SSS HOBY Ambassador.

HOBY, Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership, is a program to inspire and develop our global community of youth and volunteers to a life dedicated to leadership, service and innovation. Lane will attend a three day summer seminar designed to help high school sophomores recognize their leadership talents and apply them to become effective, ethical leaders in their home, school, workplace and community. Congratulations Lane!

# *Spartan Director Conducts All-District Band*



Nine Spartan Students Performed.

Equipped with an ensemble of high school musicians from across the southeastern part of North Carolina, Smithfield-Selma Senior High School's Band Director Brian Jones recently had the opportunity to conduct the annual All District High School Bands performance during a two-day clinic in Pembroke. Working closely with the 9-10 group, Jones was accompanied by nine SSS Band Members who were also selected after auditioning a few weeks back.

Jones was nominated by a fellow band director at last year's All District clinic. The nomination was voted on and approved by the directors of the Southern District Bandmasters Association, appointing Jones All District Band Director for the 2016 event. He shared the spotlight with David Starnes, a world renown adjudicator, clinician, and guest conductor employed at Western Carolina University's School of Music. "It was an honor to be the clinician for the 9-10 All-District Band," said Jones. "It was an awesome experience and I sincerely enjoyed getting to work with such an outstanding group of musicians," said Jones.

The annual two-day clinic is held at the University of North Carolina Pembroke's Givens Performing Arts Center. The clinic is a culmination of talents, both students and clinicians, all working together to perform a seamless concert. Representing SSS were Paige Creech (clarinet), Bryson Peacock (trumpet), Destiny McDaniel (clarinet), Faith O'Dell (Bari sax), John Ashley (trumpet), Steven Taylor (trumpet), Jason Hallam (French horn), Noah Kiser (French horn), and Prince Jackson (snare). The two SSS students in the 9-10 group were Creech and Peacock. Playing the trumpet, Peacock also was a soloist in the performance. The remaining students participated in the 11-12 group. "It was a great experience," said Jackson. "I enjoyed the clinic and performing with students outside of SSS."

Jackson, Hallam, O'Dell, and Peacock will audition for All-State Band in just a few weeks.

Courtesy of Johnston County Schools

## *Parks & Recreation / SRAC*



### **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.

#### **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; \$50 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](http://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!!!

#### **ENGINEERING WITH LEGO SPRING BREAK CAMPS**

SRAC will be offering LEGO camps during Spring Break - March 30th- April 1 st. Join us and defeat the empire by designing and refining LEGO X-Wings, R2-units, and settlements on far-flung edges of the galaxy. Use your imagination and engineering skills to create motorized and architectural projects such as energy catapults, shield generators and defense turrets. Registration for Lego camps are online. Register at [www.play-well.org](http://www.play-well.org). Morning Session (Jedi Engineering) is from 9am-12pm, for Ages 5-7 - Register at <http://register.play-well.org/registration/new/49541>. Afternoon Session (Jedi Master Engineering) is from 1pm-4pm, for Ages 8-12 - Register at <http://register.play-well.org/registration/new/49543>. 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. Cost is \$90.

#### **MOM & SON NIGHT**

Moms and Sons... sign up now for a night of fun on April 30th, from 7-9:30pm. Join us for music, games, an obstacle course, slide, bounce house, etc.! Wear your favorite team jersey and support their team! Loads of fun for everyone! Cost is \$25 per couple/Resident; and \$40 per couple/Non-Resident, with extra \$5/per additional boy. Registration deadline is April 20th - and there is a minimum of 40 pairs for this event to make!

#### **TEA FOR TWO**

This event is for Mothers and Daughters...or any of the special ladies to honor one another! Registrations due by May 2nd. Tea is scheduled for Saturday, May 7th, 10:00am. Fee is \$20 - Smithfield Resident, and \$30 - Non-Smithfield Resident. There is an additional \$5 per each additional child. We will be serving tea and lemonade, a selection of pastries and finger foods. Minimum of 10 people. For questions contact Tiffany at 919-934-2148.

#### **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 April 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](http://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.

### **ALLIGATOR STEPS**

It's not too early to help develop happy and confident swimmers... Parents and Toddlers, join us for Alligator Steps, our Parent/Tot 30 minutes of instruction and 30 minutes of splash pool play! This program is for children ages 6 mos. - 3 years, and meets every Monday @ 9:30am. Fee is \$10/per lesson. For more information contact 919-397-3158 or [www.AlligatorSteps.com](http://www.AlligatorSteps.com).

### **SENIOR COFFEE CORNER**

Senior Coffee Corner is back at SRAC for the Fall ya!!! 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 - \$71.50. 5 Lessons/Smithfield Residents - \$85; NR - \$121.

### **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.

### **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

### **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](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.

## 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

March 1, 2016



Regular Meeting summary:

1. Master Police Officer Richard Conerly was named the 2015 Smithfield Police Department's Officer of the Year
2. A Proclamation was presented to the 2015-2016 Smithfield Selma High School Boys' Varsity Basketball Team.
3. Approved a Rezoning request by Royal Property (RZ-16-01)
4. Approved a Conditional Use Permit request by Run Right Auto (CUP- 16-02)
5. Approved the application to the Local Government Commission for the financing of multiple water and sewer projects.
6. Awarded the lowest bid to BB & T for the financing of multiple water and sewer projects
7. A committee of Council members, business owners and citizens was formed to review the Town's Unified Development Ordinance
8. Approved the Consent Agenda.
9. Approved the Internet Purchase Exchange Zone in the front parking lot of the Smithfield Police Department.
10. Approved a bid award to S & C Electric Company for the purchase of 1 circuit switcher as part of the second transformer project at the Brogden Road Substation.
11. Approved the Market Street Lighting Project to be paid with Downtown Revitalization State Grant Funding
12. Tabled a request by the Fire Department to apply for the SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) Grant

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, April 5th. 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**
- **Firefighter 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](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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Contact: **Tim Kerigan** - HR Director / Public Information Officer  
350 E Market Street, Smithfield, NC 27577  
919.934.2116 x1109

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