



1st Quarter 2009

Volume 41

Town Council Members:

David M. Hare, Mayor
Kaye H. Brown, Vice Mayor
Harry G. Dashiell, Jr.
Wendy B. Dean
John L. Graham
Denise N. Tynes
T. Carter Williams

Call the Clerks office for contact information for council members.

Town Manager:

Peter M. Stephenson
(757) 365-9505
pstephenson@smithfieldva.gov

Town Clerk:

Sharon L. Thomas
(757) 365-9505
stthomas@smithfieldva.gov

Town Council meets on the first Tuesday of each month at the Smithfield

**Center located at
220 N. Church Street,
Smithfield Virginia**

Town's website:
www.smithfieldva.gov

Check out Charter cable
Channel 6 for more town news

Municipal News

Town of Smithfield, Virginia

P.O. Box 246 / 310 Institute Street

Smithfield, VA 23431

Phone (757) 365-4200

Mayor and Vice Mayor Appointed



Mr. David M. Hare has been appointed as Mayor for the Town. Dave has been on Council for the past ten years. He has served as Vice Mayor since July 2008. He will continue to serve on the Council's Finance Committee as well as the Intergovernmental Relations Committee.

Ms. Kaye H. Brown has been appointed Vice Mayor for the Town. Kaye has served on Council for the past twelve years. She will continue to serve on the Council's Police, Public Buildings & Welfare, and Fire & Rescue Committees.



Also newly appointed to the Council is **Mr. T. Carter Williams**. He was appointed to Council in the selection process this fall. Carter previously served on Town Council from 1992 to 1996. He will serve on the Council's Fire and Rescue, Public Buildings & Welfare, and Water & Sewer Committees.

Another appointment will be made at the Council's January 6th, 2009 meeting to fill Council member Wendy B. Dean's unexpired term. Wendy's last meeting will be February 3rd, 2009. She has been on the Council since 2002. Wendy's inquisitiveness and dedication to serve the citizens will be greatly missed. Other Council members include: **Mr. Harry G. Dashiell, Jr., Ms. Denise N. Tynes, and Mr. John L. Graham.**

Staff would like to welcome Carter and congratulate Mayor Hare and Vice Mayor Brown on their appointments. The public is welcome to attend any and all of the public meetings held the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Smithfield Center.

The Town Council has begun a series of goal setting sessions and work sessions to discuss some of the major issues affecting the town currently and are working on a fiscally responsible plan to help Smithfield maintain its unique historic characteristics while dealing with today's economic challenges. Hopefully, a balance can be reached so that this local government and staff can continue to provide the residents with the level of services it needs and deserves.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Tests Showed Coliform Bacteria in the Drinking Water of the Town of Smithfield

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for drinking water contaminants. In December 2008, we took nine samples to test for the presence of coliform bacteria. Four (4) of our samples tested positive for total coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than one (1) sample per month may test positive.

What should I do?

You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1 (800) 426-4791.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves. Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

Usually, coliforms are a sign that there could be a problem with the system's treatment or distribution system (pipes). Whenever we detect coliform bacteria in any sample, we do follow-up testing to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or *E. coli*, are present. **We did not find any of these bacteria in our subsequent testing.**

What happened? What was done?

The distribution system has been flushed and additional monitoring will be done until results indicate the water is free of coliform bacteria.

For more information, please contact Brian Freeman, Town of Smithfield at phone number 449-4882.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

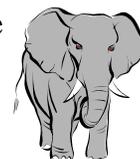
This notice is being sent to you by the Town of Smithfield Waterworks.

Public Water System ID#: 3093640

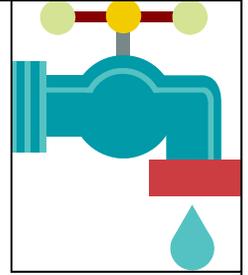
Date distributed: January 9th, 2009

FUN FACT: An elephant can drink up to 53 gallons of water in one trunk fill up. This is more than an average person drinks in a month.

(Source: Kratt's Creatures PBS TV Show)



WATER QUALITY SURVEYS AND SAMPLES



It was brought to the town's attention this past fall, that many residents received a "Voluntary Residential Water Quality Improvement Survey". **Please be aware that these surveys/sample kits are not issued by the Town of Smithfield.** These surveys are from independent contractors soliciting your business. Peddlers and solicitors entering residential property without invitation is in violation of town code 54.1. If you wish to report a peddler or solicitor, please contact the Smithfield Police Department at 357-3247.

If you receive one of these surveys and/or sample kits and question if it is from the Town of Smithfield Public Utilities Department, please contact Sonja Pruitt, Office Manager, at 365-4272 or spruitt@smithfieldva.gov or Brian Freeman, Waterworks Operator at 449-4882 or bfreeman@smithfieldva.gov. Any survey or sample requested from the town will be on an official Town of Smithfield letterhead with contact numbers listed for our Public Utility Department.

Code Compliance Corner

Issue # 3



Greetings to all Smithfield residents from your planning technician/ code compliance officer, Joseph Reish. Happy New Year to all. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Smithfield residents for doing their part in keeping the Town looking good, as it is truly a unique place with much charm and beauty. For this newsletter, I offer a few more suggestions to all the fine residents of Smithfield.

Leaf Debris- Although most leaves have already fallen, there are still some on the ground that folks may want to rake up. If you choose to rake leaves that fall on your property, please be aware that placing them in the street and/or curb and gutter is not an appropriate disposal method. Leaves that are placed on the street and in the curb and gutter wash into the storm drain system and ditches, causing drainage problems, and eventually end up in the Pagan river. The best solution to your leaf problem is to bag them in clear plastic bags; AVES will pick up to ten bags, provided the bags do not exceed seventy (70) pounds. See the guide to municipal services for more details.

Septic Tank Pump-Out Program- A very special thanks to all the residents who took time out of there busy days to complete the septic tank registration and compliance form. If you have a working septic tank on your property, and did not receive a registration and compliance form, please contact the planning department at 365-4271 to register your septic tank. Thanks again to all who returned the registration and compliance forms.

Permits- Just about any structure being built in the Town requires a zoning permit or a permit waiver. Fences and sheds of any size require a zoning permit, as do swimming pools, additions, decks, etc... Please be aware that a zoning permit is not the same as a building permit. Zoning permits can be obtained at Town Hall, 310 Institute Street, right here in Smithfield. There is a \$25.00 fee for processing the zoning permit application, but that small fee can help you avoid a major headache if something is built without a proper permit.

Feel free to contact the Smithfield Planning Department with any questions or concerns, at 365- 4271. Thanks again for keeping Smithfield beautiful. We can all work together to keep Smithfield a wonderful place to live.

Joseph Reish,
Planning Technician/ Code Compliance Officer



Suspect a Water or Sewer Line Leak? If you suspect a water line or sewer line leak during regular business hours Monday—Friday call Public Utilities Office Manager, Sonja Pruitt at 365-4272. After hours and weekends please call the non-emergency number 357-3247 and Isle of Wight County Dispatch will contact the Public Utility person on call to respond. Information they will need is address or location of suspected leak, type of leak—either water or sewer, contact name and number if you would like to be contacted following the Public Utility Department’s investigation of the leak.

GO GREEN AND RECYCLE

Recycling is a great way to begin to “Go Green”. The Smithfield Town Council is presently discussing options for more opportunities to recycle and “Go Green”. If you have any ideas you wish to be considered please email those to the Town Clerk at stomas@smithfieldva.gov or mail to: Attn: Town Clerk, P.O. Box 246, Smithfield, VA 23431 and they will be forwarded to the appropriate Council Committee for consideration. The Town of Smithfield presently contracts with the Southeastern Public Service Authority (SPSA) for a bi-weekly collection of recycling. Plastics with number 1 or 2, glass, aluminum, steel food cans, and newspapers are picked up with this curbside service. If you need a blue recycling bin delivered to you please call Sonja Pruitt at 365-4272 or email spruitt@smithfieldva.gov. You may request more than one if needed. Below you will find the 2009 curbside calendar. The shaded weeks are for this area. If you have any questions please call Ms. Pruitt at the number provided above.

2009 CURBSIDE RECYCLING CALENDAR

WEEK ONE - SMITHFIELD • SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY • BOYKINS • NEWSOMS • COURTLAND

JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

MARCH						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

APRIL						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
19	20	21	22	23	24	25

MAY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
31						

JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
28	29	30				

JULY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
26	27	28	29	30	31	

AUGUST						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

SEPTEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
20	21	22	23	24	25	26

OCTOBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
18	19	20	21	22	23	24

NOVEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
29	30					

DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
27	28	29	30	31		

TRASH CAN TO RAIN BARREL - A D.I.Y. PROJECT

You can purchase a rain barrel at many hardware stores, but if you prefer to make one at home by using a heavy duty plastic trash can. It only takes a few minutes and the cost savings are substantial.



Parts you'll need

- 1 - Heavy duty trash can
- 1 – ½” hose bib
- 1 – 6” Chimney pipe trim collar
- 2 – ½” Faucet tailpipe nuts
- 2 - #15 O-rings
- 1 – ½” Threaded nipple
- 1 – ½” Threaded PVC extender
- 4 – Small screws
- 1 - piece 7”x 7” nylon screen

Tools

- * Drill w/screw tip
- * ¾” paddle drill bit
- * Tin Snips or Jig saw

Directions

1. Drill ¾” hole approximately 3” to 4” from bottom of barrel.
2. Drill ¾” hole near top of barrel
3. Screw ½” treaded nipple into hose bib and insert into bottom hole.
4. Slide O-ring over treaded nipple from inside of barrel and screw on Faucet tailpipe nut until secure.
5. Insert ½” Treaded PVC extender into upper hole.
6. Slide O-ring onto treaded end from inside and secure with faucet tailpipe nut.
7. Cut 5” hole in trash can lid using tin snips or jigsaw.
8. Trim nylon screening to fit Chimney pipe trim collar.
9. Place screen, then trim cover over hole in lid and attach with screws.
10. It is recommended to sit rain barrel on two concrete blocks to provide for level surface.

Total construction time averages 10 to 15 min and the cost is approximately \$45 depending on size of trash can purchased.

For more information about water conservation or stormwater management, call Sonja Pruitt, Office Manager Public Works and Utilities at 365-4272 or Wayne Griffin, Town Engineer at 365-4253 or log onto www.hrwet.org or www.hrstorm.org.

Stormwater runoff is the leading source of water pollution in America!

Here's what you can do to help . . .



CHECK FOR OIL LEAKS

Even the smallest oil leak can cause big problems. Motor oil that drips on the pavement can be picked up by stormwater and can contaminate thousands of gallons of water.

NEVER POUR OIL on the ground OR in a storm drain. Recycle motor oil at service centers and auto parts stores who accept used oil.



The Isle of Wight County Museum reopened November 15th, 2008. For more information see: <http://www.smithfield-virginia.com/IsleofWightMuseumreopens.html>.

Check out SmARTS in downtown Smithfield at <http://www.smithfield-virginia.com/SmARTS.html>
Held on the Second Friday of every month.

Smithfield Music Presents Virginia Symphony Chamber Salon Series at Smithfield Little Theatre: Thursday, February 12th at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20. General admission, no reserved seating. Tickets may be purchased via credit card at (757)357-7891 or at The Christmas Store, 108 Main Street in Smithfield. Show will benefit Smithfield Music, a benefactor to Isle of Wight County music education in our schools! For tickets and information call 757-357-7891 or visit www.smithfieldmusic.org

2009 VEHICLE LICENSE DECALS

Vehicle License Decals will go on sale January 15, 2009 and are due on February 17, 2009 since Monday, February 16 falls on Presidents Day. The cost is \$20 per vehicle. If your personal property taxes are current, you will receive a vehicle license certificate in the mail that you must return with payment in order to receive your decals. The certificate must be completed and signed by the taxpayer to indicate whether the vehicle was mainly used for business or personal travel. This certification must be done if the taxpayer is to qualify for personal property tax relief. If your personal property taxes are delinquent, you will not receive a mailer and you must make payment on your personal property taxes before you may purchase a decal. If you are a new resident, you will need to bring a current registration for each vehicle to the Town Treasurer's office in order to purchase a decal. If you move into the Town after the deadline date, you will need to purchase a decal within 10 days of garaging the vehicle in the Town limits. If you have already paid a license fee in another Virginia locality, the Town will honor that payment, but you must still display a current Town decal on your vehicle. Smithfield residents who do not display a town decal will be subject to a fine if ticketed by the Smithfield Police Department.

Military Personnel whose LES shows their home of record is not Virginia are exempt from Virginia personal property taxes and vehicle license taxes. **Virginia Military Personnel** are subject to personal property taxes but may be exempt from the vehicle license tax if they provide a current LES showing their active duty status. **ALTHOUGH MILITARY PERSONNEL MAY BE EXEMPT FROM THE VEHICLE LICENSE TAX, THEY STILL MUST DISPLAY A DECAL ON THEIR VEHICLES.**

BUSINESS LICENSES DUE

Business Licenses are due each year on April 15. A 10% penalty will be added to those purchased after the due date, and interest at the rate of 10% per annum will be added as of May 1. A copy of the applicant's Schedule C is required as backup for reported gross receipts. New businesses may contact the Treasurer's office at any time during the year for purchase of a business license. The first year's license may be based on estimated gross receipts.

For more information or if you have questions please contact the Treasurer's office at 365-4200.





Town Staff member Jon Flores captured these pictures recently of one of our truly beautiful feathered friends on the Pagan River.



ADDRESS CHANGE ?

Please help us update our newsletter mailing list! If your newsletter comes to you in the wrong name or needs to be updated for any reason, please call the Town Clerks office at 365-9505 or email sthomas@smithfieldva.gov. We will update the list as needed as often as you need. If you don't call or email we don't have any way of knowing there needs to be a change.

Thank you for your patience and assistance with this task.

SMITHFIELD CENTER UPCOMING EVENTS!

Smithfield Center Bridal Show & Special Occasion Show

Sunday, March 1, 2009

This show will appeal to the fashion bug in all of us! Whether you need fashions for prom, a wedding or an evening out this show will have something for you. There will be four dress shops showcasing their items from sportswear to formal wear.

Admission includes a delicious lunch, the fashion show and a delectable dessert. Advance ticket purchase is required. Tickets go on sale Monday, February 9th. Call the Smithfield Center at 356-9939 for details.

Mother's Day Breakfast

Sunday, May 10, 2009

Looking for a place to take mom on Mother's Day...the Smithfield Center will be hosting a breakfast on **Sunday, May 10th**. There will be a buffet breakfast, live entertainment and a photographer available for family photos. And there will be door prize drawings that only **mom** can enter to win. The hours are 9 AM - 11 AM. We will be accepting pre-paid reservations April 9th through May 7th. Make your reservations by calling the Smithfield Center at 757-356-9939.

Visit the Smithfield Center staff at these upcoming bridal shows:

Sunday, January 4th, 2009

Tiffany's Bridal Show

Marriott Hotel

Newport News City Center

Sunday, February 22nd, 2009

Hampton Roads Magazine Winter Bridal Showcase

Crown Plaza Hampton Marina

700 Settlers Landing Road





Municipal News Town of Smithfield, Virginia

Smithfield Police
Department

1st Quarter
2009

Meet Our Newest Officer, Chris Meier

Smithfield Police Department would like to introduce the newest member of our team, Officer Christopher Meier. Officer Meier graduated from the Hampton Roads Criminal Justice Training Academy on October 27th, 2008. He was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico to a military family. They moved quite a bit, and he finally settled down in Hampton. He graduated from Bethel High School in 2003, and from there he joined the United States Marine Corps Reserves. During his tenure in the Marine Corps he has spent time at Parris Island Marine Corps Recruit Depot SC, Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point NC, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center-Twenty-nine Palms CA, and Djibouti Africa. He is currently serving the Marine Corps at his Reserve Unit in Virginia Beach.

Officer Meier enjoys spending time with his wife, family and friends. He also likes to go camping, fishing, and running.

The Smithfield Police Department is pleased to add Officer Meier our ranks. His respect for truth and justice will serve to enhance our service to the community.



Congratulations to Detective Sergeant James Tragesser

The competition was fierce, all the candidates were highly qualified, and it was tough choice for Chief Marshall, but in the end it was James Tragesser that was selected to fill the position of Detective Sergeant. Sgt. Tragesser was a member of the Portsmouth Police Department prior to joining the Smithfield Police Department. His years of experience and his professionalism will serve him well in his new position.



Congratulations Sarge!

Wedding Bells ring for one of Smithfield's Finest

Congratulations go out to Officer Kimberly Lynn Epps and her husband Craig Anthony Epps. They were married on November 15th, 2008, in a beautiful ceremony conducted at the Cypress Creek Golf Club. Kimberly and Craig met in 2007 when they both worked for Noland Company, a local plumbing/HVAC distributor. We wish them a long, happy life together.



Lt. Kurt Beach - A Real Hometown Hero



Lt. Beach, a 20 year veteran of the Smithfield Police Department, is currently battling Hepatitis C, a debilitating liver disease he contracted while attempting to resuscitate an infected infant. Lt. Beach is in need of a living donor. The donor must have Type A or O blood, be between the ages of 18 and 55 and in good health, and should be close to 6' tall and weigh about 220 pounds. All medical costs of the donor will be provided for. If you are interested in applying to be a living donor and to get more information, contact the Living Donor Nurse, Nurse April, at 1-800-828-9249. Let her know you are calling in reference to Kurt Beach.



PHOTO
FLASHBACK
Can you guess
which
Smithfield Police
Department em-
ployee this is?
Answer on next
page

Beware of Scams

Secret Shopper Scam: You respond to an ad looking for a mystery shopper or secret shopper. When you contact the company you are told you can earn money by purchasing items at different stores or dining at different restaurants. The company sends an employment packet that includes business evaluation forms, a training assignment, and a cashier's check, often ranging between \$2,000 and \$4,000. The training assignment is to cash the check, pose as a customer, and wire the money to an address in Canada. You are told by the company that you have only 48 hours to complete the assignment or you will lose the job. The scam is that the check is fake. The check bounces after you wire the money, leaving you liable for the fake check.

Elderly Scam in local area: There have been several reported incidents in surrounding counties where suspects have targeted elderly homeowners in order to commit larceny from their residences. When making contact with a homeowner, the suspects most often portray themselves as a town, city, or county employee. They attempt to distract and lure victims outside of their residence by telling them that they are there to cut trees, repair roofs and fences, or to conduct property or water line checks while another suspect enters the residence to commit the larceny. In most cases, the suspects are stealing jewelry and cash. In a few cases, the suspects begin work at a residence and then demand payment without the work being completed. In several incidents, suspects are described as having a cell phone/walkie talkie in their hands and talk on their cell phones to unknown parties in English and/or Spanish. Suspect descriptions of the males often vary between white, black, Asian or Latino.

Tax Scam: On the heels of the government's plan to stimulate the economy by sending out tax rebates, and our annual tax refund season, crooks are posing as officials from the Internal Revenue Service or Social Security Administration in an attempt to steal your money. They are calling and e-mailing people and asking for personal financial information so they can "directly deposit" your rebate or refund money. The promise of a fast refund sometimes causes people to reveal personal information they shouldn't be giving out. In one online variation, individuals around the country have received e-mails pretending to be from the IRS instructing them to click on a special attached form to provide personal information. But the e-mails are fake. The FBI expects scam artists will be working overtime this year. They are getting more sophisticated, he said, especially when it comes to online fraud. For the record, the IRS will never ask for bank account or similar information over the phone or Internet. Don't fall victim to tax scams. Remember that if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. If you think you're being scammed, you can report suspected tax fraud activity by sending completed Form 3949-A, Information Referral, to Internal Revenue Service, Fresno, CA 93888. You can download the form at the IRS web site www.irs.gov or call 1-800-829-3676 to order by mail.

LIVESCAN

LiveScan provides for the electronic capture and transmission of arrest and applicant data and fingerprints to the Central Criminal Records Exchange at Virginia State Police (VSP). This data both checks and updates Virginia's Criminal History and Automated Fingerprint Identification Systems in an automated manner. Identification information is returned electronically to the LiveScan agency that requested it.

Of the 220 LiveScan systems in 150 agencies in Virginia, two-thirds transmit arrest information and one-third transmit applicant requests electronically to VSP. These numbers are continuing to grow due in part to legislation regarding applicant requests as well as a marked reduction in prices of LiveScan equipment.

The Smithfield Police Department just came on line with a LiveScan system. The more than \$30,000 for hardware, software, and training were paid for through a grant from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services, so there was little cost incurred by the Town. In addition to fingerprinting criminals, LiveScan can fingerprint citizens for other purposes such as employment, background checks, and adoption.

If you have your own fingerprint card that needs completed, or want to complete an Ident-A-Kid card, we still have the "old" ink pad system available.



PHOTO FLASHBACK answer: Ms. Nita Abernathy

Crime Line

The Isle of Wight, Smithfield, Windsor Crime Line is a privately funded, volunteer administered program designed to support local law enforcement efforts. It is comprised of two representatives from each election district in Isle of Wight County. It was started in 1991 with the goal of raising funds to provide rewards of up to \$1,000 for information leading to an arrest and conviction. By empowering citizens to call and leave anonymous tips, Crime Line is helping to make our community a safer community. You can call Crime Line anonymously at these numbers:

Isle of Wight/Windsor: 357-5555

Smithfield: 357-2429

Passing on the Right

It seems every driver is in a hurry. Unfortunately some “short cuts” people use are illegal and unsafe. One example is passing a vehicle that is stopped to make a left turn. Lots of drivers will pass them on the right, driving outside the lane of traffic, and sometimes off the pavement, just to get around the turning vehicle. Virginia law in part states the driver of a vehicle may overtake and pass to the right of another vehicle only: 1. When the overtaken vehicle is making or about to make a left turn, and its driver has given the required signal; 2. On a highway with unobstructed pavement, not occupied by parked vehicles, of sufficient width for two or more lines of moving vehicles in each direction; 3. The driver of a vehicle may overtake and pass another vehicle on the right only under conditions permitting such movement in safety. Except where driving on paved shoulders is permitted by lawfully placed signs, no such movement shall be made by driving on the shoulder of the highway or off the pavement or main traveled portion of the roadway. Please keep these rules in mind, and remember - don't leave the roadway to pass another vehicle.



Inclement Weather Driving Tips

DRIVING: Winter conditions call for different driving tactics. Slower speed, slower acceleration, slower steering, and slower braking. Give yourself extra time to reach your destination safely. Here are a few tips to make your drive safer:

- Drive with your headlights on.
- Drive for conditions. Don't get overconfident with four-wheel drive. It won't help you stop any faster.
- Winter road conditions often result in longer stopping distances, allow additional room between your vehicles and others.
- Slow down when approaching intersections, off-ramps, bridges or shady spots. These all have potential to develop black ice.
- Avoid abrupt actions while steering, braking or accelerating to lessen the chances of losing control of the vehicle.
- Look farther ahead in traffic. Actions by other drivers will alert you to problems and give you extra time to react.
- Trucks take longer to stop. Don't cut in front of them.
- Avoid using cruise control or overdrive. Don't let your car make a bad decision for you.
- Stopping on snow and ice without skidding requires extra time and distance. If you have anti-lock brakes, press the pedal down firmly and hold it. If you don't have anti-lock brakes, gently pump the pedal. Either way, give yourself plenty of room to stop.

VEHICLE: Make sure your vehicle is ready for the winter driving conditions. Check your tire pressure (don't forget your spare), fluid levels, battery, lights and wiper blades.

SUPPLIES: Breaking down in winter weather presents more hazards because of the extreme cold. Here are a few suggested items to keep in your vehicle: Flashlight with fresh batteries, windshield scraper/squeegee combo, can of aerosol tire inflator, jumper cables, fire extinguisher (multipurpose for oil/gas and electrical), basic tools (such as a screwdriver, pliers, adjustable wrench, small hammer, multi-tool or pocketknife), length of cord or bungee cord, small spade or collapsible shovel (for digging out of snow), kitty litter (for traction), blanket, first-aid kit, cleanup wipes, roll of paper towels, toilet tissue or box of Kleenex, disposable rain poncho, work gloves, auto cell phone charger, coat, hat and gloves, bottled water and non-perishable snacks, chemical heat packs for hands and feet, extra windshield cleaner fluid, motor oil, and an empty gasoline container.

Checkpoint Strikeforce Campaign

It's a zero-tolerance initiative designed to both catch and arrest drunk drivers via sobriety checkpoints and other enhanced law enforcement efforts and to educate the public about the dangers and consequences of drunk driving.

The campaign is supported locally by a grant from the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles' Highway Safety Office. Males between the ages of 21 and 35 are the primary target audience. This demographic group is typically harder to reach with public awareness campaigns and statistically at the highest risk for drunk driving. The Smithfield Police Department conducted four checkpoints in September and October of 2008. A total of 722 vehicles were stopped resulting in the following arrests: 1 felony, 1 DUI, 2 underage possession of alcohol, 17 suspended drivers, 12 no operator license, 2 reckless driving, 2 uninsured motorist, 9 seatbelt violations, and 48 other offenses.



Report Road Hazards

Road hazards are present year round, they are not a seasonal occurrence. They can lead to accidents, injuries, and even death. If you spot a road hazard please help others on the road and report it by calling the Isle of Wight County Sheriff's Department Central Communications at 357-2151. They will contact the proper authority to have the hazard removed or corrected. Some examples of hazards you might encounter are: snow banks, black ice, animals on the road, animal carcass, disabled vehicles, flooded roads, fallen trees, debris in the roadway, and large potholes.



SWAT School Graduates



Congratulation to Officer Pablo Finelli and Officer Jared Vance, who graduated from the Hampton Roads Criminal Justice Training Academy Advanced Special Weapons And Tactics course in September. The curriculum included training in basic tactics, individual and team movement, and entry techniques. The school was mentally and physically demanding, but they were up to the challenge.

Saved by the Belt

All across the Commonwealth, law enforcement agencies recognize individuals from young to old, even some in their own ranks, who were involved in a traffic crash and, because they were wearing a safety belt or were in a child safety restraint, their injuries were reduced or their lives were saved.

Nita Abernathy, a Smithfield Police Department Records Administrator, was involved in a vehicle crash in May of 2008. She was wearing her seatbelt, potentially saving her life. Nita received her "Saved by the Belt" award in October of this year in recognition of her life saving decision!



American Legion honors First Responders

On September 13th, 2008, the American Legion Post 49 honored Isle of Wight First Responders in remembrance of their fallen brothers and sisters on 9-11. Those in attendance included the Smithfield Police Department, Isle of Wight Sheriff's Office, Virginia State Police, Carrollton and Smithfield Volunteer Fire Departments. Sergeant Jim Tragesser of the Smithfield Police Department, and American Legion 2nd Vice Commander, was the Master of Ceremonies.

Sgt. Tragesser marks out at American Legion Boys State

Sergeant Jim Tragesser recently served as a counselor at the Virginia American Legion Boys State, held in Lynchburg, VA. During this week long event 51 high school Juniors were immersed in a program where each participant becomes a part of the operation of his local, county and state government. They are exposed to the rights and privileges, the duties and the responsibilities of a franchised citizen. The training is objective and practical with city, county and state governments operated by the students elected to the various offices. Activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, chorus



and recreational programs. The program is among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for high school students. Boys State has been a program of The American Legion since 1935 when it organized to counter Fascist inspired Young Pioneer Camps. The program was the idea of two Illinois Legionnaires, Hayes Kennedy and Harold Card, who organized the first Boys State at the Illinois State Fairgrounds. The American Legion Auxiliary sponsors a similar program for young ladies called Girls State.

Officer Jones joins Bicycle Patrol

Congratulation to Officer Thomas Jones on his recent completion of Police Bicycle Course hosted by the Portsmouth Police Department. Officer Jones participated in the week long course riding a Cannondale Mountain Bicycle. The course covered riding in a crowd, shooting from a bicycle, take-downs, off road riding, bicycle safety, and bicycle maintenance. He rode a minimum of 15 miles per day, with a 25 mile long final ride. Congrats to Biker Jones!

Officer Miller Gets His Wings

Congratulations to Officer Bryan Miller, who earned his motorcycle wings after completing 80 hours of training at the Portsmouth Police Department Motorcycle Training Ranch. Although the certificate announces successful completion of two weeks of training, this accomplishment is actually based on Officer Miller's steadfast dedication and perseverance over approximately one year of efforts, including in-house training with his fellow motorcycle officers.



The Winged Wheel

The Winged Wheel motor wing pin and patch worn by members of the Smithfield Police Department Motor Unit is rich in tradition to motor officers throughout the United States. The winged wheel is made up of distinct components, each with its own meaning. The wheel symbolizes mobility, the wings represent speed, and the arrow stands for precision and accuracy. All three symbols combined epitomize the motor unit officer's skills: fast, agile and precise!



TOWN OF SMITHFIELD
 P.O. BOX 246
 SMITHFIELD, VA 23431

Important Dates to Remember

(All Town meetings are held at 220 North Church Street at the Smithfield Center)

1st Tuesday—Town Council Meeting—7:30 p.m.

2nd Tuesday—Planning Commission—7:30 p.m.

3rd Tuesday—Board of Zoning Appeals—6:30 p.m.

3rd Tuesday—Board of Historic and Architectural Review—7:30 p.m.

Last Monday and Tuesday of each Month—Town Council Committee Meetings beginning at 3:00, 4:00, and 5:00 p.m. will be held at the Smithfield Center. Stay tuned to Smithfield Channel 6 for any meeting changes and for important informational updates. **Also click on the town's website: www.smithfieldva.gov to see more information.**

Town Council Goal Setting Session Followup is scheduled for: Thursday, January 15th, 2009.

Holidays—Town Offices Closed

December 24th (1/2 day), December 25th, and December 26th—Christmas Holiday

January 1st, 2009, New Year's Day

January 16th, 2009, Lee/Jackson Holiday

January 19th, 2009, Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

Planning Commission

Virginia F. Smith, Vice Chair
 Thomas F. Hearn
 Norma Odom Leonard
 John L. Graham
 Bill Davidson
 Charles Bryan

Board of Historic Review

Roger L. Ealy, Chair
 Virginia Smith, Vice Chair
 Cecil Gwaltney
 Col. Elsey Harris
 Ronny Prevatte
 Nancy Fortier
 Ricks Wilson

Board of Zoning Appeals

Harold Lawrence, Chair
 Clem Batten, Vice Chair
 Arthur LaBonte
 Faye M. Seeley
 Virginia Walker