



Municipal News

Town of Smithfield, Virginia

4th Quarter 2008

Volume 40

P.O. Box 246 / 310 Institute Street

Smithfield, VA 23431

Phone (757) 365-4200

Septic Tank Pump-Out Program To Be Implemented*

*NOTE: If you are connected to the town's public sewer system and do not have a septic system on your property, this program does not apply.

By now, you may have received correspondence from the Town of Smithfield which contains a survey about potential septic systems on your property. This is due to the Town of Smithfield's implementation of a Septic Tank Pump-Out Program under mandate of the Virginia Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area Act; Isle of Wight County is under the same mandate, and their Smithfield Election District will be implemented in concert with the Town. This program aims to preserve and enhance the quality of Chesapeake Bay waters by requiring routine pump-outs of on-site septic systems (Every five years).

Septic systems that are overloaded with solids, leaking, flooded or otherwise impaired are known to contribute pollutants to the ground and surface waters that discharge into the Bay. The new Septic Tank Pump-Out Program is intended to promote routine maintenance and to extend the life of on-site septic systems, which is of benefit to the Bay, as well as the homeowner. In 2008 the estimated cost of a septic tank pump-out ranged from \$250 to \$350. Be aware, however; that the arranging of the pump-outs and all costs associated with the pump-outs are the responsibility of the property owner.

Key points of the Septic Tank Pump-Out Program are as follows:

- ✦ It applies only to those properties that contain on-site septic systems and are located within the Town of Smithfield and / or the Smithfield Election District of Isle of Wight County.
- ✦ The program implementation will begin in September 2008.

Once notified by the Town to register affected septic systems, property owners will have two years to have the septic tank pump-outs performed or to provide documentation to the Town which reflects that a pump-out has been performed within the last five years.

We anticipate that there are many questions associated with the implementation of this program. Therefore, **an educational public meeting will be held at the Smithfield Center on Wednesday, October 8 at 7:00 pm** to explain the need and purpose for the program, outline the specifics, and to answer questions from the general public. We encourage you to attend this meeting if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the program.

If you have any questions in the meantime, Joseph Reish, Planning Technician for the Town of Smithfield is available weekdays between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. to answer your questions. He can be reached at 757-365-4271.

Additional information about private, on-site septic systems and septic tank pump-outs can also be obtained from the Environmental Protection Agency's website at:

http://www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/homeowner_guide_long_customize.pdf

PLEASE READ ALL OF THE INFORMATION BELOW AS IT HIGHLIGHTS IMPORTANT TAX DEADLINES FOR 2008

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE TOWN EXTENDED TAX DEADLINES IN 2006 AND 2007 BECAUSE OF BILLING DIFFICULTIES. IN 2008 THE DUE DATES STATED IN THE TOWN CODE WILL ONCE AGAIN BE IN EFFECT. THESE DATES ARE DETAILED BELOW. IN ORDER TO AVOID PENALTIES AND INTEREST, PAYMENTS MUST BE MADE OR POSTMARKED BY THE DUE DATES. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT THE TREASURER'S OFFICE AT 365-4200.

ON-LINE BILL PAYMENT: The Town's on-line bill payment system is now operating through the Town's website, www.smithfieldva.gov. The link is listed under **Public Notice** on the home page of the website. This option may be used to view or pay real estate and personal property taxes. Please note that for real estate payments, the account number listed on your tax bill is actually the ticket number. The account number is not printed on the tax bill, so real estate will have to be selected by name, parcel number, or ticket number.

2008 REAL ESTATE TAXES: All 2008 real estate taxes are due by **CLOSE OF BUSINESS (5:00 p.m.) on December 5, 2008**. If the tax payment was mailed, the envelope must be **postmarked** no later than **December 5** to be considered current. A **minimum** \$10.00 or 10% penalty (not to exceed the assessed value of the property) will be added to any unpaid balances as of **December 6, 2008**. On **January 1, 2009** interest will accrue on delinquent balances including penalty at the rate of 10% per annum. Also, if you expected your real estate tax to be paid by your mortgage company, but the bill came to your home, you will need to contact your mortgage company to make payment arrangements. Mortgage companies must make a request in writing each year before the Town will forward the bill to them.

2008 PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES: Personal property taxes are also due on **December 5**. Payments must be **postmarked** or remitted by **CLOSE OF BUSINESS (5:00 p.m.)** on the due date. A **minimum** \$10.00 or 10% penalty (not to exceed the assessed value of the property) will be added to any unpaid balances as of **December 6, 2008**. **Please note that penalty is applied separately to each item on a tax ticket** and is calculated on the assessed tax, not the net tax after tax relief. On **January 1, 2009** interest will accrue on delinquent balances including penalty at the rate of 10% per annum. If you have not received your annual tax bill or you are new to the town, please contact the Treasurer's office. **Taxpayers are not relieved of the responsibility for payment by the due date if they do not receive their tax bills in the mail.** Town clerks are on hand to assist with this information in the event that a bill becomes lost or is undeliverable.

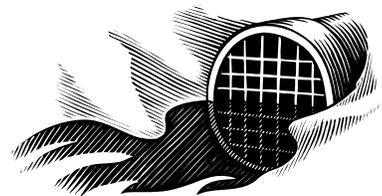
2008 PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF: The Town receives a lump sum payment of \$240,794.89 for personal property tax relief from the State. Because this payment does not change or account for growth, the Town must recalculate its car tax relief rate annually in order to collect 100% of its allowable billing. The proposed relief rate for 2008 is 52%. This calculation was based on average billings for 2006 through 2007.

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.**

PUBLIC SEWER SYSTEM CONSENT ORDER UPDATE

Last fall the Town of Smithfield and all other Hampton Roads localities entered into a Special Order by Consent with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, in a long term effort to reduce and ultimately eliminate all sanitary sewer overflows.



Work began in earnest this year on the first step—implementation of a flow monitoring program and data collection. To date these expenses have been paid out of Sewer Fund escrow accounts. However, looking ahead and projecting future consent order compliance expenses, it is likely the town will be required to implement a new sewer debt service fee similar to the water debt service fee adopted several years ago to address public water consent order compliance and associated capital improvements costs. Public sewer system consent order compliance is estimated to cost the town \$2.9 million through June of 2013. This does not include any major rehabilitation expenses that may become identified during the study period.

Code Compliance Corner

Issue #2



Greetings to all Smithfield residents from your planning technician/ code compliance officer, Joseph Reish. 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 suggestions to all the fine residents of Smithfield.

Historic District- If you reside in the beautiful historic district; please be aware that older houses and sheds often require more maintenance than most modern buildings. All historic district structures are protected under Town Ordinance, therefore allowing a building in the historic district to fall into a state of disrepair (trim falling off, badly peeling paint, etc...) is a violation of historic district ordinance. With the cold weather approaching, now is a good time to paint and perform other maintenance. Don't forget to get Board of Historic and Architectural Review approval before altering the appearance of any historic district building. Exceptions not requiring B.H.A.R. approval include any maintenance or repair that does not change the original look of the structure (painting the building the same color). If you are not sure about any work that you intend to start, please contact the planning department.

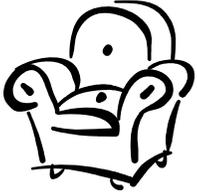
Grass Height- Although the summer may be over, lawns still need to be mowed and maintained.

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



NOTICE TO ALL TOWN RESIDENTS
TOWN OF SMITHFIELD
FALL COMMUNITY CLEANUP DAYS



Now is the perfect time to clean up your house, yard, and garage of all litter, trash and junk! Moody's/AVES will provide free pick up service for your old furniture, appliances, carpets and lawn maintenance equipment such as lawnmowers, weed-eaters, etc. (equipment must be free of oil and gas) for Town residents on the following Saturdays:

Date of Service and Area of Town



Saturday, October 18:

All areas north and west of Cypress Creek and the Pagan River (including River Oaks, Pinewood Heights, Goose Hill Creek, Jericho Estates, Cypress Creek, Riverview, Lakeside, Downtown areas, Jersey Park, West Main Street, etc.)

Saturday, October 25:

All areas on the south side of town including both sides of South Church Street and east of Cypress Creek (including Waterford Oaks, Willow Oaks, Aspen Woods, Scots Landing, Pinehurst, Grimesland, etc.)

Saturday, November 1:

All areas east and north of South Church Street and both sides of Battery Park Road (includes Rising Star, Wellington Estates, Moone Plantation, Smithfield Forest, John Rolfe Estates, Croatan Landing, Moonefield, Pagan Point, Red Point Heights, Deer Run, etc.)

Everything to be picked up must be at the street side **no later than 6:30 AM**. The trucks will not be able to drive into your yard to pick up heavy items.

*****PLEASE NOTE: Moody's/AVES WILL NOT PICK UP YARD DEBRIS OR TREE LIMBS (larger than 4" in diameter or longer than 5 feet) OR STRUCTURAL DEBRIS SUCH AS USED LUMBER, ROOFING, SIDING, ETC. Leaves or other yard trimmings must be bagged. Limbs must be tied and bundled.***

OTHER ITEMS THAT WILL NOT BE PICKED UP: TIRES, PAINTS, BATTERIES, GAS CYCLINDERS, OIL, ASBESTOS, ANIMAL CARCASSES AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS.



NOTE: If you have household hazardous waste you can dispose of it free of charge at the Isle of Wight Transfer Station, 13191 Foursquare Road, Smithfield on the fourth Saturday of each month, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. You may recycle used motor oil at this location. They also take paint, pesticides, antifreeze, fuels, hobby supplies, insecticides, herbicides, paint thinners, solvents, fertilizers, swimming pool chemicals, household batteries and cleaners.

ATTENTION ALL TEACHERS, PARENTS AND STUDENTS:

ELEMENTARY WATERSHED GUIDE AVAILABLE

Do alligators live in sewers?
What happens to animal waste when it rains?
Where in the watershed do you live?
What's your water IQ?



Find out the answers to all of these questions, and more, in the 2008 *We All Live on the Water* newspaper. The Hampton Roads regional environmental educational committees have come together and developed a 24-page Family Activity Book. To obtain your free copy, contact Sonja Pruitt, Office Manager, Department of Planning, Engineering and Public Works at 365-4272 or Wayne Griffin, Town Engineer at 365-4253 or visit us on the web at: <http://www.hrwet.org/education/WeAllLiveontheWater.shtml>

[We All Live on the Water](#) is a Newspapers in Education (NIE) publication, designed to help teachers meet SOL requirements while teaching important concepts about care of the environment to elementary students. We All Live on the Water incorporates articles, puzzles, and interactive class activities to teach concepts such as the water cycle, pollution prevention, stormwater management, and the importance of keeping sanitary sewer systems unclogged. A [Teacher's Guide](#) includes suggested resources and additional education activities. The SOLs, which are met by each article in We All Live on the Water and by the additional activities, are listed on the SOL chart at the end of this guide for easy reference.

TOWN MANAGER CONTINUES COMMUNITY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Town Manager Peter M. Stephenson, distinguished Past President of the Smithfield Kiwanis Club, has concluded his service on the local club's board of directors. However Peter will expand his involvement with Kiwanis International on a regional level—he has been elected Lt. Governor Elect designate for the Capital District's Division 21 in south Hampton Roads. He will begin training this club year and looks forward to assuming Lt. Governor responsibilities in 2009—2010.

Peter has also been elected President Elect of the Virginia Local Government Management Association (VLGMA), whose membership is open to all city/county/town managers, administrators and assistant managers within the Commonwealth.

Lastly, Peter was re-elected this year to serve a three year term on the Virginia Municipal League Insurance Programs board of directors.

Although on the above boards, Peter makes a conscious effort to find time to talk and meet with residents. Should you have an issue, concern or question you wish to discuss with him contact the office to verify his availability and schedule an appointment if desired. Office number: (757) 365-9505 or email to: pstephenson@smithfieldva.gov.



Upcoming Events as provided by:



OCTOBER

Smithfield Music's Aiken & Friends Music Fest **Saturday, October 4**

Smithfield Music presents Mike Aiken & Friends Music Fest at Joyner Field (315 Main Street) in Smithfield and on the Smithfield Times Lawn. The free concerts will be offered at both venues from 11:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. Beer, wine and food will be available. Featured acts are **Mike Aiken Band, Page Wilson, Twilight Hotel,** and **Linda McRae**, as well as several regional and local performers. Advance tickets for the 7:30 p.m. concert at the Smithfield Little Theatre that evening with **Paul Thorn** and **Mike Aiken** (acoustic) are \$30 per person, or \$35 at the door and are available at the Smithfield & Isle of Wight Visitor Center or online at www.aikenandfriendsfest.com.

For sponsorship information, call Jim Abicht at 757-357-7891 or e-mail info@aikenandfriendsfest.com

For information call (757) 301-4007 or visit www.aikenandfriendsfest.com or www.smithfieldmusic.org

Windsor Farmers' Market **Saturday, October 4 (rain or shine)**

8:00 a.m. until noon (or until sold out).

The market is located at the corner of Route 460 East and Bank Street in the Town of Windsor, at the "six point" intersection next to the Southern Food Store.

For more information please contact Marci Parrish at (757) 375-3031.

Blessing of the Animals at Historic St. Luke's Church **Sunday, October 5 at 2pm**

Come and celebrate the feast of St. Francis who loved all living things. Bring your pets to the church and the Vicar of St. Luke's will bestow a special blessing upon them. At 1:00 p.m. children's book author, Mary Batten of Smithfield, will be signing her books: "*Baby Wolf*," "*Wild Cats*," "*Hey Daddy! Animals Fathers and Their Babies*," as well as her newest book "*Please Don't Wake the Animals*."

For more information about St. Luke's visit historicstlukes.org or call 757-357-3367. For further information on the author, visit her website at: <http://www.marybatten.com>

Smithfield Music presents Virginia Symphony Chamber Salon Series at Smithfield Little Theatre

Thursday, October 9 at 7:30 p.m.

Season Tickets go on sale August 18th. - Individual Concert tickets will be sold beginning Saturday, September 13th.

Concerts: Thursday, October 9, Wednesday, November 19 and Thursday, February 12 at 7:30 p.m.

Season Tickets for all 3 concerts are \$45. Individual concert 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 757-357-7981 or visit: www.smithfieldmusic.org

Olde Town Curb Market "Pumpkin Palooza!" **Saturday, October 11 (rain or shine)**

9:00 a.m. until noon in downtown historic Smithfield. ...featuring fresh produce, live music, delicious baked goods, hand-painted garden items, wonderfully fragrant goat's milk soaps, hand-turned wooden treasures, herbs, and fresh flowers.

Visit the market's website at: <http://www.oldetownecurbmarket.com>.

For more information please contact Marci Parrish at (757) 375-3031.

7th Annual Smithfield 5K Hog Jog and Walk **Saturday, October 11**

Registration is from 7:00 - 8:45 a.m. The 5K Run & Walk begins at 9:00 a.m. The Kids Fun Run (ages 10 and under) is at 10:00 a.m. and the awards ceremony and post-race party (featuring Gwaltney hot dogs!) is at 10:30. The race begins at the Veterans Memorial on Church Street in downtown Smithfield. Prizes for the races will be awarded as well as a "Best Dressed Piggy" in both races. Door prizes will be raffled off at the party as well. The proceeds for the race will benefit the Isle of Wight Christian Outreach Program (C.O.P.).

For cost information or to register online go to www.active.com or call Kyle Weidlich at (757) 365-9352.

Town and Country Day **Saturday, October 11**

Join the fun at Smithfield and Isle of Wight's Annual Town and Country Day on October 11. This year's event will feature a car show, live music throughout the day, the Church Street Tag Sale, Souper Saturday, the Hog Jog, the Olde Town Curb Market's "Pumpkin Palooza!" and loads of family fun in the town and country.

For more information, call the Visitor Center at 757-301-4007.

SmARTS! (Smithfield Monthly Arts Stroll) **Friday, October 10 - 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

Visit Downtown Historic Smithfield on the second Friday of each month for a stroll through our shops where you will view stunning art, listen to captivating music and enjoy beverages and a light bite to eat. Participating merchants can be readily identified by the colorful SmARTS banner displayed outside their shop. SmARTS is free and open to the public! For more information, call the Visitor Center at 757-301-4007.

"Students First" Dinner and Auction to benefit the Education Foundation for Isle of Wight Public Schools

Continued on next page . . .

Upcoming Events continued from previous page . . .

Saturday, October 18 at the Smithfield Center

Last year's inaugural event raised more than \$50,000 through silent and live auctions, as well as ticket sales and sponsorships. All proceeds went directly back to the students and teachers of Isle of Wight County through instructional grants. The Foundation is in need of event sponsors and donors to help make the 2008 event even more successful! For more information call Lynn Briggs, 365-1611, lbriggs@iwcs.k12.va.us or Sallie Dunleavy, 365-0979, s.dunleavy@charter.net

Smithfield High School Homecoming Parade

Friday, October 24 - 4:00 p.m.

Join the fun and come out to see the Homecoming Parade in Downtown Smithfield. This parade is sponsored by the Smithfield High School. For more information call: 357-3108.

November

Holiday Open House Schedules

Wharf Hill Antiques Holiday Open House - Saturday, November 1

The Christmas Store Holiday Open House - Saturday, November 1 and Sunday, November 2

SmARTS! (Smithfield Monthly Arts Stroll)

Friday, November 7 - 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Visit Downtown Historic Smithfield on the second Friday of each month for a stroll through our shops where you will view stunning art, listen to captivating music and enjoy beverages and a light bite to eat. Participating merchants can be readily identified by the colorful SmARTS banner displayed outside their shop. SmARTS is free and open to the public! For more information, call the Visitor Center at 757-301-4007.

Smithfield Music presents

Virginia Symphony Chamber Salon Series at Smithfield Little Theatre

Wednesday, November 19 at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets \$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 757-357-7981 or visit: www.smithfieldmusic.org

Historic Holiday Wine and Food Tasting at [Boykin's Tavern Museum](http://www.boykinstavern.com)

Saturday, November 29 and Sunday, November 30

Visitors to Boykin's Tavern will enjoy tasting three historical wines (and hear all about their history) paired with authentic historic recipes. Following the "tasting," attendees will enjoy wine by the glass and holiday party fare. Historic interpreters, re-enactors and period music will also be featured. The wine tasting will be presented by Bon Vivant and the food will be catered by Edwin Little. Space is limited. Tickets will be available at the Visitors Center beginning November 1. For more information, call the Visitor Center at 757-301-4007..

[Olde Town Curb Market](http://www.oldetowncurbmarket.com) "Thanksgiving Market "

Saturday, November 22 (rain or shine)

9:00 a.m. until noon in downtown historic Smithfield. ...featuring fresh produce, live music, delicious baked goods, hand-painted garden items, wonderfully fragrant goat's milk soaps, hand-turned wooden treasures, herbs, and fresh flowers.

Visit the market's website at: <http://www.oldetowncurbmarket.com>.

For more information please contact Marci Parrish at (757) 375-3031.

Christmas Annual Open House at Historic St. Luke's Church

Saturday, November 29 at 10:00 a.m.

Savor the sounds of Christmas in the 17th Century Church while enjoying our Southern hospitality. On Saturday from 10:00am to 5:00pm, there will be Live music in the acoustically resonant church. Holiday tours will be conducted all day long. Children's book author, Mary Batten of Smithfield, will be signing her books: " *Baby Wolf,*" "*Wild Cats,*" "*Hey Daddy! Animals Fathers and Their Babies,*" as well as her newest book "*Please Don't Wake the Animals.*"

For more information about St. Luke's visit [historicstlukes.org](http://www.historicstlukes.org) or call 757-357-3367.

For further information on the author, visit her website at: <http://www.marybatten.com>

December

"Christmas in Smithfield" events throughout the month!

[Olde Town Curb Market](http://www.oldetowncurbmarket.com) "Mistletoe Market "

Saturday, December 6 (rain or shine)

9:00 a.m. until noon in downtown historic Smithfield. ...featuring fresh produce, live music, delicious baked goods, hand-painted garden items, wonderfully fragrant goat's milk soaps, hand-turned wooden treasures, herbs, and fresh flowers.

Visit the market's website at: <http://www.oldetowncurbmarket.com>.

For more information please contact Marci Parrish at (757) 375-3031.

SmARTS! (Smithfield Monthly Arts Stroll) Friday, December 12, - 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.



THE SMITHFIELD THIN BLUE LINE

Smithfield Police Department

4th Quarter
2008

Sgt. Lindsay answers to “Higher” Calling

The Smithfield Police Department would like to pass on our sincerest best wishes for Detective Sergeant Darin Lindsay, who has tendered his resignation after 11 years of faithful service with the Department to accept a full time position as Youth Pastor for his church, the Smithfield Assembly of God, located at 1800 South Church Street. Sgt. Lindsay’s law enforcement career began in 1992 when he joined the Isle of Wight County Sheriff’s Department Auxiliary Division, then he became a full time road Deputy. In 1997 he joined the Smithfield Police Department and worked Uniform Patrol. In 1999 he transitioned to an undercover role as a member of the Pagan River Drug Task Force. It was comprised of law enforcement agents from the Smithfield Police Department, Isle of Wight County Sheriff’s Office, Surry County Sheriff’s Office, Virginia State Police, and the FBI. In 2003 he transitioned back to the Police Department and shortly thereafter was promoted to Detective Sergeant. Sgt. Lindsay earned an Associates Degree in Criminal Justice and a Bachelors Degree in Organizational Leadership and Management, and wants to pursue a Masters in Divinity. During his career he has enjoyed working with high caliber law enforcement personnel, the tremendous support he has received from his law enforcement family, as well as the relationships he has developed with members of the community and even some offenders he has arrested. He is looking forward to his new career as a Youth Pastor, a position he has been volunteering for for the past seven years. He is looking forward to having a greater impact on young people and their lives in his new position. He will be working with youth from 13 to 18 years old, in the Christ Ambassadors Program. They have a four tract program working on relationship building, discipleship, ministry activities, and fun activities. Sunday School starts at 9:45 a.m., Sunday Service starts at 11:00 a.m., and Wednesday Service starts at 7 p.m. Pastor Lindsay hopes his friends in the community will stop by and see him.



Chief Marshall supports Operation FALCON 2008



Chief Mark Marshall, serving in his capacity as Third Vice President of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, recently participated in a press conference in Atlanta Georgia with U.S. Attorney General Michael Mukasey and U.S. Marshals Service Director John Clark, announcing the results of Operation FALCON 2008 (Federal and Local Cops Organized Nationally). Operation FALCON is a nationwide fugitive apprehension operation coordinated by the United States Marshals Service. The resources of federal, state, city and county law enforcement agencies are combined to locate and apprehend criminals wanted for crimes of violence. Operation FALCON represents a continuing series of historically successful national fugitive apprehension missions, which have resulted in the collective capture of more than 36,500 dangerous fugitive felons. FALCON 2008 returned to its roots as a nationwide fugitive apprehension initiative with a slight alteration to the original FALCON concept. The U. S. Marshals, assisted by federal, state and local law enforcement, arrested 19,380 fugitives and cleared 25,087 warrants. The fugitives arrested in the operation have a history of nearly 94,000 prior arrests.

Judge Edwards retires



The Honorable Robert B. Edwards recently retired from his position as a judge in the 5th Judicial District of Virginia after 40 years on the bench. During his tenure, he served to ensure that every person who came before him received fair treatment in accord with the ideals of American justice. He was sworn to enforce without favor the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the community which are made by the people for the protection of all. He had to apply rules of procedure and evidence to each case he heard, uniformly, without regard to personal considerations. He is a friend to all who know him and we wish him well in his retirement.



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

Citizens Concerns and Feedback

Commendations: The Police Department strives to provide outstanding service to the citizens of Smithfield and to those who pass through our Town. Most of what we do is considered “routine” or “part of the job” and we expect little recognition for our efforts. There are times when an officer or employee performs their duties in a manner so appreciated by the citizens that we would like to say “thank you” or “job well done”. Many times the citizen does not know to whom they should speak or where they should write to express their sentiments of appreciation. We have created a mechanism to provide a way you can tell us what you think. You can drop us a line: Chief Mark A. Marshall, 1613 South Church Street, Smithfield, VA 23430. You can give us a call at (757) 357-3247, ask for a supervisor and explain why you are calling, or fax us at (757) 357-6551. You can e-mail us at mmarshall@smithfieldva.gov You can visit us online www.smithfieldva.gov/police, or you can speak to any officer and ask them to pass the information along to a supervisor. It would be helpful to know the name of the officer or employee involved, but if you don’t know it just tell us about the incident and we will attempt to find out who was involved. It would also be helpful to know where and when the incident took place. Your comments are important to us so please let us know what you think. We believe in a “Community Partnership”.



Complaints: Of course, no one likes to hear that things are not going well, or that the service provided is not satisfactory. We understand that there are times when not everyone will be happy with the service provided or the outcome of our work. We feel it is necessary that the Department be made aware of those times where you feel we do not perform our duties properly or adequately. If you have a complaint regarding any aspect of our performance, we would like to hear about it. Here are the steps you can take to lodge a complaint. Come to the Police Department and advise us that you wish to register a complaint. Call us at (757) 357-3247 and advise us that you wish to register a complaint. Send a letter to the Chief of Police outlining your complaint, make sure to include the date, time, and location of the incident in question, and the name of the employee. If you do not know the employee’s name we will attempt to find out who was involved. You can e-mail us at the above address. A supervisor will assist you in completing a report to outline the incident and complaint regarding an officer or civilian employee. You will be asked for information that identifies you and information as to where you may be contacted. You will be notified, by letter, that your complaint has been received and is under investigation. In most cases, the investigation will take less than 60 days, however, should it take longer, you will be notified. When the investigation is complete you will be notified of the disposition. If you have any questions regarding this process, please contact the Police Department at (757) 357-3247 for assistance.

ReadyVirginia.gov - Be Prepared for an Emergency

Tropical Storm Hanna just rolled through. Were you prepared? Take time to visit www.readyvirginia.gov and you will find useful information that can protect your loved ones in an emergency. Three basic steps they advocate are 1: Get a Kit 2: Make a Plan 3: Stay Informed. The site is very useful and guides you step by step on how to prepare for both natural and manmade disasters. They cover a wide range of events such as chemical/HAZMAT, earthquakes, fires, floods, hurricanes, power outages, radiological and nuclear, terrorism, tornadoes, and winter weather. Take time to prepare now. You never know when disaster might strike.

Town Parks - Know the Rules

Clontz Park, the Smithfield Town Pond on Waterworks Road, Riverview Park, the playground areas in Old Jersey Park and Pinewood Heights, are all subject to the following rules: All parks close at dusk, there are to be no drugs or alcohol on the premises, no loitering, no littering, and fishing at the Town Waterworks Lake is by permit only. You can get a permit from the Town Treasurer’s Office located at 310 Institute Street for a nominal fee. Keep your license on your person while you are fishing in case you are asked by a law enforcement officer to see it. For those of you that bring your pets to the parks to enjoy, as a matter of courtesy you are encouraged to “clean up” behind your pets.



PHOTO FLASHBACK answer: Officer W. B. Miller



School Bus Safety

It's that time of year all kids look forward to, Back to School! As a reminder to folks operating a motor vehicle, a person is guilty of reckless driving who fails to stop, when approaching from any direction, any school bus which is stopped on any highway, private road or school driveway for the purpose of taking on or discharging children, the elderly, mentally or physically handicapped persons, and to remain stopped until all the persons are clear and the bus is in motion. The driver of a vehicle need not stop when approaching a school bus if the school bus is stopped on the **other roadway of a divided highway**. This shall apply to school buses equipped with warning devices and are painted yellow with the words "School Bus" in black letters.



Some kids just don't pay attention. It is up to you, the vehicle operator, to help ensure their safety by obeying the law. In order to avoid a ticket, make sure you don't pass a school bus unless it is on the **other side of a divided highway!**

Following Too Closely

TWO-SECOND RULE: Following a vehicle too closely is called "tailgating". Use the two-second rule to determine a safe following distance. Select a fixed object on the road ahead such as a sign, tree or overpass. When the vehicle ahead of you passes the object, count "one-thousand-one, one-thousand-two". You should not reach the object before you count to one-thousand-two. If you do, you are following too closely. Most rear-end collisions are caused by the vehicle in back following too closely.

The two-second rule also applies to your speed when you are on a good road and during good weather conditions. If the road and/or weather conditions are not good, increase your distance to a four- or five-second count. If you are being tailgated, move to another lane or pull off the road and allow the vehicle to pass.

Preventing Driveway Backovers - Protecting Children

Keeping your children out of harm's way requires ongoing education, supervision, and vigilance: there simply is no single fail-safe solution. However, safety experts advise employing the following strategies to help reduce the risk of a backover tragedy occurring:

- Ensure your children are properly supervised at all times, especially when motor vehicles might be present.
- Teach children not to play in, under, or around vehicles — ever.
- Always assume children could be present, carefully check the street, driveway, and area around your vehicle before backing out.
- Avoid making your driveway a "playground." If you do allow children in this area, make sure that it's only when there are no vehicles present. To further protect children who may be outside playing, separate the driveway from the roadway with a physical barrier to prevent any cars from entering.
- Never leave unattended vehicles running, and keep all vehicles not in use locked.
- When backing up, always know where all children are and have them stay in your full view and well away from your vehicle.
- Look behind you, back out **S-L-O-W-L-Y** with your windows rolled down to listen for children who may have dashed behind your vehicle suddenly — and be prepared to stop!
- If you're driving an SUV or truck, remember that the blind spot behind your vehicle can be especially large.

Finally, talk with neighborhood parents about backover incidents and ask them to teach their children not to play in or around any vehicle or driveway.

One Child's Death is One Too Many Preventing Backovers in America's Driveways

Yield Right of Way to Emergency Vehicles

If you see an emergency vehicle stopped on the shoulder of the highway, you must change lanes away from the stopped emergency vehicle. If you can't change lanes, you must slow down and pass with caution. It's not just a good idea, it's Virginia Law!"

Section 46.2-921.1 of the Code of Virginia in part states, "The driver of any motor vehicle, upon approaching a stationary emergency vehicle, that is displaying a flashing, blinking, or alternating emergency light or lights, shall (i) on a highway having at least four lanes, at least two of which are intended for traffic proceeding as the approaching vehicle, proceed with caution and, if reasonable, with due regard for safety and traffic conditions, yield the right-of-way by making a lane change into a lane not adjacent to the stationary emergency vehicle or (ii) if changing lanes would be unreasonable or unsafe, proceed with due caution and maintain a safe speed for highway conditions. To many emergency response personnel have been hit by passing vehicles driven by careless drivers. Please pay attention and "Pass with Care".



C.H.I.P. Activities

June 18 thru 22: 4H Camp in Wakefield had 14 children in attendance.

July 14 – Kiwanis Fishing trip on the JRB – 14 children in attendance with 8 volunteers.

August 14 - Bright Beginnings - P.D. sponsored 1 child with school supplies.

Jr. Master Gardener's Day Camp – 7 children in attendance with 1 volunteer.

Salvation Army Camp Happyland, Fredericksburg, VA - 5 children in attendance.

Please remember that Homework Station started in September, every Wednesday in the Jersey Park Apartments Community Room.

For more information about the C.H.I.P. program, contact Annette Crocker at 357-3247.

MADD recognizes Law Enforcement Officers

MADD honors law enforcement officers from across Virginia at eight regional Law Enforcement Awards Ceremonies. Officers are honored for their outstanding work on DUI enforcement and related prevention initiatives, education and training. The awards highlight the lifesaving work of law enforcement officers including Sobriety Checkpoints, Saturation Patrols, specialized DUI enforcement training, prevention efforts of school resource officers and DUI arrests. This year the following officer's from the Smithfield Police Department were recognized for DUI arrests: former Officer Christie Bolton, 18 arrests (recognized 4 years in a row), Officer Thomas Jones and Officer Jared Vance with seven arrest each. Congratulations to all of you on a job well done!



City of Suffolk says "Thanks"

The City of Suffolk formally recognized the Smithfield Police Department for assistance provided after several tornadoes touched down in April. They presented a plaque that reads



"Thank you for helping the City of Suffolk in our time of need, your assistance to our city embraces the true meaning of self-sacrifice."

Bright Beginnings

On August 14th, the YMCA conducted its annual Bright Beginnings campaign. The Smithfield Police Department sponsored a child to help them on their way to the new school year with various school supplies, raising approximately \$125. Several volunteers from the Department went with the child to help with the shopping spree, which was held at the Target in Chesapeake.



4-H gets Helping Hand



4-H Camp for Isle of Wight and Southampton County was held the week of June 23rd– 27th, in Waverly at the Airfield 4-H campground. They requested one officer and one deputy from Isle of Wight to attend, with Officer Jim Tragesser and Deputy Dale Pope answering the call. As adult volunteers, they assisted in curbing behavior problems, but more importantly they were on hand to work with the kids. They both fished with the kids, played volleyball, participated in some of the water Olympics, participated with them during the campfire sessions and taught leather making class. They were also responsible for the room inspections, based on how clean they were, the kids earn points for their various teams. It is a week of personal development and fun for the kids and adults. They worked with the Teen Counselors and Counselors in Training, helping them work with the kids under their charge. Their presence at the camp put the parents at ease and provided an opportunity for law enforcement officers to build a rapport with the kids and gave them a chance to give back to the community they are sworn to serve and protect.

2007 Virginia Law Enforcement Challenge Winners Announced!

The Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police has announced the 2007 Virginia Law Enforcement Challenge Award Winners. The Association is an integral part of Virginia's traffic safety initiatives, particularly through its partnership role in the Virginia Smart, Safe and Sober Program. A major part of their efforts in Virginia has been the Law Enforcement Challenge, now in its 19th year. The program promotes professionalism in traffic safety enforcement and encourages agencies to share best practices and programs with each other. The Smithfield Police Department competed in the Municipal 2: 11-25 Officers category, placing third in the state. It was a team effort and a reflection of the professionalism of the Department. Another reason for Smithfield to be proud of their hometown heroes!



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

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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 is scheduled for: Monday, November 17th, 2008.

Holidays—Town Offices Closed

October 13th, Columbus Day

November 11th, Veteran's Day

November 27 & 28th, Thanksgiving Holiday

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

January 1st, 2009, New Year's Day

Town Manager, Peter M. Stephenson

Town Clerk, Sharon L. Thomas

Town Council Members

Daniel L. Smith, Mayor

David M. Hare, Vice Mayor

Kaye H. Brown

Harry G. Dashiell, Jr.

Wendy B. Dean

John L. Graham

Denise N. Tynes

Planning Commission Members

Daniel L. Smith, Chair

Virginia F. Smith, Vice Chair

Dr. Herb Brown

Delores Cahoon

Thomas F. Hearn

Norma Odom Leonard

Lee E. Winslett, Jr.