

Smithfield

in Bloom

2012



Welcome!

Hams, History, Hospitality & HeART!

Smithfield and surrounding Isle of Wight County are as old as Virginia itself, having been first colonized in 1634. Located on the banks of the Pagan River, and lying on the opposite shore of the James River, across from Jamestown, the area was soon discovered by Captain John Smith and other early settlers. Smithfield and surrounding counties saw action during the Revolutionary War and Civil War, mainly because of their proximity to the James River.

Smithfield was incorporated in 1752 by Arthur Smith IV. "Nurtured by trade and commerce, Smithfield was, from its very beginning, a 'river town', and its whole life and growth have been conditioned by the river." (*Smithfield A Pictorial History*, Segar Cofer Dashiell). Arthur Smith IV parceled out his family farm into 72 lots and 4 streets to house British merchants and ship captains. As you walk the streets of the Town, you will find that Smithfield still has its historical charm. Smithfield's Historic District boasts over 70 buildings of exceptional architectural importance, including residences of the Colonial, Federal and Victorian periods. In 1999, Smithfield completed a decade long Main Street Beautification Project. In 2002, Smithfield celebrated its 250th Anniversary. Today, on the town's 260th Anniversary, Smithfield has completed the second phase of its beautification project! On June 29, in conjunction with the Olden Days Festival, the community will celebrate the "Grand Re-opening" of the town after several years of dust and construction efforts!

Smithfield is proud to be known as the "Ham Capital of the World." Early settlers to the area brought their own methods for food preservation and learned a few from the Indians. These processes melded into the salt and hardwood-smoked dry-cured Smithfield ham, a product that keeps indefinitely without refrigeration. A perfect food for export, Smithfield hams had standing orders from members of the English monarchy prior to the Revolutionary War. And Smithfield is home to Smithfield Foods Inc., the world's largest pork producer.

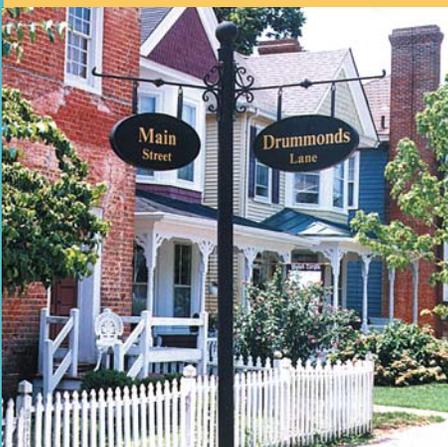
To preserve the historical charm, the Town of Smithfield and individual property owners took the steps to protect the integrity and history of their ancestors by enacting a Historic Preservation District Ordinance in 1979. This ordinance set boundaries for a local historic district and created a Board of Historic and Architectural Review (BHAR) to review proposed changes to the properties in the historic district. The Zoning Ordinance and the "Historic District Design Guidelines" provide definite standards that take some of the guesswork out of what is appropriate for the district. Smithfield is a town with a rich past and wonderful future.



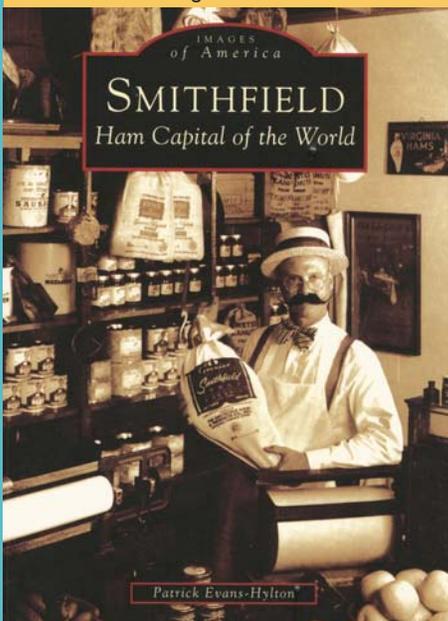
Smithfield Station Waterfront Inn, Restaurant & Marina



The Old Courthouse of 1750 on Main Street



Smithfield's Charming Main Street



Several books have been published about Smithfield



Windsor Castle Park attracts artists and photographers



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Historic Downtown Main Street



Smithfield is the "Ham Capital of the World"



Veteran's Memorial



Special events abound in downtown Smithfield

2012 Municipal Information

Population: 2010 Census Population – 8,089

City Website: SmithfieldVA.gov

City Contact Name:

Mr. Peter M. Stephenson, AICP, ICMA-CM, Town Manager

AIB Committee Chair Contact:

Mr. Russell J. Parrish, AIA and Ms. Judy Hare Winslow

Town Area in Square Miles: 10.1 square miles

Do You Have a Volunteer Coordinator?

We have many individuals involved in coordinating our numerous volunteers. We will provide more details to the judges during their tour.

Active & Passive Recreation:

Beale Park	Active	6.32	Acres
Jersey Park Tot Lot	Active	0.52	Acres
Pinewood Heights Tot Lot	Active	0.62	Acres
Riverview Park	Active	7.05	Acres
Robert S. Clontz Mem. Park	Passive	5.83	Acres
Waterworks Lake	Active	34.17	Acres
Windsor Castle Park	Passive	209.80	Acres

Total Active: +/- 48.68 Acres

Total Passive: +/- 215.63 Acres





“Jennifer’s Garden” at Christ Episcopal Church on S. Church Street

Floral Displays

Attracting attention with colorful plants

Municipal

The Town Manager has taken a personal interest in identifying opportunities to add floral displays around the town within the public right of way and on town owned property.

Town entrance signs are beautifully designed and well maintained. They are located at the Route 10 Bypass and Business intersection, Battery Park Road, Main Street and on North Church Street near the Smithfield Center.



GAVIN CARTER



Smithfield Center & Smithfield Little Theatre Entrance

Floral displays are maintained by the town’s public works staff and a landscape contractor hired by the town. The displays are varied in plant material and are typically integrated with the larger landscape area to maximize the visual impact. Effort is made in floral displays to have an impact year round.



Business

Bon Vivant Market, located on Church Street, is a boutique shop selling wine and beer. Fine plantings surround the shop's lovely front entry. The best kept secret in Smithfield, however lies behind the shop where a co-op garden, established many years ago now flourishes. Lucky locals get to purchase the summer bounty and enjoy fresh herbs and vegetables year round.



Smithfield Commons

MAGGIE STOUP



Smithfield Commons Shoppes boasts an extravagant display of landscaping, flower beds, hanging baskets and well-designed entry signage. A performing arts stage was constructed at the rear of the property for use by the general public. Clearly careful attention was paid to the appearance of this strip-shopping style property.

Residential

A short walk or drive through nearly any of the Smithfield subdivisions will demonstrate how town residents care for and believe in the beauty of trees, flowers and the overall benefit of welcoming nature into their daily lives. This is one of the most endearing reasons Smithfield is beloved by so many residents and why tourists love to visit and some eventually even call it their new home.



CARY KORONAS

The Garden Gazebo entry at The Smithfield Inn



Olde World Tea Company on Main Street



Smithfield Foods Corporate Headquarters

Community Involvement

Two local businesses, Ringo's Donuts and Gimme Shelter Thrift Store have been adopted by the Girl Scouts to provide beautification enhancements to the grounds at each location

Ivy Hill Cemetery is on the National Register of Historic Places and was established in 1886. Friends of Ivy Hill Cemetery recently completed a fundraising effort for the design and subsequent installation of a set of new granite entry pillars with a curved wrought iron landscaping backdrop and decorative flower beds that more easily identify the entry to this historic waterfront cemetery.

Hayden's Lane, originally the driveway to Hayden Hall, an early girls' school, has been transformed into an attractive mid-town park and sitting garden by the Garden Department of the local Woman's Club. It now provide a floral background for many special occasions. Yearly maintenance by the town and enhancements by the Woman's Club keep Hayden's Lane inviting and welcome to locals and tourists alike.

In January of 2011, the Smithfield High School's Beta Club started a monthly one hour Windsor Castle Park cleanup. With club membership of over 200 members, this honors organization has had an average of 20 members show up each month to clean the trails, waterways and surrounding roads leading to the park.

In March of 2011, the friends of Margo Jane Reed, planted "Margo's Garden" at the new entrance to the Luter Family YMCA. Margo passed away from cancer in October of 2010. She was a YMCA board member, a member of the Smithfield Woman's Club, the "Gatling Point Girls" and involved in many other



Members of the Smithfield High School Beta Club

ways in the community. The Gatling Point Girls and others donated the funds necessary for the garden which includes trees, flowers, stepping stones and a reflection bench. A dedication plaque will be added in the near future.

Landscaped Areas

Designed Tree, Shrub, Turf, & Perennial Plantings



GINGER HILL

Veteran's Memorial

Municipal

Smithfield offers an annual tree planting grant for property owners to plant a tree from an approved list of species. The town will pay half of the cost provided there is a one-year warranty on the tree.

Smithfield's landscaped areas are maintained by the town's Public Works Department to beautify the entrance gateways into Town.

The Town has painted its tourism marketing logo and tag line "Hams, History and Hospitality" on the main water tower offering a whimsical welcome to visitors.



Several right-of-way areas utilize wildflowers as natural groundcover and are "protected mowing areas" by the Town and the state's department of transportation (VDOT).

Crepe Myrtles are staple fixtures throughout Smithfield and Isle of Wight County.

They are cared for by both municipalities and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT).

Working with the town's public works staff and a mowing contractor, the town ensures trash is picked up and that public right of ways are mowed at a minimum of once every two weeks.

The town mows and edges grassy areas and medians of state owned right-of-way areas on Bennis



JOHN PAYNE

Mason Street entrance to Windsor Castle Park



Church Boulevard entrance corridor to ensure a positive image. Otherwise these areas would be mowed only once or twice a year by VDOT.

Good examples of landscaped areas maintained by the town include the Veterans Memorial at the intersection of Luter Drive and North Church Street, Hayden's Lane, and Windsor Castle Park, as well as the areas mentioned in the Floral Displays section.

The town recently renovated vacant buildings for the Manager's Office and Police Department. Both sites were non-conforming and lacked sufficient green space. A new landscape area was added in front of Smithfield Police Department and within the large parking area adjacent to the Manager's Office.



Smithfield Station Waterfront Inn, Restaurant & Marina



Cypress Creek Golf Course

Business

Smithfield Foods Corporate Headquarters boasts gorgeous landscaping and bronze statues as the visual highlights of their waterfront corporate campus.

Town streetscape and building guidelines are easily available to citizens via the town's website.

Smithfield Station Waterfront Inn, Restaurant and Marina and the Boardwalk Shops at Smithfield Station present carefully designed landscaping and oyster shell surfacing in their parking lots to create a unique and beautiful destination for waterfront lodging and dining.

Smithfield Foods' new "Taste of Smithfield" ham shop on Main Street and deli has extensive landscaping in their public parking area.

Cypress Creek Golf Course is a spectacular course designed by the renowned Tom Clark of Ault, Clark and Associates in consultation with Tidewater's most successful golf professional, Curtis Strange. *"Carved from the ancient hardwoods and centuries old peanut fields of Smithfield, this is truly one of the finest collections of golf holes in Tidewater."* – Curtis Strange

The Veterans Memorial located at the intersection of Luter Drive and North Church Street recognizes veterans of domestic and foreign wars. The memorial features tall granite pillars connected by vine covered pergola type elements and is surrounded by beautiful evergreens, crepe myrtles, flowers, benches, a water fountain and memorial bell.



Smithfield Foods Corporate Offices and bronze statues



Hayden's Lane before renovation (1976)



MAGGIE STROUP

Hayden's Lane today

Residential

Wellington Estates is a heavily wooded residential community surrounding a lovely central park. Additional natural areas are sprinkled throughout the neighborhood. The development also offers formal gazebos for entertaining and relaxing, a wildlife sanctuary, designated play areas for children, a formal community entrance with flowering trees, community soccer and baseball fields, picnic areas and natural walking, jogging and biking trails.

The Villas of Smithfield Retirement Village sports a wonderfully manicured front entrance and community amenities include a landscaped clubhouse area, walking trails, fountains, a bridge, and flower beds, all working together to make the area welcoming and inviting.

Morris Creek Landing Apartments' landscaping includes Bradford pears, cypress, oleander, holly and numerous crepe myrtles, all used to enhance entry driveways and parking areas.

Riverside Convalescent Center and the adjacent Magnolia Manor Enriched Living Facility has both large manicured lawns, crepe myrtle lined driveways, sitting gardens and shade gazebos spread around the property for patrons and guests to enjoy.

Community Involvement

Liriope Day held in 2011, involved planting 412 plants in 13 targeted beds along historic Main Street in downtown Smithfield. This Smithfield 2020 project involved volunteers from the Master Gardeners, Smithfield High School Beta Club members, tourism staff, Main Street merchants, and local citizens.

The Master Gardeners regularly visit Covenant House, a privately-funded agency providing food, shelter, immediate crisis care, and essential services to homeless and runaway kids. Master Gardeners created raised beds and planted vegetables for the youth to maintain and enjoy. The group also visits "The Garden," a center for Alzheimers patients, each month to offer projects for the residents.



Master Gardeners create garden hats with the residents of "The Garden."



BOB BARNES

View of Smithfield Station from Windsor Castle Park

Urban Forestry

Municipal

The Town supports urban forestry measures that protect the area's old growth trees and surround them with an abundance of ground cover and landscaping.

A public fruit orchard was planted in Windsor Castle Park two years ago that includes 75 apple trees and 75 peach trees.

Robert S. Clontz Memorial park was established on the banks of the Pagan River and dedicated to the memory of wildlife artist, conservationist, hunter and fisherman, Robert Clontz. It is surrounded by old growth trees and natural marsh grasses and has a public fishing pier/esplanade with gazebo for general use and rental opportunities. The site is one of the main viewing areas for the Fourth of July fireworks festivities.

The Town protects trees during construction activities around town and enforces landscaping requirements for all development. New commercial construction must have a minimum of 40% green space.

Tree trimming, mulching and replacement activities are contracted out to well trained vendors or by public works staff.

The Town will be conducting an up-to-date tree inventory as part of its public works accreditation process begun in 2012. A tree inventory within the National Register Historic District was conducted in the mid-1990's.

Business

Summer Wind Vineyards and Christmas Tree Farm offers tours by appointment and special events throughout the year. The Christmas tree farm is open in November and December and offers hot cider to shoppers as they choose a tree or fresh wreath.

Tired of paying for overpriced palm trees for their landscaping business, the owners of Bristow's Landscaping, Inc. decided to plant their own. The palms are a hardy breed that have become so popular that they are now sold to homeowners, wholesale nurseries and other landscaping businesses.

Residential



Dolo Farm on Smithfield Boulevard in Smithfield

The Cypress Creek subdivision has numerous trees along the golf course and residential area. There has been a major push for extensive use of turf and landscaping as this subdivision sits on the site of long-used farmland and many homes built along protected waterfront areas.

Smithfield Boulevard leads directly through the heart of a very established tree friendly community. The neighborhoods that line this area were not

established from vacant farmland and were developed with an eye towards environmental preservation of existing forestry conditions. One of the most beautiful estates within this area is the Dolo Farm...a horse farm training facility.

Community Involvement

Bluebird nesting boxes were recently installed at Windsor Castle Park as an Eagle Scout project.



Blue Bird Nesting Box



Walking trail at Windsor Castle Park



Windmill Palms in Bristow Landscaping's "Palm Patch"



Robert S. Clontz Memorial Park

Environmental Effort

Sustainable Development and Awareness



View of Smithfield from the Pagan River

Municipal

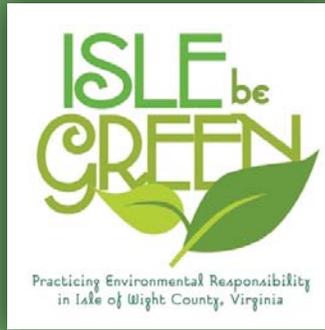
Installation of a Reverse Osmosis Plant: For decades, Smithfield has drawn its drinking water from artesian wells. These wells make for great drinking water with one caveat....extremely high fluoride levels. Fluoride in the proper amounts has excellent health benefits for bones and teeth. However; too much can cause problems, especially for children with staining and pitting of teeth. Fluoride levels usually ranged around 3.77ppm (parts per million). While this was under the legal limit, several years ago we had a couple of tests that were above 4ppm. In order to correct this problem, the Town of Smithfield spent over 5 million dollars for the construction of a Reverse Osmosis Water Treatment Facility. This filters fluoride and other sediment out of the drinking water. A recent test showed fluoride levels down to .77ppm. This has completely eliminated any concerns that citizens might have about allowing their children to drink local water from the tap. It hasn't been an inexpensive undertaking, but it was a necessary one.

Park-n-Ride commuter lot at the corner of 258 and 10; The surrounding enclosure consists of white pvc fencing and large concrete planters with ornamental trees and flowers that are maintained jointly by the Western Tidewater Master Gardeners and the Town of Smithfield.

Smithfield and Isle of Wight County is a favorite “bicycle-friendly” destination offering miles of country roads and access to historic venues. Bike stands and courtesy locks are available at the Visitor Center.



Smithfield is a “bicycle friendly” town.



The Tourism website has four downloadable bike tour maps. Additionally, the town and county are in the conceptual layout and planning stages for a multi-use path that will connect users from Battery Park Road to the Cypress Creek Bridge.

The town has separate bins for trash, recyclables and chemical waste.

A “Fats, Oils & Grease Ordinance” (F.O.G.) has been implemented in Smithfield.

The county offers the “Isle Be Green” plastic bag recycling program and rainbarrel workshops.

The Hampton Roads region was selected by the “Keep America Beautiful” program as a kickoff location for the annual Great American Cleanup Project, which marks the beginning of spring cleanup, beautification and recycling events across the country. The local event was held on the Saturday following Earth Day at Windsor Castle Park. The focus for the day was on recycling and education for children in grades 1-12. A poster contest on the benefits of recycling was held as well. Winners received cash prizes and their names and entries were posted in the “Smithfield Times” newspaper.

The Town regularly holds spring cleanup days. The most recent was hosted April 28, 2012 with the Smithfield High School Beta Club and the Smithfield High School Green Club. Items collected included computers, monitors, keyboards, laptops, modems, and other electronic equipment. The Town offers a free spring pick-up service for old furniture, appliances, TV’s, stereos, carpets and lawn equipment. Household hazardous waste can be disposed of at the Isle of Wight transfer station. Used motor oil, paint, pesticides, antifreeze, fuels, hobby supplies, insecticides, herbicides, paint thinners, solvents, fertilizers, swimming pool chemicals, household batteries and cleaners can be disposed of at the transfer station on the fourth Saturday of January, April, July and October.

The Town adopted a water conservation and management plan and reminds citizens each year about the importance of water conservation. Rain barrel recycling workshops, held with other local organizations, are also offered.

In addition to state regulations, the Town has adopted its own regulations concerning open burning within the corporate limits.



The Tourism Department’s “Ham Tram”



Business

State-wide “no smoking” policies for restaurants and retailers assist in environmental efforts.

The Town’s Park-n-Ride commuter lot, strategically located at the Town’s main intersection encourages residents to car pool.



Girl Scouts participate in an Earth Day Program

Smithfield Foods, a Fortune 500 company with Corporate Headquarters located within Town limits, has made enormous strides towards environmental sensitivity over the last few years. Foods continues to explore means to ensure that their farms, processing plants and production facilities use resources efficiently and improvements in water and energy usage, solid waste management and processing plant have been made. Smithfield Foods’ environmental targets include: water usage: 10% reduction over fiscal 2008 by fiscal 2016; energy usage: 10% reduction over fiscal 2008 by fiscal 2016; and solid waste: 10% reduction over fiscal 2008 by fiscal 2016.

Since the mid-1980’s, property located near Historic St. Luke’s Church has been mined for borrow pits. From the onset, the owners of the property have strived to create an earth friendly sustainable property, friendly to local wildlife.

Residential

The Town’s newly adopted golf cart initiative allows locals and tourists to use golf carts on roads that post a 25 mph or lower speed limit.

I-Ride Transportation Services, sponsored by Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia and Isle of Wight County, offers citizens transportation around town for a \$1 fare. This wheelchair-accessible bus covers a 31-mile route with 32 convenient stops and operates Monday through Friday from 8 am until 4 pm except on holidays.

The Town’s residential monthly curbside recycling pickup program has recently been expanded to twice a month. Acceptable items include aluminum and metal cans, cardboard, catalogs, glass, junk mail, newspaper, office paper and plastics.

A recycling dumpster for apartments and businesses has recently been added at the corner of James and Washington Streets in downtown Smithfield.



Smithfield Foods Corporate Headquarters is located in downtown Smithfield.



Liriope Day - "before" and "after"

Community Involvement

The Womens Club purchases seed oysters and farms them until they are large enough to be placed into the Chesapeake Bay.

The Master Naturalist-Historic Southside Program, whose mission is to conserve and manage natural resources and public lands, graduated its first class in 2011. Graduates serve 40 volunteer hours each year on environmental projects.

Isle of Wight County elementary and middle schools encourage competition between grades and schools to recycle plastic and collect food for our local food banks.

Local Girl Scouts participate in numerous environmental projects including: monthly trash collections at Windsor Castle Park, the "Clean the Bay" Project, pop-top recycling program (which raises funds for the Ronald McDonald house in Norfolk,) and the Isle Be Green plastic bag recycling program. The scouts also collected Capri Sun pouches, cleaned them and sent them to Terracycle which in turn awarded points (.02 cents per pouch) which went toward funds for a charity of their choice. The charity chosen was the Isle of Wight Education Foundation, specifically for Westside Elementary School.

Area Tidewater Master Gardener's contribute to a weekly advice column in the local newspaper the "Smithfield Times", provide a plant clinic and sell plants at the annual Olden Days Festival, present horticultural topics at the local Farmers Market, and support the community with educational programs such as rain barrel workshops, YMCA Health Fairs and Smithfield 2020 beautification projects. Summer activity plans for children include the development of an instructive youth camp in conjunction with the local YMCA and 4-H club activities.

The Smithfield High School Green Club is an environmental club whose goals are to increase students awareness of environmental issues, engage club members as facilitators for informing the student body of environmental issues, involve students in ongoing field work related to local issues and afford students the opportunity to continue their involvement in the science field.

The Green Club is engaged in three main projects:

- 1) Growing oysters for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation replenishment program,
- 2) Recycling paper at Smithfield High School and
- 3) Maintaining the natural habitat area around the high school.



Smithfield High School Students are active in environmental efforts



Heritage

Preserving Our Past for Future Generations



Municipal

The history of the Town of Smithfield has been lovingly preserved and documented by its residents for generations. The Town located on the Pagan River, a tributary to the James River, is rich in both history and heritage. In 1607, the

British colonists sailed past its shores on the way to Jamestown. The Town of Smithfield is located within the County of Isle of Wight (originally named Warrosquoyacke) that was formed in 1634 as one of Virginia's eight original shires. Isle of Wight's first Town was created in 1680 "at the parting of the Pagan Creek" and was known as Pate's Field. The Town of Smithfield was incorporated in 1752 by petition to the general assembly in Williamsburg by Arthur Smith IV who had laid out a portion of his land in Pate's Field into street lots. As a river port, the Town of Smithfield grew and thrived through its exports of tobacco, peanuts and ham.

The Town and Isle of Wight County have a top notch joint tourism staff which sponsor special events throughout the year. Music and theater are enthusiastically supported by locals and the Smithfield Little Theatre has frequent performances. The Smithfield Times newspaper sponsors a Friday night outdoor concert series each week in the summer.

The Town undertook an entrance corridor study and adopted regulations and guidelines for our Entrance Corridor Overlay District, to better control the impact of new development leading into our Historic District.





Mallory Todd House before renovation



Mallory Todd House after renovation

Buildings restored for educational purposes include:

- The Old Courthouse of 1750
- The Bank of Smithfield, now housing the Isle of Wight Museum
- The Schoolhouse Museum (circa 1932) was moved to Smithfield from Chuckatuck. The museum is an African-American History Museum of Public Education featuring period desks and books and offers oral histories of those who attended the school.

Smithfield's Historic District is both a Virginia Historic Landmark and on the National Historic Register. Other Virginia Historic Landmark sites in Smithfield include the P.D. Gwaltney House, Jr. house, Ivy Hill Cemetery, the William Rand Tavern, and Windsor Castle Farm.

Ivy Hill Cemetery has a historical marker on Main Street identified as marker K-329 and approved by the Department of Historic Resources in June of 2010.

The Old Courthouse of 1750 has a historical marker on Main Street identified (#K-316) approved by the Department of Historic Resources in 2002.

The Town of Smithfield has a Board of Historic and Architectural Review and an active Historical Society.

Isle of Wight County's Historic Resources Department employs three full time staff and several part time docents, responsible for the four historic sites in the county including: the Isle of Wight County Museum, Historic Fort Huger, Fort Boykin Historic Park and Boykin's Tavern Museum.

The Isle of Wight County Museum houses many artifacts, photos and documents and offers exhibits interpreting the history of the Town.

Recently the Town received an "Arts and Culture District" designation for the Historic District offering incentives to encourage arts related businesses to locate here.

The Town's history is recounted in detail through many publications: *Smithfield Pictorial*, *Historic Notes on Isle of Wight County*, *Historic Isle of Wight*, *Smithfield Ham Capital of the World* and *ManyVoices*.

Smithfield Farmers Market is held every Saturday morning from 9 am - 12 pm, Memorial Day through Labor Day, with additional winter and spring specialty markets.

Heritage is interpreted through special events held in the town such as the Olden Days Festival and Town and Country Days.

Outdoor parks and recreational areas that honor the town's history include:

- Windsor Castle Park, site of the home of town founder Arthur Smith IV
- Hayden's Lane, originally the drive to Hayden Hall residence on Grace Street
- Robert S. Clontz Memorial Park



Business

The Post Office Mural located in the historic Main Street branch was created by the artist William Abbott Cheever and installed in 1941. The mural depicts Captain John Smith and his men trading with the Warraskoyack Tribe in Burwell's Bay on the James River in September of 1607.



Post Office Mural by William Abbott Cheever

Among the many refurbished buildings on Main Street is the renovation of Wharf Hill's old Elks Lodge into a community meeting space and of the 1939 Smithfield Fire Station into retail space. All are examples of the business community's commitment to preserving its historic properties.

The "Smithfield Times," the local newspaper publishes a historic photo each week depicting faces and places from Smithfield's past.

Residential

Private residences, shops and churches in the Historic Downtown area include 18th century Colonial, Federal, Georgian and Victorian period structures. The Smithfield and Isle of Wight Convention and Visitors Bureau offers a walking tour map and brochure describing over 60 of these historic properties.

The Luter Family YMCA recently completed an expansion. Future plans include an outdoor community swimming pool. The YMCA building was repurposed from the old Smithfield High School.

Community Involvement

The Woman's Club creates and distributes natural wreaths for Town buildings and the nursing home during the Christmas Season. The Woman's Club also publishes a calendar of pen and ink drawings of the town's historic homes.

The first annual Smithfield Wine and Brew Fest was held at Windsor Castle Park in April 2012 to raise funds for Windsor Castle Foundation and other non-profits, while emphasizing the region's agricultural heritage and promoting a vibrant wine industry.

"Smithfield on the Move," a community wellness program hopes to raise awareness of and promote a healthy lifestyle for the citizens of Smithfield and Isle of Wight County. Walking and biking groups, and other activities challenge adults and children to make use of the many parks, roads and waterways in the area. From the annual 5k Hog Jog through downtown Smithfield, to the Beacons of Hope Relay for Life "Hope, Hams, History, Hospitality and HeART" Bicycle tour, there are many opportunities to engage "get out and get moving!"



Scenes from the Old Courthouse of 1750



“Saturday Morning” by Todd Cairns, Winner of the 2010 “Pork-a-razzi” Photo Contest

Overall Impression

Municipal

Utilities along Smithfield’s Historic Main Street were relocated underground and sidewalks and curbing were made of brick and granite for longevity and durability.

Smithfield 2020 was formed as a multi-organizational project team to address the economic and cultural vitality of Smithfield. The project team consists of representatives from the town of Smithfield, Isle of Wight County, Smithfield and Isle of Wight County Tourism, the Isle of Wight/Smithfield/Windsor Chamber of Commerce, the Smithfield Historic District Business Association, and the Isle of Wight Arts League. Among its projects was a façade improvement matching grant program to assist downtown merchants with improvements and beautification efforts.

The Town has added attractive waste receptacles in the Historic District and throughout Windsor Castle Park.

A Dog Park for small and large dogs at Windsor Castle Park keeps local dogs and their owners happy in a well kept environment. Doggy litter bags and waste receptacles are located along the adjacent 4-mile walking trails.





Business

A new wall mural adorns the side of the former Simpsons Pharmacy building. The mural depicts the rich hog farming heritage that continues to elevate Smithfield Foods as the premier global pork producer.

George Lundeen bronze life-size statues depicting such figures as Benjamin Franklin, Robert Frost and the “Valentine Couple” are placed throughout town. Miniatures of many of the bronzes are available for purchase at Imagine Art Studio.

Visiting Wharf Hill Antiques on Main Street, recently voted one of the Top 50 Shops in the South by Southern Living Magazine, is like taking a step back in time, with it’s manicured stagecoach façade and flanking picket fence enclosing flower and rose gardens.



Wharf Hill Antiques on Main Street

TRICIA DEMPSEY

Municipal

The South Church Street Beautification Project’s sidewalk and road improvement was recently completed in the Historic residential district.

Beale Park, located in the Moonefield subdivision, was recently awarded second place in the Norfolk Tides Baseball Club’s Youth baseball makeover contest and will get upgrades to their playing surface and improvements to their dugouts. Beale Park boasts three well manicured ballparks and a playground area.

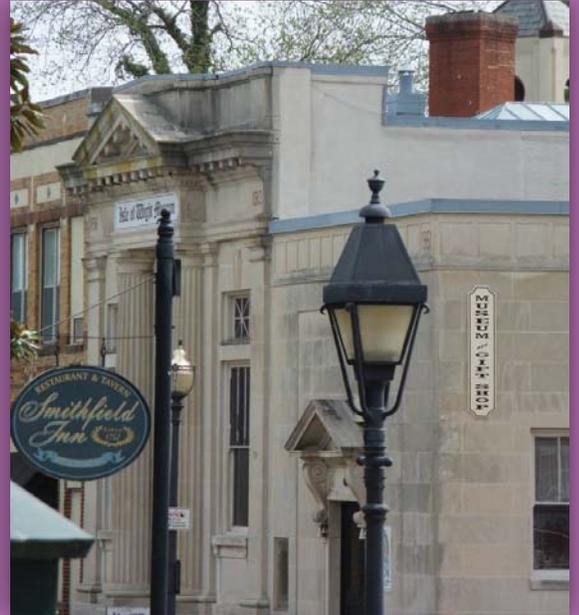
Pinewood Heights relocation initiative (located near North Church Street) has entered its second phase. The Town has been buying blighted houses and duplexes abutting Smithfield Foods’ meat-processing plants and hog-waste lagoons. Residents have complained for years about bad sewer systems, dust from truck traffic and the smell from the neighboring packing plants. The overall project is slated for three phases and will take over a decade to complete. The property will eventually morph from residential use to commercial and industrial use.



Scenes from Windsor Castle Park



The "Valentine Couple" Bronze Statue



Isle of Wight County Museum is located in the old bank building

Community Involvement

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8545 installs 80-90 American flags throughout town at least 12 times a year for all federal and state holidays and special events.

County elementary schools organized a competition for the most successful plastic bag recycler. The winner was awarded \$600 towards a green project for their school.

The Smithfield Ruritan Club and the Smithfield Rotary Club joined forces to clean and maintain the historic Evergreen Cemetery and recently added new identification signage touting the cemetery's historical significance.

Local Boy Scout troops help to beautify Smithfield each year with mulch and landscaping fundraisers.

Volunteers, both individuals and community organizations, are involved in the beautification and maintenance of our roads, streets, communities, and parks.

For example:

The Smithfield High School's Beta Club provides regular clean-up along the water's edge and throughout Windsor Castle Park.

Several neighborhoods and Homeowners Associations in Smithfield hold clean-up activities on a regular basis to ensure welcoming surroundings in their community.

The well-maintained "Welcome to Smithfield" sign at the entrance to Business 10 is maintained and enhanced by the Smithfield Womens Club.



Mural Artist Michael Brown adorned the side of the Simpson's Pharmacy building with a colorful mural.



Smithfield now boasts eight porcine statues

Best Idea

Everything old is new again!

The summer of 2012 marks a “Renaissance” of sorts in Historic Downtown Smithfield! What was the catalyst? The recent creation of a public park on the estate of the founder of Smithfield called Windsor Castle Park. Located at 301 Jericho Road, these 209.8 acres are owned by the Town of Smithfield. Windsor Castle Farm was originally part of a 1450 acre parcel patented in 1637 by Arthur Smith and is situated on a knoll overlooking the Pagan River. The farm was purchased with the intention of preserving the rich historic heritage of the Castle, as well as providing a passive public park on the estate grounds. Located right in the heart of Historic Smithfield, this riverside park features bike paths, a fishing pier, a fruit tree orchard, a woodland trail system, picnic areas, dog park, kayak and canoe launch, scenic overlook and the Windsor Castle Historic Site.



Future site of “Taste of Smithfield” Shop & Cafe



Future site of “Smithfield Firehouse of 1939 Shops & Lofts



“Norm” - the Beautification Project mascot





Olden Days Parade Celebrating Smithfield's Renaissance



Former Town offices now house a new retail shop



Smithfield Wine & Brew Fest



Kayakers at Windsor Castle Park



Victorian treasure on South Church Street

And to compliment the new park, this summer, lots of new and exciting projects are coming to fruition at the same time!...all of them adding to the beautiful and historic ambience of "Smithfield in Bloom"! The Church Street Beautification Project has been completed and the main corridor into the Historic District now features new brick sidewalks, period street lights, attractive landscaping and a softly curving streetscape.

The "Taste of Smithfield" is the home of the new flagship Smithfield Ham Shop and Café. The strikingly designed new storefront features period architecture and enticing outdoor spaces to enjoy a refreshing repast of all the products that Smithfield is famous for! You can eat in or take home! Behind the shop is the prettiest parking lot you've ever seen with reflective plantings and thoughtful touches.

And, the PIGS have arrived! A "herd" of eight whimsically painted porcine statuary have been erected at park entrances, on Main Street, at the Museum, on the campus of Smithfield Foods and throughout the Historic District. Each pig is individually painted by a local artist to depict aspects of quintessential Smithfield! These fanciful statues join the town's classic bronze statuary created by George Lundeen and donated by Joseph W. Luter III, former CEO of Smithfield Foods. The pigs will be unveiled to kickoff the annual Olden Days Festival on June 29th.

The Smithfield Fire House of 1939 has been renovated into an amazing array of shops! You can't ride down the pole anymore but the whistle still blows! Plus, the lower Main Street retail corridor is back! Renovations are almost complete for the upper Wharf Hill property that used to house the Smithfield Elks Lodge. And, that's not all! With Smithfield's recent designation as an "Arts and Cultural District," there are many new shops boasting everything from cake art to designer consignment home goods to primitive and Americana furnishings to beautify your own home!

And not to be outdone, the Isle of Wight County Museum has recently unveiled a new Civil War Display and Smokehouse exhibit that are sure to captivate one's imagination!

Whew!...in Smithfield, everything is blooming which makes everything old, new again!



Itinerary

Let us roll out the "green" carpet for you!

Wednesday, June 20

Arrival

Smithfield Police boat tour of waterways

Dinner at Smithfield Station

Thursday, June 21

Day 1: (Tour begins at 8:30 a.m.)

Walking tour from Smithfield Station along South Church Street to Main Street
Historic homes and P. D. Gwaltney, Jr. home

Right at Main Street towards Wharf Hill
Christ Episcopal, Elks Lodge, Mallory-Todd House

Left on Commerce Street
Smithfield Foods Corporate Headquarters, bronze statues, waterfront

North Church Street
*Smithfield Center and Smithfield Theater, Veterans Memorial
Smithfield Firehouse of 1939 Shops & Lofts*

West on Grace Street
Downtown Historic District, Haydens Lane

Lunch at Taste of Smithfield Shop & Cafe

Grace Street via Haydens Lane to Washington Street
*Paul D. Camp Community College, renovated former High School to library,
Luter Family YMCA and expansion*

Future Affordable Housing

Golf cart pickup at Taste of Smithfield parking lot to Windsor Castle Park.
*Golf cart ride to view trail system, dog park, orchard, kayak launch,
fishing pier and manor house*

Return to Smithfield Station

Dinner at Smithfield Inn

Friday, June 22

Day 2: (Tour begins at 8:30 a.m.)

Walk from Windsor Castle Park walking bridge from to Main Street.
*Isle of Wight County Museum, Isle of Wight/Smithfield/Windsor Chamber of
Commerce, Smithfield Inn and Garden, Old Courthouse of 1750,
Post Office Mural, Arts Center @ 319/Visitor Center*

Lunch at Smithfield Gourmet Bakery

I-Ride van pickup for remainder of tour to various outlying destinations.

Return to Smithfield Station by 3:00 p.m.



Smithfield - #1 day-trip destination from Williamsburg

GINGER K. HILL



Reproduction Chesapeake-Bay-Style Lighthouse



"Victorian Ladies" along Main Street



Wildlife is abundant in this rivertown



Smithfield Ham makes the area a culinary destination



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Websites of Related Interest

Isle Be Green: IsleBeGreen.com

The Isle of Wight Arts League: SmithfieldArts.org

Isle of Wight/Smithfield/Windsor Chamber of Commerce: Theisle.org

Isle of Wight County: co.isle-of-wight.va.us

Isle of Wight County Historic Resources: HistoricIsleOfWight.com

Isle of Wight County Museum: HistoricIsleOfWight.com/museum.html

Master Naturalist Program/Historic Southside:

VMNHistoricSouthside.org

The Schoolhouse Museum: TheSchoolhouseMuseum.com

Smithfield & Isle of Wight County Convention & Visitors Bureau:

VisitSmithfieldIsleOfWight.com

Smithfield Beautification Project: SmithfieldBeautification.com

Smithfield Board of Historic and Architectural Review:

SmithfieldVA.gov/content/index/view/id/30

Smithfield High School Beta Club: shsbeta.weebly.com/

Smithfield Historic District Business Association: ShopSmithfield.com

Smithfield Kiwanis: SmithfieldKiwanis.org

Smithfield on the Move: SmithfieldOnTheMove.com

Smithfield 2020: SmithfieldArts.org/2020_home.html

Smithfield Wine and Brew Fest Virginia: SmithfieldVAWineBrewFest.com

Town of Smithfield: SmithfieldVA.gov

Virginia Civil War Trails: CivilWarTraveler.com/EAST/VA/va-tidewater/index.html

Windsor Castle Park: WindsorCastlePark.org

The Woman's Club of Smithfield: gfwc-smithfieldva.org/About_Us.html



Smithfield High Beta Club is active in the community



Smithfield Inn - offering food & hospitality since 1752



"Kids, Bike & Pet Parade" at Olden Days Festival



The "Encore Wedding Capital" of Virginia



"Hams, History, Hospitality & HeART!"

