

The Town of

SMITHFIELD

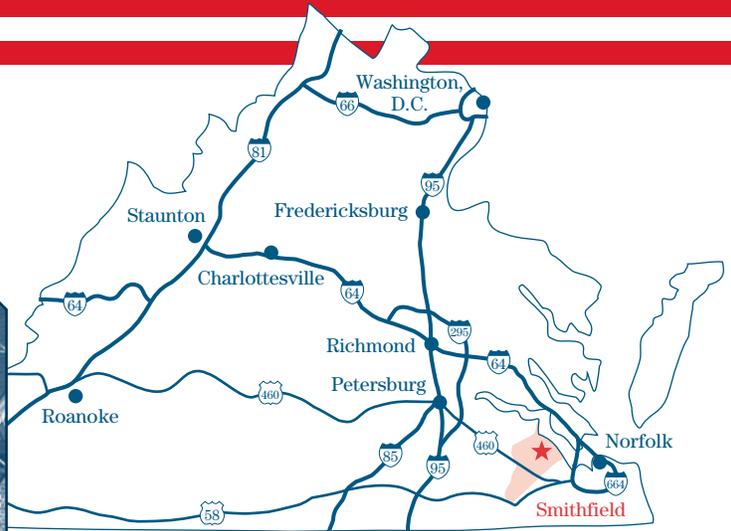
Community
Profile

“Perhaps the best preserved of Virginia’s Colonial seaports.”

—Virginia Landmarks Register



The Smithfield Center (smithfieldcenter.com)



LOCATION

Located in the Northeast corner of Isle of Wight County within the Hampton Roads Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), Smithfield is an easy commute to the larger employment centers located in Chesapeake, Hampton, Newport News, Portsmouth, Norfolk and Virginia Beach. Smithfield enjoys a strategic position between Richmond and the heart of Hampton Roads which enables it to be within an hour’s drive of nearly two million people. Smithfield is also within a day’s drive of more than half of the entire U.S. population. Smithfield is approximately 85 miles from Richmond, the state capital and 180 miles from Washington, D.C.

In 2003, Smithfield was named “one of the 50 best small southern towns.” In March 2004, Smithfield was one of 20 communities in the U.S. that was designated a “Preserve America Community.”

The Town of Smithfield occupies 10.1 square miles and lies within the Atlantic coastal plain of Tidewater Virginia. Elevations range from a few feet above sea level to 40 feet above sea level. Relatively flat peninsulas of land, formed by rivers, streams, creeks and tidal shorelines characterize the town’s topography. Cypress Creek, the Pagan River and the James River provide drainage.



HISTORY

The Town of Smithfield was born on the banks of the Pagan River and incorporated in 1752 by Arthur Smith IV. In 2002, Smithfield celebrated its 250th Anniversary with a year long celebration of special events and parades. Smithfield boasts many of the charms associated with Hampton Roads communities, including eighteenth and nineteenth century architecture, a revitalized downtown, and all the character of a former colonial seaport. According to the Virginia Landmarks Register, it is **“perhaps the best preserved of Virginia’s Colonial seaports.”** In April 1999, the Virginia Downtown Development Association awarded Smithfield for its Main Street Beautification Project. Nurtured by trade and commerce Smithfield soon became a town of industry, with four plants devoted to the art of curing the famous **“Smithfield Ham.”** Once a commercial center for shipping, Smithfield has evolved to host one of the area’s largest meat-processing industries as well as serve as home to one of the region’s largest employers, Smithfield Foods, Inc.

“Without a doubt, one of the prettiest towns in Virginia” —Virginia Review

A recent annexation in 1998 with Isle of Wight County resulted in an expanded area of ten square miles. The 2004 population is estimated to be 6,750. Smithfield offers residents a small-town atmosphere with a brand new, state-of-the-art conference/community center—The Smithfield Center, a good school system, affordable housing, and a lack of serious traffic problems. According to Virginia Review, it is **“without a doubt, one of the prettiest towns in Virginia.”** Smithfield is a town with a rich past and a wonderful future.

LOCAL ECONOMY

As a center for the surrounding area, Smithfield provides area residents with a place to work, live and acquire goods and services. Smithfield's greatest economic asset has been the well-known and nationally respected ham products principally produced by Smithfield Packing and Gwaltney Packing, both subsidiaries of Smithfield Foods, Inc. – a Fortune 500 Company with its corporate headquarters located in Smithfield.

POPULATION

The 2000 Census showed Smithfield as having a population of 6,324 and a growth rate of 2.5 – 3.0% per year. The 2004 population is approximately 6,750. Isle of Wight County has a population of approximately 30,000.

MEDICAL

The Isle of Wight County Health Department maintains a large, modern health facility in downtown Smithfield. The nearest hospitals are in neighboring Suffolk, Franklin and Newport News. There are two privately operated medical centers within the town—Riverside Health Center and Smithfield Medical Center, which have urgent care facilities. There is also a mental health center, a physical therapy center and a nursing home/convalescent center within Smithfield.

CLIMATE

A generally moderate climate prevails.

Annual average temperature	59°
January average temperature	39°
July average temperature	79°
Annual average rainfall	45"
Annual average snowfall	9"



9th Hole,
Cypress Creek
Golf Course

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Parks and Recreation: Excellent golfing is available at the Cypress Creek Golfers Club in Smithfield, and at Smithfield Downs located just outside of town. Recreational boating opportunities are available on the Pagan River and Cypress Creek. Smithfield also owns a 4.5 acre fishing lake. Riverview Park provides tennis courts, basketball courts, a softball field, a picnic area, exercise courts, a walking/jogging trail and open space; and Smithfield Middle School provides basketball courts, baseball and soccer fields. The Robert S. Clontz Memorial Park is equipped with a gazebo, picnic tables and a fishing pier. The Smithfield Recreation Association offers privately operated facilities and activities at Beale Park, including ball fields, tennis courts and a swimming pool. The Luter Family YMCA has weight lifting, basketball, and various other activities. The YMCA also completed a major expansion which includes an indoor swimming pool and additional recreation opportunities.

Conference/Community Center: The Smithfield Center is a state-of-the-art conference and community center located in the heart of our acclaimed historic district. The Smithfield Center offers multi-purpose space with an extremely versatile design to meet the needs of groups of 25 to 600. The Smithfield Center has a 5,000 sq. ft. main hall which can be expanded to 8,000 sq. ft. The Smithfield Center also has four 750 sq. ft. meeting rooms. For more information, call (757) 356-9939 or visit smithfieldcenter.com

Museum: The Isle of Wight Museum and Gift Shop is located in downtown Smithfield. The museum offers exhibits covering all aspects of Isle of Wight/Smithfield history.

Public Libraries: The Smithfield Library is a general circulation library that houses 22,000 items.

Bed & Breakfast/Marina/Lodging: 5 hotels offering a total of 115 rooms. These include Smithfield Station, The Smithfield Inn, The Isle of Wight Inn, Mansion on Main, The Library Bed & Breakfast, and the Econo Lodge.

CHILD CARE FACILITIES

There are several child care facilities within the town.

EDUCATION

Higher education is available through the Paul D. Camp Community College – Smithfield Campus. The town is also served by three public schools in the Isle of Wight County system – Smithfield High School, Smithfield Middle School and Hardy Elementary School.

MAJOR EMPLOYERS

Firm	Product/Service	# Employees
Smithfield Packing (a)	Meat Packing	2,500
Gwaltney (a)	Meat Packing	2,400
Farm Fresh	Retail Grocery	105
Smithfield Ham & Products (b)	Meat Products	100
Smithfield Station	Marina/Restaurant/Hotel	56
Smithfield Medical	Medical Office	55
Town of Smithfield	Government	50
Food Lion	Retail Grocery	50

(a) owned by Smithfield Foods, Inc.

(b) owned by Smithfield Companies, Inc.

LOCAL TAXES - 2004 TAX YEAR

Real Estate

	Nominal Tax Rate/\$100	Assessment Ratio	Effective Tax Rate/\$100
Isle of Wight	.75	100%	.75
Town of Smithfield	.23	100%	.23

Machinery & Tools

	Value Used for Tax Purposes	Nominal Tax Rate/\$100	Effective Tax Rate/\$100
Town of Smithfield	County Comm. of the Revenue	.15	.15

Automobiles & Trucks

	Value Used for Tax Purposes	Nominal Tax Rate/\$100	Effective Tax Rate/\$100
Isle of Wight	Blue Book	\$4.40	\$4.40
Town of Smithfield	Blue Book	\$1.00	\$1.00

In Virginia, counties and cities are separate taxing entities. A company pays either county or city tax, depending upon its location. However, if it is located within the corporate limits of a town, it is subject to both town and county levies.



Smithfield Station

UTILITIES

Electricity: Supplied and distributed by Dominion Virginia Power.

Natural Gas: Supplied and distributed by Columbia Gas.

Water: Provided by the Town of Smithfield. Source – 5 wells. Average daily use .7 MGPD with a maximum daily capacity of 2.7 MGPD. Storage capacity is .62 MG overhead.

Sewerage: The Town of Smithfield is a member of the Hampton Roads Sanitation District (HRSD).

Solid Waste Disposal: Provided by the Southeast Regional Public Service Authority (SPSA). Collection is provided by Browning Ferris Industries (BFI). The landfill accepts municipal solid waste and some industrial waste is accepted with prior approval.

COMMUNICATIONS

Telephone: Verizon.

Newspapers: *The Virginian-Pilot*; Norfolk morning daily; *The Daily Press*, Newport News morning daily; *The Smithfield Times*, Smithfield weekly; *Tidewater News*, Franklin weekly.

Radio: Numerous stations are received from the Hampton Roads area.

Television: The major networks are received from the Hampton Roads area. Cable service is provided by Charter Communications.

Parcel: FedEx, UPS, and USPS.

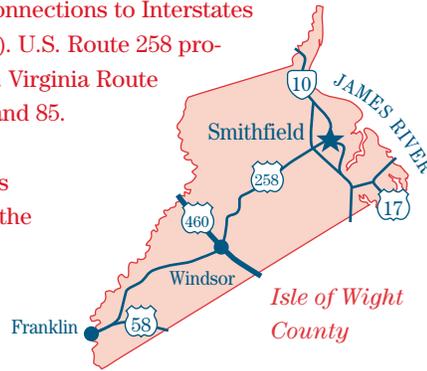
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

The Town of Smithfield is served by four banks with total assets exceeding \$412 billion (6/04).

TRANSPORTATION

Highways: U.S. Route 17 provides connections to Interstates 664 (North/South) and 64 (East/West). U.S. Route 258 provides a connection to U.S. Route 460. Virginia Route 10 provides access to Interstates 95 and 85.

Air: The Williamsburg/Newport News International Airport (35 minutes) is the closest commercial airport. Norfolk International and Richmond International are both within a 75-minute drive.



Waterways: The James River is only minutes away via the Pagan River, providing access to the Port of Hampton Roads, the nation's leader in export tonnage.

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

The Town of Smithfield operates under the council-manager form of government. The Town Council is composed of a mayor and six council members elected at large on a non-partisan basis. The Council adopts general policies and legislation that the Town Manager implements to ensure effective and responsive municipal services.

The town's police force consists of a Chief of Police, 21 uniformed officers, 12 dispatchers and 5 administrative personnel. In March 2000, the police department became the smallest department in the state to receive accreditation from the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission. The Smithfield Volunteer Fire Department protects the Town of Smithfield and the surrounding Isle of Wight County. The Department has over 40 active and/or life members. The Department works in cooperation with the Town of Smithfield, the Smithfield Police Department, the Isle of Wight Volunteer Rescue Squad, the Isle of Wight Sheriff's Department and the Carrollton, Windsor, Rushmere, and Carrsville Volunteer Fire Departments.

The Town performs its own planning, zoning, and engineering services, in addition to water, sewer, public works, and street maintenance. In 1999, the planning dept. implemented a Geographic Information System (GIS). Smithfield has a comprehensive plan, a utility master plan, a subdivision ordinance, a design and construction standards manual, and a zoning ordinance in place.

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

The following colleges and universities are within 45 minutes of Smithfield:

- Christopher Newport University – Newport News
- Eastern Virginia Medical School – Norfolk
- Hampton University – Hampton
- Norfolk State University – Norfolk
- Old Dominion University – Norfolk
- The College of William and Mary – Williamsburg
- Paul D. Camp Community College – Smithfield, Franklin and Suffolk
- Regent University – Chesapeake
- Thomas Nelson Community College – Newport News
- Tidewater Community College – Norfolk, Portsmouth, Chesapeake, and Virginia Beach

AN INVITATION

We invite you to visit Smithfield. Town Hall is located at 310 Institute Street, in the heart of our historic district, and our door is always open. The Town Manager and Town Clerks offices are located at 315 Main St. The Planning, Engineering and Public Works Department is located at 302 Main St. All of the Town's employees have made it their mission to enhance the value of life in Smithfield by working cooperatively with the community to promote public health, safety, order and prosperity. We strive to maintain the highest quality of services to meet the present and future needs of the community.

The Smithfield Town Council meets in regular session at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of every month in conference rooms A and B in the Smithfield Center. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend.

FOR MORE

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