



League of Women Voters

A Special Thank You

To

Mr. John DeMelim

For The Cover Art Work

"TO PROMOTE POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITY THROUGH
INFORMED AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF
CITIZENS IN GOVERNMENT"

This is the aim of the League of Women Voters. The effectiveness of our aim depends a great deal on the strict nonpartisan policy adhered to by the League. The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. It takes a position on issues but never men.

Year after year since 1920, not only has the League of Women Voters given objective nonpartisan information to voters, but it has made basic studies of government on all levels. Only after these sometimes exhaustive studies does the League membership determine a position on an issue and resolve to take action. This is the slow tedious way, but it is the way that works. The Smithfield-Glocester League of Women Voters has made this "Know Your Town" survey to provide an opportunity for themselves and for the other citizens of Smithfield to learn more about their local government so that they may be better able to take intelligent action on local government issues.

The League of Women Voters of Smithfield-Glocester would like to thank the town officials and civic minded citizens who gave so generously of their time to assist us.

Our town needs the citizen who decides — not just the one who resides!



The League of Women Voters of Smithfield-Glocester, Rhode Island
August — 1961

THE SMITHFIELD STORY

<i>Contents</i>	<i>Page</i>
THE COMMUNITY: where you live — work — play	
Historical Background	1
Location and Population	2
Map of Smithfield	3
Industry, Economy and Labor	4
Utilities and Facilities	4
Organizations	6
Community Points of Interest	7
PAYABLE TO: the Town of Smithfield — your taxes	
Chart of Government	8
General Government	9
Finances and Personnel	11
Courts and Justice	14
Political Organization	15
The Voter and Elections	16
FROM SMITHFIELD TO YOU: services rendered	
Schools and Education	18
Planning and Zoning	21
Streets and Highways	23
Health and Sanitation	23
Public Welfare	24
Recreation	25
Protection: Fire, Police and Civil Defense	26
"YOU", THE PEOPLE: powers, privileges and prerogatives	28

THE COMMUNITY: *where you live — work — play*

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Town of Smithfield was originally a portion of the territory that was part of the Town of Providence. Along with the towns of Glocester and Scituate it completed a section known as the Out Lands of Providence. In the late 17th century this area was wild and sparsely settled by white men; the main inhabitants being Indians who called their land Wionkiege in the south, Louisquisset in the east and Woonsocket in the north.

Among the earlier white settlers were families whose names are still familiar to us today; Steere, Wilkinson, Jenks, Smith, Comstock, Angell, Winsor and Waterman. Most of these early families settled in the eastern Louisquisset country along the Blackstone River. The first settlers to the Woonasquatucket area did not come until the beginning of the 1700's with the exception of Joshua Winsor who, in 1685, was deeded land in what is now Greenville. Resolved Waterman, too, settled earlier in 1689. Elisha Smith and James Angell arrived to settle in the Woonasquatucket Valley near Georgiaville in 1700, Major William Smith in Esmond in 1703, Abraham Smith in Spragueville and Daniel Smith in Stillwater in 1733, Thomas Owen in Georgiaville in 1752, and Daniel Windsor, at what is now Redwood Farm, in Greenville in 1739. Many of these early residents of Smithfield were Quakers who settled along the Blackstone River. They built the first Quaker Meeting House in 1704 in the northern section at what is now Lonsdale. The Town of Smithfield was incorporated by the General Assembly meeting in Newport in February of 1731. It contained within its boundaries the territory later occupied by the present Smithfield, North Smithfield, Lincoln, Central Falls and part of Woonsocket.

The industrial and agricultural development of the town were influenced by the availability of the waters and water power of the Branch, Mossassuck, Woonasquatucket and Crook Fall Rivers in the town.

The town government which was formed was basic and democratic; a Town Council and Town Meetings. The first town meeting was held on March 17th, 1731 at the home of Captain Valentine Whitman located in what is now the Town of Lincoln. Richard Sayles was chosen as Town Clerk and six men were elected to the Town Council; John Arnold, Captain Joseph Mowry, Thomas Steere, John Mowry, Sam Aldrich and Benjamin Smith. At least two town meetings were held each year. One to elect officials and appropriate funds and one for choosing representatives to the General Assembly.

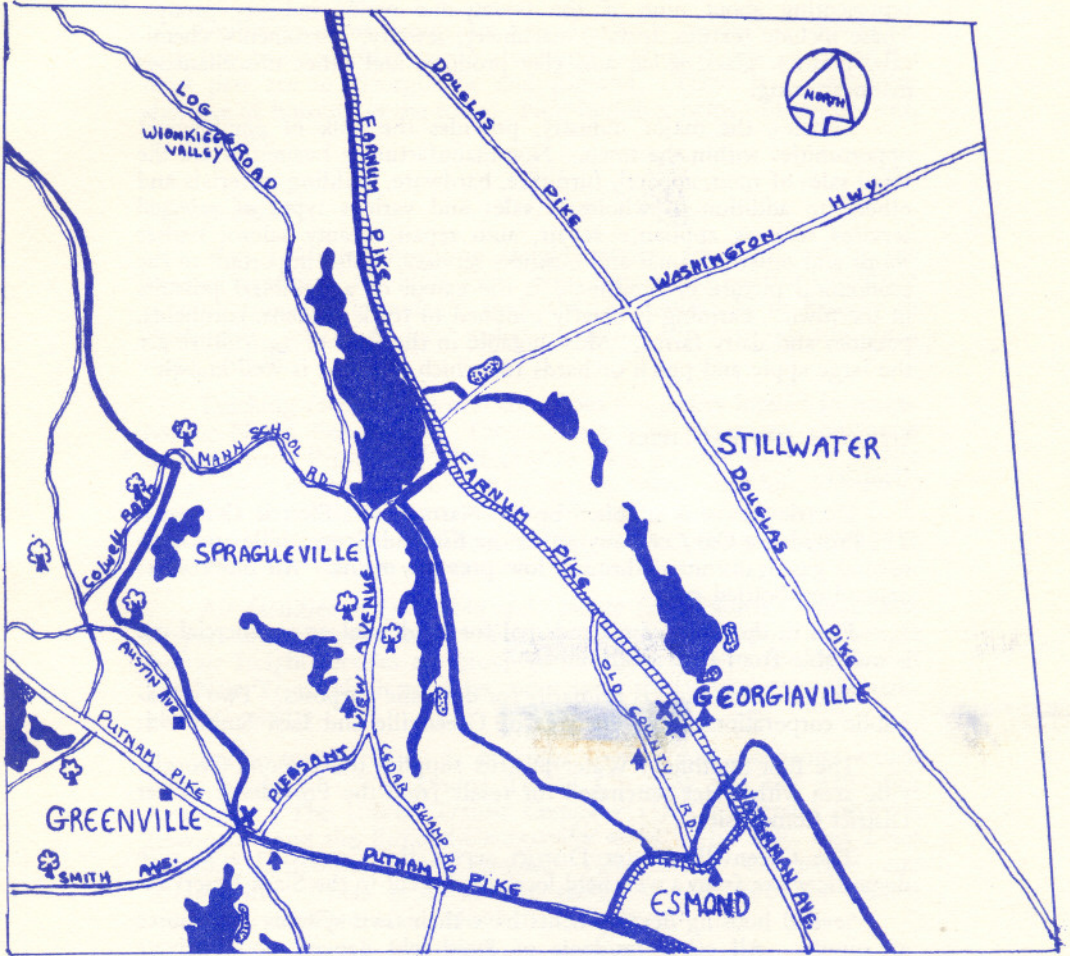
Some of the earlier industries in Smithfield were grist mills, saw mills, furnaces and at least one snuff mill. A grist mill was built by Andrew Waterman in the latter 1700's to which he later added a furnace. Unity Furnace near Manville was built about the same time by Israel Wilkinson. John Farnum and his sons had such a flourishing blacksmith and forge in Georgiaville that they constructed Farnum Pike to accommodate their business. Oziel Wilkinson of Smithfield, an ingenious mechanic, contributed to the growing cotton industry by furnishing many mechanical details to Samuel Slater for his famous mill. By 1819 there were nine cotton mills in Smithfield, but they were experiencing difficulties with their water supply. In the hot summer months the rivers would dry up and the mills would be forced to cease working for weeks at a time. To alleviate this problem, one of the first commissions on water conservation in this country was formed. The Woonasquatucket River Company was granted a charter and its sole purpose was to find ways and means of combating the water problem. This company constructed three reservoirs in Smithfield within a fifteen year period. Slack Reservoir was completed in 1823 followed by the Upper and Lower Sprague Reservoirs and Waterman Reservoir. With the help of this reliable water supply, twenty mills prospered in the town by 1876.

The industrial development spurred the town to grow from a population of 450 in 1748 to 11,500 by 1850. As early as 1833, movements had begun calling for the separation of parts of Smithfield to other towns. On March 8, 1871, Smithfield was divided setting off a portion to Woonsocket and creating the towns of North Smithfield and Lincoln which included Central Falls. With this division, Smithfield was reduced to an area of approximately twenty-seven square miles and a population of 2600. Smithfield, today, is still approximately twenty-seven square miles, but has developed considerably in all respects.









LOCATION AND POPULATION

Smithfield, encompassing an area of 26.6 square miles, is situated about eleven miles northwest of Providence. It is bounded by the Town of North Smithfield on the north; by the towns of North Providence and Johnston on the south; by the Town of Lincoln on the east and by the Town of Gloucester on the west. The main villages in Smithfield are Georgiaville, Esmond, Greenville, Spragueville and Stillwater. The population in Smithfield, according to the 1960 United States Census, totals 9,436. In 1950, it was 6,690, indicating a 41.04% increase in ten years. Projected estimates for Smithfield place the population growth at an approximate 12,000 total by 1970. The present average density of inhabitants per square mile is 355. Approximately 60% of the town area is wooded.

SMITHFIELD



LEGEND

- | | |
|--|--|
|  Fire district boundary
West: District 1
East: District 2 |  Schools |
|  Voting District boundaries
Dist. 1: Greenville area
Dist. 2: Esmond area
Dist. 3: Spragueville area
Dist. 4: Georgiaville,
Stillwater area |  Parochial Schools |
|  Town Hall |  Fire Stations |
| |  Recreation area |
| |  Orchards-Apple Blossom Trail |

INDUSTRY, ECONOMY AND LABOR

There are about twenty-five manufacturing plants in Smithfield representing about nine of the twenty-one major industry groups. These include textiles, metals, machinery, jewelry, instruments, chemicals, plastics, glass, stone and clay products and other miscellaneous manufacturing.

Textiles, the major industry, provides the bulk of employment opportunities within the town. Non-manufacturing businesses are the retail sales of food, apparel, furniture, hardware, building materials and others, in addition to wholesale sales and various types of selected services such as appliance repair, auto repair, beauty salons, barber shops and other personal and business services. Also important to the economical picture of Smithfield is the extent of agricultural pursuits in the town. Farming is chiefly confined to truck gardens, cornfields, potatoes and dairy farms. Most notable in the field of agriculture are the large apple and peach orchards for which this area is well known.

UTILITIES AND FACILITIES

Utilities:

Electric power is supplied by the Narragansett Electric Company. The Providence Gas Company serves the Esmond-Georgiaville area with natural gas, transmitted through low pressure mains. All other users depend on bottled gas.

Fuel in the form of oil and coal for residential or commercial use is available from local distributors.

Water distribution is primarily for domestic purposes. Two quasi-public corporations serve the area of Greenville and East Smithfield:

The East Smithfield Water District supplies the Esmond-Georgiaville area with water purchased for resale from the Providence Water District Commission.

The Greenville Water District serves the Greenville area with domestic water from a well field located adjacent to the Slack Reservoir.

Several housing developments have their own systems as a source of supply. All other residents of Smithfield depend upon private wells. At present in Smithfield there are no town developed sewers or facilities for public sewage treatment. Mills have their own private filtration plants and some private residents have their own sewer pipes into the Woonasquatucket River. Most residents have private cess-pools or septic tanks.

Telephone service is provided by the Pawtucket and Woonsocket branches of the New England Telephone and Telegraph Company. One-party through eight-party telephone service is available.

Facilities:

Housing:

Smithfield is predominantly a single family residential community with few two and three family dwellings. Multi-family units for the most part are in Georgiaville and Esmond. There is no apparent shortage of housing in the town. New building helps to keep up with the demand.

Transportation:

Rail facilities, providing freight service, are furnished by the Pascoag Branch of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad running from the Providence yards through Smithfield to Pascoag in Burrillville. A freight local makes the round trip over this line three times a week.

Trucking facilities are available from companies located in neighboring North Providence. These, along with the many companies located in the Providence Metropolitan area, provide adequate service for utilizers of this type of carrier in the town. Smithfield is easily accessible to the New York and Boston areas. U. S. Route 44, R. I. Routes 5 and 116 and the Douglas Pike are the principal highways in Smithfield for the use of trucking.

Air facilities are available and operate from North Central State Airport located partly in Smithfield and partly in Lincoln. Passenger and air freight services are provided by flights between North Central and New York, which provides connections with major cities throughout the country.

Public transportation is provided by two bus companies which serve Smithfield. The United Transit Company and the ABC Bus Lines, Inc. The United Transit Company (UTC) operates between Providence and the Esmond-Georgiaville areas. The ABC Bus Lines furnish transportation to Esmond, Georgiaville, Greenville and Spragueville. There is no taxi-cab service in the town, the nearest available is in Centredale, North Providence.

Communications:

Smithfield is served daily by the Providence Journal and the Evening Bulletin which provide local coverage for the town. Another newspaper, The Observer, originating and published weekly in Greenville, serves Smithfield and the neighboring towns of Gloucester, Scituate, Foster, North Providence and Johnston. Local coverage is also provided by the radio and television broadcasting stations in the State.

Churches:

First Freewill Baptist Church — Putnam Pike, Greenville.
Georgiaville Baptist Church — Farnum Pike, Georgiaville.
St. Phillip's Church (Catholic) — Putnam Pike, Greenville.
St. Michael's Church (Catholic) — Homestead Ave., Georgiaville.
St. Thomas' Church (Episcopal) — Putnam Pike, Greenville.
Smithfield Union Chapel (Protestant) — Brayton Road and
Douglas Pike.

Children's Home:

The St. Aloysius Home (The Rhode Island Catholic Orphanage)
is located on Austin Avenue in Greenville.

ORGANIZATIONS

Civic and Service:

Lions, Apple Blossom Garden Club, League of Women Voters, Smithfield Citizens Council for Public Schools, Smithfield Public Health League, Greenville Fire Department and its Auxiliary, Georgiaville Fire Company and its Auxiliary, Greenville Grange, Parent Teacher Associations, Smithfield P. T. A. Council, Smithfield Recreational Association, Smithfield Historical Society, Western R. I. Civic Historical Society.

Social:

Portuguese-American Social and Athletic Club, Smithfield Sportsman's Association.

Women:

East Smithfield Homemaker's Club.

Business and professional:

Smithfield Teachers' Association.

Veterans:

American Legion, Balfour-Cole Post No. 64 and its Auxiliary.

Fraternal:

Temple Association, Inc. (Masons), Fraternal Order of Police.

Other:

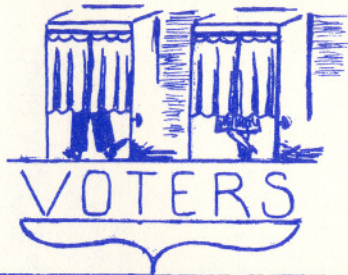
Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, 4-H Clubs, St. Peter's Club, and church affiliated groups.

COMMUNITY POINTS OF INTEREST

- Apple Blossom Trail in late April - early May (See map)
Captain Joseph Mowry House—built 1708 in Georgiaville
Col. Elisha Mowry House—built 1759 in Georgiaville
Noah Farnum Homestead—built 1760 in Georgiaville
Major William Smith House—built 1703 in Esmond
Redwood Farm, Daniel Windsor House—built 1739 in Greenville
John Appleby Farm—built 1750 near Stillwater
Reuben Mowry House (Yellow Tavern)—built 1740 on upper
Farnum Pike
Greenville Tavern—built 1730 in Greenville
Maria Appleby Homestead—built 1736 in Stillwater
Ainsell Angell House—built 1780 in Georgiaville
Daniel Angell Tavern—built 1800 in Georgiaville

SMITHFIELD

CHART of GOVERNMENT



TOWN COUNCIL	TOWN CLERK	TOWN TREASURER	SCHOOL COMMITTEE	HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER	DIRECTOR of PUBLIC WELFARE	TOWN SERGEANT	TOWN MODERATOR	DISTRICT MODERATORS	DISTRICT CLERKS
--------------	------------	----------------	------------------	----------------------	----------------------------	---------------	----------------	---------------------	-----------------

appoints

TOWN SOLICITOR
 TAX COLLECTOR
 TAX ASSESSOR-BUILDING INSPECTOR
 BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW
 CHIEF OF POLICE
 PROBATE JUDGE
 HEALTH OFFICER
 BOARD OF CANVASSEKS
 ZONING BOARD OF REVIEW
 INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COMM.
 BUDGET COMMITTEE
 SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES
 TREE WARDEN
 SURVEYOR OF LUMBER
 FENCE VIEWER
 FIELD DRIVER
 AUCTIONEER
 SPECIAL POLICE
 CONSTABLES
 FOREST WARDEN
 TAX COLLECTOR'S CLERK
 SEWER COMMISSION

appoints

SUPERINTENDENT
 SCHOOL PERSONNEL



elects
 PLANNING BOARD

PAYABLE TO: *the Town of Smithfield — your taxes*

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Smithfield was incorporated in 1731, by an Act of the General Assembly of Rhode Island and under the provisions of the General Laws of Rhode Island. The basic governmental structure and machinery has altered very little since its incorporation. Like most municipalities of Rhode Island, Smithfield governs itself only to a controlled degree since its authority comes directly through the state legislature. Changes in structure are effected by the enactment of enabling legislation by the General Assembly. Although enabling legislation has been passed for Smithfield throughout the years, there is still limited opportunity for major self-determination.

The Town of Smithfield is organized as a Council form of government. The voters of Smithfield elect the town officers who make up the governing personnel. The more important elective offices being the Town Council, the School Committee, the Town Clerk and the Town Treasurer. The other elective offices are the Highway Commissioner, the Director of Public Welfare, the Town Sergeant, the Town Moderator, four District Moderators and four District Clerks.

The principal agencies of general government are the Town Meeting, the Town Council and the Town Clerk.

TOWN COUNCIL

Membership: Five members, elected at large by partisan ballot. The elected Council designates one of its number as Council President. This title does not imply additional authority.

Term of office: Two years.

Meetings: All meetings are open to the residents of the town, except when the council is in executive session. Meetings are held on a regular meeting day each month in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall in Georgiaville.



Functions: The council has legislative, policy-making and administrative functions as authorized by the General Laws of Rhode Island.

The major responsibilities are:

1. the enactment of ordinances
2. the appointment of the majority of other town offices
3. authority to fill vacancies which may occur in any appointive or elective town office
4. direct jurisdiction and responsibility for the police department
5. administration of the budget including payment of all bills, except those of the School Committee and direct grants of the Financial Town Meeting
6. jurisdiction over zoning amendments
7. approval of applications for liquor, victualling, peddler and other special licenses
8. to perform the duties as ex officio Board of Health
9. to supervise bond issues after they are provided by enabling legislation
10. to assume the duties as Trustees of the Cemetery Trust Fund
11. to perform as a Board of Abatement upon recommendations of the Board of Assessment Review

With the exception of schools and education the Town Council has jurisdiction over all local matters which do not involve changes in governmental function or structure. These, along with enabling legislation for bond issues, must come from the state legislature.

TOWN CLERK

This office is generally considered to be of key importance in the town government. The Town Clerk is elected by partisan ballot for a two year term. The office of the Town Clerk is authorized to appoint a Deputy Clerk when necessary. The major duties of the office are:

1. by State Law, to serve as Clerk of the Probate Court and Clerk of the Board of Canvassers.
2. the custody and maintenance of records pertaining to the Town Council, Town Meetings, elections and Probate Court proceedings.
3. the recording of deeds, mortgages and other legal instruments
4. the reporting and recording of births, deaths and marriages
5. the issuance and collection of fees for various licenses and permits
6. the processing of licenses authorized by the Town Council
7. the maintenance, preparation and correction of voting lists
8. the administering of oaths of office
9. to advertise public hearings
10. to prepare lists for the selection of jurors by the Town Council

FINANCIAL TOWN MEETING

The Financial Town Meeting is held annually the second Saturday in May. The Town Moderator, elected by partisan ballot for a two year term, presides at the Town Meeting, but has no administrative authority in the town government. Real Estate owners and personal property owners, who have paid their taxes within ten days before the meeting on personal property valued over \$134.00, are qualified as electors to attend and vote. The functions of the Financial Town Meeting, carried out by the qualified electors who attend, are:

1. to balance and approve the town budget
2. to appropriate funds
3. to impose taxes
4. to elect members to the town Planning Board
5. to consider and vote on requests for support funds from citizen organizations. (ie: the Smithfield Recreation Association, the Fire Departments, the Smithfield Public Health League and the Library Associations)
6. to consider and vote on capital improvements and purchases of large equipment
7. to receive and accept government departmental reports
8. to authorize the Town Treasurer to borrow on tax anticipation notes.

CHANGES IN GOVERNMENT

Petition for change, originating from the electors of the town or proposed by the Town Council, is brought before the council for consideration. If approved, the proposed change is presented to the General Assembly. Partial or specific changes require the enactment of enabling legislation by the Assembly. Complete change can be effected by: the granting of a legislative charter by the General Assembly, *or* the acceptance by the majority of the electors of the town of a home-rule charter, under the provisions of the Home Rule Amendment to the Rhode Island Constitution.

Smithfield is represented in the State Legislature by one Senator and one Representative. Representation is apportioned on the basis of population.

FINANCES AND PERSONNEL

Finances:

Financial planning and administration in Smithfield include the following: The Budget; Taxes and Tax Structure; Purchasing; Accounting and Debt Structure.

The Budget: By state law the town is authorized to appoint an eight member, bi-partisan Budget Committee. Appointment is made annually by the Town Council from recommendations of the respective party chairmen. There must be at least one Democrat and one Republican holdover, and appointments must be made by July 15th. The function of the Budget Committee is to obtain reports and information for the preparation of the budget from the various departments and the Town Council, and to recommend the proposed budget to the Financial Town Meeting.

The school department presents its budget directly to the Budget Committee while other departments send their budget estimates to the Town Council which then forwards the complete budget estimate to the Budget Committee. Citizen organizations present their support estimates directly to the Budget Committee. The budget includes all income and expenditures based on the previous year.

— THE TAX DOLLAR —

<u>SOURCES</u>		<u>USES</u>	
Property Taxes	71%	General Government	2%
Shared Taxes	3%	Financial Administration	2%
Grants-in-aid	20%	Public Safety	8%
Licenses and Fees	1%	Public Works	12%
Other Revenues	5%	Public Health	1%
		Public Welfare	1%
		Recreation	1%
		Education	62%
		Debt Service	10%
		Miscellaneous	1%
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	100%		100%

(%figures from the R. I. Public Expenditure Council — May 1961)

Taxes and tax structure: Taxes in Smithfield are paid on real estate, personal property and intangible assessments made and determined as follows:

Real estate: assessment is made at approximately 80% of fair market value. The market value of residential, commercial and industrial real estate is determined from sales data, construction cost or income.

Automobiles: assessment is made according to the market value listings of the National Automobile Dealers' Association guide which results in assessments at approximately 90% of true value. There is a set minimum on automobile assessed valuation.

Business inventory: assessment is made at not more than 80% of market value. Book values and inventories are accepted as a fair basis for assessment.

Intangible personal property: assessments are based on statements filed with the Tax Assessor. There is no intangible property tax on corporations.

Property is assessed annually on or before December 31st. Assessed valuations are determined by the Tax Assessor-Building Inspector. The Tax Assessor-Building Inspector is appointed by the Town Council for a six year term. The responsibilities and duties of the office, as Tax Assessor, are:

1. to establish an equitable system of assessing property for taxation
2. to record the value of land and buildings and keep tax maps
3. to keep records of changes in assessments ordered by the Board of Assessment Review and of abatements passed on by the Town Council
4. to levy taxes

Appeal on assessments may be made to the Board of Assessment Review, composed of three members appointed by the Town Council for six year terms (staggered). The functions of the Board are:

1. to review complaints pertaining to the amount of assessed valuation.
2. to establish methods of review procedure
3. to hold hearings on complaints or requests for review
4. to make recommendations to the Town Council for abatements

Taxes are collected by the Tax Collector appointed by the Town Council for a one year term. The office of the Tax Collector also supervises the Tax Sale of property held for delinquent taxes.

Purchasing: There is no purchasing department in Smithfield. Purchasing for department needs is done by each department head, payment of bills made by the Town Council. Competitive bids are required for all purchases of \$500.00 or more. Purchases of large equipment require the approval of the Financial Town Meeting.

Accounting: The Town Treasurer, elected by partisan ballot for a two year term, is the custodian of town funds. The responsibilities and duties of the office are:

1. to keep accounting records which show the current status of town finances

2. to make monthly reports to the Town Council of receipts and expenditures
3. to audit all invoices and other charges
4. to borrow on tax anticipation notes when necessary

Accounts are audited annually by the State Bureau of Audits following the end of the fiscal year. The fiscal year in Smithfield is from July 1 - June 30.

An annual report in the form of a Yearbook is available free of charge to all real estate taxpayers. All other residents may obtain copies at \$1.50. The yearbook contains a listing of town officers, the auditors report, school department report and taxpayer lists and can be obtained through the Tax Collector's office or the Town Clerk's office.

Debt structure: The debt limit as established by state law is 3% of the total assessed value of all taxable and exempt property in the town.

The town issues a standard type serial bond to finance the cost of major improvements (new school building, highways, public buildings and special projects). Bond issues require enabling legislation from the General Assembly and the approval of the Financial Town Meeting. Short term financing is accomplished through the use of tax anticipation notes. Funds received from bond issues must be kept separate and apart from other town funds, and must be used specifically for the purpose for which they were authorized.

Personnel:

Smithfield town employees have no civil service status. There is no personnel officer and policies relative to the hiring of employees are carried out by the individual department heads, subject to review by the Town Council. Rates of compensation for town employees are determined by the Town Council, funds for which are appropriated by the Financial Town Meeting.

A code of personnel regulations establishes the policies pertaining to vacations, sick leave, overtime, paid holidays, attendance and resignations.

COURTS AND JUSTICE

The agencies which administer justice in Smithfield are the office of the Town Solicitor, the Probate Court and the District Court.

The Town Solicitor is appointed by the Town Council for two years. The responsibilities and duties of the office are:

1. to furnish legal advice and process the law work for the town

2. to represent the town in any litigation
3. to prepare legal instruments
4. to act in the capacity of prosecutor when directed by the Town Council
5. to prepare or assist in preparing proposed ordinances

The Probate Court of Smithfield convenes once a month in the Town Hall in Georgiaville. A Probate Judge, appointed by the Town Council for a one year term, presides. The court has jurisdiction in guardianships, adoptions over eighteen years of age, wills and estates.

District Court: Smithfield is within the Ninth Judicial District of the State of Rhode Island. The Ninth District Court of Rhode Island convenes in the Smithfield Town Hall, which the state rents for the purpose. A District Judge, appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the state legislature, presides. The Clerk of the District Court also performs as acting judge. All misdemeanors occurring within the Town of Smithfield come before the jurisdiction of this court.

The selection of jurors is determined by the Town Council from lists prepared by the Town Clerk, performing the duty as Clerk of the Board of Canvassers.

POLITICAL ORGANIZATION

There are two political parties in the town of Smithfield, represented by the Republican Town Committee and the Democratic Town Committee. Committee members are elected for two year terms in the party primaries held before each general election. After the election these committees are organized and serve as the senatorial and representative District Committees in the town.

By law, the powers and duties of local party committees include the general management of all party affairs in their areas, the responsibility of making official endorsements of local primary candidates, and the responsibility of supplying lists of party members from which poll officials in primary elections are chosen.

Primary elections of opposing parties are held in accordance with the state law; a one-day, one-place primary held on the second Tuesday after the first Monday in September.

All local committees after organizing must file a list of their officers and members with the Secretary of State and the local Board of Canvassers. An individual wishing to be a candidate for office must sign a declaration of candidacy with either the Secretary of State or the Town Clerk depending upon whether it is a state or local office.

Nomination papers with signatures of the necessary number of eligible party voters must then be filed. If the candidate is endorsed by his respective town committee, and there is no opposition, a primary is not necessary. With opposition, a closed primary is held, the winner then filing final nomination papers as a candidate for the general election.

THE VOTER AND ELECTIONS

The Voter:

The Smithfield voter must have the following qualifications: he must be 1) a citizen of the United States, 2) 21 years of age or older, 3) a resident of the state of Rhode Island for one year and a resident of the town of Smithfield for at least six months prior to an election, and 4) a registered voter.

A new voter in Smithfield must register with the Board of Canvassers at the office of the Town Clerk or other designated places at least sixty days prior to the election. Registration is permanent. However, a voter who has failed to vote in a primary or general election within five years is removed from the voting list and must re-register. Absentee registration is permitted by mail. Absentee ballots may be obtained by a registered voter if unable to vote in person. Servicemen are included in this category.

A citizen wishing to vote in a primary election must be a registered voter who has not voted in the primary for the opposing party within 26 months, nor signed primary or final nomination papers for a candidate in the opposing party within 26 months, nor been a candidate in 12 months on final nomination papers for another party.

The Election:

Local elections are biennial and coincide with the state elections, held on the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November. At least seven days notice of purpose, time and place is required prior to the election.

Voting machines are used in the town of Smithfield; write-in votes are not permitted.

The town is divided into four voting districts each of which elects a District Moderator and a District Clerk for a two year term. Each voting district has two Democratic and two Republican supervisors, appointed by the local Board of Canvassers.

The Board of Canvassers is a bi-partisan body appointed by the Town Council from lists of party voters submitted by the respective chairmen of the local party committees.

Membership: three members, not more than two of whom shall belong to the same political party. (The Town Clerk is, by law, Clerk of the Board of Canvassers)

Term of office: six year (staggered).

Functions:

1. to administer all the duties and functions concerning nominations, elections, registration of voters and canvassing rights
2. responsibility for the preparation and correction of voting lists
3. to select one of its number as Chairman of the Board, who shall be the official in charge.

The Board of Canvassers should always be notified of a change of address.

Smithfield is within the 2nd Congressional District of the United States.

FROM SMITHFIELD TO YOU: *services rendered*

SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION

The school system and the quality of education in Smithfield is the direct responsibility of the School Committee within the provisions of powers and duties delegated in the General Laws of Rhode Island.

Administration of the Schools

The School Committee

Membership: five members elected at large by partisan ballot. The committee selects one of its number as chairman.

Term of office: four years (staggered)

Meetings: All meetings are open to the public except for executive sessions. Meetings are held on a regular meeting day each month with the exception of August.

Powers and duties:

1. to appoint a Superintendent of Schools
2. to determine the policies and establish the rules and regulations pertaining to the school system
3. to administer all funds appropriated by the town for school purposes
4. the maintenance and repair of all school property
5. to determine the location of all schoolhouses, but not to change a location without good cause
6. to take an annual school census
7. to determine the subdivision of the school district
8. to select all school personnel and determine the rate of compensation
9. to purchase text-books and other school supplies, apparatus and equipment
10. to expend for school purposes any unexpended balance remaining from the school appropriation of an expired fiscal year
11. to provide suitable transportation to and from schools to insure the proper attendance of pupils
12. to provide transportation for pupils attending private schools, except such schools as are operated for profit
13. to prepare and submit estimates and recommendations of funds necessary for the support of the public schools to be appropriated at the Financial Town Meeting.

School Committee members do not receive a salary. Each member is paid a sum to defray expenses, the amount of which is determined by the school committee.

The Superintendent of schools in Smithfield has no contract. Appointment is made by the School Committee for an indefinite term. Termination of office is at the discretion of the School Committee. The functions of the Superintendent, as chief administrative agent of the School Committee, are:

1. to supervise the care and administration of schools under the direction of the school committee
2. to assist the committee in keeping records and accounts
3. to assist in the preparation of such reports as are required by law
4. to recommend teachers, principals, supervisors and assistants for appointment by the school committee
5. to recommend text-books, curriculum, school supplies, repairs and other needed improvements.

SCHOOL FINANCING

Funds for school support are provided by town appropriations derived from real estate property taxes. Under the state's school finance program, a community can receive from 25% to 50% of its operational aid from the state. The state law requires that every community must provide a minimum of \$300 plus transportation costs per pupil per year and a minimum salary scale of \$4000 - \$6000 for teaching personnel in order to be eligible for state aid. Smithfield provides these minimum requirements and receives part of its operational costs in reimbursement from the state. As a Federal Impact Area, Smithfield also receives some federal aid. New school building and construction are financed by bond issues, approved by the Financial Town Meeting and permitted by enabling legislation. The State Aid to Construction Bill provides from 25% to 50% of aid towards financing new building programs. State and federal aid is also provided towards the cost of the federal school lunch program.

SCHOOLS AND SPECIAL SERVICES

Smithfield comprises a school district divided into four sub-districts each served by an elementary school:

The William Winsor Memorial School on Putnam Pike in Greenville with nine classrooms and a teaching staff of nine, including the principal.

The Anna M. McCabe School on Pleasant View Avenue between Greenville and Spragueville with thirteen classrooms, including one room for exceptional (retarded) children and an all-purpose room. Thirteen teachers plus the principal staff the school.

The Irving S. Cook School on Farnum Pike in Georgiaville has ten classrooms with a teaching staff of ten, including the principal.

The Dorothy T. P. Dame School on Esmond Street in Esmond with nine classrooms and a teaching staff of nine, including the principal.

The Smithfield Memorial Junior High School on Old County Road in Georgiaville is the only secondary school serving Smithfield. The school has fifteen classrooms plus a shop, art room, home economics center, science room, library, cafeteria and gymnasium which is used when needed for other purposes. There are twenty-two on the teaching staff plus the principal, school nurse and clerk.

Each of the elementary schools has a playground, kitchen and lunchroom. Smithfield does not provide educational facilities beyond the ninth grade. However, tuition determined by the School Committee is provided for pupils to attend an out-of-town high school of their own choice. Transportation is furnished to Providence and North Providence. Pupils outside the regular transportation routes are reimbursed, in part, for travel expenses.

In accordance with state law, attendance is required of children between the ages of seven and sixteen for a minimum school year of 180 days.

In addition to the public school system there are two elementary parochial schools located in Smithfield:

- St. Peter's School on Austin Avenue, Greenville and
- St. Phillip's School on Putnam Pike, Greenville.

All teachers in the Smithfield public school system are required to qualify with a bachelor's degree. Teacher certification is administered by the State Department of Education. Appointment of teachers is made by the School Committee upon recommendations submitted by the Superintendent. Teachers in Smithfield participate in a State Retirement Program.

In addition to the customary teaching procedures, books and equipment provided by the school system, the following special services are also available:

1. hot lunch program
2. adult education classes offered for a ten-week period at the Junior High School
3. a school health program which provides regular physical check-ups, dental clinics, eye clinics, audiometer tests, physiotherapy for crippled children and vaccinations and physical check-ups for those entering the first grade
4. special home tutors for handicapped children

Libraries

Residents of Smithfield may avail themselves of the services of three public libraries:

The Henry F. Jenckes Memorial Library (Greenville Public Library) is located on Putnam Pike in Greenville. The library sponsors and provides a program of lectures, an annual art show and exhibitions of current interest during the year.

The Bernon Public Library is located on Homestead Avenue in Georgiaville. It is housed in a building which originally belonged to an old Farnum estate.

The Esmond Public Library is located in the Smithfield Recreational Association building on Esmond Street in Esmond.

All three libraries are operated by Boards, elected by the members of the individual Library Associations. Librarians are appointed by the respective Boards. Funds for the support and operation of the libraries come from town appropriations, subscriptions and gifts and from Federal Aid to Rural Free Libraries. The state provides some aid towards the compensation for librarians.

PLANNING AND ZONING

Town Planning:

To "make studies of the resources and needs of the town and the economic well-being and the efficiency of communal life" this is the purpose and function stated in the resolution of the Financial Town Meeting which created the Smithfield Planning Board.

The Planning Board consists of eleven members, elected for three year terms, on an alternating basis. The Board operates with the part-time services of a professional planner from the Rhode Island Development Council provided under the Community Planning Assistance program in which the Board participates. Under this program the Board has made many major studies and plans, some of which are: a land use plan, a school site study, a capital improvement program, a major highway plan, a complete zoning ordinance revision and subdivision regulations, and employee personnel regulations. The major responsibilities of the Board are: to recommend and advise plans, changes or regulations to the Town Council, to make specific studies as directed by the Town Council, and to administer the subdivision regulations.

To further the "economic well-being" of the town through the promotion of industrial development is the responsibility of the Industrial Development Commission. The Commission consists of nine members appointed by the Town Council and having no specified term

of office. The main functions of the Commission are: to encourage industry to locate in Smithfield, to aid industry in finding suitable locations and to assist existing industry in whatever way possible. Smithfield offers a tax concession to new and existing business and industry, when and if they expand the building and equipment in excess of ten percent, and upon final determination of the Town Council

Zoning and housing:

Ordinances regulating zoning and housing requirements are adopted by the Town Council. Smithfield has a permissive type zoning ordinance which is designed to:

1. promote the public health, safety and general welfare
2. preserve suitable land for industrial use
3. lessen congestion in the streets and avoid undue concentration of population
- b. facilitate the adequate provision of public services and requirements.

The building ordinance is the performance type applicable to all existing structures, conversions and new building.

The plumbing and drainage ordinance is designed to overcome difficult drainage problems which may be encountered.

The zoning, building, plumbing and drainage ordinances are administered by the Tax Assessor-Building Inspector, performing the duties as building inspector. The major responsibilities are:

1. to issue building permits for new buildings, alterations or additions to existing buildings or homes
2. to pass on questions relative to the mode, construction or materials used in the erecting or alteration of buildings
3. to examine all buildings in the course of construction, alteration or repair
4. to keep records of all violations of the ordinances administered by the office
5. to institute prosecution for violations

Smithfield is divided into residential, farming, commercial and industrial zones. No structure shall be erected, altered or relocated or land used unless it conforms to the provisions of the zoning ordinance.

Amendments to the zoning ordinance may be made by the Town Council after a public hearing and due consideration.

Appeal on zoning variances, complaints of error and special exceptions to the ordinance may be made to the Zoning Board of

Review. The Zoning Board of Review consists of five members appointed by the Town Council for five year terms (staggered). All hearings of the Board are open to the public.

STREETS AND HIGHWAYS

The town of Smithfield constitutes one highway district. Funds for the maintenance and repair of town roads are appropriated at the Financial Town Meeting. The Town Council administers the expenditure of highway appropriations and determines the rate of compensation paid for men, machinery and materials. The Highway Commissioner, elected by partisan ballot for a two year term, supervises the highway district. The major responsibilities of the office are:

1. the maintenance and repair of town streets and highways
2. the construction of sidewalks
3. the placement of street signs
4. to purchase materials and apparatus needed to carry out the directions of the Town Council
5. to administer the expenditure of monies allotted for the highway district when not expended by contract
6. to administer the expenditure of special appropriations for specified building or repair when not expended by contract.

There are about 100 miles of streets and highways in Smithfield, of which approximately 30 miles are state highways maintained by the Rhode Island State Division of Highways. These are Route 44 (the Putnam Pike), Route 7 (the Douglas Pike), Route 116 (Pleasant View Avenue and Washington Highway) and Route 104 (Waterman Avenue and Farnum Pike).

Street lighting is under the supervision of the Street Lights Committee of the Town Council. The Narragansett Electric Company maintains the street lights in the town.

HEALTH AND SANITATION

Health:

Although there is no Board of Health in Smithfield, the Town Council assumes the duties as an ex officio Board of Health. A qualified physician is appointed each year by the Town Council to serve as the Health Officer. The Health Officer serves without pay, but receives a sum toward expenses. The duties of the office, to which he gives two or three hours a week, include the reporting of communicable diseases to the state, inspecting reported health hazards in the town and supervising polio clinics and vaccination clinics for school-age children.

In the absence of a hospital, Smithfield residents use the hospitals of Pawtucket, Providence and Woonsocket. Charity patients are provided for by the General Public Assistance funds with the town giving 30% and the state 70%. There is one full-time school nurse as well as a part-time school doctor and dentist, recommended by the Superintendent of Schools to the School Committee, as part of the School Health Program.

Public nursing service is provided by the Smithfield Public Health League, a non-profit citizen organization, whose major sources of income are the United Fund and the Town of Smithfield. Some of the services provided by the Smithfield Public Health League are:

1. nursing care to patients in their home, for which a nominal fee is charged to those who can pay
2. child health conferences, popularly known as well-baby clinics
3. immunization clinics, without fee
4. the use of loan closets and hospital equipment

Sanitation:

Rubbish removal and garbage collection are provided free of charge to residents of Smithfield. Rubbish is collected by the town highway department. Garbage collection is by contract which the Town Council awards on a sealed bid basis. Smithfield does not have a sewage system, however a Sewer Commission, appointed by the Town Council and consisting of five members with no specified term of office, have the responsibility to study and determine the requirements necessary to provide an adequate sewer system for Smithfield and to report and recommend on the findings of the commission to the Town Council.

There are no local requirements for the examination of food handlers. Victuallers are licensed and they are inspected by the state at intervals. Milk is inspected by the State Milk Control Laboratory.

PUBLIC WELFARE

Public Welfare in Smithfield is administered by the State Welfare Department and a small local staff. This staff consists of a Director of Public Welfare, elected by partisan ballot for a two year term, a full-time clerk-stenographer and a state paid social worker. The Director of Public Welfare administers, locally, aid to dependent children, aid to the blind, aid to the disabled, old age assistance and general public assistance. Larger and critical requests for aid are referred by the Director to the Town Council.

Smithfield uses the state institutions and local and out-of-state convalescent homes for those requiring institutional or nursing care. Admission is made by the state following investigation after local recommendation.

RECREATION

Recreation in the town of Smithfield is planned and conducted on a year-round basis by the Smithfield Recreational Association. The association is a non-profit citizen organization and employs a full-time director. Funds for support are obtained from town appropriations, the United Fund and revenues realized by charging for major recreational events.

Recreational facilities provided by the Association are:

Beaches —

Greenlakes Beach, Walsh's Beach, Mountindale Beach and McCabe's Beach. These beaches are maintained and improved by the town of Smithfield. Lifeguards and life-saving equipment are provided during the regular season.

Ball Fields —

Burgess Field, Willow Field, Mendes Field and Whipple Field. The ball fields are available for the use of four Babe Ruth Leagues, six Little Leagues and the six farm teams, all of which are individually financed and managed.

Summer playgrounds —

Winsor School, Cook School and the Recreation Building. These playgrounds are open five days a week for eight weeks and provide a supervised program of games, crafts, sports and special events.

Also included in the Association's recreational program are instruction groups in swimming, sewing, dancing and sports. The Esmond Youth Center provides a teen-age canteen with supervised entertainment, dancing, bowling, ping-pong and table games.

Other recreational areas in the town offer fishing and picnicking. Fresh water fishing can be enjoyed at the many ponds located in the town. Picnic grounds are provided at the Washington Grove on the Washington Highway, which is equipped with twenty-three fireplaces and picnic tables.

Privately-owned recreational facilities — Hearthside Bowling Alley, Route 44 Drive-in Theater, Stillwater Golf Course, Waterman's Lake Beach and Skateland.

PROTECTION: FIRE, POLICE AND CIVIL DEFENSE

Public safety and protection in Smithfield is provided by a police department, three volunteer fire companies and a civil defense organization.

Police protection:

The police department in Smithfield is the direct responsibility of the Town Council. Purchases of equipment and increases in personnel must be approved by the Council. A Chief of Police is appointed by the Council for a term with indefinite tenure, subject only to removal from office for cause. The Chief supervises the administration of the department and directs the police force, presently composed of ten officers: the Chief of Police, Deputy Chief, two Sergeants and six patrolmen. One of the Sergeants has special duties as a Juvenile Officer.

Every officer must be capable of performing general police work and handling all assignments and services as may be necessary to promote good order. The town does not have a training program for new recruits. However, when possible and available a candidate for the force attends the Rhode Island State Police Training School.

The Police Station is located in the Smithfield Town Hall on Farnum Pike in Georgiaville. There are two detention rooms for law violators. A desk officer is always on duty and two-way radio patrol cruisers provide twenty-four hour coverage for the town.

Law violators are sent to the state correctional institutions and are thereby under state jurisdiction.

Special Police Officers and Police Constables are appointed by the Town Council.

A Town Sergeant, elected by partisan ballot for a two-year term, is responsible for serving and executing all writs, summons and other processes. In recent years the Town Sergeant has also assumed the duties of the Dog Officer, which is a Town Council appointment.

Fire protection:

Smithfield is divided into two Fire Districts. District 1 is served by the Greenville Fire Department and District 2 is served by the Georgiaville Fire Company. (see map for districts) The Greenville Volunteer Fire Department operates from the fire station located on Putnam Pike in Greenville. It is a volunteer organization supported by town funds appropriated at the Financial Town Meeting. The department equipment includes a 500 gallon pumper truck, a tank truck, a brush-fire truck, a ladder truck and a rescue truck, all of which have two-way radios. In addition the department has an outboard motor-

boat and an inhalator. The Greenville Department has about fifty active volunteers, one of whom is on duty at the station at all times.

The Georgiaville Fire Company is located and operates from the fire station on Farnum Pike in Georgiaville. It is also a volunteer group having about 40 active members and supported and manned in the same manner as the Greenville Department. The equipment of the Georgiaville Company includes a 750 gallon pumper truck, a brush-fire truck, a tank truck, a ladder truck and a rescue truck, all with two-way radios. Also available to respond to calls are an ambulance, an outboard motorboat and two inhalators.

Located in the northeast area of the town in District 1 is the Wionkiege Volunteer Fire Company. This Company serves approximately 40 families in the vicinity of Log Road.

The National Board of Fire Underwriters rates the Town of Smithfield "E" with a special rating of "D" in the East Smithfield area.

Civil defense:

Smithfield is served by a twelve member Civil Defense Organization headed by a Director. Appointment is made by the Town Council. The organization is supported by funds appropriated at the Financial Town Meeting. Reimbursement of some funds for civil defense is made to the town by the state and national civil defense organizations. The function of the organization is to coordinate local civil defense plans with those of the state and federal governments and so provide effective protection for lives and property in the event of any disaster. Responsibilities of the organization are: to inform the public concerning the procedures necessary to provide for the safety of all concerned; to set up training programs for volunteers to help carry out an effective civil defense plan; to make all possible advance preparations which are deemed necessary in the event of disaster.

The Civil Defense Organization in Smithfield has set up and established a radio-communications system and an alert system.

"YOU", THE PEOPLE: *powers, privileges and prerogatives*

Although the words "powers, privileges and prerogatives" are generally used when referring to the authority delegated, by law, to towns and cities and those selected to govern, these words can also serve to remind you of your "powers, privileges and prerogatives" under the law and the basic rights and responsibilities of the individual citizen:

1. to vote in all elections; for elected officials, on bond issues and on other questions including changes in government structure and functions.
2. to attend meetings of the Town Council and School Committee, public hearings and the Financial Town Meeting.
3. to use the right to inspect, copy or obtain copies at a reasonable fee of all records, with certain exceptions such as police, welfare and certain court records.
4. to run for office.
5. to petition the Town Council concerning any matter within its jurisdiction.
6. to take appeals relative to taxes and zoning to the proper Boards of Review.
7. to keep informed and participate in your government.