

# JOHNSTON COUNTY

## VISITORS • BUREAU

Smithfield, I-95, Exit 95

We invite you to discover and explore our destinations along the I-95 and I-40 corridors in Johnston County, North Carolina. "JoCo" offers craft beverage experiences, racing thrills, the museum of a Hollywood starlet, and charming wedding venues!

### A Vintage Cocktail Speak-easy Comes to Clayton

**Revival 1869 - A Drinkery** is a new craft-cocktail and whiskey experience in the heart of downtown Clayton, NC opening in the Fall of this year. Revival 1869 will offer a large variety of whiskeys from around the world, and will feature exquisitely handcrafted cocktails, such as the perfect Old Fashioned, Gin Fizz, privateer-era rum punch, the Dark & Stormy as well as a unique menu of seasonal artisan creations utilizing herbs, bitters, fruits and vegetables. Revival's **cocktail ingredients will be organic and locally-sourced**, and the drinkery will also offer craft beers, wine and spirits made in Johnston County, like Broadslab Distillery moonshine.

Speaking of Broadslab, Revival would also make a great stop along the **JoCo Beer, Wine, and Shine Trail**. Whether listening to live jazz in the Victorian-style lounge or settling in on the covered patio, at Revival 1869 you'll enjoy a sophisticated experience where people can sip beautiful drinks and celebrate each other's company and Clayton's rich history. *Revival is one of many businesses that continue to add vitality to downtown Clayton, helping to shape the landscape of Main Street into an exciting destination which already includes a craft brewery, shopping boutiques, art studios, and locally-owned restaurants.* **For more information, please call Maleah Christie at 919-901-8889.**



### State of the Art Racing Facility Opens in Benson

**GALOT Motorsports Park**, located on NC HWY 242 near Benson, is a brand new state of the art racing facility. Features include race technology like a **temperature controlled racing surface**, a new timing tower and control room, as well as spectator comforts like VIP suites for up to 70 people, and new highly-visible LED scoreboards with back-lit advertisements. GALOT promises thrilling events for audiences through-out the year such as National Hot Rod Association races, tractor pulls, and even a monster truck event on September 30th. The track has a grill next to the grandstand offering food and drinks during the races, and GALOT aims to be a family-friendly racing venue. For more information on events and admission, visit [www.galotmotorsportspark.com](http://www.galotmotorsportspark.com).



Smithfield/Johnston County [johnstoncountync.org](http://johnstoncountync.org)




Contact Information Ashby Brame • Marketing & PR Manager • 919.989.8687 • [abrame@johnstoncountync.org](mailto:abrame@johnstoncountync.org)



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### Ava Gardner to be Honored in London



Smithfield native and Hollywood legend **Ava Gardner** lived a globe-trotting, cosmopolitan life and, in fact, lived much of her later life in London. While her final resting place and museum remain in her hometown, the actress is being honored this Fall in London during a series of events centered around the **British Film Institute** and the **English Heritage Foundation**. On Oct. 4, the British Film Institute will honor Gardner as part of the Institute's Southbank program. Separately, Nov. 4, the Heritage Foundation will install a Blue Plaque on Gardner's apartment building at 34 Ennismore Gardens. The **Ava Gardner Museum**, located in Smithfield, hopes that the London events will bring renewed awareness to Ava, her museum, and her hometown in North Carolina. *The museum will also be unveiling a new exhibit sometime in December of this year.* **For more information, call museum director Deanna Brandenberger at 919-934-5830 or visit [www.avagardner.org](http://www.avagardner.org).**

### Say "I Do" in a Beautiful, Rural Setting

A wedding in Johnston County can be rustic, elegant, outside or all three at once! Johnston County is conveniently located 30 minutes from Raleigh, and offers a mix of unique and charming outdoor venues located near affordable hotel accommodations for brides interested in something different. Interstates I-95 and I-40 make our destination accessible for wedding attendees in a rural and relaxed setting. **Stunning horse barns, lush vineyards overlooking blue ponds, courtyards under the stars glowing with soft lights and fire pits, and historic southern homes with picturesque porches and columns are just some of the options available as the setting for the perfect wedding.** Locally owned restaurants, wineries, breweries, and even a moonshine distillery can provide food and beverage catering. Rural wedding destinations are extremely popular among brides right now and Johnston County has accessible and reasonably priced options for ceremonies, receptions, and bridal luncheons. For more information, visit [www.johnstoncountync.org/weddings](http://www.johnstoncountync.org/weddings).



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