

“THE RIGHT TRACK”



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<http://ci.spencer.nc.us>

February 2010

“Home of the North Carolina Transportation Museum”

FROM THE MAYOR

The Planning Retreat was held on February 5th and 6th at the Spencer Fire Department. Department heads gave their reports and updated the Board on equipment they need and how they would like to improve their respective departments. The main topic of this year's retreat was the Library and getting it back open. The Board voted to hire Bill Burgin of Ramsey, Burgin and Smith Architects. The following things have to be accomplished in order for the building to be reopened:

- Exterior Stabilization
- Lead and Asbestos Abatement
- Window Repair
- Eave Boxing
- Electric Up Fit
- First Floor HVAC
- First Floor Painting

We are hoping for a start date of May 2010 with a finish date of Thanksgiving 2010.

The town has purchased a new software package that will allow us to update our website. In the next couple of months, anyone interested in doing so can go to the website and read the minutes from board meetings, changes and updates to town events, etc. We strive to keep our citizens informed about Spencer.

We are also looking at ways to improve area neighborhoods. We realize there are some streets in the town that need to be fixed and paved. We are getting bids on the cost for this project. This will determine how many streets we will be able to upgrade.

Please continue to recycle. The Public Works Department at the end of Sowers Ferry Road is the collection site. It is open weekdays from

7:00 am to 3:00 pm and the first and third Saturday of every month from 9:00 am to noon.

Jody Everhart
Mayor



FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

I finished up assessing candidates for our Fire Chief vacancy in December, and was pleased to announce Gray Grubb as Spencer's new Fire Chief. For those of you who don't know him already, Gray is a Spencer native and had been serving as a Captain with the Department. I feel that we're very fortunate to have his progressive mentality regarding Fire Service Administration on board. A special thanks once again to Assistant Chief Stacy Baker, who did an outstanding job of keeping everything on track during the interim period between the former Chief's retirement and Chief Grubb's appointment.

I'll now begin concentrating on setting up the process to fill the upcoming Police Chief vacancy, in lieu of Chief Bennett's retirement that will become effective at the end of April. Since the next newsletter will come after his effective retirement date, I'll go ahead and recognize his hard work and dedication to the Town of Spencer over these past 7 years. Our Department has one of the highest average officer years of

experience around, which speaks extremely well of a municipality our size!

We're finalizing all the necessary paperwork from the deal between the Spencer Jaycees and the Town of Spencer in a property sale of the old Fire Department building at the corner of 4th Street and Yadkin Avenue. The Jaycees purchased the building for \$10,000 plus their former property adjacent to the 8th Street Ballpark (along with the worth of additional materials). This is of course property the Town can use in the planning and continued development of its parks and recreation programs.

All in all, trying to update you of everything going on these past few months would be futile in such a constrained space. Town operations overall are running very smoothly. Summarizing all the different ongoing activities of volunteer groups that staff is working with alone would fill a novel, and we're extremely thankful to have these folks around also. So keep an eye on the website, an eye on the streets, and I think you'll be happy to see some good things happening. As always, please keep the feedback coming!

Larry E. Smith
Town Manager



LAND MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

Historic Preservation Commission:

Please join me in welcoming Jim Norman to the Historic Preservation Commission. Jim will be filling the open seat created by Timisha Robinette's term expiration.

Planning Board:

The Planning Board worked very diligently to create the new Interstate Business District text and Conservation Subdivisions Ordinance. If you'd like information on either of these ordinances, please contact me at (704) 633-2231 or lmddir@ci.spencer.nc.us

A link to the text of the Interstate Business District ordinance is available on our web site at <http://www.ci.spencer.nc.us>

Also, please welcome Robert Nance to the Planning Board. Robert will be filling the open seat created by Kelly Baker and brings years of development experience to the Planning Board.

Dustin Wilson
704-633-2231

CODE ENFORCEMENT

The Code Enforcement Officer performs a very important function for the Town of Spencer. The officer is responsible for responding to blight issues within neighborhoods; improving the town's overall appearance; protecting property values; enhancing public health and ensuring quality housing for residents.

As a reminder since spring cleaning time is coming around, Ordinance 93.22 (A) states that it shall be unlawful for any person to keep on their front porch furniture designed for interior use, appliances or any collection of materials that can be considered combustible or that can harbor rats or other pests. Please keep your porch

clean and clear of indoor furniture and clutter.

Nathan Ross
704-633-2231

HOMETOWN HOLIDAYS COMMITTEE

Hello Neighbors! We sure hope you're having a great 2010! As many of you know, the Hometown Holidays Committee never sits still for long! We've already started planning for this 2010 holiday season in Spencer!

Of course, we couldn't get started without thanking this community for their support during the last season! You're amazing! Your support this past holiday season was so appreciated! With your help and support we were able to make our main goal of lighting up 11 new buildings along Salisbury Avenue and adding new winter banners downtown. Wow! The area just sparkled during the holidays!

We also hosted the first annual Christmas in the Park. Over 300 people gathered to see nearly 450 luminaries brighten the park that night! So many people contributed to making that night magical including: Godley's (donating the Christmas Tree), Town of Spencer and Town Manager Larry Smith (installing the power to light the official Christmas Tree), Public Works Department (decorating the gazebo, planting the tree and cleaning up the park), Eastern Star (serving hot chocolate), local Boy Scout Troop (lighting luminaries), Fire Department (giving Santa a ride), Central United Methodist Church (sound system), Nancy Blackwell & Lynn Purvis (providing the decorative candle holders), and Susan Morris (providing the chairs).

Of course we'll always remember the special entertainment that night! We were so thrilled to have performances by Amadeus Youth Choir, Adam Broyles, Crescent Cloggers, CUMC Circus Train, CUMC Community Choir, Caroline

Nance, and Steppin' Out Dance.

We thank the Community Appearance Commission for partnering with us on the Holiday Home Tour. Over 150 people walked through five beautifully decorated homes. We can never thank the homeowners enough for the gracious hospitality in opening their homes, the Cataldo family for hosting the hospitality porch, and the many docents who collected tickets and shared info about the historic homes on view.

The Tour of Churches will be back again next year! We're sorry that inclement weather forced us to postpone the Tour of Churches.

In case you missed any of these fantastic events, or to see a list of the winners from the decorating contest and Gingerbread House contest, please visit our web site, www.spencerhometownholidays.com.

Wishing you all the very best!

Spencer Home Town Holidays Committee

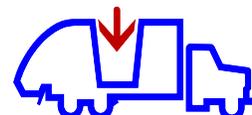
BULKY ITEM PICKUP

As a reminder to new and established residents of Spencer:

Appliances, televisions, furniture, lumber and construction debris or junk items are not picked up free of charge.

You must call to request a pickup and charges must be paid in advance. To get an estimated cost for pickup of bulky items, call Town Hall at 704-633-2231.

Estimates and pickup must be made from the edge of the street in the front of your property. **Bulk items can not be picked up from the alley.**



BRING ON SPRING!

This year I missed seeing Spencer Sam, the groundhog who lives under our garage, on Groundhog Day. Whether he saw his shadow or not is something I'll never know. I can only hope warmer weather and green foliage and colorful flowers will soon return to our little town. The return of the flowers each year is soon followed by green and yellow Community Appearance Award signs springing up in our most beautiful yards. It's time to start planning your home-improvement and landscaping projects that will attract the attention of your Spencer Community Appearance Commission this spring when we will begin patrolling the streets of Spencer looking for candidates for the coveted Community Appearance Award. In 2009, we presented awards to sixteen outstanding homes. Those homeowners will be feted at the annual awards banquet at the Spencer Woman's Club on April 8. Framed award certificates will be presented to the winners; and Spencer's best-kept-secret, the seventh annual Albert Stout Award winner, will be revealed at the banquet. This award is presented to the property that best represents the mission of the Commission—to improve the appearance of Spencer. The 2009 winners are listed in last November's issue of the town newsletter and also on the town's Web site. Look through the list and see if you can pick the same winner as the members of the Commission. It's not an easy task!

Town staffers are working on the application to get Spencer designated as a Tree City USA community. One of the requirements of a Tree City is to promote and celebrate Arbor Day. The CAC is planning Spencer's first Arbor Day festivities for Saturday, April 24, at the Eighth Street Ball Park. The event will run from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. with activities for children and adults alike. If you have any questions about this new event, contact Beth Nance at 704-239-3729 or visit the town Web site at www.ci.spencer.nc.us.

Phase I of the Spencer Woman's Club landscape project has been completed by the Community Appearance Commission. Phase II, to be completed this spring, will include planting several knockout roses and mulching of the beds. The front lawn of the SWC will be ablaze in pink when all the new flowering shrubs are in bloom. Completion of the landscaping project for the Salisbury Avenue street-scape planters is scheduled for late February or early March depending on the weather. We hope the completion of these two projects will enhance the appearance of our community and be a catalyst for other improvement projects.

Ed Robinette, Chairman
Community Appearance Commission



- Use egg cartons to plant seedlings for the spring.
- Donate usable clothing, furniture, toys, etc. to one of the many local charity organizations.

RECYCLE

The third step toward waste reduction is to recycle. The Town provides a drop off site for recyclable items at our Public Works building at the end of Sowers Ferry Road.

The hours of operation are from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday (except holidays) and from 9:00 a.m. until 12 noon on the first and third Saturdays of every month.

When you take your recycling to the Town drop off site, we ask that you separate your items into the appropriate containers (glass, newspaper, etc.), rather than just leave the bags lying on the ground.

Items that are NOT recyclable:

- Styrofoam
- Plastic food trays
- Food storage containers
- Prescription and vitamin bottles
- Pizza boxes
- No ceramics, window glass, or mirrors
- No pet food cans

Please rinse all containers and discard the lids. Flatten all boxes and remove all Styrofoam and other shipping materials. Separate newspaper from mixed paper.

We encourage all of you who are able to continue to recycle in order to protect our environment, and also to reduce the cost of Spencer's solid waste collection. If you have any questions, please call Town Hall at 704-633-2231.

REDUCE

The reduction of waste is the first step in taking care of our environment. Examples of ways to reduce waste include:

- Print on both sides of paper whenever possible.
- Use reusable plates, coffee mugs, and cloth napkins.
- Shop Smart: Buy only amounts that you need, buy in bulk to reduce packaging waste.

REUSE

The second step—reusing items is a simple way to help eliminate waste. Be creative—it can be fun! Listed below are a few ideas:

- Use empty butter tubs and baby wipe containers to store crayons, Matchbox cars, etc.



NORTH ROWAN HIGH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The North Rowan Alumni Association continues to pursue its mission of providing scholarship and faculty/staff awards for North Rowan High School and enhancing the image of NRHS in the community. The NRAA has begun a monthly recognition program for outstanding student, faculty/staff and alumni of the school.

For the month of January the outstanding student is Josh Price, and the outstanding teacher is Ms. Mary Crawford. Outstanding Alumni for the month are Mona Lisa Wallace, Class of 1973 and Senior Partner at Wallace and Graham, PA; and Chris Sifford, Class of 1989 and President of the North Rowan Connection. Please congratulate these outstanding individuals when you see them around town and on campus.

Our 2010 Membership Drive continues, and we urge you to join the Association. Annual memberships for former students are \$10; \$15 gets you a NRAA automobile magnet. A larger contribution goes further to helping our programs, and it gets you a larger tax deduction! And you do not have to be a graduate of the school to join. Associate Memberships are available to friends of the school, and Corporate Memberships are available as well. Corporate members will have ad space on the NRAA web site at

www.nrhscavaliers.com. Ad space is based on the size of your annual contribution. For additional information contact Carol Alley at 4u2contact@nrhscavaliers.com or at 704-984-1658.

Stay tuned for upcoming NRAA events. And continue to show your support for North Rowan by joining the NRAA, attending athletic events at North Rowan, writing to the newspaper to express your opinion about the School Board's treatment of NRHS, and by voting in November.

Robin Butler, President
North Rowan Alumni Association, Inc.

OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

At the January Board of Aldermen meeting, Jessiany Lucio, third grader in Ms. Ingraham's class, was recognized as North Rowan Elementary School's student of the month. February's certificate for student of the month was presented by Mayor Everhart to Brianna White, fifth grader in Ms. Lindsay's class at North Elementary.

Four North Rowan High School band students have been chosen to perform in the Carolina

Band Festival Honor Bands Feb. 18-20 on the University of North Carolina at Greensboro campus. Those students are senior tuba player Jeremy Miles, junior trombonist Evan O'Neal, freshman trumpeter Valerie Miller, and French horn player Alex Gilland. Congratulations to all these outstanding students!

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

This is my first article since being promoted to Fire Chief. I am excited and looking forward to working with the Mayor and Town Board, Town Manager and other Town Departments. I have made several promotions in the department. Lt. Wayne Comer and Lt. Don Sells have been promoted to Captain. Firefighter Jason Cooper was also promoted to Captain. We will all work together to keep providing excellent public safety to the town and its citizens. Also, remember that the Fire Department is staffed Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5 pm. We provide blood pressure checks and install Smoke and Carbon Monoxide detectors through Rowan County Project Safe. You may contact the Fire Department during the day at 704-637-6135 and at 911 after hours.

Thanks,
Gray Grubb, Fire Chief

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