

“THE RIGHT TRACK”



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

May 2010

“Home of the North Carolina Transportation Museum”

FROM THE MAYOR

I'd like to thank the town employees for their hard work and dedication to Spencer. They have strived very hard to meet the goals set by the Board of Aldermen and they have done a great job. Again, thanks!

The second annual Read to Your Child Day will be held in Spencer on July 28th in Library Park. If anyone wants to volunteer their time or set up a booth; give me a call at 704-213-4661. We had a great turnout last year and look forward to everyone coming out to join in the fun. If you are unable to attend the event in Spencer, the other locations are: Rowan Public Library (main branch) - July 14; East Rowan RPL branch in Rockwell—July 21; South Rowan RPL branch in Landis—August 4; and Cleveland Elementary School—August 11.

The North Rowan High School Boosters' Club is in need of a new football scoreboard. They are looking for four sponsors at \$3500 each. The names of the sponsors will be displayed on the bottom of the scoreboard in a 6' x 3' space for a five-year period. If you are interested, you may contact Brian Mills at North Rowan High School. The phone number is 704-636-4420 Ext. 143 or email millsbk@rss.k12.nc.us.

Summer is just around the corner and school will soon be out. Congratulations to graduates. While enjoying time with your families and friends get out and enjoy Spencer. We have various parks and a great baseball program at the Eighth Street ballpark. I hope to see you there.

Jody Everhart
Mayor

FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

The Library Repair Project has been on the front burner since the Board of Aldermen's Planning Retreat. Architect Bill Burgin and town staff have done an incredible job getting us through both the cumbersome construction *and* financing bidding processes to make the Board's May 1st deadline to start construction. The low bid for the construction project was submitted by Jarrell Contractors, Inc. and BB&T won the bid for financing. The Board amended part of the scope of the project, and we have submitted our application for financing approval by the State for an amount up to \$385,000. The Library is slated to be reopened by Thanksgiving of this year.

A complete account of the Town Board's goals for the year can be found on our website at www.ci.spencer.nc.us. Just go to Governance / Minutes / 2010 Minutes, and you will see the February 5th and 6th Planning Retreat minutes listed. To update you on just several of the other goals completed thus far:

Several quality of life concerns raised at the retreat have been clarified, reviewed, tweaked and/or amended: in April, the Board amended ordinances regulating front yard parking and further limiting items that can be kept on front porches. Possible recycling incentives have been discussed and developed.

An administrative ordinance review is underway, mainly concerning Rules of Procedure for Board of Aldermen meetings. The town attorney reviewed multiple charter

questions from the retreat and reported back on those in April. The Spencer Partnership, Inc. re-formed last year and has begun working on an application for the Small Town Main Street program administered through the Department of Commerce. The group has been discussing potential events to be held in Library Park, which the Town Board also asked it to consider from its annual planning retreat.

The Board amended its “take home vehicle” policy for the Police Department in March that will become effective July 1. Take home vehicles at that point will only be offered for officers that live within the town's limits (an exception was made for the detective and his supervisor). Multiple budget items discussed at the retreat were researched, priced and evaluated for the upcoming fiscal year 2010/11 budget. A copy of the proposed budget is available for inspection at Town Hall or on the website. The public hearing on the budget will be June 8, 2010.

As you can see, there's continued to be a lot going on in your town government. We'll continue to strive to keep everyone informed as much as possible with what's going on, and likewise: please don't hesitate to give us a call at town hall (704-633-2231) with any questions, comments or concerns.

Larry Smith
Town Manager



FROM LAND MANAGEMENT

Front-Yard Parking

On April 13, the Board of Aldermen adopted a front-yard parking ordinance for the town. It will go into effect **March 31, 2011**. Yes, that gives you almost one year to prepare if this will affect you.

Exactly how will this affect you? If you currently park on bare dirt or grass in your front yard you will likely be affected. After March 31, 2011 you will not be able to park in your front yard (side and back yard parking is okay) unless you have an improved surface.

What's an improved surface, you ask? It is one on which a sufficient layer of gravel has been placed or asphalt or concrete have been brought in. Additional requirements are listed in the ordinance below.

What if I can't do this ? Call Town Hall at 704-633-2231 and ask to speak with Dustin Wilson or Nathan Ross. We will meet you at your property to assist and perhaps come up with alternatives.

What if I'm in the Historic District and need to make a parking pad? Good question. You'll need to approach the Historic Preservation Commission. We're happy to help you with the process. Call us at 704-633-2231 to discuss.

I want to continue to park in my front yard. Can someone come out and look at my property? That's what we're here for. Give us a call at 704-633-2231.

Front-Yard Parking Ordinance:

- No front-yard parking of motor vehicles will hereafter be allowed at dwellings or in any residential district of the Town of Spencer unless parking is situated upon an improved, prepared surface that extends from a public right-of-way. No part of any sidewalk shall be counted towards a front yard parking area. No more than forty (40) percent of the front yard may be used for parking. Grass and bare earth shall not be acceptable parking surfaces. At a

minimum, a parking pad consisting of aggregate stone base of 4" is required. The use of other materials, except concrete, bituminous asphalt and aforementioned aggregate stone must be approved by the Technical Review Committee. The parking pad must be delineated with appropriate materials with a physical edge that is maintained.

- Properties having to comply with division (K) (1) shall do so by no later than March 31, 2011.
- In order to protect property values and promote the general welfare of the town's citizens, parking for recreational vehicles, boats, and trailers shall be restricted to the side or rear yards in the residential districts and for dwellings in the town.
- Violations of this section of the Spencer Code of Ordinances will be enforced in accord with Chapter 10, Section 99 of the Spencer Code of Ordinances.

Call Town Hall at 704-633-2231 for more information.

Dustin Wilson
Land Management Director
704-633-2231
lmdir@ci.spencer.nc.us



YARD WASTE

Reminder: Between April 1st and October 15th, **grass clippings and leaves must be placed in bags or boxes for town pickup**. If you have limbs or branches, these must be placed at curbside and separated from the bags of leaves/grass clippings.



NEWS FROM PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

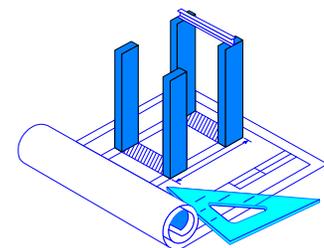
he town has initiated several large projects, which either have begun or will start shortly. I wanted to make everyone aware of these projects to hopefully keep anyone from being inconvenienced.

First of all we are starting a street resurfacing campaign. We will give plenty of notice to residents prior to starting so that no cars will be parked on the street.

We are in the initial planning stages for conducting some spring sidewalk maintenance also. Based on a priority improvement list we have decided to make some necessary repairs on the museum side of Salisbury Avenue. We are also planning to install a new section between the elementary and middle school to maintain a safe route for our children to walk between schools.

I would also like to thank all our fine citizens for what they do here in town. Your Public Works Department will also continue to pick up all bulk items on a need basis. If anyone has a large item that needs to be hauled off, call and we will give you a price for the service.

Thank you,
Jeff Bumgarner
Public Works Director



**ATTENTION
ALL JUNIOR GARDENERS
OF SPENCER!**



Once again the Community Appearance Commission is inviting all interested youngsters to participate in the Junior Gardeners of Spencer program. Children ages 16 and under may be included.

Come to Town Hall to get information about the program and leave your contact information and we will provide you with a tomato plant. The plant can be grown in a container or in your garden.

Plant it in a sunny location, fertilize and water it throughout the summer, and gather your harvest. Then bring a photo of you and your plant's success to Town Hall by September 22, 2010. The winners will be recognized during the annual CAC Awards Banquet in April, 2011. Individual plants will be available from May 17 to June 10.

Parents, please encourage your child to become a part of this activity. We want to instill a sense of enthusiasm and community pride in Spencer, "where roots run deep!"

Pam Whitley
Community Appearance
Commission



**FIRST ANNUAL
ARBOR DAY**

The Town of Spencer hosted its first annual Arbor Day Celebration on April 24th at the Eighth Street Ball Park. It was a great success with lots of free activities for the children who attended. There was face painting, corn hole, Smokey the Bear, Johnny Appleseed, and Greasy. Come by the ball park and see the beautiful Red Oak tree that was donated by Bill Godley's Nursery. The Community Appearance Commission is already planning next year's Arbor Day, so look for it next April.

Ashley Myers
Community Appearance
Commission



OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

At the March 9 Board of Aldermen meeting, Mayor Everhart recognized Dora Nunez, North Rowan Elementary; Alex Billingsley, North Rowan Middle; and Vincent Shropshire, North Rowan High School, as students of the month.

Certificates for the month of April went to Garret Robinette, North Rowan Elementary; Luke Miller, North Rowan Middle; and Augustine Wiggins, North Rowan High School.

Recently, at the May 11 Board meeting, Mayor Everhart presented certificates to Omar Lara, North Rowan Elementary; Mariana Camacho, North Rowan Middle, and Eli Shackelford, North Rowan High School.

Congratulations to all these outstanding students! Keep up the good work and we wish you luck in all your future endeavors.



**UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE
NC TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM**

- June 1—Daily Train Rides Resume
- June 12-13—Rail Days and 2nd Saturday Arts Festival
- July 10—Antique Boating Show and 2nd Saturday Arts Festival
- July 13-16—Summer Day Camp
- July 24—Cub Scout Day



CODE ENFORCEMENT

It's that time of year again and the grass is growing fast! Weeds or grass taller than eight (8) inches are a violation of Town of Spencer Ordinance (93.21) and must be mowed. Property owners are required to keep all areas from their property line to the curb free from tall weeds, grass, brush, or objectionable or unsightly vegetation. Also, please try to mow your yards so that grass is not thrown into the street so that it will not be washed into the storm drains. Thank you,

Nathan Ross
Code Enforcement Officer

UPCOMING EVENTS OF THE NORTH ROWAN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The North Rowan Alumni Association (NRAA) has two events you should be interested in. First, we are featuring our North Rowan Alumni Military Veterans in our NRAA Memorial Day Tribute. For a contribution to the NRAA, we will list the veteran you wish to honor or memorialize on the website and list your name as remembering and sponsoring that person. Please log onto the website (www.nrhscavaliers.com) to check out those who have already been honored. You can use PayPal online to make your contribution, or send it to NRAA, PO Box 111, Spencer, NC 28159 with the name, class year, and military branch of the person you wish to honor.

Second, we are beginning to make plans for the North Rowan High School Homecoming 2010, which is scheduled for October 1, 2010. We are planning a dinner before the game and other events, so be sure to visit the website to keep up with what is being planned. Our annual meeting for NRAA members will be held on October 2, 2010 at the school, so be sure to mark that weekend on your calendar so you will not miss out on the fun.

Your NRAA Board is work-

ing to increase the amount of scholarship funds available to be awarded. This year, we will award a minimum of \$7,000 in student scholarships. We also recognize an outstanding teacher of the year and an outstanding faculty/staff member of the year. In January of this year, we started recognizing an outstanding student of the month, teacher of the month, and male and female alumni of the month. The NRAA is working through these endeavors to improve the image of North Rowan in the community.

If you would like to work with the NRAA for the betterment of the North Rowan School District, please contact us at the above address, online at 4u2contact@nrhscavaliers.com, or call 704-984-1658.

Mark Alley
President
NRAA
Class of '70



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.**

SCHOOL'S OUT !!!!

Amazingly enough, school will soon be out for the summer! Please be aware of this and take extra care in driving the streets of Spencer during the summer months while children are out of school and may be playing in or near the streets. We want all the citizens of Spencer to have a safe and enjoyable summer!!!



Town Of Spencer
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