

“THE RIGHT TRACK”



Volume 16 Issue 3

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

February 2011

“Home of the North Carolina Transportation Museum”

FROM THE MAYOR

The Board of Aldermen and I met with other town officials the last weekend in January for our annual retreat to set our goals for 2011. If you wish to see what was discussed, you may go to the Town’s website: www.ci.spencer.nc.us.

Last year on April 28, 2010, we had a called meeting to discuss partnering with the Central NC Land Trust regarding a 40-acre site between South Salisbury Avenue and Seventeenth Street. We were trying to save the trees from being clear-cut by creating a park on this land. This project is still in the works; we are applying for grants and hoping to acquire private funds to purchase this tract of land.

Just a reminder, the Ordinance restricting front yard parking goes into effect on March 31st, 2011. If you have questions regarding this ordinance, please contact Dustin Wilson at the Town Hall, 704-633-2231.

Student Appreciation Awards have been given to the following students: North Rowan Elementary School—Nicole Bates, Stephanie Garcia Padua and Destiny Parker; North Rowan Middle School—Tiffany Vang and Veronica Leasure; and North Rowan High School—Daisy Lemke and Javon Hargrave.

Don’t forget to visit the NC Transportation Museum, Spencer businesses and the Spencer Library.

Thank you,
Jody Everhart
Mayor



FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

The month of January was busier than ever with planning sessions of different community and area groups. The Spencer Business Association hosted a downtown Spencer focus group that netted some very good ideas for downtown stabilization and revitalization. The Board of Aldermen held its annual planning retreat on January 28th and 29th, laying out the town goals for the next calendar and fiscal years (minutes of those meeting dates are on our website under Governance -> Agendas & Minutes). The Community Appearance Commission met to discuss plans and projects for the new year as well, and the NC Transportation Museum held a “Back Shop Summit” to brainstorm creative approaches to the continued site development of their campus.

We’ve of course already started our budget planning. The fiscal year 2011-12 begins July 1, and we know we’ve got our work cut out for us. The County’s revaluation process is well underway at the time of this article; the State is trying to balance its budget shortfalls (for which many ‘state-shared revenues’ are often tapped to help out); and just as prices have gone up for many of our personal-life needs, so it is with the goods and services the town uses as well. Fortunately we’ve got a very creative and thrifty staff on board, and we’re always brainstorming ways to be more efficient whenever possible.

As some of you have already discovered: we’re now on Facebook. This is definitely a luxury item instead of a core public service, so we’re developing & utilizing

this basically just as we have time or on our own time for right now. But we’ll try our best to post information you might find fun or useful. Please let me know what you think about this and anything else!

Larry E. Smith
Town Manager



SPENCER SPRING SWEEP

Town staff is calling on all volunteers and civic groups to join us in keeping Spencer clean. To highlight the significance of the cleanup and a clean environment, Governor Perdue has issued a proclamation naming April 16th—April 30th, Litter Sweep in North Carolina. We are now calling on all residents to help in this initiative by donating your time on the last weekends in April. All participants are eligible to receive a certificate of appreciation and enter the Unusual Litter Contest for cash Prizes. To register your group please contact Public Works Director Jeff Bumgarner at 704-633-5331 or pwddir@ci.spencer.nc.us. You can also get more information on North Carolina Litter Sweep at www.ncdot.gov/~littersweep. Thank you all in advance for your hard work in keeping Spencer and North Carolina clean.

Jeff Bumgarner
Public Works Director

GOOD NEIGHBOR DO'S AND DON'TS

You can preserve and enhance the livability of your neighborhood by following some basic guidelines established through the Town of Spencer's code and zoning ordinances. These comprehensive strategies are formed to assist residents with improving their homes and neighborhoods.

Do's

- Become friends with your neighbors and try to work out any differences you may have
- Cut your grass once a week, keeping all clippings off streets and sidewalks
- Empty excess water collecting in pots, buckets and containers that can attract and breed mosquitoes
- Call the police and report any suspicious people or activities in the area
- Schedule bulky items for pick-up
- Properly display house numbers
- Clean up after your pets
- Change batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors twice a year
- Keep all trash in an acceptable garbage can with a tight-fitting lid

Don'ts

- Park inoperable or unregistered vehicles on your property
- Park your car on the front lawn
- Store excess trash and debris around your home
- Play loud music, particularly after 11 p.m.
- Drain hazardous contaminants down the storm water drains
- Allow your dog to bark excessively during the night

Dustin Wilson
Land Management Department
704-633-2231

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Spring is right around the corner and soon it will be time to start mowing your grass on a regular basis again. When mowing your lawn, please do not discharge your grass clippings onto the street. Ordinance 94.10 states that it shall be unlawful to dump, throw or otherwise discard grass cuttings, leaves, yard rakings, limbs, trash or rubbish into the streets or upon the paved or established sidewalks of the town. We will be cracking down on violators, so please obey the Ordinance and have a wonderful spring.

Code Enforcement Officer
Nathan Ross
704-633-2231



ing contest, please visit our web site at www.spencer-hometownholidays.com. We look forward to a bright and wonderful 2011!

Spencer Home Town Holidays Committee

ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

The Community Appearance Commission is planning Spencer's 2nd Annual Arbor Day Celebration on Saturday, April 23 at Eighth Street Ball Park. The event will run from 10 am to 12 noon with activities for children and adults alike. Come and enjoy the entertainment, food, music, community groups and vendors. Bring a plant to share during the plant swap. In honor of Arbor Day the CAC will plant a tree and give away free tree saplings.

HOMETOWN HOLIDAYS COMMITTEE

Hello Spencer neighbors! Thank you all so much for your support during the holiday season! With your help and support we were able to make many of our goals this year which included: 30 new green holiday flags, 15 winter kissing balls, 7 red and gold holiday ornament clusters, and winter banners hung in Spencer Shoppes. Events included Christmas in the Park, Tour of Homes, Tour of Churches, and the Outdoor Decorating Contest. Again, thank you so much to everyone who helped make the events and holiday season a sparkle around town!

We're so glad that many of you were able to join us for all of the festivities this past season. In case you missed any of these fantastic events or to see a list of the winners from the outdoor decorat-

SPENCER FIRE DEPARTMENT 2010 IN REVIEW

In 2010, the Spencer Fire Department responded to a total of 573 calls for service. The Fire Department responded to a total of 106 fire related calls, 298 First Responder calls, and 177 service calls, assist calls and investigative calls. The Spencer Fire Department provided mutual aid assistance on 118 calls and received mutual aid assistance on 71 calls. Our paid staff answered 129 or 29% of the total calls for service.

The station is staffed Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5 pm except on Town holidays. Please call the station at 704-637-6135 for any non-emergency assistance. For emergency assistance dial 911.

Thanks,
B. Gray Grubb
Fire Chief

LIBRARY NOTES

The Spencer Public Library is now open!

I will be ordering books soon and would like to know which new books, bestsellers, genre, and authors you would like to see in the library. Please give me a call at 704-636-9072 during library hours and let me know what you prefer.

Spencer Public Library (SPL) is beginning a new tutoring/homework help program after school on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. If your elementary or middle school student needs assistance in completing homework assignments or some extra help with reading, math or language arts, SPL has volunteers ready to work with your student. Please call 704-636-9072 during library hours to reserve a spot.

Thanks to the many folks who have donated books or DVD's for our collection. I am in the process of adding new titles to our collection for you to check out. Thanks especially to Mrs. Fleming's AG classes from North Rowan Middle School for their wonderful donation. Because of their interest and generosity, SPL now has many new children's books.

We will be having a children's storytime on March 12 and April 9. These programs will begin at 2:00. I hope you will make plans to attend.

Thanks again for all of your support. Library hours are: Monday and Thursday—2-6 pm; Tuesday and Friday—2-5 pm; and Saturday—11 am to 4 pm.

Cyndi Atwell
Librarian
Spencer Public Library

**SPENCER WOMAN'S CLUB**

The Spencer Woman's Club would like to thank those who joined us for our Annual Membership tea. We were pleased to receive 12 visitors from our community. It was a fun and scrumptious event! We are especially excited and pleased to accept new members — Sherry Sides and Cyndi Atwell. Our club is open to all women 21 years or older who live in or have an interest in Spencer. The SWC has an exciting year planned and we'd like for you to join us! Please note that all programs start at 7 pm and are held at the SWC. For more information you may contact the SWC President, Jonnette Powell at 704-637-7061.

- **March 10, 2011—Topic: CONSERVATION**

Recycling Project: Kissing Balls
Discussion: Community Garden possibilities

- **April 16, 2011—SPRING BANQUET**

Murder Mystery & catered Luncheon, People's Choice Awarded for Tabletops Contest. **Please RSVP to Beth Morris Nance at 704-239-3729 or bethmnance@gmail.com.

- **May 12, 2011—Topic: HOMELIFE**

Guest Speaker: Battered Women's Shelter

Project: Food & misc. collection for the BWS and VA blankets

New this year, we'd like to offer Quarterly Community Events. Please join us on Saturday, March 18th as we kick off our first event—The Basics of Crochet. Stay tuned for future events!

The Basics of Crochet class will be from 10:00 am to noon, Saturday, March 18, taught by Nancy Gaines. Learn four basic stitches while making a hat. The cost of the class is \$25, all materials and equipment included (except scissors, bring your own). Pre-register and prepay no later than March 11. Checks may be made payable to Nancy Gaines and mailed to Looking Glass Artist Collective, attn: Nancy Gaines-

Crochet, 405 N. Lee St., Salisbury, NC 28144. If you have any questions, contact Beth at 704-239-3729.

**FROM THE LAND
MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT****New Members**

Please join me in welcoming three new members to our town boards: Shuntale Smith of 108 2nd Street and Nasha McCray of 508 Charles Street will serve 4-year terms on the Historic Preservation Commission. Ruby Steele of 1016 N. Salisbury Avenue will serve a 3-year term on the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Want to be more involved with the town? Seeking to make Spencer an even better place to live? We currently have vacancies on the town's Zoning Board of Adjustment. For more information, please contact me at 704-633-2231.

Permits, Tax Credit Information

For your convenience, zoning permits and historic district COA applications have been added to the town's web site (<http://ci.spencer.nc.us>).

Also added to the Historic Preservation Commission's web page (found by selecting Historic Preservation Commission under the Advisory Commissions tab on the town's web site) is a copy of the official guidelines for tax breaks on residential (non income-producing) houses.

Zoning Knowledge Center

Have you ever wondered what a conditional use permit or variance is? Find out the answers and learn even more by clicking the Land Management department page from the web site and then clicking Zoning Knowledge Center near the bottom (<http://ci.spencer.nc.us>).

Have a request for something not listed? Submit request to lmddir@ci.spencer.nc.us.

Dustin Wilson
704-633-2231

NORTH ROWAN HIGH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The North Rowan Alumni Association (NRAA) is kicking off our annual membership drive. Please consider joining the association and supporting the North Rowan Community, its students and its faculty and staff. You can join even if you did not attend North. Annual dues are only \$10 and are tax-deductible. Our mailing address is P.O. Box 111, Spencer, NC 28159 and our phone number is 704-984-1658. Be sure to check out our website at www.nrhcavaliers.com to keep up to date with our activities.

We will be awarding a minimum of \$5,000 in scholarships this year, as well as Teacher of the Year and Faculty/Staff Member of the Year awards. Additionally, we recognize a student of the month, faculty/staff member of the month and male and female alumni of the month during the school year. The Students in Training Program has partnered with us and is providing a computer to the student of the month. We thank them for their support of our program and encourage you to stop by their location at 514 S Salisbury Avenue, Spencer NC to see what they provide to our students. They also offer a recycling center for old computer components.

We are staffing our committees for the year and could use your

help on the scholarship, finance, membership or fundraising committees. Contact us at the above address or phone number.

As we get closer to football season next fall we will post information concerning our homecoming activities. Plan to participate in the events. We will also be advertising other events to be held to bring Cavaliers and Cavalier Supporters together. Join the fun and support our worthwhile causes. Thank you,

Mark Alley, NRAA President
Class of '70

BUSINESS OWNERS BEWARE

Recently one of our local business owners received a call from a cell phone located in New York. The caller requested their debit card number so they could issue them a \$100.00 gift card. The business owner made the right decision and refused to give any information and hung up the phone but wisely recorded the number on caller ID. This is a scam tied to a group in the Middle East. **Never give out your debit card information or other personal information on the phone.**

Mike James
Chief of Police

FRONT-YARD PARKING

The front-yard parking ordinance will go into effect **March 31, 2011.**

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.

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 and speak with Dustin Wilson or Nathan Ross.



Town Of Spencer
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