

“THE RIGHT TRACK”



Volume 16 Issue 4

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

May 2011

“Home of the North Carolina Transportation Museum”

FROM THE MAYOR

As the school year draws to a close, I want to congratulate our Track and Baseball teams. We are proud of your achievements both on and off the field. We have the best schools in the school system.



We have held two budget workshops and are working very hard to balance the budget in a difficult economy. Unfortunately, we are having to consider making cuts in all departments. One of the services that we may have to revise is garbage pickup. This may include having to privatize our garbage service or perhaps go to curbside pickup. A public hearing for the budget will be held on June 14th at the Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

I hope everyone has a safe and fun summer!

Jody Everhart
Mayor



FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

The Town is of course facing the same challenges as most all other local governments this year. Fortunately town staff have been true team players in scrutinizing their budgets over these past six years and taking the initiative on their own to strip away any excesses in operational costs. Inevitably, the Board and I have then trimmed even more than that in the greater scope of evaluating town services each year. This year we're taking an even more in-depth look at the very roots of our identity as a Town and the services we provide, to make sure we are indeed still meeting the overall needs of the community at the best staffing levels and value available. Keep an eye on our website for budget updates, including the proposed budget message and ultimately budget adoption. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me. There's obviously a ton more background information and study behind any conclusions that reach a final document.

One major change in services being considered is our trash pickup. We knew we were running an efficient program here in town, especially considering the nature of our current backyard pickup. Through the course of completely evaluating our program from the ground up though, what we're finding is that we run even a tighter ship than we originally figured. That's a preview anyway—at the time of this newsletter our Public Works Director Jeff Bumgarner is still finalizing the report from our study. If you have any questions about the background or findings of

the study, the final report should be ready by the first week of June. The Board of Aldermen has scheduled a courtesy hearing for June 14th to get public input on its consideration of going to curbside pickup, or even privatizing completely. Please call town hall with any questions ahead of time or to come read over the report, and then we ask that you consider contacting us and/or coming out to the courtesy hearing if you do indeed have an opinion or comments one way or the other. It's the only way town officials can be sure we're all being receptive to your needs.

Special kudos to our Land Management Director Dustin Wilson for his successful work on securing the EPA's Sustainable Communities Building Blocks grant for the Town of Spencer. We are one of only 32 communities across the nation to be selected for the program. An EPA team of experts will work with Spencer officials and the public, culminating into a focused and intensive one-day workshop to highlight sustainability issues facing Spencer. The team will then continue work with staff to develop a report that outlines suggestions the Town can take in its policies and ordinances to address those issues. Please contact Dustin at town hall if you're interested or would like more information.

Larry Smith
Town Manager



FROM LAND MANAGEMENT

The past few months of spring have been busy for the Department. We have worked with the Historic Preservation Commission to create a walking tour of the town's Historic district, a copy of which will soon be available on the town's web site. The Planning Board has been studying issues such as dog limits, multiple uses, parking area requirements and pawn shops as well as a rezoning and ordinance amendments. Also, the Zoning Board of Adjustment has been engaged in interactive training exercises.

As you have likely noticed, a few more homes in our town are vacant due to foreclosure. If you suspect a house is in foreclosure or may be nearing foreclosure, please feel free to let us know. This will make it more efficient for us to ensure the property maintains an adequate appearance (i.e., the lawn gets mowed) and will help us to identify what properties may be available when people call in to inquire about purchasing a house or moving into Spencer.

Finally, we have an open spot on our Historic Preservation Commission. If you have an interest in being on this board, please contact me at 704-633-2231 for more information.

Dustin Wilson
Land Management Director
lmdir@ci.spencer.nc.us

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!!



LIBRARY NOTES

The Spencer Public Library has been buzzing with activity during the past couple of months. The tutoring program has grown from very meager beginnings thanks to the efforts of students from North Rowan High School and North Rowan Middle School. Tutoring will continue through the week of May 16.

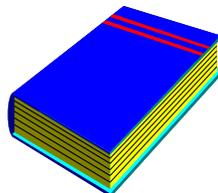
We had 38 people attend the Tea Party Storytime in April! There will be another storytime on May 21 at 2:00 p.m. The theme will be dinosaurs.

Up until now, there have been no fines for overdue books so folks could become accustomed to using the Spencer Library. Beginning June 1, there will be a fine of 10 cents a day per item for anything overdue. There will be exceptions for materials that were due prior to the library's reopening in November. I would appreciate your checking your homes, cars, etc. for Spencer Library books.

We will be having a summer reading program in July. Information will be sent to Town Hall for posting on the website. We will also try to get information posted in The Salisbury Post.

Thanks again for all of you who use the library or have made donations to the library.

Cyndi Atwell
Librarian
Spencer Public Library



BRUSH PICK-UP REMINDER

Your Public Works Department works diligently every day to maintain the appearance of our Town. Our brush pick up service runs Monday through Friday on pre-determined routes. We begin our week on the north end of town and work our way south. On light weeks we can cover the entire town in a couple days and on the heavy weeks it may take us all week. Your help is needed to make certain our pick up schedule runs as smoothly as possible. Our current ordinance states:

Tree limbs, hedge and shrubbery cuttings, when not produced by a tree or landscape contractor, will be picked up, provided that the limbs, hedge or shrubbery cuttings are cut in six-foot lengths and are not more than four inches in diameter and placed on the front of the lot with the large ends of each limb toward the street for quick loading.

Please help your Public Works Department bring you the most efficient service at the lowest cost by abiding by the ordinance and monitoring the length and thickness of your clippings. Thank you,

Jeff Bumgarner
Public Works Director

FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Bicycles are always going to be targets for an easy theft when left unsecured. These reports tend to increase in the spring and summer months. It is recommended that bicycle locks be utilized or bikes be kept inside the residence or in a locked garage. We'd like to remind everyone that we have a bicycle registration form and will issue a special number that will help identify the bicycle if it is stolen. We retain the completed form at the police department for later reference if the bike is stolen.

Michael T. James
Chief of Police
704-633-3574

2011 SUMMER FAN PROGRAM FOR SENIORS

This year the Ruffy-Holmes Senior Center will sponsor PROJECT FAN—HEAT RELIEF. We have received a generous allocation of regional funds from Duke Energy, enabling us to purchase fans for seniors who may have health risks associated with the intense heat of summer.

The program begins in June. If you need a free box fan for summer heat relief, please contact us at: 704-216-7700.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- The person must be at least 60 years of age.
- He or she must be a resident of Rowan County.
- The senior must have a discernible need for a fan, such as having no air conditioning, or needing supplemental movement of air.
- The senior should not have received a fan through this program the previous year.

Eligible seniors may call to reserve a fan which can be picked up at the Ruffy-Holmes Senior Center. The information needed is the name, address, phone number, age, and date of birth for the person receiving the fan.

The SUMMER FAN PROGRAM runs from June through August. For additional information, please call the Ruffy-Holmes Senior Center at 704-216-7700.



UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE NC TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM

- May 30—Daily Train Rides Resume
- June 11-12—Rail Days, a 2nd Saturday Event
- July 9—Learning to Fly, a 2nd Saturday Event
- July 12-15—Movies at Spencer Summer Camp



that weeds or grass taller than eight (8) inches are a violation of the Town ordinances 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. Thanks for all you do to keep Spencer a clean and beautiful place to live.

Nathan Ross
Code Enforcement Officer



CODE ENFORCEMENT

Hello, Spencer residents. Summer is here and I bet that brings a smile to your face! Summer also means the grass is growing. Following are a few reminders. Together we can help keep Spencer a beautiful place to live. Please place all grass clippings, leaves and other debris in plastic bags. Also please make sure the filled bags are not too heavy and placed at the curb. Our Town Ordinance 50.09 states that: Grass clippings, leaves and other debris shall be placed by the curbside of the street abutting the property during the regular town pickup of the same, beginning October 1 through December 31 and March 15 through April 15. Outside of these dates, all grass clippings, leaves and other debris must be bagged in 35-gallon or smaller bags. The bags must be placed behind the sidewalk or curb, so as to not impede storm water drainage, pedestrian traffic or vehicular traffic. It shall be a violation of this section to place any debris in the town gutter, storm drains, alleys or other public easements and rights-of-way.

Also, please be reminded

OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

At the March 8 Board of Aldermen meeting, Mayor Everhart recognized Dillon Temple, North Rowan Elementary; Marissa Wood, North Rowan Middle; and Wendy Castro, North Rowan High School, as students of the month.

Certificates for the month of April went to Aaron Hancock, North Rowan Elementary; Brandon Myers, North Rowan Middle; and Kristin Harmon, North Rowan High School.

Recently, at the May 10 Board meeting, award winners were Kunius Pruitt, North Rowan Elementary; and Joshua Cozart, 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.



FEE SCHEDULE FOR TOWN MULCH

At their budget workshop on April 18, the Board of Aldermen voted to adopt a proposed schedule of fees for mulch. The fees are as follows:

On two dates out of the year, one in the spring and one in the fall, mulch is free for all town residents who drive to the Public Works yard to be loaded. Any other pickup time for town residents must be pre-arranged with the Public Works Director and will be charged \$2 per small bucket, or \$3 per large bucket. Out of town residents (during designated giveaways or at any other time prearranged with the Public Works Director)—\$5 per small bucket or \$10 per large bucket.

Delivery (in addition to mulch loading cost) anywhere within the town's corporate limits: 1-ton ("pickup") dump truck—\$10 per load, or large dump truck—\$20 per load.

Oversized loading (such as tandem dump trucks) - \$75.

The Public Works Director may limit or discontinue mulch giveaway at any time based on the need to maintain an adequate supply of mulch for town services.

For more information, call Town Hall at 704-633-2231.

CIRCUS TRAIN

Talking animals and **FREE** snow cones will be part of the **Circus Train** puppet ministry held outdoors at the **Library Park** (300 block of Fourth Street) every Saturday at 7:30 pm from June 11th through July 30th. Bring a lawn chair or a blanket and enjoy the antics of a cast of characters as they sing songs, play games, and try to learn a little something about the Bible and just how much Jesus loves children of all ages! The shows are **free** and sponsored by Central United Methodist Church so bring a friend and spend some time with some colorful animals and snow cones at the Library Park this summer. Fun for the whole family! Call the church office at 704-636-4101 for more information.

Patti Klutz
Central United Methodist Church



NEW BUSINESSES

Several new businesses have applied for a license within the last few months. They include: Kings Store, 429 North Salisbury Avenue; Smitty's Bar-B-Que, 1205 North Salisbury Avenue; Spencer Package Store, 448 South Salisbury Avenue; Collector's Flea Market, 1303 South Salisbury Avenue; Cool Nogginz Hair Salon, 1101 South Salisbury Avenue; and Sissy's Attic, 109-B Fifth Street.

Spencer Home Supply will soon be relocating from 418 South Salisbury Avenue to 1201 North Salisbury Avenue.

Please support your local businesses whenever possible.

HOW TO REPORT A CRIME IN SPENCER

Spencer Police Officers are dispatched by Rowan County Communications in Salisbury. Therefore, if you have an emergency, want to report suspicious activity, report an accident or need an officer to stop by your residence, **please CALL 911**. They will ask if it is an emergency, and if so, please tell them at this time. If it is not an emergency, advise them and they will respond to your request as soon as possible.



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