

“THE RIGHT TRACK”



Volume 17 Issue 1

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

August 2011

“Home of the North Carolina Transportation Museum”

FROM THE MAYOR

The aldermen and I have completed the budget for this year. Some of the changes that you will notice are: we have cut three positions from our town staff. One is the Code Enforcement Officer, an accounts payable position and a public works position.

The town is going to curbside garbage pickup. It will be a graduated process and will depend upon where you live in Spencer and when the containers are delivered to each household. This is projected savings of over \$40,000 a year.

Due to the economy, the board decided not to go revenue neutral and decided to raise the tax rate from 60 cents to 62.8 cents per hundred. Due to property reevaluation, the tax rate is increasing, but if your property was valued at a lesser amount, your property taxes will in actuality, decrease. As an example, if your house was valued at \$100,000 at the old rate of 60 cents per hundred, you paid \$600. If you had a decrease in value to \$90,000, your taxes at 62.8 cents per hundred would then fall to \$565.20.

The Town of Spencer and the Central Carolina Land Trust have formed a partnership to make a park on the land between Eleventh and Seventeenth Streets, called Spencer Woods. In mid-September we will be soliciting private funds to purchase this land from Craft Homes. The Land Trust has already secured some of the funds for this purchase thanks to Director, Jason Walser.

Remembers, school starts in August, so watch out for our children.

Jody Everhart, Mayor

FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

Each year, local governments are faced with absorbing additional duties and responsibilities from state and federal mandates, as well as simple growth and community demands for increased town resources. Spencer has been very proactive and creative in the way we've managed all of this without adding any additional staff these past six years.

At the end of our FY11-12 budget process, we ultimately found ourselves having to approach services with 3 1/2 less employees on staff. A complete revamping of our code enforcement / land management program, garbage collection, and accounts payable / customer service program has been underway since. We have already been working each year under the old clichés of “working smarter, not harder”, “thinking outside the box” and “doing more with less”, so now we're simply transitioning like most other communities to “doing even more with even less”.

As with any such drastic changes, there will inevitably be glitches and growing pains. So please bear with us and let us know immediately if you run into any problems in the above areas so that we can make sure they're addressed.

Congratulations to Lynn Plummer, who recently took over the reins as Chair of the Community Appearance Commission. He and Vice-Chair Wendy Spry have hit the ground running—if not galloping—toward enhancing the CAC's core purpose to very simply be the best support group it can be for the

Town and its operations. Given all the cuts and downsizing we've had to make in our resources, a focused volunteer base is completely indispensable. Special thanks once again to CAC members along with all the other dedicated volunteers on our citizen boards that help us not just accomplish our jobs, but take things a few steps beyond to make Spencer a truly unique and great place to be.

The Yadkin River bridge project is coming along extremely well considering the magnitude of the project. There are multiple components involved between the I-85 bridges, the US29 bridges, the I-85 corridor north of the river and then of course completing the corridor leading up to the river from the south. We've got all our economic development ducks in a row that we can for now to encourage and guide the natural corridor growth that will naturally follow the project's completion. We've continued working with the DOT tirelessly to make sure I-85's alternate routes—which all involve coming through at least some portion of our town limits—run as smoothly as our road systems allow with that volume of traffic when needed.

Enjoy the rest of your summer, and keep us posted with your feedback!

Larry Smith
Town Manager



**CURB-SIDE
GARBAGE COLLECTION**

As many of you may know, our Town has opted to start curbside collection of garbage. This has brought on many questions for citizens and staff. I hope to answer some if not all for you now.

The Public Works Department will be distributing approved 95 gallon roll out containers to any citizens that don't already own one. These containers will remain the property of the Town and must stay at the residence. These containers must be kept in good repair and any repairs needed on the containers will be handled by the issuance of a work order through Town Hall. Residents that already own an approved roll out container will continue to use their existing containers. The Town will replace privately owned containers once they have been deemed unusable.

The collection route will be compressed into three days per week. The exact route is still being determined and we will notify each resident of their collection day when the new cans are distributed. The route will start on the north end of Town and progress south much the same as we do now. The route will be determined by the weight of garbage collected throughout Town. This inevitably will cause some growing pains in the beginning, but we hope to have the bugs worked out within a month, so I hope you all will work with us as we go through this process.

Your roll out container will need to be placed on the curb in front of your house no earlier than dusk the evening before your collection day. The containers must be rolled back no later than dusk on your collection day. Cans left on the curb are subject to code enforcement fines, so please be courteous and remove the containers from the curb at your earliest convenience. We do understand that some of our population may not be able to roll the containers to and from the curb, so we have elected

to put in place an inability to participate form that can be picked up from Town Hall, filled out and turned back in. This will give our citizens that are unable to roll the carts an avenue to have their garbage picked up from their back doors.

I hope I have answered many of your questions and if not feel free to contact Public Works at 7 0 4 - 6 3 3 - 5 3 3 1 o r pwddir@ci.spencer.nc.us.

Jeff Bumgarner
Public Works Director

**BRUSH AND
YARD WASTE PICK-UP**

Public Works wants to remind all citizens that all loose leaves, grass clippings and small debris will need to be bagged for pick-up during our "out of season" months. This includes January 1st—March 15th and April 15th—September 30th. We also want to remind everyone to cut all debris into 6' lengths no thicker than 4" in diameter and place them on the curb with the butt ends facing the street. The pick-up route runs from the north end of Town through to the south end, starting on Monday morning. We do not run specified routes per day and want to remind everyone that we only pick up debris once a week. If anyone needs additional or bulk brush pick-up they will need to call Town Hall for the issuance of a work order. Thank you all for the cooperation and attentiveness to our Town's ordinances.

MULCH GIVE-AWAY

Public Works will having a mulch give-away on Saturday, September 17th. This corresponds with our normal Saturday recycling, so bring your recycling and get a free load of mulch. This will be the only free mulch give-away until spring, so take advantage of it while it

lasts. Mulch is available other times of the year with a small charge for the loading. If interested please direct questions to Public Works 704-633-5331 or pwddir@ci.spencer.nc.us.

**SPENCER PUBLIC LIBRARY
EVENTS**

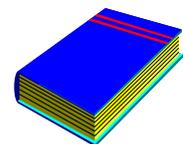
Read Yourself Silly has been a fun time at Spencer Public Library with children signing up to read and collecting Silly Bandz for each hour read. We will continue to record reading times and giving out Silly Bandz until school starts on August 25.

In addition to the reading, the Library held four programs in July with performances by Marian Lytle, Leah Campion and Ed Pilegard (Adventures of Scoot), Dicy McCullough and Jean Barlow, and Robert Jones. Thanks to all of these wonderful performers for donating their time and talents.

The Bookmark contest was a success with many wonderfully decorated bookmarks showing the Joy of Reading. Copies of the winning bookmarks are available at the library. Come by and get yours!

The Book Sale is in full swing at the library with hardbacks costing \$1.00 and paperbacks available for \$.50. If your name is on the card in the back of the book, then the book is half priced. In addition to this, we will have "Fill the Sack Saturdays". If you bring your own cloth bag, you can fill it for \$2.00 Bring your own plastic bag and it will cost your \$1.00. If you need to get a bag from the library, you can fill it for \$1.50.

Cyndi Atwell
Librarian



NORTH ROWAN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Your North Rowan Alumni Association is working to provide the North Rowan Community with great students and we are seeing a lot of success. Thank you to Principal McDowell and his staff for the positive trends seen in students' test scores and North Carolina State Board of Education measurements for school progress. If you haven't joined this movement that inspires students to reach for their dreams, now is the time. Dues are only \$10.00 a year and can be sent to NRAA, PO Box 111, Spencer, NC 28159. Be sure to include your name, mailing address, email address, phone number and class year if you attended North Rowan. You can also go to www.nrhscavaliers.com and join using PayPal. We can be reached at 704-984-1658 for information.

NRAA Annual Meeting is Saturday, October 1, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. Plan to attend the annual meeting of our corporation that supports North Rowan students. This meeting is open to all current full and associate members. Three board positions are up for election. A review of our past year's activities will be given, and plans for the coming year will be unveiled. Be a part of this great organization that awards scholarships to students, provides awards to outstanding faculty members, maintains the web site for you, is working to improve the image of North Rowan in the community and plans events like this year's homecoming activities. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. at the school.

Homecoming is Friday, October 14. Come to the game and cheer on the Cavaliers. Catch up with old friends. Then come to the After Party which will be held for alumni and their guests age 21 or over at Wrenn House, 115 South Jackson St., Salisbury, NC from 10:00 pm until 2:00 am. There will be music provided by "DJ" Bobby Jones and a cash bar. Dress to impress. Limit of 350 tickets. Tickets are avail-

able online at www.nrhscavaliers.com, or call 704-984-1658. Tickets are also available beginning September 15 at Salisbury Square Antiques and Collectibles and from NRAA Board Members as well as Milton Griffin and Chris Sifford.

This is my final article in the Spencer newsletter since my term on the board will end in October. I am thankful to those who have shown an interest in the continuing success of North Rowan. I treasure the new friendships I have formed and consider it a real privilege to have been able to serve the community.

Mark Alley
President
Class of '70

recent budget changes have resulted in the elimination of our full-time Code Enforcement Officer. The town will of course still respond to code enforcement complaints and violations, but will take a much more reactive approach due to time restraints.

You can do your part in helping us by calling in potential problems before they get out of hand. For instance, our grass height ordinance goes into effect when grass reaches eight inches tall. If you know a particular property has a tendency to let overgrowth get out of hand, please let us know as soon as you see grass at this height. You can let us know through many different measures: 1) by stopping in here at Town Hall, 2) by emailing me at lmddir@ci.spencer.nc.us, or 3) by filling out a complaint form online @ www.ci.spencer.nc.us. Thank you for your understanding.

Dustin Wilson
Land Management Director

LAND MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

New Committee Members

Ed Hull, 32 Beauregard Drive: Mr. Hull will serve a three year term as an Alternate member on the town's Zoning Board of Adjustment. Marie Langhorne, 801 Third Street: Dr. Langhorne will serve a four year term on the Historic Preservation Commission. Please welcome these new volunteers if you happen to see them around town!

Grass Mowing

It has been brought to our attention many times within the past few months that some lawn care businesses cut grass into the street, littering the street and gutter with grass clippings. This is a violation of our grass ordinance and also clogs our stormwater system. Please notify your lawn care professional to not allow any grass clippings to be ejected into the street or gutter. Thank you.

Code Enforcement

As you may have heard,

CANDIDATES' FORUM

You're invited to meet the candidates! The Spencer Woman's Club will host a Candidates' Forum at 7 p.m. on Thursday, October 27, 2011 at the Clubhouse at 100 Third Street in Spencer. All known candidates for mayor or aldermen have been invited, and it is hoped that the forum will provide a fair-minded opportunity for them to make themselves known to the voters of Spencer.

Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and attendees will have an opportunity to submit questions for the candidates. Light refreshments will be served, and candidates will have an opportunity to meet-and-greet and distribute campaign materials. No smoking is allowed inside the clubhouse.

The event is expected to last approximately two hours. For further information, contact Marla Gobbel at 704-637-0365 or Alane Mills at 704-636-2969.

COMMUNITY APPEARANCE COMMISSION

Each year, Spencer's Community Appearance Commission travels the town's roads in search of outdoor beautification and landscape improvements. Members of the Commission proudly present the town's coveted Community Appearance Award to two deserving properties every other Sunday throughout summer and autumn. Congratulations to the following recipients of the award so far this year:

- Ellen Stamper, 204 10th Street
- Greg and Renee Beam, 465 Steeplechase Trail
- Alex and Deborah Montiel, 601 Second Street
- James and Jodi Loftin, 208 Newton Street
- Ed and Timisha Robinette, 215 North Salisbury Avenue
- Nelson and Rosemary Bradshaw, 17 Pickett Avenue
- Tammy Ellis, 801 Second Street
- Ann Briggs, 120 Second Street

As the Commission continues to search for award winners for 2011, Spencer citizens are encouraged to work hard to help keep our community neat and eye-appealing. If you recognize a Spencer property you would like to nominate for the Community Appearance Award, please notify Spencer Town Hall.

The Commission will also be

sponsoring the Spencer Autumn Appeal Contest, a fall decorating contest for Spencer merchants and businesses. Through the autumn months, be on the lookout for businesses' displays of the changing season and take time to see everything Spencer has to offer. Merchants will receive further information regarding participation in this special project. Interested merchants should contact Lynn Plummer at lwplummer@yahoo.com for further information.

Lynn Plummer
CAC Chairperson

COMMUNITY CALENDARS

The Spencer Hometown Holidays committee is busy preparing the third annual community calendar. The calendars will feature lots of pictures of Spencer's past, students, families and history.

Reserve your calendar now. ALL proceeds benefit the community through holiday decorations and events.

For more information please visit www.spencerhometownholidays.com or call Beth Nance at 704-239-3729.

SPENCER WOMEN'S CLUB

The Spencer Women's Club will hold our annual chrysanthemum sale on Saturday, September 24. The mums will be available for pick up from 8am to 12 at our club house, located at 100 Third Street. They are yellow, several varieties, \$5 each, come in 8-inch pots, and are Rowan County grown. If you want to pre-order your mums, please contact Nancy at 704-636-7836.

Spencer Women's Club plans to organize two Juniette Clubs during the upcoming school year—one for middle school girls and one for high school girls. Girls between the ages of 12 and 18 who are interested in making new friends while learning leadership skills and having an impact on their community should contact Alane at 704-636-2969 or alanegmills@yahoo.com, or Cyndi at cyndirpl@aol.com.

SPENCER FIRE DEPARTMENT

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer Firefighter for Spencer, please come by the station and pick up an application. Applicant must be 18 years of age, have a valid NC Drivers License and be willing to complete NC Firefighter II and EMT-Basic certification. A background check and drug screen will also be conducted. Contact Fire Chief Gray Grubb at 704-637-6135.



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