

“THE RIGHT TRACK”



Volume 17 Issue 3

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

February 2012

“Home of the North Carolina Transportation Museum”

FROM THE MAYOR

I would like to thank everyone who attended and participated in the Charrette for Spencer Woods Park, which was held in January. A design was presented with primitive trails and overlooks for the 40-acre park. The LandTrust and Lynn Raker brought in a group of Landscape Architects from across the state at no charge to the Town. If anyone would like to volunteer for a fundraiser or donate money, please call the Town Hall at 704-633-2231.

The Town Board and Staff held its annual planning retreat on Saturday, February 4th at the Spencer Fire Department. The facilitator was Paula Bohland. Paula did a great job and we appreciate her keeping us on track. Goals were set for the 2012-2013 fiscal year. We also reviewed and planned ideas for the next five and ten years.



Congratulations to our Student Appreciation winners for December. Recipients were Conner Vriesema, North Rowan Elementary; Vanessa Privette, North Rowan Middle; and Taylor Rivers, North Rowan High School. January's winners were Kaylin Hill from North Rowan Elementary, Terry Cathcart from North Rowan Middle School and Lawrence Jamal Watkins from North Rowan High School. In February, certificates were presented to: Jaleel Pemberton, North Rowan Elementary School; Kong Yang, North Rowan

Middle School; and Taylor Love, North Rowan High School. We congratulate these fine students on their accomplishments and encourage them to keep up the good work!

Thank you,
Jody Everhart
Mayor



FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

The Town of Spencer and The Land Trust for Central North Carolina are proud to host Arbor Day 2012 at the 8th Street Park. The date of this year's event is Saturday, April 28, from 10 am until 2 pm.

The event celebrates elements of both Arbor Day and Earth Day, promoting the preservation and planting of trees as well as a better understanding of our natural environment and environmental issues in general. This year we're pleased to spotlight the efforts and successes behind the Stanback Educational Forest and Park project, aka "Spencer Woods". If you haven't had a chance to get familiar with this project, please check out our website's homepage for a powerpoint vision of it. This has been an excellent partnership of interests coming together to preserve an urban wooded oasis that will provide recreational opportunities, wildlife habitat, and educational opportunities for generations to come.

Of course there will be games and fun activities for adults and kids

alike, so plan to come out and join us! If you are a vendor or have a civic club or informational booth related to the Arbor Day or Earth Day purposes as described above, you may download a Vendor Application Form at www.ci.spencer.nc.us, or contact Town Hall for more information. Applicants fitting the mission of the celebration will be selected on a first come-first served basis.



I can't begin to thank our town staff enough for all the dedication they have continuously supplied—as always, but especially in the wake of additional budget and staff cuts this fiscal year. Special mention this newsletter goes out to our interim Public Works Director Joel Taylor, who has jumped right into a great deal of professional responsibility helping to keep our Public Works operations running smoothly during one of our most challenging times in at least any recent history.

And as always, thank you for your interest in the town. Those of you providing us feedback and volunteer assistance have really helped keep us pointed in the right direction!

Larry E. Smith
Town Manager



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

NOTES FROM PUBLIC WORKS

Leaf Removal

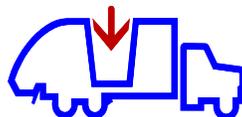
Please remember: the leaf vacuum stopped running on December 31. At the present time, leaves must be bagged to be picked up. They will not be picked up if placed loose at the curb. The only exception will be between March 15 and April 15. During that one month, the leaf vacuum will run to allow homeowners a final period of time to rake their leaves to the curb for pickup before spring.



Garbage Collection

Town staff would like to thank homeowners for their cooperation during the transition to curbside garbage pickup. As a reminder, roll your can to the curb the evening before your scheduled pickup and bring the can back away from the curb no later than dusk on the day of pickup.

And remember, **garbage not in approved cans will not be emptied.** You can not use your old garbage cans for pickup unless they are the approved containers with wheels and a lift bar. If you have more garbage on a weekly basis than will fit in one approved roll out cart, you may purchase an additional can at Town cost, currently \$48. Call Town Hall at 704-633-2231 if you have questions.



HOMETOWN HOLIDAYS

Community Calendars

The 2012 Spencer Community calendars are all on sale now for \$10. They are full of vintage photos and historical information about Spencer. The calendars are available for pick-up at most Spencer businesses in the area. All proceeds from the sale of the calendar will help us continue our community efforts in Spencer. Again, thank you for your support and to ALL who make the Hometown Holidays decorations and events happen!

Arbor Day 5K Fun Run / Walk

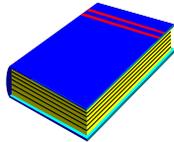
Saturday, April 28
9:00 am—11:00 am

Sponsored by the Spencer Hometown Holidays Committee, the 1st Annual Arbor Day 5K Fun Run / Walk will be held on Saturday, April 28, at 9:00 a.m. Proceeds from this event will support 2012 holiday events. This race-event will take place on a flat to gently rolling course of varying terrain. Water will be available throughout the course and delicious cookies and fruit will be available to everyone after the race. The race time of each runner will be recorded. The 5K race is \$20 before April 10th. Entry fees for the race will be \$30 after this date or on race day. Strollers welcome.

*Free t-shirts to the first 100 5K participants courtesy of our sponsors!

For more information please visit www.spencerhometownholidays.com or call 704-239-3559.





LIBRARY NOTES

During these drab winter days, why not stop by the Spencer Public Library and check out a good book? The library offers many of the best sellers, with more on the way shortly. We also offer many of the earlier books by authors such as John Grisham, Stuart Woods, Nicholas Sparks and Danielle Steel.

If you are looking for books for your personal library, come to the library—and bring either a cloth or plastic bag. You can fill your cloth bag for \$2.00 and your plastic bag for \$1.00 with books from the book sale. This offer is available during all library hours.

Preschool storytime is being offered on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. These themed programs consist of books, flannelboard stories, fingerplays, movement exercises and songs. There will be no storytime on February 29 or April 11.

Afterschool tutoring and homework help is available for students in grades K-5. Please call the library at 704-636-9072 to reserve a space for your child.

Hours for the library are: Monday and Thursday—2-6 pm; Tuesday and Friday—2-5 pm; and Wednesday 10:00 am—12 noon and 2-5 pm.

Cyndi Atwell
 Librarian
 Spencer Public Library



SPENCER WOMAN'S CLUB

The Spencer Woman's Club (SWC) will be meeting on Thursday, March 8th at 7 pm. Our clubhouse is located on Third Street. Our guest speaker for our March meeting will be Alderman Jim Gobbel. We'd like to invite any woman who is interested in learning more about the club to join us. Other upcoming scheduled meetings are Thursday, April 12 and Thursday, May 10.

For more information, please contact Jonnette Powell at 704-637-7061. Keep up with our meetings and activities by liking us on Facebook!

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.

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.
- 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.

**ANNUAL SPENCER SENIORS SPRING FLING
TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 12 NOON
OAKDALE BAPTIST CHURCH FAMILY LIFE CENTER
200 CHARLES STREET, SPENCER**

The Spencer Senior Planning Council has planned a great luncheon and musical program for any senior living in the Spencer area. The meal will be catered by Hendrix BBQ of Spencer and will include BBQ chicken and pork, beans, slaw, dessert and drinks. **There is no charge for the meal but reservations must be made.** Reservations can be made by calling Spencer Town Hall (704-633-2231) or through the church you attend in Spencer. Call 704-633-9412 for more information.

Following the lunch, singer and Minister of Music, Rev. Ron Touchton will present a musical program. We look forward to a great time! Make your reservations soon!

Pastor Richard Gross
President, Spencer Seniors Planning Council



DID YOU KNOW THE TOWN OF SPENCER NOT ONLY HAS A WEBSITE BUT ALSO A FACEBOOK PAGE?



BRING ON SPRING!

Spring will soon be upon us and colorful flowers will 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 Yard of the Month Award. In 2011, we presented awards to 12 outstanding locations. Those property owners will be recognized at the annual awards banquet at the Spencer Woman's Club on Thursday, March 29. Framed award certificates will be presented to the winners, and Spencer's best-kept-secret, the ninth 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. Give some thought now to potential landscaping improvements to your property and you may be a future winner!



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