

“THE RIGHT TRACK”



Volume 17 Issue 4

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

May 2012

“Home of the North Carolina Transportation Museum”

FROM THE MAYOR

The Town Board and Town Manager have been working very hard on the budget. We are trying to keep the property tax rate at .628 per \$100 with the same services that we now have. We are looking at ways to save your tax dollars. I would like to say THANK YOU to each of our employees for a job well done and for going the extra mile for our citizens. This year, again we sent out requests to Salisbury and Rowan County asking them to give us bids on our land management position. We received only one bid from Rowan County. This position requires someone with the ability to multi task. We can only cut so much before we lose our clean town. We have already cut four employees' positions. They were our code enforcement officer, a front office employee, a full-time public works employee, and a part-time public works employee.

On April 17th, Oakdale Baptist Church hosted the senior's spring fling, which was sponsored by the Town of Spencer. About 200 seniors attended. What great fellowship! We had Arbor Day at the 8th Street Ballpark on Saturday, April 28th. Thanks to our great employees for keeping Arbor Day growing. I would like to see a nonprofit group take this event over next year to free up some of our staff.

Congratulations to the North Rowan Track team for being the 1A State Champions again. Also, congratulations to the 2012 graduating class from North Rowan High School and our college graduates.

Summer is the time for bright flowers, fresh vegetables and enjoying vacationing with the family. Re-

member to please be safe and watch out for our children.

Plan to attend a town board meeting the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Jody Everhart
Mayor

FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

Special thanks to those of you who helped and/or came out to make Spencer Arbor Day 2012 a success on April 28th. The day began with a flag raising ceremony by North Rowan ROTC and North Rowan High School student Taylor Love performing the Star Spangled Banner. Entertainment by magician Glen Yost, Steppin' Out Dance Company and the North Rowan Glee Club was followed by a tree planting to commemorate Arbor Day by the Rowan Master Gardeners Association.

Smokey Bear and representatives of the NC Forest Service welcomed visitors at the main gate, and exhibits such as the Chevy Volt, Nissan Leaf, a propane-powered police car, a tractor display featuring old to new technologies, a Salisbury Transit bus and informational booth, a Daimler Trucks semi-truck and more were displayed in the parking lot.

The event featured thirty-five vendors including educational exhibits related to the environment. Children enjoyed a wildlife exhibit from Dan Nicholas Park shown by naturalist, Cindy Bernhardt, and a “Musical Petting Zoo” from Linda Jones, executive director of the Salisbury Symphony. Artwork from students at North Rowan Elemen-

tary School and North Rowan Middle School was on display.

Mayor Jody Everhart and Mayor Pro-Tem Jim Gobbel spent the day grilling hot dogs and hamburgers with all proceeds going to the LandTrust for the Spencer Woods / Stanback Educational Forest and Park project. Over 272 people attended the celebration during its four hour duration.

The event was made possible in part by sponsorships of Duke Energy, SunTrust, Godley's Garden Center and Nursery, Food Lion, Hendrix BBQ, and Cheerwine. Thanks again to all!

We're applying again this year for the Small Town Main Street Program, sponsored by the NC Department of Commerce. This program gives technical assistance to small towns with limited resources to effect downtown revitalization. This program would help us to build a toolbox of resources for helping both the Town and especially downtown merchants and property owners improve our marketability and economic viability. A large portion of our tax burden comes from having a predominately residential tax base, which requires higher levels of service generally than commercial and industrial development. So any improvement we can effect on commercial and industrial levels serves to help everyone.

We're always looking for volunteers in various capacities, so if you have an interest in the town—and especially if you have a background in planning, finance, nonprofit work, and so forth—please email, call or come by to discuss what's going and how you might be able to help!

Larry Smith
Town Manager

FROM LAND MANAGEMENT

Planning Board

Are you interested in the direction in which the town should grow? Do you enjoy helping out your community? If so, please consider applying for a position on Spencer's Planning Board. The Planning Board meets once per month, on the fourth Tuesday at 7 pm. Email or call Dustin Wilson (lmddir@ci.spencer.nc.us or 704-633-2231).

Grass Mowing

It has been brought to our attention many times within the past few months that some lawn mowing 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

I'm pleased to announce that Land Management, along with the Police Department has procured an intern for the summer. Faron Brazis is assisting Land Management with Code Enforcement and other administrative duties, and we're happy to have her on board again. She interned with the Town in 2010, as well.

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 8 inches tall. 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 at Town Hall, 2) by emailing me at lmddir@ci.spencer.nc.us, or 3) by filling out a complaint form online at www.ci.spencer.nc.us. Thank you for your understanding.

Dustin Wilson
Land Management Director

COMMUNITY APPEARANCE COMMISSION

The Community Appearance Commission continues striving to improve beautification along the streetscapes of Spencer. Brightly colored flowers have begun to be planted throughout the town, creating an inviting backdrop as friends and family come to visit during the summer months. We take pride in Spencer and encourage everyone to join us in our efforts.

This time of year is an opportune chance to do your part in creating an appealing outdoor environment for the residents and visitors of the town. Members of the CAC are diligently seeking properties to be awarded the Community Appearance Award through September. Take small steps to make your own property more inviting for passersby:

- Keep your lawn neatly trimmed and within Town ordinances
- Prune and cut back overgrown shrubbery to promote healthy growth
- Maintain the physical appearance of outdoor structures
- Promptly remove garbage containers from the roadside at appropriate times
- Create positive and helpful relationships with your neighbors

Enjoy this opportunity to take in a little sunshine and fresh air. As you pass through town, be on the lookout for recipients of the Community Appearance Award and make an effort to be the next resident honored.

Lynn Plummer
Chair, Community Appearance Commission



FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Congratulations to Sergeant W. R. Comer and Master Police Officer Jeremy Crews for receiving the Lifesaving Award and Medal of Valor on May 15, 2012 during the Town Board Meeting. They were recognized for entering a burning apartment building and rescuing an unconscious victim. On the same night, Police Officer Kenny Williams was awarded a commendation bar for obtaining his B. A. Degree in Criminal Justice.

Reminder: Two school buses in the Spencer area are equipped with cameras to detect stop arm violations. Salisbury Avenue is a four lane highway that is not separated by a median divider and does not have a continuous turn lane, therefore you must stop for a stopped school bus on this roadway. **Please stay alert for school buses and keep our children safe.**

There continues to be instances where heat pumps are being stolen. If you see suspicious people in your neighborhood that could be committing this crime please dial 911 immediately.

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

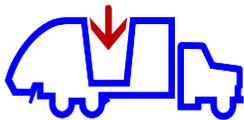
SPENCER FIRE DEPARTMENT

We welcomed Chief Jay Baker and Assistant Chief Terry Smith back to the command staff of the Spencer Fire Department this month. They'll be orchestrating the duties and operations of the fire department for the interim period following Chief Gray Grubb's resignation earlier in the month. We congratulate Gray on his recent engagement, sincerely thank him for all his dedication and service to the Town and to the Department, and wish him the best of luck in his endeavors! And a special thanks to all the firefighters who tirelessly keep our town safe and the department running smoothly.

FROM PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

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" month. This includes January 1st to March 15th and April 15th to September 30th. **Please limit weight of bags to 50 lbs or less per bag.** We also want to remind everyone to cut all debris into 6 foot lengths no thicker than 4 inches 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.



Curb-Side Garbage Collection

As you know, our Town has gone to a curb-side collection of garbage. The collection route was compressed into three days per week. **Your garbage day will remain the same, but the way it runs that day is still being determined.**

Since we are still working on the schedule, your roll out container needs to be placed on the curb in front of your house at 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. Pick-up for citizens that have filed the inability to participate form will remain the same.

If you have any questions feel free to contact Public Works at 7 0 4 - 6 3 3 - 5 3 3 1 o r pwddir@ci.spencere.nc.us.

Curb Edging

Just a reminder that with spring comes grass, and storm water maintenance. We will maintain curb and gutter by hand spraying. If you have your yard clearly edged, then it is easier for us to notice, and we skip your yard. In any event, we do our best not to spray more than needed to get us through the season.

Joel Taylor
Public Works Director

OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

At the March 13 Board of Aldermen meeting, Mayor Everhart recognized Tyree Lark, North Rowan Elementary School; Narielle Reid, North Rowan Middle School; and Ashton McJunkin, North Rowan High School.

Certificates for the month of April went to Caroline Monroe, North Rowan Elementary School; Trent Berry, North Rowan Middle School; and James Woodson, North Rowan High School.

Recently, at the May 15 Board meeting, award winners were Lashay Little, North Rowan Elementary School; Nathan Kiker, North Rowan Middle School; and Jade Gunnerson, 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.



MULCH GIVE-AWAY

June 16, 2012—7 am until noon

Public Works will be having a mulch give-away on Saturday, June 16th. This corresponds with our normal Saturday recycling, so you can bring your recycling and get a free load of mulch at the same time. This will be the only free mulch give-away until fall, so take advantage of it while it lasts. Mulch is **Free for Town Residents**, please bring I.D. Out of Town Residents will be charged \$5.00 a loader bucket. 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.



BOY SCOUTMASTER WANTED

Central United Methodist Church is searching for an individual or individuals that have a desire to work with young men, ages 11-17. Our church has sponsored a Boy Scout troop for the last 73 years. We have a church committee set up to help our new Scout leader. All equipment is in place for many exciting outdoor adventures. If you have a interest in developing the character of young men, please contact 704-633-0760 or stevemlindae@bellsouth.net.

Steve Miller
Central United Methodist Church



SUMMER SAFETY

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!



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. Call Spencer Police Department at 704-633-3574 for more information.

CIRCUS TRAIN

Central UMC's Circus Train will continue their 14th year of outdoor puppet ministry on Saturdays at the Library Park on 3rd Street at 7:30 pm beginning on June 9th through July 28th. Bring a lawn chair or a blanket and join the antics of Singing Sandy, Sam the Man, Birdy the Bible Memorizing Bird and her sidekick, Polly the Parrot. And don't forget Molly the Moomie Star from the Chic-fil-A commercials with all her friends including Freddie the Frog, Olivia the Orangutan, Meatball the Monkey, Manny the Burro, Jeffrey the Giraffe, Ralph the Roaring Lion, Roscoe the Rat, and many more! There will be singing and dancing and playing games followed by FREE Snow Cones and FREE hot dogs so bring the whole family for some FREE summer fun learning about God's love. For more information, call the church office at 704-636-4101.

Patti Kluttz
Central United Methodist Church



LIBRARY NOTES

The library will be offering a Summer Reading program for school age students (Grades 1-5) again this year during the month of July on Thursdays at 3:00 p.m. I'm still working on the line up of presenters, but I can promise you that you won't be disappointed. A preschool program for ages 3-5 will be offered on Wednesday mornings during July. There will be no preschool storytime during June or August.

The new book order has arrived, been processed and is available for check out. I will be ordering once more in June before the new fiscal year begins. If you have any requests, please let me know.

Speaking of books...would you please check your book shelves for books which were checked out from the library? I would like to clear up the overdue books. June, July and August will be fine free for books that are classified as long overdue (more than one month late).

Please come by and check out the library during operating hours: Mondays and Thursdays (2-6), Tuesdays and Fridays (2-5) and Wednesdays (10-12 and 2-5).

Cyndi Atwell
Librarian
Spencer Public Library

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