

“THE RIGHT TRACK”



Volume 18 Issue 1

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August 2012

“Home of the North Carolina Transportation Museum”

FROM THE MAYOR

Our budget for the 2012-2013 fiscal year was approved and we were able to maintain the same tax rate as last year, which is .628 per one hundred dollars valuation. We were pleased to be able to keep this rate and have no tax increase.

The Town of Spencer was awarded The North Carolina Small Town Main Street Program. We will have assistance from the NC Department of Commerce, which means they will evaluate our downtown area and advise what we can do to revitalize our town and shops. Thank you to Larry Smith, our Town Manager, our town staff, business owners, non-profit organizations and our citizens for working together as a team.

I would like to welcome Price Wagoner to our staff. He is our new Land Management Director. Welcome aboard and we look forward to working with you, Price.

North Rowan High School has a new head football coach. We want to welcome Joe Nixon to Spencer. Remember to support all of our North Rowan teachers, staff and students.

In the coming months, several Boy Scout Troops will have young men working in Spencer Woods on their Eagle Scout Award. Scouts from all over Rowan County will be working to make trails, clean out brush, etc. In order to achieve this highest rank in scouting, each scout has to select a civic project to be completed before their 18th birthday. Thank you, Scouts.

Jody Everhart
Mayor



FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

It was with great sorrow that we said goodbye to Dustin Wilson as our Land Management Director in July. He's gone back to school, but not before dedicating 6 years of devoted service to the Town of Spencer. He was instrumental in helping us to prepare the Town's 2025 Land Use Plan, our Safe Routes to School initiatives, successfully got us awarded the US EPA Sustainable Communities Building Block grant and most recently played a pivotal role in our successful application into the Small Town Main Street Program. We truly wish him the best in his endeavors.

The position vacancy garnered a large amount of qualified interest, making the hiring process among such qualified Land Management Director applications a very tedious one indeed. In the end though the choice was clear, and I'm proud to introduce Mr. Price Wagoner on board as our new Director. Price had very valuable background experience in the development world before entering into the realm of Geography & Community Planning. Additionally, he has a keen insight and interest in Historic Preservation. Obviously, given our historic roots and all of our current economic development efforts, Price arose as a perfect fit to continue the Town down the right track.

The transition of course has left us short on code enforcement resources, despite an incredibly admirable joint effort of remaining staff (and volunteers) all pitching in to help those efforts as much as possible. We sincerely thank you for

your assistance and patience as well. Getting that position filled and our program back on track will of course be the second highest priority for Land Management once Price starts in September.

The first priority, simply due to its program timelines, is our Small Town Main Street Program effort. We were accepted into the program this month and have hit the ground running. One of our first tasks is to get a better feel for how you as the community currently most use the downtown.

Enclosed is a short survey in which we GREATLY need your assistance and feedback! **Please take a moment to fill it out and return it to us as soon as possible.** All responses have to be received by September 14th. We'll be holding a kick-off / orientation meeting on Tuesday, September the 18th. During the day we'll be working on downtown assessments and interviews, but we'll hold a Community Orientation Meeting that evening beginning at 6:00 pm to go over the program and begin our organizational review and goal-setting. Please plan to come if you're interested in learning more. Details will be forthcoming on our website as the formal agenda is established.

This is seriously the perfect time for those of you interested in helping to shape the future of our downtown to get involved. All too often in so many towns and cities, programs and priorities that affect *everyone* get decided upon by a relative few. Please give me a call if you're interested in helping out and/or just giving input in some way!

Larry Smith
Town Manager

**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 we run that day is still being fine-tuned.**

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 the Public Works Department at 704-633-5331 or pwddir@ci.spencer.nc.us.

Joel Taylor
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. **Please limit weight of bags to 50 lbs or less per bag.** 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. Our brush pick-up service runs Monday through Friday on predetermined 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 of

days, and on the heavy weeks it may take us all 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.

**RECYCLING CHANGE AND
MULCH GIVE-AWAY**

September Recycling
The Recycling Center will be open on **September 8th and 22nd, due to the Labor Day Holiday falling on the first weekend.**



Fall Mulch Giveaway
September 22nd, 7 am to noon

Public Works will be having a mulch give-away on Saturday, September 22nd. This corresponds with our Saturday recycling, so bring your recycling and get a free load of mulch. This will be the last free mulch give-away of the year, 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 per 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.



**HAPPENINGS AT
SPENCER PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Summer Reading is coming to a close now that it is time for the children to be returning to school. Awards for the best "Tired of..." stories and illustrations were presented during a program on August 21 at 4:00 p.m. Awards were presented for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places for stories in both grade groups (K-2, 3-6). First place awards were presented for illustrations in each grade group. Dicy McCullough was present to read from her books as well. In addition to the writing contest, children in grades K-6 have been keeping track of the amount of time they spend reading in order to earn packages of Silly Bandz. This continued through August 24.

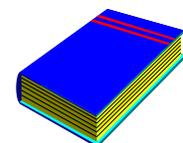


New hours began for the library on August 13. The library is now open on Mondays and Tuesdays from 2-7 pm, and open on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 2-5 pm. We hope that this change will better serve the Spencer community.

August continued the No Fine Summer. Please check your bookshelves for books and DVD's which may belong to the library. There is a drop box at the Rowan Avenue entrance for your convenience in returning materials during non-operating hours.

Thank you for your support.

Cyndi Atwell
Librarian
Spencer Public Library
704-636-9072



OPERATION MEDICINE DROP OCTOBER 3, 2012

According to the National Center for Health Statistics, drug poisoning has surpassed car accidents as the leading cause of accidental death in the United States and is now the leading cause of death for people from the ages of 35-54 years old.

This issue has become one of the fastest growing public health and safety concerns across the state. Each year, North Carolinians fill an estimated 14 prescriptions annually, totaling more than 127 million prescription drugs.

"The abuse of prescription drugs has increased exponentially in Rowan County and across the state of North Carolina. There are more deaths today from prescription drug overdoses than there were at the height of the heroin crisis in the 1970's or the crack cocaine crisis of the 1990's. The statistics are proof that two thirds of our young people who abuse prescription drugs obtain them from their home or a friend's home." said Rowan County Chief Deputy David Ramsey.

In an effort to address this escalating issue, the Rowan County Sheriff's Office will be teaming with the Rowan County Department of Environmental Management in the sponsorship of a no questions asked, "medication take back" event entitled, "Operation Medicine Drop." During this event the Rowan County Sheriff's office will collect expired, unused, and unwanted medications for incineration. This event is free of charge to Rowan County citizens.

"Prescription and over-the-counter medication abuse in our homes creates significant opportunities for unintentional poisonings, illegal distribution, substance misuse or abuse, and environmental contamination. Operation Medicine Drop is a wonderful opportunity for our citizens to contribute to the solution. We hope that this bi-annual event encourages our citizens to properly dispose of all their unused medications" said Rowan County Sheriff Kevin Auten.

Operation Medicine Drop will be held on October 3, 2012, from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm at the Rowan County Recycling Processing Center, 1102 North Long Street Extension, East Spencer, NC.

Questions and concerns should be directed to Chief Deputy David Ramsey at 704-216-8751.

Kathryn Jolly, Director
Rowan County Department of
Environmental Management



LAND MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

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

You can do your part in helping Town staff by calling in potential code enforcement 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 by stopping in at Town Hall or by filling out a complaint form online at www.ci.spencer.nc.us. Thank you for your help.

FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Please drive with extra caution on Spencer streets now that the students have returned to school. And remember, as we mentioned in the May newsletter, three 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 can not pass a stopped school bus on this roadway**, even if you are going in the opposite direction.

Please stay alert for school buses and keep our children safe. Remember to stop if the bus is displaying flashing red lights or if the stop sign is out.

We would like to remind residents to call 911 if you see suspicious activity in your neighborhood. If you see people that do not belong call 911 and the police department will respond. Spencer Police Officers are dispatched by Rowan County Communications in Salisbury. Therefore, if you need an officer, do not hesitate to call 911.

If you need an officer for information only, or need a question answered, please continue to call the police department (704-633-3574) from 8:30 am until 5:00 pm on weekdays. After 5:00 pm and before 8:30 am and on weekends, you will need to call 704-216-8055 and leave a message with Rowan County Communications.

Mike James
Chief of Police



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 the summer. Congratulations to the following recipients of the award in 2012:

- Millie Thompson, 326 Jordan
- Reid Walters and Lauren Raper, 503 4th Street
- Roger Abernathy, 505 7th Street
- Sylvia Chillcott and Patsy Duncan, 804 4th Street
- Rashid Muhammad, 203 W 17th Street
- Alan and Annabelle Clawson, 414 S Rowan Avenue
- Patrick & Noel Redding, 125 10th Street
- Carol and Ron Boss, 411 S Rowan Avenue
- George and Linda Black, 501 Oakwood Drive
- Carin Keen, 405 7th Street
- Jerry & Nancy Laxton, 203 11th Street
- Kelly & Carol Everhart, 330 Steeplechase Trail
- Dr. Christopher McIltrout, 8 Beauregard Drive

- Patricia Monroe, 908 S Rowan Avenue
- Johnny Lewis, 104 S Baldwin Ave. Ext.
- Susan Everhart, 500 W Newton

These award winners will be honored at our annual banquet on March 26, 2013.

Spencer citizens are encouraged to work hard to help keep our community neat and eye-appealing.

Lynn Plummer
CAC Chairperson



OUTSTANDING STUDENT

At the June 12 Board of Aldermen meeting, Mayor Everhart presented a Student Appreciation Award to Dylan Furr, from North Rowan Elementary School. This was the last Town of Spencer award for the 2011/12 school year.

We look forward to the upcoming award winners for the new school year and encourage all North Rowan students to keep up the good work!

GIGANTIC COMMUNITY YARD SALE (We HOPE!)

The Spencer Partnership (a local community group) is organizing a community yard sale for the benefit of the North Carolina Transportation Museum. It will be on October 13th.

We are looking for anyone who can help. From folks to donate "good stuff", to folks who want a spot, any one individual or group who just wants to help. We will need folks to help pick up items before the event, and set up and tear down. We also need behind the scene coordinators. Also important are all you folks who just want to come out and shop. This could be a good event for scouts or students who need to be involved in some type of community event. We would also consider any musical groups who want some exposure.

The event will be held in the parking lot across the street from the museum. We hope to have excellent participation.

Please email Spencer Partnership Vice-President Bob Oswald at spencerbob@carolina.rr.com for further information.



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