

“THE RIGHT TRACK”



Volume 18 Issue 2

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

November 2012

“Home of the North Carolina Transportation Museum”

FROM THE MAYOR

The Board of Aldermen has been busy. In September we met with Robert Van Geons from Rowan-Works and James Meacham from the Tourism Development Authority to discuss economic development and tourism issues. We've been discussing rental properties and residential code enforcement. We updated our ordinances regulating Pawnshops to comply with legislation changes at the State level. We amended the ordinance to better enforce responsibility when someone moves and takes town garbage carts with them. We added "Home Occupations" as a permitted use in the Highway Business districts.

In November, we held a joint session with our Planning Board to discuss any planning issues either board has been seeing that might need attention. We approved repair / refurbishing of the downtown crosswalks, and a banner streetscape proposal that the Community Appearance Commission and staff put together. We approved the purchase of a new Fire Department Squad (truck) to replace our 1981 brush truck. I would like to thank staff for being frugal and creative in writing the specifications for the truck and for researching financing options. We will end up saving over \$10,000 from what we were originally expecting.

We also approved a façade grant request for 127 5th Street, where Cecil and Frances Allman have done a lot of work to repair and renovate their building. We thank them for their investment into the downtown commercial district.

I continue meeting with regional mayors to address legislative con-

cerns. We are meeting with our legislators this month to discuss some of the issues we're facing. We'll also hear what they have been doing and dealing with on the state level.

Spencer Woods is progressing well. The LandTrust for Central North Carolina has hired a landscape architect from Charlotte, NC. The trails, walkways, and bridges are already mapped out. The architect will be making sure all forms are correct in order for the town to apply for grant monies.

In December, Austin Jackson will be starting his Eagle Scout project in Spencer Woods. His project will be a quarter-mile trail. He will be leveling the area, clearing and removing debris. He will also be building an elevated walkway in a low lying area in between Salisbury Avenue and Rowan Avenue. We wish Austin well on this worthy endeavor.

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Jody Everhart, Mayor

FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

Our Small Town Main Street program has been going exceptionally well so far. I'd like to offer a very sincere "thank you" to all of you who returned the surveys from last newsletter. We actually got back a lot more than we were expecting, and there was some very good feedback included on them. Our next STMS work sessions will be on December 13th and January 29th, 5:45 pm. We cer-

tainly appreciate the continued support and turnout at the meetings. It's been great seeing fresh faces and ideas coming to work alongside the familiar ones that have stayed so involved with our efforts along the way.

The planning of Spencer Woods has been progressing even more quickly than we expected. Information on the project can be found on our website homepage. The truly incredible part is how well this patch of urban woods ties into the Small Town Main Street and other initiatives the Town has long since been working on as well. We've scheduled workdays on the site for Tuesday, January 1st and Saturday, January 19th. Please let us know if you're interested in helping out on trails, litter cleanup, etc. and we'll get you more information. Next planning session meeting will be Thursday, January 17th at 5:45 pm.

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas in town. Public Works always takes great pride in dressing up our downtown for the Holiday Caravan Parade, and the lights and decorations along the streetscape really showcase what a beautiful, historic town we have. Please make sure to support local businesses whenever possible to help them thrive!

We're trying to keep our Facebook page more up to date with upcoming town schedules and events. You can easily access us there straight from the link on our town's website.

I hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving with a very Merry Christmas ahead.

Larry Smith
Town Manager

LIBRARY EVENTS

Afterschool tutoring for elementary students began on November 13. The focus is on completing homework assignments and working on educational problems each student is experiencing. If you are interested in having your child tutored, please call the library at 704-636-9072 during library hours to sign up. If you are interested in tutoring, please contact the library. Most of our tutors are either middle school or high school students.

New books should be in place during the month. Some of the titles ordered are: Killing Kennedy by Bill O'Reilly, Racketeer by John Grisham, Merry Christmas, Alex Cross by James Patterson, Third Wheel by Jeff Kinney (latest in the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series), and the Heroes of Olympus series by Rick Riordan. Come by and check out a new or older book.

There are some overdue books still out there. Would you please check your shelves for books belonging to the library and have them returned. You can either bring them in or drop off in the drop-box on Rowan Avenue. If you are unsure of what titles you may have, please feel free to call me and I will be glad to give you that information. Thank you for your cooperation.

Library hours are Monday and Tuesday 2-7, and Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 2-5. The library is closed on Saturday and Sunday.

Cyndi Atwell
Librarian



HOLIDAY AND CHRISTMAS TREE FIRE SAFETY

Decorating homes and businesses is a long-standing tradition around the holiday season. Unfortunately, these same decorations may increase your chances of fire. Based on data from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), an estimated 240 home fires involving Christmas trees and another 150 home fires involving holiday lights and other decorative lighting occur each year. Together, these fires result in 21 deaths and \$25.2 million in direct property damage.

Following a few simple fire safety tips can keep electric lights, candles, and the ever popular Christmas tree from creating a tragedy. Learn how to prevent a fire and what to do in case a fire starts in your home. Make sure all exits are accessible and not blocked by decorations or trees. Help ensure that you have a fire safe holiday season.

Christmas Trees

What's a traditional Christmas morning scene without a beautifully decorated tree? If your household includes a natural tree in its festivities, take to heart the sales person's suggestion—"Keep the tree watered."

Christmas trees account for hundreds of fires annually. Typically, shorts in electrical lights or open flames from candles, lighters or matches start tree fires. Well-watered trees are not a problem. A dry and neglected tree can be.

Holiday Lights

Maintain Your Holiday Lights. Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up. Use only lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory.

Do Not Overload Electrical Outlets. Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet. Make sure to periodically check the wires—they should not be warm to the touch.

Do Not Leave Holiday Lights on Unattended!

Holiday Decorations

Use Only Nonflammable Decorations. All decorations should be nonflammable or flame-retardant and placed away from heat vents. If you are using a metallic or artificial tree, make sure it is flame retardant.

Don't Block Exits. Ensure that trees and other holiday decorations do not block an exit way. In the event of a fire, time is of the essence. A blocked entry / exit way puts you and your family at risk.

Never Put Wrapping Paper in the Fireplace. Wrapping paper in the fireplace can result in a very large fire, throwing off dangerous sparks and embers that may result in a chimney fire.

Candle Care

Avoid Using Lit Candles. Consider using battery-operated flameless candles, which can look, smell and feel like real candles.

If You Do Use Lit Candles. Make sure candles are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be easily knocked down. Keep candles at least 12 inches from anything that can burn. Never leave a room or go to bed with candles burning.

Never Put Lit Candles on a Tree. Do not go near a Christmas tree with an open flame—candles, lighters or matches.

Source: U.S. Fire Administration and additional information is available at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov>

Spencer Fire Department website: <http://www.ci.spencer.nc.us/fire>

Follow Spencer FD on Twitter: <http://www.Twitter.com/SpencerFireDept>

Jay Baker, Fire Chief

NORTH ROWAN MIDDLE SCHOOL

North Rowan Middle School opened their doors on Saturday November 3rd and held the first North Rowan Parent & Student Education Forum. The event allowed parents to get information from around our county on topics such as special education laws, suspension policies, youth and the criminal justice system, and bullying. Guest speakers included Daniel Sevigny from the Rowan County Youth Services Bureau, and Judge Beth Dixon from Rowan County District Court. Look for upcoming events to attend.

North Rowan Middle School would like to express sincere appreciation to the Spencer Woman's Club for their sponsorship of our first quarter A and AB Honor Roll Banquet. The Woman's Club provided refreshments for our children and their families as we celebrated our student's high academic achievements. The Woman's Club support allowed our young scholars to know their efforts are celebrated in our community. Thank you Spencer Woman's Club!

Jaime Pacilio
North Rowan Middle School

BRUSH AND YARD WASTE PICKUP

Public Works wants to remind all citizens that leaves and small yard debris are being picked up by the leaf vacuums. This will continue until December 31st. As of January 1st your leaves and small debris will have to be bagged. We will have a month in the spring (March 15th through April 15th) that the vacuum will run for final cleanup. The brush truck is also running so please stack your leaves and brush separate so that the brush does not stop up the vacuums.

We also want to remind everyone to cut all debris into 6-foot 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 and leaf vacuum service runs Monday through Friday on predetermined routes. 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 for the cooperation and attentiveness to our Town's ordinances.

Joel Taylor
Public Works
Director



OUTSTANDING STUDENTS AND SCHOOL AWARDS

At the September Board of Aldermen meeting, Honor Belton, fifth grader in Mr. Sheets' class, was recognized as North Rowan Elementary School's student of the month. Taelor Davis, eighth grade student at North Rowan Middle School, was also recognized.

October's certificates went to Christopher Portillo, a third grader in Ms. Zablocki's class at North Rowan Elementary, Carolina Hawkins, a seventh grader at North Rowan Middle, and Brandon Johnson, a senior at North Rowan High School.

For the month of November, the following students were recognized: Xander Malone, a fourth grader in Ms. Morgan's class at North Rowan Elementary; Christopher Camacho, a student at North Rowan Middle; and Maleisha Conner, a junior at North Rowan High School.

Congratulations to all these fine students!



**COMMUNITY "BLUE CHRISTMAS" SERVICE
MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2012, 6:30 PM
CHAPEL ROOM AT CENTRAL METHODIST, SPENCER**

The Spencer Council of Churches will be offering a special worship service at Christmas time for those who have suffered either the loss of a loved one or employment or any other tough issue they are facing at Christmas. The pain of loss at Christmas can be a very tough experience. We call this service a "Blue Christmas Worship Service". It will be held Monday night, December 17 at 6:30 in the chapel room of Central United Methodist Church, Spencer. It will be a time to minister to the pain of your loss with the hope of our faith and by testimonies of others and how they got through that first Christmas having suffered a great loss of some kind. We will have opportunities to hear from many participants in this very informal service. Will you join us on Monday night, December 17? Call 704-633-9412 or 704-636-4101 for more information.

Pastor Don Mason, Central United Methodist Church
Pastor Richard Gross, Oakdale Baptist Church, Spencer



**FROM SPENCER
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

The Spencer Police Department is an avid supporter of Community Policing. We have increased our foot patrols and want our citizens to feel comfortable with their police officers. If you have a concern, or want to provide information regarding a crime or suspicious activity please communicate with the police officer as he walks down your street. You are always welcome to call the Chief of Police and provide information or make suggestions to enhance crime prevention.

Downturns in the economy often see an increase in larcenies. Do your part—lock your car doors, outbuildings, and homes. Do not create an easy target for perpetrators. Most importantly, report suspicious persons or activity by calling 911. An officer will respond to investigate as promptly as possible.

I welcome your feedback, concerns, and suggestions. Members of the Spencer Police Department consider it a high honor and privilege to serve in such a great community. Thank you for your continued support.

Michael James
Chief of Police

**CENTRAL UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

Central United Methodist Church is planning a Christmas party at the church on Sunday, December 9th at 4:00 p.m. We're planning to have hot dogs, cake, ice cream, and games for "children of all ages" - everyone is welcome!

CODE ENFORCEMENT

The Town Board has been discussing possible higher residential maintenance standards this year. Land Management is currently conducting a study of the trends among code enforcement complaints and violations in town, along with other programs / measures the Board might be interested in. LMD will then report back to the Board in January. As most Spencians are aware, we've tended to be very progressive with our code enforcement program over the years—in fact, our Board's ordinances and policies have often served as a model for other towns not just locally but across the state. This is just the latest initiative the Board is evaluating to make sure we're doing all we can do to ensure the best quality of life for our citizens we can afford to provide.

LAND MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR

I would like to introduce myself. I am Price Wagoner and I am proud to be the new Land Management Director for the Town of Spencer. My journey here was a long one. I graduated from Elon University in 1998 and moved back to Salisbury in 1999. I worked in the title insurance business for a year and a half, then went back to school to get a Civil Engineering Technology degree from CPCC. I then went to work as a project manager for Wagoner Construction Company. During this time I served for almost two and a half years on the City of Salisbury's Planning Board. Here is where my interest in Planning and Historic Preservation began to grow. I went back to school and received my Master's of Geography with a concentration in Community Planning from UNCC. I am fortunate to be working in Spencer and look forward to continued growth, historic preservation and education. Should you have any questions regarding Zoning, Code Enforcement, Historic Preservation or Planning please feel free to contact me at Town Hall.

Price Wagoner
Land Management Director



Town Of Spencer
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