

# “THE RIGHT TRACK”



Volume 18 Issue 4

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

May 2013

“Home of the North Carolina Transportation Museum”

## FROM THE MAYOR

We are in the middle of budget planning for the 2013-2014 fiscal year. We are working very hard to maintain the same tax rate at .628 per \$100 while providing the same services we currently have. Health insurance costs have continued to increase, as well as unemployment insurance. These are costs that we have no control over, but must budget for them. This is in addition to the State continuing to cut funding to local government. We are streamlining the duties of all current employees to keep costs at a minimum. I want to thank each employee for a job well done.



We continue to focus on two main projects, Spencer Woods and Small Town Main Street. Spencer Woods is a 40+ acre tract on the south end of town. Trails are currently being made and parking spaces are being put in along South Rowan Avenue. Small Town Main Street meets the second Thursday of each month at 5:45. If you are interested in attending a meeting, contact Town Hall for more information. Their number is 704-633-2231.

Our yards and landscaping are looking very nice. The rain we have been blessed with is helping keep Spencer a beautiful community. Summer is around the corner and we look forward to seeing the Community Appearance Awards in the yards

of our friends and neighbors.

Congratulations to the 2013 graduating class of North Rowan High School, as well as our colleges throughout the area. Enjoy your summer and be safe.

Jody Everhart  
Mayor



## DAMAGE FROM POWER SURGE

As many of you are aware, the Spencer and East Spencer area suffered a tremendous power surge and outage on Thursday, May 9.

It has come to our attention that a few local residents and businesses suffered damage to outlets, appliances, etc. due to that event.

According to Paige Layne, a spokeswoman with Duke Energy, anyone who suffered damage due to this event can file a claim at the company's customer service number, 1-800-777-9898. Ms. Layne stated that Duke Energy may reimburse for repairs to the damaged appliance or electronic device or assist with replacement if necessary.

## OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

At the March 12 Board of Aldermen meeting, Mayor Everhart recognized Charlie Durham, North Rowan Elementary School; and Corbin Smith, North Rowan Middle School.

Certificates for the month of April went to Malikai Polk, North Rowan Elementary School; Thomas Hammonds, North Rowan Middle School; and Xavier Partee, North Rowan High School.

Recently, at the May 14 Board meeting, award winners were Davion and Javion Williams, North Rowan Elementary School; Allison Lingle, North Rowan Middle School; and Michael Ranson, 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.

## 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!



**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" months. 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. Our brush pick-up service runs Monday through Friday on pre-determined 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.

**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



**SUMMER STORM FIRE SAFETY**

A wide range of natural disasters occurs within the United States every year. Natural disasters can have a devastating effect on you and your home. The U.S. Fire Administration encourages you to use the following safety tips to help protect yourself, your family and your home from the potential threat of fire during or after a summer storm. You can greatly reduce your chances of becoming a fire casualty by being able to identify potential hazards and following the outlined safety tips.

**Some Types of Fire-Related Hazards Present During and After a Summer Storm**

- Lightning associated with thunderstorms generates a variety of fire hazards. The power of lightning's electrical charge and intense heat can electrocute on contact, splitting trees and causing fires.
- Pools of water and even appliances can be electrically charged.
- Appliances that have been exposed to water can short and become a fire hazard.
- Generators are often used during power outages. Generators that are not properly used and maintained can be very hazardous.

**Chemical Safety**

- Look for combustible liquids like gasoline, lighter fluid, and paint thinner that may have spilled. Thoroughly clean the spill and place containers in a well-ventilated area.
- Keep combustible liquids away from heat sources.

**Electrical Safety**

- If your home has sustained flood or water damage, and you can safely get to the main breaker or fuse box, turn off the power.
- Assume all wires on the ground are electrically charged. This includes cable TV feeds.
- Be aware of and avoid downed utility lines. Report downed or

damaged power lines to the utility company or emergency services.

- Remove standing water, wet carpets and furnishings. Air dry your home with good ventilation before restoring power.
- Have a licensed electrician check your home for damage.

**Gas Safety**

- Smell and listen for leaky gas connections. If you believe there is a gas leak, immediately leave the house and leave the door(s) open.
- Never strike a match. Any size flame can spark an explosion.
- Before turning the gas back on, have the gas system checked by a professional.

**Generator Safety**

- Follow the manufacturer's instructions and guidelines when using generators.
- Use a generator or other fuel-powered machines outside the home. CO fumes are odorless and can quickly overwhelm you indoors.
- Use the appropriate sized and type power cords to carry the electric load. Overloaded cords can overheat and cause fires.
- Never run cords under rugs or carpets where heat might build up or damage to a cord may go unnoticed.

**And Remember ...**

- Always use a flashlight—not a candle—for emergency lighting.
- Smoke alarms should be installed on every level of your home and inside and outside of sleeping areas.
- All smoke alarms should be tested monthly. All batteries should be replaced with new ones at least once a year.
- If there is a fire hydrant near your home, keep it clear of debris for easy access by the fire department.

Jay Baker  
Fire Chief



**FROM THE TOWN MANAGER**

Budget season is here. We sometimes get questions about certain ins and outs of Spencer's budget and governmental operations. We are indeed unique in our tax base, composition and services, so just to hit some highlights:

Residential properties generally cost more to *service* (Police, Fire, Public Works, Admin) than commercial ones, and Spencer has a highly residential-comprised tax base. Commercial districts become incredibly important in such compositions, since the property and sales taxes generated from commercial properties (being used for income generation) can *offset* some of the higher costs of service to residential areas.

In Spencer, over half of our commercial downtown real estate is under State or Town ownership, both of which of course are exempt from taxes (otherwise tax dollars you've already paid would be used again to pay these properties' taxes). This composition is not automatically a bad thing though, since you normally want the governmental center to be in the downtown or immediate outskirts—and having the NC Transportation Museum downtown opens up a wide array of opportunities. All this just means that we're limited "on the front side", if you will, in our *ad valorem* tax base.

So we focus on how to best direct our limited resources to assist those income-producing commercial properties. Enter Small Town Main Street, just as one example of our efforts.

Our location, on the northernmost edge of our county, past Salisbury's retail areas, and just south of Lexington's retail areas—presents challenges to capturing some convenience-type good sales, but provides great "niche-market" opportunities for shoppers wanting a particular good or quality of good. This program evaluates what those challenges and opportunities are, how to capture them

and promote existing businesses, and how to entice people to come and stay, through well-planned events and an appealing downtown.

The Board of Aldermen has committed a *great* deal of our Town (government) time and resources to this effort. It is structured to help the Town provide the economic development **spark** for downtown businesses, town residents and other interested parties: to organize their efforts, necessary priorities, and the process by which they can propel economic development for themselves and other businesses. Whether the **fire** takes off and keeps growing is entirely dependent upon the people involved in the process. So we continue to strongly encourage you to come to the meetings if you have interest, abilities and experience in: #1, first and foremost—teamwork; and #2—any of the program's concentrations (Design, Promotions, or Economic Restructuring).

As a commercial base grows, that same predominately-residential town's government can usually start considering things unavailable before—like lowering its tax rate, or maybe doing more in the way of Town-sponsored events, parks and recreation / quality of life -type initiatives. Plus, it gives residents and visitors a more vibrant place to spend their time and shopping...which is of course a true win-win for all.

This is obviously a "10,000-foot" snapshot that completely generalizes a lot of things, and doesn't even **touch** on many of the other unique factors that influenced Spencer's current needs and composition. Please don't hesitate to read through the full budget message, and/or simply call with any questions or feedback you may have at any time along the way.

Larry Smith  
Town Manager



**NEW BUSINESSES**

Several new businesses have recently been permitted to open in Spencer. Linda Knight has opened Queen Knight Restaurant at 1205 N Salisbury Avenue. Kellie Corl has opened the Iron Horse Bar & Grill at 320 S Salisbury Avenue. And Donna Huffman has opened Jennie Lynns, an ice cream and sandwich shop, at 111 Fifth Street.

We encourage everyone to try these new restaurants, as well as support all your local Spencer businesses.



**COMMUNITY APPEARANCE COMMISSION AWARDS**

Have you recently noticed a home that is particularly attractive? If so, one of the ways to thank the person(s) who made their property charming is to nominate them for the Spencer Community Appearance Award. Property owners who are chosen to receive the award will receive a sign posted on their property for two weeks, a framed certificate, and an invitation to attend the annual banquet honoring the award recipients.

Nomination forms are available at Town Hall, 600 S Salisbury Avenue, or you may contact Lisa Perdue at 704-633-2231 or by email at [townclrk@ci.spencer.nc.us](mailto:townclrk@ci.spencer.nc.us).



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Calvary Lutheran and Spencer Presbyterian will be joining Central United Methodist Church for Vacation Bible School.

The VBS Kick-off will begin with a "Hay Day Sundae", complete with homemade ice cream and fixings on Sunday, July 21st at 5 pm at the Library Park.

Children ages 3 through 5th grade are invited to join us at Central Methodist on Monday, July 22nd through Wednesday, July 24th. A light supper will begin at 5:30 pm with VBS from 6-8 pm. Teens are also welcome to come "hang out on the farm".

Vacation Bible School will end with a Friendship Finale at the last Circus Train on Saturday, July 27th at 7:30 p.m.

Patti Klutz  
Central United Methodist Church



**CIRCUS TRAIN**



The Circus Train puppet ministry from Central United Methodist Church will be back at the Library Park every Saturday in June and July beginning on June 8th through July 27th at 7:30 pm. Children of all ages are welcomed to come get a FREE hot dog and a FREE snow cone and a drink this summer. They will be playing some games, singing some songs, learning a few Bible Memory Verses, and hearing a Bible story from some colorful characters and some talking animals. Bring a blanket or a lawn chair and get on board! Fun for the whole family!!!

Patti Klutz  
Central United Methodist Church



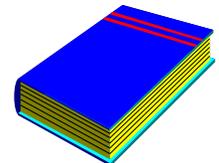
**SPENCER PUBLIC LIBRARY**

We are sorry to report that our Librarian, Cyndi Atwell, has chosen to retire at the end of May. Cyndi has done a fine job at the Library and enacted several programs while employed there. A tutoring program for students has been very active and she also hosted a summer reading program and a storytime for younger children. We certainly wish Cyndi well and congratulate her on her retirement.



Cindy Patterson has agreed to take over the Librarian's position. She is a Spencer resident and has worked previously at the Library, so we are very happy to have her back. Please stop by and see what the Library has to offer.

The hours are from 2 to 7 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday, and 2 to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Spencer Library is closed on Saturday and Sunday.



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