

“THE RIGHT TRACK”



Volume 19 Issue 1

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

August 2013

“Home of the North Carolina Transportation Museum”

FROM THE MAYOR

Our children are returning to school soon. Let's support our students. North Rowan High will be moving from 1A to 2A in sports this year. We are fortunate to have the elementary, middle and high school in Spencer. We have a unique opportunity to show that Spencer is a great place to live.



Thank you to Town Manager Larry Smith, all the Department Heads and Town Employees for helping me and the Board of Aldermen to maintain the current tax rate of .628 per \$100.

The new playground equipment for 8th Street and Rowan Avenue Parks will be arriving soon. This upgrade will enhance our family parks.

Please remember to remove your trash cans from the curb the same day as your pick up. Also, please do not mow or blow your grass clippings into the street. Both of these are code ordinances and will go a long way in keeping our town looking clean.

Thank you,

Jody Everhart
Mayor



FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

We appreciate the overwhelmingly positive feedback we've been hearing about the town, our employees, our services and our initiatives. The number of new residents and merchants feeding back that they've chosen Spencer after touring and researching the town and its initiatives is definitely increased, which is a very good sign given all that's going on!

We welcomed Yolanda Wells and her business Rags 2 Riches with a grand opening ribbon cutting ceremony on August 1st. She's located at 506 S Salisbury Avenue, and specializes in high-quality vintage clothing and accessories. Less than a month in, we've already heard *countless* compliments about her store.

Small Town Main Street takes a break in July and August while the Department of Commerce selects each year's new recipients into the program, but our committee chairs took no break at all. The core group has continued working behind the scenes with town staff and our coordinator to make sure that when the program kicks back into full gear in September, their groups will have a good idea about the workplans for the upcoming year.

Spencer Woods continues to receive blessings, not just from project volunteers but also from the LandTrust and grant-funding agencies. As we were realizing the cost we would get into constructing regulation guardrails on the northwestern Rowan Avenue pulloff, the LandTrust applied for, and successfully received for us, a \$10,000 grant from the Z. Smith Reynolds

Foundation for the guardrails, way-finding signage and trail-building tools. Special thanks to them and the volunteers who have stayed so involved with this effort.

I was honored to be asked to serve on the executive team assigned to create a comprehensive business plan for the NC Transportation Museum this year for the General Assembly. Between that study, the natural connections of the museum with our downtown, and the plans for Spencer Woods to link these three components together, we realized the immense benefits of resurrecting the old "greenway" idea of extending that link on to the Yadkin River (and connecting to Davidson County's positive momentum with a greenway / blueway trail otherwise planned to just link to the Wilcox Bridge there).

All of these things tie together with last newsletter's summary about how and why we're working so hard to build our commercial base while maintaining our residential base (and how incredibly important that is toward benefitting our residential neighborhoods). Please let me know if you ever have any questions, or possibly want to become involved with or learn more about any of the many good things going on.

Larry E. Smith
Town Manager



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. 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

Public Works would like to remind citizens that with spring and summer comes grass growing season, and storm water maintenance. **Please** do not throw grass into the street as you mow, stack bags of clippings, or pile brush in the curb. When it rains these items flow to the catch basins and will clog the drainage system, causing problems.

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



FALL MULCH GIVE AWAY

September 21st, 7 am to noon

Public Works will be having a mulch give-away on Saturday, September 21st. 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 a loader bucket. **Delivery will be available for In Town Residents Only, at \$10.00 a load. Delivery is on a first come first serve basis until 12:00.** 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.



NO WIPES IN THE PIPES

Due to the increased use of convenient disposable cleaning products, the problems these cause are on the rise. While some companies promote their products as 'flushable', utility companies across the country encourage customers to throw these items in the garbage instead.

Even though some of these may make it through toilets, they tend to clog private septic and public sewer lines and systems. Baby wipes, make-up removal cloths, paper towels, disinfecting wipes, toilet scrubber sponges, mop refills, shop towels, rags and other similar items don't break down like toilet paper.

These can cause blockages and even backups in homes and streets, resulting in increased maintenance and cleanup costs as well as environmental consequences.

Ideally only toilet paper should be flushed; and a simple, as well as economical, alternative to disposable wipes would be reusable, washable cloth.

Other items which should be 'trashed' rather than 'flushed' and why:

- Cleaning Pads, Cotton Balls, and Personal Hygiene Products—Too thick and/or don't breakdown.
- Disposable diapers, Dental Floss and Q-Tips—Don't break down and most contain plastic.
- Cat Litter—the equivalent of pouring sand down the toilet.
- Cosmetics and Cigarette Butts—May contain chemicals that can pollute waterways.
- Chewing Gum—can literally gum up sewer pipes.
- Medicines and Pesticides—Contact your local recycling center regarding their drop-off schedule for special waste items such as these OR Rowan County Recycling is having the special waste drop off day on October 2 for these items from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm at 1102 N. Long Street Ext. in East Spencer. For more information, contact Rowan County Recycling at 704-638-3045.

Salisbury-Rowan Utilities
704-638-5205



FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Please drive with extra caution on Spencer streets now that the students have returned to school. And remember, several 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

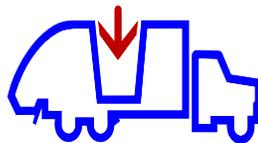


REMINDER GARBAGE COLLECTION

Collection of garbage is on a weekly basis, either on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday by your predetermined route. All garbage containers shall be placed on the street no earlier than dusk on the evening prior to scheduled collection and no later than 7:00 a.m. on collection days. Containers shall be removed as far as practical and out of sight, where possible, from the street by the owner or occupant of the premises by midnight on the day of collection. No containers of any type are to be placed, kept or left on the street for any purpose on Saturday and Sunday (except those put out on Sunday evening for Monday pickup). **Please remove your containers from the street after they have been emptied.**

Thank you for your cooperation.

Price Wagoner
Land Management Director



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

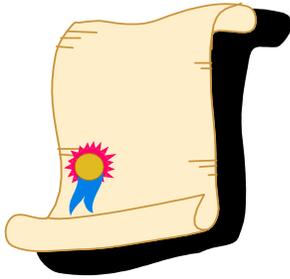
Please rinse all containers and discard the lids. Flatten all boxes and remove all Styrofoam and other shipping materials. Separate newspaper from mixed paper.

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.

OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

At the June 11 Board of Aldermen meeting, a certificate was presented to Dominique Kerns, a student at North Rowan Elementary School.

Michael Ranson, a rising senior at North Rowan High, was also present to receive his certificate for the month of May.



As a new school year begins, we look forward to more monthly student appreciation awards for the North Rowan students.



COMMUNITY APPEARANCE COMMISSION

Throughout the summer, the Community Appearance Commission has been traveling around town in search of residents' properties deserving of the 2013 community appearance award. Presentations of this award began in May and will continue through early September. The CAC encourages you to help maintain your property and make Spencer a beautiful place to live and visit.

Lawn maintenance does not require a complete overhaul of what you have already. Consider simple additions and changes to begin sprucing up your yard for late summer and early fall.

- **Keep your lawn cut regularly.** Overgrown grass encourages the growth of weeds. Neatly trimmed lawns keep a consistent eye-appealing look throughout the town.
- **Trim hedges and bushes.** Overgrown shrubbery hides the character and details of your home. Keeping it cut back protects the physical structure of your home and shows off the design.
- **Add color to your landscape.** The simple addition of a few colorful flowers or hanging baskets only adds to your curb ap-

peal. Look for perennials and plants that will bloom year after year.

- **Tidy up your front yard.** Remove trash cans and furniture from the front yard and porch and find a more appropriate space for them. With these distractors removed, residents are able to focus on the beauty of your house and yard as they pass.

If you notice a Spencer property deserving of recognition by the Community Appearance Commission, please call Town Hall with the address. Your help in the beautification of Spencer is appreciated.

Lynn Plummer, Chair

Spencer Community Appearance Commission



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