

“THE RIGHT TRACK”



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November 2013

“Home of the North Carolina Transportation Museum”

FROM THE MAYOR

In an effort to help protect the safety and welfare of the citizens of Spencer, the Board of Aldermen has made several amendments to the Town’s code of ordinances over the last few months. In August, an ordinance amendment was made concerning begging and panhandling in response to citizen complaints of this becoming more of a problem in the area.

In September, a new ordinance was passed to regulate public festivals and special events. This ordinance will enable staff to monitor and enforce permitting of special events. This new addition to the Town code goes hand-in-hand with the efforts of the Small Town Main Street program to ensure that special events are successful while stressing the safety and welfare of Spencer’s citizens.

Also in September, the ordinance concerning garbage carts was amended to update the penalty for leaving the carts on the street. Remember to place your cans on the street the evening before your scheduled pick-up day and remove them from the street by midnight on the day of collection. Failure to remove the can in a timely manner may result in a \$25 civil citation.

I am proud to welcome the headquarters for Meals on Wheels of Rowan to Spencer. They are now located at 1307 South Salisbury Avenue. The ribbon cutting was held on Friday, November 8th.

I know you want to join me in congratulating Coach Joe Nixon and the entire North Rowan High School Football program for their awesome 11-0 regular season finish. Each player demonstrated great sports-

manship throughout every game. Good luck in the playoffs. GO CAVS!!

I want to personally thank each of the candidates that ran for Spencer Town Board. A special thank you to David Smith for his service, and to Rashid Muhammad for his support for the Town of Spencer. Also, welcome to Mike Boone as our newest Alderman.

As the holiday season draws near, I would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas.

Jody Everhart, Mayor

FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

The Small Town Main Street initiative kicked back off in September for our second and final year in the program. The continuous inquiries about the program from “new faces” is very encouraging, and that’s only one part of the success and downtown interest that is steadily forming. The Park Plaza Shopping Center recently sold, and the new owner is busy making plans for development there. Rick’s BBQ opened up at 113 Fifth Street the first week of November. RCCC provided a very enthusiastic artist for us, Ms. Rebecca Ball, who has been transforming downtown fire hydrants into works of art.

To recap, the STMS program is administered through the Department of Commerce. It helps smaller downtowns learn to better evaluate and understand the “Four Point “Approach” of successful revitalization programs: Organization (of a valid and sustainable mer-

chants’ association or nonprofit); Design (deliberate building and streetscape features that draw customers, accessibility, walkability, etc); Promotions (cross-networking, retail promotions, putting on successful events); and Economic Restructuring (fundamentals of recruiting and retaining businesses, understanding retail leakage and marketing data, etc). Each specific, local program that develops is only as strong as the people who get and remain involved with it after the two years of assistance are up. So if any of this sounds right up your alley of expertise or interest, please come join us the 2nd Thursday of each month at 5:45 pm.

The town’s goal to plan connections for Spencer Woods, the downtown and the NCTM to the Wilcox Bridge led us to form a Carolina Thread Trail planning initiative with the other Rowan County municipalities. 100% of our towns/cities are signed on, and we’ve moved forward at incredible speed since our grant was approved in August. Connection to the Wilcox would open up tangible commerce, recreation, and promotional opportunities. Davidson County’s greenway plan was otherwise slated to end there with completion of the new “Hwy 29” Yadkin River bridge project. Look for an open house for public comment and input around the first of December. The date and time will be advertised as soon as we get the details set.

Until next time: I hope you all have a very Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Larry Smith
Town Manager

FIRE LOSS IN THE U.S. IN 2012

Every 23 seconds, a fire department responds to a fire somewhere in the U.S., according to a new report released by the National Fire Protection Association.

In 2012, there were:

- 1,375,500 fires responded to by public fire departments
- 2,855 civilian deaths
- 16,500 injuries as result of fire

The number of structure fires has steadily declined in recent years, from their peak in 1977 of 1,098,000 to 480,500 in 2012. Last year, there was:

- a civilian fire injury every 32 minutes
- a civilian fire death every 3 hours and 4 minutes
- a home fire occurred every 85 seconds, which accounted for 76 percent of all structure fires
- homes were also where the majority of civilian fire injuries and deaths occurred, accounting for 78 percent of fire injuries and 83 percent of fire deaths.

Other key findings from the report:

- property damage of roughly \$12.4 billion occurred as result of fire
- \$7 billion of property loss was from home fires
- \$1.1 billion was lost in highway vehicle fires
- amount of property damage that occurred as result of fires increased by nearly 7 percent
- intentionally set fires in structures decreased across the board
- reduction in structure fires of 5.7 percent
- reduction in civilian deaths in structures of 5.3 percent
- reduction in property damage in structures of 3.3 percent



SAVE MONEY: WINTERIZE YOUR HOME

Many of us have already turned on the heat a few times this fall...maybe even several times. Yes, colder weather is approaching. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, heating and cooling account for about 56 percent of energy use in a typical American home, making it the largest energy expense,. So, when you turn on your heat this fall and winter, make it count! Follow the tips below so your home stays warm without burning a hole in your wallet.

Adjust your thermostat appropriately.

In cold weather, set your thermostat to the lowest comfortable setting — ideally between 68-70 degrees. For each degree you lower your thermostat, you reduce your heating cost 7 to 10 percent. During cooler months, also remember to turn the thermostat down when you leave home and at night. Make it easy on yourself by purchasing a programmable thermostat that will adjust the temperature as you decide.

Install or reverse your ceiling fan.

Ceiling fans aid in a home's heating functions by circulating air and allowing you to lower your thermostat during the winter, further cutting your utility bill. If you already have a fan, switch it from summer to winter operation so the fan will push warm air downward and force it to recirculate. The blades should turn clockwise.

Check for leaks and obstructions.

These problems within your heating and cooling system contribute to severe inefficiency. Check for air leaks all around your home — inspect windows, doors, siding and trim. Caulk and seal all air leaks to reduce air infiltration and save on energy usage. Also, make sure drapes and furniture are not blocking air registers or returns.

Insulate or reinsulate your attic.

When installing new insulation, use at least R-30 rated material (fiberglass, cellulose, rigid foam, etc.) with a vapor barrier, such as paper or foil. If you have an older home with knob-and-tube wiring in the attic space, hire a professional to avoid fire hazards. Do not block the eaves of your roof; these openings are needed for proper ventilation. If you are placing new insulation on top of old, do not use the kind with a vapor barrier, as it can cause moisture problems.

Don't neglect your water heater.

Wasting hot water is all too common, so insulate your water heater and check it regularly. You can purchase an insulation kit at your local hardware or home improvement store. Then set your water heater temperature at the lowest setting you are comfortable with, but no higher than 120 degrees.

Taking the time to winterize your home should only take a weekend, but you'll reap the benefits of extra warmth and cost savings for months to come!



**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, simply call Town Hall for the issuance of a work order. Thank you for the cooperation and attentiveness to our Town's ordinances.

MULCH

Mulch is still available from the Town. If you would like to come and get mulch, please contact Public Works (704-633-5331) to schedule a loading time. Delivery is also available for **In Town Residents only**. The fees are:

Mulch fee Schedule

In-Town

John Deere	\$3 per bucket
Backhoe	\$5 per bucket

Out of Town

John Deere	\$7 per bucket
Backhoe	\$10 per bucket

IN TOWN DELIVERY

Small Truck (Chevy) (3 scoops delivered)	\$25.00
Large Truck (International) (5 scoops delivered)	\$35.00

**OUTSTANDING STUDENTS
AND SCHOOL AWARDS**

At the September Board of Aldermen meeting, Ali Khatib, fourth grader in Ms. Morgan's class, was recognized as North Rowan Elementary School's student of the month.

October's certificates went to Abby Smith, a fifth grader in Ms. Childer's class at North Rowan Elementary, Tristyn Flowers, an eighth grader at North Rowan Middle, and Brandon Chandler, a senior at North Rowan High School.

For the month of November, the following students were recognized: Kari Downs, a second grader in Mrs. Younts' class at North Rowan Elementary and Logan Stoner, a seventh grade student at North Rowan Middle.

Congratulations to all these fine students!



CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK

Date: Friday, December 6 **Time:** 6:00 p.m. **Location:** Library Park, 300 Fourth Street, Spencer

The Spencer Tree Lighting ceremony is sure to be a wonderful event again this year. Join the Hometown Holidays Committee on Friday, December 6th as they usher in the Christmas season.

Festivities begin at 6:00 p.m., tree lighting at 7:00 p.m.. Over 500 luminaries will light up the park. Some of the entertainers include: Adam Broyles, Central United Methodist Church's Circus Train, Caroline Nance, North Rowan Glee Club, Santa, and Steppin' Out Dance Company.

CANDLELIGHT TOUR OF CHURCHES

Date: Friday, December 20 **Time:** 6:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m. **Location:** Spencer

The sixth annual Candlelight Tour of Churches will be held in Spencer again this holiday season. This self guided tour is free and open to the public. Event runs from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tour schedule is as follows:

6:00—6:20	Central United Methodist	7:30—7:50	Dorsett Chapel Church
6:30—6:50	Spencer Presbyterian	8:00—8:20	Calvary Lutheran
7:00—7:20	Oakdale Baptist	8:30—9:00	First Baptist

For more information about any of these events please visit www.spencerhometownholidays.com or email Beth Morris Nance at bethmnance@gmail.com

FROM SALISBURY ROWAN UTILITIES

Help "Greasy" stay out of your drains!!

Become a partner with Salisbury-Rowan Utilities to protect our environment and keep Fat, Oil, Grease, and Wax out of the public sewer system.

Fat, Oil, Grease, and Wax better known as **FOG**, can cause harm to your home, the environment and the public sewer when it is poured down sinks and drains. By collecting in the sewer pipes outside of homes and businesses, **FOG** can cause raw sewage to overflow into the ground or even backup into your home or business.

Together we can eliminate **FOG** from lurking in our sewers! Follow these tips to help keep your pipes clear of clogs year-round:

PLEASE DO

- Pour the cooled oil and grease into a lidded container and discard in the trash. To help solidify the grease, you can freeze it first or add coffee grounds or kitty litter.
- Use a paper towel to dry-wipe all pans and utensils prior to washing.
- Place food scraps in collection containers.
- Keep grease out of wash water.

PLEASE DON'T

- ◇ Pour dairy, oil, or grease down drains.
- ◇ Wash greasy pans, plates, or utensils until all grease and oil are removed.
- ◇ Put food scraps down drains.
- ◇ Use hot water to wash grease off surfaces.

Join the "Pan-To-Can" initiative!

Rinse out a used soup or vegetable can. Collect grease that is left in your frying pan after cooking by pouring the cooled grease into the lidded can. Place directly into your freezer. Be sure to dry-wipe the pan with a paper towel before washing. Repeat these steps until the can is full of used grease then discard with the weekly trash.

***For more information, contact Salisbury-Rowan Utilities FOG Control Program at 704-216-7568.



SPENCER FIRE DEPARTMENT

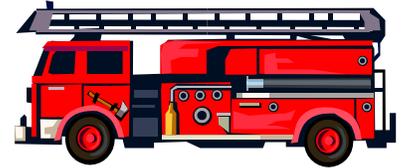
The Spencer Fire Department has been busy in October. We have been at stand-by's for Thomas the Train, YFL football games and numerous other events. During fire prevention week the department took advantage of several public education opportunities including working with the Ellis Cross Roads VFD at North Rowan Elementary.

During the month of November, we will continue at North Rowan High home football games and participate in the Holiday Caravan parade.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer with the Spencer Fire Department, please pick up, complete and submit an application at the Spencer Town Hall.

You may also follow the Spencer Fire Department on Twitter @SpencerFireDept and Like our Spencer Fire Department Facebook page.

Jay Baker, Fire Chief



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