

“THE RIGHT TRACK”



Volume 19 Issue 3

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

February 2014

“Home of the North Carolina Transportation Museum”

FROM THE MAYOR

On February 27th the Town Board of Spencer will be hosting a Listening Session at 6:30 pm at the Town Hall. The public is invited to attend. Anyone who wishes can speak to the entire Board on what goals they would like to see for this year and future years. Your input will give the Staff and Board an opportunity to review your suggestions before our Planning Retreat which will be held at the Fire Department on March 14th and 15th. The public is welcome to come and observe, but there will not be an open comment time at the retreat. Department heads will present their plans on Friday, March 15th beginning at 6:00 pm. On Saturday, beginning at 8:30 am, the Town Board will discuss their suggestions and ideas for strategic planning.

The Spencer Cruise In will begin again on April 19th and will start at 4:00 pm and continue until 9:00 pm. I encourage you to go and see the restored cars and enjoy the planned entertainment. Weather permitting, it will be held the 3rd Saturday of every month.

In closing, I want to thank everyone for the phone calls and emails I received regarding the Veterans' Home at 418 South Carolina Avenue. As you know by now, the permit was rescinded due to misinformation supplied on the original application. Unfortunately, no one notified me, the town staff or the Aldermen that the facility was proposing 28 beds or that a 21 gun salute would be given during the ribbon cutting. So, let me take this opportunity to apologize on behalf of the town, for any apprehension this caused. We are all grateful for the dedicated service

of these men and women.

Jody Everhart, Mayor

FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

Town Boards and professional staff constantly work on improving communication with their residents and merchants. Effective communication is, after all, one of the most basic principles of any relationship.

We've placed a list of common numbers for quick reference at the end of this newsletter. We've also updated our "Contact Us" link on the town website (www.ci.spencer.nc.us), so you can now email in a code complaint, police issue, give general feedback, etc. from one handy link.

January's Town Board meeting kicked off a number of additional goals. We're now underway with creating our town's first comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan. There is a community survey enclosed. PLEASE take a few moments to fill this out. I often hear feedback that town projects are shaped by a relatively small group of people in town. While I'll continue to urge you to get involved in general, here is a perfect opportunity to do so right now...and to actually help shape our town parks in the way YOU want!

The Parks and Recreation plan was an add-on to our more pressing "Facilities Needs Assessment and Master Plan", now also underway. In 2010 the Town invested a heavy sum into the Library repair project, cognizant that our Town Hall was dealing with equally-

pressing repair and stabilization needs. A Master Plan will help everyone to have a clearer picture of structural assessments, long-term needs, and ultimately how we should best prioritize needs among the different town facilities.

The Small Town Main Street program took a step back recently to refocus on getting the best downtown organizational model in place before concentrating on events and such. We all continue to thank the volunteers who have helped shape the successes so far. The group completed a Market Analysis for the Town and a strong vision statement this past year, which is actively shaping new development such as the recently approved Family Dollar building, and the planning behind the rebirth of the monthly Spencer Cruise-in, being spearheaded by Kellie Luttrell of Iron Horse Bar & Grill. This was a very successful event from 2006-2009 under the organization of Steve and Margaret Waddell. Margaret and her former planners have actively been helping Kellie and the Town this time as well, to make sure we have everything ready and in place for another successful partnership.

We received our second Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Grant for Spencer Woods! The first application was for acquisition of the property, and this one is for the actual implementation of the Master Site Plan for the property. Special thanks once again to the LandTrust and volunteers for their continued partnership in this endeavor.

As always, we thank you for your support!

Larry Smith, Town Manager

FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

I hope all of you are well and surviving the frigid temperatures. I had a recent conversation with a local Chief of Police who works in a town that has a very low crime rate and he shared the following report: an elderly gentleman was mowing his yard in late summer and he decided to go inside and get some needed refreshment and take a break due to the extreme heat. He left his lawnmower in the front yard while he was inside his home. When he returned, his lawnmower had been stolen. This took place in a town that is very similar to what "Mayberry" depicted in the Andy Griffith Show that is virtually crime free. This illustrates a great point. We all live in a different world today and more than ever we must remove the opportunity for criminals to commit a crime.

If you need the police department to report a crime or suspicious activity, call 911. Do not call the Police Department at the Town Hall. This may delay police response.

I surveyed police personnel for this newsletter and they provided the following suggestions:

Officer Hunter Shue asked that I remind residents to practice increased theft deterrent methods for vehicles, houses, and outbuildings. Keep car doors locked and keep valuables out of sight! Officer Shue also requests that citizens be proactive in reporting suspicious persons and activity by calling 911. You can tell the 911 operator that you wish to remain anonymous but **please take the time to call and report suspicious activity and suspicious people that do not appear to belong in an area!!**

Officer John Reep requests that you report street light outages immediately to the Police Department. You may call Chief James at 704-633-3574 to report a street light outage. You can also go online and report the outage to Duke Energy via their website. The town pays for the street lights whether they are operable or not. It creates a safer community if all street lights are operable.

Coyotes have been spotted in our town several times recently. I recommend you keep small pets inside for their safety until this problem is resolved. Animal control has set traps to attempt to catch them. If you spot a coyote please notify the police department by calling 911.

M. T. James
Chief of Police



STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

December: Nathaniel Burrison, North Rowan Elementary; Trinity Gladden, North Rowan Middle; and Maria Sorrosa, North Rowan High

January: Kimberly Flores, North Rowan Elementary School

February Brianna Peterson, North Rowan Elementary; Russell Bacon Jr., North Rowan Middle; and Zavia Rudisell, North Rowan High School.

**SAVE THE DATE: MAY 7, 2014
WEDNESDAY, 7:00 AM TO 7:00 PM**

ROWAN COUNTY 2014 ANNUAL OPERATION MEDICINE DROP-OFF SPECIAL WASTE RECYCLING EVENT

Sponsored by the Rowan County Sheriff's Department, NCDACA/CS & the Department of Environmental Management

FREE TO ROWAN COUNTY CITIZENS
Rowan County Recycling Processing Center
1102 North Long Street Extension
East Spencer, NC—704-638-3045—Mr. David Grubb

!!!! Household Quantities ONLY !!!!

Prescription Medications, Non-Prescription Medications
Tires (Limit 5—No Rims)
Fire Extinguishers, Tanks (Helium, Oxygen and Propane)
All Computer Equipment, Cell Phones
Rechargeable Batteries (ONLY)
ALL Electronics (Anything with plug)
Thermometers, Thermostats
Pesticides (Must Be Labeled)
Paint (Limit 10 gallons per household)
Fluorescent Bulbs
Fertilizers (Must Be Labeled)
TV's—VCR's—DVR's
Washers, Dryers, Refrigerators
Eyeglasses, Hearing Aids
Toner Cartridges



**BRUSH AND
YARD WASTE PICKUP**

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. The leaf vac will run for a month, beginning March 15th and ending on April 15th for Spring cleanup. 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" 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. 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.

MULCH GIVE-AWAY

March 15, 2014—7:00 am until noon

Public Works will be having a mulch give-away on **Saturday, March 15th**. This corresponds with our normal Saturday recycling, so bring your recycling and get a free load of mulch. This will be the only free mulch give-away until fall, 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. 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.

Joel Taylor
Public Works Director

SPENCER FIRE DEPARTMENT

On Monday, January 20, there was a joint effort by members of the Spencer Fire Department and the Salisbury Chapter of the American Red Cross for a community outreach and education program. The contingent visited local housing units throughout the Town of Spencer in an attempt to provide information regarding fire safety, disaster safety, disaster preparedness and collect information on citizens who may require special attention in the event of an emergency or disaster. The Spencer Fire Department would like to thank all of the volunteers that participated as well as Red Cross liaison Monica Bruns for her assistance. As a result of team efforts, the campaign was able to reach out to approximately 115 Spencer citizens.

The Spencer Fire Department, organized in 1901, is comprised of 26 volunteer and part-time personnel. The department serves the 2.3 square-mile area of Spencer and answered a total of 530 calls in 2013.

Jay Baker, Fire Chief

SPENCER CRUISE-IN

As owners of a new business that occupies the previous business / building of Steve and Margaret Waddell, we have been asked several times if we would bring back the original "*Cruzin around Spencer*". With that being said we met with former Spencer Cruise-in organizer Margaret Waddell and staff of the Town of Spencer the end of last year to go over details of the former Cruise-in which ran from 2006 to 2009.

Margaret has been going over every step to put the original "*Cruzin around Spencer*" back together with us. As we have been calling on previous vendors and car owners we are pleased to say everyone that either set up as a vendor or car owner in the previous car show is looking forward to and ready to participate in the event again.

We have attended several meetings with Margaret Waddell, Land Management Director Price Wagoner, Town Manager Larry Smith, Joe Strickland (new owner of the Spencer Plaza) and David Long (former co-coordinator of "*Cruzin around Spencer*") to insure that this event is organized and ready to launch on April 19, 2014. On Tuesday February 11th we attended the monthly Board of Aldermen meeting along with Margaret Waddell, David Long, and Mr. and Mrs. Ron Main to provide information, maps, details and answer questions for anyone attending the meeting.

Pending approval, here are the details of the "*Cruzin around Spencer*". The event will be held every third Saturday of the month starting April 19th from 4-9 pm. We will be sending out flyers with the dates and theme planned for each particular weekend. For example: "Grease", "Salute to Vietnam Veterans", "School Tool drive", "Santa sleigh toy drive" etc.

I would like to say thank you to Joe Strickland and the Town of Spencer for being supportive toward this event and look forward to bringing the Spencer community back together again. If you have questions or would like to be included as a vendor, feel free to contact me at Iron Horse Bar & Grill or call 704-431-4707.

Jeff and Kellie Luttrell
Iron Horse Bar & Grill

Trash Schedule for 2014				
Holidays	**Town Hall Closed**			
Good Friday	Friday	April 18th		Town Hall Closed, No change in Trash Schedule
Memorial Day	Monday	May 26th	***	Monday will run on Tuesday (May 27th)
			***	Tuesday will run on Wednesday (May 28th)
			***	Wednesday will run on Thursday (May 29th)
July 4th	Friday	July 4th		Town Hall Closed, No change in Trash Schedule
Labor Day	Monday	September 1st	***	Monday will run on Tuesday (September 2nd)
			***	Tuesday will run on Wednesday (September 3rd)
			***	Wednesday will run on Thursday (September 4th)
Veteran's Day	Tuesday	November 11th		Monday will run on Schedule (November 10th)
			***	Tuesday will run on Wednesday (November 12th)
			***	Wednesday will run on Thursday (November 13th)
Thanksgiving	Thursday / Friday	November 27th & 28th		Town Hall Closed, No change in Trash Schedule
Christmas	Wednesday	December 24th		Monday will run on Schedule (December 22nd)
	Thursday	December 25th		Tuesday will run on Schedule (December 23rd)
	Friday	December 26th	***	Wednesday will also run on Tuesday (December 23rd)
New Year's	Thursday	January 1st		Trash will run on regular schedule all week

*** Denotes change from regular schedule

Please cut out the above schedule for garbage pickup over the 2014 holidays.
Post it where you can refer to it throughout the year.

Contact Numbers: Police Department

Emergencies: dial 911
 Non-emergencies: 704-216-8500
 Administrative: 704-633-3574

Town Hall: 704-633-2231
 (Town administration, land management, code enforcement, bulk items)



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