

# “THE RIGHT TRACK”



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May 2014

“Home of the North Carolina Transportation Museum”

## FROM THE MAYOR

We are in the process of planning the budget for the 2014/15 fiscal year. We are working to maintain the same tax rate at .628 per \$100 while providing the same services we currently offer. We have had two budget workshops to give direction to the Town Manager for setting the tax rate. At the June 10th regular Town Board meeting we are expecting to have the public hearing for the budget.

Cruzin' Around Spencer has already started their events for the summer. These are held on the 3rd Saturday of every month from 4:00 p.m. until. You have probably noticed that two lanes of traffic are closed on Salisbury Avenue from Third Street to Sixth Street for safety reasons. The cars on display have been restored to immaculate condition. There is also plenty of good food.

The new Family Dollar is under construction at the corner of Fourth Street and South Salisbury Avenue. I know that there are a lot of relieved citizens that the exterior of the building is brick and not metal. This is the first new building in the downtown area in approximately 25 years. The Little Choo Choo was the last private building built.

Again, I must ask that you respect your neighbors by maintaining your property and a reminder that Spencer has an ordinance against blowing your grass into the street when you mow and also leaving your trash cans at the curb after garbage pickup. Let's take pride in the appearance of our Town.

Congratulations to the 2014 graduating class of North Rowan

High School, as well as our colleges throughout the state.

Summertime is time for family and taking vacations. Please travel safely and enjoy your summer!

Jody Everhart  
Mayor

## FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

It's not hard to see the fruits of our labor here in Spencer. The town board, staff, NCTM, volunteers and businesses have put a great deal of time and effort into positioning ourselves to grow commercially. And as I've explained in previous newsletters, the benefits of doing so affect everything from our tax base and rate, right down to a lot of the residential priorities we hope to accomplish.

The Spencer Business Association has been meeting again, and I commend the number of business owners I've personally seen increasing their co-marketing strategies and networking with other Spencer businesses in general. A special thanks to the NC Transportation Museum and its Foundation staff, who have dedicated a tremendous amount of time assisting downtown event planning and promotions. The Museum has also enthusiastically embraced our efforts to connect Spencer with the Wil-Cox bridge / Davidson greenway project, which opens up a host of economic and recreational opportunities.

Construction of the new Family Dollar at 4th Street and Salisbury Avenue is nearly complete. Keith Howe has officially opened The Band Attic in its new location at

109-A 5th Street. Dr. Melanie Marshall has opened up her new dental practice at 902 S Salisbury Avenue. Sabrina Davis has moved her alterations business and custom dresses to Spencer as a home occupation at 511 S Yadkin Avenue (by appointment only, please call 704-870-8437 or check in at the door facing 6th Street). Porky's BBQ is well underway in its upfitting of 446 S Salisbury Avenue (in the shopping center) for its new restaurant.

Industrial-wise, Carolina Color Corporation is expanding its operations, and has been working very impressively with Spencer to remain here and expand within its very limited property space, if at all possible. The Zoning Board of Adjustment just granted a Variance for building setbacks as part of accommodating that expansion.

Residentially, permit inquiries and applications are up as well. The Historic Preservation Commission is seeing increases in historic district improvements. With several new members, the commission is also focusing on training opportunities and streamlining their historic guidelines.

At the time of this report, I've completed interviews and have extended a conditional offer of employment to the top candidate for our Land Management Director position. Former director Price Wagoner left April 1st to explore other planning opportunities, so we hope to have someone back in place soon to continue our progress on planning and code enforcement issues.

As always, we thank you for your support!

Larry Smith  
Town Manager

### 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 and the Spencer Fire Department 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.

#### 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.

#### 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. Carbon monoxide 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.
- Never connect generators to another power source such as power lines. The reverse flow of electricity or 'backfeed' can electrocute an unsuspecting utility worker.

#### And Remember ...

- Always use a flashlight—not a candle—for emergency lighting.
- Some smoke alarms may be dependent on your home's electrical service and could be inoperative during a power outage. Check to see if your smoke alarm uses a back-up battery and install a new battery at least once a year.
- 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

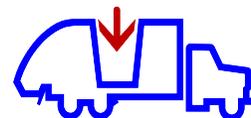
### BULK ITEM REMOVAL

The Town is changing the policy for bulk item pick-up. Most bulk items will now be picked up on your normal trash day—**free of charge!** The Town Board wanted to offer this benefit to you immediately, so we will continue working out details and evaluating the results moving forward. One thing we know for sure already though is that we'll need your help to make this a sustainable program. Please:

- Place your bulk items beside your garbage cart on your normal pickup day.
- Moderation! If you have a large amount of bulk items to be picked up, spread the amount out over several weeks so the Sanitation Workers can stay on schedule with their route and load for the day.
- The garbage truck cannot handle a lot of larger bulk items (couches, large piles, etc.) on normal routes. These will need to be scheduled separately. To do so, simply call Town Hall at 704-633-2231 and ask "for a work order to have it picked up".
- It's illegal to bring in items from outside of town for us to pick up, and such abuses could also endanger continuation of this program. Please help us continue to help you—by reporting any such activity immediately.

Items placed at the curb outside of your normal trash day will not be picked up until your next scheduled pickup day. This, or any other abuses or potential nuisance conditions, remain subject to civil enforcement and penalties. We thank you for helping us, as we see this as an excellent benefit to everyone.

Joel Taylor  
Public Works Director



**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. **Please do not block the sidewalks when placing brush at the curb.** 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.



**Curb Edging**

Just a reminder that in spring, grass and weeds begin to grow in the curb and it is essential to storm water maintenance that we keep the curbs clear. 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

**OUTSTANDING STUDENTS**

At the March 11 Board of Aldermen meeting, Mayor Everhart recognized Addison Connor, North Rowan Elementary School; and Ernesto Jaramillo, North Rowan Middle School.

Certificates for the month of April went to Nevaya Sion, North Rowan Elementary School; and Taylor Ellis, North Rowan Middle School.

Recently, at the May 13 Board meeting, award winners were McKayla Freedle, North Rowan Elementary School; and Tamia Brown, North Rowan Middle School.

Congratulations to all these outstanding students! Keep up the good work and we wish you luck in all your future endeavors.

**CIRCUS TRAIN**

Central UMC's Circus Train will continue their outdoor puppet ministry on Saturdays at the Library Park on 3rd Street at 7:30 pm beginning on June 14th through July 26th. Bring a lawn chair or a blanket and join the fun. There will be singing and dancing and playing games followed by FREE snow cones and FREE hot dogs. In the event of bad weather, the Circus Train will move indoors to Central United Methodist Church's fellowship hall. So...All Aboard! We look forward to seeing families and kids of all ages this summer!

Patti Klutz  
Central United Methodist Church

**VEHICLE TAX BILLS**

As you know, you now pay your vehicle taxes with your vehicle registration. What you may not know is that if your vehicle tax bill was delivered to a P. O. Box, OR if you still have a Salisbury mailing address, your taxes may be defaulting to Salisbury instead of staying here in Spencer. Please check your tax bill closely. If it says "Salisbury" instead of "Spencer" in the jurisdiction or district, the tax collector's office advises that you should call them to have it corrected before paying your bill.

**SPENCER TOWN CODES**

Remember that Spencer does have a leash law. Loose dogs can get into residents' garbage cans and scratch parked vehicles. Please be courteous of your neighbors and do not allow your dogs to run loose.

Ordinance 93.22 (A) states that it shall be unlawful for any person to keep on their front porch furniture designed for interior use, appliances or any collection of materials that can be considered combustible or that can harbor rats or other pests. Please keep your porch clean and clear of indoor furniture and clutter.

Spencer also has an ordinance prohibiting Front Yard Parking. You are not allowed to park on bare dirt or grass in your front yard. You must have a sufficient layer of gravel, or asphalt or concrete on which to park.

For questions on these or any other ordinances, call Town Hall and speak to our Code Enforcement Officer at 704-633-2231.

**NEW LIBRARY HOURS**

Cindy Patterson, Librarian, will change the Library hours on Friday for the summer months. From June 13 through August 15, Spencer Library will be open from 9am till noon, instead of 2-5 pm. The hours on other days will remain the same: Monday—2 to 7 pm, Tuesday—2 to 7 pm, Wednesday—2 to 5 pm, Thursday—2-5 pm, and closed on Saturday and Sunday.

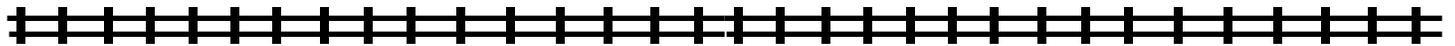


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**AGAPE / KURE BEACH MINISTRIES DAY CAMP**

at

**Calvary Lutheran Church**  
303 5th Street  
Spencer, NC



**JUNE 23—JUNE 27**  
9:00 am—3:00 pm

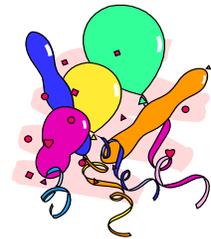
Led by trained college-aged counselors

For all children who will be in the 1st grade through the 5th grade  
in school next fall.

This year's theme is:  
***What Time Is It?***

The cost for this week of day camp is \$120.00

But there is **GREAT NEWS!!!**



**THE FIRST 30**  
**CHILDREN TO REGISTER WILL ATTEND**  
**FOR FREE!!!**

Questions? Like to register?  
Contact Cornelia Briggs  
at [pbcbiggs@triad.twcbc.com](mailto:pbcbiggs@triad.twcbc.com)  
or 336-798-1053  
or call the church office at 704-636-2152

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