

“THE RIGHT TRACK”



Volume 20 Issue 1

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

August 2014

“Home of the North Carolina Transportation Museum”

FROM THE MAYOR

Where has time gone? When you are busy, time moves on rapidly. Spencer is still working with the Land Trust for Central North Carolina and the Stanback Educational Forest (Spencer Woods). You may see some goats in the 1300 block of South Salisbury Avenue. This will be the safest form of clearing the kudzu. The goats should be on site for about four to five weeks at a time and could come back again in the spring and fall of 2015.

We have begun a study of our parks and recreation to form a master plan so we can secure additional grant monies. The Carolina Thread Trail brought a presentation to our 8th Street Ball Park for review and asked everyone for their comments on the trail system. We hope to make a plan for trails that will tie about 16 counties together.

I would like to welcome our new Land Management Director, Kathryn (Kat) Clifton. She hit the ground running to get her position caught up, as well as the responsibilities for Code Enforcement. She has been on board about two months. She and our Town Manager, Larry Smith, have hired a full time Code Enforcement Officer, Jason W. Greer.

I would like to again say thank you to our department heads, employees and Town Manager Larry Smith for the presentation of the budget in June. The board asked for NO tax increase and the rate again stayed at .628 per \$100.

I hope everyone has enjoyed their summer. Now it is time for our children to go back to school. Let's continue to support our schools, as they are our future. Remember Friday night football and come and sup-

port our team.

Jody Everhart
Mayor



FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

Mayor Everhart has already touched on some of the major town projects. As a brief snapshot of the major town goals underway:

- Carolina Thread Trail Planning Grant
- NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant
- Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Development Grant (Stanback Forest)
- Wil-Cox Bridge Connectivity
- Parks and Recreation Master Plan
- Small Town Main Street / Economic Development Initiatives
- Facilities Needs Assessment and Master Plan
- Housing Strategies
- Stormwater Utility Study

It would take the entire newsletter to give an update on everything, so please give us a call here at Town Hall if you have any interest or questions about any of these initiatives. We don't have an IT department, but we attempt to post updates to the Town's website and Facebook page as time allows as well.

Our Master Mechanic, Jerry Hunsucker, retired at the end of June after 13 years of highly dedicated service with the Town. He was a constant motivator and team

builder. He came to us from Freightliner, and the amount of money and time he saved us over the years from his knowledge and experience was nothing short of phenomenal. Patrick Michael took over that position this month. Patrick comes to us from City of Salisbury's fleet maintenance department, so he's already gotten off to a great start. Travis Disher also joined the Public Works Department in March as a sanitation laborer.

We welcomed Kathryn (Kat) Clifton on board as our new Land Management Director in June. Kat came to us from the City of Salisbury too, where she specialized in GIS and planning. Permits and inquiries have remained up this summer, largely from renewed interest and business in Spencer. So Kat's hit the ground running. Well, and juggling!

She recently welcomed Jason Greer on board to fill the code enforcement officer position, which had been vacant since June. With a planning background as well, he'll no doubt add solid, objective feedback to the department during the upcoming study of effective housing strategies.

We've been fortunate to attract such talented and dedicated staff to town, in all departments. It speaks wonders for the positive momentum we've got moving forward with these initiatives. We thank those of YOU who constantly help us so much behind the scenes. As always, feel free to call me or other town staff with any questions, concerns or feedback you might have.

Larry Smith
Town Manager

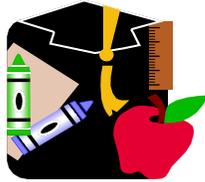
OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

At the June 10 Board of Aldermen meeting, award winners were Basel Abdulrub, North Rowan Elementary School; and Tiasia Cuthbertson, 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.

We look forward to having new award winners after the start of the new school year.

Please drive extra carefully after school resumes, especially when you see school buses making their stops around town.



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.



FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Spencer Police Department has a registration program for bicycles and there is no charge for this service. Most bicycle owners have no idea what the serial number is on their bicycle. If the bicycle is stolen and the police department has no serial number we cannot enter the bicycle as stolen into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC). If you register the bicycle at the police department, we place a sticker on your bike with a unique number and we also record your serial number in our records. Secure your bicycles and do not leave them accessible for an easy target by thieves.

Skateboarding on streets within Spencer is illegal and is also very unsafe. Violations of this ordinance will be enforced.

All residents and business owners in Spencer may register all their valuables at LeadsOnline. All you need is access to a computer and the internet. Please take advantage of this free service. Please find below instructions on how to register all your valuables. You may also upload photos of your jewelry. The link you will need to access for this service is <https://reportit.leadsonline.com/>.

The police department's subscription to LeadsOnline was approved by the Board of Aldermen during this year's budget retreat. As part of this subscription, Spencer citizens and businesses can use this data base free of charge. Please go to the town's website at ci.spencer.nc.us and go to "governance" and click on the police department and you will see instructions on how to input your personal property into LeadsOnline. Your input of information will aid the police department in solving your case in the event you are a victim of a property crime and will also make it easier to get what you are due from your insurance company for insured items. Our hope is that would-be criminals would also be

deterred from committing a crime in Spencer because they know the police and citizens are utilizing the LeadsOnline program. Thank you for using this free system.

I am pleased to report for the third consecutive year, crime in Spencer is down. I thank our officers who put their lives on the line each day to make this possible. I also thank all our citizens who are involved in community watch and report suspicious activity **by calling 911. If you have suggestions on how we can continue to reduce crime please contact Chief James at 704-633-3574.**

M. T. James
Chief of Police



BRUSH AND YARD WASTE PICK-UP

Public Works wants to remind citizens that all loose leaves, grass clippings and small debris will need to be bagged for pick-up during our "out of season" month. This includes January 1—March 15 and April 15—September 30. **Please limit weight of bags to 50 lbs. or less per bag.** We also want to remind everyone to cut all limbs and brush into 6' 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 all for the cooperation and attentiveness to our Town's ordinances.

Joel Taylor
Public Works Director



FROM LAND MANAGEMENT

With the overly abundant amount of rain we have had, Land Management would like to encourage you to make sure that you do not leave open containers outside in your yard that will hold water, and eventually cause a problem with mosquitoes. Mosquitoes are known to spread disease, notably West Nile and chikungunya.

Kathryn Clifton
Land Management Director



NEW POLICE OFFICERS

Spencer Police Department is proud to have hired several new officers over the past few months. Chad Insley joined the department in March, having previously worked for Lexington Police Department. Jason Kohnstamm moved into a slot for a full-time officer in May after working as a reserve officer for Spencer for six months. Crystal Hogan joined Spencer Police Department in June, having previously worked for Davidson County Sheriff's Department.

These new officers are very dedicated to serving the citizens of Spencer. Please introduce yourself if you see them in your neighborhood on patrol.

OPEN BURNING AND FIRE PITS ORDINANCE

The following text is an excerpt from our Spencer Code of Ordinances, dealing with open burning and fire pits:

93.07 Open Burning and Fire Pits

(A) Open burning for campfires

and outdoor cooking is permitted without any burning permit if performed in an approved container constructed of steel, brick, or masonry.

- (B) Open burning in approved portable containers and outdoor fireplaces is permitted.
- (C) For the purpose of this section, the following definition shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

FIRE PIT. Defined to include belowground pits, freestanding fireplaces, and portable devices intended to contain and control outdoor fires.

- (D) *Prohibited burning.* Burning that is offensive or objectionable because of smoke or odor emissions, or when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous, shall be prohibited.

- (E) *Prohibited burning in public places.* Burning in any outdoor fire pits is prohibited on any property owned by the Town of Spencer unless approved by the Fire Chief. Any outdoor cooking on approved grills will be permitted.

- (F) *Hours of operation.* A person shall not maintain any outdoor burning from midnight to 7:00 a.m., unless permitted and approved by the Fire Chief. Outdoor cooking will be permitted during these hours.

- (G) *Extinguishment authority.* The Spencer Fire Department is authorized to order the extinguishment by the responsible person of any burning that creates or adds to a hazardous or objectionable situation.

- (H) *Fire pits.*

(1) All belowground fire pits shall be at least four inches in depth and shall be surrounded on the outside aboveground by a non-combustible material such as steel, brick, or masonry. The fire pit cannot exceed three feet in diameter. Nor may the fire pile exceed two feet in height.

(2) Fire pits must be used in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications and the following regulations:

(a) Only natural firewood and/or commercial logs may be burned. Burning of leaves, yard waste, paper, cardboard, garbage and similar items is not permitted;

(b) All fire pits must be located away from any structure or combustible material;

(c) Belowground fire pits and freestanding fireplaces must be located at a minimum of 25 feet away from any structure or combustible material;

(d) Portable fire pits must be located at a minimum of 15 feet away from any structure or combustible material;

(e) The fire must be constantly attended and supervised until the fire has been completely extinguished; and

(f) A portable fire extinguisher or other approved extinguishing equipment, such as a garden hose of sufficient length, must be readily available.

93.99 Penalty

(A) Any person, firm or corporation violating any of the provisions of this chapter for which no other penalty is provided, or failing, neglecting or refusing to comply with the same shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor and subject to a fine not to exceed \$50 or imprisonment not to exceed 30 days, and each day that any of the provisions of this chapter are violated shall constitute a separate offense.

(B) Violation of 93.27 shall be a misdemeanor. The penalty for the first and second offenses shall be \$100. The penalty for a subsequent offense shall be \$300.



Town Of Spencer
P.O. Box 45
Spencer, NC 28159-0045

PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SPENCER, N.C.
PERMIT NO.12

FALL MULCH GIVE-AWAY

October 4th, from 7:00 to 12 noon

Public Works will be having a mulch give-away on Saturday, October 4th. 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 noon.

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



CELEBRATE YOUR COMMUNITY

**September 7, 2014
Spencer Library Park
4 pm to 6 pm**

Hosted by Calvary Lutheran Church

Come one, come all to the beautiful Spencer Library Park to celebrate the coming change of the season and all the exciting community activities associated with this time of year.

FREE HOT DOG SUPPER

REACQUAINT YOURSELF WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS

INFORMAL WORSHIP AND HYMN SING

OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW SUPPORT FOR NORTH ROWAN SCHOOLS AND PARTICULARLY NORTH ROWAN ELEMENTARY
WEAR YOUR SCHOOL COLORS

BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIRS OR BLANKETS

PLAN ON HAVING FUN!!!

NORTH ROWAN MIDDLE SCHOOL PTA KICK-OFF

September 9th

5:30 pm, Hotdog dinner, \$3 for hotdog, chips, and drink
6:00 PTA meeting and Open House

Learn about all the extracurricular opportunities our students are offered. Join in tutorials about our new technology including ParentPortal and iPads.

All are Welcome! Bring your family!

Meredith Williams
Assistant Principal
North Rowan Middle School

