

# “THE RIGHT TRACK”



Volume 20 Issue 2

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

November 2014

“Home of the North Carolina Transportation Museum”

## FROM THE MAYOR

Since August, the Board of Aldermen has met monthly for work sessions concerning housing issues. We hope that by continuing these discussions, we can ultimately improve the quality of life as well as the safety and welfare of Spencer's citizens.

At the September Board meeting, the Aldermen approved an ordinance amendment prohibiting the installation of curbside mailboxes within the historic district. This amendment was designed to preserve the character of Spencer's historic district, as well as to prevent parking problems.

Congratulations to the North Rowan High School football team for advancing to the playoffs! Go Cavs.

The 2014 Holiday Caravan Parade will start in Spencer at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 26th. Salisbury Avenue will be closed around 1:00 p.m.

I hope everyone has a safe and happy Holiday Season as we are coming into Thanksgiving, Christmas and the New Year.

Jody Everhart  
Mayor



## FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

Strong momentum continues throughout the county to help push things forward. It started with a Community Forum in the spring, facilitated by the Rowan Economic Development Commission, Chamber of Commerce, Tourism Development Authority, and the other groups within the Gateway Building. They invited community leaders from throughout the county to come together and discuss how we can position our county to become more successful.

One of the biggest things identified early on was our challenge with “literacy” levels here in Rowan County. As we have continued to evaluate everything from workforce development, industrial / commercial recruitment, crime and poverty, to general quality of life issues: most everything boils down and is tied to literacy.

In a follow up Literacy Summit in September, Rowan Salisbury Schools Superintendent Dr. Lynn Moody presented pretty startling findings from a countywide study of (among other things) literacy by zip code. I strongly encourage every Spencer resident to view the presentation. A central website is being set up for the ongoing initiative. It's [www.rowanhotspot.com](http://www.rowanhotspot.com) and Dr. Moody's presentation and the study findings can be viewed under “Resources”.

We have installed wi-fi service in the Library to assist with this effort. Students issued iPads or laptops who may not have internet service at home will be able to come to the Library and use them.

If you drove down Salisbury

Avenue the past few months you probably saw the goats we enlisted to fight the kudzu at that end of Stanback Forest. We knew they would be effective, but they greatly exceeded even our highest expectations for the first treatment. They'll be back off and on as the kudzu goes through its cycles of regeneration.

We've wrapped up several of our planning studies and are in the process of finalizing the reports. The Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan was adopted last month, and our Parks and Recreation Master Plan the month before. We'll be posting the final reports on our website as we get them completed.

We wish you all happy holidays!

Larry Smith  
Town Manager



## 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, work order requests)

**OUTSTANDING STUDENTS**

At the September 9 Board of Aldermen meeting, Mayor Everhart presented the Student Appreciation Award to Alexis Luther, North Rowan Elementary School.

On October 14, plaques were presented to Michael Geter, North Rowan Elementary School; and Stanton Bailey, North Rowan Middle School.

November's awards went to Malakie Harris, North Rowan Elementary School; and Amber Gobble, 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.

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



**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, 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.

**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**

**2014 HOLIDAY TRASH SCHEDULE**

<b>Thanksgiving</b>	Thursday / Friday	November 27th & 28th	Town Hall Closed, No change in Trash Schedule
<b>Christmas</b>	Wednesday	December 24th	Monday will run on Schedule (December 22nd)
	Thursday	December 25th	Tuesday will run on Schedule (December 23rd)
	Friday	December 26th	<b>** Wednesday will also run on Tuesday (December 23rd)</b> *
<b>New Year's</b>	Thursday	January 1st	Trash will run on regular schedule all week

\*\*\* Denotes change from regular schedule

**FROM SPENCER  
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

There is an old saying that says "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing". I think it is more important in our society now than perhaps it has ever been that all of our good citizens become actively involved in crime prevention. I ask all of our citizens to call 911 immediately if you see a suspicious person or a suspicious vehicle. If you become actively involved in looking out for your neighbor and your neighbor looks out for you then we will be successful in crime reduction. If you have an interest in creating a neighborhood watch please contact the Chief of Police for assistance. Having Block Captains in neighborhoods may prove effective in reducing crime and could act as a means of being able to communicate crime related issues to residents. If you have information on a crime that was previously committed and wish to report it, you may call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-639-5245. Do not use this number if a response is needed immediately.

I have recently seen an increase in citizens getting involved in reporting crimes and suspicious activity and this citizen response has led to arrests. Thanks to the citizens who have gotten involved to make a difference. You can report matters to 911 and request to remain anonymous.

November 12th marked the four year anniversary of the homicide of Dee Rios. Our investigator continues to work on this case.

Officer Hogan has started collecting coats for those in need. If you are in need of a warm coat please contact Officer Hogan. If you wish to donate a coat for this good cause please drop it by the Spencer Police Department and we will find it a good home.

It is a violation of Spencer Town Ordinance to walk in the streets if there is a sidewalk present. The Police Department is enforcing this ordinance. Please

comply so you do not have to pay a fine.

Secure your bicycles with a lock or place them inside a locked garage or building. There have been recent incidents where two bicycles were stolen and they have both been recovered. Bicycle locks are relatively inexpensive and deter theft. Keep the doors on your motor vehicles locked at all times. Larceny from unlocked motor vehicles is a nationwide problem and Spencer is no exception.

The police department recommends alarms are installed in homes to protect you from theft. Installation of an alarm may reduce the premium for your homeowner's policy and this savings can pay for the cost of the alarm system over time. The Police Department also recommends use of cameras at businesses to cover interior and exterior of the business. This is a deterrent to crime and aids in apprehension of suspects if a crime takes place.

I applaud the First Baptist Church for their mentoring program for our youth that takes place the 3rd Thursday of every month. This program will have a positive impact on our youth.

If you have ideas for crime reduction strategies please do not hesitate to contact the Chief of Police or any officer. Thanks to the citizens who have recently assisted the police in solving cases You are making a great impact on our safety.

Remember to safely secure all your Christmas packages and remove the opportunity for theft. Have a safe and Happy Holiday season!

M. T. James  
Chief of Police



**FROM SPENCER FIRE  
DEPARTMENT**

The town's fire department siren has been upgraded and it will once again be activated for fire alarms, sounding up and down in five second intervals for one to two minutes. The upgrade includes a designated warning for our citizens of an issued tornado warning. Therefore when a tornado warning is issued by the National Weather Service the siren will be activated by Rowan County Telecommunications and will be one long blow for two to three minutes. A tornado warning is an alert issued by the National Weather Service to warn that severe thunderstorms with tornadoes may be imminent and residents within the sound of the siren should take precautions accordingly. The weather alert siren will be tested and activated quarterly on the first Saturday of January, April, July and October.

Congratulations to the following department members on completing their respective service anniversaries in 2014: Chief Jay Baker 25 years, Captain Don Sells 15 years, Firefighter Joe McClanahan 5 years and Firefighter Todd Spencer 5 years. Also we welcome new volunteer and part time firefighters that began service with the department this year: Tyler Hamilton, Jason Hammond, Michael Lanning, Justin Holmes and Raul Rivera.

Remember these holiday fire safety tips:

- If you have a live tree, keep it watered
- Maintain your holiday lights
- Do not overload electrical outlets
- Use only nonflammable decorations
- Don't block exits
- Never put wrapping paper in the fireplace
- Never put lit candles on a tree

Jay Baker  
Fire Chief



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

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**NEWS FROM  
NORTH ROWAN MIDDLE  
SCHOOL**

Thank you from North Rowan Middle School to the Spencer Women's Club for their donation of delicious doughnuts to our staff.

Earlier this month, the Mavericks became the first middle schoolers in the district to begin the 1-to-1 initiative with iPads. Now, all of our students have their own iPad, which they do their schoolwork on and take home to complete homework. We look forward to partnerships with the Spencer area to create hot spots where students can get wireless and homework help.

The NRMS PTA is conducting an Invest in Your Child campaign. This is a method of raising funds by direct donation to the school, rather than selling items. The PTA's goal is to raise \$3,000 in the month of November to support honor roll recognitions, teacher appreciation, a new kiosk for the school, and other items needed by teachers and students. To make a donation, give a check or cash to a middle school student or send it directly to the school. We appreciate your support!

Meredith Williams  
Assistant Principal  
North Rowan Middle School

**SPENCER SENIOR CITIZENS  
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER**

The Spencer Senior Citizens Planning Council extends an invitation to all of the seniors of Spencer to attend the annual Christmas Dinner and Program, to be held Tuesday, December 9, 2014 at 12 noon. Following dinner there will be a Christmas carol sing-along.

This event will be hosted by Oakdale Baptist Church, 200 Charles Street, Spencer, NC, in the Family Life Center located behind the church.

All senior citizens of Spencer are welcome and invited to attend. **There is no charge for the dinner but reservations need to be made, so that we will know approximately how many to expect for dinner.**

Reservations can be made at the local churches of Spencer, or by calling the Oakdale Baptist Church office at 704-633-9412. **Or you may call the Spencer Town Hall and make reservations at 704-633-2231. Reservations need to be made by Sunday, November 30.** Local churches will need to provide sign-up sheets for seniors to register.

The meal will be catered by Hendrix Barbeque of Spencer and will consist of barbequed chicken and barbequed pork, potato salad baked beans, slaw and rolls. Dessert will be Woodleaf's famous Apple Uglies of various flavors. Sweet and unsweetened tea will be served as beverages.

Following the meal we will enjoy singing together the traditional Christmas carols. We will once again have poinsettias for door prizes.

Pastor Richard Gross  
Planning Council President

