

# “THE RIGHT TRACK”



Volume 21 Issue 1

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

August 2015

“Home of the North Carolina Transportation Museum”

## FROM THE MAYOR

I am happy to announce that we have 3 new businesses in the downtown area. I would like to welcome BeBops Diner, Brewtique Coffee Shop and Kay's Dawg House Grille, the hot dog and ice cream shoppe on 5th Street. Please support all of our local businesses. I am sure you are aware that SunTrust Bank left Spencer as of July 31st. We have been in contact with numerous financial institutions trying to get a branch opened here.

The town's tax rate increase went into effect on July 1st. When the county did their reevaluation, Spencer's average property value decreased 5%. The result is that if your property value decreased, you will pay about the same as you did last year. The Board of Aldermen worked hard to make sure that taxes were not increased any more than was absolutely necessary to move the town forward.

Remember, school has started so be aware of school buses and students. With the start of school, Friday night football is also beginning. Come out and support our Cavs!

Jody Everhart  
Mayor



## FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

It's been an honor and a privilege to serve the Town these past 15+ years. There's been no shortage of challenges, but an amazing amount of successes along the way. Please

check out the Town's website. We're updating it with a better overview for you of "where we are" as we have time, but in a nutshell for now:

In 2008 we developed a 2025 Land Use Master Plan to help guide the community and Town leaders with long term vision and strategic planning. In 2014 we finalized a Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master plan to help wisely prioritize improvements and expenditures in the parks. We're currently finalizing the 2nd part of that comprehensive planning: a Facilities Needs Assessment and Master Plan that scrutinized our space needs and current building conditions, and then lays out options and planning guidance for Town leaders to consider while prioritizing our current and future property ownership & maintenance needs.

Why all these plans? Think of it as tools in the toolbox. When you secure the right tools, learn what they do, and actively use them: you spend time and money wisely, and build quality results.

In 2012 the Town committed to the Small Town Main Street program to help guide downtown revitalization. In just 3 short years, we have already started seeing excellent results from all of the recruiting and improvement efforts. We ended the FY 14/15 in July with 3 new businesses (and more since!), 1 business expansion, 2 fulltime jobs created, 9 façade renovations, 14 rehabs completed, 329 volunteer hours and \$1,100,000 in private investments. Increasing commercial tax base = more resources available to concentrate on residential and quality of life programs.

These plans also help us to se-

cure grants and support. Our Stanback Forest Master Plan has netted over \$400,000 in matching grant funds and propelled the project forward. We've secured planning grants for the Carolina Thread Trail and NCDOT Bicycle & Pedestrian routes that are helping us enhance quality of life and economic development goals.

We've continued working on housing / residential strategies as well. Re-forming the Community Appearance Commission and goal-setting with our Historic Preservation Commission are focused on assisting the Town and neighborhoods with revitalization efforts. Partnering with Salisbury Community Development Corporation pairs homeowners with needs to available assistance programs. Partnering with Historic Salisbury Foundation assists marketing abandoned or neglected properties, and has resulted in our area's first "Paint Pals" program, which competitively selects a historic property in need of improvements for a community day of paint and repair.

We've been fortunate in recruiting dedicated staff willing to buckle down and spend the extra time needed to tackle these ambitious workloads. We thank the many regional partners that have helped along the way. And, last but definitely not least: we sincerely appreciate those unsung heroes of you in the community who quietly and consistently work alongside staff asking "what can we actually do to help", recognizing that the most successful—and sustainable—efforts are neighborhood based and neighborhood owned.

Larry Smith  
Town Manager

**OUTSTANDING STUDENTS**

At the June 9 Board of Aldermen meeting, award winners were Stella Sophia, North Rowan Elementary School; and Jennifer Wagoner, North Rowan High School. Brashia Sifford, North Rowan Middle School, was recognized at the July 14 Board meeting.

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.



**CURB EDGING**

Public Works would like to remind citizens to be aware of storm water maintenance when doing your yard work. **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.



**CURB-SIDE GARBAGE COLLECTION**

Public Works would like to remind citizens that the time of your garbage pickup may vary from week to week, so to make sure your garbage gets picked up, **please roll your container to the curb the night before your scheduled garbage day.** The containers must be rolled back no later than dusk on your collection day. Cans left on the curb are subject to code enforcement fines, so please be courteous and remove the containers from the curb at your earliest convenience. Pick-up for citizens that have filed the inability to participate form remains the same.

If you have any questions feel free to contact the Public Works Department at 704-633-5331 or [pwddir@ci.spencer.nc.us](mailto:pwddir@ci.spencer.nc.us).

**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" months. This includes January 1st—March 15th and April 15th—September 30th. **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 THE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**Importance of Fire Hydrant Visibility and Accessibility**

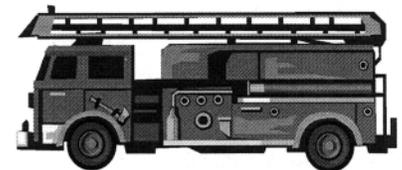
In order to provide efficient fire protection for you and your neighbors, the Spencer Fire Department and our mutual aid partners rely on easily found and accessible fire hydrants for water supply. Finding and accessing these hydrants in the event of an emergency is critical and can mean the difference between a little or a lot of property loss.

Your assistance is needed in keeping the hydrants clear of obstacles.

**Obstruction**

There needs to be a three (3) foot clearance in all directions around the hydrant of any debris and obstructions, in addition to the clearance from the hydrant to the street. Keep grass, bushes, fencing, tree branches, weeds or other obstacles away from the hydrant to allow for rapid location and easy access for firefighters.

Terry Smith  
Assistant Fire Chief



**SCHOOL SAFETY**

It's hard to believe that the summer is over and schools are back in session. Please be careful when driving the streets of Spencer and watch for students who may be walking or riding bicycles. Also watch out for school buses and remember to never pass a stopped school bus. Children are our future. Help keep them safe.



**FROM LAND MANAGEMENT**

The Land Management Department is happy to report a continued interest in Spencer—Zoning Permits, Historic Preservation Certificates of Appropriateness, and inquiries on properties are steady.

**Business openings since the last newsletter:**

- Sunshine Market, 618-A N. Salisbury Avenue
- Pick N' Deal moved to 1000 N. Salisbury Avenue
- BeBop's Diner, 320 S. Salisbury Avenue
- Brewtique, 410 S. Salisbury Avenue
- Kay's Dawg House Grille, 111 5th Street

We encourage all of our citizens to patronize these new businesses and show them your support.

Kathryn Clifton  
Land Management Director



**COMMUNITY APPEARANCE WINNERS**

The Community Appearance Commission was re-established in May 2015. Since then, a number of individuals and businesses have received the Yard of the Month community appearance award.

- May: 301 4th Street, 1010 Charles Street, 406 S Rowan Avenue, and 1024 N Salisbury Avenue
- June: 403 7th Street, 321 Alexander Street, 485 Long Ferry Road, and 407 N Rowan Avenue Extension
- July: 401 8th Street, 22 Pickett Avenue, 130 Steeplechase Trail, and 515 Steeplechase Trail
- August: 505 7th Street, 111 Alexander Street, 600 S Salisbury Avenue, and 1101 S Salisbury Avenue

If you would like to nominate a location for Yard of the Month, you may do so by using the Contact Us form on the Town website, by submitting your nomination in writing, or stopping by Town Hall.



**SPENCER PUBLIC LIBRARY**

I would like to thank the Town of Spencer for giving me a warm welcome at the Spencer Library. I am enthusiastic about the upcoming fall season and have lots planned for the community. I would also like to express appreciation and thanks to everyone who has supported the library through donations and by continuing to visit our humble library.

I am happy to announce that we will have new books in all of the sections, a new book club, monthly events for the whole family, as well as an upcoming book sale where everything sold will be less than \$1.

Please stop in and introduce yourself. I would love to meet all of you.

**Spencer Library Hours**

Monday—Tuesday 2-7 pm  
Wednesday—Friday 2-5 pm  
Weekends Closed

Sally Greer  
librarian@ci.spencer.nc.us  
704-636-9072



**DONATE YOUR OLD CAR**

Did you know that your old car can benefit non-profit organizations, and at the same time help clean up your community? Two such options are donating your car to WFAE Radio 90.7 or to The National Kidney Foundation. Your vehicle is towed free of charge, and the donation is eligible for a tax deduction. To get started with the donation of your vehicle, please contact one of the organizations below:

**WFAE**  
8801 J.M. Keynes Dr. Suite 91, Charlotte, NC 28262-8485  
(855) 277-2346 or (401) 808-8277  
<https://www.cardonationwizard.com/wfae/info/car-donation-charlotte-nc.html>

**The National Kidney Foundation**  
30 East 33rd Street, New York, NY 10016  
(800) 488-2277  
<https://www.kidney.org/support/kidneycars>



**FALL MULCH GIVE-AWAY**

**September 19th, from 7:00 to 12 noon**

Public Works will be having a mulch give-away on **Saturday, September 19th**. 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, with a maximum of three loads per residence, 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](mailto:pwddir@ci.spencer.nc.us).

Joel Taylor  
Public Works Director



**BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS  
AN EXCELLENT WAY TO SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY**

Have you thought about serving on one of the Town of Spencer's boards or commissions? If you have an interest in serving your community, please consider serving on one of the following boards or commissions listed below. *Note: Meetings are scheduled for 7 pm at Spencer Town Hall.*

**Community Appearance Commission**

Meets the first Tuesday of each month

**Historic Preservation Commission**

Meets the third Monday of each month

**Planning Board**

Meets the fourth Tuesday of each month

**Zoning Board of Adjustment**

Meets the third Thursday of each month

Interested applicants should contact Town Hall to request an application for serving on a board or commission. Board terms are staggered, and generally expire during the month of December, with new members joining during the first meeting in January. Applications are accepted on a continual basis and kept on file for consideration in the event a vacancy occurs mid-year.

**DID YOU KNOW THE TOWN OF SPENCER NOT ONLY  
HAS A WEBSITE BUT ALSO A FACEBOOK PAGE?**

