

“THE RIGHT TRACK”



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May 2016

“Home of the North Carolina Transportation Museum”

FROM THE MAYOR

First, I would like to welcome new Town Manager, Reid Walters, and new Land Management Director, Troy Powell. Both Reid and Troy bring a strong work ethic and desire to move the Town in a positive direction. I look forward to working with Reid and Troy!

Since our April Board of Aldermen meeting, I’ve represented Spencer at the Rowan Smart Start 20th Anniversary Celebration, the quarterly Municipal Meeting, the Crosby Scholars Gala, and attended a Wilcox Bridge Steering Committee meeting. All are important programs which target community involvement.

I appreciate the commitment of our Board of Aldermen. They’ve gone right to work to chart the course of the Town by addressing our number one priority at this year’s Planning Retreat, “Cleaning Up the Town.” At the April board meeting the Board of Aldermen voted unanimously to amend the existing Keeping of Dogs ordinance and amended language that provides for additional penalties for violations of the ordinance. The Board also approved amendments for additional penalties to Public Nuisance violations. The Spencer Board of Aldermen will continue to promote initiatives to enhance our quality of life.

The Board has been very busy. We conducted our initial Budget Workshop on April 27th. Our goal is to appropriate funding that will promote smart growth for fiscal year 2016/2017. It’s our duty to be good stewards of your tax dollars.

I welcome previous long time member Marla Gobel to the Community Appearance Commission. The Commission and community volunteers have been working very hard planting flowers in the Town’s planter boxes. Thank you Street Department, for preparing the planter boxes for planting! The Spencer Women’s Club and the Community Appearance Commission have partnered to provide a banquet and award ceremony for the 2015 award winners. Great job!

During this summer season, let’s all work together to keep Spencer “Clean and Green.”

Mayor Jim Gobel



FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

The Spencer Board of Aldermen and town staff have committed a great deal of time on issues related to the quality of life within our town. The Board of Aldermen is working on various strategies to help solve some of the housing issues that exist in our community. The fines associated with numerous housing violations have been raised and currently the Board is working on strategies to combat issues with numerous neglected, abandoned and vacant residential properties. Town staff is committed to finding methods to solve these issues and help the quality of life within our community.

One of the programs that exists to help residents improve their properties is our residential façade program. To assist in creating neighborhood stabilization and revitalization, Spencer established an economic incentive for homeowners to repair, preserve, or otherwise improve the appearance of their home. The Town will grant to a property owner or tenant a maximum of one \$500 grant on a one-for-two basis toward exterior improvements of homes within the locally designated historic district. If you would like more information regarding this grant call Town Hall at 704-633-2231.

Spencer Decal Program:

The Board of Aldermen recently created a Spencer decal program. If you would like to purchase a Spencer decal, the cost is \$3.00 and all proceeds are used to help fund supplies at Spencer Library. You can purchase a sticker at Town Hall.

Reid Walters
Town Manager



FROM THE 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-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 debris into 6' lengths no thicker than 4" 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 pre-determined 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.

Curb Edging

Just a reminder that in the 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.

Garbage Collection

Public Works wants to remind all citizens that your roll out container needs to be placed on the curb in front of your house at dusk the evening before your collection day. Your trash day never changes, but the order in which the sanitation crew runs the route may change from week to week. The containers must be rolled back no later than mid-night 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 Public Works at 704-633-5331 or pwddir@ci.spencer.nc.us.



Joel Taylor, Public Works Dept.



FROM OUR LAND MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

The Town of Spencer has a new Land Management Director, Troy D. Powell. He will supervise Planning, Zoning, Code Enforcement, and Community Development Services. He will serve as town staff to the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Adjustment and the Historic Preservation Commission. He brings with him a wealth of knowledge, education, and experience in land use, planning, zoning, code enforcement and community service.

Troy is from here in North Carolina and lived in Randolph County most of his life. He has a Master's Degree in Public Affairs and a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice. After completing Graduate School and serving over 18 years as a Law Enforcement Officer, Troy has served in Local Government Management.

Troy is passionate about serving others and we are proud to have him leading the Land Management Department.

Please stop by or call Town Hall to get to know Troy anytime. 704-633-2231

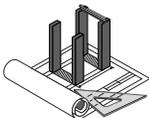
This Place Matters!

May is Preservation Month proclaimed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation is kicking off their annual campaign to spotlight places that are meaningful to them and to their communities. They are encouraging everyone to celebrate with three words that say it all: **This. Place. Matters.**

Relaunched last year, **THIS PLACE MATTERS** is a National Campaign that encourages people to shine a spotlight on the places that are meaningful to them and to their communities. It's a perfect way to raise awareness – and spread the love – during Preservation Month.

Taking part is simple. Download your **This Place Matters MATERIALS** below including signs, social media shareables, and a campaign toolkit. Take photos at places that matter to you, and encourage your friends and followers to do the same. Share your photos online with the hashtag #ThisPlaceMatters. (And remember to tell us *why* you love these places so much!) Forward your photos to the Town of Spencer at lmddir@ci.spencer.nc.us to be shared on the Town's Website, Facebook and Town Hall. Ready to get started? We can't wait to see what places matter to you!

Go to <https://goo.gl/5eZW3Z> to get started today!



Troy Powell, Land Management
Director



FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Board of Aldermen has approved a new ordinance that pertains to tethering and keeping of dogs. The new ordinance is effective **July 01, 2016**. Brochures are available in the Police Department explaining the new ordinance pertaining to dogs. Police officers will be distributing brochures or you may stop by Town Hall and pick up a brochure. The ordinance makes it illegal to tether a dog for longer than 2 hours during a 24 hour period. There is a \$100.00 fine plus court cost for violating this ordinance. Please take time to educate yourself on the new ordinance. Questions regarding permits for fencing should be directed to the Land Management Director at Town Hall.

There has been an increase in criminal activity recently due to warmer weather which is a normal trend. Please remove the opportunity for potential thieves. Lock the doors on your vehicles, storage buildings and homes. It is recommended that you purchase an alarm system for your home and business. This is a strong deterrent to potential criminals. Please report suspicious activity and suspicious people immediately by calling 911. The phone calls and actions have made a positive difference in crime reduction.

There is now a link on the Rowan Salisbury Crime Stoppers website where you can submit an anonymous tip electronically to the Spencer Police Department or any other Rowan County Law enforcement agency. Please use this tool to submit tips on crimes committed or criminal activity if you have access to the computer and the internet.

There is an increase in fraud and identity theft throughout our nation. Please shred your documents and use caution when dealing with sellers using E-Bay or Craigslist. Many sellers can produce documents that appear legitimate but they are fraudulent in some instances. **PLEASE BEWARE!!** If it seems too good to be true it probably is. There is also a scam where residents are being called and the caller says they are the IRS. This is a scam. The IRS will send correspondence to you via the US mail and will not call you on the phone.

This is a friendly reminder if there is a sidewalk available. It is illegal to walk in the street. Please use the sidewalks and stay safe! You can be cited or arrested for walking in the street.

Mopeds must be registered and effective **July 01, 2016** must have liability insurance. The riders on mopeds must wear an approved helmet. The operator of a moped must be at least 16 years of age. Parents may be charged if they are allowing their underage children to operate a moped. Please help us keep your children safe.

Chief M.T. James



FROM OUR LIBRARY

The Town has a new face at the library! Beverly McCraw, long time resident of Spencer, will become the new librarian effective June 1st, 2016. Sally Greer, our current librarian, will still be assisting her and helping to facilitate upcoming events. The summer hours for the library will be: Monday-Thursday from 2pm to 6pm and Friday from 9am-12pm and closed on Saturday and Sunday. Please stop by and meet Beverly and find out what activities she has planned for the summer that may be of interest to you and your family. Welcome aboard Beverly!



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)

And remember to check our website (www.ci.spencer.nc.us) and our FaceBook page for upcoming events and news that may be of interest to you.



Town of Spencer

P.O. Box 45

Spencer, NC 28159-0045

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There is no doubt. Spencer is a special place!

The N.C. Transportation Museum is proud to be in Spencer, and proud of what we are able to bring to this community. This massive complex, featuring more than 20 annual events, and day-to-day operations takes a lot to manage. But in the past few years, with the help of employees, volunteers, our support group, and our community, the museum has been able to grow in ways we could hardly imagine.

We recently compiled some facts and figures and they paint a picture worth being proud of. Here it is, by the numbers:

- The museum hosted more than 100,000 visitors in 2015, including all museum events and day to day visitation.
- The museum was founded in 1977, the 60-acre complex encompasses four exhibit buildings and more than a dozen historic structures, including the massive Back Shop – two football fields long and three stories high
- The site is staffed by 14 full time and 11 part-time employees, along with dozens of seasonal and special event workers. Only six employee salaries are funded through state appropriations.
- Funded through a mix of state appropriations (\$300,000), donations, user fees, and retail sales, the museum had a total budget of \$3.73 million in 2014-2015.
- Fueled by volunteer passion, the museum boasts 180 volunteers contributing 37,442 work hours worth \$863,787 in paid labor. The museum's on-site train ride is operated by a fully qualified, but all-volunteer, rail crew.
- More than \$11 million in economic impact is generated annually for the Rowan County community as a whole.
- There is even more on the way. Site improvements that just began will make the Back Shop fully accessible to visitors, greatly increase our exhibit space, and open up a whole new area for events and facility rentals.
- Our events continue to grow, bringing more and more folks to the town to enjoy family experiences. This year alone, the number of seats on THE POLAR EXPRESS™ Train Ride will increase by some 40%.
- We are working to increase our day-to-day visitation, which will have a positive impact on the town of Spencer 365 days each year.

But what the numbers don't capture is the pride we take in this site and our hometown – a pride that we hope is shared by all who live and work in Spencer. The town of Spencer was incorporated by the railroad, but today this site and the town are mutually beneficial to each other. We support each other. We succeed together. Simply by living here, you are a part of this site's history, a vital part of a community that appreciates where we've been and is excited about where we are going.

TRASH SCHEDULE FOR 2016				
Holidays	** Town Hall Closed**			
Memorial Day	Monday	May 30th	***	Monday will run on Tuesday (May 31st)
			***	Tuesday will run on Wednesday (June 1st)
			***	Wednesday will run on Thursday (June 2nd)
July 4th	Monday	July 4th	***	Monday will run on Tuesday (July 5th)
			***	Tuesday will run on Wednesday (July 6th)
			***	Wednesday will run on Thursday (July 7th)
Labor Day	Monday	September 5th	***	Monday will run on Tuesday (Sept 6th)
			***	Tuesday will run on Wednesday (Sept 7th)
			***	Wednesday will run on Thursday (Sept 8th)
Veteran's Day	Monday	November 1st	***	Town Hall Closed, No change in Trash Schedule
Thanksgiving	Thurs/Fri	November 24 & 25	***	Town Hall Closed, No change in Trash Schedule
Christmas	Friday	December 23	***	Monday will run on Tuesday (Dec 27th)
	Monday	December 27	***	Tuesday will run on Wednesday (Dec 28th)
			***	Wednesday will run on Thursday (Dec 29th)
*** Denotes change in trash schedule				