



“Home of the North Carolina Transportation Museum”

FROM THE MAYOR

Happy New Year! 2019 is already moving along very fast in Spencer. We’ve hired a few new employees. They are Christie Hutchinson who will be our new Accounting Clerk and Tatia Seward, who will handle the duties of Finance Manager a new position added to the town staff by Town Manager Arrington. Brittany Skye Aitken has also joined the staff as our new Town Clerk. Welcome and thank you for choosing Spencer for your place of employment.

I want to also welcome Howard White, your new Alderman. Howard was chosen by the Board of Alderman to fill the vacant seat on the board. I look forward to working with Howard. He was sworn in at the February 12, Board of Aldermen meeting.

The Town continues to go forward with the intent to purchase Park Plaza property for the purpose of the new town offices. The purchase closing date is scheduled to take place before January 31, 2019. The Fourth Street drainage and paving project is moving slower than we’d all like, although progress is being made.

The Town of Spencer has been chosen for this year’s ‘Pop’s at the Post’ Event. The Pop’s event location in Salisbury will not be available this year due to the construction of a new community park. That being said, a committee of staff members from the Salisbury Post, the Salisbury Symphony, the NC Transportation Museum, and the Town of Spencer have been formed to plan the event. The event venue will be the Back Shop at the NC

Transportation Museum. This location will ensure that the show will go on rain or shine. Pop’s at the Post is a high quality family event that is FREE to the public. All you need is a lawn chair to enjoy an evening of wonderful

music. June 1, is the scheduled date. Stay tuned, more information will be advertised.

Thank a Town employee as you see them out doing their work. We all appreciate them!

Jim Gobbel
Mayor

FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

Greetings citizens of Spencer! I hope you all are doing well. I’ve recently executed a series of staffing adjustments since the last Town newsletter that I’d like to communicate. Three of the four individuals referenced below recently joined the team and hit the ground running to bring a fresh perspective to town leadership. Each individual referenced below brings a unique set of skills to the table and understand the importance of fiscal accountability, transparency and professionalism.

Please see the name and job titles of the Town employees listed below.

1. Tatia Seward, Finance Manager
2. Christie Hutchinson, Accounting Clerk
3. Brittany S. Aitken, Town Clerk
4. Jeremi Carter, Interim Fire Chief

I also want personally thank each Town of Spencer employee for his or her hard work and dedication to the Town. We have a wonderful group of employees who come to work each day to serve the Spencer community. While there is always room for improvement, its important to take a moment and remember we are all in this together. Our differences make us stronger and although we don’t always agree, we must respect each other and remember why we are here. The moment we choose to make this about us, we’ve lost track of what Public Service is all about. Keep up the good work Town of Spencer employees.

As many of you know, the Town of Spencer recently purchased 20,000 sq. ft. of the Park Plaza shopping center. The acquisition of this space was a major step in the Park Plaza Redevelopment Project. When I accepted the role of Town Manager in October 2018, the Town of Spencer was scheduled to close on this site by January 31, 2019. The Board of Alderman recently met with the Architect selected for this project to discuss four options that take into consideration the access easements associated with this site. The options presented to the Board are available on the Town of Spencer website within the March 12, 2019 meeting packet for the public to view. The next step in this process is to meet with the LGC for authorization to obtain Interim Bank Financing for site renovation and construction.

The Board of Alderman recently authorized the Town Manager to begin working on the creation of a Downtown Development Board. This is a step in the right direction and I’m confident the Board will appoint successful, business minded individuals to this Board in the spirit of Downtown Development and Community Engagement. Small towns across the United States solicit expertise from the business community to assist Town Leadership with Downtown Development initiatives. Expect to hear more about this and other Downtown related events in the very near future as we work progressively to build the team and momentum needed to move Spencer forward.

In closing, I encourage everyone to become active in the community and attend the monthly Board of Alderman meetings. This is your opportunity to speak up and educate yourself about what’s going on in and around town. Community engagement is the heartbeat of a thriving small town and necessary in our efforts to make Spencer a great place for EVERYONE to live, work and play!

Terence Arrington
Town Manager

FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Officer Wayne Comer has suffered a serious medical event and was recently hospitalized following surgery. Officer Comer has served the Spencer Police Department and Spencer Fire Department for many years. Please keep Officer Comer and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

As you know, Mr. Rick Travis was reported missing on February 11, 2019 and of the date this article was submitted he has not been located. Please keep his wife Jean in your prayers. It is our fervent prayer that he will be located in the near future.

The Town of Spencer wishes to express sincere gratitude to all those agencies that aided in the search. There were literally volunteers from all across North Carolina and also a K-9 Team from South Carolina. Thanks to Chris Soliz and his staff for all they did to assist in the search mission from a command perspective.

This incident points out the importance of cameras and electronic devices when they are used for surveillance purposes. Thanks to all of those citizens and Jerusalem church that allowed us to view data images on your DVR devices. It is the position of the Spencer Police Department that all homes and businesses should be equipped with a camera system.



Michael James
 Chief of Police



Recently we have investigated a rash of fraud cases involving Apple iTunes Gift Cards or Google Play Gift Cards. These scams commonly begin with a telephone call where someone represents himself or herself as a bill collector, IRS agent, bail bondsman, hospital, utility company, or even a friend of the family. The scammer then will request payment in the form of a Apple iTunes Gift Card or Google Play Gift Card to satisfy a debt, transfer money to a family member, or pay back taxes to prevent your arrest.

These are all scams!! No reputable company or organization will request payment in the form of a gift card. Avoid becoming the victim of this scam by reviewing these few tips:

Never make a "payment" to anyone with an iTunes Gift Card or a Google Play Gift Card.

Never provide the numbers on the back of the gift cards to anyone you don't know personally. *(Often within minutes of providing the gift card number to a scammer, the card is emptied)*

Immediately report any potential scam to us at the police department.

Should you have any questions or feel you may have been targeted by one of these scams please contact us at the police department and an officer will make contact with you!

Best wishes for a wonderful spring!



Investigator M.J. File

EVENTS

**Annual Spencer Spring Fling
 Tuesday May 7th, 12:00 Noon
 Oakdale Baptist Church Family Life Center
 200 Charles Street. Spencer**

The Spencer Senior Planning Council is planning a great luncheon and musical program for any Senior (55 and older) living in the Spencer area. The meal will feature grilled hot dogs and hamburgers with all the trimmings and several side dishes.

There is no charge for the meal but reservations must be made.

Reservations can be made by calling the Spencer Town Hall (704-633-2231) or through the Church you attend in Spencer. Call 704-633-2231 for more information.

We look forward to a great time! Make your reservations soon!

Terry Schultz
 President, Spencer Seniors Planning Council

**Spring Mulch Give-Away
 April 6th 2019, from 7:00 to 12:00.**

Public Works will be having a mulch give-away on **Saturday, April 6th**. This corresponds with our Saturday recycling, so bring your recycling and get a free load of mulch. 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 12:00. 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 Children
 May 4th, 2019
 Spencer Public Library**

Our main outdoor event of the season will be on May 4th in the Gazebo. The event will be called **Celebrate Children**. Several talented children from the local North area will sing, dance and perform drama. Mrs. Alexander, drama teacher at NRHS will bring some of her talented cast of the upcoming play **The Lion King** and they will present one of the musical acts as a preview of the play which will debut that evening. Mia Mason, a talented 8th grader will sing several songs. Artwork from Mrs. Grey's class will be on display beside the gazebo. Our first featured artist will be **Jacob Klutz**, professional pianist, who will astound the audience with his expertise. He has never been formally trained, yet he plays with perfection and passion. The second featured artist will be **Greg Luster**, winner of many awards as a gospel rapper/hip/hop musician. Many local people are familiar with his music as he sings in Concord, Salisbury and many other venues. We are excited that he will be able to sing for our event. If anyone knows of any young talented students in the North area who would like to display their talent for this event please contact Beverly McCraw at Spencer Public Library at 636-9072 between 2-6 pm. We would like to train some young puppeteers for a short puppet skit, also.

Beverly McCraw
 Town Librarian

FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Trash Schedule for 2019			
Holidays	**Town Hall Closed**		
Good Friday	Friday	April 19th	Town Hall Closed, No change in Trash Schedule
Memorial Day	Monday	May 27th	*** Monday will run on Tuesday (May 28th) *** Tuesday will run on Wednesday (May 29th) *** Wednesday will run on Thursday (May 30th)
July 4th	Thursday	July 4th	Town Hall Closed, No change in Trash Schedule
Labor Day	Monday	September 2nd	*** Monday will run on Tuesday (September 3rd) *** Tuesday will run on Wednesday (September 4th) *** Wednesday will run on Thursday (September 5th)
Veteran's Day	Monday	November 11th	*** Monday will run on Tuesday (November 12th) *** Tuesday will run on Wednesday (November 13th) *** Wednesday will run on Thursday (November 14th)
Thanksgiving	Thursday / Friday	November 28th & 29th	Town Hall Closed, No change in Trash Schedule
Christmas	Wednesday	December 25th	Monday will run on regular schedule
	Thursday	December 26th	*** Tuesday will also run on Monday (December 23rd)
	Friday	December 27th	*** Wednesday will run on Tuesday (December 24th)
New Year's	Wednesday	January 1st	Monday will run on regular schedule Tuesday will run on regular schedule *** Wednesday will run on Thursday (January 2nd)

*** Denotes change from regular schedule

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**. The leaf vac will run for a month, beginning **March 18th** and ending on **April 18th** for Spring cleanup. **Please limit weight of bags to 50lbs or less per bag.**

Bulk Garbage Collection

Public Works would like to remind citizens to place bulk items at the curb on your normal trash day. If the crew determines they have room on the truck, it will be picked up that day. Larger items will be picked up on Thursday.

Please do not place any type of construction material at the curb for pick up. The landfill has mandated that we do not mix this type of material with normal household garbage in our trucks. Please call Public Works or Town Hall to make arrangements for pick up of this type of material for a fee.

Reminder: TV's, electronic devices, appliances, paint cans, and tires will not be picked up. These items have been banned from the landfill and need to be taken to the Rowan County Recycling Center located at 1102 North Long Street Extension, East Spencer NC 28039

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 Director

FROM THE SPENCER PUBLIC LIBRARY

On March 22nd Spencer Public Library sponsored Afternoon in Paris, an experience in French culture, music and food. Our items of donated French food offered by the local Spencer Women's Club and Panera Bread were delicious and authentic. Honored guests included the owner of the North Carolina Museum of Dolls, Toys and Miniatures, Beth Nance and the Mayor's wife, Marla Gobbel. The French Club of Trinity Oaks and seven of its members completed our honored guest list. Several friends from the community also attended. The decor included scenes of Paris on large canvases, bistro tables for two, copper pots and French cookie tins and linens. Accordion music and scenes of Paris, old and new, played on a large screen in front of the tables. Singers such as Jacques Brel, Edith Piaf, Mireille Mathieu, Francis Cabrel were featured in the musical program. The French Club from Trinity Oaks regaled us with a rousing rendition of Les Chevaliers de la Table Ronde.

Our main outdoor event of the season will be on May 4th in the Gazebo. The event will be called Celebrate Children. Several talented children from the local North area will sing, dance and perform drama. Mrs. Alexander, drama teacher at NRHS will bring some of her talented cast of the upcoming play The Lion King and they will present one of the musical acts as a preview of the play which will debut that evening. Mia Mason, a talented 8th grader will sing several songs. Artwork from Mrs. Grey's class will be on display beside the gazebo. Our first featured artist will be Jacob Klutz, professional pianist, who will astound the audience with his expertise. He has never been formally trained, yet he plays with perfection and passion. The second featured artist will be Greg Luster, winner of many awards as a gospel rapper/hip/hop musician. Many local people are familiar with his music as he sings in Concord, Salisbury and many other venues. We are excited that he will be able to sing for our event. If anyone knows of any young talented students in the North area who would like to display their talent for this event please contact Beverly McCraw at Spencer Public Library at 636-9072 between 2-6 pm. We would like to train some young puppeteers for a short puppet skit, also.

This summer reading program will have the theme of Castles and Kings. We will read stories focusing on princesses, knights, dragons and castles. This summer we hope to add puppet shows featuring these types of stories, yet we need three young teens to be our puppeteers. On June 4th from 2-4 in the gazebo and the park area, children will be educated and entertained by our local group of the Society of Creative Anachronism. They will show us the art of archery and sword-fighting plus other interesting aspects of the Middle Ages. Follow our Spencer Public Library Facebook page for more details.

Beverly McCraw
Town Librarian

FROM LAND MANAGMENT

Creating Connected and Responsible Communities

In preparations for the October Tour last year, we seen residents taking pride in the community by sprucing up their properties, helping their neighbors, and opening up the sidewalk areas in front of their homes. The town looked great for the October Tour and we had so many compliments about how the town appeared. Coming together to help one another is a ma-jor part of growing as a community and connecting with one another.

Whether you own your home, rent or lease, you are a part of this community. As a community, we have to take responsibility for the condition of our properties, the appearance in front of our homes, and the areas that can easily be seen from the street. People are passing through the town all the time and first impressions can last forever. If we take this responsibility upon ourselves to improve our community and improve the relationships with our neighbors and the residents on your block, together we will have improved the community.

When you drive down the street, you may notice trash in someone's yard, notice that their trashcan is overflowing, you might even see that you can't sit on the front porch because there is so much storage, or not even be able to see the pretty grass because of the cars that is parked on it in the front yard. These are conditions that are most impressionable upon people as they drive through a community. You want them to think to themselves, "I'd like to live here, look how nice it is".

The Code Officials constantly patrol the community to verify compliance with the town's nuisance codes, which include trash piling up, unauthorized items on the front porch, cars parked on the grass in the front yard, leaves not bagged out-of-season, or inappropriate bulk items set out for public works. Please help to take pride in your community by policing up these types of code violations for your property and if your neighbor needs a hand, reach out and see if you can help.

Troy D. Powell
Director of Land Management



P.O. Box 45
Spencer, NC 28159
(704) 633-2231
www.ci.spencer.nc.us

FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Spring is here, Spencer Fire Department would like to share some landscaping tips with you regarding fire hydrants on your property. When firefighters arrive at a fire, they must quickly and easily locate the nearest fire hydrants. Most U.S. municipalities regulate what can be planted or placed near hydrants. They warn property owners not to obscure hydrants or impede access to them with plants, fences, walls, cars and the like. Imagine a firefighter arriving at night and having to waste valuable time cutting away brush to find a hydrant.

In general, municipal fire codes require property owners to maintain a clearance of about 3 feet around fire hydrants. Shrubs, trees, fruit, vegetables and flowers are not to be planted inside that area. This doesn't mean that nothing can be planted there, but that the plants you choose need to be low-growing so they won't obscure visibility or access to the hydrant in any way. Fire departments need to consistently maintain hydrants so they will function correctly when needed. This includes flushing, inspecting, cleaning, painting and repairing. The workers who maintain the hydrants will need to walk, probe and possibly dig around the hydrant, so any plants there are likely to be routinely damaged. While lawn grass stands up best to such treatment, plants suitable for planting between paving stones for pathways also tolerate some foot traffic.

Jeremi Carter
Interim Fire Chief