



# “THE RIGHT TRACK”

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

February 2015

“Home of the North Carolina Transportation Museum”

## FROM THE MAYOR

The Board of Aldermen began considering the possibility of a stormwater management program at the March 2014 planning retreat. This was in response to longstanding 4th Street stormwater concerns and water quality regulations. We studied the issues and received a draft of a possible Stormwater Utility ordinance at the December meeting. The first of several public hearings was held at the January Board meeting for public feedback. We will continue to study the issue and solicit public input as we work through our planning and budget workshops.

The Board of Aldermen will hold its annual planning retreat on Saturday, March 7th from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm. The meeting will be held at the Spencer Fire Department. We will discuss progress on Town goals and plan for the future of Spencer, as well as hear reports from department heads.

Also, I would like to let everyone know that Wi-Fi is now available at the Spencer Library.

Jody Everhart  
Mayor

## FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

### Photo campaign 2015!

You've always liked the way that winter sunrise illuminates Library Park. You often compliment that neighbor down the street who's constantly improving her flower beds. You saw that police officer pull a coat out of his trunk to give to someone

who needed it, or the sanitation laborer helping the elderly lady who was running late but trying to get her trash cart out to the curb in time for pickup. We hear these stories from you often, and happened to think: so many of us have camera phones in hand at any given time now – why not encourage people to capture these things around town for posterity?

Please start snapping any photos of things you love about Spencer. If you wouldn't mind us using or sharing them (website, Facebook page, etc), then please email them to either Town Manager [Larry Smith](mailto:Larry.Smith@ci.spencer.nc.us) ([townmanager@ci.spencer.nc.us](mailto:townmanager@ci.spencer.nc.us)) or Land Management Director Kat Clifton ([lmddir@ci.spencer.nc.us](mailto:lmddir@ci.spencer.nc.us)). Please include your name, contact info, and any description of the photo you may want to share. Also, if anyone has experience with this kind of initiative and would like to help us develop it, by all means please give me a call to discuss this further.

### Crime reduction in Spencer

The Town Board has actively been studying quality of life in Spencer this past year. The most major component of that is of course a community's safety/security. Spencer is fortunate to have the vigilant citizens we do who keep police informed of things they may otherwise have no way of knowing. We're also very fortunate to have the dedicated law enforcement officers on staff that we do.

We have left positions open before and doubled workloads to get by, instead of simply filling the position with mediocrity. Leaders through all levels of the ranks con-

stantly challenge each other to “up their game”, whether it's qualifying on firearm proficiency or coming up with new ideas on how to provide better community outreach and customer service.

In 2010 I met and hired a gentleman who held these same traits and beliefs as his core values. His name was Michael T. James, a recently retired Major with the North Carolina Highway Patrol. I was recruiting for a Police Chief, and his aptitude, professionalism and demeanor all ultimately served as perfect enhancements to an already great department and town.

I recently commended Chief James on his exceptional performance and leadership in directing the department ever since. The State released our official crime statistics for 2014. Since his first full year of operations here in 2011, the town has steadily realized a 31% drop in major offenses, and a 26.1% drop in total criminal offenses.

I can attest that his recommended restructuring of the Police Department, his engagement of his officers and the community to help determine “how, when and where” to optimize patrols and resources, and his tireless dedication to not just serving but constantly bettering the Town and the Department, are unquestionably the most major and direct factors responsible for the increased safety and quality of life Spencer is enjoying.

Thanks once again to each of you in the community who constantly help us improve. Thanks to the Town Board for its support and encouragement, and to each of the town employees who take their service to the Town so very seriously.

**OUTSTANDING STUDENTS**

At the December 9 Board of Aldermen meeting, Mayor Everhart presented the Student Appreciation Awards to Marissa Craig, North Rowan Elementary School and Nuna Her, North Rowan Middle School.

On January 13, plaques were presented to Chloe Stoner, North Rowan Elementary School; and Spencer Gettys, North Rowan Middle School.

February's awards went to Haley Brewer, North Rowan Elementary School; Oriana Reed, North Rowan Middle School and Phillip Martin, North Rowan High 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 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 15th and ending on April 15th for Spring cleanup. Please limit weight of bags to 50 lbs. or less per bag.**

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 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.

**MULCH GIVE-AWAY**

**March 21, 2015 — 7:00 am until Noon**

Public Works will be having a mulch give-away on **Saturday, March 21st**. This corresponds with our normal Saturday recycling, so bring your recycling and get a free load of mulch. This will be the only free mulch give-away until fall, so take advantage of it while it lasts. Mulch is Free for Town Residents. Please bring ID. Out of Town Residents will be charged \$5.00 a loader bucket. Mulch is available other times of the year with a small charge for the loading. If interested, please direct questions to Public Works at 704-633-5331 or [pwddir@ci.spenceer.nc.us](mailto:pwddir@ci.spenceer.nc.us).

Joel Taylor  
Public Works Director

**MAKE SURE TO RENOVATE RIGHT WORKING ON HOMES WITH LEAD-BASED PAINT**

With spring just around the corner, many people will be renovating, repairing, or repainting their homes. If your home was built **before 1978**, you need to learn about the hazards of working with lead-based paint.

**The Facts about Lead**

- Lead can affect children's brains and developing nervous systems, causing reduced IQ, learning disabilities, and behavioral problems. Lead is also harmful to adults.
- Lead in dust is the most common way people are exposed to lead. People can also get lead in their bodies from lead in soil or paint chips. Lead dust is often invisible.
- Lead-base paint was used in more than 38 million homes until it was banned for residential use in 1978.
- Projects that disturb painted surfaces can create dust and endanger you and your family. Don't let this happen to you.

For more information about lead and precautions to take when renovating, repairing, or painting your home, please visit the Town website and download the "Renovate Right: Important Lead Hazard Information for Families, Child Care Providers, and Schools".

Kathryn Clifton, Land Management Director

**SPENCER JAYCEES EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA**

March 21, 2015  
2:00 p.m.  
8th Street Ball Park

Easter Egg Hunt  
For ages 0—12

Games, Prizes, Candy, and  
Temporary Tattoos!

A special visit  
from the Easter Bunny

All activities are free.  
Please bring your own basket.



**FROM SPENCER  
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Crime reduction is a collaborative effort between the police, citizens, and the governing body that provides necessary resources to get the job done. I am writing to thank our citizens who have made it their business to assist the police department with crime reduction. Due to the efforts of citizens and our dedicated police personnel, total criminal offenses in Spencer were down 7.3% in 2014 as compared to 2013. Index offenses are down 12.1% as compared to calendar year 2013. Index offenses include murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft. I appreciate the citizens that have made the decision to get involved and make our community a safer place to live and work. I hope more of you will take the time to get involved. I appreciate the diligence of my officers that are willing to put their lives on the line each day to protect and serve.

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, Spencer Police Department has accumulated a supply of winter coats for those in need. If you know of someone in need of a winter coat please contact Officer Hogan of the Spencer Police Department.

I wish to remind all citizens that reside in Section 8 housing of the following:

- It is imperative that you comply with all laws of the State of North Carolina as well as federal laws. Failure to do so could have you removed from the Section 8 program. I have directed police personnel to inform me if there are laws violated. I, in turn, contact either Rowan Housing Authority or East Spencer Housing Authority for action they deem appropriate. There are very strict guidelines dictated by the federal housing program that must be strictly enforced.

Police Chief M. T. James

**FROM LAND MANAGEMENT**

The Land Management Department is excited that the Town Board was in favor of partnering with Salisbury Community Development Corporation. Salisbury CDC is active in the rehabilitation and repair of homes within the Rowan County community, and takes great pride in their efforts to empower individuals and families in the care of their homes.

**Home Rehabilitation**

The Salisbury CDC Rehabilitation Program helps with crucial home repairs of low and moderate income homeowners. The Urgent Repair Program (URP) uses funding from the NC Housing Finance Agency to provide emergency home repairs to homeowners including the elderly, the disabled, and those with special needs. Applicants must fall below 50% of median household income.

**Home Ownership Assistance**

The Salisbury CDC provides first-time homebuyers help with financing and courses to gain the tools needed to purchase a home. The Home Ownership Program offers down payment assistance along with a homebuyer education program. Monthly educational courses cover topics such as credit repair, creating a budget, shopping for a home, working with lenders to purchase a home, and maintaining your new home.

**Foreclosure Prevention**

If you are a homeowner who is struggling to make mortgage payments due to job loss or temporary financial hardships, the Salisbury CDC may be able to help. Counselors are available to help homeowners negotiate with lenders on a variety of home ownership issues. Salisbury CDC also offers **FREE** education on delinquency and foreclosure issues along with budgeting and credit assistance.

You can reach the Salisbury CDC at 704-216-2738. Visit their website to find out more information at [www.salisburycdc.org](http://www.salisburycdc.org). Their office is located at 1400 West Bank Street, Salisbury, NC 28144.

**YARD WASTE AND  
GARBAGE CART REMINDERS**

In the November 2014 installment of The Right Track, Public Works issued a reminder that yard debris must be bagged for collection beginning January 1, 2015. Please remember to bag yard waste through March 14, 2015.

From **March 15 through April 15** of this year, Public Works will again vacuum yard debris from the curb. Please be aware that leaves and waste should not be piled in the street; this is a traffic safety hazard. Place items to be collected behind the curb (or behind the edge of the pavement) for proper pickup.

Garbage carts are to be removed by midnight on your day of collection. The ordinance also states that the cart should be placed out of sight when possible after collection has occurred. For the purpose of keeping up the town's appearance, please abide to the refuse ordinance 50.05(B)(1).

If you have any questions about this or other ordinances visit <http://www.amlegal.com/library/nc/spencer.shtml> and examine the codes, or call the Land Management Department at 704-633-2231 and ask to speak with Code Enforcement.

Jason Greer  
Code Enforcement Officer

**NEW BUSINESSES**

We are happy to report three new businesses have opened since the last newsletter:

- Cri'Styles Hair Salon, 506 S. Salisbury Avenue
- Family Dollar, 402 S. Salisbury Avenue
- Pick & Deal, 618 N. Salisbury Avenue
- Spencer Family Medicine (Rowan Diagnostic), 446 S. Salisbury Avenue.

Please join us in welcoming and supporting our local businesses.

**Town Of Spencer**  
P.O. Box 45  
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## Trash Schedule for 2015

Holidays	**Town Hall Closed**	
<b>Good Friday</b>	Friday April 3rd	Town Hall Closed, No change in Trash Schedule
<b>Memorial Day</b>	Monday May 25th	*** <b>Monday will run on Tuesday (May 26th)</b> *** <b>Tuesday will run on Wednesday (May 27th)</b> *** <b>Wednesday will run on Thursday (May 28th)</b>
<b>July 4th</b>	Friday July 3rd	Town Hall Closed, No change in Trash Schedule
<b>Labor Day</b>	Monday September 7th	*** <b>Monday will run on Tuesday (September 8th)</b> *** <b>Tuesday will run on Wednesday (September 9th)</b> *** <b>Wednesday will run on Thursday (September 10th)</b>
<b>Veteran's Day</b>	Wednesday November 11th	Monday will run on Schedule (November 9th) Tuesday will run on schedule (November 10th) *** <b>Wednesday will run on Thursday (November 12th)</b>
<b>Thanksgiving</b>	Thursday / November 26th Friday & 27th	Town Hall Closed, No change in Trash Schedule
<b>Christmas</b>	Thursday December 24th Friday December 25th	Town Hall Closed, No change in Trash Schedule
<b>New Year's</b>	Friday January 1st	Town Hall Closed, No change in Trash Schedule

\*\*\* Denotes change from regular schedule