

“THE RIGHT TRACK”



Volume 20 Issue 4

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

May 2015

“Home of the North Carolina Transportation Museum”

FROM THE MAYOR

We are in the process of preparing our budget for 2015/2016. We have had two budget workshops. With the recent re-evaluation, Spencer lost 5% of the property tax base. We are seeking ways to offer the same services without increasing the current out-of-pocket money. As a Board, we understand that increased taxes create a burden on all of our citizens. You hear a lot about towns staying “revenue neutral”. This means that if you keep the same budget as the previous year, you need to increase your tax rate so that you are bringing in the same amount of money to cover your current budget. Please be assured no one wants to increase taxes. A public hearing on the budget will be held on June 9th at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. We encourage everyone to attend.

With the recent rains, our town is showing its spring colors. This also means the grass is green and growing. Please maintain your property. Please keep in mind that Spencer has an ordinance against blowing grass into the street. You could face a fine if you disregard this ordinance. Take pride in the appearance of our Town.

Congratulations to North Rowan High School’s graduating class of 2015, as well as all of our college graduates.

Have a safe and happy summer!

Jody Everhart
Mayor



FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Sergeant Ennis wishes to remind citizens that the Spencer Police Department receives a lot of calls in reference to abandoned bicycles being left throughout the Town. If you have had a bicycle stolen or lost, please contact the Spencer Police Department with a description of the bicycle and we will check our inventory of bicycles to see if we may have it, even if you have never made a report of it being taken. We would love to reunite you or your child with their bicycle. You must be able to convince our officer that the bicycle belongs to you. If your bicycle is not registered with Spencer PD please see a Spencer Officer. If you have a bike lock you should use it.

We continue to receive calls where an unlocked vehicle has been entered and items have been taken from the interior of the vehicle. Please lock your vehicle. This will remove the opportunity for a perpetrator to commit an easy crime. This is a nationwide problem and the offender is normally a juvenile.

Investigator Pacilio was recognized by the Optimist Club on May 14, 2015 for being selected as the Spencer Officer of the Year. The diligence of Investigator Pacilio led to many cases being solved in recent months. Congratulations to Investigator Pacilio!

As we prepare for the close of another school year and enter the vacation season I remind everyone to use your seatbelts and child restraint systems while traveling. If you are going on vacation please

complete the new “Premise Status Notification Form” so officers will have knowledge the home is vacant. If you see suspicious people or activities please call 911 to make a report. You can remain anonymous.

Coyotes have been spotted in Spencer recently. Chief James has information on how to discourage coyotes from coming to your neighborhood. Please contact him if you need additional literature from the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission regarding coyotes.

M. T. James
Chief of Police

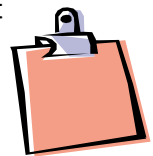


DUMPSTER PERMITS

As the spring transitions into summer, many of you will begin projects that will necessitate the use of a dumpster. Please remember that a permit is required before the dumpster is delivered. A permit is only \$5.00 and you can pick one up at Town Hall during regular business hours.

If you have questions related to dumpster permits or other items related to our town’s ordinances, visit American Legal Publishing at www.amlegal.com or call 704-633-2231 and ask to speak with Code Enforcement.

Jason W. Greer
Code Enforcement
Officer



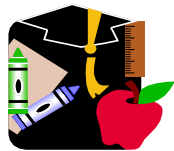
OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

At the March 10 Board of Aldermen meeting, Mayor Everhart presented the Student Appreciation Awards to Inagi Rustin-Godfrey, North Rowan Elementary School; Trinity Gladden, North Rowan Middle School.; and Max Clark, North Rowan High School.

On April 14, plaques were presented to Jeremiah Bowman, North Rowan Elementary School; Passion Patterson, North Rowan Middle School; and Tristyn Flowers, North Rowan High School.

May's awards went to Kimberly Turcios, North Rowan Elementary School; Dykira Ruffin, North Rowan Middle School and Rudoph Smith, 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.



FROM LAND MANAGEMENT

The Land Management Department is happy to report an increase in Zoning Permits, Historic Preservation Certificates of Appropriateness, and inquiries on properties.

We have had one new business open since the last newsletter: East Coast Mafia Motorcycles, 1411 S. Salisbury Avenue.

Kathryn Clifton
Land Management Director

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 pickup 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.

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.

Joel Taylor
Public Works Director

SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

Central United Methodist Church, located at the corner of Yadkin and Fourth Street is partnering again this summer with Rowan-Salisbury Schools Child Nutrition Services to provide **FREE LUNCH** for any children ages 3-18. There are no adult meals and no meals for purchase available.

The dates of operation are June 15—August 13, Monday through Friday, with no service on Friday, July 3rd. Meals will be delivered at 12:30. Children must be present to receive a meal and it must be eaten at the church.

Summer Meals is a federally funded program through USDA where meals can be served to students in geographical areas of Rowan County that are over 50% free and reduced. As of March 2015, Rowan-Salisbury Schools had a free and reduced percentage of 62.9%. The purpose of the program is to reach out to children in our county who may not receive the opportunity to eat two meals a day like they would if school were in session. Please contact Meredith Honeycutt at 704-630-6047 with any questions.

PORT-A-PIT CHICKEN DINNER

The Costa Rica Mission Team from Central United Methodist Church is sponsoring a port-a-pit dinner on Tuesday, June 16. This dinner includes 1/2 BBQ chicken, two vegetables, a roll, and a dessert. The cost of this meal is \$8.00. Meals can be picked up or served at the church that day from 10 am till 6pm. All proceeds will go to missions of our church. Thanks.



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



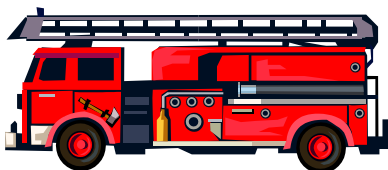
SPENCER FIRE DEPARTMENT IMPROVES ISO RATING

N. C. Insurance Commissioner and State Fire Marshal Wayne Goodwin announced recently that the Spencer Fire District completed its routine inspection and received a 4 rating, effective Wednesday, July 1, 2015. The inspection, conducted by officials with the Department of Insurance Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM), is required on a regular basis as part of the North Carolina Response Rating System (NCRRS). Among other things, the routine inspections look for proper staffing levels, sufficient equipment, proper maintenance of equipment, communications capabilities and availability of a water source.

The NCRRS rating system ranges from one (highest) to 10 (not recognized as a certified fire department by the state), with most rural departments falling into the 9S category. While lower ratings do not necessarily indicate poor service, a higher rating does suggest that a department is overall better equipped to respond to fires in its district. Higher ratings can also significantly lower homeowners insurance rates in that fire district.

"I'd like to congratulate Chief Baker for his department's performance and for the hard work of all the department members," said Commissioner Goodwin. "The citizens in the Town of Spencer should rest easy knowing they have a fine group of firefighters protecting them and their property in case of an emergency."

State law requires OSFM officials to inspect departments servicing districts of 100,000 people or less, which makes up all but six of the state's fire districts.



FAÇADE GRANTS

The Town of Spencer is now proud to offer both residential and commercial grants. On May 12, 2015, the Board of Aldermen approved a new residential façade grant for exterior improvements made to properties within the Spencer local historic district. The residential grant is intended to encourage property owners and tenants of homes in Spencer's local historic district to invest in exterior façade improvements. All improvements must be made in accordance with Secretary of Interior Standards and Historic District Guidelines. Prior to beginning work on their home, residents or tenants should visit the Land Management Office at Town Hall to see if their project qualifies for the grant. A maximum reimbursement grant of \$500 on a two for one basis may be awarded to a property every five years.

The Land Management Department would also like to remind business owners and tenants that a Commercial Façade Grant also exists. The commercial grant is open to commercial properties in the central business or highway business districts within the corporate limits of Spencer. The commercial grant is intended to encourage property owners and tenants of businesses to invest in exterior façade improvements. Please note that this grant cannot be used for signage. The rear of a building may also be considered for a façade grant, with priority given to the front. Prior to beginning work on their business, interested applicants should visit the Land Management Office at Town Hall to see if their project qualifies for the grant. A maximum reimbursement grant of \$500 on a two for one basis may be awarded to a property every fiscal year.



FOREST-DALE POOL LOWEST RATE EVER

The best kept secret in Spencer is Forest-Dale Club! Established in 1955, Forest-Dale is situated on the corner of Whitehead Avenue and Forestdale Drive in Spencer, just a few blocks from North Rowan High School. Our concrete swimming pool goes from 3' to 12' and has a slide, a low dive, and a high dive. We also have a baby pool. Staffed by certified lifeguards at all times, we are open seven days a week from Memorial Day through Labor Day. We have women's and men's bath houses, as well as a concession stand featuring Cheerwine slushies. We also have special events throughout the summer, such as cookouts and pizza parties for the kids, and free swimming lessons.

With the high price of gas, why not enjoy a vacation every day this summer at Forest-Dale for only a few dollars a day for your entire family? Membership is open to anyone in good standing in our community. Once you join, you become a stock holder in Forest-Dale, and are entitled to all the privileges of membership, including \$5.00 guest passes. Membership levels (after first year) include household, seniors, and bachelors.

For 2015, we are offering the lowest price we have ever offered for new members—only \$250 for your entire family for the entire summer! For an application or for more information, please contact Carol Everhart at 704-798-2894. Come and join us at Forest-Dale for a "Cool at the Pool Summer!"



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Corrected Trash Schedule for 2015

Holidays	**Town Hall Closed**	
Memorial	Monday May 25th	*** Monday will run on Tuesday (May 26th) *** Tuesday will run on Wednesday (May 27th) *** Wednesday will run on Thursday (May 28th)
July 4th	Monday July 6th	*** Monday will run on Tuesday (July 7th) *** Tuesday will run on Wednesday (July 8th) *** Wednesday will run on Thursday (July 9th)
Labor Day	Monday September 7th	*** Monday will run on Tuesday (September 8th) *** Tuesday will run on Wednesday (September 9th) *** Wednesday will run on Thursday (September 10th)
Veteran's	Wednesday November 11th	Monday will run on Schedule (November 9th) Tuesday will run on schedule (November 10th) *** Wednesday will run on Thursday (November 12th)
Thanksgiving	Thursday / November 26th & Friday 27th	Town Hall Closed, No change in Trash Schedule
Christmas	Thursday December 24th Friday December 25th	Town Hall Closed, No change in Trash Schedule
New Year's	Friday January 1st	Town Hall Closed, No change in Trash Schedule

*** Denotes change from regular schedule