

Town of Spencer
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Spencer, NC 28159-0045

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FROM THE TOWN OF SPENCER

"THE RIGHT TRACK"

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"Home of the North Carolina Transportation Museum"

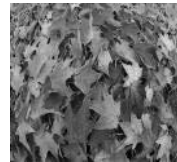


FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

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**. **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 50lbs 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. 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.



SPRING MULCH GIVE-AWAY

March 17th 2018, from 7:00 am to 12:00 noon

Public Works will be having a mulch give-away on **Saturday, March 17th**. 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.



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 MAYOR

As we enter 2018, I will start off by saying "thank you" to the residents of Spencer for granting this board the opportunity to serve as your elected officials. I congratulate the former board members on their re-election and newly elected Alderperson Sharon Hovis. Alderperson Hovis will serve as Mayor Pro Tem. I look forward to working with the new board this term.

In early February, the bidding process is scheduled to begin for the 4th Street paving and storm water project. It's been a long process, but all is moving on schedule. We should soon be able to see some actual labor in terms of paving, taking place on 4th Street.

Plan to relocate the Town Hall and the Police Department are still moving forward. The town is currently going through a due diligence period. This process is to ensure that the town's legal authority in terms of financial requirements from the Local Government Commission are appropriate and the necessary environmental impact studies are done before moving ahead. Hopefully, we'll have some answers by April.

Congratulations to North Carolina Transportation Museum Executive Director Kelly Alexander, her staff, and of course the volunteers who worked to have a banner year in 2017. Again, thank you for the family attractions that the museum has to offer. The museum brings thousands of folks to Spencer every year!

This year the Salisbury/Rowan Chamber of Commerce will host quarterly Mayors Roundtable meetings. This program is for mayors in Rowan County to come together to discuss items of importance in their communities and the county as a whole. The first meeting took place in January. There was good representation in attendance from throughout the county. Those in attendance included municipal and county elected officials. Congressman Ted Budd, Representative Harry Warren, members of Budd's staff and members of Congressman Richard Hudson's staff were there. I opened a discussion on the Salisbury/Rowan School system. The resource that I used for discussion focused on stats from the NC Schools Report Cards. Socio-economics, and parental support for students was also a part of my presentation. High performing schools are vital when trying to grow a community. All agreed.

I appreciate the work of the Street Department, the Police Department, the Code Enforcement guys, and anyone else who had come to work during the frigid weather that we've had. Thank You!

Support your town. Attend a Board of Alderman meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7pm.

Mayor Jim Gobbel

FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

Playground Equipment for 8th Street Park:

Rowan County has given the Town of Spencer a nice playground equipment set, formally located at Ellis Park. Spencer Public Works plans to install this playground set before the start of the Spencer Cal Ripken spring baseball season.

Spencer and Salisbury Community Development Corporation project:

In a partnership with the Town of Spencer, the Salisbury Community Development Corporation is about to start their first full home restoration project within Spencer. Spencer purchased two homes located next door to one another on the 500 block of S. Carolina Ave. The first

phase of the project calls for the full renovation of 509 S. Carolina Ave. Stage two is in the works, and will most likely result in the demolition of a fourplex in disrepair, with a home of historic attributes built in its place. Rowan County has allotted \$100,000 in HOME funds to go toward this project. Financially, this is a breakeven project of the Town of Spencer, however it will be a significant improvement to this block and will hopefully lead to more Salisbury CDC projects in the near future.

Best Regards,
Reid Walters, Town Manager



We that live in the southeast enjoy the four seasons in particularly spring and fall. As we enter spring it is a time to shake off winter and put on the new life and move forward into spring.

There are multi topics in real estate, let's discuss sellers and buyers.

From the seller standpoint: Naturally they desire the top of the market with the least amount of repair and fix up and have a contract in the shortest time possible. It is the Realtors responsibly to inform the seller what buyers are looking for in the current market. Currently the market is moving upward, as is the economy. The normal time frame to close once a property goes under contract is 30 to 45 days depending on the source of funds.

From the buyer standpoint: The opposite side of the coin is to buy at price and condition that the buyer is acceptable with. Naturally the buyer will want to visit the property at different times to see the home and visit the community as well. Tradesman and professionals for inspections, attorneys and lending firms we can be provided upon request.

In both cases a real estate agent is required by the NC Real Estate Commission to provide to each an information notice titled Working With a Real Estate Agent upon first substantial contact.

Presently we are supervising the repair and freshening up of a home located at 412 Rowan Ave. South here in Spencer.

We will be jointly holding a public reserve auction with Pierce Auction at 106 Polo Dr. Salisbury on March 25, 2018. Inquires pertaining to both are appreciated.

Real estate is local in nature and value is in the eye of the beholder. I adhere to the thought that no transaction is good unless all parties are happy.

Your calls are welcome and your questions as well. We provide Comparable Market Analyses (CMA) as a complimentary service.

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www.greenfieldrealty.org

TRASH SCHEDULE FOR 2018

Holidays	***Town Hall Closed***	
Good Friday	Friday, March 30th	No Change in Trash Schedule
Memorial Day	Monday, May 28th	Monday will run on Tuesday (May 29th) Tuesday will run on Wednesday (May 30th) Wednesday will run on Thursday (May 31st)

FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Spring is fast approaching. It will soon be time for spring cleaning and yard maintenance. Please review the Town of Spencer’s ordinance concerning open burning and the use of outdoor fire pits. Please contact the Fire Department at 704-637-6135 if you have any questions.

93.07 OPEN BURNING AND FIRE PITS.



- (A) Open burning for campfires and outdoor cooking is permitted without any burning permit if performed in an approved container constructed of steel, brick, or masonry.
- (B) Open burning in approved portable containers and outdoor fireplaces is permitted.
- (C) For the purpose of this section, the following definition shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

FIRE PIT. Defined to include belowground pits, freestanding fireplaces, and portable devices intended to contain and control outdoor fires.

- (D) *Prohibited burning.* Burning that is offensive or objectionable because of smoke or odor emissions, or when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous, shall be prohibited.
- (E) *Prohibited burning in public places.* Burning in any outdoor fire pits is prohibited on any property owned by the Town of Spencer unless approved by the Fire Chief. Any outdoor cooking on approved grills will be permitted.
- (F) *Hours of operation.* A person shall not maintain any outdoor burning from midnight to 7:00 a.m., unless permitted and approved by the Fire Chief. Outdoor cooking will be permitted during these hours.
- (G) *Extinguishment authority.* The Spencer Fire Department is authorized to order the extinguishment by the responsible person of any burning that creates or adds to a hazardous or objectionable situation.

- (H) *Fire pits.*
 - (1) All belowground fire pits shall be at least four inches in depth and shall be surrounded on the outside aboveground by a non-combustible material such as steel, brick, or masonry. The fire pit cannot exceed three feet in diameter. Nor may the fire pile exceed two feet in height.
 - (2) Fire pits must be used in accordance with the manufacturer’s specifications and the following regulations:
 - (a) Only natural firewood and/or commercial logs may be burned. Burning of leaves, yard waste, paper, cardboard, garbage and similar items is not permitted;
 - (b) All fire pits must be located away from any structure or combustible material;
 - (c) Belowground fire pits & freestanding fireplaces must be located at a minimum of 25 ft away from any structure or combustible material;
 - (d) Portable fire pits must be located at a minimum of 15 feet away from any structure or combustible material;
 - (e) The fire must be constantly attended and supervised until the fire has been completely extinguished; and
 - (f) A portable fire extinguisher or other approved extinguishing equipment, such as a garden hose of sufficient length, must be readily available.

(Ord. 10-12, passed 11-9-10) Penalty, see § 93.99

Gray Grubb, Fire Chief

FROM OUR PUBLIC LIBRARY

When the snow falls and you are feeling bored, stop by Spencer Public Library this winter as we are processing many new children’s books, DVDs and young adult fiction. The last big event for children was **January 25th** , a Penguin Party, complete with silly songs, games , crafts and snacks centered on a penguin theme.

Our next event for children of elementary age will be a Valentine’s Party on **February 13th** at 4pm. We will have cupcakes, make cards and read stories about love! Our teen volunteers from **NRHS** will attend this event as they did our Penguin party. They will help the children with the crafts and games. We are grateful for the teens in Ms. Allen’s advisory group who will be helping us with various events this year.

On **February 15th** we will host an appreciation pizza dinner for all the teens who have volunteered to help with our events.

In **March**, we will have three major events. The first one is for young women who are interested in becoming businesswomen in the future. Our panel of experienced business owners will include Maia Smith , writer and business owner, Sandra Ardoin, an author of historical fiction, Debbie Barnhardt, owner of Barnhardt Jewelers, and possibly two other local women. These women will present their experiences from a panel format. They will answer questions from the audience of young women who are pursuing business as a career This event will be on **March 8th at 4.**

On **March 16th.** Children are invited to a St. Patrick’s Party. Please sign-up at the library by **March 9th** . An Easter Egg hunt will be held in the children’s room on **March 30th** at 4:00 pm. Please register for this by **March 16th.**

The next newsletter will give details on our summer reading program which has the theme of **Pirates** . Our kick-off for the summer will be **June 16th** . Save that date!

Beverly McCraw, Librarian



FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT



The Spencer Police Department is asking you to lock the doors on your automobiles. In the middle of the night, suspects are going through cars and taking change, cash, and credit cards. They are only targeting cars that are not locked. **PLEASE LOCK YOUR CAR DOORS! REMOVE THE OPPORTUNITY!** Recently several cars on 7th Street were hit.

Spring is right around the corner, which means it’s time to get your golf carts re-inspected. You will be issued a new 2018 decal which must be displayed on your cart before you can operate it on the streets of Spencer. Please contact Officer Shane Safrit at 704-633-3574, Ext. 37, and remember to bring proof of insurance.



M.T. James
Police Chief

FROM LAND MANAGEMENT

Swimming Pools – Invest in Your Children – SAFETY FIRST

Over the past year, Code Enforcement Officers have cited approximately 19 Swimming Pools that were unsafe and not protected with a safety barrier. Any pool taller than 24” must have a fence, wall or another appropriate safety barrier to protect its access from children that need supervision.

The code requirements of 155.047 are “Private swimming pools shall not be located in any front or side yard and shall not be less than 10 feet from any lot line. Access to private swimming pools shall be limited by fencing, walling or another appropriate safety barrier.” The Code defines a Private Swimming Pool as “Any structure that contains water over 24 inches in depth and which is used or intended to be used for swimming or recreational bathing in connection with an occupancy in a residential use district and is available only to the family and guests of the householder. This includes in-ground, above-ground, and on-ground swimming pools, hot tubs, and spas.”

Examples of Unprotected Swimming Pools which violate the Code as displayed.



Examples of a Protected Above-Ground Swimming Pool which is in compliance with the code.

The deck in the last picture has a self-latching gate at the steps so that when a person exits, the gate shuts and latches. Now, if you don’t want to go to this great expense for a permanent type pool, simply purchase swimming pools that don’t hold more water than 24” and no safety barrier is required. **Permit Required** – If you wish to install a swimming pool that is taller than 24” in height, a Development Permit is required to ensure a proper safety barrier will be installed and that the location on the property conforms with the code. Start the application with Town Hall, Land Management.

FRONT PORCH – Is it Litter?

Throughout the year, Code Enforcement gets many complaints about how trashy a house can look with the abundance of storage, trash, debris, lawn mowers that is piled on the front porch. Back in 1999, the Board of Aldermen adopted an ordinance that addresses this very issue.



93.22 MAINTENANCE OF EXTERIOR OF PREMISES REQUIRED – *“It shall be unlawful for any person to keep on their front porch furniture designed for interior use, waste, lumber, junk, trash, debris, abandoned objects, bedding, packing boxes, cans, containers, accumulation of substantial quantities of loose earth, rocks, pieces of concrete or cement or pieces of metal, appliances, automotive machine parts or any collection of materials that can be considered combustible or that can harbor rats or other pests.”*

I’ve heard over the last two years that the residents want Spencer to look like it used to be. When I asked them to explain, they said the yards were kept up and mowed, houses were painted and pretty, porches had a front porch chair for the family, and the streets were clear of debris. When you walked on the sidewalks, everything was just pleasing to look at because people really took care of their properties. Overtime, the owner-occupied properties became rental properties and the passion to keep their home and yard looking nice dissipated. Well, just because you rent doesn’t mean you can’t make your property look immaculate. It’s your Landlord’s House, but It’s your Home! A change in the way a property is maintained takes a change in behavior and an investment on the part of the resident. When you leave for work and arrive back home, take a look at how your property looks from the street. If you have trash on the ground – pick it up. If you have storage or litter on the front porch – move it inside, to the trash, or in the back where it is concealed. If a person doesn’t take the initiative to do these things, that is where the interaction with a Code Enforcement Officer begins. The codes have been written by the people to keep the peace among a community. It will take a Community to return Spencer to the way it used to look. I believe in you and I believe in Spencer!

GRASS SEASON – Soon Will Arrive – Prepare Now

If you own your home, rent, landlord, or inherited property from family, who will be maintaining the landscaping and mowing the grass for the upcoming season that will start in March? We get high grass complaints pretty constant from March – September each year. Any grass, weeds, vegetation that is growing on a lot can be no taller than 8” unless it is in the wooded areas. But the areas just outside the woods have to comply. Who is responsible? If you live on the property – You Are. If you own the property – You Are Too. If you don’t know how your lawn is going to get mowed and edges trimmed, start making preparations now. Buy a mower or shop for a lawn maintenance company to get a good deal. If the Town has to mow it, based on the fee schedule, the lowest is about \$500 per. You can find someone to mow your yard for much less. Please take pride in your property!



Troy Powell, MPA
Director, Land Management Department