

Town of Spencer  
P.O. Box 45  
Spencer, NC 28159-0045

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FROM THE TOWN OF SPENCER

# "THE RIGHT TRACK"

Volume 23 Issue 4 <http://ci.spencer.nc.us> May 2018

"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 15<sup>th</sup>** and **April 15<sup>th</sup>-September 30<sup>th</sup>**. **The leaf vac will run for a month, beginning March 15<sup>th</sup> and ending on April 15<sup>th</sup> 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.



#### Curb Edging

Just a reminder that in 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.

#### 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](mailto:pwddir@ci.spencer.nc.us).

Joel Taylor  
Public Works Director

TRASH SCHEDULE FOR 2018		
Holidays	***Town Hall Closed***	
July 4th	Wednesday, July 4th	Monday will run on a regular schedule Tuesday will run on a regular schedule Wednesday will run on Thursday, July 5th
Labor Day	Monday, September 3rd	Monday will run on Tuesday, September 4th Tuesday will run on Wednesday, September 5th Wednesday will run on Thursday, September 6th
Veteran's Day	Monday, November 12th	Monday will run on Tuesday, November 13th Tuesday will run on Wednesday, November 14th Wednesday will run on Thursday, November 15th

#### FROM THE MAYOR

On March 6, 2018, the Board of Aldermen held the annual planning retreat. The meeting began with conversation about progress the town made during 2017. The number one priority at last year's retreat was to find a new place for the Town Hall and the Police Department. The Board made the decision to obtain suitable square footage at the Park Plaza with the thought that positive growth the town offices will bring would breathe new life into the Plaza and the Central Business District. The purchase also includes plans for a pocket park in the parking lot of the Plaza at the corner of Salisbury Avenue and Fifth Street. At this time, the Town is moving forward with a process to purchase the property.

The second priority last year was personnel retention. Improvements in benefits and pay have been provided for the employees.

Another goal from last year is the ongoing effort of maintaining a clean town. Funding was appropriated to the Street Department to purchase a preowned street sweeper and a Gator utility vehicle. Last year's funding approved a new SUV Police Cruiser and the purchase of a new ladder fire truck from the City of Salisbury. During April of this year, the ladder truck was outfitted for the Spencer Fire Department.

The goals set at this year's planning retreat and going into 2019, is Downtown Development and Revitalization. This goal is a continuation to purchase the Park Plaza space and build out of the new Town Hall and the Police Department. Hopefully, ground will be broken by late summer of this year.

This year, in addition to meetings that the Aldermen and I are previously committed to, we will advocate for the Town by attending Rowan County Commissioner meetings and School Board meetings. Later this year, the Board will hold community Outreach and Awareness events. The purpose is to keep the public aware of current and future opportunities for the Town. This year's planning retreat closed with a lot of optimism and enthusiasm for continued progress during 2018.

During April, I attended the second Mayor's Roundtable of this year. The topic of the meeting focused on the I-85 corridor through Rowan County. The speaker declared that I-85 is Rowan's number one asset. The highway moves eight lanes of traffic and tons of freight through this county everyday. Mayors, county wide, were asked to work together to develop a strategic plan for the best possible way to utilize land on the interstate. A plan to skillfully market the valuable property along I-85 can increase the tax base throughout Rowan County.

Go by and check out the Spencer Library. Town Librarian, Beverly McCraw, is doing a great job there!

As always, I ask that you attend the Board of Aldermen meetings on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Jim Gobbel

#### FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

I was recently granted the opportunity to live and work in the Blue Ridge mountains as the town manager of Independence, Virginia. I accepted the position and will be relocating to a small fami-

ly farm in the New River Basin this summer. With my personal interests in the outdoor recreational opportunities a mountain region affords and a lifelong connection to the Appalachian Mountains, such an employment opportunity was too grand to turn down.

For the better part of 15-years, I have worked and volunteered in numerous public-sector arenas in Rowan County. Through working as an educator, town manager, elected, and appointed official; I have been blessed with many great friendships and worked with many genuine leaders. I have the utmost respect for those individuals working hard, volunteering their time, and working together for the betterment of our community. Spencer has a great Board of Aldermen and a dedicated staff. It has been an honor to work with them as well as for the citizenry of Spencer.

Best Regards,  
Reid Walters, Town Manager



#### Looking for the Neighborhood That's Just the Right Fit

- 1) Meet the neighbors - Talk to the neighbors and visit at different times of the day.
- 2) Drive/walk the neighborhood - are people friendly?
- 3) Time to commute to your job - reduce the time stuck in traffic - time the commute to and from the new community.
- 4) Attend a local festival or event - Meet the people from the community and obtain a sense of the community you may select.
- 5) Dine/eat at the local hot spot - Visit the local restaurant; you can glean a lot about a neighborhood by simply people watching.
- 6) Attend a local sporting event - If you have children of school age, the local school is very important. Visit a school play or sporting event, visit the school office.
- 7) Inquiry of local job market - read the local paper to learn of local industries, visit the local Chamber of Commerce.
- 8) Health and care facilities and places of worship - Very important to a happy life.
- 9) Transportation and availability - Access to interstate system.
- 10) Internet, cable and utilities available and their rates.

Greenfield Realty, LLC is available to represent buyers and sellers of real property in the Rowan and Iredell County area. Call A.W. Myers, 704-929-0704, email: [aw@greenfieldrealty.org](mailto:aw@greenfieldrealty.org)

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FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT



The Spencer Police Department will soon be sporting a new uniform patch designed by former Spencer Police **Officer D.W. Ward**. The distinctive new patch better illustrates the Southern Railway history of the town, which was established in 1905. We are truly grateful for the time and effort Officer Ward put into creating a fresh new design for our uniforms.

Congratulations to **Investigator M. File** for successfully achieving the **ADVANCED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS' PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE**. This program is a method by which dedicated officers may receive recognition for education, professional training, and on-the-job experience. In order to receive this award, officers must acquire a combination of education and training points, along with years of full-time law enforcement experience. We appreciate Investigator File's commitment and allegiance to serving the Town of Spencer with the highest of standards.

**Officer S. Safrit** was recognized by the Salisbury Lions Club as the **Spencer Officer of the Year** at a Breakfast Meeting in Salisbury on May 08, 2018. Congratulations to Officer Safrit for a job well done.

The Town of Spencer welcomes new **Police Officer, M. Osborne**, who joined our team in April. Officer Osborne, a former officer with Lexington, also serves a Reserve Officer with the Town of Denton. Officer Osborne looks forward to serving our town.



**Salisbury Red Hat Wonders Chapter** recently donated stuffed toys to the Town of Spencer Police Department. These stuffed animals are for children that experience trauma situations, in and around our town. Many thanks to these wonderful ladies for contributing to a special need within our community.

**M.T. James, Police Chief**

FROM OUR PUBLIC LIBRARY

Please plan to attend a big event for the entire family and community, Expressions of Life: Celebrate Community, which will occur on **May 19th from 2-4 p.m.** More than fifteen vendors will be positioned around Library Park, offering free clothes, information, face-painting, and other goodies! We will feature Matt Weaver, an Appalachian folk musician, who is very well-known throughout the Carolinas, as our first on the program at 2:10 p.m. Following Matt will be a six-part harmony group called the Moonglows. They will sing songs from the forties through the seventies from 2:30-3:00 p.m. From 3:00-4:00 p.m., we hope to feature the high school Jazz Band and Mr. Cowan as a vocalist. A dance troupe from a local church may also be enjoyed and a young lady from Nigeria will sing during that time.



Ahoy wee Spencer Mateys and teen pirates! Come to our Pirate Summer Reading Kick-Off on **June 16th from 1-3 p.m.** at the Gazebo in Library Park! This summer, all kid pirates will win gold coins every time they read a book and return it on time! After earning ten coins, they may trade in their coins for pirate prizes! We will have a real live pirate who looks just like Johnny Depp! We are hoping some high school art students will answer the challenge of painting some pirate art to display in our non-fiction room. Our wee mateys at North Rowan Elementary School will also be asked to enter some pirate-themed art to display in our children's room.

The Salisbury Post recently donated six boxes of brand new fiction and non-fiction books! Please stop by to check these out! We also received personal donations of gardening and poetry books!

Hope to see you all this summer! Find us on Facebook under Spencer Public Library!

**Beverly McCraw, Librarian**



FROM LAND MANAGEMENT



If you haven't stopped in the Italy Cafe of Spencer, you are missing out! The food here is amazing for lunch or dinner. They are located at 1205 N. Salisbury Ave in Spencer beside the Moose Lodge. They are open 7 days a week, 11:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. and offer delivery, pick-up, dine-in, catering, and meeting/party space. **Phone: 704-639-9990**

New York Style Pizza & Italian Cuisine - Salads, Wings (Boned and Boneless), Stromboli, Calzone, Philly Steak, and many Pasta's. What is amazing is the prices of their lunch menu! It is definitely priced for the budget spender and a great dinner menu. In 1998, Owners, Tarek and Susan Ahmed, established Italy Cafe in lower Salisbury before moving to 944 W. Innes Street in 1999. Unforeseen circumstances had drawn Tarek and his family to return to Egypt to be with his family and he sold his business. In 2011, he returned to find the business closed, so Tarek purchased it back and it has been stronger than ever. In 2018, he moved his business to Spencer to add dine-in to his delivery and take-out business as well as increase his services of catering and having a place for friends and family to hold meetings or parties in a private dining room.

Businesses, Companies, Professional Offices, Families, Friends, please consider Italy Cafe for your meetings, events, and party needs. They have a private room that will seat 80 people comfortably at tables and an additional 80 - 100 seats in the remainder of the dining areas. Spread the Word! N. Salisbury Ave just North of Long Ferry Rd on the left.

**Troy Powell, MPA**  
Director, Land Management Department

SPENCER HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

The Spencer Historic Preservation Commission (Spencer HPC) would like to welcome all new residents to our community! Regular monthly meetings are open to the public, and are held on the third Monday of every month located at Spencer Town Hall, beginning at 7:00pm. All town residents are encouraged to join us at these meetings. Public forum is held at the close of each meeting for any and all questions, comments, and concerns.

The Spencer HPC would like to remind residents that Certificates of Appropriateness (COA's) are required for exterior property renovations, including tree removal and pruning, to homes and buildings within our historic district. The commission reviews and approves COA's each month at their regular meetings. Land Management and town staff can assist in issuing COA applications to property owners. COA applications can be obtained directly from Town Hall, or on the town website. Spencer HPC must first review all COA applications before work can begin.

Visit the Town of Spencer website to find out if your home is part of Spencer's historic district at <http://www.ci.spencer.nc.us>. Just select Governance from the home menu, click Advisory Commissions, click Historic Preservation Commission, then select the link within the page for the Historic District Map. You will also find more information on COA applications here.

We look forward to seeing you at our next regular Spencer Historic Preservation Commission meeting! Please join us in helping to preserve Spencer's unique Railroad history. Founded in 1905, we boast the largest contiguous historic district in the state of North Carolina.

**-Jacquelyn Jensen, Chair**

SAVE THE DATE!

2018 **SALUTE THE TROOPS** MILITARY THROUGH THE AGES

**JUNE 30 - JULY 1**  
Online at [www.nctrans.org](http://www.nctrans.org)  
1 Samuel Spencer Dr., Spencer, NC

Military Through the Ages  
June 30—July 1, 2018

The North Carolina Transportation Museum is proud of our American military and its soldiers. Join us to honor the sacrifices of our soldiers, past and present, as we learn about the equipment, weapons, and vehicles of war from the colonial period to today. Military living history interpreters will be on hand to talk about their gear and equipment. Get close to antique military equipment and ask questions! You can also purchase tickets to attend a USO Dinner show with the talented members from The Moon Glows, Salisbury's newest vocal harmony group. Fireworks will follow the show.

Other activities include: Military Vehicle Show, lectures, weapons talk, Vietnam exhibit, Kid's Activities, Sutlers, Train Rides, and more!