

“THE RIGHT TRACK”



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August 2016

“Home of the North Carolina Transportation Museum”

FROM THE MAYOR

Last month I welcomed Town Manager Reid Walters and Land Management Director Troy Powell. I stated that they both bring a strong work ethic and a desire to move Spencer forward. Their actions are speaking louder than my words. Reid has taken the necessary steps to acquire funding for a phased plan to pave as well as correct storm water issues on Fourth Street. This is a huge accomplishment! I'll stop here by saying thank you Reid! I think that Reid would like to tell you more about the project himself.

Troy continues to make himself known in our community by his ability to work with the public in a manner that builds bridges. His experience in planning, zoning, code enforcement and formerly serving as a law enforcement officer makes him a great fit for the work that he does for Spencer. I can actually see the improvements that our Land Management Department have made. Thank You Troy!

I encourage you to notice Code Enforcement Officer Jeremy Bates as he patrols driving the Town's Code Compliance truck. Our Code Enforcement Officer is more identifiable now. He wears an official shirt and a badge. Jeremy is doing a great job!

Since the last newsletter I've represented Spencer at a Rowan Municipal Meeting. The meetings offer elected persons and town staff from all of the municipalities in Rowan County a time to meet and have casual conversation during dinner. Last month, guest speaker Carl Ford, N. C. House of Representatives, spoke on bills that were passed during the General Assembly session this year. I also continue to attend Wilcox Bridge Steering Committee meetings. Long range planning and develop-

ment of the Wilcox Bridge can definitely effect economic development from the Yadkin River to our Business Districts. The project is much closer to Spencer than it is to Lexington. In addition, the proposed Yadkin Museum will tie in with the history park at the Wilcox Bridge.

The Board of Aldermen approved a new comprehensive housing ordinance for Spencer. The new ordinance will contain language to address issues that have been affecting Spencer undesirably. The Land Management Department is in the process of drafting the ordinance. Hopefully the ordinance will be codified sometime in September. The Board is also considering an ordinance that will give support to Spencer being recognized as a Green Community. This month, the Board volunteered their time for a Community Forum. We always welcome your input and support.

In closing I will offer my appreciation and support to our Police, Fire, and Street Departments. Thank you for your service during this extremely hot summer season.

Mayor Jim Gobbel

SCHOOL SAFETY

It's hard to believe that the summer is over and schools are back in session. Please be careful when driving the streets of Spencer and watch for students who may be walking or riding bicycles. Also watch out for school buses and remember to never pass a stopped school bus. Children are our future. Help keep them safe



FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

The town of Spencer recently received statewide contingency funding in the amount of \$390,000 for storm water and street paving improvements for Fourth Street. This source of revenue comes directly from the North Carolina General Assembly. For many years Fourth Street has topped the list of needs for storm water and street paving improvements however the scope and cost of these improvements have prevented elected Boards from moving forward with a genuine fix. A good portion of this phased project, to alleviate major needs within this section of town, will occur next year due to the recent acquirement of this state funding source. NC House District 77 Representative Harry Warren and NC Senate District 34 Senator Andrew Brock played intricate roles in helping Spencer receive this funding. If you have the opportunity, please thank them for helping our town with this project. The long-term goal of this phased project is to establish solid, organized, manageable infrastructure for the next generation of Spencer residents.

Reid Walters



FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Brush and Yard Waste Pick-Up

Public Works wants to remind 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 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.

Fall Mulch Give-Away
September 17th, from 7:00 to 12:00

Public Works will be having a mulch give-away on **Saturday, September 17th**. This corresponds with our Saturday recycling, so bring your recycling and get a free load of mulch. This will be the last free mulch give-away of the year, so take advantage of it while it lasts. 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.

Curb-Side Garbage Collection

Public Works would like to remind citizens that the garbage route may be collected differently from week to week, so to make sure your garbage gets picked up, **please roll your container to the curb the night before your scheduled garbage day.** The containers must be rolled back no later than dusk on your collection day. Cans left on the curb are subject to code enforcement fines, so please be courteous and remove the containers from the curb at your earliest convenience. Pick-up for citizens that have filed the inability to participate form, remains the same.

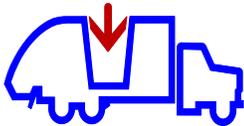
If you have any questions feel free to contact Public Works at 704-633-5331 or pwddir@ci.spencer.nc.us.

Curb Edging

Public Works would like to remind citizens that with Spring and Summer comes grass growing season, and storm water maintenance. **Please** do not throw grass into the street as you mow, stack bags of clippings, or pile brush in the curb. When it rains these items flow to the catch basins and will clog the drainage system, causing problems.

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


FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Members of the Police Department would like to welcome Officer Shane Safrit to the Spencer Police Department and the Town of Spencer. Officer Safrit is a veteran officer with training and expertise in many fields. He has previously served the Landis and China Grove Police Departments. Officer Safrit will help with investigation of property crimes as well as perform patrol duties.

There has been an increase in breaking into vacant homes recently. If you live near a vacant home and see suspicious activity please call 911 immediately. The Police Department encourages homeowners to consider purchasing alarm and camera surveillance systems for their home.

The dog tethering ordinance is being enforced by members of the police department. Please stop by Town Hall and pick up a brochure if you need information on this new ordinance.

I want to thank you for the support you have given to the Police department in recent months. A citizen recently stopped by and gave a hug to all the officers working and thanked the officers for their service. Another family delivered a beautiful potted plant. Another family allowed their precious children to deliver cookies and special cards they had made. We all appreciate your show of support! We consider it a high honor to serve such a supportive community.

As always, we need your help to reduce crime. If you see suspicious activity or witness a crime- get involved and dial 911!

Thanks to all the members of the Spencer Police Department who are willing to serve a put their lives on the line each day. Best wishes to Officer Hogan who has accepted a position with the Salisbury Police Department.

M.T. James



WINNERS

The Community Appearance Commission has nominated and awarded several homes this year. The following town residents have received the Yard of the Month community appearance award.

- 328 McCubbins Drive, 330 Steeplechase Trail, 8 Beauregard Drive, 14 Beauregard Drive, 400 Steeplechase Trail, and 908 Rowan Avenue

If you would like to nominate a location for Yard of the Month, you may do so by using the Contact Us form on the Town website, by submitting your nomination in writing, or stopping by Town Hall.

**AN EXCELLENT WAY TO SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY**

Have you thought about serving on one of the Town of Spencer's boards or commissions? If you have an interest in serving your community, please consider serving on one of the following boards or commissions listed below. Note: **Meetings are scheduled for 7 pm at Spencer Town Hall.**

Community Appearance Commission

Meets the first Tuesday of each month

Historic Preservation Commission

Meets the third Monday of each month

Planning Board

Meets the fourth Tuesday of each month

Zoning Board of Adjustment

Meets the third Thursday of each month

Interested applicants should contact Town Hall to request an application for serving on a board or commission. Board terms are staggered, and generally expire during the month of December, with new members joining during the first meeting in January. Applications are accepted on a continual basis and kept on file for consideration in the event a vacancy occurs mid-year.

FROM THE PUBLIC LIBRARY**The Spencer Public Library is sizzling with Summer 2016 activities.....**

On July 9th, the library kicked off the 2016 Bookin' It Around the World summer reading program by hosting an International Festival. Several people brought artifacts, music, food and stories to the Spencer Library Park. Children and adults alike were entertained by Elizabeth Hood as she sang Spanish songs. Maia Smith fascinated us with historic facts, relating to the origins of Christianity in the Republic of Georgia. Dr. Alfred Chea relayed the importance of education in Liberia and how war and corruption had affected the people and culture of his country. Those attending received Cheerwine, candy, bookmarks and stickers. Gretchen and Jeremy Rodriguez and Walter Fyler served snacks, painted hands with henna, and made Moroccan bracelets. Thanks to everyone who was able to attend this organized event.

On July 14th, the Hispanic day, we read several stories which included Puerto Rico, Mexico and Guatemala. We made, papel cortado, or Mexican papercuts, which are in display in the library's children's room. On July 21st, the Asian summer reading day, the children ages 8-11 made origami cranes, colored intricate dragons, ate fortune cookies and played with chopsticks. We read three stories which highlighted the Korean, Japanese and Chinese cultures. The last Bookin' It Around the World Day will be Thursday, August 4th. Our countries of interest will be Uganda and Liberia. The younger children have been enjoying games and crafts which focused on Pete the Cat and Splat the Cat. They will receive stickers, snacks and a take-home craft.

On Thursday, August 18th, girls from ages 7-13 are invited to an American Girl tea party/scavenger hunt at 3 P. M. . Each girl may bring an 18 inch doll and an outfit suitable for a tea party. The dolls will be seated at a table and the girls will be at their table. We will have tea and cookies and admire the dolls. Then we will be challenged to find certain facts about the historic American Girl dolls from books and short articles.. We will make crafts using American Girl stickers. Then we will watch a movie about Molly, Samantha or Kit depending on interest. The event should finish around 5:30.

On Thursday, August 18th, girls from ages 7-13 are invited to an "American Girl Tea Party & Scavenger Hunt at 3 P. M. . Each girl may bring an 18 inch doll and an outfit suitable for a tea party. The agenda will include tea and cookies with the child's doll. Then we will be challenged to find specific facts about the historic American Girl dolls from books and backgrounds. We will make crafts using American Girl stickers. We will learn how Molly's life was very different in education and use of technology in the kitchen and the classroom.

**SPENCER LIBRARY BOOK SALE—SEPTEMBER 1 –14th (Closed Labor Day)—M,T,Th,F—2-6 PM,
Wed 2-5—\$2 or LESS!!
Please stop by and support your local library!!**



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

Mercury is a natural element and has traditionally been used in many products and processing operations. If handled properly, mercury can be both beneficial and safe; however, if handled improperly even small amounts of mercury can be harmful to humans and wildlife. Older thermometers, thermostats, and switches may contain mercury; and fluorescent and other high intensity discharge light bulbs contain mercury vapor. All of these should be handled with extreme care and disposed of properly. Visit www.salisburync.gov/Mercury for more information about mercury and devices containing mercury. The website also has information regarding disposal options as well as an upcoming special waste and recycling event on October 12 at the Rowan County Recycling Center at 1102 North Long Street Ext. in East Spencer. On that day the processing center will collect devices that contain mercury as well as many other special waste items. The list includes prescription and non-prescription medications, tires (5, no rims), fire extinguishers, helium, oxygen and propane tanks, all computer equipment, TVs, cell phones, rechargeable batteries, all electronics, labeled pesticides, washers, dryers, refrigerators, eyeglasses, hearing aids, toner cartridges, and household cleaning products. The event will be held from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Visit www.salisburync.gov/Mercury for more information.

| Trash Schedule for 2016 | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-----|---|
| Holidays | **Town Hall Closed** | | | |
| Good Friday | Friday | March 25th | | Town Hall Closed, No change in Trash Schedule |
| Memorial Day | Monday | May 30th | *** | Monday will run on Tuesday (May 31th) |
| | | | *** | Tuesday will run on Wednesday (June 1st) |
| | | | *** | Wednesday will run on Thursday (June 2nd) |
| July 4th | Monday | July 4th | *** | Monday will run on Tuesday (July 5th) |
| | | | *** | Tuesday will run on Wednesday (July 6th) |
| | | | *** | Wednesday will run on Thursday (July 7th) |
| Labor Day | Monday | September 5th | *** | Monday will run on Tuesday (September 6th) |
| | | | *** | Tuesday will run on Wednesday (September 7th) |
| | | | *** | Wednesday will run on Thursday (September 8th) |
| Veteran's Day | Friday | November 11th | | Town Hall Closed, No change in Trash Schedule |
| Thanksgiving | Thursday/ Friday | November 24th & 25th | | Town Hall Closed, No change in Trash Schedule |
| Christmas | | | *** | Monday will run on Tuesday (December 27th) |
| | Friday | December 23rd | *** | Tuesday will run on Wednesday (December 28th) |
| | Monday | December 26th | *** | Wednesday will run on Thursday (December 29th) |
| New Year's | | | *** | Monday will run on Tuesday (January 3rd) |
| | Monday | January 2nd | *** | Tuesday will run on Wednesday (January 4th) |
| | | | *** | Wednesday will run on Thursday (January 5th) |

*** Denotes change from regular schedule