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OVER THE SUMMER: Brown and Smith join Spencer Police Department

Over the summer, Spencer Police welcomed Philip Brown and Caleb Smith as new team members. Brown joined in May as a Police Officer Trainee and Caleb Smith started in June as School Resource Officer for North Rowan High School.

As a Police Officer Trainee, Philip Brown, Jr. spent the summer attending Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) at Mitchell Community College-Mooresville Campus. His program finished in early September, and we anticipate him starting his field training in Spencer by early October. Philip was born in New York and grew up in Miami, Florida where he played football at Miami Norland High School. He also attended Norfolk State University in Virginia and played as

a linebacker for the football team. Philip moved to the area in 2009 and currently coaches semi-pro football for the Thundering Herd in Salisbury. He previously worked at Chandler Concrete as a dispatcher. Philip and his wife live in Spencer with their five children and attend Whosoever Will Let Them Come Church.

Caleb Smith has transitioned into the School Resource Officer Role since joining the Department and is excited to join the Town and the North Rowan High School family. He graduated from North Davidson High School in 2010 and spent a few years contracted to the FedEx corporation working in their security department. Caleb later moved on to work for Ralph Lauren's loss prevention. In 2018, Caleb decided to change his path to law enforcement and graduated from Guilford Technical Community College's BLET Academy. He has been in law

enforcement for 2.5 years, is excited for his new professional chapter, and looks forward to helping the Town of Spencer protect its residents and visitors. He and his wife have two children.

"We welcome Philip and Caleb to the team," said Chief Mike James. "We feel blessed to add these two bright, young professionals to our ranks and look forward to their years of service to come." If you are interested in serving the Town of Spencer, please explore our career opportunities at spencernc.gov.



FROM THE MAYOR Blessed Beyond Measure

by Jonathan Williams

Have you ever stopped to look around and wonder how some of our Town's greatest treasures came to

fruition? I don't usually stop and ponder these things, but I've had the chance a few times over the past month, and came to the same recognition each time. I had the opportunity to take a few walks for various events in Stanback Forest recently. I have visited the Yadkin River Park several times over the past few weeks as well. I've had the chance to hear from our event planning committee for our cruise-ins and our upcoming Winterfest celebration. As I reflect on those experiences, I am struck by how our Town is blessed beyond measure with caring and committed individuals who selflessly devote their time, talents, and treasures toward making Spencer a special place for all of us to live, work, and play.

Our Town was built upon a legacy of committed, hard-working people that sought to better Spencer and, for that matter, the rest of our region. From our beginnings as a railroad town to our continued evolution into the next chapter of our history, people have volunteered their time, shared their unique skills and abilities, and gifted their money and resources to continue moving Spencer forward. This past year has truly brought this blessing of dedicated people into focus. We've received incredibly generous gifts for exciting new projects. We've seen citizens step up to reinvigorate our Community Appearance Commission and start a new event planning committee to engage our community. And, unfortunately, we've also lost some of Spencer's most iconic community leaders. Each of these should help us refocus

our attention on what really matters these days - supporting each other and working together to build a better Spencer.

The fact of the matter is that people far and wide believe in Spencer, and we should too. Some recent major financial contributions to several upcoming projects highlight this belief in where we are headed.

- Yadkin River Trailhead** - Spencer was recently gifted \$250,000 from Mr. Ronnie Smith and Friends of Rowan to help fund the construction of a trailhead on the Spencer side of the Yadkin River and Wilcox Bridge. This funding, along with other private and grant funding received to-date, totals almost \$400,000 and will allow us to start construction in the coming months. This trailhead will help serve as a gateway for a future bikeway and greenway into the town of Spencer along Highway 29 and connect to Davidson County's Yadkin River Park. Our hope is that this project will help spur redevelopment of the old NC Finishing Company site and allow our residents and visitors an opportunity to experience the wonderful recreational opportunities the river has to offer.
- Stanback Forest** - Through generous private gifts of money and land, along with the stewardship of the Three Rivers Land Trust and a Clean Water Management Trust Fund grant, the size of Stanback Forest will more than double by 48 additional acres. This exciting addition increases the outdoor recreational offerings of what many call Spencer's "hidden gem".

- Central/Civic Park** - The Town recently received a commitment of \$100,000 from a generous donor to help begin the process of creating greenspace in the Park Plaza parking lot in front of our new Town Hall. This commitment allows us to begin the planning process and solicit input from our community to move this long-awaited project forward and hopefully begin construction soon.

So where do we go from here? Beginning soon, a capital campaign will kick off to support many of the outdoor green space and recreational projects throughout Spencer. This campaign will allow people, near and far, to play a role in enhancing our community. Our northern Rowan community is known as the "Big Green Nation." Because of that, we've dubbed this campaign as Spencer's "Big Green Deal" to increase the outdoor recreational opportunities for our citizens, young or old and all ages in between. Why the "Big Green Deal?" Because we are the Big Green Nation and this plan for enhanced greenspace in our town is, indeed, a very big deal.

Whether it be your gifts of time, talent, or treasure, please consider getting involved in the exciting new opportunities that lie ahead of us. Now is the time for us to leave our legacy for Spencer, like those who have paved the way before us. As Pablo Picasso said, "The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away."

Peace and blessings to you all.

Mayor Jonathan Williams

The Closet GIVEAWAY

There will be F-R-E-E clothing and household items available to anyone with a need, please come out on Saturday, October 23, 2021 from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the hosting church of Calvary Lutheran Church located at 303 Fifth Street, Spencer, NC 28159.

For more information please contact the church directly at 704-636-2152.

Spencer's Community Appearance Commission Plans COMMUNITY GARDEN, SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

We are in need of volunteers please see the image to the right, or complete our online survey at spencernc.gov or you may come into Town Hall to sign up.

SPENCER COMMUNITY
APPEARANCE
COMMISSION (CAC)

WE ARE RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS!

Ready to Get Your Hands Dirty?

A new Community Garden is getting started right here in Spencer!

FILL OUT OUR SURVEY AT SPENCERNC.GOV OR PICK UP A COPY AT TOWN HALL LET US KNOW WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN THE GARDEN AND SIGN UP AS A VOLUNTEER!



Mayor

Jonathan Williams

Board of Aldermen

Patti Seceast (Mayor Pro-Tem)
Bob Bish
Sharon Hovis
Steve Miller
Sam Morgan
Pat Sledge

Town Manager

Peter Franzese

Staff Leadership Team

Stacy Craven, Town Clerk
Kyle Harris, Planner
Michael James, Police Chief
Michael Lanning, Fire Chief
Joe Morris, Special Projects Planner
Joel Taylor, Public Works Director
Faith Wilson, Finance Officer

Key Contacts

Town Hall: 704-633-2231
Fire: 704-637-6135
Library: 704-636-9072
Police 704-633-3574
Public Works: 704-633-5331
Call 911 for Emergencies
Rowan Co Public Safety
Non-Emergency line:
704-216-8500



MANAGER'S NOTES

Welcome to Lead for NC Fellow Skye Allan

by Peter Franzese

This year, the Town of Spencer was selected as one of 24 host sites across the state for Lead For North Carolina (LFNC). In August we welcomed Skye Allan to town as our LFNC Fellow. Lead for NC is a service year/fellowship organized by UNC School of Government, Lead for America, and AmeriCorps NCCC. The program places recent college grads in targeted communities to strengthen our public institutions, transform our local communities, and cultivate the next generation of

public service leaders. Since graduating from UNC Chapel Hill with degrees in Psychology and English, Skye has worked for two years in outdoor education programs in California and South Carolina, and for one year in the environmental health and safety department of a multinational manufacturing company. Skye hopes to work with local committees and community members to improve the core of #RowansOriginalGateway and support the Town of Spencer's bright future.



Skye's major projects for the Town of Spencer will build organizational capacity in community-building, placemaking, policy research, and outreach/engagement. Throughout the year, she will coordinate quality of life projects with the Community Appearance Commission and the Spencer Partnership, including creating a community garden and other projects enhancing community pride, engagement, and investment. Additional service includes delving into policy research ranging from safety and finance to capital improvement and continuity of operations planning. Skye will also have a broad opportunity to explore local government services

and career paths, both within a small municipality and with other partner organizations. This is the third year of the LFNC program, and the first of the program's partnership with AmeriCorps. Spencer will benefit from the program at minimal cost, as most of the expenses are funded by sponsors like the State Employees Credit Union Foundation, The Golden Leaf Foundation, The Jesse Ball duPont Fund, NC League of Municipalities, Wells Fargo, and Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation. Prior to Skye's arrival in Spencer, she and her cohort attended a two-week Summer Academy with instruction ranging from local government

basics, project management, research and data analysis, general job skills, and more. All fellows have ongoing training and course work throughout their service year. Fellows receive a living allowance and health insurance from UNC Chapel Hill, and upon the completion of their service year receive 3 graduate credits from UNC Chapel Hill and an educational grant. There is an option to extend the fellowship for a second year. We are excited to have Skye bring her talents to Spencer and honored to help build the next generation of public service leaders. For more information about the program, visit lfnc.sog.unc.edu.

CHECKING IN AT THE SPENCER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Spencer Library would like to thank The Island Adventure Summer Reading Participants. Everyone enjoyed learning details of Hawaiian culture, exploring the sea animals, and creating sea-themed crafts. All ages from two to twelve received tropical treasure chest prizes and snacks each Tuesday. Below are some pictures of our summer events.

We are thrilled to share our latest theme of "Back to School." Major events have been planned for October, November and December. Tuesday, October 19th, the Career class at North Rowan Middle will be attending a special program featuring local retired and current artists, musicians and police officers. The classes will be divided into four groups of ten. Each group will rotate to a different room and will listen to the life stories of each speaker. The artists and musicians will present or perform their particular expertise. The specialists will share why they chose a certain career, the preparation needed and the challenges experienced for such.



On Tuesday, November 16th, the library will host a book-signing and storyhour for parents and children presented by Sherry Kepley, local author. Mrs. Kepley's new children's book is entitled Down by the Praise Pond. Ms. Kepley will discuss her source of inspiration and her choice of career path. Afterwards, she will sign books and refreshments will be served.

Our other esteemed author and guest will be former teacher, Dicey McCullough. Her popular book Tired of Being a Bully will be featured. Her newest book for third graders and older is called Elizabeth Steele-Woman of Courage. The book was illustrated by a teen from Carson High School. Books will be available for purchase and signing. Parents, children and teachers will be invited to attend from four-five-thirty on November 16th.

Date to be determined in December, we plan to sponsor a game night and pizza party for local teens. Stay tuned for more details to follow as we will need participants for the event. Prizes will be given for the winners of an educational Jeopardy style game. Follow our Facebook page for more up-to-date details.

NEWS AND UPDATES

Public Works staff plan mulch give-way, loose leaf collection

The Town of Spencer Public Works Department will be having its fall mulch give-away on Saturday, October 2nd, from 7:00 am until 12:00 pm. Delivery for in-town residents will be available. Three loads per residence Max. The recycling center will also be open. Fall loose leaf collection runs October 1 - December 31.

Police urge vigilance against crimes of opportunity

All should be reminded to lock your car doors and DO NOT LEAVE VALUABLES INSIDE YOUR VEHICLE! This creates an opportunity for a crime to be committed. Vehicles have been entered due to unlocked vehicles in the middle of the night or early morning hours. Guns, credit cards, and cash are being left inside vehicles. If you see suspicious activity, please notify the police by calling 911 immediately!

The Spencer Police Department recommends you purchase a Nest or Ring camera or similar device to protect your property. Other exterior cameras are also beneficial and are inexpensive but deter criminals from committing property crimes.

If you have any additional information pertaining to entering unauthorized vehicles and/or stealing items, please call Crime Stoppers at 1-866-639-5245. You may also visit their website at tips.salisburyrowancrimestoppers.org.

Thank you for your support of law enforcement and feel free to contact Chief James at 704-633-3574 if you have any law enforcement needs or ideas for crime reduction.

October is Fire Prevention Month

The Month of October is Fire Prevention Month. As Summer turns to Fall, it's a good idea to refresh your memory on fall fire safety tips. Get in the habit of changing the batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors every Fall and Spring as you change your clocks for Daylight Savings Time.

Check those fire extinguishers as well, keep those space heaters surrounded by at least 3 feet of empty space and turn them off when you leave or go to bed. Do not engage in illegal burning, for more safety tips or questions contact the local fire station.

New commercial grant program kicking off soon

The Board of Aldermen have adopted a new policy for the Salisbury Avenue Corridor Improvement Grant. This enhances what was formerly the "commercial facade grant" and is supported through an expanded budget of \$10,000, allowing a maximum grant award to increase from \$500 to \$2,000 per project, on a 50/50 matching basis. In addition, non-profit partners have applied for a Duke Energy Foundation grant, which if successful would allow awarded matches to exceed \$4,000. New guidelines prioritize creative and innovative design contributions and projects that transform blighted facades and inactive streetscapes. Find out more at spencernc.gov.

National Night Out

Spencer's first National Night Out event on August 3 and the ongoing Town Hall and Police Department construction offer a glimpse into the bustling future coming to the former Park Plaza shopping center.



UPCOMING EVENTS IN SPENCER

In the chilly months to come, Hometown Holidays otherwise known as the Spencer Partnership, is planning a lively Winterfest on the first and second Friday and Saturday of December, complete with a German-style market, fifty Christmas trees, a parade, dance performances, local vendors, a beer garden, and wooden huts constructed by the students of North Rowan High School.

You don't have to wait until December for fun because the Autumn Cruise-In event is coming October 23, including plenty of food and drink, music, stalls of local vendors, activities for the kids, and a beer garden for the adults. If you'd like to get involved, Hometown Holidays will be launching a Friends of Spencer campaign to gather contributions from the community to fund

these and future events. If you'd like to get even more involved, sign up to volunteer at any event, or consider purchasing a Christmas Tree or Starlight in honor of a loved one. To check out the full list of activities, donate, volunteer, or to keep up with updates and future events, check out Spencerexperience.org later this month.

