

MANAGER'S NOTES



Our community continues to "Punch Above our Weight"

by Peter Franzese

Recently, I had the opportunity to join local government leaders from across our great State at NC League of Municipalities CityVision 2025 in Greenville. In addition to Alderman Rashid Muhammad attending the conference, Special Projects Planner Joe Morris and I presented a concurrent session to well over 100 attendees. Our session was called *Punching Above Your Weight: How Small Communities Can Make Transformational Investments*. Council Member Mary Jo Adams from Laurinburg introduced our session as follows:

One of the great benefits of this conference is the opportunity to hear and learn from towns similar to yours. These sessions serve as proof of concept - as a direct and applicable lesson for you. If one town can undertake transformational investments, so can yours. This session is one of those case studies. We are fortunate to have with us today the Town of Spencer. A community of under 4,000 population and an operating budget of about \$5 million, Spencer has recently pursued and undertaken significant local investments. They've leveraged federal funds, sought out grant support, and taken advantage of every opportunity available to them. I am excited to hear their story, and I hope that there are many lessons here for our attendees.

We were honored to share our story and hopefully inspire other community leaders to strive for transformational goals and projects.

As I write this, we are in the final weeks of construction on the Town

Park construction project, which was a highlight of our presentation. Through seven months of construction, work remains slightly ahead of the 9-month contract schedule. Recent progress in the Multi-Purpose Pavilion includes finishing touches like paint, interior trim, plumbing, and finish electrical. Recent site work includes additional demo, storm drainage, driveway entrance work, and electrical. Installation of the water feature, signage, irrigation, and landscaping are major elements left to complete, along with fixtures and furnishings. The current schedule has final building inspections and landscaping occurring in May. We will work through punch list items in June and perhaps have some finishing touches left to do.

Our community fundraising campaign has progressed to a total of pledges or contributions of \$333,398. We have a few remaining pending grant applications and prospect donor conversations that could result in an additional \$20,000 or more, which could be used for additional improvements. Learn more about how to get involved at spencernc.gov/makeyourmark.

We expect to open our wonderful new park to the community on Saturday, June 28, in concert with the Fireworks over Spencer Shops event at the NC Transportation Museum. Stay tuned to our website, social media, and the new electronic message center being installed with the park signage for more information!



PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U.S.POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM Retail

Local
Postal Customer

COMMUNITY NEWS

Have news to share for an upcoming issue?
Contact our Town Clerk Anna Ward at
award@spencernc.gov or 704-633-2231.

NC Museum of Dolls, Toys & Miniatures
440 South Salisbury Ave, Spencer, NC 28159

The Museum Is Open Weekly!

A friendly reminder to the community that our doll, toy & miniature museum is open Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays every week from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. We are so grateful for the community's support during our official Grand Opening weekend in March, which was profiled in the Salisbury Post!

Shop for a Cause! Super Saturdays Are Back

We are excited to give the community an easy and oh-so-fun way to support our nonprofit museum by shopping at our monthly Super Saturday sales. They occur every second Saturday of the month from 10 am to 2 pm at the First



Community Center of Spencer at 215 5th St., Spencer, NC 28159.

Discover a huge range of deeply discounted modern & antique dolls, trains, trucks, toys, plushies, miniatures, and so much more. It's a collector's paradise, from vintage Barbie to OOAK miniatures to something fun for the kids. Pick up a few vintage troll dolls, hunt for Ideal and Madame Alexander, or find unique art dolls and international dolls you've never seen before. New items are added every month! Stop by and see what's new! The sale is within easy walking or driving distance of our museum, so why not combine your visit to see our doll, toy, train, and mini collection with a shopping spree! Visit Super Saturdays before or after your museum visit and take home a special souvenir or gift.

World Doll Day

Our World Doll Day celebration is BACK - an annual favorite! Join us on Saturday, June 14, from 10 am to 4 pm, here at the museum to celebrate the biggest day of the year for the doll community. **FREE MUSEUM ADMISSION to all! Enjoy our celebration and tour the museum on us!**

All ages and all doll fans are welcome! No matter who you are, where you come from, and which dolls you collect, you are a part of one doll family around the world united in the love and appreciation of dolls.

SPRING/SUMMER 2025

Before or after you enjoy World Doll Day at the museum and tour our collection, you can visit our nearby Box Sale and shop 'til you drop with deeply discounted dolls and other treasures! The Box Sale will be held within easy walking or driving distance of the museum at the First Community Center of Spencer (215 5th Street Spencer, NC 28159). Note that our Box Sale will replace our monthly Super Saturdays sale at the same location for this month.

Northern Rowan Family Medicine is expanding


Cabarrus Rowan Community Health Centers (CRCHC) has announced a major expansion of its Northern Rowan Family Medicine facility, a move set to significantly enhance healthcare access for families across the region. The project, designed to address the rising healthcare demands of the local community, will bring improved services and increased capacity to Northern Rowan, with a particular focus on underserved populations.

The expansion marks a pivotal step in CRCHC's mission to provide quality, affordable healthcare to all. The upgraded facility will feature additional exam rooms, a new onsite pharmacy, and dedicated behavioral health spaces, ensuring that

more individuals and families can access comprehensive care under one roof. These enhancements aim to meet the growing needs of Rowan County residents, where demand for accessible healthcare has steadily increased in recent years.

Fueling this ambitious project is a \$125,000 grant from The Cannon Foundation, pushing CRCHC's total fundraising support for the Northern Rowan Expansion Project to over \$800,000. This funding, drawn from a mix of federal, state, and private sources, underscores the widespread backing for improving healthcare access in the region. "With this growth, we're not only increasing capacity but also enhancing services," said CRCHC CEO Don Holloman. "Our goal is to ensure that every family in Northern Rowan, especially those in underserved areas, receives the care they deserve."

The improved Northern Rowan Family Medicine facility is poised to become a cornerstone of support for Rowan County, bridging gaps in care and fostering healthier communities for years to come. Construction is already underway, with further details on the completion timeline to be announced soon.

Mayor Jonathan Williams	Kyle Harris, Planner	Contact Us spencernc.gov
Board of Aldermen Patti Secreast (Mayor Pro-Tem)	Heather Kann, Finance Officer	Text us: 704-870-0720
Andrew Howe	Michael Lanning, Fire Chief	Town Hall: 704-633-2231
Steve Miller	Joe Morris, Special Projects Planner	Fire: 704-637-6135
Erin Moody	Joel Taylor, Public Works Director	Library: 704-636-9072
Rashid Muhammad		Police: 704-633-3574
Pat Sledge		Public Works: 704-633-5331
Town Manager Peter Franzese	Town of Spencer	Call 911 for Emergencies
Staff Leadership Team Anna Ward, Town Clerk	Text the town to find information and report issues!	Rowan Co Public Safety
Steve Blount, Planning and Zoning	Text  To:	Non-Emergency line: 704-216-8500
Mike File, Police Chief	704.870.0720	

2025 Events

For more information, please visit spencernc.gov



MARCH
6-7 Annual Community Feedback & Strategic Planning Session
19 Neighborhood Walk

APRIL
5 Spring Mulch Day
12-26 NCDOT Spring Litter Sweep
15 Talk of the Town
27 Tea Party in the Garden

MAY
1 Rowan County United Way Day of Caring
6 Spencer Senior Spring Luncheon
20 Neighborhood Walk

JUNE
28 Fireworks Over Historic Spencer Shops NCTM

JULY
21-23 Justin E. Monroe Youth Fire Camp

AUGUST
19 Neighborhood Walk

SEPTEMBER
6 Annual Doll Luncheon NCMDTM
16 Talk of the Town
TBD Community Garden Oktoberfest

OCTOBER
11 Fire Prevention Week Open House
19 Neighborhood Walk
31 Trunk or Treat
11-18 Race to the River/Rowan County Creek Week
TBD National Night Out
TBD Fall Mulch Day

NOVEMBER
18 Talk of the Town
26 Spencer's Holiday Caravan

DECEMBER
5-7 Winterfest
TBD Spencer Senior Christmas Luncheon

CHECKING IN AT THE SPENCER PUBLIC LIBRARY

300 4th Street, Spencer, NC 28159

On May 14th at 2 pm, local ladies are invited for a Springtime in Paris event with a French accordion player with video walks of Paris scenes. Delicious croissants are being donated by the Spencer Deli. Macarons and Madeleine cakes will be served. Beth Nance of the Doll and Toy Museum is loaning her small cafe tables to add to the ambiance. We only have room for twelve people, so sign up with the library as soon as possible.

On June 7th, our yearly outdoor event in Library Park under the gazebo will start at 2 pm and end at 4:30 pm. This will be the kick-off event for the Summer Reading Program entitled "Musical Adventures Around the World." There will be a youth choir who sing in Russian, a gentleman who will teach the Nigerian drum circle,

a lady who plays Irish pennywhistle, an accordion player from South Carolina, and possibly more to come. Keep watching our Facebook page for more details.

The Summer Reading Program theme is Adventures Around the World, where we will explore the following cultures: Asian, African, Irish, Hawaiian, Chinese, Arabic, and Indian. Every Wednesday from 6/11-7/30-2025, we will focus on a different country, read books on the culture, and listen to a native share about their customs.

