UPCOMING EVENTS AT NC TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM

Details at **nctranspotationmuseum.org**

Caboose Train
Tuesday, August 5

Aviation & Space
Tuesday, August 12

August 1, 2, 8, 9

Automobile Shows
August 2: .....**All Ford**
August 9: .....**All GM**
August 16:.....**MOPAR**
September 13:.....**AACA**

2025 Brew & Choo Summer Concert
August 9

September 26-28 & October 3-5

September 26-28 & October 3-5

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NORTH CAROLINA
Rowan's Original Gateway.

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Steve Miller
Alderman

Erin Moody
Alderwoman

Rashid Muhammad
Alderman

Patricia Sledge
Alderwoman

TOWN MANAGER
Peter Franzese

STAFF LEADERSHIP TEAM
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Mike File
Police Chief

Kyle Harris
Planner

Heather Kann
Finance Offi cer

Michael Lanning
Fire Chief

Joe Morris
Special Projects Planner

Joel Taylor
Public Works Director

CONTACT US:
Text Us: 704-870-0720

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

SPENCER
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SPENCER TOWN PARK NOW OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY!

After years of planning and nine months of construction, the Town of Spencer is proud to announce the opening of **Spencer Town Park**, a vibrant new civic space in the heart of downtown. The park brings back a long-missed community green space on the former Park Plaza parking lot—a vision supported in the Town's 2014 and 2022 Parks and Recreation Plans.

Key features include a **community lawn, walking loop, open-air pavilion** with stage and restrooms, **picnic areas**, and an interactive fountain. Designed to host events like **Winterfest**, the park also supports downtown revitalization and enhances the experience for visitors to the **NC Transportation Museum** and nearby attractions.

The $2.2 million project was funded through a mix of state grants, local investment, and private donations—including a generous gift from **Fred and Alice Stanback** and a successful **$333,000 fundraising campaign** launched at the 2023 groundbreaking.

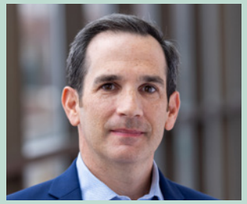
A formal dedication ceremony and donor recognition will take place this October.

Learn more about our ongoing capital campaign on our website: spencernc.gov/makeyourmark/, or use the QR code below.

MANAGER'S NOTES

by Peter Franzese

LET'S CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION



We've had an exciting summer in Spencer! Our new Town Park soft opening celebration featured live music by Motel Soap, and was a fun addition to the annual fireworks event organized by our friends at NC Transportation Museum. Live music was possible from the support of several community sponsors, including:

- Spencer Partnership – Winterfest Committee
- Rob and Beth Nance
- Dr. Washko Family Dentistry
- Spencer Woman's Club
- Spencer Masonic Lodge
- Central United Methodist Church
- Spencer Presbyterian Church

We are working through finishing touches and punch list items, and still have a goal to raise an additional $50,000 to further enhance the Town Park beyond our initial $2.2 million project. Find out more at **spencernc.gov/makeyourmark**.

As we look toward the fall, I want to share a few upcoming opportunities for new and renewed traditions in our community. The first is right around the corner on Saturday, August 30. The Spencer Partnership – Holiday Caravan committee is bringing back the Saturday Night Street Dance event on Labor Day weekend! Organizers have lined up another great local band, Divided by Four, from 6-9 PM so mark your calendars and bring your dancing shoes!

On Tuesday, October 7, our National Night Out celebration of police and community partnerships is back for the fifth year, and for the first time in our new Town Park. We'll also have a formal dedication ceremony for the new Park as part of this event, which starts at 5:30 PM

Later in October, our Race to the River 5K run, pedal, and paddle is back for the fourth year on Saturday, October 18. As part of Rowan Creek Week there will be morning and afternoon activities associated with this event.

We had a successful spring launch for our Talk of the Town and Neighborhood Walk series. This will continue this fall with walks on August 19 (6 PM) and October 20 (5:30 PM), and Talk of the Town Meetings on September 16 and November 18 at 6 PM

Our team is excited to continue partnering with you for these and other opportunities. Please look for more details on **spencernc.gov** about all of these events in the coming months!

LETTER FORM THE MAYOR

by Jonathan Williams

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

Serving as a local elected official is a highly rewarding opportunity to give back to your community, however it does not usually come with many moments of appreciation. I wanted to take this opportunity to say Thank You to the six members of our Board of Aldermen who have served together over the past two years. In particular, thank you to Andrew Howe who has chosen not to seek re-election to allow more time to focus on his family's needs. I certainly understand the sacrifices a family must make when their home is shared with a local elected official, and understand his decision. Andrew's voice and perspective on our Board will be missed, but we know he will still remain engaged in our community as a resident, volunteer, and business owner.

I also thank our three members who are midway through their four-year term: Mayor Pro-Tem Patti Secreast, Alderwoman Pat Sledge, and Alderman Steve Miller. Our two remaining incumbent board members are running to serve a new four-year term in the upcoming municipal election: Erin Moody and Rashid Muhammad. I greatly value the teamwork each of you have put into your service over the past two or more years and look forward to what's ahead. There are a total of three seats open on the November 4 ballot, and Pamela Stanley has filed for election to serve as a new Board Member. Pamela, thank you for stepping up to serve our community as an elected official, and we look forward to working with you!

Remember, election day is coming November 4, and we hope you will participate in this important community process. Learn more at **rowancountync.gov/Elections**.

MILES FOR MUSEUMS JOINS 2025 SUMMER PASSPORT PROGRAM

Explore local museums and uncover our community and its history. A summer of fun and learning! The NC Museum of Dolls, Toys & Miniatures is proud to participate in the 2025 Miles for Museums Summer Passport Program.

You can get your free passport and collect stamps from local museums for a chance to win a raffle prize. Get your passport and see all participating museums at: **ncmdtm.org/event/miles-for-museums-summer-2025/**

SPENCER FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES PROMOTION OF DEPUTY AND ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEFS

DAVID KEYSER, DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

Deputy Chief David Keyser brings a wealth of operational experience and a strong commitment to training, education, and leadership development. Keyser began his fire service career in 2010 as a volunteer with Leland Fire/Rescue. He later joined the Salisbury Fire Department, where he rose to the rank of Captain, serving with distinction until December 2024.

In addition to his operational experience, Deputy Chief Keyser holds a bachelor's degree from Fayetteville State University and has completed graduate-level coursework in Training and Development at North Carolina State University. He maintains a wide range of professional certifications, including Firefighter II, Fire Instructor II, Fire Officer II, Technical Rescuer, Swift Water Rescue, Hazardous Materials Technician II, and the full Driver Operator Series, among others.

Keyser is also a published contributor in Firehouse and Fire Engineering magazines, with notable works focused on communication and leadership in the fire service. His promotion reflects his long-standing dedication to operational excellence, firefighter development, and organizational advancement.

TJ DELUCA, ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF

Assistant Chief TJ DeLuca brings over 35 years of experience to his new role, along with a proven track record of leadership in both volunteer and career fire departments, ranging from small-town operations to large urban agencies.

In recent years, DeLuca has served as a Fire Service Risk Management Consultant, working with fire departments and municipalities across the region to improve operational safety, reduce organizational liability, and promote effective leadership practices. His work focuses on advancing firefighter health and safety, building strong departmental cultures, and supporting accountability at all levels.

Assistant Chief DeLuca holds advanced certifications including Rescue Technician and Hazardous Materials Technician with expertise in chemical, biological, nuclear, and explosive response. He is also certified in North Carolina as a Fire Officer II, Fire Instructor, and Health & Safety Officer.TJ is an authorized Instructor by OSHA to teach General Industry & Construction classes as well as Homeland Security, to teach Initial Response to Terrorist Bombings.

Known for his relatable and engaging teaching style, TJ regularly instructs on emergency operations, tactical decision-making, and risk management. His influence on firefighter education and leadership development continues to leave a lasting impact on the profession.

FREE BICYCLE HELMETS

Riding a bicycle is wonderful exercise and a great way to get out and about our community. Biking can serve as a beneficial alternative transportation option, especially for our children. Biking in and around Spencer's neighborhoods is safe due to low traffic volumes and car speeds. Spencer along with neighboring Salisbury are adding designated bike lanes on major roads to help expand biking opportunities for all.

While biking is relatively safe, one aspect adds unnecessary risk and that's riding without wearing a helmet. Statistically, wearing a bike helmet when riding reduces the risk of head and brain injury. Helmets also clearly mitigate head injuries in real-world hospital data. A large-scale analysis published in the American Journal of Surgery looked at 6,267 cyclists in the U.S. trauma registry and found only **25% were wearing helmets** at the time of injury. The outcomes for that minority of helmeted riders were significantly better: they had **51% lower odds of severe traumatic brain injury,** and **44% lower odds of death** compared to non-helmeted riders. They also had 31% lower odds of facial fractures.

It is estimated, however, that only 15% of riders under the age of 15 wear a helmet when they ride. There are lots of reasons. Peer pressure, inconvenience, or they just don't have one. Like most things that are good for them but maybe aren't their favorite activity (brush your teeth, do your homework, look both ways before crossing the street), it is up to us parents to teach good habits and in this case, make wearing a helmet mandatory for riding a bike

It's up to loving parents to ensure their children are safe but Spencer wants to help. Spencer has a limited supply of free bicycle helmets for children. Bring your child to Town Hall at 460 S Salisbury Ave. (behind the new downtown park) and get them a new helmet as long as supplies last.

Help your child learn the freedom and excitement of riding a bike and that wearing a bike helmet is cool!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18TH

Rowan County Public Health will host a medication take-back event at the race registration area of the Race to the River 5K and Fun Run.