

Village Voice of Spencer Turns 11

Village Voice of Spencer Origins

By Judy Hanson

After retiring I found I had a lot of extra time on my hands. In 2012, I started to look at ways to use the Publisher skills I had acquired on my job. Creating catalogs and flyers was something I enjoyed. I looked at what was needed in the Spencer community, and I heard from friends and neighbors that they would like to have more local news and events. I started to create a newsletter rather than a newspaper. The idea was to get upcoming events to readers in a timely manner. I presented the idea to the Spencer Chamber as I was looking for local businesses to help with the cost of printing. Thankfully, the idea of a monthly newsletter was well received.

The first year I did a bulk mailing to all the residents in Spencer. By placing the printed version into the readers' hands, it helped cement the value of the newsletter. This would never have happened without the generosity of the chamber members. As you can imagine, this was a labor of love rather than a large profit business. Eventually the majority of readership became electronic and sent out to an email list. We continued to have printed copies available but at a much-reduced rate from the thousands of copies initially printed. I was able to reduce the cost of ads to my wonderful and loyal clients and everyone was happy.

For 5 ½ years, I continued to be the editor and creator of the Village Voice of Spencer. When I decided to move to New Mexico for continued art education, I was happy to turn the newsletter over to Steve Pilz. I am thrilled that it continues today.



From the Editor

As my title indicates, this newsletter just had its eleventh birthday. In two more years it could be a bratty teenager; (groan) let's hope not.

It was sometime in September of 2017 that Harley Meyer approached me about taking over Judy's newsletter. I had retired from teaching thirteen years earlier and, like Judy, had a lot of extra time on my hands. Harley said it was mostly editing a newsletter. "You can do it", he said. He said that a lot that night.

I mulled it over some. I'd edited writing most of my life. I read enough 7th and 8th grader essays to ensure my place in heaven. I gave Judy a call. Suddenly I was back in school again.

If Judy was the creator, brains and the artistic side of the Village Voice then perhaps I could be its historian. As we got to know one another in my kitchen she mentioned getting ready to sell her house. I inquired as to where that was. Second house up from Wisconsin Str., on La Salle, across from the ARC Park. That was Lorraine Cooks when I was a kid. ARC Park was a junk yard. A mention of Nutz; used to be Picus IGA, and so on and so on. Judy seemed impressed. It was just home to me. After being away for 25 years or so with college and career I still knew the folks and the places but not many knew me.

Judy signed off in August of 2017 with no replacement in sight so there was no Village Voice that September. But when Judy mentioned she'd done it for 5 1/2 years I made a mental note and shot for the same. Last month marked 67 newsletters or about 5 1/2 years.

I've tried to stay true to Judy's vision, making a change or two only; one being the color change over to Rocket-red in May of 2018. When in Rome, I figure.

I was proud to read that Judy was thrilled that the newsletter continues today. Thanks Judy! You made it happen.



A "Discovery Walk" to be held at the West Cemetery (Hwy 98) on Memorial Day, May 29, 2023 with the Spencer Area Historical Society.

Beginning promptly at 1pm with recognition given to each of the following at their gravesites: Arnold Bruesewitz, Donald & Silveria Drews, Mike Engel, Edwin Heath and William Reinheimer, Sr. will be recognized this year.

Graveyards have a long history. Who owned them, who was buried there and why they chose that site to be buried. Every cemetery is ultimately a "storybook" and each grave the story of life.

Come Listen and Learn about your area history!

In case of rain this tribute will be moved to the Spencer Kids' Group Hall, (Clark Street) next to the Historical Museum downtown Spencer.





Village of Spencer Safe Room

In the event of a Tornado Warning issued for the Village of Spencer and the surrounding areas, The Village of Spencer Safe Room is available for anyone needing shelter.



**The Safe Shelter is located at: 300 N. School Str.
Spencer WI – – Door #12.**

Village of Spencer residents are encouraged to purchase a NOAA All Hazard Radio, install a weather alert smartphone app, and/or sign-up for Marathon, Clark or Wood County Code Red Emergency Notification system. When a tornado warning is issued, Door #12 and the interior door to the fitness center will be unlocked. Any individual needing shelter and feel they can safely make it to the facility are welcome to utilize it. The Spencer Fire department will be onsite to serve as the room supervisor and will be able to issue first aid or any other support deemed necessary.

The safe room was designed for a two-hour maximum occupancy duration during a severe weather event; it is not intended and was not designed for long-term sheltering. The onsite supervisor will determine when conditions are good and an all clear will be communicated.

If there are any questions in regards to the Village of Spencer Safe Room, they can be directed to Michael Endreas, School District of Spencer 715-659-5347.

What's Rockin' in Rocketville

By Mike Endreas

District Admin/School District of Spencer

As they say in horse racing, we are coming down the back stretch. With the month of May upon us it certainly means we are close to the finish line. Like most good races the need to finish strong with a great deal of energy is exactly what we hope to have with our students and teachers.

As always, the last month of school is full of opportunities for our students. Here is a list of dates and times for activities for the month. Please take time to support our kids and programs.

May 5 - 6 Spring Play- How to Survive the Zombie Apocalypse by Ben Muir 7:00 p.m. LTCA – – May 7 FFA Banquet – – May 14 Senior Awards Night 7:00 p.m. LTCA – – May 15 High School Awards Concert 7:00 p.m. LTCA – – May 18 Elementary Spring Concert 1:30 p.m. LTCA – – May 20 Graduation Ceremony 12:00 p.m. Spencer Dome Fieldhouse – – May 25 Middle School Spring Concert 7:30 p.m. LTCA – – May 29 No School Memorial Day – – June 2 Last Day for Students

Also, just a reminder the month of May comes with a great deal of student field trips and travel. Please be on the lookout for school buses to be on the road at out of the ordinary times.



Thank you for all of you help and support for our kids. Have a great month of May. Hopefully we are done with the snow and can enjoy some nice weather.



Spencer Community Fitness Center

The Fitness Center membership is available to adult residents of the School District of Spencer, Spencer alumni, current School District of Spencer staff and a member's spouse or significant other (non-students, 18 years and older). Parents of full time open enrollment students to the School District of Spencer are also eligible. Students of the School District age 15 and older may participate under the direct supervision of a parent or legal guardian.

Applicants must fill out appropriate paperwork, meet our background check requirements (non-sex offender), and show proof of viewing the training/safety video.

At time of approval a key fob access to the Fitness Center will be distributed at a cost of \$10. Hours of Operation: 5:00 a.m. - 10:30 p.m. Daily (Times may vary depending on needs of the school district).

Please go to the School District of Spencer webpage at www.spencer.k12.wi.us or stop in at our High School Office at 300 N. School Street Door #22 for more information.



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Outdoor Pickleball Courts an Inspiration to Realization

In Mid-August of 2022 several members of the Area Recreational Club (ARC) kicked around the idea of outdoor pickleball courts in Spencer. Meetings were held with the Spencer Park Committee and the Village Board Members; the best location for the Village was decided upon. The ARC officers each took on various roles drawing plans, researching designs, seeking bids, developing budgets for different phases, writing grants, contacting local businesses for support and setting up public fund raising. By mid-November of 2022 a ground breaking was held at the Village ARC Park and the foundation for the complex was installed. This support and progress was almost hard to believe!

Now we are in mid-April and we are 90 percent funded for Phase 1 having raised \$53,000 of our budget of 59,400. We have just been awarded a \$15,000 grant from the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin which put our grant funding revenue at 42 percent for the project. The service-in-kind revenue at 26 percent, public donations at 20 percent, memorial funds at 8 percent and area businesses at 4 percent. We have another 10 percent to raise to complete Phase 1, which is \$6,400.

Helping support the project this month was Choice Recycling with a material donation of the rebar needed for the 14 equipment foundations and the rebar for a 6' x 33' concrete entry slab/walk. This concrete slab will also house 3' x 20' structure, 8' being a locked storage area and 12' open dugout concept with bench seating.

We have a signed contract with American Asphalt for the black topping for \$38,750. Our current hands-on-revenue is \$34,452. As soon as Mother Nature brings us a little taste of summer, American Asphalt will be do the final shaping, We will then do the equipment foundation installation

This past month pickleball players put down their paddle and picked up hammers, tape measures and speed squares as we assembled and constructed our in-ground sleeves, built rebar cages for sonotube /concrete equipment foundation and framed the forms for setting the sonotubes.

Your help is still needed to meet the final goal of Phase I and to start funding Phase 2. All donations are tax deductible and can be made payable to the Village of Spencer, memo-pickleball courts. Mail to 105 S Park St, Spencer, WI 54479. For more information contact Paul Hensch, Village Clerk at clerk@vil.spencer.wi.us or 715-659-5453. ARC officers: Terry Prust 715-721-0758, Sheveney Verhulst 715-615-4941. Thanks to everyone who has supported or donated in any way.

By Terry Prust



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Young Ladies of Spencer....

Here's your chance to represent the community of Spencer, as Spencerama Royalty, reigning in 2023-2024.

As Spencerama Royalty, activities revolve around community functions during the reigning year, including opportunities to represent Spencer in local parades.

Scholarship available!

Scan the QR code below to learn more!

Entry forms due August 4, 2023

Miss Spencerama judging event: August 15th, 2023

Coronation event to take place during Music in the Park on August 16th, 2023.

Miss Spencerama:

2022-2023 8th grade – Juniors eligible

Junior Miss Spencerama:

2022-2023 4th – 7th grade eligible

Lil' Miss Spencerama:

2022-2023 4K – 3rd grade eligible

Reigning year is August 16, 2023 – August 2024.

2023 Spencerama Royalty Entry Form



Scan the QR code with your phone camera to complete the entry form.



Please email any questions to: Spencerama.royalty@gmail.com

Spencer Library news....

Logging and Sawmills in Western Marathon County will be presented by Gary Gisselman on Tuesday, May 9th from 10-11am. Gary will discuss the history of logging in the western part of Marathon County and the sawmills that were such an important part of the local economy.

Cribbage at the Library will be held on Tuesday, May 9th from 1:30-2:30pm. Join in the fun of playing cribbage with friends. This is a great way to meet new cribbage players and if you want to learn or are a pro, we welcome everyone. Cards and boards are provided.

Monday, May 15th at 5:45pm until 7 pm the Spencer Book Club aka "As the Page Turns", will meet to discuss "The Heirloom Garden" by Viola Shipman. Stop in at the library to get your copy of the book. This will be the last book club meeting until September.

Watch for upcoming news on the Summer Reading Program at the library this summer.

All Marathon libraries will be closed all Saturday-Monday, May 27th-29th in observance of Memorial Day.

Spencer Library Hours:

Monday and Wednesday from 1-7pm.

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10-4pm.

Saturday from 10-2pm.

On April 11th Spencer librarian Audrey Kohlbeck hosted a program called "What's Happening in Spencer" featuring Chief of Police Shawn Bauer and Village Administrator Paul Hensch. 23 citizens attended.

Chief Bauer began by stating his staff now included four full-time officers and two that worked part time. The department responded to 2,625 calls in the past year. There were 912 traffic stops, 158 medical emergency calls, 94 follow-up investigations, 78 criminal calls, 72 (911) Hang-up calls and 60 animal complaints.

Starting in the fall of 2023 there will be a part time officer at the Spencer Schools. The officer will work with students and staff with programs such as "Stranger-Danger".

Administrator Hensch fielded numerous questions about the streets in the village. He said eight tons of cold patch had been used this year and commented on future projects for Willow Drive and Park Str.

He spoke about new businesses, new homes and an apartment complex in the new sub-division, the conditions of the old city wells and the drilling of a new one, the new pickleball courts, etc. Hensch also stated that Jason Foth retired as Fire Chief, to be replaced by Troy Shull. Thanks Audrey, etc.

The Village of Spencer is currently seeking a reliable individual to join our team as our seasonal lawn mower. In this role, you will be responsible for maintaining the parks, public spaces, and other municipal areas by mowing, trimming, and edging lawns 30 to 40 hours per week. Requirements: – – Must have prior experience with lawn mowing equipment – – Physical fitness and ability to work in various weather conditions – – Valid driver's license and clean driving record – – Ability to work independently or in a team environment

Responsibilities: – – Operate lawn mowing equipment such as a ride-on or push mower, weed whacker, and other related equipment – – Maintain and clean equipment and tools after use – – Report any issues or needed repairs to management promptly – – Adhere to safety regulations and protocols

Applications are available at the Village Office, 105 South Park Street, Spencer, by e-mail at clerk@vil.spencer.wi.us, or on the Village of Spencer website www.spencerwi.org. Position is open until filled.



St. John's Lutheran Church 210167 State Hwy 13, Spencer, will have a rummage sale on May 4th and 5th from 7am-6:30pm. Proceeds will help fund the H.S Mission trip to Hamilton, Ohio this summer.

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at the **TACK** One thing that's as sure as the opening of fishing season is the loyalty and support of LTCA volunteers! This organization began as a 100% volunteer-run nonprofit and, with the exception of one paid staff person, it remains a volunteer-run nonprofit to this day! Let's take a moment to offer recognition and gratitude to those whose energy and positive spirit take care of business at the Tack.

The Tack Center usher corps are the folks most people interact with when they come to a show. Their smiling faces help get you to your seat, find the restroom and hand you a program. Kudos to Jan Ammons, Vlasta Blaha, Emily Bissonette, Mary Buss, Ron Draeger, Matt Eckelberg, Inez Fosberg, Rosie Frank, Kris Franklin, Patti Hahn, Gail & Allen Jicinsky, Margaret (Mugs) Johnson, Michelle Johnson, Peggy Kantz, Debbe Kassie, Louise Kobylinski, Mary Kay Mabeus, Joan Meyer, Anita Ruger, Amanda Seefeldt, Lisa Susa, Patti Wilkom, Diane Witmer and Mary Zahn for their kind assistance. A round of applause, as well, for captain, Lisa Susa, House Manager, Barb Wesle, and Assistant House Manager, Amanda Seefeldt.

The visual arts in the Tack's gallery are managed by a small but mighty group of artistic women. Raise the flag for Gallery Co-Chairs, Theresa Schauer and Carmen Schweiger, along with colleagues Joan Herder, Sandy Rindfleisch and Stephanie Schauer. Without their efforts, the gallery would be a dismal shade of gray.

Though the number of online ticket sales is on the rise, there are still many who prefer to interact with a warm body when purchasing tickets to an event. The pleasant ticket office staff is always ready to help walk-ins, answer the phone, take messages and solve a problem or two. Cheers to Ashley Draeger, Marcia Draeger, Deb Hein, Mary Johnson and Anne Teska for all they do to make the process as smooth and amiable as possible.

What's behind the curtain, you might ask! Aha! It's the Performer Hospitality Committee that makes Tack entertainers feel at home by keeping them fed and happy. Thank you to Mary Buss, Mugs Johnson, Barb & Bob Wesle, Diane Witmer, Mary Zahn and Vicki & Eric Zenner! "Way to go" to the Stage/Tech Crew who set-up/run/tear-down the sound and lights, load-in/out and maintain the stage: Tim Buss, Ron Currie, Ron Draeger, Nicole Hoff, Kristin Lohrentz, Darin Thompson, Randy Veale, Aaron Zenner and Eric Zenner. The Tack would be dark indeed without your shining lights!

The LTCA's Arts Adventure Series presents school-day performances to students from all over our area. While the series hasn't quite rebounded to its pre-pandemic level of busy-ness, the volunteers have returned to the saddle, efficiently scheduling and then moving hundreds of children from bus to theatre seat and back to bus. Bravo to Ron Currie, Ron Draeger, Inez Fosberg, Joan Herder, Jodi Scidmore, Barb Wesle and Diane Witmer.

A long-time supporting role in the Tack organization goes to the Spencer Woman's Club and their President, Patti Hahn. For decades, their delicious baked goods have been devoured by hundreds of audience members and the proceeds of the free-will donation basket have helped fund numerous projects in our community! In addition, Mary Zahn and other green-thumbed members of the group continue to lavish LuCille's flower beds with care and creativity – that hot pink azalea is probably ready to bloom any day now!

And finally, a standing O to the 2022/23 LTCA Board of Directors: Joe Burnett (president), Theresa Schauer (vice-president), Anne Teska (secretary), Matt Eckelberg (treasurer), Sarah Graves (Tack family rep), Kristin Lohrentz, Shawn Lyon (school board rep), Carmen Schweiger, Amanda Seefeldt and Randy Veale. The last of the Tack's original board members, Randy is retiring from active duty at the end of the month. The show would not go on, without this dedicated and diligent bunch!

If you happen to be interested in joining these priceless volunteers, please call the ticket office (715.659.4499) and leave your name and phone number. We'll find the perfect place for you and your talents. There's always room, and a need, for more volunteer help!

Here's wishing everyone above, and anyone we may have inadvertently missed, a refreshing summer with recharged energy for the Tack's upcoming season, details of which will be coming soon! Until next time, be well, be happy and keep the creative force of the Arts in your life.

Spencer Historical Society
117 E. Clark Street
Spencer Olde Hall



The Spencer Area Historical Society Museum will be open Saturday, May 6th from 8:30-11am. Monday, May 10th and Wednesday, May 8th from 6:30 to 8pm. And Wednesday, May 24th from 6:30-8pm. Also by appointment. Call 659-5182 or 659-5577.



Veteran's Memorial Park Brick Reveal

On Saturday, July 29th at 1 pm, there will be a Brick reveal. In order to get your Brick in for this reveal, you will need to submit your order by May 23rd. There are now 2 ways to support the Memorial Park and honor a family member or loved one. **Bell Tower Path for All**

After the installation of the Bell Tower to honor our Veterans, we are building a path to that tower. 12" by 12" bricks can be purchased and engraved for a contribution of \$350. You can add 7 separate lines with 17 spaces each to honor a family member or loved one - Veteran or not



Veterans Memorial Brick to Honor Veterans



You can still purchase an engraved sidewalk brick for the memorial to honor a Veteran. A contribution of \$100 will allow you to add 3 separate lines with 14 spaces each.

You can direct any questions to the Village Office at 715-659-5423 or Jerry Wienke at jwienke4586@charter.net.



KEEP THE DATES: SPENCERAMA DAYS, June 9, 10, 11
Food, fun, music, and more!
Watch for more details,
Spencerwi.org and FaceBook
pages - Village of Spencer and
Spencerama Days

Spencer Churches



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Faith Journey
108 Burnett Str.
Pastor Kerry Wilson
715-659-5551
9:30am Sunday Worship
Club 3:16 Wed. 3:30-5:30pm
sumcs@faith-journey.church

CATHOLIC

Christ the King
Father Barry Saylor
306 S. LaSalle Str.
715-659-4480
4pm Saturday Evening Mass
8 and 10 pm Sunday Mass
www.ctkspencer.net

LUTHERAN

St. John's Church (LCMC)
sjlcoffice13@gmail.com
210167 State Hwy. 13
715-659-5158
Handicap Accessible
9am Sunday Worship
11am St. John's - Riplinger

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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7pm Wed. bible Study



Trinity Lutheran (LCMS)

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Village Voice of Spencer

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MAY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
For all Church times, see page 7	1 Village Board Meeting 6:30pm Village Hall	2 Legion 7pm Village Hall	3	.Spencer Woman's Club mtg. 6:30pm. 4	5 	6
7	8	9	10	11 .Lions 6:30pm Nutz. 4H 7pm Village Hall.	12	13
14  15		16	17 School Board Meeting 6:30 pm @ Distance Learning Center.	18.	19 .	20
21	22	23 St. Johns COME meal 5-6pm.Dine in or Carry Out..	24	25 .	26	27
28	29 	30	31	Due to the volatility of our Spring weather I will not put Spring sports on the calendar. For up-dated information on school events see the web site at www.spencer.k12.wi.us		

