

# Village Voice

## of Spencer, WI

### GEORGE SCHWANTES FAMILY TO CELEBRATE IT'S 44TH ANNUAL REUNION ON JUNE 28TH

By DAVID SCHWANTES

The George Schwantes family will hold their 44th family reunion on June 28th at the Spencer Village Park. The first reunion was held in 1979 and they have met each year since except for two years during covid. The reunion usually turns into a three-day celebration, with those coming from out-of-state arriving on Friday. Most of them stay at the Woodfield Inn in Marshfield, mainly because the kids enjoy the pool. Friday night they all go out for fish dinner. The big day is Saturday when we all meet at the Spencer Village Park for the entire day. On Sunday many of the group go to breakfast together before heading back home.



George + Louise Schwantes  
50<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary photo

**BACKGROUND HISTORY** — In 1878 Herman Schwantes and his wife Ernestine, homesteaded 40 acres of land northeast of Spencer, Wisconsin. He later added 40 more acres and raised a family of nine children. Herman donated one acre of his land for a country school, which was named Brighton School. When Herman and his wife retired, his youngest son George purchased the farm. George and his wife, Louise, farmed the land until 1942. They had eight sons and two daughters. All of the children attended Brighton School and the youngest five graduated from Spencer High School. When George retired from farming, his oldest son Donald and his wife, Lila, purchased the farm. They raised a family of six children, all attended Brighton School, and all graduated from Spencer High School. Donald remained on the farm until his death. The farm was in the Schwantes family for 125 years.



Donald Schwantes Family

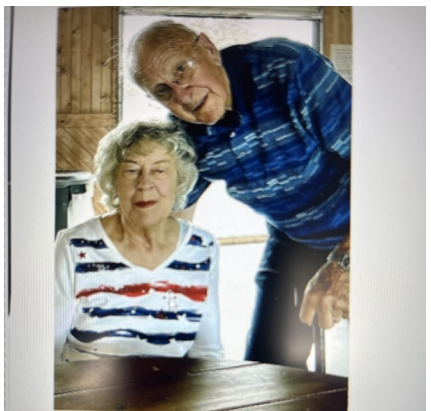
Only two of George and Louise's children remained in the Spencer area. Don lived on the home farm, and their fourth son Leonard purchased the farm across the road. He and his wife Margaret raised seven children. They also all attended Brighton School and Spencer High School. After their retirement, son John and his wife Emily moved back to Spencer. Four of their sons settled in Alaska, one daughter moved to Illinois, and three others settled in other parts of Wisconsin. George and Louise were married for 67 years. Only two of the ten children are still living. The youngest daughter, Carolyn, is 94 and lives in Colorado, and the youngest son, Bill, is 90 and lives in Port Edwards, Wisconsin.



Leonard Schwantes Family

**BACK TO THE REUNION** — Everyone enjoyed that first reunion so much that they decided to hold one every year. They also felt it was important to hold the reunion in Spencer, the original homestead town. Now, 44 years later it is still going strong. We average about 90-100 in attendance each year. However, in 2009 we had the largest one with 174 relatives. It is still pretty much a pot-luck event, however, about ten years ago we added grilled brats and hamburgers. We have celebrated many "special" birthdays and anniversaries and have held a number of memorial services. The day is spent doing many things — visiting, playing cards, taking pictures, face-painting, playing softball or kickball, and of course eating. People travel from many states to attend — Alaska, Washington, Minnesota, Iowa, Texas, Virginia, Colorado, and many places in Wisconsin.

There is only one direct descendent of George and Louise Schwantes still living in the Spencer area. Donald's youngest daughter, Vickie Seefeldt, and her family live on a farm not too far from the original Schwantes homestead. However, many of us still hold Spencer deeply in our hearts and enjoy coming back whenever we can.



Carolyn Melin age 94  
Bill Schwantes age 90  
Last 2 living children of  
George + Louise Schwantes





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The museum at 117 E. Clark Street will be open to the public on Monday, July 14 and Wednesday, July 23 from 6:30-8pm or by appointment by calling 715-659-5577 or 715-659-5182..



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**From the Editor** I have never met David Schwantes, the author and provider of his family photos from page 1 but I hope to rectify that this coming Thursday when he will be back in town for the Schwantes Family Reunion. David and I have struck up a friendship over the phone and he has provided info. for this newsletter before. He almost seems like part of the family for when he first called, my wife, ( she's gonna kill me for this) noticing the 907 prefix of the phone call, (Anchorage, AK) answered with "Hi sis", assuming it was her sister Vivian. That must 've not scared David away as we eventually got to talk. I didn't bat an eyelash when he asked if he could put something in this newsletter. I love it. Spencer, and in this case, Alaska has been very helpful in helping me showcase public and private events around here and I am most grateful to those that provide stories and the advertisers that keep the ball rolling. Judy Hanson, my predecessor and founder of this newsletter started it in May of 2012 for 5 1/2 years. We will celebrate the start of year 14 in May of 2026 so that's pretty cool. Well, so much for making a short story long. My point is, please use this as an opportunity to tell your story as well if need be. I guess David and I have a lot in common. We both lived and taught school in Alaska for a long time and we're both from Spencer where the Schwantes' live next to the Oelrich's (my mother) and the Luepke's (my grandma) and the Neuman's (an Aunt) or the Seefeldt's (another Aunt) and all those other, "hey that's a Spencer name" names. I guess we're all a little connected in some way somewhere along the line and that's ok. Thanks for listening!.....steve

## POTATO PANCAKE BREAKFAST

**Sunday, July 13, 8am to 11:30am**



Potato and Regular Pancakes,  
Sausage, Applesauce, & Beverages  
A freewill offering will be accepted to support numerous building projects.

**St. John's Church**

**210167 State Hwy 13, Spencer**

[www.stjohnsspencer.com](http://www.stjohnsspencer.com)—715-659-5158

St. John's Lutheran Church  
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5 to 6 PM

## Spencer Library news....

### July Events:

**Teen Silent Book Club:** Teens are invited to join us at our Silent Book Club every Thursday from June 12 to August 28! Drop in anytime between 12:00-2:00pm. BYO Book, e-reader, or audiobook and enjoy a quiet and relaxed atmosphere. You're welcome to discuss your book with others or just read quietly **in the same space as other teens**.

**Family Game Night:** On July 7th from 3:00-6:00pm. A variety of games will be provided to choose from, or you can bring your favorites from home and teach others!

**Raptor Education Group, Inc.: Night Moves:** Join us at Lions Park on July 8th from 1:30-2:30pm. Owls are regal raptors of the night sky! On silent wings, they stalk their prey. Children and their caregivers are invited to discover features unique to these mighty birds we so seldom see!

**Cribbage at the Library:** On July 8th from 1:30-3:00pm. The library will provide the cards and boards but feel free to bring your own.

**Fiber Artists Meetup:** On July 11th from 1:00-3:00pm. Bring your current project—whether you knit, crochet, embroider, or do other fiber arts, all are welcome! Swap ideas, learn new skills, or simply enjoy some social time.

**Paper Snail Craft:** Drop in anytime the week of July 14th-19th during open hours. Children are invited to the library to celebrate our Summer Library Program theme, **Color Our World, and craft an adorable paper snail!**

**Family Story Time:** On July 15th from 10:30-11:00am children age 6 and younger, and their parents and caregivers, are invited to join us for family story time! We will share books with the group, sing a song or two and more during our time together.

**Ink-Dyed Coasters:** On July 22nd from 10:30-11:30am. Participants ages 6 and above will coat blank tiles with rubbing alcohol and drop colored alcohol ink onto the coasters, creating unique and beautiful designs.

**Minecraft® Unplugged Party:** On July 29th from 12:00-3:00pm. Create pixelated crafts, participate in fun activities, and snap a pic in our epic themed photo booth! Whether you're a Minecraft® expert or just love to be creative, this event is perfect for crafters and gamers alike.

**Minecraft® Back to Reality:** A Minecraft® Escape Room: Multiple times available to register for on July 30th and 31st. Oh no! You've found yourself trapped inside the Minecraft® world, and the only way back to reality is to solve puzzles, crack codes, and escape before time runs out! Registration is required for this event to guarantee a spot by calling 715-659-3996 or stopping by MCPL-Spencer. Groups of 1-4 people may register.

**Closings:** The Spencer library will be closed on July 4th.

**Spencer Library Hours:** Monday and Wednesday from 1-7pm. Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10-4pm. Saturday from

**Ashley Heiden Spencer Branch Coordinator** Marathon County Public Library - Spencer Branch | 105 S. Park St., WI 54479  
[Ashley.Heiden@marathoncounty.gov](mailto:Ashley.Heiden@marathoncounty.gov) | 715-659-3996 (direct) / 715-659-3996 (general)  
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GARBAGE/RECYCLE PICKUP DATE  
CHANGE – Garbage and Recycling will be picked up on **JULY 4 not JULY 5**. Please change your calendars.



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# at the TACK

Strike up the band! A very happy Independence Day to you all. I feel blessed and free knowing that this very article is evidence of my freedom of speech, freedom of press and freedom of religion (may God bless America). To celebrate freedom with you, the LTCA is offering a FREE concert in the village park; 1st Brigade Band will be back in town. This civil war band is a unique treat for our community. They are a full concert band using civil war era instruments, civil war attire, civil war tunes, dancers, singers and more!

Just bring a chair to the Spencer band-shell 105 Park



St, Spencer. The concert will begin at 1pm Sunday, July 27. Bring a chair or a blanket, bring a neighbor or a stranger, bring a bit of cash for donations or concessions as well. Thank you to the Village of Spencer for hosting and helping facilitate this event. Thank you to the LTCA board of directors for funding the event along with our wonderful sponsors: Steve & Carol Hemersbach, Donna M. Rozar, Spencer American Legion Post 298, Bonnie & Claude Strutz, Duane & Anne Teska, and Darin Thompson.

Tickets, tickets, get your tickets! The LTCA tickets go on sale July 7 at 8am! You will want to act fast for these shows. We will be available for over the phone purchases as well as online and through the mail order forms. Consider becoming a season subscriber as well! It is great to try new things and you'll get a discount the more you try. As I often remind my children, 'you'll never know if you like it, until you try it.' You will get 5% off for picking 5 shows, 10% off for 8 shows, and 15% off for all 11 shows! That's a great deal for a great season.

This year we are hosting tributes from the 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s and the group Mason Dixon Line will do country hits from the 60s through the 90s! Tributes include the Everly Brothers, CCR, Glen Campbell, Huey Lewis & The News, Pat Benatar and lots of country. We'll also host finalists for America's Got Talent, Sons of Serendip. The group skyrocketed in fame with their gorgeous covers of pop songs in the classical style. Viral YouTube sensation and Sweden's Queen of Swing, Gunhild Carling, will perform at the Tack. Gunhild's energy and talent will absolutely astound you. She plays 11 instruments, sings, dances and sometimes plays multiple instruments at the same time! Mutts Gone Nuts is back with their furry acrobats, and hilarious family show. Triple Espresso will bring acting, comedy, music and magic all in one side-splitting show brought to us by Broadway and Beyond. The bluegrass crossover band The Barefoot Movement will bring powerhouse vocals, and incredible string/guitar work to the stage.

I want to say another thank you to the Community Foundation of North Central



Lucille Tack  
Center  
for the  
ARTS

## What's Rockin' in Rocketville

By Jason Gorst  
Superintendent/School District of Spencer

Congratulations to the following spring athletes on their accomplishments!

**Track**—State Qualifier: Breckin Miller—110 hurdles, Pole Vault (State Runner-up)

Sectional Qualifiers were: Caitlin Clark—100m dash. Teddy Myer—Triple Jump, 110 hurdles. Efrain Olguin-Cano—110m dash. Breckin Miller—Long jump, 110 hurdles, Pole Vault. Revyn Zschernitz—Shot put. 4x100 meter relay team—Jack Hooper, Ben Felgner, Efrain Olguin-Cano, Breckin Miller, Alternates—Teddy Meyer, Sam Helgestad.

Conference Medalists: 1st place. Breckin Miller—Pole Vault, 110 hurdles. Boys 4X100. Efrain Olguin-Cano, Breckin Miller, Ben Felgner, Jack Hooper. 3rd place: Miller—Long jump. Meyer—Triple jump. Olguin-Cano—100 meter dash, 200 meter dash.

**Baseball:** Reed Knecht 1st Team All-Conference Tyler Peterson 1st Team All-Conference Madden Prybylski 2nd Team All-Conference Jackson Manicke 2nd Team All-Conference Carter Luepke Honorable Mention All-Conference Weston Nieman Honorable Mention All-Conference

**Softball:** Hannah Schreiner 1st Team All-Conference Berklie Ireland Honorable Mention All-Conference Ema Schultz Honorable Mention All-Conference

Summer in Rocketville is a different kind of busy than during the school year. Our summer school is up and running through the month of June. Many of the offerings are enrichment-style classes that are quite engaging for students. We also offer fitness classes for our middle and high school athletes and credit recovery for any high school students who might be a bit behind. We had 161 students sign up for summer school.

The summer is filled with routine cleaning, scheduled maintenance, and a fair amount of upgrades. Derek Evenson has done a great job of leading the charge as our facilities manager. Each classroom, bathroom, and space will be deep cleaned. Door stoppers are being fixed, locker combinations re-set, and small fixes throughout the building are made.

We are renovating the middle/high school office. The entry-way will be modified to allow for a flow-through entry similar to the elementary office. This will allow for a safer entry into the building overall. The interior of the office area will also be updated and renovated. In mid July we will be modifying the vast majority of our hallway floors. We are going with an epoxy style floor which will reduce maintenance costs and times, provide a better aesthetic, and address some of the issues we are having with pitting from salt and peeling tiles. Along with flooring, we have plans to update the hallway painting. We are going to see how much we can get done this summer. The school board also approved plans to upgrade the sound system at the football/track area.

Plans are underway for us to make some modifications to our food service



See **ROCKIN'** on page 6



**TACK** from page 5 Wisconsin, Marshfield Area Community Foundation, the Hinrichsens for their funding of our gallery lighting and to All Current Electric for their work!

On a separate note, the LTCA and the Spencer Historical Society have been recently blessed with some photos and files from our benefactress herself LuCille Graves Tack. Among the treasures were a Spencer year-book from 1920, A trophy from a Spencer basketball team coached by LuCille in 1926, photos from all ages of LuCille and a speeding ticket from 1922 when young LuCille was caught racing through town in her Dad's Buick at a staggering 35mph.

An immense thank you to Land O'Lakes for their generous funding of our Arts Adventure Series this year. What a great show of support for our kids! This year the students will enjoy a huge, high quality production of Alice in Wonderland by the Barter Players, Fractured Fairy Tales by GreatWorks Theater, Mister C, Gunhild Carling and more.

Other season sponsors include the Ron Maurer Memorial Fund and Deborah & Dennis Janz. Thank you to all of our season sponsors so far. If you're still interested in supporting the season please consider doing so. It helps the whole community.

These are the individuals and businesses that ensure there is high quality entertainment in Spencer. A round of applause for: Mike & Pat Hammeke, Bill & Linda Bauer, Nasonville Dairy, Joe & Kathy Burnett, Progressive Travel, Burnett Transit, Nutz Deep II North, R&R Flooring, Ruby Thomas, John & Susan Nelson, Life Tributes Funeral Home & Cremation Service, Duane & Anne Teska, Ray & Connie Mullins, Partners Bank, Citizens State Bank of Loyal, Donna M. Rozar, Steve & Carol Hemersbach, Kathleen Rulka & Brian Ewert, Darin Thompson, Bonnie & Claude Strutz, Deborah & Dennis Janz, Ron & Robin Safford, Dr. Bruce & Catherine Wineman, Ron Maurer Memorial Fund, Forward Bank, Spectrum Benefit Solutions, The Breakfast Nook, Maurina-Schilling Funeral Home & Cremation Center, Sarah Graves & Patrick Kraus, Ronald & Marcia Draeger, John & Diane Beyerl, Spencer American Legion Post 298, Chili Implement - Brad & Sara Schecklman, Pet Supplies Plus, Land O'Lakes and the Wisconsin Arts Board. Thank you for our 29th year!...Daniel Worsham



**ROCKIN'** from page 5 department. A few years back, we had a surplus in Fund 50 money, which is the fund that all things food service is housed in. We had decided to offer free breakfast for all students. As those funds have been spent down, we will, unfortunately, have to return to charging for breakfast. That being said, we are excited to try some new things with our food service department. We are exploring how we can offer more non-process options for students in an effort to improve the overall nutritional quality and quantity of food served. In our parent and community survey, our stakeholders identified this as a priority. Jody Andrea will be taking over as our food service director. We are excited to see what the future holds.

Planning for the 2025-2026 school year is already underway. Our leadership team is working on a number of initiatives related to the strategic plan including but not limited to streamlined communication, improving intervention systems, offering differentiated options for students who desire a challenge, clear expectations about student behavior and the correlated responses, the use of artificial intelligence, and further learning about trauma informed care and the social and emotional needs of our students just to name a few. We will again start the school year with two "summer school" days on August 27th and 28th. By doing this, we are able to take care of many of the beginning-of-the-year logistics while capturing more state aid for our budget through summer school FTEs.

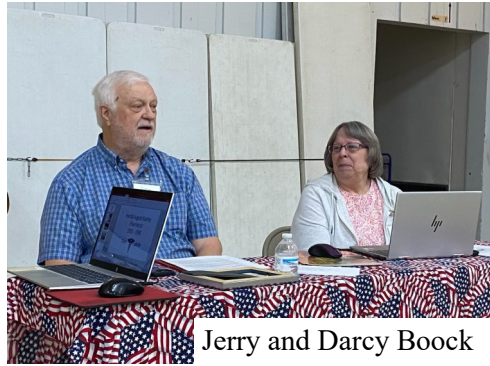
UWSP finished marking the school forest for the select harvest on April 26th, 2025. Mr. Ikert met with Nick Hovda to walk the forest and discuss next steps. The plan will be put out for bid in August with the potential for harvest in the next two winters. Thank you to Nick and Dr. Demchik, and his students for all of their help with this.





The Spencer Historical Society Discovery Walk was held May 31st at the Kids Group. Around 30 people attended. The speakers were excellent and told a brief history about each resident.

The names of the past residents were Art Boock and Frank Oelrich, presented by Jerry and Darcy Boock. Harold Keuthe was presented by Janean Morrow. Florence Misek and the history of the Spencer library presented by past librarian Judy Berger. Chauncey and Amanda Richardson presented by Ron Draeger.



Jerry and Darcy Boock

By Sue Toufar



Ron Draeger

## Good Neighbors

The Town of Spencer had our biggest nightmare come true a few weeks ago. We were in the middle of spreading our annual granite for our township when our grader broke down. We were told that it might be weeks before the grader was repaired. Our chairman's phone was ringing off the hook looking for their granite and dust control.

We looked at renting a different grader but they are hard to come by and to order a new grader might take six months or more. The Fabrick Cat rep jokingly said why don't you check with your neighbors to the north, the town of Brighton to see if they could help out, as they have the grader we were looking at.. We called Mark Krause, their chairman to see if they could help us out.

Mark said, of course, we are neighbors and they had just finished their road work.. Mark Krause made one stipulation, that we do not hire Charlie away from Brighton.



File photo

The Town of Brighton agreed to rent their grader and operator, Charlie Weiland, the best grader operator in Marathon County, at a very reasonable rate. Thanks to the town of Brighton our gravel is spread and roads are graded and dust control will go on next week and our Cat is coming home next week. Life is good in the town of Spencer thanks to our neighbors to the North.

Dennis Gonnering...Clerk, Town of Spencer



# summer RECREATION 2025



Our Theme this Year: Jump! Grow! Explore!

✓ Week 1 – JUMP!

(July 7–11): Energy, movement, and creativity!

✓ Week 2 – GROW!

(July 14–18): Nature, animals, and growing minds!

✓ Week 3 – EXPLORE!

(July 21–25): Discovery, imagination, and big ideas!



July

Jump! Grow! Explore!  
Summer Rec 2025

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Spencer Community Booster summer tourney schedules:

Nightly schedules at ARC Park

Monday-8U Baseball/Softball

Tuesday-10U Baseball and other leagues

Wednesday-12U Baseball and other leagues

Thursday-8U Baseball and Tee Ball

Tourney Schedules

Saturday July 19th– 10U Baseball

Sunday, July 20th– 8U Baseball

SPENCER COMMUNITY  
BOOSTERS



Tickets available at Spencer Kids Group, R&R Flooring and Furniture, Spencer Village Office, Partners Bank and Citizens State Bank of Loyal.

## Spencer Churches

**LUTHERAN**  
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Pastor Jeff Siegel  
[silcoffice13@gmail.com](mailto:silcoffice13@gmail.com)  
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715-659-5158  
Handicap Accessible  
9am and 6:30pm Sunday  
Worship.  
11am St. John's-Riplinger

Trinity Lutheran (LCMS)  
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Sunday Worship 10:30am

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3:45-5:30pm Wednesday for  
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9:30 am-Children's Ministry



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Steve Pilz, Editor

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Note: For updated information on school events and activities see the web site at [www.spencer.k12.wi.us](http://www.spencer.k12.wi.us)

## JULY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
For all Church times, see page 8		1 Legion 7pm Village Hall	2	3 Woman's Club 6:30pm Village Hall	4 	
6	7	8	9	10 Lions 6:30pm Nutz. 4H 7pm Village Hall	11	12
13	14 Village Board Meeting 6:30pm Village Hall. SAHS museum open 6:30-8pm.	15	16 School Board Meeting 6:30 pm @ Middle School Conference Room #20	17	18	19
20	21	22 St. Johns COME meal Dine In 5-6pm	23 SAHS museum open 6:30-8pm.	24	25	26 10U Baseball Tourney At ARC Park
27 8U Baseball Tourney at ARC Park	28	29	30	31	