

Village Voice

of Spencer, WI



at the TACK

Thank you for a wonderful fall and a wonderful 2025! Our wonderful arts center enjoyed Gunhild Carling's incredible talents on November 5th. Carling performed for the Spencer Middle and High School students at 10am and then was overwhelmed with an intense migraine! Thank the good Lord that she had Excedrin for migraine and some time to rest at the hotel. Gunhild then performed with her carefully selected jazz trio from the Twin Cities (piano, drums and upright bass). The songs were amazing, her playing was outstanding and the memories were great. The end of the concert was the band picking up their instruments and playing 'When the Saints go marching in' all the way to the gallery. Thank you again to the patrons who tried something unique and to our sponsors Nasonville Dairy, Life Tributes Funeral Home and Cremation Service, Burnett Transit and the Wisconsin Arts Board.



See TACK on page 5



What's Rockin' in Rocketville

By Jason Gorst

Superintendent/School District of Spencer

Back in November, we honored our local veterans with our annual Veterans Day program sponsored by the history club. We would like to thank our guests, Darron Willcome, Rudy Nieman, along with members of American Legion Post 298, and all of those who have served this great country! This year, the American Legion Post 298 presented the colors at all home football games. This is honestly one of my favorite moments of the night. It is a great reminder for us all to be thankful to our veterans. Ms. Tomke's class had a wonderful opportunity to meet Rudy Nieman, father of classmate Adeline, who visited them on November 11th. Rudy is a former member of the Paratroopers, a specialized military unit. During his visit, he shared a fascinating collection



See ROCKIN' on page 5



Here's the third installment of our **Ads of the Month** which feature Village Voice advertisers. This month's featured Ads are McNeely Insurance and Country Wireless. Thank you both for your business!



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The Unity American Legion Pancake Breakfast will again be on the first Sunday of each month. The remaining dates are December 7, January 4, February 1 and March 1. Breakfast will be served from 8am to Noon. It's \$11 for Adults. \$6 for 12 and under and pre-schoolers are free. Pancakes, sausage, eggs, toast, applesauce coffee and milk will be served.





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November seriously flew by! It was a really nice month...with a few snowy days mixed in. And if you know me, you already know—do I like snow? No. Absolutely not!! But here I am surviving it. Ha!

As I'm writing this, we're getting everything ready for our **Sip 'N Shop Vendor Event**. This is totally a new format of vendor event for SKG and I'm so excited to try it out. Then, right the next day, we're jumping straight into **Supper with Santa** to bring some real Christmas magic to our community after the fall holidays.

With winter coming, we're planning SO many fun activities for the kids. My goal is simple. I want Christmas 2025 to be full of good memories for them; fun laughter, crafts, everything.

And...we're also already thinking ahead to 2026. We want to bring more events, new fundraisers and just lots of great activities that make SKG a fun, welcoming place for every kid that walks through our doors. As always, we are welcoming new kids ages 6-12 years old anytime. We love seeing their smiley faces, them laughing. Learning and having fun here!

I also want to put the word out there: **We are looking for Board Members** to join the SKG board. If you care about kids having a bright future and want to be part of something that really matters, we would love to have you.



We are also **hiring a Youth Supervisor** to work at SKG. It's such a fun job and honestly, the kids make everyday worth it. If someone loves working with kids and wants to help make a difference, I hope they reach out!

Also, for anyone who wants to help make this Christmas extra special, I put together an **Amazon Christmas Wishlist** for SKG. These items help us fill the season with joy and excitement for the kids. I'll leave the link here for anyone interested.

SKG Program Director Diana Ventsel

Thank you, truly, to our wonderful Spencer community for supporting us through every season. I'm excited for December, excited for Christmas and excited for everything that's coming in 2026!

https://www.amazon.com/registries/guest-view/1ULW27G0X60MP?ref=cm_sw_r_cp_ud_ggr-subnavshare7NYR5F12AG23TTC4EW2S

Spencer Library news....

December Events:

Surprise Reads: Can't decide what you'd like to read next? Unwrap your next library book! All December long, stop by and pick out a surprise read for yourself to check out. Select a book, check it out, and unwrap your next read at home! It's the perfect way to treat yourself, try something new, and maybe even find your next favorite read. Please note these books will still need to be checked out and returned by the due date.

Ready, Set, Game! Come hang out at MCPL-Spencer every Saturday in December to play a variety of card and board games! Bring your friends, family, or come solo and play with others in the community. We've got a great selection of games ready to play—but you're also welcome to bring your favorites and show others how it's done.

Fiber Artists Meetup: December 5th 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.

Cribbage: December 9th from 1:30-3:00pm. The library will provide the cards and boards but feel free to bring your own.

Paper Chains: December 12th from 11:00am-12:00pm. All ages are invited to learn how to make winter-themed paper chains! Participants will use a variety of colored papers and craft materials to make snowmen, trees, penguins, or whatever else you can think up!

Family Story Time: December 16th from 10:30-11:00am Children age 5 and younger, and their caregivers, are invited to join us for family story times on the third Tuesday of each month at MCPL-Spencer! We will share books with the group, sing a song or two (or three!) and more during this half-hour event.

Closings: The Spencer Library will be closed on December 24th, 25th, and 31st, as well as January 1st.

Spencer Library Hours: Monday and Wednesday from 1-7pm. Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10-4pm. Saturday from 10-2pm.



Ashley Heiden **Spencer Branch Coordinator** Marathon County Public Library - Spencer Branch | 105 S. Park St., WI 54479 Ashley.Heiden@marathoncounty.gov | 715-659-3996 (direct) / 715-659-3996 (general)
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TACK from page 1 November also welcomed Mutts Gone Nuts. The show was completely sold out and many of our patrons were a little shorter than usual.

Thanks to all those who brought their families along, it was an enjoyable afternoon. Alexandra Cote wowed the audience with her amazing kanine choreography. Hilby the German Juggle Boy brought laughter and perhaps a bit of embarrassment to patrons of all ages! Scott and Joan put on a fantastic show in the Tack Center again and so did their furry employees.

December is a month to enjoy some wonderful school events.

First up is the Madrigal Dinners put on by the Spencer High School Music Department. Saturday, December 6 from 7-8:30pm and Sunday, December 7 from 1-2:30pm. This is always a great show. Thanks to Mrs. Olson and all those involved.

The Elementary Christmas concerts are Thursday, December 11 at 1:30pm and 6:30pm. It is always a great program and wonderful to see the little ones sing and make music. Thank you, Ms. Seefeldt.

Also, the Spencer HS Choir and Handbells concert will be Monday, December 22 at 7:30pm. Mrs. Olson will provide some lovely tunes for the season and give the audience and the students a great Christmas send-off.



Don't be shy about getting tickets for the 2026 shows! We kick off the year with Mason Dixon Line. MDL is from Minnesota and brings an authentic country style to the stage wherever they go. They are a review band of sorts, covering country hits from many decades and essentially creating a playlist of country history! The group has opened for Blake Shelton, Neal McCoy, Travis Tritt and many more. Come see Mason Dixon Line Friday, January 16 at 7:30pm.

We are also excited to host Triple Espresso Comedy, 'a highly caffeinated comedy.' This show has everything, laughs, music, magic and a dramatic story line of three friends trying to make it in entertainment. You won't want to miss this show bring your Valentine, Friday, February 13 at 7:30pm.



Please also consider giving to us as a charitable organization. You can also purchase gift cards online or by calling into the box office. Thank you, and see you at the Tack! -Daniel Worsham

ROCKIN' from page 1 of equipment that he used during his service. The kindergarteners were excited to try on some of his gear, which gave them a sense of what it might be like to be in the military.

They also had the chance to closely examine his medals, each with its own story of bravery and dedication. In addition to learning about Rudy's experiences, the class discovered that many of their own relatives had served in the military. This connection made the experience even more meaningful. To show their appreciation and gratitude, the students created heartfelt cards to honor all veterans and express their thanks for the service and sacrifices these individuals have made.

On November 18th, the District hosted The Great Library Sleepover Mystery. Kids were able to bring their favorite stuffed animal for a mystery-filled reading adventure. Parents were invited to participate and learn simple, fun ways to support reading at home. The event took place from 6:00-7:00, and the stuffed animals got to spend the night in the library.

Congratulations to the Spencer musicians who were selected for the Marawood All-Conference Music band and choir held in Prentice! They spent the day working with guest conductors and making music with students from other schools in the Marawood conference for their concert that evening. Our representatives were Jax Schweiger, Abigail Rolfs, Brooklyn Baumgarten, Jolene Lammar, Blessing Ngirwe, Ema Schultz, Braden Kieffer, Wylie Seefeldt, and Nelly Boerste.

Congratulations to the following athletes who received all-conference recognition in the fall sports season; Cross Country: Kiara Klimmer-Honorable Mention; Football: Jack Hoepfer 1st Team & All Region RB, Ryan Bernick 1st Team DL/2nd Team OL, Reven Zschernitz- 2nd Team OL, Mac Konieczny- 2nd Team K& DB/Honorable Mention WR, Jakob Soback- 2nd Team LB, Mason Dieringer-Honorable Mention DL, Kaleb Hilgemann Honorable Mention TE& LB, Jackson Manicke-Honorable Mention OL, Clay Nieman-Honorable Mention LB, Sam Helgestad- Honorable Mention LB; Volleyball: Carmen Krause 1st Team, Chloe Timm 2nd Team, Lydia Lau Honorable Mention

We have some winter music events coming up. The elementary holiday concert will be on December 11th, Madrigal will be on December 6th & 7th, and the Holiday Choral Concert will be on December 22nd. Madrigal takes place every other year. There will be a holiday bell tour taking place on December 23rd during the day. Winter sports are up and running. Good luck to the boys' basketball team, girls' basketball team, and the wrestling team.

Throughout the beginning of this year, middle school students have had the opportunity to work with elementary students during their Rocket Pride Time. These students have gone into elementary classrooms and assisted those younger in making a collaborative craft. Students used these crafts to get to know one another and build connections.

See **ROCKIN'** on page 7

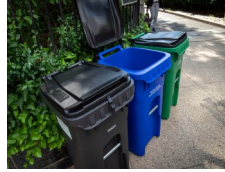
Village of Spencer



Dog License Increase — State law requires that all dogs must be licensed yearly (JAN-DEC). You must furnish a rabies vaccination certificate to show proof of vaccination in order to license your dog. The Village of Spencer Ordinance limits the # of dogs to 2 per household. Marathon County increased the 2026 license fees to: — SPAYED OR NEUTERED - \$12, MALE OR FEMALE - \$20 — Puppies - ½ of the above amounts if the dog becomes 5 months after July 1 of the license year. — Multiple Dog (Kennel) - \$80, Extra tags \$12 each. — A LATE FEE OF \$25 will be added on April 1st. — Please see the notice in your tax bill.



GARBAGE/RECYCLE Rates to increase January 1. Waste Management will continue to provide garbage and recycle pick-up in Spencer. Garbage will increase to \$12 per cart and Recycling will increase to \$6 per cart. This change will be reflected on the bill you receive in February for January use.



The increase in Water and Public Fire rates earlier scheduled for October has been delayed until Well #7 is up and running. It is projected that these rates will also be effective January 1 and reflected on the bill you receive in February.

The Gentle Hearts Girls Club will NOT be meeting in December 13, as previously advertised. Their next meeting is scheduled from 10-11 AM on Saturday, January 10, 2026 in the Spencer Municipal building off the parking lot behind the library and will only be for High School girls (previously advertise for middle school and high school), regardless of whether they are home schooled or attend an area school, or are visiting from out of town. The Club is being organized by 2 individual women who have a heart to see girls becoming supportive of one another, and learning to handle bullies and narcissists with firm, but gentle boldness.

Michelle Popp will be coming in January to speak about her Jersey Girls Lotion business and will have samples to try.

Inquiries and feedback can be made to Sue Wilson, from Marshfield at 930-637-3040 it Saloma Mast (aka Miss Sally), from Unity at 715-613-4145 or sueandkerry976@gmail.com or kerryandsue@yahoo.com .

Please reply if a different time or place would be preferred.

The first time a girl comes, we would like to have an adult fill out a form.

This club is NOT connected with any organization or entity.

There are NO FEES or DUES!

The LUEPKE LOOK-OUT



Spencer native Hunter Luepke continues to find success at the pro level. The jack-of-all-trades full-back is a core special teamer, which means he plays on most of the punt and kick teams where he has a chance to tackle people as need be. He's also a receiving threat out of the backfield and he's arguably the best protector aside from the offensive line in keeping All-pro QB Dak Prescott on his feet. He had a so called breakout game two weeks ago against the Raiders when he caught 3 passes for 36 with a long of 15. He rushed once for five and assisted in a tackle in a 33-16 win. Last Sunday, the inconsistent yet explosive Cowboys, came from a 21-0 deficit to beat the Eagles 24-21. Hunter had one reception for 7 yards with 3 assists and a solo tackle. Actually, on the solo tackle the guy was still trying to find the license plate of the truck that hit him as the network went to commercial. I took some pics off the TV showing Hunter and Prescott

in victory formation The close-up was him a second later grinning over the victory. I'd know that grin anywhere. I was coaching first base when Hunter hit a ball ON TO THE ROOF of the school in Marathon in the Spring of 2015 when he was a freshman in High school. We finally coaxed that grin out of him that day too. The other photo was last week vs. Philadelphia.



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ROCKIN' from page 5

It was really heartwarming to see the middle schoolers meet their littles at their level and bring a sense of warmth and genuine interest. We believe these interactions build a sense of community within our school, as well as individual leadership and confidence. We are excited to continue these level collaborations throughout this year!



Congratulations to the following artists. Their work was featured at the Spencer Public Library during the month of November. First graders created drawings in the style of Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama. The Spencer artists are Remi, Roni, and Raina. Fifth graders, Bailee and Reid, demonstrate in their work the style of Op Art and how to use shading to create the illusion of dimension. Well done to our chosen artists.



Regional bowling tournament on 10-26-25. Left to right: Beth Williams, coach. Kenny Williams, Nathan Derks, Kim Leu, Wes Johnson, Roddy Ledger, Ashley Burt, Joel Becker, Viv Gamble-coach. Nathan, Kim, Roddy, and Joel will progress to state in December.

Special Olympics



Candlelight Service

December 24th

2pm at Riplinger

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4pm & 6pm at Spencer

December 25th

9am at Spencer

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Everyone is invited to our Blue Christmas Service



A gentle, comforting worship experience for anyone feeling "blue" this Christmas. It's a space to mourn, to reflect, and to find hope in the promise of Jesus.

St. John's Lutheran Church
210167 State Highway 13, Spencer
Sunday, December 14th, 6pm

The holidays can be especially difficult when you're carrying grief, loss, or heavy emotions. Whether you're mourning a loved one, navigating a broken relationship, facing job challenges, or struggling with depression, you don't have to walk through this season alone.

Feel free to bring a picture or a symbol of what is making you feel "blue" this holiday season.

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11am St. John's-Riplinger

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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

DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
For all Church times, see page 8	1	2 Legion 7pm Village Hall	3	4 Woman's Club 6:30pm Village Hall..	5	6
7 Packers vs. Bears 3:25 on FOX	8 Village Board Meeting 6:30pm Village Hall.	9	10	11 Lions 6:30pm Nutz. 4H 7pm Village Hall.	12	13
14 Packers @ Broncos 3:25 on CBS	15	16	17 School Board Meeting 6:30 pm @ Middle School Conference Room #20	18	19	20 Packers @ Bears TBD on FOX
21	22	23 St. Johns COME meal Dine In 5-6pm.	24	25	26	27
28 Packers vs. Ravens TBD. *This game may be flexed to Sat. the 27th	29	30	31			

