August 2026 ISSUE FREE

Village Voice of Spencer, WI

What's Rockin' in Rocketville

By Jason Gorst
Superintendent/School District of Spencer

As we come into the final stretch of summer, there is a lot to update people on. While school might not be in session, there are many things happening in the worlds of finance, facilities, and policy work at the school. We were again able to transfer money into our Fund 46 account, which is an account that is set aside for facility upgrades. This summer has been very busy again when it comes to facility work. Our window project is nearing completion. We worked with Nexus and Boson to replace nearly all of the exterior windows in our building. This is a project that we have been planning for a few years, and we utilized Fund 46 funds to do it. The new windows should be more efficient and hopefully help us save on heating costs. Along with new windows, the project also includes rolling shades, sills, and screens. We continued to have the interior of the building repainted. Last summer we did the elementary, and this summer we did the rest of the hallways in the middle school and high school. They will all be a matching school-colored theme. We can't wait for you to see them! In addition to the hallways, we also repainted the old wrestling gym and the cafeteria.

The small circle drive by the Lucille Tack Center for the Arts was completely redone. Our parking lots are on a rotation, with this year being an off year, so the circle drive was the only asphalt work that was done. We will also be replacing several concrete slabs on the sidewalk in front of the school.

See **Rockin'** on page 3

Here's the tenth installment of our **Ads of the Month** which feature Village Voice advertisers. This months' featured Ads are: Life Tributes Funeral Home & Cremation Service led by Chris Marcoux and his staff of dedicated professionals. And welcome Land O' Lakes to the Village Voice family of advertisers. Gotta have some cheese alright! Thanks to both great organizations!

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Hosted by Spencer Woman's Club
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at the TACK

Thank you all for a great summer season! I am so thankful to be able to plan summer events and know that we can always do the show in the LTCA if need be. We appreciate you coming out to the Marshfield Civic Band show on the 8th to celebrate our nation's birthday, and to the CWSO french horn concert on the 22nd to hear the greatest instrument ever invented.

Tickets are all online now and brochures are available! A season flier will be forthcoming as well, if you missed the first round.

For August, I am going to give you some highlights of the season. Our season openers are a hoot! You may have seen them on RFD TV or on Larry's Country Diner, the famed Malpass Brothers will be here Saturday, October 3 at 7:30pm. Chris and Taylor Malpass have experience playing with Merle Haggard himself, playing the Grand Ole Opry and will bless us with classics by Merle, Ernest Tubb, George Strait, Charlie Pride and many more.

Next will be a LTCA and Wisconsin favorite, Michael Perry. Michael will be here Saturday, October 24 at 7:30pm and will share literary works, great stories, and great music with his band The Long Beds. Come see the author of Population 485, Truck: A Love Story, and Forty Acres Deep.

November will be unique in many ways. A Milwaukee favorite, Chicken Wire Empire (CWE) will be in town, Thursday, November 12 at 7pm. CWE is an accomplished bluegrass band from Wisconsin. If you enjoyed the amazing tunes of the Barefoot Movement, you will love Chicken Wire Empire. The next show in November will be the Raptor Education Group, Inc. from Antigo, WI. REGI will bring live birds to the Tack stage! Raptor refers specifically to a large group of predatory birds like owls, hawks, eagles, falcons but REGI cares for and rehabilitates many types of bird. The first half of the show will be info and demonstrations, the second half will have stations up on the LTCA stage to meet and see first hand these amazing creatures! Bring the whole family Friday, November 20 at 7pm.

Well last year we didn't have a Christmas show. So this year we packed in two Christmas shows in a 3 day period! How that happened is a long story but in any case, we're excited to host both events. The first is Boogie and the Yo-yoz - 'Christmas With You,' Saturday, December 5 at 7:30pm. This is a spectacular variety show with all the bells and whistles, a semi-truck worth of equipment and decorations, a choir, a string quartet and a full rock band with all your favorite Christmas tunes. Get your tickets quickly!

Following Boogie, is Christmas with Lorie Line 2026. Lorie will be back after many years performing, for the first time in Spencer, her solo Christmas show! Monday, December 7 at 7pm is her event. Lorie is in the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame and is well known for her high class concerts and piano playing. There will be many more shows coming in 2027. We're so pleased to be presenting our 30th season, and we thank you for your support. See you at the Tack! -Daniel Worsham

LuCille Tack Center for the ARTS

More **TACK Center** on page 8

Rockin' from page 3

Some have noticed that the goal posts on the football field were bent in a windstorm. We were able to repair them without having the cost of replacing them.

Every summer we repair part of the roof. We do this in segments with the hope of avoiding any one huge renovation down the road. The roof on the high school was the area that was repaired this summer.

Every year, Wipfli conducts an audit of our school's finances. This took place during the week of July 13-17. We are happy to report that the initial results of the audit are very positive.

During the third week of July, several of our teachers attended the Marathon County Special Education Summer Academy. Some of the topics that they learned about include, but are not limited to, preventing burnout, dealing with student behaviors, developing writing skills, and crisis prevention. In August, our teachers and students will be returning to the building. New teachers will report to the district for orientation and onboarding on August 12th and 13th. The rest of the staff will return the week of August 17th-20th for our in-service. New this year, we added some flexible PD days. All teachers had to put in two days along with an August 25th work day to be able to meet their contractual requirements. This move, along with the elimination of freebie snow days, will allow us to get out before June next year. This means that the first inclement weather days will be virtual school days. Meet Your Teacher Night will take place on August 20th.

We will again start the school year with two "summer school" days on August 26th and 27th. 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. Some of these tasks include, but are not limited to, school pictures, dual credit enrollment, establishing procedures, signing up for clubs, building a sense of team in various grade levels and schools, and some introductory learning for the school year. These days are technically optional and do not count against mandatory attendance statutes. That being said, we highly encourage all students to attend. This helps to get a clean start to the school year and also captures additional state aid, which helps the overall budget. From there, the first official day of school will be September 1st. Parents and students should be on the lookout for additional information about the start of the school year and the start of fall sports.

On July 1st, we launched a new website. The URL is the same at www.spencer.k12.wi.us but the content has been overhauled. We did not do a migration, but rather rebuilt it from the ground up. We encourage everyone to check it out. If anyone notices something missing that would be helpful, please let someone from the school know. Hats off to Mrs. Wilke for her work on this.

This year we do have some changes to our leadership team. Mr. Otte has moved back closer to home and will be the new Assistant Principal and Athletic Director at Campbellsport. We wish him the best of luck and thank him for all of his contributions to the School District of Spencer. Nick Viegut has been promoted to our new MS/HS Principal, and Andrew Hogden has been promoted to our Athletic Director/ Dean of Students. I am very excited for both of these gentlemen and looking forward to working with them. We will also be moving to Bound for most of our athletic-related items. Be on the lookout for more information.

I am looking forward to another great year as a Spencer Rocket!

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Mission Statement

The Veterans Memorial in Spencer is established to commemorate the lives of Veterans.

Please write the name and phone number of the person to be notified of the date of the Brick Unveiling Ceremony.

_____

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The Veterans Memorial, that honors all former and current service members, is proudly located at the crossroads of HWY's 13 and 98 in Spencer. The memorial is visible to thousands of motorists daily. As funding is available, additions will be made to the park that will offer tribute to Veterans for years to come.

SPENCER VETERANS MEMORIAL



For more information

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Jerry Wienke
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Bell Tower Path Brick 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.

Bell Tower Path Brick

Memorial Brick to Honor a Veteran

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

From the Editor

The LUEPKE LOOK-OUT



Well, I promised you a little Luepke Lookout last month and I am a man of my word. Not much new out of the Big D on the football front, which is rare. Not sure they're down-playing it because they're going to be not so good or perhaps laying in the weeds to rear up and snag a division they should be able to win.

Of course, it continues to be difficult to care in the big picture but we're all at least closet Cowboy fans because of Hunter. He'll start his fourth year as a Cowboy, having missed just one game in three seasons. He signed a sweet extension last season that should keep him in Texas for awhile. Let's hope for his health to continue and just short hospital stays for those that he runs over. I will follow him religiously within these pages for at least the next seven months so please stay tuned.

Not much going on in Dallas? Get a load of what Owner/Wanna B General Manager Jerry Jones said.

"I do believe, if we're not being looked at, then I'll do my part to get us looked at," Jones said.. "The Cowboys are a soap opera 365 days a year. When it gets slow, I'll stir it up. It's wonderful to have the great athletes, have the great players but there is something more there. There is sizzle. There is emotion. And, if you will, there's controversy. That controversy is good stuff."

Wow! Enough said.

Conversely, Hunter's coach Brian Schottenheimer had this to say:

"My confidence is rooted in the people that we have," Schottenheimer said. "Not just the type of player or coach they are, the talent level, but the way they are as human beings, and the way they treat one another, the way they work, the way they understand that we do have one goal, and that one goal is the highest of the high. But that's what we're pursuing. So with that, I feel very, very confident and believe that we're going to find a way to be in that game, and win."

At least Hunter's coach says the right things and if you know Hunter those words sound just like him. Best of luck Hunter. Go Cowboys!

See Hunter on page 8

It seems all the great ones end up playing for someone else eventually and the same is now true of Giannis Antetokonmpo. Having led the Milwaukee Bucks to an NBA title in 2021, the Bucks have been feebly chasing another crown, but if the past tells us anything it's pretty tough to do it with one player. The'21 team was pretty good with Kris Middleton, Jrue Holiday, Brook Lopez, PJ Tucker, Bobby Portis and Pat Connaughton, but injuries and Father Time eventually set in and Giannis and Bobby were the last to go, shipped to Miami for (now get this; it takes a while) Tyler Herro, Kel'el Ware, Jamie Jaquez, Kasparas Jakucionis,, the #13 pick in the 2026 draft (Nate Ament), a 2030 1st Round pick swap, (don't ask), unprotected first round picks in 2031 and 2033 and a 2033 2nd round pick, and a partridge in a pear tree. I added that last one but you get the picture. That's a whole paragraph full of guys for crying out loud. Giannis and Bobby will be 32 in December and February respectively, so they may very well not even be playing in 2033. What does it all mean? Not real sure; just that it happens to most everybody sooner or later.

Takes me back to June 16, 1975, about 4 months shy of my 14th birthday. Lew Alcindor had led the Bucks to the NBA title on April 30, 1971; a four game sweep of the Baltimore Bullets. A couple weeks later Lew became Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and on that fateful day in June four years later he was traded to the Lakers along with teammate Walt Wesley for Elmore Smith, Brian Winters, Junior Bridgeman and Dave Meyers, a pretty good haul in it's own right. (Full disclosure: Certainly I needed to fact check a few things and found this gem attached to the trade. Take it for what it's worth. I find it hilarious, even 51 years later.)

Abdul-Jabbar requested a trade in October 1974 because he felt Milwaukee did not fit his cultural needs, asking to go to New York or Los Angeles.

See **Giannis, etc.** on page 8

Summer Rec at Spencer Kids Group- Another Summer to Remember!

Summer Rec 2026 is officially in the books...and WOW! What a summer it has been.

Fun? Absolutely! Busy? Without a doubt! Worth every single minute? One hundred percent!

This year was one of our biggest Summer Rec programs yet with over 60 kids registered! Even more exciting, there were many afternoons when nearly 70% of our kids stayed with us for the afternoon program. That tells me one thing– we must be doing something right! It is such a blessing to have so many kids choosing to spend their summer days at Spencer Kids Group and we never take that for granted.

Over the course of three exciting weeks, we packed our days with adventure, creativity, laughter and plenty of unforgettable memories. We kicked things off by dreaming big with tie-dye, vision boards, crafts, martial arts, gardening, baking, and a trip to the Food + Farm Exploration Center. We bounced through the week at the trampoline park, got creative with painting with Board and Brush, visited Miltrim Farm, made DIY projects and enjoyed Carnival Day.

Our final week was all about playing hard! We celebrated Olympic Day, hosted our biggest competitions of the summer- "Who's On Top? Boys vs. Girls", explored the School Forest with a scavenger hunt and outdoor escape room, enjoyed pickleball and baseball and wrapped everything up with our annual Brat Fry and Water Day. There were memories made every single day.

Of course, no Wisconsin summer would be complete without plenty of sunshine, a little humidity and lots of time outdoors. Whether we were getting soaked during Water Day, enjoying picnics in the park or simply playing outside together, the kids made the most of every moment.

As always, Summer Rec wasn't just about keeping kids busy, it was about building friendships, trying new things, encouraging one another and creating a place where every child feels welcome. Those moments when a child says, "Can we stay a little longer?" or " I can't wait to come back tomorrow!" remind us exactly why we do what we do.

None of this would have been possible without the incredible support of our community. To our volunteers, parents, local businesses, donors and everyone who continues to believe in Spencer Kids Group, **Thank You!** Your encouragement, generosity and support allow us to create opportunities and experiences that many of our kids may not have otherwise. We truly couldn't do it without you.

Although Summer Rec has come to an end, we're already hard at work preparing for another exciting school year. We can't wait to welcome our returning families, meet new faces, and continue providing a safe, fun, and encouraging place for kids after school.

And before we know it, one of our biggest events of the year will be here!

Please mark your calendars for our events:

Music in the Park– August 12th.

Klubs 4 Kids Golf Outing– September 12th (If you're interested in golfing, sponsoring a hole, or supporting the event in any way, we'd love to have you join us.) **See more on page 8**

Thank you again Spencer for believing in what we do. Every smile, every adventure, every opportunity we provide is possible because of this amazing community. We are incredibly grateful and we can't wait to see what this next school year brings!

Thank you, Diana Ventsel, SKG Youth Center Program Director

BRAT FRY

SPENCER POST 298

* FRIDAY SEPT. 4 , 11am-5pm

Citizen's State Bank Lot – Hwy 13



Spencer Library news….

August Events:

Ready, Set, Game!: Come hang out at MCPL-Spencer every Saturday during open hours 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.

Amber Fossil & Dinosaur Eye Magnets: August 4th from 10:00am-1:00pm. Using clear glass stones, construction paper, cardstock, and paint, participants will design either a fierce dinosaur eye or a fossil trapped in amber. Once your design is complete, simply attach a magnet to proudly display these prehistoric masterpieces at home!

Fiber Artists Meetup: August 7th 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: August 11th from 1:30-3:00pm. The library will provide the cards and boards but feel free to bring your own. New players are always welcome!

Clay Fossil Necklaces: August 13th from 10:00am-1:00pm. Participants will shape air-dry clay into an oval, then use stencils to create a fossil design. Once your design is complete, paint your fossil, thread the necklace cord through it, and add beads to personalize your necklace.

Building with Magnetic Tiles: August 17th – August 22nd during open hours. Children ages 0-5 are invited to create amazing shapes, towers, animals, or anything else they can imagine. These tiles snap together with magnets, allowing children to learn while they play.

Dig into Summer Story Time: August 18th from 10:30-11:00am. Children ages 5 and younger, along with their caregivers, are invited to enjoy lively and engaging family story times that are centered around our "Unearth a Story" summer theme.



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@marathoncountylibrary.org | 715-659-3996 (direct) / 715-659-3996 (general)
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Village Voice of Spencer

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The Spencer Area Historical Museum will be open to the public Monday, August 10 and Wednesday, August 26 from 6:30 to 8:00 PM, or by appointment. Call 715-573-0150 or 715-659-5182.

Note: For updated information on school events and activities see the web site at www.spencer.k12.wi.us

AUGUST

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
For all Church times, see page 7						1
2	3	4 Legion 7pm Village Hall	5 MUSIC IN THE PARK	6 Woman's Club 6:30pm Village Hall	7	8
9	10 Village Board Meeting 6:30pm Village Hall.	11	12 School Board Meeting 6:30 pm @ MS Conf. Rm.. MUSIC IN THE PARK	13 Lions 6:30pm Nutz. 4H 7pm Village Hall	14	15
16	17	18	19 School Board Meeting 6:30 pm @ MS Conf. Rm. MUSIC IN THE PARK	20	21	22
23/30	24/31	25 St. Johns COME meal Dine In 5-6pm	26 MUSIC IN THE PARK	27	28	29

Village Voice of Spencer

August 2026 ISSUE

Village Voice of Spencer,500 S. Jefferson Str., Spencer, WI 54479
villagevoiceofspencer@hotmail.com,Phone: 715-207-5322
Steve Pilz, Editor



Lorie Line

LuCille Tack Center for the ARTS



Michael Perry and The Long Beds

The LUEPKE LOOK-OUT



Giannis, etc. from page 8

Back to playing your whole career with one team. It's truly rare. Almost never in football, at least at the QB position. Tom Brady ended with the Buccaneers, Joe Montana was a Chief. Peyton Manning a Bronco. Even Favre and Rogers played elsewhere after their glory years. Notable exceptions at least for the all-timers were Dan Marino, always a Dolphin and John Elway a Bronco.

In the NBA, many of the best players changed teams. Michael Jordan was a Wizard, Kareem a Laker, Oscar Robertson finished as a Buck, Wilt Chamberlain played for three franchises, LeBron James for four, Shaquille O'Neal for six. Notable exceptions were Larry Bird and Bill Russell forever Celtics and Magic Johnson and Kobe Bryant of the L.A. Lakers.

Major League baseball is a little different, especially now with more players changing teams. Some of the greats who moved on were Babe Ruth and Willie Mays, Barry Bonds and Ty Cobb, Satchell Paige and Cy Young. Even today's Shohei Ohtani traded in the Angels for the Dodgers. Good Choice! Notable exceptions were Walter Johson, always a Washington Senator, Mickey Mantle of the Yankees and Ted Williams, aka The Splendid Splinter/Teddy Ballgame of the Red Sox. We're gonna give Henry Aaron, aka Hammerin' Hank an asterisk. He played his entire career as a Brave, first in Milwaukee, then in Atlanta, after they moved, where he broke Babe Ruth's home run record. He played his final two years in Milwaukee thanks to the coaxing of his wife Billie and Brewer owner and friend Bud Selig, where he finished up with 755 homers. The asterisk? Because he's one of us. Footnote: Aaron started his career in Eau Claire in 1952. There is a statue at Carson Park including information on his early career. Go see it sometime!

In fact, we have three all-timers who played in Wisconsin their whole careers. Aaron and Robin Yount for the Brewers and Bart Starr for the 60's Packer Dynasty.

Ironically, Yount , who was born in Danville, IL in 1955, moved to California as an infant and attended high school at Woodland Hills, CA. Starr was born in Mobile, Alabama and Aaron in Montogomery Alabama 27 days apart in 1934. Perhaps, unlike Kareem, I believe it was Wisconsin that fit their *cultural needs,* so they stayed. Just sayin'……..the editor.



Giannis and his new bosses with the Miami Heat. GM Pat Riley and head coach Eric Spoeltra

THANK YOU! I should have done this years ago. A big thanks goes to the Spencer Lions Club who, once again, dropped off a generous donation for the Village Voice. The Lions are a diverse organization that does a whole lot for small town America. Our Spencer Lions Club is exceedingly active raising money for school scholarships, local programs and supporting youth initiatives. Their fund raisers stretch from bowling to shrimp sales, brat frys, rentals of the Lions Park shelter and many , many more. I'm glad to call them friends and I'm more than grateful and happy to support them any way I can as they have this newsletter.

Hunter from page 5

The Cowboys' training camp runs from July 28–August 21 and is held at the River Edge playing field in Oxnard , CA. Dallas will probably keep 4 running backs, including Hunter who is the only true full back, although, as we know he can play most anywhere. They will likely keep 3 tight ends as well. According to published reports the key to their season will be how quickly the defense can get up to speed, as they are apparently content with what the offense will produce. Wanna have some fun? Watch the Cowboys invade Lambeau Field on Sunday, October 18 to play the Packers on Sunday Night Football at 7:20pm on NBC.

