

Village Voice of Spencer, WI

at the TACK



The LuCille Tack Center truly appreciates the many kind individuals, businesses and organizations that support programs that bring creativity and entertainment to our area. One of those we're especially grateful for is Spencer's Village Voice with its sweet-heart of an editor, Steve Pilz. Being allowed a monthly forum to share information and ideas is truly a gift and, we

hope, a benefit to the readers! THANK YOU, Village Voice!

So what's the latest from the Tack? Unfortunately, there's nothing to get real excited about, at least in terms of events coming to the stage. At its December meeting, the Tack Board of Directors made the decision to postpone all events through the month of March. Between anticipated COVID-19 levels and performer travel issues in February and March, the proverbial plug was pulled and tickets taken offline.

However, a lack of events doesn't mean a lack of forward momentum. Indeed, the Tack's latest project is the writing of a grant that would enable the Tack to help host a National Endowment for the Arts BIG READ right in our own backyard. Perhaps you've heard of BIG READs taking place in other areas. This nation-wide program seeks to help broaden understanding of our communities and ourselves through the joy of reading a good book, sharing inspirational conversation and discovering the world around us. Yep! ALL of us reading the same book and talking about it! It's kind of a GIANT book club with a variety of happenings designed to pull together a wealth of ideas and connections.

In order to participate in this program, which is limited to 75 communities across the country, the

See TACK on page 6

What's Rockin' in Rocketville!

By Mike Endreas

District Admin./School District of Spencer



January 15 marked the end of our first semester and I am very pleased with the work our staff and students have done to make it a successful one. We have managed our way through a limited number of positive cases and quarantines to this point. We understood going in with our cohort groups in the MS/HS along with the virtual Wednesdays that we were limiting educational opportunities for our kids but have found in the long run have created more opportunities in comparison to other schools in the area due to the fact of the low number of students having to quarantine. If interested we keep a Covid 19 dashboard on our school website.

District wide we continue to be excited about the building project. The Dome is definitely the buzz in the area and it was exciting to see it inflated and now how it is progressing since then. I was



Not a replica this time but the real dome just outside the right field foul pole.

pleased that all of our students were able to go in and tour the dome prior to too much going on. I am sure it will be a memory they will have for years to come. If you are interested in seeing pictures of how the project is progressing we do also have a section on our webpage. Overall the project is on track for an open date of September 1 for next school year. We are currently accepting bids for the project with a projected bid approval date of Feb. 3. I am excited about the energy and excitement this is creating for our community and coupled with the work the Village has done in providing housing options for new homes, Spencer is on an upward trajectory.

See ROCKIN' on page 4

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Village Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer Paul Hensch sent me a pair of up-dates for this month's newsletter. The first is the new sub-division where the Graupner farm was when I was a kid. Earth Inc. took advantage of some great fall/winter weather to put a big dent in a huge project. I took the picture the other day and while it may not look like a lot in black and white, the people seeing this on a computer will notice that those residents will enjoy a serene sunset.

The other story is an up-date as well from a piece I shared with you last month. I was there the other day to take some photos and they were flooding the rink right then. Some near zero temps the past two nights can't hurt. I also met the anonymous resident, as Paul stated, (proving once and for all that he does exist, yes, it's a man...whoops) so there goes any conspiracy theory. Real nice anonymous resident. We shared an icy story or two while he pounded some restraints into the frozen ground up against the wooden rink walls as Ron Draeger showed up to lend a hand. Doesn't he always?

Thanks Paul!

This Fall, Earth Incorporated made tremendous strides in the completion of the new Village subdivision. With the mild weather, they were able to work until December 18th. At this time all water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer pipes and structures are in the ground. The North and South retaining ponds have been constructed. Base aggregate has been installed for



the streets, and site grading is 90% complete.

Earth Inc. plans to come back as early as possible next Spring to finish the work. They will begin with making any final preparations to the base aggregate that was

installed in December, followed by the pouring of curb and gutter by the first week of May. Asphalt paving and final site restoration are to be completed after that.

Housing construction will begin late this Spring and lots are currently for sale through the Village. Single family lots run from \$12,000 to \$15,000 and multi-family lots run from \$12,000 to \$27,000. The Village is also currently negotiating with some larger developers to build larger scale multi-family apartments in the subdivision.

If anyone has questions or is interested in purchasing a lot, please contact Paul Hensch at 715-659-5423.



In December a resident approached the Village Board in asking permission for him building a small ice rink in Lions Park. The Board thought that it was a great idea.

He started fundraising, and there was a huge outpouring from the community in both interest and financial support. Because of all of the community support, the ice rink will be bigger than originally planned.

The resident, who wishes to remain anonymous, has been working with volunteers to build a 60'x110' rink south of the tennis courts.



The new ice rink being filled looking west and north behind the Catholic church.

Donors include

Land O' Lakes, the Spencer Woman's Club, Spencer Kids Group, Central Wisconsin Power Washing, Wayne Frome, Kasandra and Jon



...and this one looking south and east toward Land O' Lakes. Happy skating!

Justman, a donation in memory of Robert Endreas, Anderson Electric, Daniel and Nancy Hill, and Todd and Kristen Rueth.

The Village is also working with Excel Energy to set up lights around the rink so it can be used at night as well. Through everyone's hard work, we expect ice skating to start the week of the 25th.

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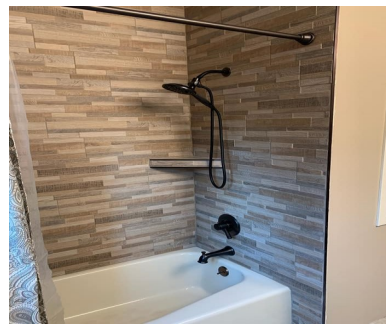
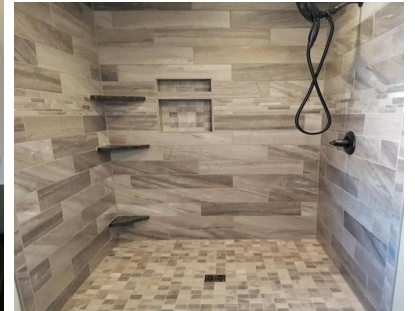
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ROCKIN” from page 1 At the board meeting on January 20 the board approved a resolution to request our voters to approve a \$975,000 non-recurring referendum. This is the amount that we have been under for the past 5 years. By asking for this we are looking to extend it for one more year as the original plan was to ask for another 5 years but honestly we did not feel comfortable in our budget forecast. So much is predicated on our enrollment and the Governor’s budget. All schools in the area are experiencing a reduction in enrollment due to the pandemic and we will not know our funding from the state until well into the summer months. So, instead of guessing or working off soft numbers the board has decided to extend for one year allow the dust to settle, so to speak and then once we have better data ask for a longer time period. I am proud of the board in taking this common sense approach. We are in the process of planning for and scheduling informational meetings in February and or March so all are informed to make a decision in April.

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I am sure people get tired of me saying it but it is a Great Day to be a Spencer Rocket! A great deal of big picture improvements are going on in our school and our community. I cherish the support we receive from our parents and community as a whole. Thank you for all you do for the students of the School District of Spencer.



Out with the old, in with the new.



The peak of the R. J. Tack Auditorium looms to the west and south, overseeing construction of the Rockets new home in the Dome.



FULL TEXT OF INAUGURAL POEM

Mr. President, Dr. Biden, Madam Vice President, Mr. Emhoff, Americans and the world:

The Hill We Climb – Amanda Gorman

When day comes we ask ourselves,
 where can we find light in this never-ending shade?
 The loss we carry,
 a sea we must wade.
 We've braved the belly of the beast,
 We've learned that quiet isn't always peace,
 and the norms and notions
 of what just is
 isn't always just-ice.
 And yet the dawn is ours
 before we knew it.
 Somehow we do it.
 Somehow we've weathered and witnessed
 a nation that isn't broken,
 but simply unfinished.
 We the successors of a country and a time
 where a skinny Black girl
 descended from slaves and raised by a single mother
 can dream of becoming president
 only to find herself reciting for one.
 And yes we are far from polished.
 Far from pristine.
 But that doesn't mean we are
 striving to form a union that is perfect.
 We are striving to forge a union with purpose,
 to compose a country committed to all cultures, colors, characters and
 conditions of man.
 And so we lift our gazes not to what stands between us,
 but what stands before us.
 We close the divide because we know, to put our future first,
 we must first put our differences aside.
 We lay down our arms
 so we can reach out our arms
 to one another.
 We seek harm to none and harmony for all.
 Let the globe, if nothing else, say this is true,
 that even as we grieved, we grew,
 that even as we hurt, we hoped,
 that even as we tired, we tried,
 that we'll forever be tied together, victorious.
 Not because we will never again know defeat,
 but because we will never again sow division.
 Scripture tells us to envision
 that everyone shall sit under their own vine and fig tree
 and no one shall make them afraid.
 If we're to live up to our own time,
 then victory won't lie in the blade.
 But in all the bridges we've made,
 that is the promise to glade,
 the hill we climb.
 If only we dare.
 It's because being American is more than a pride we inherit,
 it's the past we step into

and how we repair it.
 We've seen a force that would shatter our nation
 rather than share it.
 Would destroy our country if it meant delaying democracy.
 And this effort very nearly succeeded.
 But while democracy can be periodically delayed,
 it can never be permanently defeated.
 In this truth,
 in this faith we trust.
 For while we have our eyes on the future,
 history has its eyes on us.
 This is the era of just redemption
 we feared at its inception.
 We did not feel prepared to be the heirs
 of such a terrifying hour
 but within it we found the power
 to author a new chapter.
 To offer hope and laughter to ourselves.
 So while once we asked,
 how could we possibly prevail over catastrophe?
 Now we assert,
 How could catastrophe possibly prevail over us?
 We will not march back to what was,
 but move to what shall be.
 A country that is bruised but whole,
 benevolent but bold,
 fierce and free.
 We will not be turned around
 or interrupted by intimidation,
 because we know our inaction and inertia
 will be the inheritance of the next generation.
 Our blunders become their burdens.
 But one thing is certain,
 If we merge mercy with might,
 and might with right,
 then love becomes our legacy,
 and change our children's birthright.
 So let us leave behind a country
 better than the one we were left with.
 Every breath from my bronze-pounded chest,
 we will raise this wounded world into a wondrous one.
 We will rise from the gold-limbed hills of the west.
 We will rise from the windswept northeast,
 where our forefathers first realized revolution.
 We will rise from the lake-rimmed cities of the midwestern
 states.
 We will rise from the sunbaked south.
 We will rebuild, reconcile and recover.
 And every known nook of our nation and
 every corner called our country,
 our people diverse and beautiful will emerge,
 battered and beautiful.
 When day comes we step out of the shade,
 aflame and unafraid,
 the new dawn blooms as we free it.
 For there is always light,
 if only we're brave enough to see it.
 If only we're brave enough to be it.

*From the Editor*

Thanks once again to Ron Draeger (who else?) who kindly sent me Amanda Gorman's awesome poem. Much like Sesame Street which was always sponsored by two letters and a number, this month's *Village Voice* is sponsored by the letter *H*. (in alphabetical order): **Harmony-Heart-Heritage-Historic-Home-Honor-Hope-Humanity.**

Spencer Library news....

The Spencer Library will continue to provide both curbside appointments (where you are able to come in and browse and pick up books). Please call the library at 715-659-3996 for your appointment or curbside pick up. Here are the hours again:

Monday: Curbside 1-3pm. Appointments 3-7pm. Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: Appointments 10am-2pm. Curbside 2-4pm. Wednesday: Appointments 1-5pm. Curbside 5-7pm.

Bauble Magnets Grab N Go for Young Adults and Adults. Stop by the Spencer Library anytime from February 1-26th to pick up a kit to make your own colorful bauble magnet craft at home. We will provide instructions and most of the supplies, all you need is some glue. This is a fun craft that makes a great little decoration that can be given as a gift or kept for yourself. While supplies last.

Our Solar System Grab n Go for Children. Stop by the Spencer Branch Library anytime from February 1-26th to pick up a kit to make your own model solar system and learn about each of the eight planets orbiting the sun! (Sorry Pluto!) All supplies will be provided except for scissors and glue. While supplies last.

Identity Theft Protect & Prevent virtual presentation. Choose one session: Tuesday 2/9 @ 2pm or Thursday, 2/11 @ 6:30pm. Jeffrey Kersten, agency liaison with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection on how to keep yourself safe against identity theft.

Please feel free to call us at 715-659-3996 if you have questions.

Audrey Kohlbeck

Spencer Branch Coordinator

Marathon County Public Library - Spencer Branch | 105 S. Park St., WI 54479

audrey.kohlbeck@co.marathon.wi.us | 715-659-3996 (direct) / 715-659-3996 (general)

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I had this space, and then some, all queued up last Saturday night for a Packer's Super Bowl piece when I mentioned it to my son. "Well, don't start it now Dad!", as if I had idiot stamped on my forehead. I assured him I wouldn't and checked the mirror, for a stamp, just in case. Nothing there. I wasn't gonna write it then. I knew better. There were no sure things.

So when the Bucs scored first in the second half to make it 28-10, I guiltily made plans in my head as to how to finish this newsletter.

TACK from page 1.

organizers must submit a written explanation of how they will engage their intended audience in the conversation, events and activities, as well as how they will incorporate other community groups and area businesses as "partners" in the program. Part of the goal is to include the broadest spectrum of people living in their particular locale.

To facilitate the writing of a Big Read grant application, individuals from the Abbotsford Public Library, Marshfield Public Library and LuCille Tack Center for the Arts have put their heads together in order to brainstorm ideas, invite collaboration and pinpoint as closely as possible what would take place in April 2022, should they receive this very prestigious award. And because we are in the midst of a pandemic, plans must include both a virtual and an in-person option so that it is accessible to everyone! How's that for thinking ahead?

By the time you read this, the application will have already been submitted and the wait commenced for a decision expected to come in April. Cross your fingers that our local project receives a grant award! It would offer exciting opportunities to everyone in the area at NO COST. That's right, it's FREE! Well, it's free because we've all paid for it with our tax dollars. So if it takes place, be sure to take part and get your money's worth! You'll be the first to know if, and when, a grant is received for a NEA Big Read!

Stay healthy, roll up your sleeve as soon as you can and tell someone how much you appreciate them! Happy Valentine's Day from your friends...at the Tack!

As my family and I agonized, yet hung on every play till the bitter end, I thought about the Packer QB's of my youth. 1971. I was 10. The great Bart Starr (his last season) Zeke Bratkowski, Scott Hunter, Jerry Tagge, Jim Del Gaizo, John Hadl, Don Milan, Carlos Brown, Jack Concannon, (A Bear for crying out loud, sorry Bill Hoes) Randy Johnson, Lynn Dickey (Actually decent, for a statue), David Whitehurst, Randy Wright, Jim Zorn, Don Majkowski, Alan Risher, Anthony Dilweg, Blair Kiel and Mike Tomczak (another Bear). That gets us to 1991. Brett started in 1992. My son was born in 1997. The QB's of his youth? Favre and Aaron Rodgers. Well I had one Hall of Famer in Uncle Bart for three games in 1971. He's had two in his 23 years. We all want better for our kids than what we had growing up, right? Ok, Ok...but within reason don't you think?

I don't want to say that my son or this generation is spoiled because I enjoy winning just as much as the next guy and it's been a fun and wild ride winning 29 games the last two seasons, so I won't. Sunday's loss hurts as bad as any when you get as close as our Packers did.

But it was Sunday and the sun was shining and the three of us were together, forever thankful that we weren't Viking fans!

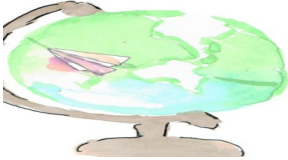
GO PACK GO!!!



SAVE THE DATE! SPENCERAMA 2021! June 11-12-13. Planning has already begun with some new twists and many popular events from previous years. Join in the fun! Call the village office for additional information or to volunteer to help out.

**School District of Spencer, SEL Committee
WORD OF THE MONTH FOR FEBRUARY**

EMPATHY



The ability to understand someone else's needs and share their feelings

Marathon County Plat Books are available at the Spencer Village Office for \$40.00. They are available year round through the Brighton Recneps 4-H Club. If you have questions you can contact Jackie Soback, the Brighton Recneps General Leader at 715-659-5186.



From the Editor I forgot a couple things. The anonymous skating rink person also said "I couldn't believe the number of people that came by to lend a hand with this project. It was really impressive." Way to go Spencer! You did it again.

Had to giggle when reading Diane Veale's TACK piece for February. I emailed her and said I'd been called a lot of things in my day but perhaps never sweetheart. Gotta be a Valentine's deal. In detailed discussion with my editorial board (me, myself and I) we decided that anyone smart enough to get the editor's name in the first paragraph of contributed material, that that piece would warrant front page status, a well known journalistic practice that goes back, well, at least a week or so. Thanks Diane and the TACK and ALL that contribute. Couldn't do it without you.....steve

Spencer Area Historical Society



There will be no scheduled open hours until March. We do open by appointment 715-659-5182

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Community Monthly Newsletter for Spencer Residents

FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
For all Church times, see page 7	1	2 Legion 7pm Village Hall 	3	4	5	6
7 SUPER BOWL LV on CBS @ Tampa, FL. Time is TBD but usually around 5:30.	8 Village Board Meeting 6:30pm. Village Hall.	9	10	11 Sr. Citizen Mtg. 10:30am @ NUTZ. Lion's Club 6:30pm @ Nutz. 4H 7pm Village Hall.	12	13
14 	15	16	17 Ash Wednesday. School Board Meeting 6:30pm. H.S. Distance Learning Room. Enter door #22.	18	19	20
21	22	23 COME Meal St. John's 5 pm. Carry Out only.	24	25	26	27

