

Village Voice

of Spencer, WI

What's Rockin' in Rocketville!

By Mike Endreas

District Admin./School District of Spencer

been received and the Village of Spencer will be receiving over \$2.9 million dollars for the community safe shelter.

If you recall, last year, which honestly seems to be much longer than that, the School District of Spencer went to referendum for \$5.98 million for upgrades to the building along with a gymnasium and fitness center that would double as a community safe shelter. A FEMA pre-disaster mitigation grant was written by Jordan Buss which, if awarded, would offset the referendum costs. Our original timeline as told to us by FEMA would be grant allocation to come out in December and our expectation was to be funded in the \$2 - \$2.4 million dollar range. Well, it must be true, they say good things come to those who wait and we received the maximum we applied for.

Up until this point my standard response as to how that Dome is coming was, "we are waiting on funding." Well, the wait is over and we have a tentative schedule planned for construction. We have completed the Elementary office move and renovation. The FACE room and bathroom renovation is scheduled to begin on June 1 and will be completed by the start of the upcoming school year. Excavation and site prep for the Dome and conventional additions to our building will begin late June or July with the Dome construction to begin on or around August 1st. The building is then geared to be ready to open for the 2021-22 school year.

As a District we are excited to be able to support the community through a partnership with the Village by having a tornado safe shelter for our citizens that will also double as a community fitness center. Our students will benefit by having up-graded classrooms and gymnasium facilities that will allow more offerings.

Due to the out of the box thinking of Jordan Buss and the willingness of our Board of Education to be willing to take a calculated risk, we are creating a structure that can only improve the attraction of young families and others to the Spencer community. Spencer is a great place to live and to raise a family and the community supported improvements make that statement a reality.

CONGRATULATIONS SPENCER!

There were a lot of different ways to go in announcing that Spencer was granted a boat-load of money from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) halfway through May. But I decided that it was only fitting that I let Spencer School District Administer Mike Endreas announce it in his monthly article above.

Fittingly, he was quick to thank the Board of Education and board member Jordan Buss, who wrote the grant, the Village of Spencer for their support and role in the process and the folks of Spencer, dubbing Spencer "a great place to live and raise a family." All true.

But perhaps equally important in letting Mike bat lead-off was that he mentioned my name in the first sentence. Much like a FEMA grant; that don't happen every day. (See CONGRATULATIONS on page 3.)

You know you have big news when Steve Pilz, Editor in Chief of the Village Voice is willing to hold a space open in the upcoming edition. Arguably, the biggest event to hit our area in some time has finally come to fruition. Grant notification from FEMA has

There's no place like Dome!



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From the Editor Since sports have always been a big part of my life, I'm trying hard not to miss them. I watched UFC (Ultimate Fighting Championship) the other night. It was more an act of solidarity since my son was watching it also, away at college. I'm more of a basketball/baseball guy than watching a couple guys, and girls too, knocking the stuffing out of each other but competition is competition, I guess. That's why I was aching to share Casey at the Bat (page 3) with you. Sorry it's so small. It's long and I had the FEMA Grant story. It's truly a classic that I'm sure many of you have enjoyed. Enjoy it again or for the first time. It's a favorite of mine. And, also, the Brewers new/old logo. You diehards will recognize it best, just a different color. Let's hope they use it on the field real soon. Enjoy the start of your summer.....steve



**SPENCER SUPPORT
BUSINESS**

CONGRATULATIONS, from page 1.

I originally wanted to title this piece \$2,926,153.00 but I didn't want to jinx us. Why \$2,926,153.00? That's the exact amount of the FEMA grant. Endreas said the final award amount was really good news. "We were hoping for somewhere between \$2 and \$2.4 million. We were always working on the conservative, low-end range."

What that means is that the grant will cover a whopping 90% of the new construction with taxpayers covering the other \$325,128, a virtual pittance for a project of this magnitude.

The fact that taxpayers voted 57% in favor of the project a little over two years ago shows the overall need and the fact that we are progressing as a village and a school district. Again, all good news. The grant is indeed icing on the cake.

Since the dome is designed to withstand tornadic wind it qualified for the FEMA grant. Voters in 2019 knew that the grant wasn't a given and still passed the referendum handily.

The Village and School district had been eagerly awaiting FEMA's decision and in June of 2019 the grant was approved, just not the amount. Good news but the waiting continued. I would say the ultimate amount made the waiting worthwhile.

Endreas said the delays have pushed things back about six months. "We originally wanted the dome ready to go this January but now it will open for the 2021-22 school year."

"The higher amount of the grant will now allow us to do



Weight training/Fitness Center within the dome.

some things that we previously couldn't have done, not to mention it will help lower taxpayer costs."

Endreas continued, "It's difficult to predict the exact eventual impact on taxes but there will be a tax break for our taxpayers because of the higher grant award. There's a lot of factors so I don't think the tax impact will be felt until 2020-21."

Another boon to the overall project coincided with the dropping of interest rates.

(See CONGRATULATIONS on page 5.)

Ernest Lawrence Thayer, 1863-1940 published this poem on June 3, 1888. I read it to my English students each Spring when I taught school, through their moans and groans. I first saw it performed at our Athletic Banquet by legendary WI basketball coach Dick Bennet at the old Village Plaza here in town when I was a junior in high school.

Casey at the Bat

The outlook wasn't brilliant for the Mudville nine that day;
the score stood four to two, with but one inning more to play.
And then when Cooney died at first, and Barrows did the same,
a sickly silence fell upon the patrons of the game.

A straggling few got up to go in deep despair. The rest
clung to that hope which springs eternal in the human breast;
they thought, if only Casey could get but a whack at that –
they'd put up even money, now, with Casey at the bat.

But Flynn preceded Casey, as did also Jimmy Blake,
and the former was a lulu and the latter was a cake,
so upon that stricken multitude grim melancholy sat,
for there seemed but little chance of Casey's getting to the bat.

But Flynn let drive a single, to the wonderment of all,
and Blake, the much despised, tore the cover off the ball;
and when the dust had lifted, and the men saw what had occurred,
there was Jimmy safe at second and Flynn a-hugging third.

Then from five thousand throats and more there rose a lusty yell;
it rumbled through the valley, it rattled in the dell;
it knocked upon the mountain and recoiled upon the flat,
for Casey, mighty Casey, was advancing to the bat.

There was ease in Casey's manner as he stepped into his place;
there was pride in Casey's bearing and a smile on Casey's face.
And when, responding to the cheers, he lightly doffed his hat,
no stranger in the crowd could doubt 'twas Casey at the bat.

Ten thousand eyes were on him as he rubbed his hands with dirt;
five thousand tongues applauded when he wiped them on his shirt.
Then while the writhing pitcher ground the ball into his hip,
defiance gleamed in Casey's eye, a sneer curled Casey's lip.

And now the leather-covered sphere came hurtling through the air,
and Casey stood a-watching it in haughty grandeur there.
Close by the sturdy batsman the ball unheeded sped—
"That ain't my style," said Casey. "Strike one," the umpire said.

From the benches, black with people, there went up a muffled roar,
like the beating of the storm-waves on a stern and distant shore.
"Kill him! Kill the umpire!" shouted someone on the stand;
and it's likely they'd have killed him had not Casey raised his hand.

With a smile of Christian charity great Casey's visage shone;
he stilled the rising tumult; he bade the game go on;
he signaled to the pitcher, and once more the spheroid flew;
but Casey still ignored it, and the umpire said: "Strike two."

"Fraud!" cried the maddened thousands, and Echo answered fraud;
but one scornful look from Casey and the audience was awed.
They saw his face grow stern and cold, they saw his muscles strain,
and they knew that Casey wouldn't let that ball go by again.

The sneer is gone from Casey's lip, his teeth are clenched in hate;
he pounds with cruel violence his bat upon the plate.
And now the pitcher holds the ball, and now he lets it go,
and now the air is shattered by the force of Casey's blow.

Oh, somewhere in this favored land the sun is shining bright;
the band is playing somewhere, and somewhere hearts are light,
and somewhere men are laughing, and somewhere children shout;
but there is no joy in Mudville — mighty Casey has struck out

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at the TACK

Welcome summer... and not a day too soon! The last couple of months have thrown a monkey wrench into the Tack's upcoming season, but it's finally been pulled back together and is in the process of rolling out. Cheers to another year of something for everyone!

Welcoming audiences back to the theatre, however, will take a great deal of thought and attention. Consider this, for a moment. The Tack seats 501 in its intimate space. That's plenty of room for just about any event, except the Spencer Elementary Holiday Concert, when every single seat is taken, resulting in a "full house."

As we continue to practice social distancing and the limiting of gathering size, it's highly probable that the days of a full house will become a casualty of Covid-19. Not to say they're gone for good - absolutely NOT! However, seating will need to be adjusted for a "new normal," at least for this season. Whittle those 501 down to allow for a safe space between patrons, and we're likely to be at less than 200 available spaces.

Then, take the expenses of producing live performances (artist fees, hotel rooms, meals, transportation, sound production, advertising and NOW cleaning, disinfecting and related covid costs) and divide by a much lower number of potential seats. Offering a reasonably priced ticket and breaking even on a show just became significantly much more difficult.

Theatres and concert venues across the country were among the first places to close their doors back in March due to public health concerns and, without a doubt, will be among the last to reopen. Here at the Tack, our annual fundraising gala had to be cancelled, and ticket revenue ceased even though three of our last four shows were headed for a "full house." In addition, the anticipated expense of doing what it takes to make the theatre safe and comfortable is substantial.

During these challenging days, we realize that many are finding it hard to care for their families and pay their bills. Yet others, having spent less in the past few months, find themselves with a little extra. If you are fortunate enough to be in the second group, we ask that you give some thought to participating in our one-time "Full House Fundraiser." Together, let's "sell" 501 seats at \$25 each over 25 days. Hopefully, we can "fill the house!" If you usually attend a show with a friend, maybe you would donate \$50. Perhaps your family of five often

comes as a group and you could contribute \$125. Encourage your friends and neighbors to give, ESPECIALLY if they haven't done so before!

Many folks will find our annual Community Giving Circle campaign letter in their mailbox in August, but this one-time extra fund drive is strictly to help our theatre recover from the effects of the current pandemic and continue presenting top-notch arts, culture and entertainment for community members of all ages. These are unusual times, and we're reaching out to everyone now! Mail a check to LTCA or visit "support" at lucilletackcenter.com. Help us continue bringing the live performances you crave to our little village in Central Wisconsin! Stay healthy and THANK YOU! :)

LTCA, 400 N School St, Spencer WI 54479 • lucilletackcenter.com • info@lucilletackcenter.com

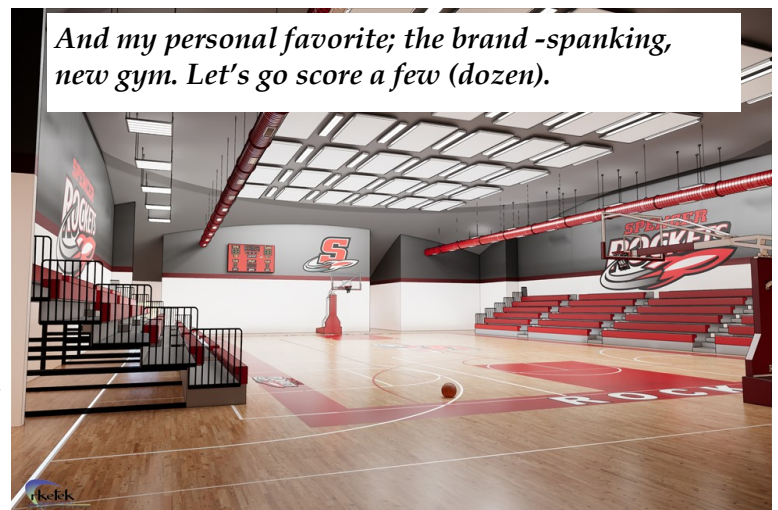
CONGRATULATIONS, from page 3

Endreas concluded, "The school's financial advisor said the final 1.71% was the lowest rate she had ever seen on this type of borrowing. It was a perfect storm for the district and the tax payers being able to get the most out of the FEMA grant while also getting the lowest interest rate."

While congratulations and thanks should certainly go mostly to the school district, the school board, the village government and myriad folks I'm missing, I'll stick with CONGRATULATIONS SPENCER because it was the past Rockets and the parents of the present and future Rockets that made this happen. Even though I was a Qavvik (Wolverine) and a Grizzly in between, I'll always be a Rocket.

As Mike so aptly says at the end of many of his columns each month, it's certainly a good day (month, year, decade) to be a Rocket!

And my personal favorite; the brand-spanking, new gym. Let's go score a few (dozen).



NTC Announces Online Summer Courses Beginning in June
 (WAUSAU, Wis.) – Northcentral Technical College (NTC) is making it easier than ever for new students to get started in flexible, online courses this summer. With the lowest tuition in the area and courses starting throughout the month of June, students can save money while completing the courses that are most convenient for them.

As college students across central Wisconsin are home from college this summer, NTC is here to help. Whether learners are looking to begin a program at NTC or they are completing a degree at another college, NTC has a variety of course options that are available 100% online. Many online summer courses transfer from NTC to the UW system. This gives students who are home for the summer an opportunity to complete the general education classes they need and transfer them back to their primary institution.

These self-paced, flexible courses are a smart way to make progress on a college degree. Students can view class lectures on their own schedule and complete assignments at their own pace. Those who are unsure if flexible online classes are the right fit can also choose from a variety of general education courses offered through Zoom and Blackboard Collaborate. These hybrid courses provide additional structure with set lecture times and deadlines.

Students can choose the classes that are right for them, submit an online form and a member of NTC’s registration team will reach out to process the request. The listing of online summer courses that are starting this June is available online by visiting www.ntc.edu/summer.

Northcentral Technical College (www.ntc.edu) is north central Wisconsin's premier two-year college of choice and is a resource for all District residents. It provides individuals, organizations and businesses with quality skills training in a wide range of programs designed to build a competitive, technologically advanced workforce in today's rapidly changing global environment. NTC has six convenient campus locations in Wausau, Antigo, Medford, Phillips, Spencer, and Wittenberg, as well as a Public Safety Center of Excellence in Merrill, a Wood Technology Center of Excellence in Antigo and an Agriculture Center of Excellence just north of the Wausau campus in the Village of Maine. The Wausau campus features a Center for Health Sciences, Center for Business and Industry, Center for Geriatric Education, iTEC Projects Lab and STEM Center.

Stratford Continuing Education is offering the following classes in Spencer:
-Painting Workshop—Bessie’s Blossoms Thursday 6-9pm June 25 ([email stratfordclasses@gmail.com](mailto:stratfordclasses@gmail.com) for a photo of the painting)
 For more info and to sign up: www.stratfordclasses.com



GRADUATES HONORED

*P*ictured above are just two of the Spencer seniors that grace the downtown light posts. There are two more on the other side and 69 altogether.

The banners were the brainstorm of Tracy Bauer, owner/operator of Cloud Nine Massage, LLC located in our industrial park. Tracy said she got Miller Graphics, another local business to create the banners.

“My husband and I have small businesses,” Tracy said. “To help small businesses is important to us.”

Tracy also spearheaded the graduation banners for the seniors of Loyal where her and her husband live.

“My heart breaks for them (the seniors),” Tracy continued. “I feel bad for them. They’ve missed out on a lot of their senior year.”

Pictured below is another nice touch on the Gross Ford lot with a banner stating “We Miss Our Spencer Rocket Staff.”

Hardy Congratulations to all 2020 grads and our hard-working Spencer Rocket staff for their perseverance and diligence!



Citizen of the Year

Even though Spencerama was cancelled this year the Spencer Area Chamber of Commerce still would like to recognize the Citizen of the Year. The Spencer Area Chamber of Commerce will recognize this individual at the August 19th Pie/Music in the Park at the Lions Shelter at 6:30pm. Please submit a letter of nomination for the person you think has contributed the most to Spencer this past year. Tell us why you are nominating that person. Send nominations to Partners Bank P.O. Box 137 Spencer, WI Attn: Linda. Or drop off at Partners Bank. Or email lindah@partnersbankwi.com. Nominations may also be dropped off at the Village Office at 105 Park Street, Spencer and no later than Friday, July 31st please. Sponsored by Spencer Area Chamber of Commerce.

CANCELLATION

The Land O' Lakes retirement party planned for the Summer of 2020 has been cancelled due to virus concerns.

Spencer Library news....

Spencer Branch Library started Curbside Pick-up. Hours for pick up are Monday from 2-6pm and from 10am-2pm Wednesday thru Friday. If you would like an item from "within the Spencer Library" you can go online at <http://www.mcpl.us> and place an item on hold. Be sure to narrow your search to the Spencer Library. Or, you can call the library at 715-659-3996 and we will help you out. Once your order is ready for pickup, we will call you (or you can call us) and set up an appointment time that works for you.

The opening of the library is still pending. We're not sure how things will work when we do open but watch for announcements soon or go to our website for updates.

Audrey Kohlbeck

Spencer Branch Coordinator

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Community Monthly Newsletter for Spencer Residents

JUNE

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
For all Church times, see page 7	1	2 Older Americans 9:00am Village Hall. Legion 7pm Village Hall.	3	4 Woman's Club 6:30pm @ Village Hall.	5	6
7	8 Village Board Mtg. 6:30 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 School Board Meeting. 6:30pm in the Distance Learning Room.	18	19	20
21 	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	