



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Spencer to dedicate new Town Park at National Night Out ***Free event with live music in Park Plaza - Tuesday, October 7 from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.***

SPENCER – The Town of Spencer is hosting its fifth annual [National Night Out](#) celebration on Tuesday, October 7. All are invited to the new Town Park (located in Park Plaza at 470 S. Salisbury Avenue) in Spencer for free food and drinks, live music and entertainment, educational materials, and more from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

National Night Out promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. This nationwide observance provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.

"We invite our neighbors across the North Rowan community to join us once again for our fifth annual National Night Out," said Spencer Police Chief Michael File. "It's always a great night to meet your neighbors and those serving the community. We encourage everyone to come to the event, as well as leave your porch lights on and walk around your neighborhood to visit with neighbors."

The event will feature live music by local band Motel Soap, who will return to Spencer after performing at Town Park during the June 28 soft opening event. The band will play from 5:30 until 8:00, with a break from 6:15-6:35 for the Park dedication ceremony. Public safety displays, educational activities, inflatable amusements, hayrides, and more will continue throughout the event.

Spencer's new Town Park was designed with community input by Benesch and the Bogle Firm Architecture, and built by Ike's Construction. After several years of planning for a new central park, the \$2.175 million project returned a portion of the shopping center parking lot to what it once was, public green space.

Creating a downtown civic park was a favored recommendation of community stakeholders in the 2014 and updated 2022 Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plans. The project aims to further advance Downtown revitalization and offer new amenities to locals as well as the many visitors to the NC Transportation Museum; NC Museum of Dolls, Toys, and Miniatures; and other local destinations.

"This beautiful park pays tribute to our history while continuing to build excitement for our future," said Mayor Jonathan Williams. "We can't say 'thank you' enough to those who came together to create this wonderful space for our children, grandchildren, and other future citizens and visitors to enjoy for years to come."

The project was awarded two grants from the NC Department of Commerce totaling \$1,175,000, and \$500,000 from the NC Parks and Recreation Trust Fund. The Town has contributed \$303,000 to the project over several years, including \$228,000 in ARPA-enabled funding. In addition, a generous donation of \$100,000 from Fred and Alice Stanback allowed the Town to get started on planning and design work.

At the beginning of construction in October 2024, the Town established a goal of raising an additional \$385,000 to complete the project. Through several additional grant opportunities and a community contribution campaign, about \$334,000 has been raised to date, which is the amount needed to fund the base project. The dedication ceremony on October 7 will acknowledge the funding partners and highlight community sponsors.

The Town is continuing the campaign to raise the final \$50,000 for more improvements. Individuals, civic organizations, businesses, and other interested partners can join in this exciting and transformational project. Find out more at spencernc.gov/makeyourmark.

Town Park features include a community gathering lawn encircled with a sidewalk loop, and multi-purpose open-air pavilion with a stage and restrooms. The pavilion can be used for picnicking as well as performances and community events. Additional features include picnic table nodes and an interactive children's water feature.

The park has suitable electrical and other infrastructure for events such as [Winterfest](#), which has been one of several annual events hosted in the park location over the last five years.

"This project came together because of an engaged community, the vision of our Mayor and Board of Aldermen, hard work of our staff, and the involvement of funding partners at all levels," said Town Manager Peter Franzese. "In addition, we appreciated working with Jeff Ashbaugh and his team at Benesch; together with local architect Pete Bogle and the Bogle Firm; and Andy Messmer, David Isenhour, and the crew at Ike's Construction to turn this vision into reality.

This is the forty-second year of National Night Out, and Spencer is one of about 130 participating communities in North Carolina this year. The Town is hosting this event with support from [Food Lion](#), [Hendrix BBQ-Spencer](#), [Civic Federal Credit Union](#), [KRM Carts](#), and [Heather's Homemades Spencer Deli](#).

Free food offerings include hot dogs (Whosoever Will Let Them Come Ministries), nachos (Fleming Street Bakery & Southern Cuisine), and fresh fruit (Food Lion). Other highlights include hayrides, face painting, dunking booth, impaired driving simulator, emergency vehicle displays, child safety information, safe medication disposal, and much more.

Additional community partners involved with the event include the Spencer Moose Lodge, North Carolina Transportation Museum, New Hope Baptist Church, The Terrie Hess Child Advocacy Center, Communities in Schools, Spencer Fire and Public Works Departments, and Novant Health.

National Sponsors of National Night Out are ADT, Associa, Dollar Tree/Family Dollar, Law Enforcement Against Drugs (L.E.A.D.), Nintendo, Starbucks, AT&T/Firstnet, and 7-Eleven Cares Foundation. For more information, contact the Spencer Police Department at 704-633-3574.

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