



Rowan's Original Gateway.

WELCOME TO WINTERFEST

Join the fun during Spencer's Annual Winterfest, which takes place December 5-7 at the new Town Park. Visit the event website at spencerexperience.org for more information, including festival hours and schedule.

Winterfest began in 2021, when a small group of volunteers decided to stage a special holiday event for the community that would be a "Hallmark Movie" kind of celebration. Each year, this free event brings together local craftspeople, entertainers, school groups, college students, church groups, choral ensembles, veterans, business owners and individuals to create Christmas magic for town residents.

The event kicks off on Friday, with a Doo-Dah parade culminating in the lighting of a 35-foot Christmas tree and Santa's arrival.

On Saturday, there is a "Freeze Your Buns" 5K and fun run.

All three days, an artificial ice-skating rink will be open for guests to enjoy at no charge. A variety of children's activities will be available, and a balloon artist and family visits with Santa round out the fun.

Each year, the event features one area non-profit organization to raise awareness for their mission. This year, the Terrie Hess Child Advocacy Center was selected.

You can support Winterfest by donating to the Spencer Partnership 501(c)3 organization, or by purchasing an engraved acrylic snowflake in honor or memory of a loved one to hang on the tree in the indoor market. In addition, lots of volunteers are needed to lend a hand.

Your heart is sure to be warmed by the sights and sounds of Winterfest. We hope to see you there!

WINTERFEST HOURS:

Friday, December 5, 5:00-9:00 PM

Saturday, December 6, 2:00 - 9:00 PM

Sunday, December 7, 2:00 - 8:00 PM



MANAGER'S NOTES

by Peter Franzese

KEEPING UP OUR MOMENTUM

Over the last five years, our team has been incredibly successful in pursuing grant funding for neighborhood revitalization, parks and recreational trails, stormwater infrastructure, public safety equipment, and more. This has approached \$5 million since 2020, even by rough calculations.



I'm pleased to report that we are keeping our "foot on the gas," and have several new grants to report in the area of economic development, recreation, and public safety. These include:

- ◆ Over \$1 million in collective funding for Brownfield assessments and infrastructure support at the former NC Finishing Company site, through Centralina/US EPA and the North Carolina Railroad Company.
- ◆ Nearly \$560,000 to build additional trails and blueway access for the Stanback Forest, from NC DNCR (Complete the Trails and Great Trail State Grants), with an additional \$230,000 in matching fund grants and donations.
- ◆ Approximately \$500,000 to construct the first phase of the Stanback Forest Center on 11th Street, shared with a private donation to match NC PARTF.

We are currently pursuing several new additional funding opportunities, such as:

- ◆ A new round of CDBG-Neighborhood Revitalization funding from NC Commerce to continue the housing rehabilitation work that has been underway for several years.
- ◆ TS Helene DR-4827-NC Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding with two distinct efforts. First, to construct additional needed stormwater infrastructure improvements on 17th Street, beyond what is possible with the 2022 NCDEQ grant. Second, to partner with Centralina Regional Council on a regional Project Planning solution. We have submitted completing the design of our EB-5861 pedestrian/greenway project to be considered as a nature-based solution for addressing flood-prone areas.

Our success and seeking and administering these grant funds has been possible due to the effort of our staff, involvement of the community, support of outstanding private partners and consultants, and the vision of our elected officials. We are looking forward to continuing our progress, supported by additional funding resources coming into our community. As we look towards 2026, I wish you and your family the best for the exciting year ahead!



Connect at Spencer Library

Our Town's public library is host to a lot more than just books.

This year, the library hosted nine outdoor musical events at Spencer Library Park, featuring music from France, Italy, Germany, the Caribbean, and Nigeria.

During a culture series this summer, speakers shared the history, geography and culture from a different country each week. Guests played musical instruments, displayed textiles, and sampled cuisine from places as varied as the Republic of Georgia, Scotland, and Turkey.

In October, Pepper Basham, author of more than twenty novels, visited from Virginia to share her literary journey with us. Pepper's visit was so well received, we'll be sure to plan more author visits in the future.

The library's roster of exciting events for 2026 is being finalized now, so keep an eye on the library's Facebook page for future happenings.

LEAF COLLECTION

The Leaf Vac began running early in October on a limited schedule, and will increase as demand calls for it. The vac will run until the end of the year. Leaves and loose material should be placed at the curb for pick-up. As a reminder, please place material as close to the curb as possible without being in the street or blocking the sidewalk.



TERRIE HESS
CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER

Every Child Deserves A Voice



Don't Miss This!

Join us November 26 as Spencer's Holiday Caravan celebrates 73 years of Christmas magic. The parade will kick off at 6:30PM. The route proceeds along the US Hwy 29 corridor from Jefferson Street to 11th Street. Food trucks will be located at North Rowan High School, on 2nd Street, and on 5th Street to accommodate parade participants and attendees. Follow @ *Spencer's Holiday Caravan Parade* on Facebook for updates on food vendors. Dress for the weather, bring a chair, and of course, the family. The parade will kick off at 6:30pm for a nighttime spectacular.

There are plenty of opportunities for anyone who would like to be a part of bringing this community tradition to life. Volunteer, donate, participate, or join our parade committee by reaching out to us on Facebook or emailing spencersholidaycaravanparade@gmail.com.

VOLUNTEERS + NEEDED +

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED
FOR SPENCER'S 2025 ANNUAL
HOLIDAY CARAVAN PARADE

NOVEMBER 26TH

**STREET CLOSURES
STAGING & TEARDOWN
PARADE ROUTE GUIDES**

For applications and info, email
spencersholidaycaravan@gmail.com

NOVEMBER 26 STREET CLOSURES:

US Hwy 29 from Jefferson Street to 11th Street will be closed from 5:00 - 9:00 PM for the Holiday Caravan. In addition, Jefferson Street from US Hwy 29 to N. Whitehead Avenue; N. Whitehead Avenue from Forestdale Drive to 2nd Street; and Oakwood Drive from N. Whitehead Avenue to Pinecroft Lane will be closed from 3:30 - 7:30 PM.



Photo courtesy of Jacqui Watson



Terrie Hess Child Advocacy Center (THCAC) named Charity of Choice for 2025 Winterfest Christmas Marketplace

Serving Rowan County, THCAC provides critical, in-house services to child victims of abuse and their nonoffending caregivers at our nationally accredited facility. Our mission is to meet the

needs of children and families through best practices in prevention, investigation, prosecution, and healing of child abuse. We also offer free educational programs for youth and adults, helping to empower our community with the knowledge and tools to prevent abuse before it starts.

Stop by the THCAC table during Winterfest to learn more about our services, pick up resources, and learn how you can support our work in protecting children and promoting healing.

EVENTS SUPPORTING THE NC MUSEUM OF DOLLS, TOYS & MINIATURES THROUGH FEBRUARY:

- ◆ **Tour the museum during Winterfest!** Special extended hours Fri-Sun Dec 5-7. Shop for your Winterfest souvenir ornament and perfect holiday gifts in our gift shop.
- ◆ **Monthly doll club meetings of the Rowan Doll Society.** Open to new members! We meet inside the museum with show & tell, special presentations, and fun. All dates listed at: ncmdtm.org/events/
- ◆ **Super Saturday** monthly sales! Every second Saturday at the First Community Center of Spencer. Shop for dolls, toys, trains, miniatures, gift, and more. Dates at: ncmdtm.org/events/
- ◆ **Tea with Mrs. Claus** returns on Dec 13! Tea service, book readings, photos with Mrs. Claus, and dolly door prizes. Email us to sign up at info@ncmdtm.org



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Spencer, NC 28159

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2025 TOWN HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

November 11 <i>Veteran's Day</i>	Tuesday waste collection on Wednesday; Wednesday on Thursday. Library open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday.
November 26-28 <i>Thanksgiving</i>	No bulky collection this week. Town Hall closes for the parade 3:00 p.m. November 26.
December 24-26 <i>Christmas</i>	All trash should be out on Monday for collection by Tuesday. Library open Monday, Tuesday.
January 1 <i>New Year's Day</i>	Normal collection Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday. Bulky collection on Friday.

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Joel Taylor

Public Works Director

CONTACT US:

Text Us: 704-870-0720

Town Hall: 704-633-2231

Fire: 704-637-6135

Library: 704-636-9072

Police: 704-633-3574

Public Works: 704-633-5331

Call 911 for Emergencies

Rowan Co Public Safety

Non-Emergency line:

704-216-8500