SPENCER
NORTH CAROLINA
Rowan's Original Gateway.

Welcome to Winterfest

Join the fun during Spencer's Annual Winterfest, which takes place December 4-6 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, Santa's arrival, and a community dance party.

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, Nazareth Child & Family Services was selected.

You can support Winterfest by donating to the Spencer Partnership 501(c)3 organization, or by purchasing an ornament 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
SPENCER
A CHRISTMAS MARKETPLACE



WINTERFEST HOURS:

Friday, December 4
5:00-9:00 PM

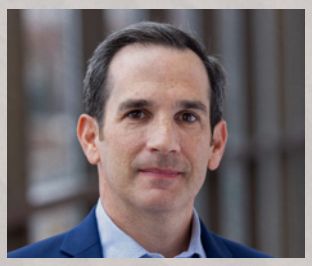
Saturday, December 5
2:00 - 9:00 PM

Sunday, December 6
2:00 - 7:00 PM

MANAGER'S NOTES

by Peter Franzese

OUR AWARD-WINNING COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION



Congratulations, Spencer! I am proud to share that we have earned a 2026 Region of Excellence Award from Centralina Regional Council, in the Improving Quality of Life-small community category. Spencer Town Park was recognized as a community effort that transformed parking lot space into a vibrant gathering place for recreation, events, and connection.

During the award presentation, Centralina staff member Kasia Thompson described the project as an outstanding example of how vision, partnership, and community commitment can create lasting impact. She highlighted the Town's success in creating a public destination that promotes recreation, health, social connection, and economic vitality while serving residents and visitors of all ages. Her remarks affirmed something many of us have witnessed firsthand: Spencer Town Park is far more than a facility. It has become a centerpiece of community, and the impact continues to grow from surrounding private investment. Neighboring property owners, Park Plaza tenant businesses, and many community members have continued to work together to redevelop the core of our community.

While the Town was honored to receive this recognition, the award truly belongs to the many people who helped make the project possible. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to our Mayor and Board of Aldermen, past and present, whose leadership and commitment kept the project moving forward from concept to completion. Their willingness to invest in a bold community vision helped lay the foundation for this signature public space.

I would also like to recognize Joe Morris, our Special Projects Planner, whose leadership in grant writing, fundraising, and project development was instrumental to the park's success. Joe accepted the award on behalf of the Town and reflected on the faith required to move forward when project costs exceeded initial estimates and on the many partners who stepped forward to help close the gap. His comments served as a reminder that this project succeeded because so many people believed in the vision and worked together to achieve it.

The recognition also belongs to the members of our Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, supporters of the Make Your Mark campaign, local businesses, donors, volunteers, grant partners, Town staff, and the many residents who contributed their time, resources, ideas, and encouragement throughout the process. Spencer Town Park stands as a testament to what can be accomplished when a community comes together around a shared goal.

Perhaps the greatest measure of success is not the award itself, but the life that now fills the park. From concerts and civic events to everyday family activities, Town Park has become a welcoming space that brings people together and strengthens community pride. Each memory created there reflects the investments made by so many people over the past decade.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this achievement possible. This award recognizes not only a successful project, but also the spirit of a community joining together to invest in its future.

NOVEMBER 25 AT 6:30 P.M.

SPENCER'S ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARADE



Celebrate the holiday season with festive floats, music, and Santa Claus!

Scan the QR code to see how you can be a part, or email us at spencersholidaycaravan@gmail.com







Spencer Library

December 4th - Johnny Dez of Mocksville will entertain our guests with a Christmas concert as an Elvis impersonator. The event will run from 4 - 5 pm, and then we will serve pizza to our audience. The title for this event is *A Blue Christmas*. Afterwards, everyone can attend the festivities at Winterfest which is at the Town Park across from the Train Museum.

January 12th - At 4 pm, local author and journalist and TV personality, David Whisenant will be sharing his new book *Yellow Tape Prayers*. Copies of the book will be available for purchase, and he will available to sign them. His first book is called *Chasing the Story*.

February - North Rowan High will be bringing a group of African-American studies students to learn more about the different stages of black musical groups such as the Temptations, The Supremes and Michael Jackson as performed by young students from Essie Academy. The students have been performing these great acts for several community events and we are excited to share. The date and times are to be determined.

Doll and Toy Museum Events

December 1 - GivingTuesday (virtual) - The world's largest day of charity giving. Support the NC Museum of Dolls, Toys & Miniatures, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, by making a donation at **ncmdtm.org**.

December 12 - Last Super Saturday shopping extravaganza of the year. Presents for everyone on the Nice List! At the First Community Center of Spencer. Supporting NC Museum of Dolls, Toys & Miniatures.



December 12 - It's back!! Beloved annual *Tea with Mrs. Claus* event. Save the date and visit **ncmdtm.org/events** to stay updated as tickets open.

December 15 - Give a child or adult the gift of friendship with a membership to the Rowan Doll Society! Monthly meetings inside the doll, toy & miniature museum. Visit **ncmdtm.org/events** for details.

2026 TOWN HOLIDAY SCHEDULE	
November 11 *Veteran's Day*	Tuesday waste collection on Wednesday; Thursday on Friday. Library open Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday.
November 26-27 *Thanksgiving*	Thursday bulky collection will run on Wednesday this week. Town Hall closes for the parade at 3:00 p.m. November 26.
December 24-25 *Christmas*	All trash should be out on Monday for collection by Wednesday. Library open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.
January 1 *New Year's Day*	Normal collection Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday. Bulky collection on Thursday.

NC Transportation Museum Events

THE POLAR EXPRESS™ Train Ride



Join us for the magical experience set to the sights and sounds of Chris Van Allsburg's classic, THE POLAR EXPRESS™ on select dates November 6 – December 23.

Buy tickets here:
nctransportationmuseum.org/the-polar-express-train-ride



Winter Train Rides

Create a new seasonal tradition this holiday at the N.C. Transportation Museum with our Winter Train Rides December 26-31! Browse exhibits, explore our gift shop, and enjoy a 25-minute ride around our historic site in our holiday decorated train. For more info:
nctransportationmuseum.org/winter-train-rides



Wine & Dine On The Rails

Enjoy a date night or an evening with close friends during Wine & Dine on the Rails. On February 12 -14, experience a unique dining experience on a historic train car. Two seating times are available and guests will enjoy a three-course catered meal upon an operating railroad dining car, following a delectable cocktail hour. Learn more at:
nctransportationmuseum.org/wine-and-dine

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Rowan's Original Gateway.

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CONTACT US:
Text Us: 704-870-0720

Town Hall: 704-633-2231

Fire: 704-637-6135

Library: 704-636-9072

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Call 911 for Emergencies

Rowan Co Public Safety Non-Emergency line:
704-216-8500