SPENCER CITY STAR DECEMBER 2022

<u>Vision Statement</u>: "The Good Neighbor City" where the quality of life is available to all! <u>Mission Statement</u>: To promote the existing peaceful atmosphere while providing quality services to our community through public awareness, public safety, communication, and beautification, utilizing economic development to enhance a positive future.

Christmas in Spencer's Early Days

Celebrating Christmas and the holidays is a long tradition in western culture. How people did it though has changed through the years. This article is about Christmas in Spencer, OK from around 1900 to 1930.

The biggest difference between modern Christmas celebrations and those in the early 1900s is the ability to buy decorations and artificial trees. Although manufactured decorations were available in large cities, most were not sold in rural areas like Spencer. Or if they were, they were unaffordable to people who lived in farming communities.



Instead, Christmas decorations were all or partially handmade, like these ornaments from our history museum.

Stringing popcorn for decorations was common. It was inexpensive and a fun family activity. Mistletoe and pine cones were also used, with ribbons added for extra flair.

Mistletoe came to be a part of the holiday season because it's one of the only flowers to bloom in Winter. It's also hard to find when leaves are on the tree, but easy to

spot when the leaves have fallen. Pine cones most often drop during the cold months, making it simple to find a fresh cone to bring inside.

As far as getting a Christmas tree to decorate, if you didn't have a cedar or pine tree on your land then you were unlikely to find one for sale. The answer for many people was to get a tree branch and decorate that. We tried to find some old photos, but imagine a cut branch in a pail of water covered with ornaments, beads, ribbons, and of course, strings of popcorn. Pine branches were best, but any type would do.

Today we can buy artificial trees, ornaments, strings of LED lights and much more, with most shipped from factories located overseas. Maybe we should save a few dollars and bring it home by crafting decorations as a family again?

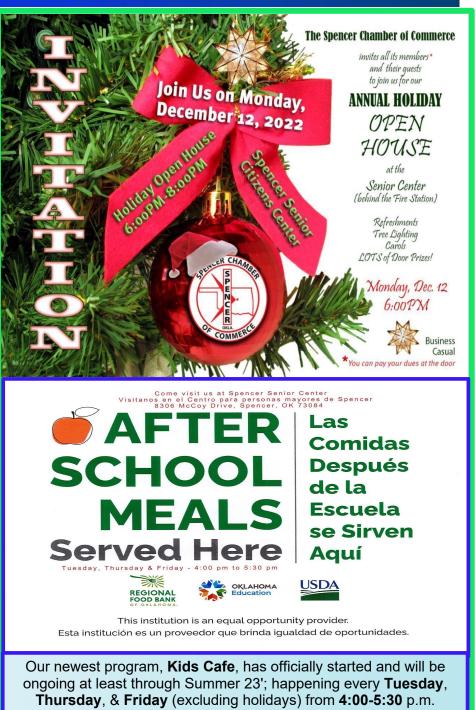


Jim Scanlan for the Spencer Historical Society



Charles Meadows 405.423.4204 Email: Cmeadows@readytoworkstaffing.com Info@readytoworkstaffing.com

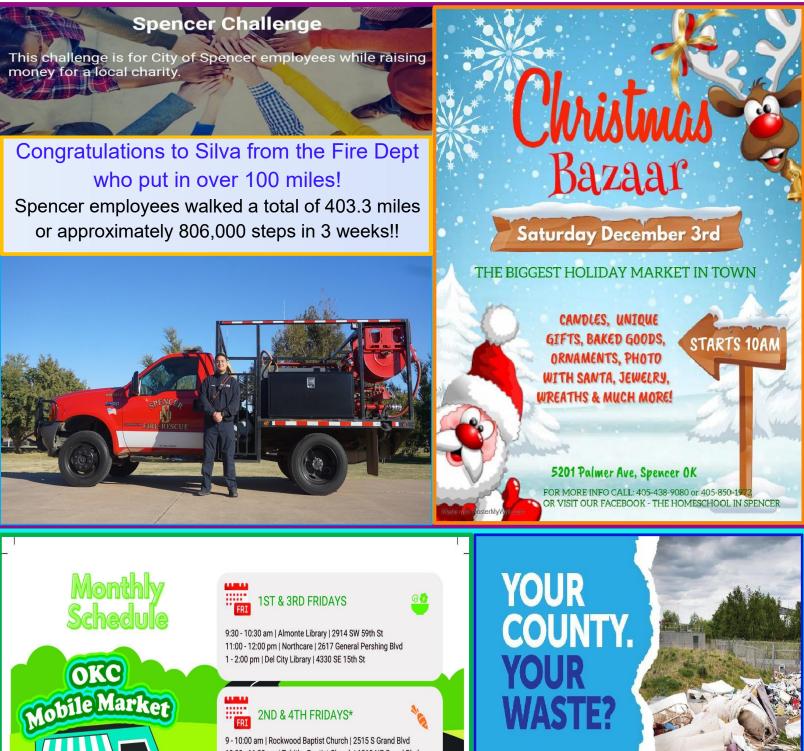
1330 N Classen Suite 215 Oklahoma City, Ok. 73106



Located @ the Senior Center, 8306 McCoy Drive, Spencer, OK 73084

This **FREE** after-school program is for **ALL** children (18 and under). NO requirements or paperwork are needed to sign-up.

Have further questions? Please call Spencer City Hall @ **405-771-2908**, and we will be happy to assist you!



9 - 10:00 am | Rockwood Baptist Church | 2515 S Grand Blvd 10:30 - 11:30 am | Tabitha Baptist Church | 1219 NE Grand Blvd 12:30 - 1:30 pm | The Diversity Center | 2242 NW 39th St "The Nov. 25th Friday date will be canceled in observance of Thanksgiving. The Dec. 23rd Friday date will be canceled in observance of the holidays.

LAST SATURDAY*

9:00 - 10:00 am | Truevine Ministries | 3701 Spencer Rd 10:30 - 11:30 am | Capitol Hill Library | 327 SW 27th St 12:00 - 1:00 pm | Tulakes Clinic 7202 | Lyrewood Ln 1:30 - 2:30 pm | Ralph Ellison Library | 2000 NE 23rd St "The Standary distribution date will be moved to Nor. 19th in observance of Thanksging" Illegal dumping is costly. It threatens our environment. Let's all take responsibility.

#StopIllegalDumping

City of SpencerPO Box 660Fax:8200 NE 36th StreetMonoSpencer, Oklahoma 730848:00Phone: 405-771-3226

Fax: 405-771-3228 Monday – Friday 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM



Visit us at www.cityofspencerok.gov for forms, information, events and city news