



May 2026



Spencer Pride General Meeting

our mission

At Spencer Pride, our mission is to improve the quality of life for rural LGBTQ+ people in South Central Indiana by:

- fostering allyship and understanding through education and advocacy,
- creating safe spaces that support both physical and mental well-being, and
- addressing social inequities that stem from the unique intersectionality of queer and rural identities

JOIN US THIS SUNDAY

Volunteer Meeting

4-6 PM

In-Person or Via Zoom

Spencer Pride commUnity center
17 E. Franklin Street, Spencer

our vision

At Spencer Pride, our vision is to leverage our diversity and privilege in order to cultivate an inclusive community of compassion and celebration for rural LGBTQ+ people.

Support Lines

[The Trevor Project](#)
Text **Start** to 678678
1-866-488-7386

[National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#)
Call or text 988

[SAGE LGBT Elder Hotline](#)
1-877-360-5428

[Substance Abuse & Addiction Hotline](#)
1-844-289-0879

[Trans Lifeline](#)
1-877-565-8860

Save the Date: Our 20th Festival!

Save the date! We are celebrating the 20th annual Spencer Pride Festival on Saturday, October 3. We hope you'll join us for our biggest and most spectacular festival ever!

Monthly Programs



A group for lovers of books - including those "banned" for controversial content.
Meets at 5:30 pm on the 4th Thursday (also virtually). Contact Julie@SpencerPride.org for more info. Join our [Facebook Group!](#)

LGBT National Hotlines
National: 1-888-843-4564
Youth: 1-800-246-7743
Coming Out: 1-888-688-5428
Seniors: 1-888-234-7243

Middle Way House
 1-812-336-0846

If you know of other support hotlines that should be included, please email info@SpencerPride.org. As always, if you are in immediate danger, 911 should be your first option.

Rainbow Cruisers to the Caribbean



We are excited to announce Spencer Pride's next cruise! We will be sailing to the Caribbean on the Celebrity Beyond from June 14-21, 2026. The cruise is open to anyone who wants to support our work and experience Pride Month with us on the ocean! It is a family-friendly experience that is sure to offer something for everyone.

To register or get more details, scan the QR code or visit <https://spencerpride.johnheathttravel.com/>. For each stateroom reserved, Spencer Pride will receive a donation. Our 2024 cruise to Alaska helped us raise \$4,000, and we hope to exceed that amount in 2026.



Did you know that the first penny press (a.k.a. a penny smashing machine) debuted at the Chicago's World Fair in 1893? Since that time these unique machines have popped up around the world and are highly sought by tourists and collectors alike. What does a penny smashing machine do? Well, it should come as no surprise that it smashes pennies. It does so while also imprinting a special design into the coin. Children of all ages love to crank the handle and feel the pressure build as the penny is compressed and imprinted.

Spencer Pride is proud to host Owen County's only penny smashing machine, which has arrived just in time for the eclipse! The Spencer



Save the Date: Indy Pride Parade



Spencer Pride will be marching in the **Indy Pride Parade** this year, under our partnership with the **Indiana Pride Network**.

The Indiana Pride Network is made up of Pride Organizations throughout the entire state of Indiana.

The parade will take place Saturday, June 13th on Massachusetts Avenue in downtown Indianapolis. The actual parade begins at 10am culminating with the festival at noon in Military Park.

If you are interested in marching in the parade, please email John@SpencerPride.org (include the number of people if it is more than one) - we might be able to get shirts made - or just wear a Spencer Pride Festival shirt, those details are still in the works.

Please note, as of this newsletter, we are awaiting details from Indy Pride. John is gathering a list of interested people right now and more information will follow.

From the Indy Pride Parade Event page: Get ready for the biggest event of the year in our very own downtown Indianapolis! Come celebrate love, identity, and community at the Indianapolis Pride Parade. Join thousands of attendees as vibrant floats, local organizations, performers, and community leaders take over downtown in a joyful, high-energy march of visibility and pride. Whether you're walking, riding, or cheering from the sidelines, this is a can't-miss celebration of LGBTQ+ culture, resilience, and unity. Bring your friends, your flags, and your loudest cheers- everyone is welcome!



Meets on the 2nd Wednesday at 6:15 pm. Individuals bring their own mat, all abilities and level welcome. For more information, contact Julie.M@SpencerPride.org



A group for people who quilt, scrapbook, paint, decoupage, or anything of the like. Meets on the 2nd and 4th Friday from 5 pm to 7 pm. Individuals bring their own supplies to work on a project while others do the same. For more information, contact Cat@SpencerPride.org.



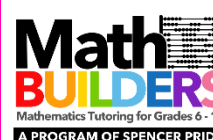
A group for people who love dancing and want to learn it and do it whenever they can. Meets at 6:15 pm on Thursdays. Contact Jacob@SpencerPride.org for more info. Join our [Facebook Group!](#)



A spousal grief support group for members of the LGBTQ+ community & allies. Meets at 5:30 pm on the 1st Wednesday. Contact Grief.Haven@SpencerPride.org for more info. Join our [Facebook Group!](#)



A group for LGBTQ+ teens and allies (10-19) to connect, support each other, and have fun. Meets at 5 pm on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday. Contact Joy@SpencerPride.org for more info. Follow us in Instagram!



A tutoring group for grades 6-12. Meets at 10 am on Saturdays. Visit our website for schedule. Contact Andrew@SpencerPride.org for more information.



A group for people who love birds and want to explore our natural world. Meets for outings on the 3rd Saturday, and special events. Contact Rainbow.Birders@SpencerPride.org for more info. Join our [Facebook Group!](#)



A social group for families with LGBTQ+ members. Meets quarterly. Contact Shea@SpencerPride.org for more info. Join our [Facebook Group!](#)



An inclusive Dungeons & Dragons RGP ang gaming group. RPG meets as scheduled. Open Game Night 3rd Saturday @ 4 pm. Contact Rainbow.Rollers@SpencerPride.org for more info. Join our [Facebook Group!](#)



A group for people who wish to live a more peaceful, joyful, and loving life.

Pride machine features 5 designs, each featuring a special place in Spencer. The penny smashing machine was sponsored in part by Babbs, the Historic Tivoli Theatre, McCormick's Creek State Park, and Sweet Owen Convention & Visitors Bureau. Each coin takes 4 quarters and one penny (just \$1.01 for an awesome souvenir!).

The Owen News

Come get the latest copy of [The Owen News](#) at the commUnity center! We are open Wednesday through Sunday 10 am until 7 pm. Support your local news organization!



Meets at 4 pm on the third Sunday. Contact Karen@SpencerPride.org for more info.

All monthly programs are free to participate and require no advanced registration.

We also host routine health & wellness services and monthly educational programming, in addition to annual events like the Spencer Pride Festival. For more information, ask a Spencer Pride volunteer or contact us at info@SpencerPride.org.

Calling All Artists



Spencer Pride is calling on artists, designers, and creative minds of all kinds to help us bring our 2026 festival theme to life: **"Changed For Good."**

Submit your original logo design for a chance to be featured as the official artwork of Spencer Pride 2026. The winning artist will receive a \$250 prize, a festival t-shirt, and recognition across our community.

Whether you're a seasoned designer or just someone with a great idea and a steady hand, we want to see your vision of what "Changed For Good" means.

Submissions are open May 1–30. Let's create something unforgettable.

More information: <https://spencerpride.org/20th-anniversary-logo-contest/>

(Re) Sale Items 50% off



Step into the thrill of the find. Spencer Pride's beloved annual commUnity Center (re)Sale has returned, and all resale is 50% off.

We're talking vintage treasures, quirky collectibles, home décor with personality, and the kind of one-of-a-kind pieces that spark conversation the second someone walks into your space. Whether you're hunting for mid-century vibes, retro flair, or that perfectly odd item you

didn't know you needed, this is your moment.

This isn't just shopping, it's a community tradition. Every purchase supports the work of Spencer Pride and helps keep the commUnity Center a vibrant, welcoming hub for everyone.

Hours:
Wednesday through Sunday
10:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Come browse. Come discover. Come back again because the good stuff never lasts long.

Right now. Half off. Let the treasure hunt begin.

Finn: A New Musical



Constellation Stage & Screen presents *Finn: A New Musical* – At the PB&J Cafe
On Stage May 1-17 at the Waldron Auditorium

A Dinner Theater for Kids! At the PB&J Cafe, young theatergoers will enjoy a meal during the performance and leave with autographs from their favorite characters.

From the creator of Doc McStuffins and Vampirina, *Finn* is a heartwarming musical adventure about a young shark on the brink of growing up. As he prepares to join the fearsome Shark Guard, Finn can't shake the feeling that he's different from the other sharks. Deep inside, he discovers a colorful fish inside him—a part of himself that longs to sparkle, sing, and dance. As Finn embarks on a journey of self-discovery, friendship, and adventure, he finds the courage to be himself!

Find tickets at <https://seeconstellation.org/kids/finn/>



Open Shifts

Text or call Jacob at 812-821-1442, or watch our Facebook Volunteer group for posts announcing opportunities!



Become A Sustainer

We are incredibly thankful for our sustainers! These amazing supporters give at a regular interval to cover 50% of the commUnity center's monthly operation costs.

Our goal for 2026 is to grow our Sustainer program to cover 100% of our center's operating costs.

To become a Sustainer, reach out to our Fundraising Director, Elisabeth Solchik, or you can start the process on our website: <https://spencerpride.org/donate/>



Did you know you could help support Spencer Pride while you are shopping?

support spencer pride through corporate MATCHING

EIN: 26-2197732
ASK YOUR HR/BENEFITS REP FOR MORE INFORMATION!

Matching gift programs are just one of the many types of corporate philanthropy initiatives that companies have, but \$4 - \$7 BILLION in matching gift funds are unclaimed each year!

PHILANTHROPY 101: When an employee makes a donation, they'll request the matching gift from their employer, who then makes their own donation. Companies usually match donations at a 1:1 ratio.

COMMUNITY REWARDS UPDATE FOR Q4 2025

YOU CAN HELP!

1. Register your existing Kroger Plus card, or create a new digital card at: <https://www.kroger.com/signin>
2. Under your Kroger Profile > go to Community Rewards > Enroll:
3. Search **EU230** to find Spencer Pride.

37 households
\$55 donated

To learn more about linking your Kroger Rewards Card to Spencer Pride:
<https://www.kroger.com/l/community/community-rewards>

SPENCER PRIDE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

 <p>Jonathan Balash he/him President Programming Director Committee(s): E, P, S</p>	 <p>John Angeline he/him Communications Director Committee(s): D</p>
 <p>Kim Fidler she/her Secretary Advocacy Director Committee(s): E, P, S</p>	 <p>Jacob Balash he/him commUnity center Director Committee(s): P</p>
 <p>Elisabeth Solchik she/her Vice President Development Director Committee(s): E, D, S</p>	 <p>Shea Finnegan he/him Director Committee(s): P</p>
 <p>Wendy Wonderley she/her Treasurer Committee(s): E, F, P</p>	 <p>Joy Hellman she/her Youth Empowerment Director Committee(s): P</p>
<p>COMMITTEE LEGEND: D = Development, E = Executive, F = Finance, P = Programming S = ED Selection</p> <p>For more information about our Board, please scan here:</p> 	 <p>Rex Hinkle he/him Outreach Director Committee(s): D</p>
	 <p>Martha Nally she/her Relationship Development Director Committee(s): D</p>

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

A commUnity center Sponsor provides much needed support to assist with our current programming as well as with our future building expansion and programming that supports the LGBTQ+ community.

If you or someone you know would like to be a Sponsor, click [here](#) for more details!

A Spencer Pride Sustainer is a donor who gives at a regular interval – monthly, quarterly, or annually – for as little as \$5/month.

We are incredibly thankful for our 2026 sustainers. These amazing supporters give at a regular interval to cover over 75% of the commUnity center's current monthly operation costs.

To become a Sustainer, reach out to our Vice President and Development Director, Elisabeth Solchik at Elisabeth@spencerpride.org, or you can start the process through our website: <https://spencerpride.org/donate/>

Check the box "Show my support by making this a recurring donation"
And in the blank space that is a drop-down field for "My donation is for," select "Sustainer (Recurring)"

SPENCER PRIDE
For the LGBTQ+ community & allies

2026 Sustainers

Become a Sustainer

Ben Ale-Ebrahim	Patti Cowin	Christy Kelley	Lynne Shifriss
John* Angeline	Christy Crandall	Kathy Kessler	Casey Shively
Jonathan* Balash	Eric Crown	Matt Kirk	Kathryn Shumate
Jacob* Balash	Dave Debikey	Donna Lowe	Kathy Sidel
Truman Balash	Kelli Debikey	Ann Mahrtd	RJ Sliva
Kathy Balash	Tyler DeFord	Marissa Mallo	Jenny Smith
Fred Balash	Carl Deitchman	Bob Marshall	Elisabeth* Solchik
Marion Banzhaf	Chad Eppelheimer	Lucie Mathieu	Cat Spratt
Connie Barton	Kim* Fidler	Jody May	Anna Spears
Vic Bequeret	Shea Finnegan*	Felix McBeath	Marcia Steele
Glenda Breeden	Eric Flynn-McCormick	Cathy McFarland	Mitch Teplitsky
Bill Breeden	Jim Frohlinger	David McFarland	Brayton Thompson
Jennifer Brown	David Friedel	Berta Medicus-Moore	Marci Tillison
Wren Brown	Darrell Frye	Debbie Messer	Terese Urban
Pam Browning	Cathy C. Gebhard	Martha* Nally	Nicole Vasconi
George Brinson	Kate Gehringer	Donna Nicholas	Karla Vedder
Jessica Brinson	John Grisham	Amanda Nixon	Erica Whichello
Dean Bruce	Cari Hale	Mark Parmenter	Karen Williams
Marcia Bruce	Jackie Hall	Julie Parmenter	Don Wooldridge
Linda Bucklin	Nicholas Heck	Ed O'Brien	Wendy* Wonderley
Alex Butrum-Griffith	Mary Heldt	Phillip O'Neil	Cathy Wyatt
Linda Campbell	Joy* Hellman	Jameson O'Neil	Dan Wyatt
John Cash	David Henk	Janet Rummel	Karen Zuber
Nathaniel Clawson	Ann Henk	Eric Sader	Tom Zuber
Beth Clawson	Rex* Hinkle	Bethany Satrom	Katie Zuber
Allie Cogan McHaley	Cindy Houston	Dorcilla Schoolman	
Claire Cogan McHaley	Melanie Keller	John Settle-Corbin	*Board of Directors

PURPLE SPONSOR

2025 SPENCER PRIDE FESTIVAL

This is the Moment

**OCTOBER 4
SPENCER, IN**

Thanks again for your support!

Our Contact Information

Spencer Pride, Inc.
PO Box 585
Spencer, IN 47460
812-652-5000
<http://www.SpencerPride.org>

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