

The Springdale Sun

A local newspaper in Springdale, UT, September 23, 2025, Issue 12

Mission Statement: ***The Springdale Sun*** strives to inform, enlighten, illuminate, listen to, amuse, and encourage Springdale citizens, while also providing analysis, clarification, and an honest forum in order to increase the sense of community and well being in Springdale.

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Scalia/Ginsburg

Scalia/Ginsburg is a modern opera based on the unusual relationship between Chief Justice Antonin Scalia and Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Scalia was ever the conservative intellectual anchor for originalism and textualism. Ginsburg, the demure firebrand was a study in achievement despite obstacles, and a constant source of progressive opinions as she resolutely championed justice as she saw it. On the court they were usually at loggerheads, two brilliant minds of diametrically opposed opinions.

And yet, these two champions forged a deep, though seemingly unlikely, friendship. They shared a love of opera, as well as law. They often dined together before attending an opera and their families would get together socially. The story of their political division and personal unity should give us hope.

Two things they never did. They never let their judgement differences affect their friendship. They never let their friendship affect their judgements.

You have no idea how often I decide to never publish an article that is negative about the Town Council's actions. ***The Springdale Sun*** would still be of value if it steered clear of controversy and just published human interest type of articles, was a forum for all things friendly, health advice, what to do in town, etc.

Happily, I would never again get an email calling me unethical and manipulative. I could sure live with that.

But, frankly, if I followed that kumbaya path, I might not get called unethical, but I would certainly feel cowardly. TSS would shift from being a newspaper forum for ***all*** things Springdale to a newsletter for ***some*** things Springdale, pretending roses have no thorns. Importantly, at least to me, is that taking that easier path would not honor the admiration I have for Justices Ginsburg and Scalia and their legacy.

The Glow

by Debi Keys

✨ **Do You Want "The Glow…?"**

It's Easier Than You Think To Get The Glow – From the Inside Out

Ever wondered how some people have that radiant, glowing skin—like they've just returned from a tropical spa retreat? The secret may surprise you: sulfur-rich foods.

Now, before you picture deviled eggs at your office holiday party, let's set the record straight. Sulfur isn't just about the smell—it's often called the *"beauty mineral"* for good reason. In fact, people travel from all over the world to soak in mineral hot springs (that smell like rotten eggs!) because sulfur has long been linked to detoxification and skin health.

Why Sulfur Matters for Your Skin

Sulfur plays a vital role in your body:

- Helps digest fats for healthier skin.
- Regulates carbohydrate metabolism.
- Aids in flushing out toxins that can clog pores and dull your complexion.

Your Daily Glow Plan

The quickest way to glowing skin isn't an expensive spa trip—it's making sulfur-rich foods part of your daily meals. These cruciferous veggies may not always be the most glamorous (or the best-smelling in the kitchen), but they pack a glow-boosting punch:

- Broccoli
- Cauliflower
- Cabbage
- Bok Choy
- Kohlrabi
- Brussels Sprouts

Try This "Glow" Salad

Here's a delicious way to sneak sulfur-rich foods into your routine:

Salad Ingredients:

- 1 bunch arugula, chopped
- 1 bunch watercress, chopped
- 3 leaves kale, shredded
- 4 radishes, sliced
- 1 red bell pepper, thin strips
- ½ cup purple cabbage
- 1 avocado, diced
- Sprinkle of hemp or pumpkin seeds

- **Dressing:**
  - 1 clove garlic, minced
  - 1 tsp stone-ground mustard
  - Juice of 1 lemon
  - ¼ bunch parsley, finely chopped
  - 4 basil leaves, finely chopped
  - ⅓ cup extra virgin olive oil
- Whisk together and drizzle over your greens for a vibrant, skin-loving salad.

How Do You Know If You Need More Sulfur?

Consider adding more sulfur foods if you notice:

- Breakouts or acne-prone skin
- Brittle hair and nails
- A pale or tired-looking complexion

- Even if your skin feels fine now, sulfur can still be your secret weapon for that extra *glow factor.*



Give your skin the nutrients it craves!

- **To your health,**
  Debs~

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Who knew I would ever add sulfur to my gratitude list?

September is suicide prevention month. If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available. Call or text 988 or chat 988lifeline.org to reach the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.

As Promised - by Elizabeth Cutler

Seems to me I saw a facebook post a while ago from someone who would disagree with me and does want this fancy park upgrade. I don't remember who or what exactly they said. If you think differently about the park upgrade, please comment and open up that dialogue. Just hit reply and tell me what you think! This is your newspaper.

Recap:
Issue 9: Article about potential reasons to not always trust Town Council's ability to do what is best for Springdale, giving ten reasons for that uncertainty
Issue 10: addressed in more detail the first of those ten reasons: the workforce housing overlay zone change
Issue 11, last issue: addressed item 2: The land-swap proposal for a medical clinic
Issue 12, this issue, will address items 5, 6, and 7 (skipping 3 and 4 for now). These three items all have to do with the George A. Barker Springdale River Park.

When the parcel of land right by Barker Park came up for sale, the Town decided to buy it. They were advised by local real estate experts that it was way overpriced, but they went ahead and bought it without an attempt to get it at market value. As boo boos go, not the worst in the world.

The Mayor spearheaded a proposal to use that purchased parcel as a location for a history museum. Thank heavens others in the community saw how that would completely destroy the use of Barker Park as a local amenity. Petitions were signed, complaints were registered and eventually, the writing on the wall was clear, and the proposal was withdrawn.

Ah, then, what to do with an expanded Barker Park? Why, hire consultants to fancy it up now that it has more land. So the consultants came with ideas in hand to present to Springdale residents. I attended those meetings. They asked which of several delightful options did we prefer. Everyone I heard speak said we wanted to keep it pretty much as is. The bathrooms may need upgrading, make the new parcel usable, but if we fancy it up it will become another tourist destination, of which we have plenty. Let's try and keep this for locals.

They responded, "We hear you. Now, which would you prefer, a playground or a hammock area?" I felt like I had walked into an optometrist's office with perfect 20/20 vision, the optometrist sat me in a chair, put those big things over my eyes and said, "Which is better? One, or two? One, or two?"

I answered, "Well, one but, really, it was better without anything."

"OK, which is better then, 3 or 4, 3, or 4?"

"Well, I guess, 4 is better than 3, but really, …"

I wasn't able to find out how much was spent just for the consultation but the proposed fix for that which was not broken is in the 2 million dollar range. (See **Barker River Park Expansion Project Update**, page 7)

'Tis the Season

Calling all candidates and all who have opinions about candidates. Feel free to express yourselves in ***The Springdale Sun***. I will publish what you send me. It will probably be at the end because some readers have expressed a lack of political interest.

You probably don't remember, but in the first issue I told readers that I would be publishing the candidates' answers to certain questions. The only candidates who were willing to respond happened to be those for whom I was voting so I did not publish them because it felt biased. But you know what, I promise to print what I am sent by whomever sends it. (Well, no vulgarity. Stay mature.)

So, if candidates are not willing to speak for themselves, perhaps you can speak for them. There may be more important things in life than voting for local leadership, but vote we should. Vote based on trivia? hearsay? We should not. We deserve candidates who are willing to express themselves publicly, tell us what they want to do for Springdale. This is a public forum. Please utilize it.

The Town that Defined Itself

Based on search results, a compelling human-interest story about Springdale, Utah could focus on the community's unique identity and its determined effort to retain its character while managing millions of tourists annually.

The Town that Defined Itself

For years, the town of Springdale was known primarily as the parking lot for Zion National Park. The relationship between the park and the gateway town wasn't always a smooth one, with contentious council meetings over proposed developments in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Residents feared Springdale might become another Gatlinburg, Tennessee—a tourist-trap atmosphere that would overshadow the surrounding natural beauty.

But instead of letting large-scale commercial development define them, the people of Springdale chose to define themselves. A pivotal moment came in the late 1990s with the development of the Zion Transportation System, a unique shuttle service that transports visitors both within the park and throughout the town.

This project was built on a new partnership between town officials and Zion National Park Superintendent Don Falvey. With a collaborative approach, the shuttle system successfully relieved vehicle congestion and allowed Springdale to manage its growth while preserving its small-town feel.

Since the shuttle's implementation in 2000, Springdale has received national recognition for its sustainable approach to tourism. Residents can now use the shuttle for their daily errands, and visitors enjoy a more pedestrian-friendly experience, exploring the town's unique shops and restaurants.

Stewards of the night sky

Another testament to the town's commitment to quality of life is its "International Dark Sky Community" designation. Residents and advocates worked together to prioritize dark-sky conservation, preserving the awe-inspiring view of the Milky Way that Springdale is known for. The community passed ordinances to reduce light pollution, requiring downward-facing, shielded outdoor lighting for homes and businesses.

This initiative, led by dedicated residents, benefits everyone. It improves safety and quality of life for full-time residents while also preserving the habitat for local wildlife. For tourists, it adds another breathtaking experience—stargazing in one of the darkest skies in the country.

The Springdale History Center

The town is striving to preserve its unique history. The town's Historic Preservation Commission worked to have a museum where they could highlight, not just the region's Latter-day Saint settlers, but also the town's rich Native American history, in partnership with the Paiute tribe. This museum would also focus on the evolution of Springdale's vital hospitality industry and include oral histories from longtime residents. By incorporating lumber from the old Cable Mountain draw works, and rocks from original irrigation ditches, the building itself would become a living piece of Springdale's past. It would be a way for a tight-knit community to share its story of resilience, connection, and deep-rooted sense of place.

Sadly, this has yet to come to fruition but the dream indicates how the citizens of Springdale are demanding of themselves that Springdale remains a real community, with roots and branches: a town which welcomes tourists, not just a "tourist town."



The takeaway

Springdale's story is one of a community that has resisted the forces of overdevelopment to maintain its unique character. Its commitment to sustainable tourism, dark-sky preservation, and inclusive historical preservation makes it a model for other gateway towns and a compelling example of people working together to protect what they love.

*(**Confession**: This article was generated by AI in response to me simply asking if it knew a human interest story about Springdale, UT. I decided to share it because I think it raises worthwhile points. That said, I'm not convinced we've been quite as successful at resisting overdevelopment —or quite as strong a model for other gateway towns—as the article suggests. What I do believe, wholeheartedly, is that we are sincerely trying, with every bit of the energy and generosity of motive it attributes to us. If you have any corrections, or comments, everyone would be grateful if you shared. Just hit reply.)*

Special Town Council Meeting Summary

On Tuesday, September 20th, the Town Council convened a special meeting to determine whether the Town should partner with Switchpoint to build and manage rental properties on a parcel the town owns on Trapper Circle. The meeting was called quickly with a concern that funding was available now that might not be after October 1. This turned out to be moot as there was no way to meet an October 1 deadline.

The Town had previously sent out an RFP (a formal document that an entity issues to procure proposals from appropriate providers for a desired project), for both the Red Hawk project and to develop the Trapper Circle parcel. They received two offers and chose Mountain Country Home Solutions. The RFP tied the two projects together. No RFP was ever sent out just for Red Hawk or just for Trapper Circle.

Both the Red Hawk and Trapper Circle projects aim to provide workforce housing. The Red Hawk project, which was attempted first, has run into snag after snag so getting the units on Trapper Circle has been delayed. In talking to Mountain Country Home Solutions, the Town decided to sever Trapper Circle from Mountain Country and try to find another developer. No RFP was issued to find an interested provider for Trapper Circle by itself but the Mayor made several calls and eventually spoke to Switchpoint who was willing to take on the project which consists of building units to rent to workforce, managing them, and being deeded the land. Switchpoint will do whatever is required in the contract Springdale would sign with them for the "duration of the contract."

This allows Springdale to get workforce housing without having to be in the landlord business and allows Switchpoint to acquire valuable Springdale land as well as the rental incomes from the homes.

Several residents expressed concern that Switchpoint is largely experienced in providing homes for the homeless and lacks the expertise for this project. If they did send out an RFP, Switchpoint could submit a proposal and be potentially chosen. One citizen stated that had Trapper Circle been severed from the Red Hawk project, he would have submitted a proposal but did not want to get into the Red Hawk part of it. He also stated that he had built a casita for under $75,000.00 so if you multiply that by the potential units (10), he could see it coming in at under a million - an attractive cost/profit ratio.

The Springdalians who showed up seemed to be in favor of slowing down and sending out another RFP for Trapper Circle only. The Mayor responded that one had been sent out with minimal response. But the only RFP that had been sent out was for Red Hawk and Trapper Circle combined.

The Mayor and Randy Aton were the most vocal about wanting to proceed without sending out another RFP pointing out that even if they voted to go with Switchpoint, there were still several steps to go and the Town could back out at any juncture of that process until the contract was signed. Also, we have waited long enough to get going on Trapper Circle and provide workforce housing.

The Switchpoint representative responded to citizen concerns by stating that Switchpoint had, several years ago, started providing workforce housing and they were perfectly capable of doing so. He also also said that building something was building something. Also, workforce housing projects are simpler than homeless housing ones as there won't be the mental health issues that usually accompany homeless housing projects.

The Mayor and Randy Aton were the most verbal in not wanting the delay of sending out an RFP. The council voted 4 to 1 to proceed with Switchpoint, with Pat Campbell being the no vote.

Special Town Council Meeting Questions

So many things about this meeting I didn't understand.

I didn't understand the mistrust of Switchpoint. I didn't understand why TC didn't go ahead and issue an RFP exclusively for Trapper Circle, regardless of confidence in Switchpoint. I didn't understand why the 6 weeks to do that wouldn't be seen as insurance that it wouldn't be delayed by a far greater amount if something went amiss with Switchpoint and it became necessary to sever.

I didn't understand how no one else seemed intrigued by what Gil Kiefer had to say. I don't know the man but I kind of wanted to award him the contract.

I didn't understand the reason why Springdale does not want to get into the landlord business. It was stated so axiomatically like, duh, we can't do that. I don't understand why not. Trapper Circle could have been done ages ago, providing a steady income stream to the town, and no housing authority needed (if used for workforce). The initial outlay would be considerable, but, hay, we're giving away some valuable land. Just sayin'

I don't understand why there was no discussion of what happens after the contract with Switchpoint (or whomever) is up. Is it never up? Am I the only one who doesn't know that?

Tom Kenaston made some interesting comments I would like to understand better.

Now that I'm writing this (shortly before publication) I don't understand why I didn't do more research. Well, I kind of know that, it's been a busy week and research is time consuming. Also, I'm getting embarrassed to keep pestering Town Staff. Sorry, readers. If anyone can enlighten, please do.

Never Bored in Springdale

September 23 Tuesday
Mark Boggs – Zion Canyon Brew Pub – 4:00 Free

Community Development is providing a:
TWO-CENT STROLL
on Wednesday, **Sept. 24th**
when all residents can come and give their opinion about all things in which Community Development is involved, like planning and zoning. Meet at **9 am** at the **Town Hall** for a walking meeting where all will head to the Town Plaza, and then off to historical sites like the irrigation ditch, jail, and pioneer cemetery, talking as they go and ending back at Town Hall. All are welcome to join and comment, question, congratulate and commiserate!



Now is your chance to give them your two-cent's worth.

SPRINGDALE LIBRARY PROGRAMS IN SEPTEMBER: ["Literature is my utopia." Hellen Keller]

Story Time - Every Wednesday @ 10:30AM
Tween Book Club - Fourth Wednesday @ 4:00PM, Sept. 24, **The Bluest Sky**, by C. D. Gonzalez
Adult Craft Night - Fourth Thursday @ 5:00PM, Sept. 25, Paint Night, free, but register at 435 772 3676

Karaoke September 25
At the Bumbleverry Theater Thursday, 6 - 9 pm. Admission is free. Come join your neighbors and have some fun. You don't have to sing if you don't want to. You can sit and enjoy or order food and/or drinks from Porters or the bakery.

September 26 Friday
Z-Arts Artist Talk/Reception for Lanell Dike and Liz Byer- Canyon Community Center 4:00 to 6:00 Free

September 26 & 27
Bit n Spur Zion Canyon Music Festival If you are a resident or worker of Springdale including ZNP, you can get a free Friday night ticket to the Music festival. Go to the front desk at the Springdale Town Office to redeem your ticket. Bring proof of residence or employment.

September 27 Saturday
Charlie Olgrady – Zion Canyon Brew Pub – 4:00 Free

September 29
Groovonix - St. George, UT - Classic Rock, 80s, Hits - Bit N Spur 6:00 Free. Charlie Olgrady – Zion Canyon Brew Pub – 4:00 Free

Z-Arts
Zion Canyon Arts and Crafts Fair will be back Friday, Nov. 28, 2025 from 10 am to 6:30 pm. when we transform the CCC into a delightful artisan market filled with creative wares made by our talented local artists!

To access the Town's September newsletter with lots of information about Town happenings: <https://www.springdaletown.com/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/217> (copy & paste) Link to the town's community events calendar: <https://www.springdaletown.com/calendar.aspx?CID=23>

Añu Restaurant at Hotel De Novo in Springdale is now offering locals a 10% discount. Still pricey, but beats a sharp stick in the eye and the food is pretty awesome.

The **Kayenta trail** is closed for the month of September for trail maintenance.

New Moon last Sunday means it's still a good time for star gazing with dark skies.

The Planning Commission met last Wednesday, September 17, 2025. They first discussed portable signage, advising Town Council to approve them for businesses, as long as they complied with the town color pallet, would be made of plastic, wood, or metal, kept in good repair, were sturdy, came in at night, were of appropriate size, and did not shake, rattle, or roll.

They then discussed how to define removal of a property and after some good thoughts, asked Staff to do some further research. I expect this discussion will take some time.

They are being thoughtful and thorough as they consider how to best manage the Virgin River. Kash Bhatti and Terry Kruschke, with Niall Connolly on Staff are in the early stages of meeting with experts and learning best practices for river management.

The road around Toquerville has been completed for about 2 weeks now. It's awesome. If you're headed to St. George, that's the way to go.

Barker River Park Expansion Project Update

Town Staff was asked, "Where are we with the upgrades to the Barker River Park? Is it moving forward? Is funding being sought?" The answer was:
"The Town Manager report to the Town Council regarding the Tentative Budget (from April 16 of this year) gives an update on the status of the River Park. See the "Parks Capital Project Fund" section beginning at the bottom of page 3.
The update in the report is still accurate."

The information under "Parks Capital Project Fund" reads:
"Parks Capital Project Fund
Revenues in the parks capital project fund include park impact fees.The next major project of the parks capital project fund is construction work related to the River Park expansion. The Parks and Recreation Department is currently applying for grant funds to move that project forward. If work proceeds this year, it will be included in a future budget amendment."

As far as what TSS was able to find out:  Th-Th-Th-That's All Folks !





SPRINGDALE'S TWO-CENT STROLL

Join the Community Development Department for a stroll around some of Springdale's historic gems!

We will meet and end at the Town Hall.

9 AM	SEPTEMBER 24TH

SPRINGDALE AUGUST 2025 STATS			
CITATIONS		ARRESTS	
Speed	35	Speed - School Zone	3
Driver License Never Obtained	4	Drug Possession	1
Registration-Failed to/Expired	2	Paraphernalia Possession	1
Follow Too Close	2	Warrant	3
Improper Pass - No Pass Zone	4	Public Intoxication	1
Insurance - No Proof Of	4	Disorderly - Fight, Violent, Threaten	1
Drive Across Median or Divider	1	Operate Vehicle w/o License/Registration	1
Windshield - Reduced Visibility	1		
Improper Pass - On Right	1		
TOTAL CITATIONS	54	TOTAL ARRESTS	11
WARNING ON CITES	9		

SPRINGDALE INCIDENTS

NATURE	SPRINGDALE		
911 Hang Up	2	Overdose	0
Abandoned Vehicle	0	Panic Alarm	0
Agency Assist	16	Paraphernalia	0
Alcohol Offense	0	Park Security Check	50
Animal Bite	0	Parking Problem	10
Animal Emergency	1	PD Accident	4
Animal Problem	8	Person Down	0
Assault	0	PI Accident	0
Attempt to Locate	4	Property Damage	0
Attended Death	0	Protective Order Violation	0
Bike Patrol	0	Prowler	0
Brush Fire	0	Psychiatric	0
Business Alarm	3	Public Urination	0
Business Burglary	0	Residence Burglary	0
Business Checks	29	Resident Vacation Check	15
Camping Problem	5	Residential Alarm	0
Child Abuse Neglect	0	Retail Theft	0
Choking	0	School Zone Enforcement	24
Citizen Assist	6	Sex Offender Registry	2
Citizen Contact	9	Sex Offense	0
Citizen Dispute	0	Stalking	0
Civil	1	Structure Fire	1
Community Oriented Policing	3	Suicical	0
Construction Site Checks	0	Suspicious Other	1
Counterfeiting	0	Suspicious Person	1
Criminal Mischief	1	Suspicious Vehicle	6
Crosswalk Enforcement	21	Telematic Alarm	0
Curfew	0	Telephone Harassment	1
Disorderly	0	Theft	0
Drugs	1	Threatening	0
DUI	0	Traffic Hazard	5
DV Assault	0	Traffic Offense	3
DV Criminal Mischief	0	Traffic Stop Warning	41
DV Unlawful Detention	0	Traumatic	0
Evading	0	Trespassing	2
Extra Patrol	118	Unattended Death	0
Family Fight	0	Unconcious	0
Felony Theft	0	Unsecured Premise	0
Fire	1	Utility Problem	0
Fireworks	0	Vagrancy	1
Follow up	8	Vehicle Fire	0
Found Property	18	Vehicle Theft	0
Fraud	1	VIN Inspection	0
Gas Theft	0	Wanted Person	1
Graffiti	0	Weapon Offense	0
Harassment	1	Welfare Check	5
Hit and Run	2	Wildlife/Poaching	0
Hitchhiking	0		0
Illegal Burning	0		0
Impound	0		0
Intoxication	0		0
Jail Release	0		0
Juvenile Problem	0		0
Keep the Peace	0		0
Lewdness	0		0
Littering	0		0
Lockout	5		0
Lost Property	3		0
Medical Assist	2		0
Missing Person	1		0
Motorist Assist	3		0
Noise Complaint	1		0
Nuisance	0		0
Other	0		0
TOTAL SPRINGDALE INCIDENTS	447		