

The Springdale Sun

A local newspaper in Springdale, UT,

October 7, 2025, Issue 14

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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Correction: Last week's issue had an article entitled "Springdale Community Forum Created" and I neglected to give credit to the author, Robyn Chancy, for said article. She has accepted my apology, as I hope you will. More from Robyn Chancy in this Issue.

Motion is Lotion - by Debi Keys

"Synovial Fluid: Motion is Lotion"

Have you ever noticed how stiff and achy joints can feel after sitting too long? That's because your body's natural "joint lubricant" – synovial fluid – thrives on movement.

Synovial fluid is like nature's WD-40 for your joints. It cushions, nourishes, and reduces friction so bones glide smoothly during activity. The catch? It only circulates when you move. That's why the phrase *"motion is lotion"* is more than a catchy line—it's a biological truth.

When we stay sedentary, joints can feel tight and creaky. But even gentle movement—like walking, stretching, or low-impact exercise—stimulates synovial fluid flow, improves flexibility, and helps keep cartilage healthy. Over time, regular activity doesn't just ease discomfort, it strengthens muscles, supports mobility, and gives you the energy to do more of what you love.

The good news? It's never too late to start moving better and feeling better. Whether you've been sidelined by a busy schedule or just want to protect your joints for the long run, daily motion is your best friend.

Don't wait until stiffness slows you down—let's get moving!



To your best health,

Debi Keys, CHHC, CPT

Certified Holistic Health Coach
Advanced Sports Nutritional Advisor
Certified Pilates Instructor & Personal Fitness Trainer
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Springdale depends on visitors, yes. But its real strength lies in the people who stay when the buses stop coming — the ones who keep spirits up, and the canyon's stories alive and ongoing — the ones who know love is an action verb as they create and contribute, through art, service, and civic involvement. As anyone who's lived here knows: Springdale is more than a ZNP parking lot. It's a community, stitched together by sandstone, sunlight, and a steady steam of kindness. It is neighbors who never forget how to look out for their own.

-Anonymous

Engage, Attend and Be Informed

by Robyn Chancy

The **Springdale Community Forum** invites all residents to actively shape the upcoming "Meet the Candidates" Night for the Town Council and Mayoral elections. This is your chance to get answers on the issues that matter most to you before you vote.

Your Voice, Your Questions
The best way to ensure the candidates address the community's most pressing concerns is to ask the questions yourself! We are soliciting questions from all residents to be asked by our non-partisan moderator at the forum.

What are the most important issues facing Springdale right now? We want to hear what's on your mind. Please do not let your concerns or priorities go unaddressed.

Submit your questions now to help set the agenda for the night. Your input will ensure a productive and focused discussion on the issues that impact our daily lives.

How to Submit Your Questions
Email:
springdalecommunityforum@gmail.com
(Subject: Candidate Question)
Deadline: Monday, October 13, 2025

After you send in a question—come to the event and hear the answers directly! "Meet the Candidates" Night is a crucial opportunity to compare the candidates side-by-side, learn about their priorities, and understand their vision for our community.

Meet the Candidates Night Schedule

Mayoral Candidates Event begins at 6:00pm
Opening - Each candidate will have equal 90 second opening statements.
Q&A Period - Moderator will alternate questions to candidates. Both candidates will receive the same questions. Responses to questions will be limited to 60 seconds. Clarification will be allowed at the moderator's discretion, and limited to 30 seconds.
Rapid Fire - Moderator will ask a series of questions requiring a simple yes or no answer from each candidate.
Closing - Each candidate will have equal 3 minute closing statements.
20 Minute Break with Refreshments

Town Council Candidates Event starts at 7:00pm
Opening - Each candidate will have equal 90 second opening statements.
Q&A Period - Moderator will alternate questions to candidates. All candidates will receive the same questions. Responses to questions will be limited to 60 seconds. Clarification will be allowed at the moderator's discretion, and limited to 30 seconds.
Rapid Fire - Moderator will ask a series of questions requiring a simple yes or no answer from each candidate.
Closing - Each candidate will have equal 3 minute closing statements.

Meet the Moderator

by Robyn Chancy



The **Springdale Community Forum** is pleased to announce our moderator for the October 16, 2025 Candidates Night at the Canyon Community Center: Dr. Kevan Jacobson. Dr. Jacobson is Chair of the Political Science and Criminal Justice Department at Southern Utah University.

Colonel (Retired) Kevan Jacobson served more than 30 years as a lawyer in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps. He is a recognized expert in criminal law with extensive experience as a prosecuting attorney, supervisory defense counsel, and criminal justice administrator.

Jacobson served around the world at the tactical, operational, and strategic levels during his long military career; practicing across an extremely broad and diverse spectrum of federal, military, and international law. He was repeatedly assigned to lead many of the Army's largest and most complex legal operations, often involving the supervision of hundreds of attorneys and other legal professionals.

At Southern Utah University, Jacobson teaches substantive and procedural criminal law as well as national security and American government. Previously, he taught criminal law at the Army Judge Advocate General's School where he served as associate dean. He also administered its congressionally chartered American Bar Association accredited master of law program.

Jacobson earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Utah State University followed by a law degree from Brigham Young University. At the Army Judge Advocate General's School, he earned a master of law degree, and at U.S. Army War College, he earned a master's degree in strategic studies. A licensed attorney, he has been a member of the Utah State Bar since 1984.

Transparency and Trust in a Small Town

editorial by Pat Campbell, 503-793-6536, pcampbell@springdale.utah.gov

In the September issue of the Springdale Town newsletter, the Mayor included a dictionary refresher on "transparency," courtesy of Oxford and Cambridge. Although both universities are fine authorities on plain English, in Springdale, we tend to define it more simply—honest communication and accountable leadership.

When the Mayor states, "Members of the Planning Commission and Town Council are invited to an annual training that includes OPMA," it gives the impression that this training is optional. In reality, attendance is required by state law, not left to personal discretion.

Similarly, Utah law requires all elected and appointed officials to disclose conflicts of interest. Announcing that current officials are "happy" to comply is not an act of transparency, but simple obedience to the law—something expected of anyone who serves on Town Council or the Planning Commission.

The statement, "What does that mean to the residents of Springdale? Trust us," raises a fundamental question: Why should trust be demanded if transparency is practiced? When politicians feel compelled to proclaim their transparency, it often has the opposite effect—sparking skepticism rather than confidence. True public trust is built through actions: sharing information openly, explaining decisions honestly, and consistently demonstrating accountability—never through self-congratulatory assurances or appeals for blind trust.

Genuine trust is grounded in accuracy and reliability: it arises when people can consistently and correctly anticipate both what will be done and that it will, in fact, be done. However, trust alone does not always yield desirable outcomes. If residents anticipate that officials will consistently pursue policies contrary to public wishes—such as the Workforce Housing Overlay Zone—then trust simply means reliably expecting disappointment.

In short, public trust must be earned through verifiable actions, not demanded by declaration. Listen to what is said, observe what is done, and decide for yourselves whether trust is warranted.

Connection and Community - There's an App for That

editorial by Noel Benson

Springdale sits at the crossroads of small-town life and global tourism. Every year, millions of visitors come through on their way to Zion National Park, and their presence helps shape our daily routines. To keep our community livable, connected, and thriving, it's time to think creatively about how technology can make life easier for residents — starting with the idea of a Springdale town app.

A Resident-First Tool for Daily Life

Unlike typical tourism apps, this concept would be designed first and foremost for residents. The goal is simple: make daily life smoother, communication clearer, and community connections stronger.

Residents could use the app to:

•View **live camera feeds** from Zions entrance gate, River Park, the town park, town hall or the post office and more, to see lines or crowd and parking levels before heading out.

•Receive **instant alerts** about road work, water service, power interruptions, and public safety notices.

•Access **town services** such as bill payments, permit submissions, or meeting agendas — all in one place.

•Stay informed about **community events** and local happenings.

Not everyone enjoys Facebook and these practical features would help residents save time and stay better connected to the town they support year-round.

A Voice for the Community

Perhaps the most transformative feature would be the ability to conduct **real-time polls and community surveys** directly through the app. Residents could quickly share their input on town priorities — from park improvements, large expenditures, potential development, zoning questions and more. That feedback could help the Town Council and staff make data-driven, resident-informed decisions while keeping the public engaged and heard.

It's a small-town version of "digital democracy" — efficient, transparent, and empowering.

Helping Visitors Helps Residents

Though the app would focus on residents, it would also naturally make tourism more manageable. Visitors could use it to find **available parking**, **track shuttle times**, or locate restaurants and shops.

When tourists are better informed, they spend less time guessing when to put on their blinker, then speed up, then slow down, then put the blinker back on. Oops wrong spot, speed back up and repeat. That means fewer traffic backups and ultimately less impact on residents.

Modern, Scalable, and Affordable

Developing a town-specific app no longer requires a big budget. Many small towns now use scalable platforms that allow them to start with simple features and expand over time. Springdale could begin with community alerts, surveys, and parking updates, then later integrate shuttle GPS tracking and live camera feeds.

The investment wouldn't just serve today's residents — it would create infrastructure that can adapt as the town's needs evolve.

A Step Toward a More Connected Future

A dedicated town app could strengthen Springdale's sense of community by bringing that spirit into the digital age — helping residents stay informed, involved, and connected, while giving town leaders better tools to manage tourism and communicate with the public. As we continue to balance the needs of visitors and locals, technology like this can help ensure that Springdale remains both a welcoming destination and a vibrant hometown. A Springdale app wouldn't just modernize our town — it would help us stay more connected and engaged as a community.

"The best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago. The second best time is today."
Chinese Proverb

We're in this Together: Let's Wrap it Up

by Elizabeth Cutler

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 Item 1
Issue 11, addressed item 2:
Issue 12, addressed items 5, 6, and 7
Issue 13, addressed item 9
Issue 14, this issue, the rest of them, 3,4,8,10

Those ten aforementioned reasons were:
1. Workforce housing overlay zone ✔
2. The land-swap proposal for a medical clinic that risked too much of Springdale's character.✔
3. The uncertain results of the Red Hawk housing agreement with Stew Ferber.
4. A $1.4 million land purchase.
5. The overpayment for land adjacent to Barker Park.✔
6. Efforts to "upgrade" Barker Park which would increase its attractiveness to tourists to the detriment of locals.✔
7. A failed museum proposal that threatened the Barker Park as a local amenity.✔
8. The questionable handling of what became Town Plaza.
9. Many situations which lacked transparency.✔
10. "Not-in-my-backyard" inconsistency.

Number 3: The agreement with Stew Ferber was basically intended to increase workforce housing. Roadblocks to this worthy goal, the process of which was imperfectly and incompletely thought out, have been many. At some point an article detailing these roadblocks would be helpful, but, for this discussion, unnecessarily cumbersome. Just know, workforce housing has yet to be realized from this agreement. Hopefully, it may yet materialize and the knowledge acquired from this arduous situation will make similar deals with developers more friendly to the town and the furtherance of its goals. Maybe the real lesson is: don't make deals with developers.
Number 4: Land was purchased for a new (unessential) town hall, a bigger, better medical center with no stated assurance about its need or that the rent could justify its cost, and a fancier (unnecessary) post office. The land was purchased with funds from floating a bond, so the 1.4 million dollar price tag will in actuality be far greater than that.
Number 8: The land, and the historical structure thereon, where the Town Plaza now sits, was intended for a historical center. Though many unforeseen problems arose (mostly in regards to the viability of the structure due to termites and other fatal issues incident to age), there was still hope that another structure could be built there to house the center. But then it wasn't, due to lack of parking. The parking situation had not changed since the idea was initially launched so either there was insufficient foresight given to choosing this location in the first place or a deal to share parking was never gotten in writing and failed to materialize. Hopefully, good lessons learned there. Though it is called a Town Plaza, its value to the town remains to be seen, but it is clearly a good amenity for tourists.
Number 10: Really, just one glaring instance: Mayor Bruno voted for increased housing density twice when it applied to other neighborhoods but not when it would apply to hers. I'm sure she could verbalize a reasonable justification, but, her votes speak loudly.

I am very sympathetic to most of these issues (well, not number 10 or number 1). As has been pointed out, Town Council consists of 5 caring individuals who are NOT professionals at this. Make no mistake, however, they did spend time and money to encourage us to vote for them, assuring us of their competence. We did not ask them to do that. They put themselves out there and four of them are right now telling us how they deserve your vote again. We should be both grateful and open-eyed.

In aggregate, (and there are more issues than those enumerated), this list means that if we care, we should be careful. We should pay attention. 100 heads are better than 5. Town Council should remain open to the idea that they can be wrong, that they need us as much as we need them. We owe them respect and gratitude for the time and effort they put in, and it is considerable. But that should be matched by their respect and gratitude for us whose lives they affect and whose votes they curry. It so often feels like it's us vs them; it should always feel like we're in this together. Because we are.

Never Bored in Springdale

AT THE LIBRARY: ["The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." Dr. Seuss]
Story Time - Every Wednesday @ 10:30AM

To access the Town's October newsletter with lots of information about Town happenings: https://www.springdaletown.com/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/222 (might need to copy and paste)

Gallery Exhibition. See "Still Processing", page 8

Oct 1 - Nov 8, 10 am - 7 pm
Plein Air Art Invitational, First Look for artwork at Worthington Gallery. https://www.zionpark.org/pages/artinvitational
https://www.zionpark.org/pages/artinvitational#eventschedule

Oct 13, Monday, 1pm, Pickleball courts, Lion Bl.
Calling all future pickleballers! Coaches, balls, paddles provided. Come comfortable. Text 803 215 9966 if coming. See page 8

Oct. 6-7, Monday, Tuesday, nighttime, sky
Harvest "Super" moon, see page 7

Oct 7, Tuesday, 4 pm, Zion Canyon Brew Pub
Dylan Gavin, Free

Oct 7, Tuesday, 2pm, CCC
knitting, crochet, craft group

Oct 7, Tuesday, 7 pm, CCC
Because You Can, with Daniel Stih, see page 8

Oct 8, Wednesday, 10:30, Library
Story Time

Oct 8, **Wednesday,** 11:30 am, library
Adult Book Club, discussing The Last of the Mohicans by J. F. Cooper

Oct 10, Friday, 4 pm, Zion Canyon Brew Pub
Shangalu, Free

Oct. 11, Saturday, 9am-1pm, Gazebo
Community Yard Sale

Oct 11, **Saturday,** 1-5 pm, CCC
Needle Felting Funky Chicken workshop with Sue Kenaston, see Tickets: https://tinyurl.com/funkychickenworkshop or page 10

Oct 12, Sunday, 8:30 am, CCC
Catholic Service

Oct 13, **Monday,** 3-5:30 pm, with Alex Katz
Open Studio Sessions, see Make Art/Live to be 100, page 10

Oct 13, Monday, 6 pm, Bit 'n Spur
Electric Witness, Blues, Free

Oct 13, Monday, 6:30 pm
Alcoholics Anonymous

OCTOBER 15TH, WEDNESDAY, 7 PM, BUMBLEBERRY THEATER. Raising the Bar, a free movie event. Facebook posts still say Thursday, but it's been changed to Wednesday. See you there! See page 7.

OCTOBER 16TH THURSDAY, 6 PM, CANYON COMMUNITY CENTER, MEET THE CANDIDATES NIGHT. ALL ENCOURAGED TO SUBMIT QUESTIONS AND ATTEND.

Oct 21, Tuesday, Nighttime, sky
Comet Lemmon's closest approach to earth coinciding with Orionid meteor shower and new moon, creating remarkable viewing for observers.

October 22, Wednesday, 4 pm, library
Tween Book Club discussion of Coraline by Neil Gaiman.

October 23, **Thursday,** 5 pm, library
Halloween Apothecary Bottles, Sign-up is required.

For a great listing of community events with links to greater details:
<https://www.springdaletown.com/calendar.aspx>

Town Council will hold a special meeting tomorrow, October 8, 2025, 4 pm, at the Canyon Community Center to discuss litigation and the "Character, Professional Competence, or Physical or Mental Health of an Individual," which will be a closed meeting. Immediately following, at 5 pm, in the CCC will be a regular meeting.
Here is a link to the agendas
<https://www.springdaletown.com/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/_10082025-1011?html=true>

Planning Commission Recap by Elizabeth Cutler

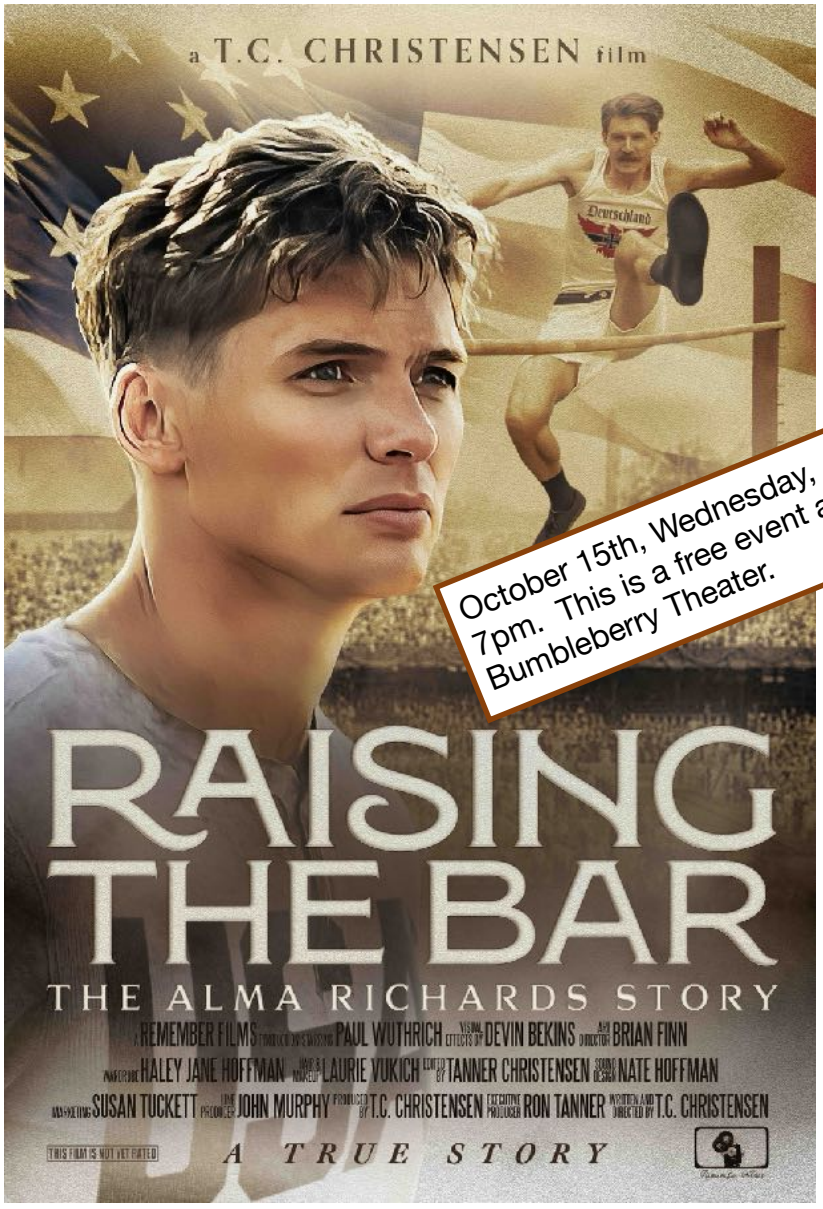
I am usually positively impressed by the dedication and careful attention to detail members of Town Council and Planning Commission exhibit when they meet to discharge their duties, Planning Commission is often tasked with much research and hard work which then makes Town Council's job easier. It's even more noteworthy because they didn't ask for your vote to do their job. They are appointed by the Mayor and seem simply to want to make Springdale a better place to live.

This last meeting they discussed with their usual care, enhanced buffering on commercial properties which are adjacent to residential uses: berms, fences, hedges, other landscaping, etc. They then turned to discussing potential revisions to the town code relating to remodeling of noncompliant properties. A noncompliant property is one which may have setbacks, or lot sizes or some other issue which was legal when built but ensuing ordinances made it out of current compliance.

This issue came up because of an extensive remodel (ours - Jim and Elizabeth Cutler's). What was decided in the short term was in our favor so I no longer have a personal interest in this, other than being a concerned citizen.

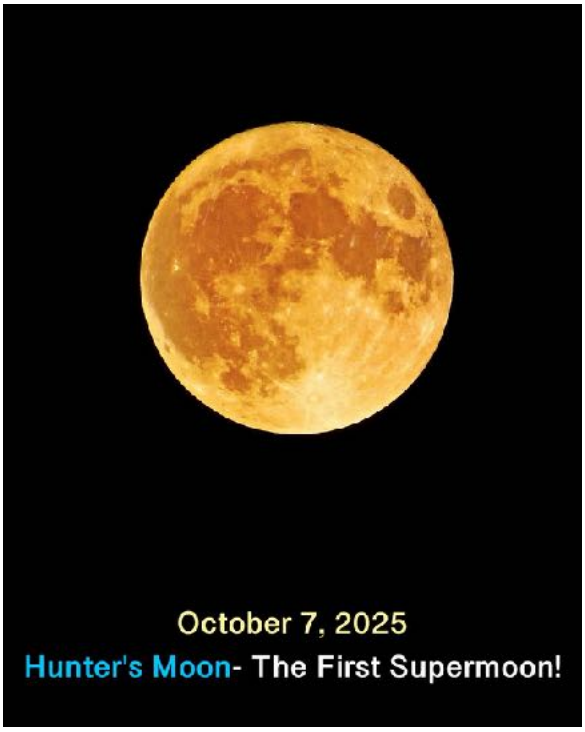
I actually have much to report about this, but had better wait until I get more information and am less angered. I'd like to keep my remaining 10 hairs, which this meeting made me feel like pulling out.

If you would like to listen to this meeting (and, you probably don't but I would sure like to discuss this with someone), you can find it here: https://www.youtube.com/@SpringdaleTownPublicMeetings then click on the 10/01/2025 Planning Commission Work Meeting



October 15th, Wednesday, 7pm. This is a free event at Bumbleberry Theater.

♪♪ Tonight, tonight,
won't be just any night! ♪♪





Because You Can

DO WHAT YOU WANT TO DO

What's the one thing you want to do... but don't know how to get started?

In this free session, you'll gain clarity and confidence on how to start what you want to do.



October 7th
7:00 PM
Canyon Community Center
126 Lion Blvd
Springdale

FREE Admission
Open to the public

First 10 at the door get a Free Book!

- **What's *really* holding you back & how to get started**
- **How to overcome fear so you can pioneer your own way**
- **The secret to making no-loose decisions**
- **Feedback from a problem-solving expert - a rocket scientist!**



Presented by Daniel Stih — a climber with dozens of first ascents on previously unclimbed peaks, aerospace engineer, and Nashville songwriter. Daniel knows what it's like to feel scared and unsure. He's never let that stop him. Drawing on his engineering mindset, he broke down his approach into a system he shares with others to help them do what they want to do.



Calling all Pickleball Beginners!

This Monday, October 13, 1 - 3 pm we're offering a free beginners' clinic at the Springdale Courts on Lion Blvd. We will have paddles, balls, and coaches. Just come with your sneakers, comfortable clothes and plenty of water. Let us know you're coming by responding via text to 803 215 9966

GALLERY EXHIBITION
SEPTEMBER 22 THRU OCTOBER 24, 2025
CANYON COMMUNITY CENTER
126 LION BLVD, SPRINGDALE, UT

STILL PROCESSING
A Joint Exhibition by
LIZ BYER & LANELL DIKE





LIZ BYER
MIXED MEDIA ART

Liz's work lingers in the ebb and flow of human experience, tracing pathways of reflection and growth in a world that is always unfolding. Her pieces invite viewers to pause with life's shifting textures, noticing how becoming and change continually reveal themselves—in the world around us and within ourselves.

LANELL DIKE
PHOTOGRAPHY

Lanell presents "to hold dear" a photography series on caregiving. The photos are intimate portraits of a husband caring for his wife as she endures cognitive decline due to Alzheimer's.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2025
ART TALK: 4:00 TO 5:00PM
RECEPTION: 5:00 TO 6:00PM

Gallery Hours
Mon-Thurs 10am-7pm
Friday 10am-5pm
Sat Noon - 5pm



with artist: LIZ BYER

friday, october 3
4 to 6 pm
canyon community center, springdale



Art Conversation with Liz Byer at 4pm

Art Show Reception for
Liz Byer & Lanell Dike from 5 to 6pm

Join us for an Art Talk and reception for "Still Processing," a joint exhibition by Liz Byer and Lanell Dike. Liz's debut collection and Lanell's photography series explore human experience and what it means to be continually becoming.

Free Event, sponsored by Z-Arts and the Canyon Community Center.

COMMUNITY

HALLOWEEN CHILI COOK-OFF

OCTOBER 25, 2025 | ROCKVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER

HELP US KICK OFF WHAT WE HOPE WILL BE A YEARLY FAVORITE! HELD AS PART OF THE HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL, TASTE A VARIETY OF HOMEMADE CHILI, VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE, AND STICK AROUND FOR CARNIVAL GAMES, PRIZES, AND HALLOWEEN FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY! 3:30 PM TO 5:30 PM

ADMISSION

SPOOKY SAMPLER $10
INCLUDES 1 CHILI TASTING PUNCH CARD (10 - 2 OZ SAMPLES) + 1 VOTE

FAMILY FEAST $25
INCLUDES 2 CHILI TASTING PUNCH CARDS + 2 BOWLS + 2 VOTES

FAMILY FEAST UPGRADE $30
(FOR FAMILIES ONLY)
INCLUDES 4 CHILI TASTING PUNCH CARDS + 4 VOTES

HUNGRY FOR MORE?



$5 EACH

FULL BOWL OF CHILI (8-10 OZ)
CORNBREAD & DRINK COMBO $3
DESSERTS $2-3 EACH

WHO WILL BE CROWNED PEOPLE'S CHOICE? TOP 3 WINNERS RECEIVE PRIZES— BRAGGING RIGHTS INCLUDED!

WANT TO COMPETE?

FREE ENTRY FOR COOKS!

LIMITED TO 15 CHILI CHEFS. FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED!

EACH COOK SHOULD BRING ONE LARGE CROCKPOT OR SIMILAR SIZE STOCKPOT OF CHILI.

TABLES, SAMPLE CUPS, SPOONS, AND LADLES PROVIDED. IF COOKS PREFER THEIR CHILI BE SERVED WITH ANY KIND OF TOPPING, THEY WILL NEED TO PROVIDE THEIR OWN TOPPINGS.

SIGN UP DEADLINE: OCTOBER 12
CONTACT ASHLEY SMITH VIA TEXT AT 801-875-3480

COOK-OFF WITH A CAUSE! ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT SPRINGDALE ELEMENTARY.





Time & Location
Oct 11, 2025, 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Canyon Community Center, 126 Lion Blvd, Springdale, UT 84767, USA
About the event
Tickets: https://tinyurl.com/funkychickenworkshopZ-Arts
Members - $15
Nonmembers - $20
LIMITED TO 10 STUDENTS
ALL MATERIALS INCLUDED
In this workshop, you'll create a small chicken (approx. 4 x 4 inches) and can choose to include feet or not. If you opt for feet, you'll learn how to balance the chicken and work around the embedded feet. You'll explore needle felting fundamentals, such as shaping and compacting. After completing the body,