

The Springdale Sun

A local newspaper in Springdale, UT
January 27, 2026, Volume II, Issue 4

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. Truth is mandatory.

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Chief cook and bottle washer: Elizabeth Cutler
Editing, Proofing, Contributing: Jim Cutler

A 🎶 Noteworthy Day in 1961

I try to stick to local, but locals love beauty so, hopefully, this works.



On this day (January 27) in 1961, Leontyne Price debuted at the Metropolitan Opera in New York in Verdi's Il Trovatore. The final curtain call lasted 35 minutes. Listening to and watching Leontyne Price, as Lenore, sing the aria "D'amor full'ali rosee" (On the rosy wings of love) explains why. And why she received a 45 minute ovation. Ms Price is still alive (98) and recently said she still sings every day.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_saAIrRxUP8>

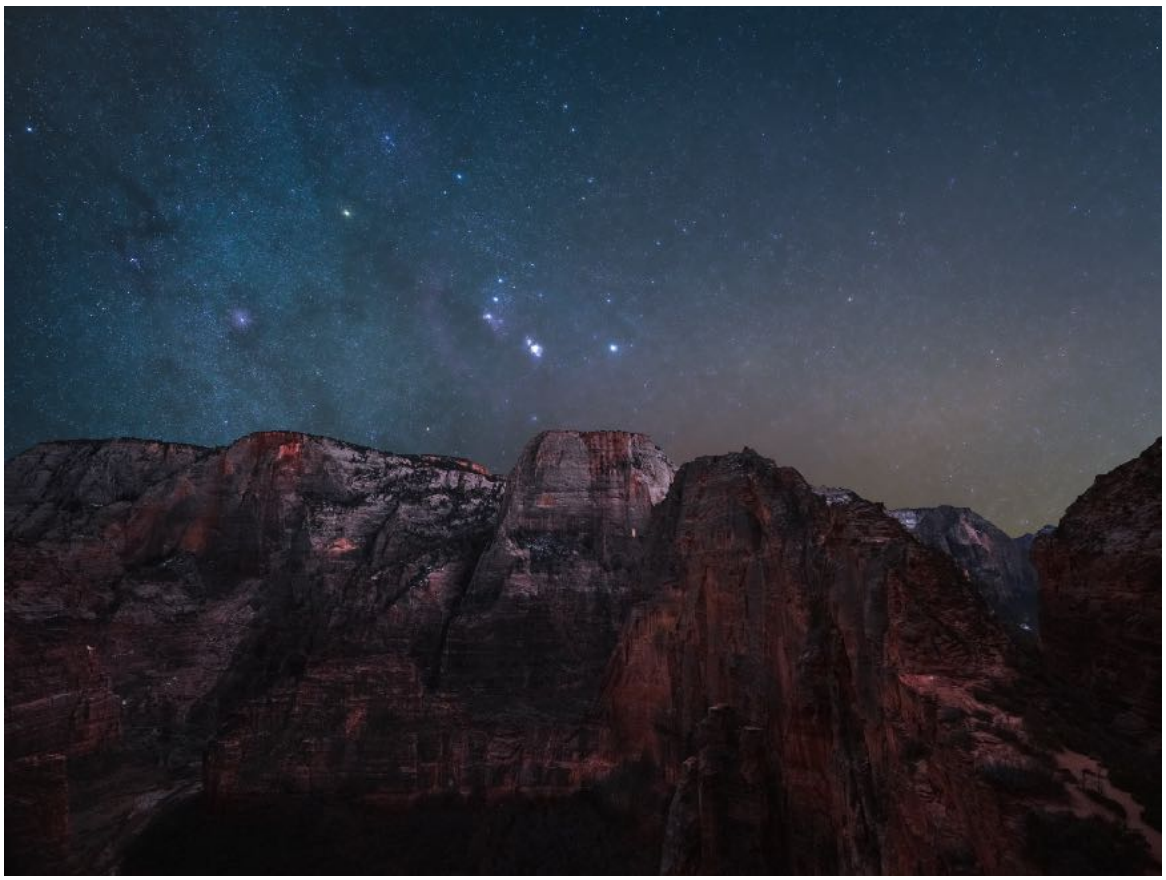
A Thousand Words

Last week TSS credited Pat Campbell with some photos that were actually taken by Michael Eardley. (Instagram is @michael_eardley, Facebook Michael Eardley photography) Michael has been capturing the magnificence and mystery of the heavens in his astrophotography photos in Zion since 2018. The Arrowhead gallery in St. George showcases his prints professionally. I don't go into St. George for much, but this sounds like a trip worth taking.

"I often hike throughout all of the greater Zion region in the dark to capture the dark skies. For this shot (next page), I hiked up angels landing in the dark to be able to get the Orion constellation above the spine. I took over an hour of photos so I could stack them on top of each other to be able to see the Orion Nebula, and rosette nebula.

(pictures on next page)

[As gorgeous as these are, they do not look quite as fabulous as what he sent me.
I guess something is lost when dragged and dropped.]







Brain Health & Focus for the Year Ahead

by Debi Keys



Can I ask you something…?
-Have you ever walked into a room and thought, Why am I here?
-Or felt mentally scattered even though you're doing 'all the right things'?

As time goes on, brain health becomes just as important as physical health—especially for focus, memory, and emotional balance. Hormonal shifts, stress, lack of sleep, and inflammation can affect how clearly we think.

But here is the good news! Our brains are incredibly adaptable. This year, let's focus on
* Fueling the brain with real nutrition and steady blood sugar
* Reducing mental overload by calming the nervous system
* Moving our bodies - because movement increases blood flow to the brain
* Prioritizing rest, not just sleep, but mental rest too.

Small daily habits make a big difference. You don't need perfection, you need consistency! To get you started here are a few simple brain exercises for Focus, Memory & Emotional Resilience;

Name 5-4-3-2-1 (Grounding the brain)
What to do:
Silently name;
5 things you see
4 things you feel
3 things you hear
2 things you smell
1 thing you taste
Why it works. This brings the brain into the present moment, reducing stress and emotional overload.
Use this exercise when your mind is racing or you feel emotionally hijacked

Gratitude Recall (1 minutes)
What to do:
Think of one moment from your day that felt good.
Replay it like a short movie.
Why it works. This strengthens positive neural pathways and improves emotional resilience.
Use this daily, before bed.

Cross-Body March (2 to 3 minutes
What to do:
Stand tall. Lift your right knee and tap it with your left hand. Switch sides and continue slowly.
Why it works. Cross-body movements activate both hemispheres of the brain, improving focus, coordination, balance and mental clarity.
Use this exercise when you feel scattered, foggy or stuck mentally.

As we move into this new year let's do things better, feel clear, confident, and focused—not foggy and overwhelmed. Your brain deserves support, and it's not to late to give it.



To your best health,
Debs~

Debi Keys, CHHC, CPT
Certified Holistic Health Coach
Advanced Sports Nutritional Advisor
Certified Pilates Instructor & Personal Fitness Trainer
www.yourkeys2health.com
www.getfit21now.com
Mobile: 951-452-1311

Coyote Mating Season Is Now



Coyote mating season typically occurs from December to February. During this time, coyotes become more active and vocal as they establish territories and seek mates. In Springdale, Utah, this means that coyotes may be more visible and aggressive during these months.

- Safety Tips for Pet Owners
- Supervise Pets: Always keep an eye on pets when they are outside, especially during dawn and dusk when coyotes are most active.
- Secure Pets: Do not leave pets outside unattended, particularly at night.
- Leash Dogs: Keep dogs on a leash when walking in areas where coyotes may be present.
- Indoor Cats: Keep cats indoors to prevent encounters with coyotes.

By following these precautions, you can help protect your pets during coyote mating season in Springdale.

Once There Was a Town Council Meeting — Part II

More from the TC meeting on January 14, 2026 by E Cutler

This is the second part of a discussion about the Town Council meeting of January 14, 2025. I will include the first part from last week's TSS in case you want to review it; however, I will include it at the end in case you do **not** want to review it.

Random Items:

-I found it disrespectful when council requested the same information a citizen said he had given them twice already. Maybe it was just a bit of disorganization. The information was about code violations at Red Cliffs that have taken months to improve and are still not completely resolved. That is not good.

-Comments were made by council about how over crowded the Canyon Community Center is. it gets a fair amount of use, for sure, and occasionally compromises have to occur, but overall it has availability. For instance, I had no trouble finding several different options of times and days to hold meetings of the newly formed writer's club (though it was decided to meet in a home instead). If you're locked into a day and time, it gets challenging. By and large, however, it is a convenient, accommodating, and well-used facility. It is not, at this point, bursting at the seams.

-Trying to keep adjectives out of it: the Mayor was unaware of a floor plan of the proposed medical clinic that was in a letter sent to Town Council by Rick Wixom. I made a GRAMA request for that letter and it was in the information given me. When I wrote about it in the last issue, I thought it possible that they had inadvertently sent me something not included in that original letter, and found it almost amusing, that, I, a nobody, knew something they did not. In further research, there is confirmation that they did receive it in the original letter from Rick Wixom, who also said he did not think it was included in that letter. In other words, of six people, five of whom received it, and one who wrote it, only one (Pat Campbell) knew what was in it. That was the very letter for which Mayor Bruno basically chastised Mr. Campbell for making public.

-The idea of a community oversight committee was discussed and rejected by the entire town council. There may be more on this in the future.

The Medical Clinic

In discussing the potential use of a medical clinic, town council members discussed the need to plan for the future, definitely wise. They gave as one reason the "obvious" point that Springdale is growing and will continue to do so. The other "obvious" point they raised is that tourism here will also continue to grow. Those two things mean medical needs in Springdale will continue to grow. TSS pointed out that, in addition to those potential futures, other metrics indicate the opposite might just as plausibly occur including the increase in medical facilities in Hurricane, growth on the east side of ZNP, Increased competition for tourists, increase use of online medical care, increase use of mail for medications, the potential that Springdale will see a downturn in population due to decrease in quality of life here, potential limit of tourists in ZNP areas, maybe even the whole park. Another indicator recently noticed is the decrease in income from property taxes in the most recent Annual Financial Report. That is not necessarily an indication of population decline, but it definitely does not scream population increase. When the town council discusses the need for a medical clinic, or anything else for that matter, they need to consider all possibilities, not just the ones that support their preconceptions or their desires.

Point of fact, it may sound like I am against a clinic. I , personally, am not convinced of its need but I lean more towards it than against it. However, I ALWAYS lean *against* lack of transparency and not completely thinking things through. I am always against a town council member deciding they want something and then barreling through without citizen consideration, and without the honest acquisition and contemplation of information that does not support their agenda.

One of the most troubling pieces of information brought to light (**by citizen questions, not by the powers that be bringing it up on their own)** is that there are NO guarantees (beyond November of this year) that Family Health or anyone else will be willing to run the medical center. if, and when, it is built. Let that sink in a minute.

The First, the Last and the Middle

With any luck, and a bit of community concern and input, some things can change for the better. Most notably, transparency and respect shown by our elected officials for Springdalians. It hasn't happened yet, but there is hope. At this recent meeting, and most meetings, there comes that time for deliberation. The five members of Town Council then discuss the pertinent agenda item and come to a conclusion, or decide to table it for later discussion. I want to say this with the right tone of voice, being both respectful and grateful for all their time and effort, while being absolutely clear and informative: They usually make **no** reference to items mentioned in letters or in public comments. And that is reprehensible. The valid points citizens made remain unaddressed. I do not understand this at all. It is just not right. It is fixable.

At the candidates night Mr. Aton commented that he wanted everyone to come to the next meeting. It is discouraging to come and be ignored. This can change going forward. This should change.

Another public input buzz kill is the way the meetings are structured. This is entirely changeable. When a citizen makes a comment, it is entirely reasonable for there to be some discussion and response from council but it is not allowed. It could be. Up to them. Making more items public hearing would be another way to let citizens know their opinions matter. Again, it could be; it is within their purview. Dear Town Council, we are in this together. Or should be. Don't block us out.

Pickleball in Springdale

information and an invitation by Robyn Chancey



Springdale Parks & Recreation is offering two new pickleball programs this spring at the Springdale Town Courts, providing opportunities for adults to learn the game and participate in organized weekly play. The programs are designed to support players at different stages, from beginners learning the fundamentals to those looking for a consistent, social playing experience.

Beginner Adult Pickleball Lessons

Learn the Game · Build Confidence · Have Fun!
Coach: Robyn Chancey, PPR Certified Coach
Day: Saturdays, starting February 14th
Time: 2:00–4:00 PM
Location: Springdale Town Courts, Lion Boulevard
Designed for adults who are new to pickleball or early beginners looking to learn the fundamentals in a fun, supportive environment.

What You'll Learn:
- Basic rules and scoring
- Court positioning and movement
- Serving and return fundamentals
- Game flow and objectives
- How to participate confidently in open play

Requirements:
- New or beginner players
- Approximate skill level: 2.0–3.0

Equipment:
- Pickleballs provided
- Paddles available on loan
- Bring water
- Sports clothing, court shoes, and eye protection recommended

Springdale Pickleball Social (SPS)

Structured Play · Friendly Competition · Community
Day: Wednesdays, starting February 11th
Time: 4:00–6:00 PM
Location: Springdale Town Courts, Lion Boulevard
Designed for players who already participate in open play and want a more organized, engaging weekly experience—without the commitment of a traditional league.

How It Works:
- Timed games
- Ladder-style play with rotating partners
- Win = move up | Loss = move down
- Round-robin format used when needed

Requirements:
- Regular open play experience
- Comfortable with rules, scoring, and match play

Pickleball first · Community always.
Following play, participants are invited to gather at a local restaurant for food, drinks, and conversation.

To learn more, or to sign up, visit:

www.springdaletown.com/582/pickleball-classes

See you on the courts!

THE SPRINGDALE TOWN COUNCIL WILL HOLD A WORK MEETING
ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2026 AT THE CANYON COMMUNITY CENTER,
126 LION BOULEVARD, SPRINGDALE, UTAH
THE SPECIAL MEETING STARTS AT **10:00 AM.** to discuss the Fiscal Year 2026 Capital Priorities List for Planning and Budgeting.
A live broadcast of this meeting will be available to the public for viewing/listening only.
To access it:
<https://www.youtube.com/@SpringdaleTownPublicMeetings>

Police Blotters for Springdale and Rockville

December, 2025

2025 DECEMBER STATS

SPRINGDALE STATS

CITATIONS		ARRESTS	
Speed	15	Operate Vehicle without License/Registration	1
Registration-Failed to/Expired	2		
Improper Pass-No Pass Zone	2		
Display Previous Owner Plate	1		
No Tail Light Reflector	1		
TOTAL CITATIONS	21	TOTAL ARRESTS	1
WARNING ON CITES	3		

ROCKVILLE STATS

CITATIONS		ARRESTS	
Speed	19	DUI	2
		Fail to Operate within a Single Lane	1
		Alcohol- Open Container	1
		Speed	1
TOTAL CITATIONS	19	TOTAL ARRESTS	5
WARNING ON CITES	3		

SPRINGDALE INCIDENTS

911 Hang Up	2	Overdose	0
Abandoned Vehicle	2	Panic Alarm	0
Agency Assist	3	Paraphernalia	0
Alcohol Offense	0	Park Security Check	46
Animal Bite	0	Parking Problem	12
Animal Emergency	0	PD Accident	2
Animal Problem	5	Person Down	0
Assault	1	PI Accident	0
Attempt to Locate	2	Property Damage	1
Attended Death	0	Protective Order Violation	0
Bike Patrol	1	Prowler	0
Brush Fire	0	Psychiatric	0
Business Alarm	1	Public Urination	0
Business Burglary	0	Residence Burglary	0
Business Checks	52	Resident Vacation Check	21
Camping Problem	2	Residential Alarm	0
Child Abuse Neglect	0	Retail Theft	0
Choking	0	School Zone Enforcement	25
Citizen Assist	8	Sex Offender Registry	1
Citizen Contact	9	Sex Offense	0
Citizen Dispute	0	Stalking	0
Civil	0	Structure Fire	0
Community Oriented Policing	9	Suicidal	0
Construction Site Checks	0	Suspicious Other	1
Counterfeiting	0	Suspicious Person	0
Criminal Mischief	0	Suspicious Vehicle	4
Crosswalk Enforcement	2	Telematic Alarm	0
Curfew	0	Telephone Harassment	0
Disorderly	0	Theft	0
Drugs	0	Threatening	0
DUI	0	Traffic Hazard	1
DV Assault	0	Traffic Offense	0
DV Criminal Mischief	0	Traffic Stop Warning	41
DV Unlawful Detention	0	Traumatic	0
Evading	0	Trespassing	1
Extra Patrol	139	Unattended Death	1
Family Fight	0	Unconcious	0
Felony Theft	0	Unsecured Premise	1
Fire	0	Utility Problem	1
Fireworks	0	Vagrancy	0
Follow up	5	Vehicle Fire	0
Found Child	0	Vehicle Theft	0
Found Property	5	VIN Inspection	2
Fraud	1	Wanted Person	0
Gas Theft	0	Weapon Offense	0
Graffiti	1	Welfare Check	0
Harassment	0	Wildlife/Poaching	0
Hit and Run	1	0	0
Hitchhiking	0	0	0
Illegal Burning	0	0	0
Impound	0	0	0
Intoxication	0	0	0
Jail Release	0	0	0
Juvenile Problem	0	0	0
Keep the Peace	0	0	0
Lewdness	0	0	0
Littering	0	0	0
Lockout	2	0	0
Lost Property	0	0	0
Medical Assist	1	0	0
Missing Person	0	0	0
Motorist Assist	3	0	0
Noise Complaint	0	0	0
Nuisance	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
TOTAL SPRINGDALE INCIDENTS	418		

ROCKVILLE INCIDENTS

911 Hang Up	2	Overdose	0
Abandoned Vehicle	0	Panic Alarm	0
Agency Assist	1	Paraphernalia	0
Alcohol Offense	0	Park Security Check	19
Animal Bite	0	Parking Problem	0
Animal Emergency	0	PD Accident	0
Animal Problem	2	Person Down	0
Assault	0	PI Accident	0
Attempt to Locate	1	Property Damage	0
Attended Death	0	Protective Order Violation	0
Bike Patrol	0	Prowler	0
Brush Fire	0	Psychiatric	0
Business Alarm	0	Public Urination	0
Business Burglary	0	Residence Burglary	0
Business Checks	0	Resident Vacation Check	9
Camping Problem	0	Residential Alarm	0
Child Abuse Neglect	1	Retail Theft	0
Choking	0	School Zone Enforcement	23
Citizen Assist	2	Sex Offender Registry	0
Citizen Contact	2	Sex Offense	1
Citizen Dispute	0	Stalking	0
Civil	0	Structure Fire	0
Community Oriented Policing	6	Suicidal	0
Construction Site Checks	0	Suspicious Other	0
Counterfeiting	0	Suspicious Person	1
Criminal Mischief	0	Suspicious Vehicle	0
Crosswalk Enforcement	0	Telematic Alarm	0
Curfew	0	Telephone Harassment	0
Disorderly	0	Theft	0
Drugs	0	Threatening	0
DUI	2	Traffic Hazard	2
DV Assault	0	Traffic Offense	1
DV Criminal Mischief	0	Traffic Stop Warning	11
DV Unlawful Detention	0	Traumatic	0
Evading	0	Trespassing	0
Extra Patrol	44	Unattended Death	0
Family Fight	0	Unconcious	0
Felony Theft	0	Unsecured Premise	0
Fire	0	Utility Problem	0
Fireworks	0	Vagrancy	0
Follow up	5	Vehicle Fire	0
Found Child	0	Vehicle Theft	0
Found Property	0	VIN Inspection	0
Fraud	0	Wanted Person	0
Gas Theft	0	Weapon Offense	0
Graffiti	0	Welfare Check	0
Harassment	0	Wildlife/Poaching	0
Hit and Run	0	0	0
Hitchhiking	0	0	0
Illegal Burning	0	0	0
Impound	0	0	0
Intoxication	0	0	0
Jail Release	0	0	0
Juvenile Problem	0	0	0
Keep the Peace	2	0	0
Lewdness	0		0
Littering	0		0
Lockout	0		0
Lost Property	0		0
Medical Assist	0		0
Missing Person	0		0
Motorist Assist	2		0
Noise Complaint	0		0
Nuisance	0		0
Other	0		0
TOTAL ROCKVILLE INCIDENTS	139		

TOTAL INCIDENTS 557

Never Bored in Springdale

AT THE LIBRARY: ["Think before you speak. Read before you think." Fran Lebowitz]

Story Time - Every Wednesday @ 10:30AM

To access the Town's January newsletter with lots of information about Town happenings: <https://www.springdaletown.com/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/232> (may have to cut and paste)

Jan 27, Tuesday, 8am, High Fitness, CCC, there is a cost

Jan 27, Tuesday, 10am, Yoga, CCC, cost

Jan 27, Tuesday, 2-4pm, Craft Group

Jan 27, Tuesday, 4pm, After School Club, science, CCC

Jan 28, Wednesday, 4pm, Teen Time, library, book club, discussing Sweep by J Auxier,

Jan 30, Friday, 10am, Yoga, CCC, cost

Jan 30, Friday, 2pm, Historic Zion Presentation, CCC, see pg 10

Feb 2, Monday, 10am, free outdoor exercise class, by the gazebo

Feb 3, Tuesday, 8am, High Fitness, CCC, there is a cost

Feb 3, Tuesday, 10am, Yoga, CCC, cost

Feb 3, Tuesday, 2-4pm, Craft Group

Feb 9, Monday, 10am, free outdoor exercise class, by the gazebo, see below

Feb 10 Tuesday, 8am, High Fitness, CCC, there is a cost

Feb 10, Tuesday, 10am, Yoga, CCC, cost

Feb 10 Tuesday, 2-4pm, Craft Group

Feb 11, Wednesday, 11:30am, Adult Book Club, discussing *Me Before You*, by Jojo Moyes, library

Feb 11, Wednesday, 4-6pm, Organized Pickleball Social Play, Pickleball Courts

Feb 14, Saturday, 2-4pm**,** Adult Beginner Pickleball Lesson,s Pickleball Courts

Z-Arts upcoming events: https://www.zarts.org/event-list

For Lion's Club: https://www.springdaletown.com/290/Zion-Canyon-Lions-Club

For Zion Animal Lovers (ZAL): https://www.springdaletown.com/310/Zion-Animal-Lovers-ZAL

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

Information about Wellness and Fitness Classes: <https://www.springdaletown.com/458/Wellness-Fitness-Classes>

Events at Bumbleberry Theater: <https://bumbleberry.com/springdale-utah-theater/>

Looking ahead:

March 4, Wednesday, noon, Bring Your Own Lunch-meet with the Mayor, CCC, which the Mayor will continue to have as long as people attend.

Springdale's 66th Birthday Party, March 6, Friday

Spiritus Musica

March 17, Tuesday, at the Nama-Sstay Retreat Center, 111 Juniper **Ln,** Springdale, from 6:30 to 10 pm.**<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/spiritus-musica-17th-march-nama-stay-retreat-center-zion-tickets-1980297457002?aff=oddtdtcreator&fbclid=IwY2xjawPajyFleHRuA2FlbQIxMQBzcnRjBmFwcF9pZBAyMjIwMzkxNzg4MjAwODkyAAEeX9HOnsGkOSBYdFsBI7IzYs7sWGsUFj2Z1cekLdEHwlio6PAgb9NOjqTZFIg_aem_cX2-PTzyUpKjpQUoNkNQeg>**

Zion Chalk & Earth Fest, April 18

Concert in the Park, April 24, 6pm, at the Gazebo

>

Hey, Locals, did you know there's a free outdoor exercise class every **Monday at 10 am** by the gazebo? [I you're looking at the library, the gazebo is to the left., but then again, if you're a local, you probably know that.] The time will shift to 9 am when the weather shifts away from brrrrrrr. Bring hand-held weights, yoga mat, bands, water, and yourself. Enjoy a warm up, cardio, and stretching, thanks to Janel Bassett.

Money Matters — for Individuals/Families

7 Money Habits For Fiscal Responsibility, by Deacon Hayes

Most people think confidence with money comes from earning more or having everything "figured out."
It usually doesn't.It comes from small, consistent wins that prove to *you* that you're in control.
Here are **7 small money habits** that can quietly change how you feel about your finances:

1. **Read one book about money**
   One good book can shift how you think for years.
2. **Track your spending for one week**
   Not forever. Just long enough to see what's actually happening.
3. **Move money into savings — even $5**
   The amount matters less than the habit.
4. **Make one extra payment toward debt**
   Progress, even small, builds momentum.
5. **Cancel one subscription you don't use**
   Fewer leaks = more breathing room.
6. **Wait 24 hours before big purchases**
   This one habit alone saves people thousands.
7. **Set one clear money goal for the month**
   Clarity reduces stress more than most budgets ever will.

None of these is flashy.
None of them requires a raise.
And none of them is overwhelming.
But together, they build something powerful: **confidence**.
And confidence is what keeps you moving forward when motivation fades.
If money has felt stressful or out of control, start here. Small steps count more than you think.
You've got this!
* The central issue is whether current evidence justifies a permanent zoning change now, or whether the Town should pause, gather clearer data, evaluate alternatives, and engage the public before proceeding

Money Matters — for Municipalities

7 Money Habits for Fiscal Responsibility, taken from: https://www.mass.gov/info-details/financial-management-resources-for-new-municipal-officials?utm_source=chatgpt.com

1. Live below your means (structurally balanced budget)
A town shouldn't rely on:
- one-time land sales
- grants that might disappear
- reserves to cover routine operations

Healthy habit: Ongoing expenses (staff, maintenance, utilities) are paid with **reliable recurring revenue**.

2. Build and protect an emergency fund (reserves)
Towns should save for:
- natural disasters
- revenue drops (tourism dips, economic downturns)
- infrastructure failures

Healthy habit: Maintain strong **general fund reserves** (often 25–50% of annual operating expenses for small towns).

3. Transparency builds financial discipline.
Towns that clearly show residents:
- debt levels
- reserve balances
- long-term obligations

tend to make more careful decisions — because sunlight = accountability

4. Keep infrastructure on a maintenance schedule
Unhealthy pattern:
"Let's defer road repairs to save money this year."
Healthy habit:
Fund routine:
- road sealing
- pipe replacement schedules
- building upkeep

Preventive maintenance is *way* cheaper than emergency replacement.

5. Plan for the future, not just the next election
Towns need long-term capital planning.
Healthy habit:
Maintain a **5–10 year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)** that answers:
- What will need replacement?
- When?
- How will we pay for it?

No surprises = no financial panic.

(continued on next page)

6. Diversify income sources
A town with one dominant revenue source is vulnerable.
Risky examples for towns:
- Heavy dependence on tourism
- Heavy dependence on one large employer
- Over reliance on development impact fees

Healthy habit:
Balanced mix of:
- property taxes
- sales taxes
- utility revenues
- service fees

Stability beats boom-and-bust.

7. Be honest about what you can afford to maintain
This is the municipal version of "Don't buy a house you can't afford to heat, insure, and repair."
Unhealthy pattern:
Build new facilities, parks, or roads without budgeting for:
- staffing
- maintenance
- future replacement

Healthy habit:
Before approving a new project, ask: *"Can we afford to operate and maintain this for the next 30 years?"*

