

The Springdale Sun

A local newspaper in Springdale, UT
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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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Groundhog Day and the Verdict Is:

Six More Weeks of Winter



Yesterday, Groundhog Day, is celebrated in various locations across the United States and Canada. Celebrate may be a bit strong; I think most of us at some point say, "Oh, is this Groundhog Day?" The event in Punxsutawney remains the most famous, where thousands gather to see if Phil will see his shadow. (Which he did yesterday). Studies show that the accuracy of Phil's predictions is about 50%, so, basically, a coin toss. But the movie, *Groundhog Day,* has become a beloved classic, symbolizing, as does the day itself, hope for the arrival of spring.

Power to the CCC will be shut off on **Monday**, **February 9th from 7am-1pm.** The Library will not be affected by this power outage.

“Gut Feelings”

by Debi Keys

Why Fermented Foods Deserve a Spot on Your Plate

These days people are talking a lot about the *microbiome* — the trillions of bacteria living in your gut that influence digestion, immunity, mood, weight, and even inflammation. One of the easiest and most powerful ways to support a healthy microbiome is through **fermented foods**.

Fermentation is a natural process in which beneficial bacteria break down the sugars in food, producing enzymes, vitamins, and probiotics (the “good bacteria” we want more of). Including fermented foods in your diet can help your body:

• Improve Digestion

Probiotics assist with breaking down food and absorbing nutrients.

• Support Immune Function

Up to 70% of the immune system is rooted in the gut — balanced gut bacteria = better immunity.

• Reduce Inflammation

Beneficial microbes help regulate inflammatory responses, supporting joint, metabolic, and heart health.

• Boost Mood & Brain Health

There’s a direct connection between gut health and brain chemistry — sometimes called the *gut-brain axis*.

• Support Healthy Weight and Metabolism

A balanced microbiome may help support appetite regulation, energy use, and metabolic health.

Fermented Foods You Can Find at Your Grocery Store

You don’t need specialty shops to get started. Here are some widely available, nutritious fermented foods:

🥬 Sauerkraut

- Look for refrigerated sauerkraut (not shelf-stable pasteurized versions)
- Often found in the produce or deli section

🥛 Yogurt & Kefir

- Choose plain, unsweetened versions
- Greek yogurt or drinkable kefir are great options

🥒 Pickles (Fermented)

- Look for “lacto-fermented” on the label
- Avoid vinegar-only pickles

🥤 Kombucha

- A fermented tea beverage
- Choose low-sugar options

🧀 Certain Cheeses

- Fermented hard cheeses like gouda, cheddar, and parmesan
- Look for *raw or traditionally aged*

🫘 Tempeh & Miso

- Tempeh (fermented soy cake) — great plant protein
- Miso paste — rich in flavor and probiotics

How to Add Fermented Foods to Your Daily Menu

You don’t need to overhaul your meals — just add a little here and there!

Breakfast

- Stir plain kefir or yogurt into oatmeal
- Top with berries & a sprinkle of seeds

Lunch

- Add sauerkraut or fermented pickles to sandwiches
- Use miso paste to make a quick soup

Dinner

- Sauté tempeh with veggies
- Serve fermented vegetables as a side

Snacks

- A small glass of kombucha
- Cheese and whole-grain crackers

Simple Fermented Food Recipes

🌿 Kefir Breakfast Bowl

Ingredients:

- 1 cup plain kefir
- ¼ cup granola
- ½ cup mixed berries
- 1 tsp chia seeds

Instructions:

Combine all ingredients in a bowl and enjoy as a refreshing, protein-rich start to your day.

🥒 Quick Fermented Salad

Ingredients:

- 1 cup mixed greens
- 2 tbsp refrigerated sauerkraut
- Sliced cucumber & radishes
- Olive oil + lemon juice

Instructions:

Toss greens and veggies with olive oil and lemon. Add sauerkraut on top for a probiotic boost.

🍜 Simple Miso Soup

Ingredients:

- 2 cups water
- 1 tbsp miso paste
- Chopped green onions
- Soft tofu cubes (optional)

Instructions:

Heat water (don’t boil). Stir in miso paste until dissolved. Add green onions and tofu.

Fermented Foods + Your Body

Remember: the goal isn’t perfection, it’s *balance*. Even small amounts of fermented foods *regularly* can help your digestion, support your immune health, and keep your energy steady — especially when paired with good hydration, movement, and balanced meals.

To your best health,

Debs~

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Letter to the Editor

anonymous Springdale Residents

Subject: The Graveyard of Infallibility: Honoring the Inherent Wisdom of Springdale

To the Editor,

Nestled in Springdale's stunning red rock landscapes, a quiet tension simmers between our serene scenery and what can sometimes feel like the "presumptive expertise" of local governance. History reminds us that societies often cling to norms that seem standard—until they are seen as archaic. In Springdale today, practices like tightly controlled, one-directional public engagement risk joining the "dueling" or "child labor" of yesterday's politics.

With a median age of 63.1—nearly double the national average—Springdale is a true "brain trust" of retirees: former CEOs, scientists, engineers, military, and other experts. Utah data shows men/women 65 and older often lead in advanced degrees, and our community reflects this, with over 20% of residents holding master's or doctorate levels. Yet local government sometimes operates as if a council seat magically confers greater insight than the collective experience of those who elected them.

We already share many transparency strengths with places like Park City: public agendas and minutes online, live-streamed meetings on YouTube, and open access under Utah law. But a key element appears missing. Residents typically get a brief window—often just three minutes at the start—to offer comments before the council moves into deliberation. Once discussion begins among council members, new information or perspectives may emerge that could benefit from clarification or brief rebuttal, yet the process allows no structured opportunity for public follow-up questions or input before action is taken. Meetings are run with a level of formality suited to a much larger city—rigid and with limited flexibility—even though Springdale is a small community where residents' expertise could enrich decisions if invited more dynamically.

This one-way flow can create a modern echo of medieval petitions to the crown: token initial input, then decisions that feel unilateral. It extends to broader dynamics, like Utah's at-will employment doctrine, which can create perceived imbalances where rank-and-file staff may face greater risks while leadership often benefits from established networks—another area where history warns that limited accountability can erode institutions from within over time.

Park City demonstrates a more flexible approach: robust digital tools for participation and protocols that sometimes permit additional input at the presiding officer's discretion, fostering openness during key moments. Springdale could enhance what we do well by adding simple, limited windows for clarification or questions during deliberation—nothing that derails efficiency, just enough to honor the wisdom gathered in the room.

Will future generations view our current rigid, one-directional engagement with the same bewilderment we feel toward public executions? Change starts when we reject "that's just how it's done" and recognize that true leadership invites input rather than assuming infallibility. Attend council meetings at the Canyon Community Center (or watch live on YouTube), speak thoughtfully, and advocate for small reforms that open the door to meaningful dialogue.

Springdale's true strength lies in its people—the quiet experts among us, not just those who hold office. Let's build a legacy of humble, inclusive governance that earns respect rather than quiet skepticism.

Respectfully,

Springdale Residents

When life gives you melons, you might be dyslexic.

Letter to the Editor

Dan Mabbutt

I just finished reading your most recent issue and I wanted to congratulate you for writing a forthright and convincing opinion article.

I have my own story from when I served for over six years on the Planning Commission. My story seems a lot like yours. The biggest difference seems to me that you have collected more 'stories' than me. And that mine is ancient history now.

In my own case, the Council chose to reverse the recommendation of the Planning Commission without mentioning or considering the reasons we had for rejecting a massive (for Springdale) development under consideration. Like you, I was compelled to sit silently while everything the Planning Commission did was summarily forgotten. Only the fact that a different Springdale citizen decided to use her own time and money to sue Springdale ... and win in District Court ... stopped a development that might have been a huge money maker, but which would have dwarfed even the 'consent decree' hotels here now. The land you are discussing would be underneath asphalt and concrete if the Council's approval had not been stopped.

A few weeks ago, I wrote a letter to you titled "A Modest Proposal" (reprint appears on pages 8,9) about how the Planning Commission could be much more effective. The response I received from the same body you are trying to communicate with appears to be the same response I have always received: Nothing. The mayor I tried to get answers from moved away from Springdale and doesn't live here now.

For a genuine "republican" (small 'r') government, our elected representatives must be "public and accountable". "Public" is a synonym for what is often called "transparency". But "accountable" is even more important. To be "accountable", persons who "represent" us must be willing to answer for actions and positions taken. It's a tough assignment, but it's in **the job description of anyone who promises to actually represent us.**

Response from the Editor and the Town Council Work Meeting

I am always grateful for input. Thank you so much.

There have now been at least half a dozen citizen comments or articles from different people, none of whom I have coerced or requested they do this, all suggesting **we need greater transparency from Town Council.**

That transparency is tied largely to two easily changeable methods of operation. I have mentioned them before.

1. **Designate more agenda items as public hearing**
2. Change the rules of procedure for town council meetings
   a. Allow more time for comments
   b. Let comment time be more of a dialogue between commenter and council.
   c. Allow for questions, comments after council deliberations.
   d. Do not be so rigid about whether it's a comment or a question. Lighten up.

There is one more, probably huge: a mindset adjustment. When Town Council is planning serious actions asking for public input should be standard practice, not the minimal mandated by law. We should have known purchasing the land next to town hall was being considered. We should have known what they wanted it for. We should have known they were planning to purchase by threatening eminent domain. And we should have known it would have to be paid for by floating a loan. We should have known about and been asked our opinion of all those factors.

The other situation that springs to mind is the fancification of the George A Barker River Park. I am still confused that TC felt they had to hire someone to ask us what we wanted. The town could have saved so much money if they had just asked us directly. Especially since what they learned was, for this community, less is better.

At the Town Council work meeting last Wednesday to discuss financial priorities, there was much discussion of the medical clinic, possible post office, new town hall, new council chambers, roads needing attention, main water pipe needing enlarging in the not too distant future, and all that jazz.

It was good to see them working on priorities, discussing, occasionally mentioning public input. I'm thinking how good it will be to have very little to say other than they did their job seriously, I did not agree with everything, but I did appreciate their respectful and responsible discussions.

But, you know, there just always has to be something that cannot be passed over, I guess.

Minor detail: They began by asking whether TC members want a medical clinic. "Do you want a medical clinic?" sets up an easy but misleading answer. That's like asking if I'd like a Mercedes-Benz — obviously, yes. But wanting something and being able to justify the cost are two very different things. The real discussion should start with affordability and

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actual need. Who in Springdale wouldn't say yes when the question is framed that way?

tt was great to see they knew the importance of making sure they had a firm, long-term commitment from Family Health (or similar) with numbers as to what the health group who might run the clinic is willing to pay for the space.

It is important that comments supporting one's agenda must not be given the weight of truth without some fact-checking. Last meeting the Mayor stated, as fact, that Springdale's population was 700, stating she had read it in a county document. No such document can be found.

At this last meeting she stated (in order to quell some of Pat Campbell's concerns) that Family Health pharmacies only fill prescriptions from Family Health doctors. That is news to the Family Health pharmacy in Hurricane. They fill prescriptions from any doctor. She said it with the tone of authority because she was a patient with Family Health I am not but have several times had prescriptions filled there.

These may be undramatic points but there are so many such examples that I no longer trust what she says when it supports her agenda. She also said all the mayors she talked to have used a Utah code allowing the collection of a 0.3% sale tax for a town to use for roads. I could only find 2 municipalities (along the Wasatch front) which have imposed that sales tax. I am awaiting more details from the "tax master." When municipalities list what their sales tax is divided into, perhaps that one is subsumed in other categories and is, therefore, not listed as a separate category. I'm not totally sure. Neither is she.

When someone asked for more responsiveness, she said she responds to every email. She does not. She just says things to fit the situation prioritizing her point over honesty. We all do a version of that, I suppose, emphasizing the negative if we want change, stressing the good if we want things to stay the same. I just remind, urge, implore us all, town council members, town staff, community members to be wary of comments like these before you are persuaded by information that may sound good but lacks evidence.

With that sort of ringing in my mind, I return to the idea of a **Community Oversight Committee.** I think as originally described by Mr. McKee, almost omnipotent with subpoena power, etc., it is neither feasible nor desirable. He said he knew of people for whom the redress town formula had not worked but they were afraid to speak out for fear of retaliation. That makes sense. Once burned, twice cautious. Mayor Bruno said she had letters expressing the opposite. I'm wondering. Why wouldn't they just have sent those letters to be published like citizen comments usually are? They would have no fear of recrimination.

I see this Oversight Committee more like a sort of simplified union where, if the bureaucratic system doesn't work, there's a place to go to be heard. It may never be needed. Mayor said it wasn't the system that failed Mr. McKee; it was his failure to use it properly. "He said; she said" at this point. It was roundly put down by every member of town council and they had me pretty convinced at the time. I think I'm back to my original position of thinking it could be valuable and worth a try — not as the highfaluting one originally envisioned, but simpler, to whom the powers that be would show respect when it might be used by employees if they perceived injustice.

And now, a word from our "no-she-did-not-say-that department. I was gratified that Mayor Bruno thought enough of the sentiments expressed by former Mayor Stan Smith to publish them as the Mayor's comments in the most recent town newsletter. Mr. Smith's article appears on the next page for those (hopefully few) who do not read the town newsletter. Thus, imagine my dismay when she said, "I think we need to not (pause) I'm trying to say this carefully, we have a small vocal group in the community who don't speak for the whole community and yet have a lot to say. I think you know St George just built a new city building and it has a beautiful council chamber. (she did say we didn't need one like St George) I mean, we're a nice community and we should have what what other communities have."

A lot of ugh to unpack. How does she know those who speak do not speak for the "whole community?" It may be because they don't speak for her, I suppose, but they probably speak for a whole lot of others. Businesses, politicians know that one letter represents a fair contingency. Perhaps Mayor Bruno should reread Stan Smith's article. Case closed.

At a previous meeting, she mentioned her house in Salt Lake was 5,000 square feet. I think she was using that to suggest a 4,000 square foot clinic was not all that big, but the subtext was she was used to "nice" and she wants "nice" and "we are a nice community." We should have "nice." "Nice," meaning, upscale, I assume. What we have is as "nice" as Alhambra, CA, where we used to live.

She also said how hard the CCC was to schedule, "this building drives the dates instead of the convenience driving the dates." That is the reality of scheduling. If everyone were able to use the exact room they wanted whenever they wanted it, the building is being completely underutilized.

Overall, the Town Council felt more responsive to input, despite Mayor Bruno's dismissiveness at that one point. I always believe they are trying to do what they believe is best for the community and for the future of our community. If you wish to enjoy the meeting on your own: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xwhY4iZ19MY>

Calling All Kindergarteners, see page 17

Stan Smith's Town Newsletter Article

Every community has stories—stories of families trying to feel safe, children hoping for better schools, neighbors wishing for cleaner parks, and citizens wanting to feel heard. But too often, those stories stay silent. People notice problems, feel frustration, and hope someone else will fix it. Yet real change begins with something simple and deeply human: **our voices**. When local residents speak to their leaders, they are not just reporting concerns—they are fighting for the place they call home.

Think of the feeling when you drive down the same pothole-ridden road day after day, or when you watch a neighborhood issue worsen because no one reports it. It's easy to feel powerless. But that powerlessness grows when silence takes over. Local leaders cannot fix what they do not know, and communities suffer when people assume their voices do not matter.

But they do matter. Every concern shared is a spark—one that can light the path to solutions. Leaders are elected to serve the people. When residents speak up, leaders are forced to listen, to respond, and to act. It is a reminder that their decisions affect real lives, not just policies. Your voice tells them, "We are watching. We care. And we expect you to care too."

One conversation—**just one**—can alter the direction of an entire project or policy. Maybe it prevents a harmful decision. Maybe it inspires a new solution. Maybe it makes a leader look at an issue in a way they never had before.

These moments of influence often happen quietly, in small meetings or simple emails, but their effects ripple through the future of the community. When you speak, you are not just fighting for your own concern—you are shaping the place where your neighbors, your children, and future generations will live.

Having a one on one conversation gives both the leader and the resident better understanding. Usually residents show up at a town meeting wanting to voice their concerns and have a dialog with the leaders. Although it might be a place to voice concerns, the true dialog should have happened long before it is on agenda for approval or disapproval. Town leaders are willing to discuss items with you if you give them a chance. A phone call, a personal visit, a text or at least an email to which they can respond.

They are your elected representatives. They cannot speak for you if they do not know your concerns. Realize that even though you express your concerns, others might have differing concerns and the vote might not go how you wanted it to go. Voicing your concerns at least gave your leaders something to think about and discuss.

Talking to local leaders is more than a civic action—it is an act of love for your community. Your voice has power. Use it—and watch your community change because you cared enough to speak.

Oh Poop!!

The Latest Scoop (or lack thereof) by TSS's Woman on the Street, Trudy Todd



There is a newly finished, fenced dog area near the playground at Town Park, ready for Fido and friends. That's the good news. Overheard on the street (yea, verily, the bad news): "People are not scooping their dog's poop at the fenced dog park." What? A pox upon people of such thoughtlessness. Surely they must be tourists. No citizen of Springdale would be so dastardly. Defecation is never decoration and to not scoop is most certainly desecration.

Never Bored in Springdale

AT THE LIBRARY: ["A poem begins in delight and ends in wisdom." Robert Frost]

Story Time - Every Wednesday @ 10:30AM

To access the Town's February newsletter with lots of information about Town happenings: < https://www.springdaletown.com/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/237> (may have to cut and paste)

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 4, Wednesday, 4pm, Teen Time arts and crafts, CCC, see pg 12

Feb 5, Thursday, 4pm, After School Club, Movie, CCC, see pg 12

Feb 9, Monday, 10am, free outdoor exercise class, by the gazebo, see pg 14

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, 4pm, Teen Time D&D, CCC, see pg 13

Feb 11, Wednesday, 4-6pm, Organized Pickleball Social Play, Pickleball Courts, see pg 16

Feb 12, Thursday, 4pm, After School Club, Games, CCC, see pg 12

Feb 14, Saturday, 2-4pm**,** Adult Beginner Pickleball Lessons, Pickleball Courts, see pg 15

Feb 16, Monday, 10am, free outdoor exercise class, by the gazebo, see pg 14

Feb 17, Tuesday, 8am, High Fitness, CCC, there is a cost

Feb 17, Tuesday, 10am, Yoga, CCC, cost

Feb 17, Tuesday, 2-4pm, Craft Group

Feb 18, Wednesday, 4-6pm, Organized Pickleball Social Play, Pickleball Courts, see pg 16

Feb 18 Wednesday, 4pm, Teen Time, group games, CCC, see pg 12

Feb 19, Thursday, 4pm, After School Club, Craft, CCC, see pg 12

Feb 21, Saturday, 2-4pm**,** Adult Beginner Pickleball Lessons, Pickleball Courts, see pg 15

Feb 23, Monday, 10am, free outdoor exercise class, by the gazebo, see pg 14

Feb 24, Tuesday, 8am, High Fitness, CCC, there is a cost

Feb 24, Tuesday, 10am, Yoga, CCC, cost

Feb 24, Tuesday, 2-4pm, Craft Group

Feb 25, Wednesday, 4pm, Teen Time, library, book club, discussing *Heart of a Samurai* by Preus, see pg 13

Feb 25, Wednesday, 4-6pm, Organized Pickleball Social Play, Pickleball Courts, see pg 16

Feb 26, Thursday, 4pm, After School Club, Science Project, CCC, see pg 12

Feb 26, Thursday, 5pm, Library, Craft Night, see pg 14

Feb 28, Saturday, 2-4pm**,** Adult Beginner Pickleball Lessons, Pickleball Courts, see pg ??

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.

March 2-6, Mon-Fri, Celebrate Locals Week, see pg 18

March 6, Friday, 2-4pm Springdale's 66th Birthday Party, CCC, see pg 19

March 17, Tuesday, 6:30pm, Spiritus Musica ,Nama-Stay Retreat Center, 111 Juniper Ln**,** Springdale, 6:30-10 pm.<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/spiritus-musica-17th-march-nama-stay-retreat-center-zion-tickets-1980297457002?aff=oddtdtcreator&fbclid=IwY2xjawPajyFleHRuA2FlbQIxMQBzcnRjBmFwcF9pZBAyMjIwMzkxNzg4MjAwODkyAAEeX9HOnsGkOSBYdFsBI7lzYs7sWGsUFj2Z1cekLdEHwIio6PAgb9NOjqTZFlg_aem_cX2-PTzyUpKjpQUoNkNQeg**>**

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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:

Apr 18, 19, Saturday & Sunday, Zion Chalk & Earth Fest, see pg 20

Apr 24, Friday, 6pm, Concert in the Park, at the Gazebo

"A Modest Proposal"

by Dan Mabbutt

The original "A Modest Proposal" was written by the great satirist Jonathan Swift in 1729. Today, most people only know his most famous story, Gulliver's Travels, and they don't even recognize the satire in it. Swift was actually pointing out that wars are often fought for the most insane reasons. The two warring parties of tiny people in Gulliver's Travels were fighting and dying over which end of a soft boiled egg to break.

In "A Modest Proposal" – subtitled, "A Modest Proposal for Preventing the Children of Poor People from Being a Burthen to Their Parents or Country, and for Making Them Beneficial to the Publick" – advocated "selling their children as food to the elite". My proposal is even more modest.

Why does Springdale have a Planning Commission?

I served on Springdale's Planning Commission for over six years. Initially, I was ready and willing to do my part. Today, I would not feel the same way.

My answer to the question is, "Because Utah state law requires municipalities to have a planning authority." A municipality doesn't have to use a citizen commission for planning decisions as we do in Springdale. We used to have a citizen arbitration authority but the Town Council, in their infinite wisdom, hired a lawyer to do that kind of work. I don't want to re-hash that decision, but I will point out that it put actual citizens one step further from actual authority over their own government.

State law does not tell municipalities how to operate their planning authority. They just have to have one. Springdale, with great pomp and flourishes, requires people to submit their proposals to a citizen Planning Commission and then report the results to the Town Council for a decision.

Notice what is missing here: Any authority for the Planning Commission whatsoever over the final result.

Does the Planning Commission Matter … At All?

Elizabeth has documented the controversy over Springdale's decision to pass the "Workforce Housing Overlay Zone". This article isn't going to take sides on that, but I will quote one fact that stood out for me. The Planning Commission voted against it, but the Town Council passed it. I mentioned that to candidates at the recent "Meet the Candidates" night and several volunteered other cases where the same thing happened. The bottom line is that it simply does not actually matter what the Planning Commission decides. The Town Council can overrule them and not even explain why. Put more bluntly, the Planning Commission is a toothless non-entity when it comes to deciding what is good for Springdale.

I used to argue this point to a previous mayor (whose first name rhymes with "the

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MAN!") when I was publishing a website similar to Elizabeth's newsletter. His argument boiled down to, "If you don't like it, run for Town Council." That misses the point. Do we want citizens who DON'T want to commit to the burdens of the Town Council to be totally ignored? That's the way Springdale is headed. I've heard that it's not too easy to recruit people for the Planning Commission these days. Could this be part of the reason? Inquiring Minds Want To Know.

The reverse of my argument makes sense too. If the Planning Commission has the authority, then why would we need a Town Council? What we need is a blend that keeps everyone "in the loop".

Years ago, in an incident that was prominent in my own decision, I recall a developer who made a multi-million dollar proposal to the Planning Commission. We considered it carefully and then voted it down. The developer was enraged and vowed before God and the Planning Commission not to give up. And he didn't. A few weeks later, he presented a completely changed proposal to the Town Council who thought it was just peachy and passed it. I was in "the audience" (seen, but not heard), But in that context, the Chairman of the Planning Commission is just another observer. It was my turn to be enraged, but my only choice was to sit quietly and listen.

There are ways to provide citizen input and "checks and balance" to the process without destroying the authority of the Town Council to govern. Here is my modest proposal..

1. Require EXACTLY THE SAME proposals to be presented to both the Planning Commission and the Town Council. No mulligans. Changes are fine, but then the proposal has to go back to the Planning Commission for reconsideration. Several candidates I talked to about this said, "But, but, but … We do that anyway." Ummmmmmm …. Not always. Besides, it isn't a rule. It's just good policy … and all it takes is for an authoritarian to decide that they can do what they want. It should be a rule.
2. Give the Chairman of the Planning Commission (or a delegate) an official voice in Town Council for proposals that the Planning Commission has considered. That's "a voice", not "a vote". I would have LOVED the opportunity to point out what the Town Council at the time was doing.
3. If the Town Council does reverse a Planning Commission decision, then the Council's ruling will not take effect until a written explanation for the decision is published. Notice that I'm not asking for any specific content in the explanation. If it's garbage, then I believe in democracy enough to trust people to see that.

Modest enough for you?

But here's another thing. Legislators and administrators are FAMOUS for simply refusing to answer questions. In my website, the BIGGEST problem I had was that nobody in Springdale's government would respond to plain, legitimate questions that I asked … in a "public and accountable" way. "The MAN" who was mayor at the time was always happy and helpful in person. But he would never put it in print. That's a clear sign that we're on the fabled "slippery slope". There should be some way to "encourage" (dare I use a stronger word) elected officials to put their point of view IN PRINT when asked.

Police Blotters for Springdale and Rockville

December, 2025

2025 DECEMBER STATS

SPRINGDALE STATS

CITATIONS

Speed	15
Registration-Failed to/Expired	2
Improper Pass-No Pass Zone	2
Display Previous Owner Plate	1
No Tail Light Reflector	1
TOTAL CITATIONS	21
WARNING ON CITES	3

ARRESTS

Operate Vehicle without License/Registration	1
TOTAL ARRESTS	1

ROCKVILLE STATS

CITATIONS

Speed	19
TOTAL CITATIONS	19
WARNING ON CITES	3

ARRESTS

DUI	2
Fail to Operate within a Single Lane	1
Alcohol- Open Container	1
Speed	1
TOTAL ARRESTS	5

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**

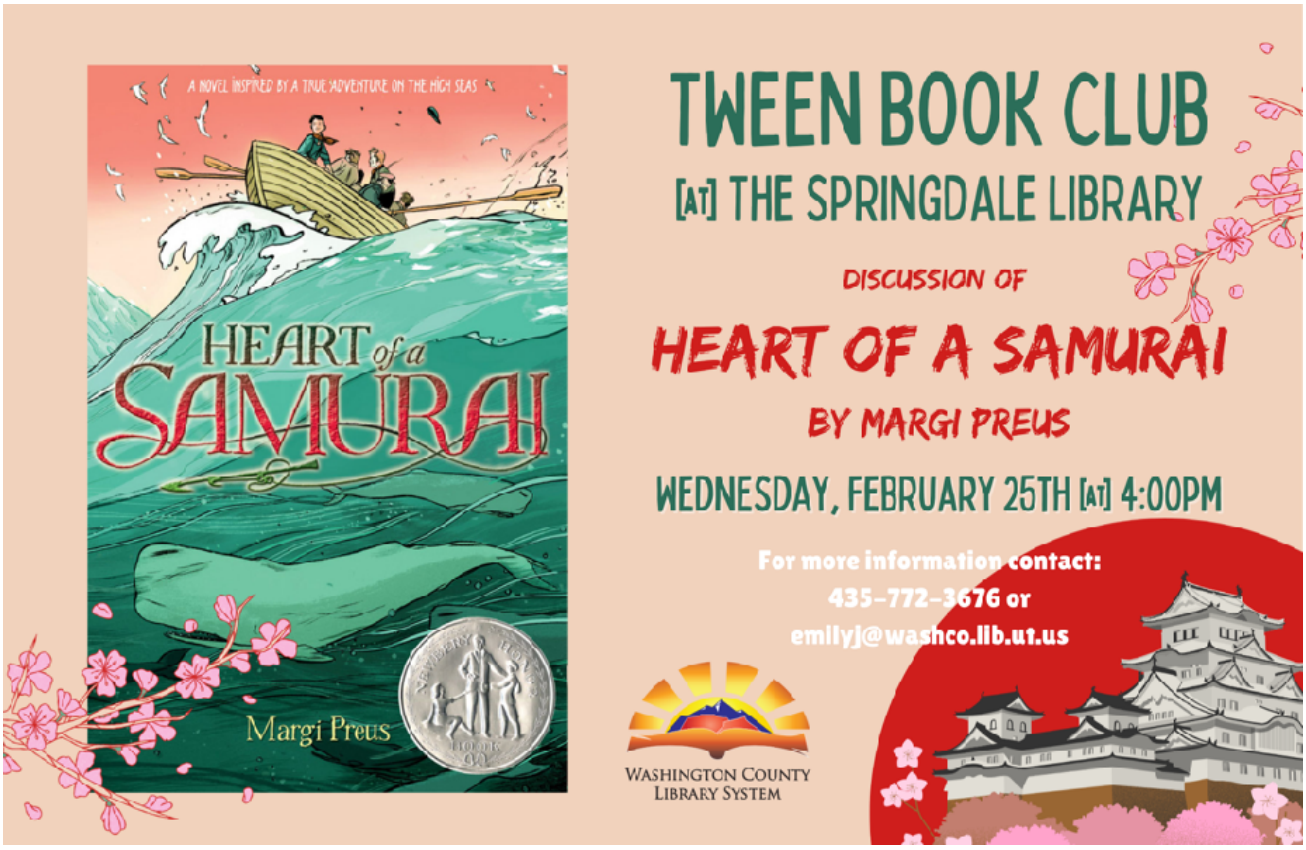
TOTAL INCIDENTS **557**


Nice
Clean plastic bottles (keep caps on)
Most clean plastic to-go cups & lids
Aluminum beverage cans
Clean paper containers, like cardboard drink holders, & clean paper bags
Clean plastic food containers* (usually #1, 2 & 5 plastics are recyclable)
RECYCLE ALL THE WAY
Naughty
Polystyrene foam cups & containers
Used napkins or food containers
Plastic utensils & straws
Paper cups
Plastic bags
TOSS IN THE TRASH
Check
THIS TRAVEL RECYCLING LIST TWICE
RECYCLING
ON-THE-GO
ENJOY YOUR HOLIDAY SEASON THE SUSTAINABLE WAY!
For more information visit
RecyclingSimplified.com/Holidays
Recycling Simplified
REPUBLIC SERVICES
*Recyclable materials vary by location and processing.


Springdale Library & Canyon Community Center
AFTER SCHOOL CLUB
THURSDAYS @ 4:00PM
February Events
02/05 : Movie
02/12 : Games
02/19 : Craft with Robyn
02/26 : Science Project
Washington County Library System
Canyon Community Center


Laugh, Craft & Play with Friends
SPRINGDALE LIBRARY
TEEN TIME
EVERY WEDNESDAY @ 4:00PM
FIRST WEDNESDAY: ART/CRAFTS
SECOND WEDNESDAY: D&D
*THIRD WEDNESDAY: GROUP GAMES
*FOURTH WEDNESDAY: BOOK CLUB
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
EMILYJ@WASHCO.UTAH.GOV
OR (435) 772-3676
(*SCHEDULE MAY CHANGE ON MONTHS WITH HOLIDAYS)


JR. D&D CLUB
@ THE SPRINGDALE LIBRARY
EVERY SECOND
THURSDAY @ 5
FOR MORE INFO CALL: (435) 772-3676
OR EMAIL: EMILYJ@WASHCO.LIB.UT.US
PARENTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME,
BUT NOT REQUIRED


A NOVEL INSPIRED BY A TRUE ADVENTURE ON THE HIGH SEAS
HEART of a SAMURAI
Margi Preus
TWEEN BOOK CLUB
[AT] THE SPRINGDALE LIBRARY
DISCUSSION OF
HEART OF A SAMURAI
BY MARGI PREUS
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH [AT] 4:00PM
For more information contact:
435-772-3676 or
emilyj@washco.lib.ut.us
WASHINGTON COUNTY
LIBRARY SYSTEM

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 — and maybe a friend. Enjoy a warm up, cardio, and stretching, thanks to Janel Bassett.











PICKLEBALL CLASSES

BEGINNER ADULT CLINIC
SATURDAYS 2PM TO 4PM
BEGINNING 2/14

SPRINGDALE PICKLEBALL COURTS

126 LION BLVD., SPRINGDALE UT, 84767





PICKLEBALLS AND LOANER PADDLES PROVIDED.
BRING WATER, WEAR COURT SHOES & USE EYE PROTECTION

$5 WEEKLY DROP-IN FEE

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE INFORMATION, TO PAY DROP-IN FEE & SIGN A WAIVER

Pickleball Information

INSTRUCTOR: ROBYN CHANCEY, PPR CERTIFIED COACH


$5 ROUND ROBIN/
LADDER PLAY
DROP-IN FEE
SPRINGDALE TOWN IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY COSTS OR EXPENSES INCURRED BY PARTICIPANTS DURING THE SOCIAL GATHERING AFTER THE ROUND ROBIN/LADDER PLAY.
Springdale Pickleball
Round Robin / Ladder Play & Social
Springdale Pickleball Courts
126 Lion Blvd., Springdale
Scan the QR Code for more information, to pay drop-in fee & sign a waiver
Pickleball
Information
Wednesdays 4PM to 6PM
(Beginning 4/11/26)
Social Gathering immediately following Round Robin/Ladder Play



SPRINGDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

KINDERGARTEN

Springdale Elementary is looking for next year's kindergarten students! We are a full day and full schedule classroom. Please contact the school or visit the website to register, set up a visit, or get more information.

435-772-3279

https://ses.washk12.org



Celebrate Locals Week in Springdale!



Join us **March 2-6th** for a week of community fun, special offers, and great prizes! Prizes will be announced at the Springdale Birthday Party on **Friday, March 6th**.

- **Locals Bingo** - Pick up a bingo card at Town Hall starting **February 27th**, visit participating businesses between **March 2-6th** to collect stamps (no purchase necessary), and turn in your card at the birthday party for a chance to win.
  One row/column = 1 raffle ticket, a full card/blackout= 5 tickets!

- **Prizes** - Over $1,000 in prizes, including themed gift baskets, restaurant gift cards, and more! The raffle drawing will be held at the Birthday Party - you must be present to win.

- **Springdale Birthday Party** - Join us on **March 6th** at the Canyon Community Center for the raffle drawing, fun activities, and a chance to connect with neighbors, businesses, and town staff.

More information on participating businesses, special offers, and Springdale Birthday Party details to come!
***One prize per person**


HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
Springdale
Locals Week Prize Drawings
Refreshments
Town Staff Department Info
SPRINGDALE
ZION CANYON
SAVE THE DATE
FRIDAY, MARCH 6TH, 2026
2PM TO 4PM
AT THE CANYON COMMUNITY CENTER
AMERICA 250 | UTAH


EARTH WITHOUT 'ART' IS JUST 'EH'
2026
Zion Chalk & Earth Fest.
SATURDAY, APRIL 18TH &
SUNDAY, APRIL 19TH, 2026
10AM-8PM
SPRINGDALE FIELD
126 LION BLVD, SPRINGDALE
CABLE MOUNTAIN LODGE
AMERICA 250 UTAH
SPRINGDALE TOWN
EVENT HIGHLIGHTS
• LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 2PM-8PM
• FOOD
• BEER GARDEN
• VENDORS 10AM-5PM
• WILD & SENIC FILM FEST. SHOWINGS 4/17 & 4/18 AT THE BUMBLEBERRY THEATRE
• & SPECTACULAR CHALK ART
Zion Chalk & Earth Fest.
VISIT OUR WEBPAGE FOR MORE INFO HTTPS://BIT.LY/ZCEF26