



## NEXT UP: CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS HOME TOUR Saturday, December 14th 2024 from 4:00-7:00 p.m.

**T**here is a different feel in the air in Spring City as the days shorten and turn crisp and Christmas lights come on in the gloom of night. Though smaller in scale than May's Heritage Day, Candlelight Christmas is no less a celebration of Spring Town's colorful heritage, dusted with snow and decorated up right.

Come and be a part of carolers roaming the streets, musical concerts in the Rock Church and Victory Hall, restaurants, food trucks, and shops open late, miniature oil paintings for sale at the Old School, and the holiday art sale in the Activity Center.

And, don't forget the six homes making the season brighter by opening their doors for tour. Tickets are \$10 for adults, and \$5 for children ages three to 15. All proceeds from the home tour go to restoration and preservation efforts in town.

## Neither Rain, Nor Hail, Nor Snow, Nor Gloom of Night Stays the Historic Home Tours

**C**entral Utah's weather is always predictably unpredictable! Since our last newsletter, Spring City's annual Heritage Day celebration and home tour successfully battled the elements on Saturday, May 25th. Buffeting winds, sheets of rain, and even hail could not deter almost 1,000 guests from spending the day in our community. They toured historic homes, patronized restaurants, shops, food trucks, an antique fair, and bought original oil paintings from local artists.

For every year since the 1980s, the Friends of Historic Spring City (FOHSC) has sponsored and planned the Heritage Day event. FOHSC is a non-profit 501c3 organization, consisting of 150 member volunteers from Spring City and beyond. They share a common mission: a passion

for restoring our town's past, preserving our present, and ensuring a vibrant future for generations to come.

We especially thank the 13 homeowners this last May who did not let the rain and mud dampen their enthusiasm in opening their historic homes for tour. Also open to the public were 14 commercial buildings, including the newly-renovated Activity Center (Old Junior High), which now houses the Spring City Art Gallery.

FOHSC added another type of home tour this year, featuring eight homes of new construction, but made to look historic. The owners of these "new construction" homes purposely designed their dwelling to fit right in to the late 19th/early 20th century flavor of Spring City. (See the separate story in this newsletter about one such home.)

## "Growing up in Spring City was a Paradise of Fun"

**E**arl Clark is so thankful to have been born and raised in Spring City. He values the town's unique charm, peacefulness, and community togetherness. He and his wife, Leslie, feel blessed to have been able to rear their children here.

The Clark's still live on the same property next to the small log cabin where Earl was born. He thinks the cabin was built in the 1880s. It had a living room, kitchen, and only one bedroom. He recalls as a little boy looking out the window on many evenings and watching his parents and neighbors square dance on the back lawn. Yes, things were a bit different back in those days!

He remembers the dirt road next to the cabin was more of a playground than a road, and it was where he and friends played marbles, baseball, Hide and Seek, Old Sow, and Kick the Can.

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Long-time Spring City residents and preservationists Earl and Leslie Clark.



## Small Grants from FOHSC Help Revive Historic Properties

**F**or decades, the priority of Friends of Historic Spring City (FOHSC) was fundraising and labor for the restoration of the 1899 Old School. With the new Community Center now completed, Friends has turned its attention to two other ventures. One is the ongoing transformation of the 1916 Junior High into the Spring City Activity Center. FOHSC has already donated \$40,000 toward this cause.

The other venture is the Small Grants program. This provides grants to homeowners who have historic properties. These grants range up to \$5,000.

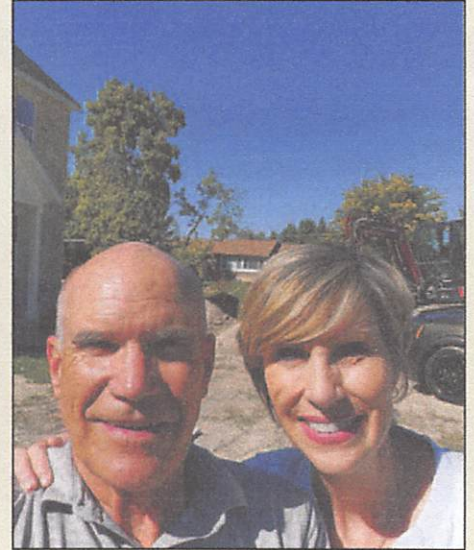
The grant application process is fairly simple. A grant provides up to 50% of the improvement cost, up to the \$5,000 maximum. Homeowners should be prepared to cover some costs upfront, as grant money is awarded upon completion of the work.

A FOHSC committee reviews applications, focusing on the exteriors of historic homes and outbuildings, and on structural improvements. The committee encourages applicants to utilize the State Historic Preservation Tax Credit program and to conform to national preservation requirements. These are detailed on the FOHSC website at [friendsofhistoricspringcity.org](http://friendsofhistoricspringcity.org).

Since mid-2023 when the program began, Friends has funded grants to seven city residents. The money has gone toward stabilizing two outbuildings, one porch repair, 14 chimneys, and one exterior siding/soffit/fascia. In total, that's \$23,300 in grant money. These improvements can be expensive, and homeowners are grateful for the help that a few thousand dollars can make.

In a recent scan, between 50-75 houses in town were deemed to be in various stages of distress. Although the budget for grants may be modest, FOHSC is committed to not just restoring major buildings, but to assist as many individual applicants with preservation needs.

To apply, please see the "Restoration Grants" tab on the website above.



### HISTORIC HOME SPOTLIGHT

## COINCIDENCE? NOT A CHANCE! Built a New Home and Made it Look Historic

**T**im and Sue Hayes share a fondness for small Utah towns. In October of 2020, they found themselves drawn to the appeal of the feeling of peace, friendliness, and simplicity of Sanpete County, and especially Spring City. It was love at first sight. The genuine charm, historic nature, and warm greetings of residents, led them on a pursuit to seek residency in peaceful Spring Town.

Sue quickly discovered a friend from her high school days, who offered to take them on a tour of the city and explore some potential land options. They soon found an available lot that was the one! They purchased it and their Heritage House dream soon became a reality. In keeping with the historic setting and ambiance of Spring City, the Hayes' were committed to building a new home that from the outside fit right into the style of the late 1800s. In fact, their partially-constructed house was featured on this year's Heritage Day.

Sue and Tim enjoy participating in the community activities and can't wait until they are able to move into their Heritage home. Coincidence? Not a chance! They feel they are in the right place at the right time.

## A Paradise of Fun *continued*

**T**hey made bike trails, dug caves and built huts, one being furnished with a stove, a bed, and even wall paper. Growing up in Spring City was a paradise of fun.

Earl attended school from kindergarten to the ninth grade, both in the now City Hall and in the Junior High, recently converted to the Spring City Activity Center. The spiral slide fire escape was a popular spot, along with the playground where the

bowery stands today. He expresses gratitude for those who had the foresight and dedication to restore these buildings and for all of the service hours and funding donated to make it possible.

Over his life, Earl has witnessed the progress to indoor bathrooms, first televisions, paved roads, a sewer system, piped irrigation, computers, and the rise, fall, and rise of Spring City's population. He served as Sanpete County's Treasurer for many decades. He now volunteers as the Treasurer for the Friends of Historic Spring City.