



SPRING CITY FRIENDS



FRIENDS OF HISTORIC SPRING CITY • NOVEMBER 2025 • WINTER ISSUE

HO, HO, HO, CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS IS COMING TO TOWN!

It is almost time again for this wintry event that has been growing in popularity each of the last seven years. Friends of Historic Spring City introduced this celebration to give locals and out-of-town guests a feel of our community at a different time of year than Heritage Day in May. Spring City is especially magical under December's darkening skies, with crisp clear air, the charm of historic homes under the brilliance of Christmas lights, the smells of the season, carolers strolling the streets, and hopefully some snow.

Candlelight Christmas will be held on Saturday, December 13th, 2025. It runs from 3:30 to 7:00 pm. Here's a rundown of the happenings:

10:00 am - 7:00 pm: Craft and artisan fair alongside the Spring City Arts Gallery of great local and regional artists in the Activity Center Gym (150 E. Center Street.)

3:30 pm: Home tour ticket sales and Christmas Miniatures art preview begin at the Old School (45 S. 100 East). To maximize purchasing opportunity, a lottery system will be used this year: Write your cell phone number at paintings you would like to buy; random selection and text notification at 5:00 pm.

4:00 - 7:00 pm: Tour charming, decorated homes, both historic and new-built to look historic. Listen to holiday carolers and enjoy food from local eateries and food trucks on Main Street. Bring canned food to donate to the Sandpete Food Pantry at the Spring Farm tour home, 50 E Center Street.

5:00 pm: Live Christmas Concert by legend Brian Stucki at the Rock Church.

6:00 pm: Open sale of remaining artwork.

7:00 pm: After the home tour, enjoy live Spring City Bluegrass at Victory Hall. Purchase home tour tickets in advance at FriendsOfHistoricSpringCity.org or in person the day of the event at the Spring City Community Center (Old School). **Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for youth 3-15, and free for kids under 3.**



Jens Carlson House, 1896

in larger numbers than we had ever recorded before.

Friends of Historic Spring City sold over 1,100 home tour tickets with an estimated 1,400 guests visiting the 15 homes on tour. Also, more original artwork was sold that day than we have experienced, with 104 paintings going in auction and direct sales. (These participating artists received \$31,500 from the sale of their paintings.) We could not have done this without so many volunteers and especially homeowners and docents welcoming the throngs to their historic houses.

We also helped the Spring City Art Gallery have a strong day. We introduced a craft and antique fair in the gymnasium of the Activity Center (the old Junior High) that brought many of the visitors to this venue. This was a success with 15 artisans selling their wares. We will certainly do that again in 2026.

In addition, we know visitors to Heritage Day 2025 brought in significant additional income to our local economy in dining, lodging, and shopping revenue – merchants estimated from nearly 3 to 30 times the business of an average Saturday!

All told, FOHSC raised \$34,300 on Heritage Day 2025. But as a non-profit organization, every cent of these proceeds will be given back to the community for restoration and preservation efforts. Also, to fund student scholarships and matching grants for individual residents who apply for help in preserving historic homes and outbuildings.

Mark your calendars for May 23, 2026 for the next Spring City Heritage Day.



Morgan Johnson/Jack Watson House, 1904

Heritage Day 2025 – Largest Attendance Ever!

What a difference a year makes! It was over 17 months ago, but no one will ever forget Heritage Day 2024, when mighty winds gusted all day and the heavens opened with a constant driving rain and even hail. Still, hundreds of stalwart visitors came to Spring City and braved the

downpour and mud to celebrate our event.

What followed that drab and dreary day was a year of continuously eyeing the forecast and praying for blue skies and bright sunshine the next time around. And on May 24, 2025 we couldn't have asked for better weather. The crowds showed up

Remembering

PETER L. GOSS

(1943-2025)

Recently, we lost a great teacher, mentor, researcher and friend with the passing of Peter Goss. He was a prominent architectural historian, writer, photographer and educator plus Spring City supporter and resident. Peter was passionate about the history and architecture of the West, Utah, and especially Spring City.



Peter had a long career teaching and leading at the University of Utah; his wide range of classes on architectural history were thoughtfully prepared and presented and always enlightening. He co-authored the well-recognized resource *Utah's Historic Architecture, 1847-1947*. Closer to home, in 2007 he co-authored with Kaye Watson, *A Guide to the Architecture and History of Spring City*. He served on numerous preservation boards and organizations, helping shape how we understand and protect Utah's historic places.

Preservation Utah honored Peter with the Lucybeth Rampton Award in 1997 for his lifetime commitment to preservation and recently stated: "His legacy lives on through the places he championed and the countless individuals he inspired."

Beyond his numerous and notable professional accomplishments and his willingness to teach and share, Peter was also a real nice guy. His smile, laugh and genuine interest in all those around him will be long remembered.

The Friends of Historic Spring City is restarting a scholarship, renamed in his honor, to support the continuing education of Spring City youth (high school seniors or recent graduates) who exhibit sensitivity to the history and historic significance of Spring City. This is another opportunity to provide tangible preservation-derived support to residents of Spring City and recognize the many contributions of our good friend Peter Goss.

Member Appreciation Dinners Hit the Spot

Three times each year, the Friends of Historic Spring City hosts a dinner in Spring City to show appreciation for our members and their support of our mission. These happen in the winter, spring, and fall, and all current and prospective members are invited. These are an excellent way to introduce your friends and family to our organization. Please watch your email as we send Save The Dates a month or more ahead of time.

The mission of FOHSC is "to preserve and bring to life our town's historic past, keep its present vibrant, and its future ensured for generations to come." We do this by raising money through yearly events, grants, and donations to fund the refurbishing of numerous buildings and private homes. Our membership has grown to approximately 180 individuals. Annual dues are a modest \$25 per year per household.

The dinners are free to all who come. We purposely keep the dinners informal, so that mingling and building relationships are the main course. The president will take a few minutes to answer questions and update on recent events.

During the dinner this past October 11, Scott Newman shared the latest on the negotiations with the City Council regarding its proposals to allow half-acre building lots within the National Historic District. In July, the FOHSC Board voted 18 to 5 to join a lawsuit to stop widespread smaller lots that surely will impact the look and feel of our one-of-a-kind city.

On the website of the National Park Service, which is the organization that establishes historic districts, it states: "Non-profit organizations (like FOHSC) are generally the groups undertaking the advocacy and promotion of preservation. They lobby for better laws and regulations, encourage investment in historic areas, and even stand in front of bulldozers when necessary."

FOHSC will continue to stand in this advocacy effort as appropriate and welcomes your input and involvement.



FOHSC ELECTS NEW PRESIDENT



Charles Shepherd was recently approved by the Board of Directors as the next president of the Friends of Historic Spring City. He will replace current president, Scott Newman, effective January 1, 2026. Scott was named president in March 2023 and has ably helped the Friends regain solid footing following the pandemic years.

Charles is no stranger to Spring City or to the FOHSC. In 2018 he bought the historic Reuben Warren and Lucy Ann Butler Alfred Home at 415 S. Main Street (only learning later that Lucy Ann is his third-great grandaunt). With his wife Kristal, he is slowly working on the hefty restoration of the historic house, several historic outbuildings and a very old apple orchard. He joined the Friends and brought extensive preservation experience from an admittedly lucky

career. Charles has worked for the State Historic Preservation Office, later with HNTB, MESA and VCBO architectural firms and ended his career caring for historic buildings and sites at the University of Utah. While with MESA he was the historical architect through the entire restoration of the Utah State Capitol. Other 'lucky' projects include the most recent stone restoration project at the Salt Lake City-County Building, rehabilitation of the original Salt Lake City Library (later Hansen Planetarium) for the O.C. Tanner flagship store, and pre-restoration studies and projects in the Salt Lake Temple.

A native of Utah, Charles retired from the University earlier this year and is now channeling his inner apple orchardist while making incremental (and not very noticeable) repairs to his historic buildings. Based on the slow projects, it remains a moving target but Charles and Kristal plan to live fulltime in Spring City "in two years."