

# Town of Springdale News

February 2014

## From the Mayor's Desk

There are many things we take for granted here in Springdale. Most often I have tourists stop and tell me that I must take the scenery for granted. I have always said, "No, every day is different, the views change with the shadows and weather. I see new things every time I look around." This past month I have seen Springdale in a new way. I must admit I have taken things for granted in our town. I wake up every morning and turn on the tap and expect to have good water. I turn on the irrigation and expect to have that water. I flush my toilet and expect to have the sewer working properly. I drive through town and expect things to be in order. If I need emergency services I expect them to be ready. All of this and more I realize I take for granted. I have learned what it takes to make sure my expectations are met. There are a lot of people working hard at their jobs to make sure it does happen. They quietly do their jobs while I go about my day in Springdale. The only time I think of them is when something is wrong or is broken.

We are a very diverse community. That has its advantages and disadvantages. As I travel around to the different meetings and meet with different leaders I have a better understanding of what others think of us. I have learned that most people only know part of the story. This is true with many things that happen in our town. Something might be happening that you don't agree with, but when you learn all of the facts you soon see why it was done a certain way. Sometimes, learning the facts of an issue is not easy. The facts might not be easily available, or aspects of an issue might be legally protected. We are all different and probably in some cases wouldn't solve the same problem the way someone else would.

I have a goal of finding ways to better communicate with the community, so we can all be more informed and together make Springdale a great place to live. I am looking for some volunteers to help with the Fourth of July. I need a group of people who can brainstorm and come up with a great way for the town of Springdale to celebrate this important holiday.

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## The Pettys Come Home

By Pamela PETTY White

January 30, 2014

After giving a brief history of my great-great-grandfather, Albert Petty at a meeting of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers (DUP), I came to appreciate more fully the tremendous sacrifices made by this valiant pioneer. He was Springdale's first settler! He and his family crossed the plains with the Mormon pioneers and settled in that beautiful area. A mountain peak in Zion Canyon was named "Petty Peak" after Albert Petty. This information was corroborated by local Springdale officials.

Several family members and I felt an overwhelming desire to add an additional marker to the existing one at Albert Petty's gravesite. His accomplishments as Springdale's first settler were certainly noteworthy enough to warrant a marker stating this important piece of the town's history. The original sandstone marker still stands erect at his gravesite, having withstood the harsh elements for 144 years. Unfortunately, it states only minimal information.

Our efforts to place an additional marker came to fruition in a timely manner. Upon completion, my ninety-year-old aunt—Albert Petty's great-granddaughter—two cousins, and my sister and I made plans to visit the gravesite to view the new marker - a greatly-anticipated event. My greatest concern was the disappointment Aunt Maxine would experience at not being able to actually see the marker in the cemetery. I had shared several weeks in advance that I thought it would be impossible for her to walk up the old dirt path with all the rocks. It was much too dangerous and she wouldn't be able to use her walker for assistance. Oh ye of little faith.

As we approached the cemetery and Aunt Maxine saw the path, she said, "I know I can make it to the top if you'll just help me. Besides, the Lord is going to bless me because I have been praying constantly that I could see my great-grandfather's gravesite before I die. So let's get to it!"

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## Tree Removal at River Park

There are several large trees at the River Park that are old and are in the process of dying. Many of these trees overhang public picnic and walking areas of the park. In order to keep the public who use the park and trails safe from falling limbs, the Town will in the near future be looking at removing these trees.

As removal of dead and dying trees is completed, new trees will be planted to grow to take the place of those that have been removed. As with any change, it will be hard to see large trees that have been part of the park removed. However, safety of the public is the Town's highest priority. As trees are removed, it is our intention to allow residents to have access to cut wood for use in fireplaces or stoves. Notice of availability of cut wood will happen on the town website and Facebook pages.

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### Mayor's Desk, Cont.

I would like the group to be open minded and ready to look at all options so they can come up with something we all can enjoy. If you are interested please contact me so we can get this committee together soon.

Thank you all for what you do for Springdale. We all do take things for granted and don't always see all the work that goes on to make this community what it is today. To the many clubs, organizations, staff and volunteers that quietly work to help all of us enjoy what we have I again say thank you!

*Mayor Stan Smith*

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### Coming Home to Springdale An Invitation to Share your Story

*Springdale has been welcoming people home for over 150 years. We invite you to submit an essay about how you or someone you know found a welcome here and 'came home' to Springdale - whether for the first time, the last time, or some other time or in some other way completely. We appreciate that 'coming home' isn't strictly a physical experience.*

*You don't have to leave to have a profound "I'm home" experience. We hope you'll share your stories with us. We would love to get so many we have to find a publisher! Until then, we'll print them in the newsletter.*

*Please limit your submission to approximately 500 words. Please send via email to [springdale@infowest.com](mailto:springdale@infowest.com).*

*Past stories can be viewed on the Coming Home page of the town website: [www.springdaletown.com/welcoming-you-home/coming-home/](http://www.springdaletown.com/welcoming-you-home/coming-home/)*

### The Pettys Come Home, Cont.

With one of us on each side of her, up she went. IT TRULY WAS A MIRACLE! Many tears of gratitude were shed as we viewed her standing for the first time by the gravesite.

A visit to Springdale for our family members invokes profound feelings of humility and gratitude. Knowing that our ancestor, Albert Petty, was the first to settle this magnificently beautiful area reminds us that we are indeed walking on sacred, hallowed ground.

The additional marker is a fitting tribute to this exceptional pioneer. Our family greatly appreciates the peace and serenity of the cemetery's surroundings, and of Springdale, Utah, itself.

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*Photo is Maxine Petty Cameron, great-granddaughter of Albert Petty.*

*Maxine Petty Cameron graciously allowed Springdale Library and Springdale Town to photocopy 'The Albert Petty Family' by Charles B. Petty. This fascinating book tracks the history and biography of the Pettys until 1953 and includes color plates and photos. It can be viewed in the 'Special Collections' of the Library, thanks to Barbara Farnsworth's careful and meticulous copying effort.*

