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This is part of an occasional series by the Sanpete Country Travel and Utah Heritage Highway 89 Alliance on the people and places along U.S. Highway 89.

## **Spring City Readies For Heritage Celebration**

Day-Long Event to Include Historical Tours, Art Auction.

Spring City's will open its doors May 27 for its annual Heritage Day celebration. The city's history and beauty, along with the talented people who call this small Sanpete County town home, will be on display for all to see and appreciate.

The day-long event will include historical tours, including beautiful pioneer homes, the recently restored Old Spring City School, and the bishops storehouse; an art show featuring local artisans; and an antique show that will include a saddle display, furniture and farm equipment. There will also be a community breakfast and lunch, and a Daughters of the Utah Pioneers quilt show and bake raffle.

Tickets for the historical homes tour go on sale at 9 a.m. and the tour begins at 10 a.m. At least 15 buildings will be on tour this year, including the newly restored 1883 Behunnin-Beck house on Main Street.

The art and antique show runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Old Spring City School, 100 East Center Street. It will feature works by current Spring City artists including Orsal Allred, Lee Bennion, Linda Budd, Susan Gallacher, M'lisa Paulsen, Cassandria Parsons and Kathy Peterson.

In addition, this year's show will feature "Art Squared," a wall of one-foot square paintings by these artists, as well as nationally-known artists Brad Aldrich, Doug Fryer, Brian Kershink, Ron Richmond and Michael Workman.

The art works will be auctioned during the show, and proceeds will go to the Old Spring City School restoration fund. The school is a 100-year-old Victorian structure that has stood proudly in downtown Spring City for more than 100 years. It's featured on city council letterhead and is prominently displayed on the city's logo.

Built in 1899, the school has eight classrooms, four on each level, as well as a large attic space, complete with windows. At one time, it housed all the grades, and was even used as a middle school and high school. A "new" elementary school was built next to the Historical Old School in 1920 and uses for the old school began to diminish. Eventually, the old schoolhouse became a make-shift storage facility for the school district. It hasn't been used as a school since the 1950s.



Several years ago, friends of Historic Spring City started raising money to save the building, including adding the historic home tour and art sale to Heritage Day events to help raise money. The group also received a grant from the National Parks Service (Save America's Treasures program). Plans call for using the building as a community center.

For more information on Spring City's Heritage Day celebration, contact Kaye Watson, (435) 462-2211 or M'lisa Paulsen, (435) 462-3454.

For more information Contact:

Monte Bona  
Sanpete County Travel and Heritage Council  
(435) 462-2502