

Leeds Town

Newsletter



MAY 2025

Mayor's Message

Dear Residents of Leeds,

As we enjoy the spring season together, I want to thank you for your continued support and involvement in the many exciting developments happening across our town.

This past Saturday, we were thrilled to celebrate the opening of Leeds' very first pickleball court! We invited everyone to join us as we marked this special addition to our community — a project that promotes recreation and connection for residents of all ages.

We also had a wonderful Easter celebration in the park earlier this month. The Easter egg hunt and activities were a great success thanks to the efforts of so many volunteers, especially Danny Swenson and Troi Hoster, whose hard work made the event truly memorable for our families.

Several important projects are underway to shape the future of Leeds while protecting what makes our town special. Discussions about a potential new interchange on I-15 continue, with engineers working to identify the location that will have the least disruption to private property owners, keeping future traffic off Main Street.

Our efforts to support responsible economic growth are also showing results. The Town Council recently approved a conditional use permit for a low-impact hotel, which is expected to bring in approximately \$300,000 in annual revenue with minimal impact to the town's character and infrastructure.

Additionally, property owners along the East Frontage Road have been working closely with the Town Council to establish a mixed-use zone that balances their needs with the town's vision. Without an agreement, these properties could move under County jurisdiction, increasing density and leaving Leeds with all of the impact and none of the benefits or control.

Looking ahead, municipal elections are fast approaching. This November, four seats will be up for election: the Mayor and three Town Council seats. If you have questions about the upcoming municipal elections or are interested in running for office, please contact our Municipal Clerk. Candidate filing dates are June 2nd through June 6th during normal business hours, and filings must be completed in person.

We also have two Planning Commission openings — one full-time and one alternate position. These roles are vital in shaping the future of Leeds, and we encourage those interested to reach out to our Clerk's Office to learn more and apply.

Our next major community celebration will be the Fourth of July, a favorite tradition where our small-town spirit truly shines. Volunteers are needed to help organize and run the event, and we invite anyone interested to contact the Clerk's Office to get involved.

The Town Council is currently reviewing a proposal to join the Washington County Habitat Conservation Plan. This program would help protect private property owners where the endangered desert tortoise may be found. Participation would include the adoption of an impact fee on new structures, financing a local team to clear properties — helping to avoid lengthy federal permitting delays that can often take a year or more. A resolution to begin this process is under consideration, and a public hearing will be scheduled for resident input.

Finally, please be aware that on April 24th, Governor Cox issued a Drought Executive Order in response to low streamflow forecasts and extreme drought conditions across Southern Utah. Washington County is among the 17 counties included under this declaration. Residents are encouraged to modify their water usage and stay tuned for further guidance as the Governor's Office monitors conditions.

Thank you for your continued dedication to making Leeds a wonderful place to live. Together, we are building a bright future while preserving the unique spirit of our town.

With gratitude,

Bill Hoster
Mayor, Town of Leeds

If you have announcements, advertisements, or anything of the town's importance to have published in this newsletter, please provide content to clerk@leedstown.org. All provided content is not guaranteed to be published, the town reserves the right to deny publishing any content at its sole discretion. All postings in this newsletter are free of charge to citizens of Leeds. Outside commercial or other advertisements may be assessed a fee. This newsletter is distributed electronically with limited print versions available once a quarter to the citizens of Leeds, UT.

Our History & Legacy: Great Strides in Records and Renovations

Over the past 14 months, the Town of Leeds has made notable progress in both the recordkeeping and physical improvements of our three cemeteries. Through collaborative efforts, important steps have been taken to preserve these meaningful sites and better document the lives of those laid to rest there.

A Cemeteries Master Plan has been drafted, providing a valuable roadmap for future enhancements and potential grant opportunities.

Historically, cemetery records were limited to handwritten ledgers and simple plot deeds, often containing just basic information. Our Sexton, working with available ledgers and headstone details, built a more comprehensive database. Using genealogy resources such as Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.com, and FindAGrave.com, she enriched the records with dates of birth and death, family connections, photos, and military service information. These improved records are now available at Town Hall and online through QR codes and hyperlinks.

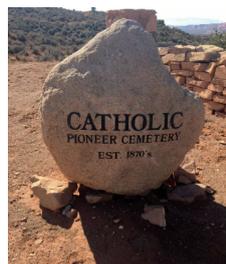


The physical grounds have also seen significant upgrades. To the east of Leeds Cemetery, the town expanded its boundary by working with the previous landowner, and a stone wall now marks the new edge of the property. On the west side, collaboration with Washington County allowed for additional land and parking improvements.

Last summer, the large mound of dirt that was collected from excess material from the Washington County Water Conservancy District's Main Street project, has been used to level and grade the existing and new parking areas. Additional improvements were also made to the road between the Silver Reef Protestant and Catholic Cemeteries, enhancing both appearance and accessibility, especially for visitors exploring local history by ATV.

These ongoing efforts reflect a broader commitment to honoring and preserving the town's heritage. Thanks to the partnerships and volunteer contributions from Councilwoman Stirling, Town Sexton Doris McNally, Mark Osmer, and John Zutemoulder, who made these projects possible, Leeds' cemeteries are better documented, more accessible, and more beautiful for generations to come.

Article Provided by Doris McNally





A Fond Farewell and New Beginnings for the Town's Planning Commission



Farewell to a Dedicated Servant: Danny Swenson

It is with a mixture of gratitude and sadness that we announce the departure of our esteemed Planning Commissioner and Chair, Danny Swenson. Danny has dedicated many years of exemplary service to our town, first as a committed planning commission member and more recently as the Chair. His passion for thoughtful development and his remarkable leadership have truly helped shape our community for the better. Danny's tenure on the Planning Commission has been marked by his unwavering dedication, insightful decision-making, and collaborative spirit. We extend our deepest appreciation to Danny for all of his contributions and wish him the very best in his future endeavors.



Welcome to Our New Chairman: Chuck Bentley

As we bid farewell to Danny, we are also excited to welcome Chuck Bentley as the new Chairman of the Planning Commission. Chuck brings a strong background in urban planning and a wealth of experience to this role, as a prior developer. His comprehensive understanding of the complexities involved in community development, coupled with his innovative approach, makes him an excellent fit for this leadership position. We are confident that under Chuck's guidance, the Planning Commission will continue to thrive and effectively address the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. His leadership will be a great asset to our town, and we look forward to the positive impact he will undoubtedly make.



Welcome to Our New Commissioner: David Rhodes

David Rhodes recently joined the Town Planning Commission, bringing with him a wealth of knowledge and experience from his distinguished career as a professional engineer. With over 40-years of expertise in design and construction, David is well-equipped to contribute significantly to the Planning Commission's efforts in shaping the future of the town's development. His extensive background ensures that he will provide valuable insights and innovative solutions to the complex challenges of urban planning.



Welcome Our New Deputy Clerk: Cari Bishop

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Cari Bishop as the new Deputy Clerk. Cari brings a wealth of experience from her previous roles at the Hurricane Valley Fire SSD, where she served as the District Clerk. In addition to her clerical duties, Cari also managed purchasing and accounts payable functions, demonstrating her versatility and dedication. We are confident that Cari's extensive background and skills will greatly benefit our office and the community we serve. Please join us in welcoming Cari to her new position and wishing her success in her endeavors.





On the Local Front

Leeds Creek Bridge Project Complete

The Leeds Creek (aka Oak Grove) Bridge replacement project has successfully reached completion, enhancing access to the beloved Oak Grove Campground and Dixie National Forest. The project was funded through state and federal grants, directed by the National Forest Service, with collaboration from Leeds Town, Washington County and LDWA. The newly constructed bridge exceeds standards with a widened design, ensuring safer and more reliable access for visitors, while supporting the local ecosystem and making ready for another 50 years.



Easter Celebration in the Park was a Success



The spirit of community was on full display during this year's Easter Egg Hunt Celebration held at Leeds Park on Saturday, April 19th. Dozens of families gathered under sunny skies to enjoy the festivities, with children eagerly racing through the park in search of colorful, candy-filled eggs.

The event was made possible through the dedication of numerous volunteers who helped bring joy and smiles to the faces of local children. Special thanks go to Danny Swenson for his leadership and energy, as well as Troi Hoster for her organization and support behind the scenes. The Town also extends heartfelt appreciation to the many volunteers who helped prepare and package thousands of eggs, and to all who participated to make the celebration a success.

The Easter Egg Hunt has become a cherished tradition in Leeds, and events like these continue to strengthen the town's sense of unity and family-friendly charm.



On April 21st, a statue of George Washington was unveiled at the new George Washington Plaza in St. George and Washington City. This special statue was crafted by Jerry Anderson, an infamous artist and long-time Leeds resident, known for sharing his incredible talents throughout the world. The event was attended by state dignitaries and many citizens.



Photo by Shauna Ballou

Leeds residents have been blessed with the beauty of the Jones family's horses producing several foals.

Take a moment to witness these beauties along Silver Reef Road.

**DUMPSTER DAYS
JUNE 20TH/21ST
CHERRY LANE**



If you've noticed someone in a fluorescent vest walking through town recently, you've likely seen Nathan Shakespeare. Nathan has generously volunteered his time to support the Town of Leeds by identifying maintenance needs and potential safety concerns throughout our community.

In addition to his watchful eye, Nathan also helps keep our public spaces clean and welcoming, including regular efforts at the park and town hall. If you see Nathan out and about, be sure to say hello and thank him. He's a kind and hardworking young man who truly cares about our town.