

Andrew Meadows

SPCA SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY

After putting a lot of thought into the theme of how Stansbury Park can continue to maintain its small town feel after forty years, I have come up with what I believe are some pretty good ideas which include: gathering together for various events for fun, service, and joining together to be prepared for emergencies that may happen such as a power outage or an earthquake etc.

Building and maintaining a community where people care about each other, as if they are family, requires thought, effort, planning and advertising. Using billboards, newspapers, hand-out and flyers will drive home the 'Down Home' feeling the SPCA Community Association is hoping for. People move here from Salt Lake City or other large areas to get away from the smog, busy roads, congestion and less expensive home prices and what they find is a community that cares about one another.

When I moved to Tooele County 3 years ago, one of the first things I noticed was the big farming community, the open areas and newness of Stansbury Park, even after 40 years, the area still felt like a small town and still does.

I feel that when a community works and plays together, as if they are a family, it creates a small home town feeling no matter how many people are involved. In order to accomplish this goal I suggest that there needs to be a place where people can come together and enjoy each other's company. We are fortunate to have Stansbury High School as one of those places where we can do those types of things. We can use the football field or the auditorium and their other facilities as needed. We also have The Old Mill and the Stansbury Park Clubhouse as other places to gather for events. We need to use them as well.

With the growth of Stansbury we could use larger facilities for gatherings that will meet the needs of people who want to come together to enjoy each other's company. I would suggest that we build a recreation/community center with a large park including pavilions and play areas (swings and slides etc) to accommodate these needs. Building this gathering place will also allow people to

get better acquainted with people they already know and make new friends as well.

Concerning activities to keep us close together, I feel we need to continue Stansbury Days, Old Mill Plays that are put on every year, and every other event that is already in place. Other events such as Christmas plays, Easter Egg Hunts, Valentines Dances, Memorial Day Activities, July 4th Celebration's, BBQ's, a local talent show and Carnivals where youth man booths etc. All of these could be held at Stansbury High or some other place like the Recreation Center.

Another thing Stansbury Park can do to keep its small town feel is to do a monthly or a regularly scheduled service project that benefits someone else. Service activities such as community clean up day, planting trees and flowers around the lake and along road sides, or doing service for the homeless and needy in Stansbury. We could have a community breakfast for those in need at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

For emergencies the Stansbury Community has Block Captains that keep the lines of communication open to everyone. One person is over a few homes then they report to someone over them in charge of a larger area of people who then reports to someone who is over the whole community. This way everyone is accounted for. Since we want everyone in the "Stansbury Family" to know what is going on including when and where, why not use this type of system for community activities as well. No one would be left out and everyone would be informed about what is happening in our community.

In summary Stansbury Park is growing and will continue to grow. To promote unity and that small town feeling, we need to continue fun activities that are already in place such as Stansbury Days, and perhaps add a few more like an Easter Egg Hunt and Community Service Projects. We also need to continue and expand CERT. The CERT communication system could be used to inform everyone about various events. If Stansbury Park builds a larger facility, it would allow for a better place for more people to meet and bond. When all these things are implemented, I believe that people will come together as if they are one big family. The goal of keeping the small town feeling will be met. Stansbury Park will be an even more coveted community for raising families. Our values will remain strong and the family unity will prevail.

