

American Falls Day, A Shining Success

I was excited to see the large number of people who came to enjoy the festivities of American Falls Day. Each year our community celebrates with a parade, great food, and fun activities in the park. It is a day to see people I haven't seen for a while, as it brings families who have moved back to American Falls for at least a day. As I walked around with my husband, we realized he has had many of the people we saw in the park at the middle school over the years. We both enjoyed talking to several of his past students, and being introduced to their kids. Time flies. We realized that some of his former students now have children at the middle school. It is wonderful to see the new generations of young people in our community.

I would like to thank the American Falls Chamber of Commerce, being led by Tyler Moore this year, for all of their efforts to make this day a success. The chamber makes a big difference in our community. We are fortunate to have individuals who are willing to donate their time to make the community business friendly, and to promote wholesome family activities. Tyler and his board members were still in the park on Saturday night at 11:00 p.m., finishing up the last of the day's activities, which was a family movie on the grass. Thanks to the businesses and organizations who allow their employees the time to serve in community. I know it is a sacrifice for you to give your employees time off to attend the meetings which are necessary to plan events like this, so I thank you for your support.

I appreciate the efforts of the city employees, who are always willing to go the extra mile to accommodate requests to prepare the park for the event, and to restore everything back after the celebration is over. We receive many requests at the city for various events, and our employees make a difference in the success of these activities. They are willing to work while everyone else is enjoying the fun. My thanks goes out to all of them.

Thanks to those who had parade entries and booths, and for those who attended the celebration. We had over 50 parade entries and 48 vendor booths. This is up from 38 vendors in 2013 and 43 vendors in 2014. This does not take into account the many businesses who had outside displays and goods for sale on Idaho Street. 9 vendors were still operating at 5:00 p.m. In the past the booths are usually closed by 3:00 p.m.

I was helping in the announcer's booth this year, and as I watched the parade entries go by, I was pleased so many different entities participated. I have never seen so much parade candy! The generosity of the people who were in the parade should be noted! Many thanks to you!

The Kyle Curry memorial softball tournament had 12 teams this year, nearly double the amount of involvement from last year. Thanks to those who organized and participated in this memorable activity.

I saved the best for last. I would like to recognize the service provided by the grand marshals this year. Rod and Jayne Tucker are two of the reasons my family has called American Falls home over the years. Their generosity and compassion as owners and pharmacist of Rockland Pharmacy are to be commended. I know of countless times when they have both responded to the needs of community members at anytime, day or night. They deserve the recognition given to them, and I am grateful to know them.

AMS was also recognized as a business of the year by the chamber, along with Rockland Pharmacy. Their inventions and ability to provide good paying jobs in our community are

appreciated. Rick Vollweiler was unable to participate in the parade, but my thanks goes out to him for his community involvement.

Joyce Foster and Bobette Wright were recognized as the chamber volunteers of the year. Their volunteer service and enthusiasm are appreciated, as well as their dedication and commitment to make American Falls a better place to live. As a longtime realtor, Bobette has helped many people be able to call American Falls home. Joyce is the manager of Edgewood Spring Creek Manor Assisted Living. Her service keeps our elderly residents in our community. It was fun to see them in the parade, we are grateful for them.

I look forward to many more great events in American Falls, and I am excited to announce some plans for a new project I am involved with. Stay tuned for my next article which will introduce the idea of building a Splash Park in American Falls. We have more great opportunities to celebrate why we all choose to live and work here. It is a great community to call home!

Written by Kristen Jensen