

MAYFIELD LIONS CLUB HISTORY

The Mayfield Lions Club received its charter on April 7, 1994., with thirty-one paid members. Marvin Fox, a member of the Gunnison Lions Club and a resident of Mayfield, was instrumental, along with Gunnison's sponsorship and help from others, in getting the required twenty-one paid members needed to be chartered, plus more. There was previously a Lions club which had been discontinued, the last remaining member of that club was a honored guest that evening, Croft Christensen. The Mayfield Lions Club has been an active part of the community since that time and has provided much service to the people of Mayfield.

Original charter members were: Johnny R Anderson, Eugene Bartholomew, Douglas Bjerregaard, Mary Ann Bjerregaard, Olivia Cornell, Sherman Cornell, Bee Jay Ferguson, William Ferguson, Lois Fox, Marvin L. Fox, Ruth Good, Gayle Hansen, IvaNae R. Hansen, Earl Bud Harris, Marianna Harris, Harold Hinkle, Viola Hinkle, John Hutchinson, Grace Knowler, James Knowler, David Madsen, Van Malmgren, RaeLou Olsen, Ace Robertson, Dorothy Robertson, David Stevenson, Douglas Willden, Charles K. Whitlock, Ingrid Whitlock, Clair Finlayson, Michele Finlayson.

One of the first service projects performed by the newly formed club was working with Mayfield Mayor Ace Robertson to complete the top priority for the town at that time - installing street signs. At that time there was no road signage anywhere in town. The Lions Club did not have any funds then, but came up with a plan with the Town to accomplish the task. Mayfield Town would provide funding if the Lions would provide labor. Together they ordered signs to comply with state specifications and set up a grid. The Lions Club spent two months the summer of 1994 digging post holes, removing rocks, setting receptacles in concrete and leveling, then installing signs.

Over the years many projects have been undertaken to benefit the town, with many still ongoing. Some highlights of the first years, later years, and on-going projects are:

Culinary Water System

Not long after the club began, there was a problem with the main spring providing culinary water located east of the park. The spring had originally been fenced off with posts and wire to keep animals out. The fence had been knocked down and the animals were contaminating the water system. The Town asked the Lions Club to clean the area around the spring, and replace the fences.

Cemetery Cleanup

The Lions Club played a part, along with generous donations from individuals in the community, to build a cemetery directory and perform spring cleanup there. Cleanup is now supervised by the Town.

Other

Christmas Deliveries. Members delivered meals to the elderly at Christmas with a hayride and caroling.
Float. Club made a float to be in the 4th of July parades in Salina, Manti, Gunnison, also the Sanpete County Fair.

Walk A Thon. Mayfield children got sponsors to pay by the mile as they walked from Mayfield to Gunnison for a fundraiser.

Signs. Lions Club built both the "Welcome to Mayfield" sign at the intersection of State Roads 137 from Gunnison and Manti and the park entrance.

Road Cleanup

Lions still volunteer road cleanup twice yearly on two miles of State road 137 leading to Gunnison and to Manti. In the early years more cleanup projects were held including cleanup of Twelve Mile Canyon from Spring Hill to the Mayfield Town limits, along Canyon Road from Main Street to the irrigation pond, and from 200 South to Willow Creek.

Memorial Day Breakfast and Hunter Bake Sale Fundraisers

These both began around 1999 to provide funds for the Club to donate to charitable causes. They have been supported by volunteers from the town, along with members.

Mayfield University

Over the years educational programs have been sponsored by the Lions Club in such areas as art, gardening, emergency preparedness, etc. All town members were encouraged to attend.

Scholarships

Lions Club have provided scholarships to graduating seniors from Mayfield, being chosen from applications and nominations. Club members have also provided additional scholarships with their own funding.

Lions Park

It became apparent 20 years ago that the park was not big enough for the community celebration. There was only a dilapidated ball field, worn out grass and an outhouse. Fill was secured, loaded, and hauled to landscape the hillside on the southeast side of the park. The Town built a new shed to store equipment and had a restroom built. Later, more restrooms were needed so Lions Club worked on this project to find a manufacturer, providing shipping and installation, also hooking up electricity, septic system and water.

The Lions Club, with sizable donations from the Eccles Foundation, made many park improvements, including the Amphitheater, concrete walks around the entire 1/4 mile perimeter, fencing and trees, exercise stations, sprinklers and lawn, and playground equipment. The \$16,000 cost of the land purchased for park expansion to the west, purchased from Ardel and Leona Peterson, was paid equally from the Club and Town.

The older pavilion was built by the former Mayfield Lions. The new pavilion was built with Lions Club and anonymous donors paying for materials, with Lions' labor. Lions built pavilion tables, benches around the fire pit (upgraded in 2019 as part of an Eagle project), the playground train and train station. They installed bark chips around the playground equipment, set up the donated gazebo, put in bleachers near the ball diamond, a flag pole, and have maintained equipment. The park is a place of pride for the community and is used continuously by families and groups.

24th of July Celebration

The celebration began with the Mayfield LDS Ward and other volunteers. The Lions Club took it over from the Church, with much time and service provided by the Lions over the years. This is the major Lions Club fundraiser, and profits have gone to town and park improvements.

Arapeen Day

Lions Club wanted to keep alive the history of Chief Arapeen. The summer Indian encampment was in the area of the current LDS Ward chapel, and the Mayfield area was called Arapeen Valley. Chief

Arapeen owned much property, including all of Sanpete County, minus a small northern portion, and mountain property. The State of Utah purchased it from him for a minimal amount of \$24 plus some animals. Lions Club organized an Arapeen Day celebration for the town as a thank-you for their participation and support of Lions Club fundraising efforts and activities.

We are all grateful for all the time, talent and treasure that has been donated over the years by the Mayfield Lions Club and appreciate the support of donations and service from community members. It has truly made Mayfield a better place.