

Battlement Mesa's City Pride

By Keith Lammey, President

In a previous article, I speculated that every community's "city pride" fell somewhere on the "city pride" scale and that Battlement Mesa's city pride was near the mid-point.

We weren't like Denver where it was common for people to wear "I'd rather be in Denver" T-shirts. On the other hand, we weren't one of the cities where residents said things like, "You ought to be glad you don't have to live here." Although I didn't have any scientific evidence to support my conclusion, I thought that Battlement Mesa residents were just neutral on the city pride scale.

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Well, that was then, a year ago, and this is now. Based upon what I have seen recently, I think that Battlement Mesa's city pride has rallied. Of course, I still don't actually have any scientific proof but, I am convinced, we're no longer neutral.

July and August were great months for Battlement Mesa's city pride. I first noticed the change on July 21st when the Grand Valley Fire Protection District held its 50th Anniversary celebration. Sure, there was free lunch and that usually helps draw a crowd but people weren't there just for the food. It was apparent that the Grand Valley Fire Protection District's three communities – Battlement Mesa, Parachute and Rulison – are proud to have a wonderful, modern, well-equipped, well-trained and dedicated fire department.

People had a chance to see three exceptionally well-staged and executed demonstrations. The first demonstration was on fire safety which dramatically showed how effective a house fire protection sprinkler system saves lives. The second demonstration involved a mock fire rescue by fire fighters and the department's ladder truck and the third demonstrated how fire fighters and EMT's work together to rescue people who are trapped in automobile accidents. The demonstrations were impressive and the public loved them. City pride was strong on July 21st.

City pride was back on July 27th and 28th during Grand Valley Days. Citizens from Battlement Mesa, Parachute, Rulison and the rural area of western Garfield County turned out to support Grand Valley Days. I didn't attend the Friday night rodeo but a large crowd showed up for the Saturday night rodeo and Saturday's Grand Valley Days Parade was both a great parade with lots of parade entries. Although the streets weren't jam-packed, many spectators lined the streets. In fact, one person in attendance commented that the Grand Valley Days Parade was much better than the Steamboat Springs July 4th parade that they attended.

Following the parade, I visited the Morrisania Pie and Ice Cream Social at the Morrisania Community House. As the name suggests, this event included lots of great sweets but again, people weren't there just for the food. They were there to socialize and support our community. I didn't see any "I'd rather be in the Grand Valley" T-shirts, but city pride seemed quite prevalent.

On August 7th, Battlement Mesa's National Night Out was held in Battlement Plaza. This annual event is primarily funded by the Garfield County Sheriff's Department but is supported by many other departments and local groups. In fact, this year's event was co-sponsored by the Battlement Mesa Service Association which hosted learning opportunities in the BMSA Theater. Exhibitors included a diverse group ranging from the Grand Valley Fire and Rifle Fire departments, Garfield County Sheriff and Parachute Parachute Police departments, the Parachute/Battlement Mesa Park and Recreation district, Garfield County Road and Bridge, Colorado Department of Transportation, Colorado Bureau of Investigation, federal agencies such as the Forest Service and the Army, the St. Mary's Blood Mobile and Air Evac helicopter.

In addition, social groups were also well represented including CARE, Community Counts, Common Ground, and many others. There was even a Princess (Miss Colorado Junior Teen) and several show cars and trucks. City pride or more correctly, community pride, seemed to be everywhere. It was refreshing.

The Colorado Dream

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No, I don't have any scientific proof that our city pride has moved positively on the pride scale, but the circumstantial evidence is sure strong. I don't know about you, but I think that it is time for me to start wearing my "I'd rather be in Battlement Mesa" T-shirt.