

PROVO CITY



Community Update

Home for Angels, Stadium for All

“Keep the Angels in Heaven.” Those were the sentiments Steve Densley, Provo/Orem Chamber of Commerce President, expressed when discussing the need to build a community stadium that would also serve as home for the Provo Angels baseball team.

As a renewed effort begins to build this facility, I thought it worthwhile to share other observations about the value a community stadium in Provo would provide. With permission, I am including portions of a recent column by Daily Herald Sports Editor, Aaron Shill.

“The Angels, Utah County’s rookie league team, will play their third season in Provo this summer. They’ll make BYU’s Larry H. Miller Park their home. But that arrangement won’t last forever. To stay in town, the Angels say they need a new stadium. And to do that, the city needs money.

Team and city officials are pushing the project forward.

On Wednesday, February 19, Provo and its Angels held a news conference to drum up financial support for the project. It was a feel-good affair, complete with the team mascot, a table full of Cracker Jack and Miss Provo singing “Take Me Out to the Ballgame.” The purpose was to pump up the community by emphasizing the importance of minor league baseball, which team co-owner Linda Gach Ray called a “cherished commodity.”



Message from the Mayor Lewis K. Billings

Gach Ray, co-owner Rob Owens and team officials didn’t beg for help. They didn’t have to. Instead, they let some big names talk baseball and business.

Mayor Lewis Billings brought out the lineup card. Leading off was BYU athletic director Val Hale. He was followed by Utah Jazz owner Larry H. Miller. Then came Cy Young Award-winner Vern Law.

Also in attendance were former major leaguer and current BYU baseball coach Vance Law, former BYU baseball coach Gary Pullins, former BYU athletic director and BYU advancement vice president Fred Skousen.

If the Angels wanted to impact the business community, these were names that could do it.

Especially Miller.

Nobody has done more for professional sports in Utah than Miller. Without him, there would be no Utah Jazz. No Stockton-to-Malone in Salt Lake. No NBA Finals memories. No big league franchise in a sports-crazed state.

Miller is the big reason why the Angels have somewhere to play this season. Miller and his wife Gail were the principal donors for what is now a stunningly beautiful baseball-softball complex on the BYU campus. Miller said that his relationship with BYU made a “natural connection” with Gach Ray and Owens.

Having Miller, the only big league owner in the state, endorse the Angels is huge. Miller told the audience that the team wasn’t in a good business situation and that local businesses and fans needed to step up.

Then there was Law, the former Pittsburgh Pirates pitcher who won both the Cy Young, baseballs’ highest honor for a pitcher and the World Series in 1960. This is a guy who pitched against Roger Maris and Mickey Mantle.

‘You don’t know how important it is for a community to have minor league baseball until you’ve gone through it yourself,’ Law said.

Obviously, Wednesday’s event wasn’t just about glorifying the national pastime. There are financial realities. Angels officials have a business to run. BYU officials have to worry about the wear and tear 40 Pioneer League games have on Miller Park. And Provo can’t just produce a stadium without some serious financial help.

But one thing was evident: Those who were there to support the Angels really do care about the game.

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March is Red Cross Month

Each year the President of the United States proclaims March as "Red Cross Month." Last year the Red Cross Mountain Valley Chapter provided assistance to families who were affected by house fires, mud slides, and other tragedies. The Red Cross thanks the more than 300 local volunteers who donate their time for such services.

Call the Red Cross at 373-8580 for the dates and times of CPR, First Aid, Babysitters Training and Disaster classes. These classes are offered to the public to help you be prepared for emergencies. Show your support during Red Cross Month by donating your time, blood, or money. Together, we can save a life.

Help is Needed at Provo City Library at Academy Square

Increase your longevity and give service to your community! If you are between the ages of 14 and 140, volunteer at the Provo City Library at Academy Square.

For more information, contact Cheryl Day, Library Volunteer Coordinator, 852-7651.

Local Group Proposes Programming for Historic St. Francis of Assisi Church

Utah Valley State College and the Centro Hispano Foundation are raising funds to purchase and renovate the historic St. Francis of Assisi Church at 175 North 500 West in Provo for use as a cultural and educational center for the many Hispanics in Utah Valley.

Welsh poet, Leslie Norris was commissioned by the Cathedral of the Madeleine to write a poem about Utah's first Catholic bishop, Father Scanlon. Mr. Norris read that poem and others in a program as part of the fund raising project. For further information, please contact:

Centro Hispano Foundation
P. O. Box 1594
Provo, UT 84603-1594

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'I consider myself a baseball fan, fundamentally,' Miller said. 'I have been since I was a little kid.'

Miller spoke about his childhood, when he used to get into games for a dollar as a member of the "Knot Hole Club" at Derks Field in Salt Lake City. Baseball, he said, creates a lasting legacy.

'It just creates memories for the community and the people in it,' Miller said. 'It's just all the things it creates for people spending time together in their leisure time and the memories that come out of it that as we go through our lives we look back at and are priceless.'

'To me, the charm of minor league is the fact that because the money isn't so big that it overshadows a lot of what the fundamental purposes are, you can still maintain a relationship with the players and kind of get to know them on a first-name basis. It's one where people can make individual and personal connections with the athletes more than they can in major league sports.'

When asked why he's throwing his support behind the Angels, Law said he'll always be there when baseball is involved. At 72, he still throws batting practice for BYU's players whenever they need an extra arm.

'I am so interested in having baseball here in Provo,' he said. 'Baseball has been my life, and I've seen what it has done for young men. As far as people who have been involved with the game, Glen Tuckett, Gary Pullins and others, baseball is a part of their lives. They still hang around and try to promote it and keep things going for other people.'

Last season, the Anaheim Angels, Provo's parent club, won the World Series after more than 40 years of futility. For players in the organization with major league aspirations, Provo will never be a destination.

But the Angels just hope the City can remain a starting point."



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Visit the Mayor's web site at www.provo.org/mayor

Provo City "Medaled" for Boosting Health of Employees

The legacy of the 2002 Winter Games was obvious as 37 of Utah's approximately 50,000 businesses "medaled" for boosting the health and well-being of their employees.

Awards of bronze, silver, gold or gold plus from the Utah Council for Worksite Health Promotion, in partnership with A Healthier You 2002 Legacy Awards Program were received.

The awards reflect such activities as walking and weight-loss programs in the workplace, fitness and preventive screenings, stress management and incentive programs for healthy behavior changes, healthy food choices in company cafeterias and vending machines. Among those receiving the Gold Level Plus were Provo City, Brigham Young University, Intermountain Health Care, and Novel.

Provo City Airport Flight Pattern Change

The Provo City Airport has recently adopted a right-hand pattern for all air traffic using the Provo City Municipal Airport. This move should help reduce noise associated with the airport in keeping with the goals of the Airport Master Plan.

Help Keep the Angels in Heaven!



Hall of Fame Sponsor \$200,000 each

Lifetime Rights

- Bronze plaque at the entrance to the stadium recognizing this significant Hall of Fame contribution.
- A specially designated Hall of Fame seating section with six seats named in honor of Hall of Fame contributor. The first right to purchase tickets for these and other seats for every public event held at the stadium.
- Public address announcements at each event held at the stadium honoring all Hall of Fame contributors.

Ten Year Rights

(Choose any two of the following per year)

- Ceremonial 1st Pitch at one game.
- Honorary bat boy or bat girl for one game.
- Special parking privileges.
- Rent free use of the stadium for one private event per calendar year.
(Rent only, does not cover other associated costs)
- One personal appearance by the team mascot at an event of your choice per year.
- Other types of promotional activities or events that are mutually agreed upon.

Stadium Seat Sponsor \$500 each

- Permanent name plaque on an individual seat.
- Name on Seat Sponsor bronze plaque located at prominent location at the stadium.
- The first right to purchase tickets for these and other seats for every public event held at the stadium.



I would like more information on helping build a permanent home for the Provo Angels!

Please send more information.

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please send to:

Provo City Mayor's Office
351 West Center Street
P.O. Box 1849
Provo, UT 84603

Or contact us for more information:

Provo City Economic Development(801) 852-6161
Provo City Mayor's Office(801) 852-6100

Make checks payable to:

Provo City Community Stadium Fund

Your contribution is tax deductible!

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