



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **ST. GEORGE PUT ON HOLD THIS YEAR TO MAKE WAY FOR 150<sup>TH</sup> CITY CELEBRATION**

**St. George, UT.-** The City's New Year's Eve celebration, "Twilight to Midnight" formerly known as "First Night St. George" will not be held this year. The 11-year tradition will be put on hold as city shifts its resources to celebrate its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in January 2012 and evaluates the future of the New Year's Eve event. Lower than usual attendees over the past two years have organizers wondering if the event has run its course in St. George. "This has been a monumental year as far as the number of large events put on by the City are concerned in the history of St. George," said Marc Mortensen, Assistant to the City Manager. While most of the annual community events are growing, in some cases exponentially, the City's New Year's Eve celebration attendance is declining. "Weather is always factor for us every year but, despite the weather, the declining trend in participants over the past few years may indicate that a change of some sort is in order," added Community Arts Administrator Gary Sanders.

As the City gears up to celebrate a significant milestone beginning January 11<sup>th</sup> through the 17<sup>th</sup>, the Mayor, City Council and City staff felt it appropriate to focus manpower, budget and public facilities resources on a number of activities and events surrounding the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Numerous performances and events will be held at various venues throughout St. George City and all are free to the public.

Events include shows by James Arrington as Brigham Young, Sharon French who tells a beautiful story of the Navajo people and Larry Anderson as Porter Rockwell. The Lieto! Choir presents a Gilbert and Sullivan Festival, a commercial and civic building historic tour hosted by the Historic Preservation Commission and Lyman Hafen a talk on his newly published book, "Where Two Streams Meet." The Redrock Writers Guild will hold an open poetry reading celebrating the

City's heritage through poetry and the spoken word and continuing with the tradition, the Mayor and City Council will serve root beer floats to the community. The Southern Utah Heritage Choir, "This Promised Land O' Dixie" concert and Nonie Sorenson the musical readers theater "David & Willie."

At the St. George Art Center, "A Desert to a Dream" will be sponsored by the Visual Arts Association of Southern Utah including a juried art competition, lectures and artist demos by Del Parson, David Wade, Gregory Mortenson, Kate Starling, Carl Purcell, Russell Black, L'Deane Trueblood, Lola Kruppenacher, Lynne Clarke, William Shepley, Nathan Wotkyns, Pamela Bird, Annette Everett, Ed Hlavka and many others.

An historical expo, "Decades of Dixie" will be held at the Dixie Convention Center, January 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. The public is invited to display memorabilia, artifacts and timelines from the families, organizations and businesses that have made our community a diverse and wonderful place. Display booths are open and free to the public. For more information and an application, visit [sgcity.org/heritagedays](http://sgcity.org/heritagedays) or call (435) 627-4510 ext 112.

The seven days of celebration will culminate with a Birthday Bash Concert at the Dixie State College Burns Arena. The concert will feature American Idol finalist, Brooke White and the premier of a documentary film on the history of St. George by documentary filmmaker, Phil Tuckett. The City's sesquicentennial will conclude with birthday cake and a fireworks display! For an updated calendar of Heritage Days events, please visit [sgcity.org/heritagedays](http://sgcity.org/heritagedays).

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