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AGENDA

OF THE
GREATER AVENUES
COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**January
2025**
Vol. XXIX
Issue 1

REPRESENTING THE AVENUES AND FEDERAL HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOODS OF SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH



Chair's Message for January

by 2025 GACC Chair Dianne Leonard

Happy New Year to you all! I love the opportunity we have each month to share information and connect through the pages of our newsletter, The Agenda, and at our Community Meetings. Our neighborhood is full of talented and dedicated people who make us all richer for their contributions.

The work of our Community Council is not just done by the members of the Board and the Executive Committee. A prime example of this is seen in the work of the volunteers who were ushers for the Avenues Community Choir Holiday Concert in December. I put out the call for Community members to help, and I was so excited to see the response.

Another huge undertaking is our annual Street Fair. Without many volunteers from the community this event would be impossible to hold. Over the next few months you will see calls for volunteers to serve on our many Avenues Committees working to keep us informed and connected. I hope that for many of you, the request for committee members will motivate you to give some time to our community.

A primary reason for the Community Council to exist is as a forum to inform our residents about things that are happening, how to work with Salt Lake City agencies and councils to effect the change to improve life on the Avenues. Each month as the Board prepares the agenda for the Community Council Meeting we consider suggestions and look at issues and information sent to us by the City and County and determine what would be of the most benefit to the majority of our residents.

I invite you to reach out to me with any concerns or questions at gacchair@slc-avenues.org

As we head into this new year I feel excited about the opportunity that we all have to enjoy life on the Greater Avenues. There are many things that have drawn us each to live here, and I hope that whatever your motivations are, you will find peace, happiness, and a sense of community in this great place. It is not by chance that the Greater Avenues is the place that neighborhoods all over the city try to emulate.

We need your help. Showing up is a start. Speaking up is moving forward. Volunteering is getting it done. You are all invited to help us get it done. Plan to attend the Community Council Meetings on the first Wednesday of every month, and all are welcome to attend the Board Meetings on the second Wednesday as well. Both meetings are at 6 p.m. at the Sweet Library and via Zoom for those that cannot attend in person.

Note Date Change for the January Community Council Meetings; Location Change for Feb Mtg.

Our January community meeting will be on Wednesday, January 8th, 6:00 p.m. at the Sweet Branch Library at 6:00 p.m.

Our January Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 9th, 6:00 p.m. at the Sweet Branch Library,

Due to temporary library closure, our February 5th Community Meeting will be held at the LDS Hospital Auditorium, 375 North C Street.

January 8th Community Meeting Agenda

- 6:00-6:04 **Welcome** - Dianne Leonard
- 6:05-6:19 **Rio Grande Plan** - Robyn Christensen
- 6:20-6:49 **Rocky Mountain Power Rate Change-**
Rocky Mountain Power
Utah Clean Energy
Q & A
- 6:50-7:39 **Community Reports** - Utah Legislature,
City Council, School Board, Fire Dept.,
Mayor's Office, City Library
- 7:40-7:50 **Open Forum**

Please help put away chairs at the end of the meeting.



GACC Board Member Spotlight - Chris Barker

Moving to the lower Avenues in 2012 transformed our experience of living in Salt Lake City. My wife and I moved here after relocating from Oregon in 2006. The arts-based curriculum at Wasatch Elementary School, which two of our three kids currently attend, drew us in, as did historic architecture and the local walk-and bikeability.

After working as a journalist, I'm now an instructional designer. You can find me mountain biking on the Shoreline Trail, road biking City Creek, owling at the cemetery or at a GACC meeting!



Photo by Busath Photography

**January Greetings by Chris Wharton
Salt Lake City Council District 3**

Dear Avenues Neighbors,
Wishing you a wonderful start to the new year!

Stay informed about the City Council's 2025 initiatives and upcoming events by subscribing to my newsletter: <https://www.myslc.gov/s/newsletters?dept=City%20Council>.

If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact me at chris.wharton@slc.gov.

Learn more about the Council's work at <https://www.slc.gov/district3/>.

Sign up for regular District 3 emails at <https://tinyurl.com/SLCCouncilEmails>.

2025 Utah Legislative Update

The 2025 Utah Legislative Session runs from January 21, 2025 to March 7, 2025. See details here: <https://le.utah.gov/~2025/2025.htm>.

Our Utah Legislators for the Avenues:

Sen. Jen Plumb (D), Senate District 9
801-870-0228, jplumb@le.utah.gov
<https://senate.utah.gov/sen/PLUMB/>

Rep. Jennifer Dailey-Provost (D), House District 22
385-321-7827, jdprovost@le.utah.gov
<https://house.utleg.gov/rep/DAILEJ/>

Sen. Todd Weiler, Senate District 8
801-599-9823, tweiler@le.utah.gov
<https://senate.utah.gov/sen/WEILET/>

The League of Women Voters of Utah will host a 2025 Legislative session preview on Jan 9. See lwvutah.org.

Governor's Mansion Block Renovation

The Governor's Mansion at 603 East South Temple is the official residence of the Governor of Utah and family. A recent security assessment indicated that the Governor's Mansion and site did not meet modern standards. A Governor's Mansion Campus Plan has been drafted, and is being led by CRSA Architects.

Efforts recently began on the historic Glendinning Home, at the corner of South Temple and H Street. Formerly the Utah Division of Arts & Museums, this facility will serve as a visitor screening and welcome center. Other site modifications are beginning, and construction efforts are anticipated to be complete in the fall of 2025. See more about the project at <https://governor.utah.gov/mansion/>.

**A Letter Of Support
For The Rio Grande Plan**

We recently had a presentation about the Rio Grande Plan at our community meeting. We have received a motion to send a letter of support. We will be seeking input on this motion during our January meeting, and we will take a formal vote on the motion during our February meeting.

The Rio Grande Plan is a citizen-led initiative that proposes to eliminate eight at-grade rail crossings near downtown Salt Lake City by putting the rails in an underground structure called a train box.

This project would help reconnect the east and west sides, make the city easier to navigate, improve safety, reimagine 125 acres of underutilized downtown land, and restore the historic 114-year-old Rio Grande Depot to its original glory. It would once again become an iconic transit hub for the city and the region and would accommodate Union Pacific, UTA FrontRunner, Amtrak, TRAX, and buses.

The potential impacts to our city and state are tremendous. If you would like to learn more about the project and make your voice heard, visit www.riograndeplansaltlakecity.org.



Avenues Newsletter Seeks Assistance

We have two positions open to help with the production of our monthly newsletter **The Agenda**.

Layout Editor - 10-12 hours/month - you have Adobe InDesign skills or an interest in learning. We provide the software and training. Flexible hours but deadline for layout submission to printer is always 20th of the month. Regular availability between the 14th and 22nd of the month is needed.

Online Editor - 3-4 hours/month. Prepare the online edition of newsletter from printer's proof using Adobe Acrobat, then post the newsletter online using Wordpress. Need Adobe Acrobat and WordPress skills or willing to learn. We provide software and training.

Email interest to gacchair@slc-avenues.org.

Rocky Mountain Power's Rate Case: What You Need To Know

In August 2024, Rocky Mountain Power (RMP) applied for a proposed a 30.6% increase in electricity rates over two years. After public push-back, RMP amended their request to a one-time 18.1% increase.

<https://www.rockymountainpower.net/about/newsroom/news-releases/utah-2024-rate-proposal.html>

RMP attributes the general rate increase to increased costs of fuel and wholesale power, together with their costs for investments in new electric transmission and generation projects.

Utah Clean Energy (UCE) experts report that the increase is caused by RMP's continued reliance on fossil fuels, supply chain disruptions, and climate impacts like wildfire-related expenses and insurance premiums.

<https://utahcleanenergy.org/rocky-mountain-powers-rate-case-what-you-need-to-know/>

If approved by the Utah Public Service Commission, which is currently conducting public hearings on the rate increase, RMP electricity bills will increase 18.1% effective February 23, 2025. The average monthly increase for Utah RMP residential customers is \$13.87 per month.

<https://psc.utah.gov/>

The GACC Board works to keep our community informed on this issue. Join us at our January 8th meeting to hear pros and cons from Rocky Mountain Power and Utah Clean Energy, and you will have the opportunity to ask your own questions.

Avenues Community Choir Thrills Audience at December 16th Holiday Concert

The Salt Lake Avenues Community Choir held their annual holiday concert on Monday, December 16th, to a full house at the University of Utah Libby Gardner Hall, plus overflow seating in Thompson Hall, with an estimated 800 attending.

The concert was masterfully directed by Choir Director Peggy de Azevedo, and featured a variety of choral and instrumental pieces, and a visit from Santa!

See the full program and more about the choir at <https://avenuescouncil.org/avenues-choir/>.

We thank all the performers and volunteers who helped make this event a success. The Choir is funded by the generous donations of the public, and is a 100% volunteer effort, towards building our community.

The Choir operates as a committee of the Greater Avenues Community Council and all donations to the Choir are reserved for the Choir's performance costs, and are tax-deductible to the extent of IRS regulations.

We invite those who can to support your Salt Lake Avenues Community Choir, which plans to add a second concert to its 2025 schedule.



Tenth East Senior Center
237 South 1000 East
Salt Lake City, UT 84102
(385) 468-3140

www.slco.org/tenth-east-senior-center

M-F 7:00-4:00
Lunch daily 11:30-12:15
237 S 1000 E. Enter on north side for parking behind the building.

AARP Smart Driver Course: Monthly, first Friday. Complete our defensive driving course to earn a discount on your auto insurance. Requires pmt to AARP.

Tai Chi: Thursdays, 1:30-2:30 PM. - Learn the Master Cheng Tsang Lu ancient Yang Tai Chi 108, taught by the Paramores. This class is accessible to all abilities.

Center Closed: Wed, January 1 and Monday, January 20

Remodel Postponed: The temporary closure of Tenth East Senior Center has been postponed again due to building design requirements. We do not have a date yet for the closure. Posters of the proposal are in the entry.

Center News Email Blast: Receive updates and information by giving your email address to a staff person at the front desk.

January's Environmental Tip

By Tom Brooks

Saving Water: Did you know that modern dishwashers only use about 3-4 gallons of water? That compares to approximately 27 gallons of water used when washing the same amount of dishes by hand.

Have a Happy, Safe, Prosperous, and Environmentally Conscientious New Year!

Ideas, comments, questions? Tom Brooks, cooper.brooks@gmail.com



Photos from the Salt Lake Avenues Community Choir Concert held December 16th at Libby Gardner Hall





Avenues Sweet Branch Library, 455 North F Street
 Mon-Thurs 10:00 am-8:00 pm
 Fri & Sat 10:00 am-6:00 pm, closed Sundays

January Library Closures:

Wednesday, Jan 1, 2025 - New Year's Day
Monday, Jan 20, 2025 - Martin Luther King Jr Day

KIDS CALENDAR

Book Baby storytime. **Wednesday mornings** at 10:30 am. A fun storytime that encourages playful interactions between little ones and their caregivers. Ages 0-3
 Preschool Storytime. **Thursday mornings** at 10:30 am. Stories, rhymes, and fun to help kids get ready to read! Ages 3-5
 Playtime. **Friday mornings** from 10 am - noon. Playtime is an unstructured time for little ones to play with toys and make new friends! Drop in anytime between 10am-12pm.

TWEEN CALENDAR

Tween **STEAM: A LEGO challenge**. Friday, **January 10** at 2:30 pm - 3:30pm. What can you build with random LEGO pieces?

TEEN CALENDAR

Dungeons & Dragons for Beginners (10 years old and up) A friendly introduction to Dungeons & Dragons for first-timers, led by an experienced player. Held on the first and third Tuesday of each month from 6:00pm - 8:00pm.

ADULT CALENDAR

Sweet Reads Book Club: **January 28** 7:00 p.m. to discuss **Bel Canto** by Ann Patchett. At the end of the meeting, copies for February's book, **Maybe You Should Talk to Someone** by Lori Gottlieb, will be handed out.

Publisher's Statement

This publication is to conduct the business of the Greater Avenues Community Council (GACC). Mail correspondence to GACC, P.O. Box 1679, Salt Lake City, UT 84110.

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The GACC web page is www.avenuescouncil.org



Clever Coyotes

By Hilary Jacobs

You've likely heard the distinctive yipping howl of coyotes, medium-size wild dogs living across

North America. They are

easily identified with their longish grey-brown fur, pointed ears, slender snout, and bushy tail that they carry downwards when running.

Social and intelligent, coyotes live in family groups. Monogamous pairs feed and protect their pups in a den until the pups are independent. Some pups remain in the family.

Being opportunistic omnivores, coyotes readily adapt to diverse environments. Remarkably fast and agile, these hunters can run 40mph and leap 13 feet. Also scavengers, coyotes play a vital role maintaining balanced ecosystems.

Unfortunately coyotes' greatest threat is from humans, who relentlessly trap, shoot and poison them. When you're next out, keep your ears and eyes open. You may hear the beauty of a coyote's call or feel awe as you share a glance — while honoring their space.



The Greater Avenues Community Council recognizes the Shoshone, Paiute, Goshute, and Ute Tribes, whose ancestral homelands we occupy today. The Council honors the enduring relationship that exists between these peoples and their traditional lands, and we thank them for their longstanding land stewardship.



Jewish Community Center, 2 N. Medical Drive, SLC

www.sljcc.org, (801) 581-0098

New Member Specials for January! Join Today!

Estate Planning: Wills & Trusts January 8, 7:00 p.m.

This is a free event, all are welcome.

Early Childhood Education Open Houses:

Jan 28, 9:30 a.m. (18M-2Y) | Jan 29, 9:30 a.m. (3-4Y)

Free Yoga Class Open To All: Tues & Thur 8:30am
LDS Chapel at 135 A Street. Contact Lori Morris, 801 414-7049

Neighborhood Exercise Class: Mon & Wed 8:30-9:40am FREE! Everyone Welcome! Contact Jan Root for current location, 801-455-2082 janroot@xmission.com

Update on Highland High School and West High
by Ashley Anderson, Salt Lake City School Board

Now that the bond has officially passed, work on Highland and West High Schools is underway. We have issued a request for bids to find general contractors, and the Board of Education has approved moving forward with the architects' site layout recommendations. During the process there will be many opportunities for the community to provide design feedback.


For West High, the academic facilities move to the east side of 300 West (where the track is now) and all athletic facilities shift to the west side of 300 West. The historic main entry will be preserved and used as the entrance to the athletic facilities.

Share your ideas throughout the process. Send me an email: ashley.anderson@slcschools.org.

Visit the District at <https://www.slcschools.org/>.



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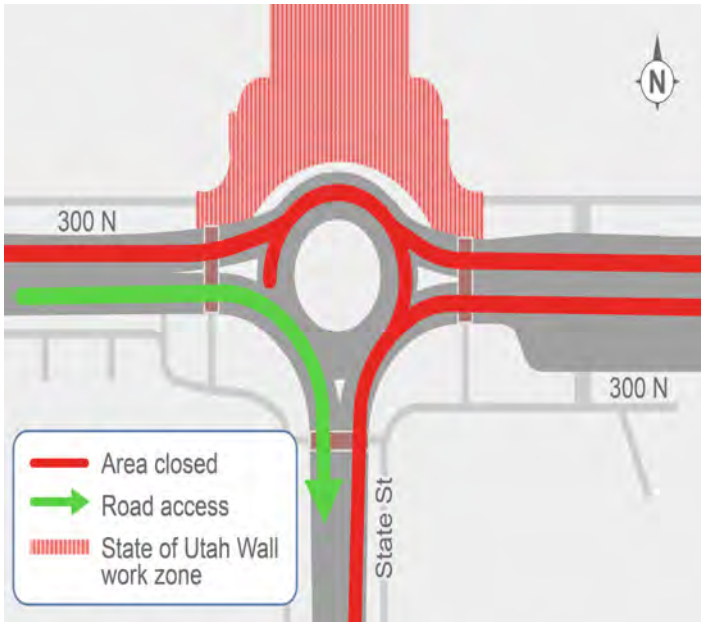



Mike Evertsen
801-560-2138
merunner54@gmail.com
Plumb & Co. Realtors

State Street & 300 North Project

The new roundabout at State Street and 300 North is expected to be fully open to traffic by early January 2025, in conjunction with the completion of the State of Utah Wall construction.

Call for more info 385-800-7003 or visit capitolhillimprovements@utah.gov



Call for Artists: Apply To Be The Featured Artist Of The 2025 Avenues Street Fair

Each year the Avenues Street Fair committee selects a local artist to create the theme image of the Avenues Street Fair, which will be used in all event publicity, the event poster, t-shirt and ads.

The selected artist is given a complimentary booth at the Fair in September.

To apply please email a statement of interest and examples of your work or links to your online art to streetfair@slc-avenues.org.

The committee will select the 2025 artist in March. Once selected we ask the artist to create an image of what the Avenues means to them.

See more info about the Featured Artist Program at <https://avenuescouncil.org/street-fair/artists/>.

Shown below are the featured images of the past several Street Fair Featured Artists.



Renae Cannon



Deborah Day



Martial Benard



Mark Walton



Kelli Spencer



Evan Smith