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■ THE ■  
**A G E N D A**  
OF THE  
GREATER AVENUES  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**March  
2025**  
Vol. XXX  
Issue 3

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



**Chair's Message for March**

*by 2025 GACC Chair Dianne Leonard*

As I write this message I am watching snow fall outside of my window. I am reminded that what we do each season lays the foundation for outcomes in the next. I have seeds growing in my greenhouse in anticipation of the season to come and the harvest that will follow.

Some of you plant to over-winter in anticipation of garlic and potatoes in the summer.

All of life is like that. We have seasons that bring different joys and challenges. This month in our Newsletter and at our community meeting we will learn about some work that is being done here in the Avenues to help us prepare for seasons of challenge. The call has gone out to participate in a Blood Drive this month. I hope that as many of you as are able will donate to help someone in need. There will be a food drive. If you have enough please share with those who do not. We will hear from our Wildfire Preparedness committee regarding their work to help us be ready should the need arise.

I am watching the snow collect on the trunk and branches of my lovely sycamore tree out front. I love it's shade in the summer and I love the way the bark sheds as the trunk and branches grow. I love the leaves it drops in the fall and winter. This month we will learn about taking care of our lovely trees year round. There is much we can do to take care of this lovely place we call home.

Many of our residents are renting the homes where they live. Some as students who are preparing for future careers and adventures that may take them away from the Avenues and even Salt Lake City. What we offer as a community hopefully will be an important part of helping you prepare. Our community council is for all our residents. We want to meet the needs of those of you who are part of a generational legacy of Greater Avenues Residents as well as those who are only here for a season. I have been heartened by the way residents have reached out to me with questions and concerns or to volunteer for committees and activities. This month I am asking that you reach out to me, as before, but I am adding a new request; Please answer these two questions that will be considered as we are working on updating our Greater Avenues Master Plan:

1. Suppose that in 1 year you are talking to someone who is moving to Salt Lake City and is unfamiliar with the area. What would need to happen in our community for you to tell them that this is the best place in the city that they could live?
2. In 1 year you choose to move away from our community. What would happen to make you want to leave?

See you all at our GACC Community Meeting on March 5 at the Sweet Library!

**March 5th Community Meeting Agenda**

- 6:00-6:05 pm Welcome and Announcements- GACC 2025 Chair Dianne Leonard
- 6:05-7:00 pm Community Reports- Police Department- Detective Marie Stewart, Utah Legislature, SLC Mayor's Office, City Council, Salt Lake School Board, Fire Department, Library
- 7:00-7:05 pm Community Kindness Recognition- Paul Walton
- 7:05-7:15 pm Wildfire Preparedness Information and Request- Amy Merritt Smith
- 7:15-7:25 pm Taking Care of Trees- Jim Jenkin
- 7:25-7:40 pm RMF Zoning Consolidation- Aaron Barlow SLC Planning
- 7:40-7:50 pm Open Forum
- 7:50 pm Clean up and Adjourn

The March 5th GACC meeting will be held at the Sweet Branch Library, and on Zoom. The Zoom link will be posted at 5 pm on March 5th at [www.slc-avenues.org](http://www.slc-avenues.org).

The March 12th Board Meeting will be held at the Sweet Branch Library, and on Zoom. If you need the Zoom link or special accommodations you can contact Dianne Leonard at [gaccchair@slc-avenues.org](mailto:gaccchair@slc-avenues.org).



**GACC Board Member Spotlight - Courtney Henley**

Courtney fell in love with the Avenues in 1999 during her medical internship at LDS Hospital. In 2009 she moved to the Avenues with her family and now works as an Anesthesiologist at University of Utah Hospital.

As the kids have grown up, Courtney can indulge her passion for community advocacy. She also serves on the Board of Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment and the Legislative Committee of the Utah Medical Association.

After work and advocacy come great enthusiasm for mountain biking and skiing in the lovely Utah outdoors. Courtney can't wait to see the East City Creek BST restored for spirit nourishing evening treks and she hopes you say hello on the trail.



Photo by Busath Photography

**Hello, District 3 neighbors!**  
by Chris Wharton

As your City Council Member, I'm committed to keeping you informed on the latest developments in our community.

**Public Safety Improvements:** We're working with the Salt Lake City Police Department to improve response times and enhance community policing efforts. We've allocated additional resources for neighborhood watch programs and traffic safety initiatives.

**Affordable Housing Initiatives:** We've made zoning adjustments to encourage mixed-income housing and ensure people of all income levels can live in District 3.

**Parks and Green Spaces:** Look for upcoming renovations at Liberty Park and new neighborhood community gardens. I'll continue to advocate for the upkeep and improvement of Green Spaces.

**Sustainability Efforts:** The City has been working to improve our waste management systems, reduce carbon emissions, and increase green energy initiatives. Together, we can make Salt Lake City a leader in sustainability.

Please reach out with any questions or concerns: **chris.wharton@slc.gov**. Let's continue working together to make District 3 a place we're all proud to call home.

Stay safe and take care!

**RMP Foothills Wildfire Project**

RMP's efforts to reduce wildfire risk in Salt Lake City's Foothills are progressing. Phase 3 was largely completed in December 2024, and crews have now shifted to restoration work, including reseeding, trail repairs, and environmental rehabilitation. For safety reasons, trails in the area remain closed. Restoration is a long-term process, but Rocky Mountain Power and Salt Lake City are committed to restoration to minimize impacts on the community and surrounding areas. Scan the QR codes for the latest project information or to find trail closure updates.



Salt Lake City Public Lands Trails Updates



Rocky Mountain Power's Wildfire Mitigation Project

**Protect Your Family and Property From Wildfire**  
by Amy Merritt-Smith, Wildfire Preparedness Committee Chair

The increasing severity of recent wildfires plus unpredictable weather factors make all Avenues residents and businesses more vulnerable. You must be prepared to act on your own during an emergency, as emergency personnel will be responding to the most critical issues. Preparing your family and property beforehand will increase your odds of avoiding disaster.

Attend the March 5th Greater Avenues Community Council Meeting to learn more about actions the Avenues Wildfire Committee proposes to help residents and businesses prepare before and act during a wildfire or other natural disaster.

**Let's Save Some Trees** by Jim Jenkin

We lost a lot of street trees Last Summer; some of them are obviously bare and scraggly, and some of them that are just so stressed they may die a few years down the road. You can see the signs of stress in the dried tips of limbs spread over the tree. Trees can be killed by surrounding the base with landscape fabric (which sterilizes the soil and damages the roots) or mulch (harbors bugs) but the most common cause is lack of water.

The city of Salt Lake has a huge investment in public trees and Urban Forestry can't possibly keep up with them all. It is property owners responsibility to see that street trees receive proper care, and all of us can help spot trees in trouble. It is essential that trees receive additional water during the year, including through the warm parts of winter. The need only grows as the temperature climbs. Please see <https://www.slc.gov/parks/urban-forestry/tree-care-information/> for water amounts and methods. Let's save some trees!

**NEW - Community Kindness Program!!**

Starting this month, the GACC Service Committee is implementing a new program to highlight acts of kindness and service in our community! Residents of the Avenues can nominate others in the community who have performed these acts of kindness/service and each month we will recognize all nominees and one will be randomly chosen to receive a \$25 gift card from an Avenues business of their choice!

To submit a nominee:

- 1) Send an email to Jenn Beck at [jennjbeck@gmail.com](mailto:jennjbeck@gmail.com)
- 2) Provide the name and contact info for the person being nominated
- 3) Give a brief description of the service/kindness

We look forward to honoring kindness in our community!

**American Red Cross Blood Drive**

Sat, March 8th, 9 am to 2 pm at the LDS Ensign Stake G Street Chapel (107 A St., SLC Avenues).

Resolve to save others by donating blood four times a year. The service of your blood gives hope for life to others. Please join those who better the lives of others.

[www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) Sponsor zip code 84103; BY DISTANCE; Schedule an appointment time.

or call 1-800-REDCROSS (1-800-733-2767) to schedule.

**Save the Date Memory Grove Cleanup May 10**

The cleanup is scheduled for **May 10th, 8 am - 12 noon**. Everyone is invited to volunteer to help in whatever capacity and for whatever time they are able.

We also need volunteers familiar with Memory Grove to help plan the focus areas and be team leaders the day of the cleanup. For more information and to volunteer for this role in the event, contact Kathryn Wright, [kathrynwright7@gmail.com](mailto:kathrynwright7@gmail.com) | 385-235-9882

## Up Zone in the Lower Avenues

by *Jim Jenkin, Land Use Committee Chair*

Salt Lake City Administration has proposed new zoning that affects multiple blocks in the lower Avenues, which would change the existing maximum permitted height from 35 to 45 ft (55 ft in some cases). The affected Avenues blocks are those between South Temple and 3rd Avenue, and from the West (City Creek) end of the Avenues to N Street. These blocks contain a mix of housing types, from single family homes, to condominiums, to Apartment buildings, and were rezoned to RMF-35 in the 90's. The affected area lies within the Historic Overlay Zone, which means demolition of "contributory structures" would require review by the Historic Landmarks Commission. The City proposal is to consolidate and update the RMF-35 and RMF-45 zoning districts. You can find more information at <https://bit.ly/RMFmerger>.

You can look up the zoning of any SLC property at: <https://maps.slc.gov/mws/zoning.htm>

The administration clearly outlines its goals in the Project StoryMap: <https://bit.ly/RMFmerger> which can also be reached from the Planning Division's "Pending Zoning Amendments" page. There is a "Feedback" button in the StoryMap for comments to Planning.

I attended a presentation by Planning Staff at the East Central Community Council Resource Fair on the 13th. The current proposal lacks protection for existing historic homes, and photovoltaic generation systems (solar panels) from height encroachment and shadowing. Homes listed on the Historic Registry are the only protected homes in the Zone. It is also debatable whether incentivized construction at current market costs will result in more affordable housing than is lost to the destruction of older units, which is where affordable housing in the Avenues is typically found.

I strongly urge Avenues residents, particularly those in the affected blocks, to look at the description of this proposal, look at the Zoning Map online (searchable by address) and to attend the presentation by City Planning Staff at the March GACC meeting.

## The Pros and Cons of Nuclear Energy *by Tom Brooks*

**Pros:** Job opportunities, Reliable constant availability, Lower operational costs, Less pollution.

**Cons:** Mining nuclear material is a health hazard and often falls onto vulnerable populations like immigrants. Active mines are foreign (Canada and Australia). Used up fuel rods are a disposal problem. Transportation of nuclear fuel and waste is risky. Creating Nuclear power utilizes more water than other methods. Nuclear power plants are vulnerable to earthquakes and ever increasing climate disasters of drought, flooding, tornados, hurricanes, wild fires, and lightning storms. Nuclear plants and material are targets. Nearby neighborhoods are put at a risk (just like we in the aves are endangered by the University of Utah's Engineering reactor.) Nuclear plants take a long time to construct and are expensive to build.



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

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

[saltlakecounty.gov/tenth-east-senior-center](http://saltlakecounty.gov/tenth-east-senior-center)

### March activities (in addition to regular classes):

#### St. Patrick's Day: Monday 3/17, 11:30 am

Join us for lunch and live music to celebrate the day. Entertainment by Heart & Soul.

#### AARP Smart Driver Class

Offered monthly on the first Friday. Check with your insurance company about a discount for completing the course. There is a separate fee to AARP. Register at the desk or call.

#### Tai Chi: Thursdays, 1:30-2:30 pm

Learn the Master Cheng Tsang Lu ancient Yang Tai Chi 108, taught by Ray and Nancy Paramore. Accessible to all abilities with focus on balance and mobility.

We still do not have a date for the Center's remodel. Come enjoy the classes and meals while you can.

## U of U Survey - Avenues Community Plan

*By Jim Jenkin, Chair GACC Land Use Committee*

Graduate students in the U of U Department of City and Metropolitan Planning are creating neighborhood plans for the Avenues and Capitol Hill. Avenues residents are encouraged to take the short survey below. Students will also walk around the neighborhood to ask residents to take the survey. They will attend community events and share fliers with information about the survey. [https://utah.sjc1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_06uPLA06uzs6pi6](https://utah.sjc1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_06uPLA06uzs6pi6)

The survey provides for "other" input for your particular concerns or viewpoints. I urge you to make use of these. When you use "other" you provide more specific information on the intent of your input.

Jim Jenkin, 801.300.9018, [jcjenkin+gacc@gmail.com](mailto:jcjenkin+gacc@gmail.com)

## 100 South Repaving Project

This summer, Salt Lake City will replace the aging pavement on 100 South between University Street and North Campus Drive. The project will widen the southern sidewalk to accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists and add new sidewalk where none currently exists. Existing on-street parking will be removed because there is not enough space to add new facilities and keep the existing on-street parking.

It is anticipated that traffic on 100 South will be limited to two lanes uphill only throughout construction to maintain efficient access for people seeking medical care at University Hospital, Primary Children's Hospital, and the Huntsman Cancer Institute. Westbound traffic from the University and medical campuses should use Mario Capecchi Drive or Wasatch Drive as alternate routes.

Please visit the project website <https://www.slc.gov/mystreet/100south/> for more information or sign up here with your email to receive project updates during construction.

Keegan Galloro, Transportation Planner Salt Lake City, 801-535-6089, [keegan.galloro@slc.gov](mailto:keegan.galloro@slc.gov)





[www.slcp.org](http://www.slcp.org)  
801-594-8651

**Avenues Sweet Branch Library** 455 North F Street  
Monday - Thursday - 10:00 am-8:00 pm  
Friday & Saturday - 10:00 am-6:00 pm  
Sunday - Closed

**KIDS CALENDAR**

Book Baby storytime. **Wednesday mornings** at 10:30 am.  
Preschool Storytime. **Thursday mornings** at 10:30 am.  
Playtime. **Friday mornings** from 10 am - noon.

**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 pm - 8 pm.

**ADULT CALENDAR**

Sweet Reads Book Club: Meet at 7 pm on **March 25, 2025** to discuss *Uncle Tom's Cabin* by Harriet Beecher Stowe. At the end of the meeting, copies for April's book, *Rules of Civility* by Amor Towles, will be handed out.

**ART EXHIBIT**

Photographer, James Mac Reed, will host an art reception on March 8, 2025 from 4-5:30 pm at the Sweet Branch Library. Mac creates images of the beautifully forlorn, out of the way places of the West. The exhibit will run from March 8 - April 19th.

**Rocky Mountain Power Rate Increase**

Most school board updates are for students and families, but this is for all taxpayers! Listen to City Cast SLC to learn about some of your tax dollars earmarked for education that leave the district under growing state policies. Listen here: <https://saltlake.citycast.fm/podcasts/the-dollar30m-slc-schools-lost-to-developers>

E-mail me any time with questions or ideas at [ashley.anderson@slcschools.org](mailto:ashley.anderson@slcschools.org)

**Publisher's Statement**

This publication is to conduct the business of the Greater Avenues Community Council (GACC).  
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The GACC web page is [www.avenuescouncil.org](http://www.avenuescouncil.org)



**White Rabbit or March Hare?** *By Hilary Jacobs*

The White Rabbit and March Hare loom large in Alice's Wonderland. Rabbits and hares live in and around the Foothills, too, but which is which? Seemingly similar, they're actually quite different, physically

and behaviorally. Hares (and jackrabbits) are larger and faster than rabbits, with longer, more powerful legs; larger, black-tipped ears; and lighter brown eyes. Usually solitary, hares nest among plants in prairie ecosystems. Newborns are fully furred with open eyes, and can hop shortly after birth.

Rabbits are more compact, with smaller feet and dark eyes, and they stand low-set to the ground. Generally communal, they inhabit underground burrows. These afford protection for their helpless newborns, who require weeks of care.

Rabbits nibble tender grasses, leafy greens and vegetables; hares prefer munching shoots, twigs and bark. Rabbits are domesticated. Hares are not. Now you'll know if it's the rabbit or a hare you see hopping in the Foothills!

**Rocky Mountain Power Rate Increase**



A letter asking Utah Public Utilities Commissioners to reconsider the recent Rocky Mountain Power rate increase is available here: <https://avenuescouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/RMP-letter-from-GACC.pdf> or via the QR code.

Avenues residents are encouraged to read the letter and send it if you agree to Commission Chair Jerry Fenn, Commissioner David Clark, Commissioner John S. Harvey, Ph.D., via email [psc@utah.gov](mailto:psc@utah.gov), by mail to the Public Service Commission, 160 East 300 South, 4th Floor, Salt Lake City, UT 84111, or by fax 801-530-6796. We will also have copy of the letter available for those wishing to sign in person at our March 5 Community Meeting.

See more info about the rate increase here: <https://psc.utah.gov/2024/01/24/docket-no-24-035-04/>

**Jewish Community Center**, 2 N. Medical Drive, SLC  
[www.slcc.org](http://www.slcc.org), (801) 581-0098

Inside the Middle East - March 10, 7 pm  
A Discussion With Correspondent Avi Melamed

The Unhoused - March 12, 7 pm  
A Panel Discussion Addressing The Homelessness Crisis

Summer Camp Registration Begins - March 17

School Break Camps - March 31-April 4



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.



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**GACC Community Meeting**  
**March 5th - 6:00 p.m.**  
**Sweet Branch Library and Zoom**

**IN-PERSON:** Wednesday, March 5th, at the Sweet Branch Library, 455 N F Street, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.  
**ON ZOOM:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89576201171>  
**Meeting ID:** 895 7620 1171, **Passcode:** 974561

**Mayor's Office News**

by Alicia De León

[Alicia.Deleon@slc.gov](mailto:Alicia.Deleon@slc.gov)

385-454-3824 (Hablo español)



**Short-Term Rentals Ordinance and Enforcement a.k.a. AirB&B Ordinance**

The City does not currently have regulations or allowances for land use known as "short-term rental." Currently, the City generally categorizes short-term rentals, such as Airbnb or Vrbo, as hotel, motel, or bed and breakfast uses because the lease period is less than 30 days. Any use that leases living space for less than 30 days cannot be considered a residential dwelling.

Hotel, motel, and bed and breakfast uses are permitted in multiple zoning districts around the city. Hotel, motel, and bed and breakfast uses are generally **not permitted** in residential zoning districts.

The city follows a structured process for complaints:

1. A resident reports a violation.
2. The City investigates.
3. The property owner may receive an official Notice and Order to comply.
4. Daily fines may be imposed.
5. The case is closed when the owner resolves the violation. Or legal action may be taken.

**See the short term rental FAQ's here:**

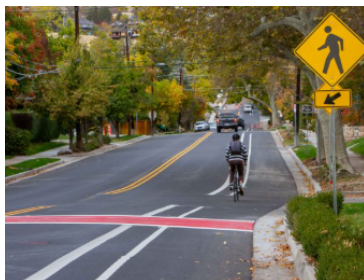
<https://www.slc.gov/planning/frequently-asked-questions/>

How to Submit a Complaint - call 801-535-7225, use MySLC.gov or the mySLC Mobile app. Provide The exact address and unit number. **Leave your specific concerns, photos, or a screenshot of the online listing of the rental if possible.**

**Virginia Street Update**

Now through mid-March, City crews are modifying the speed cushions on Virginia Street which were built too high.

Watch for flaggers and temporary single lane traffic.



The speed cushions between South Temple and 3rd Ave will be removed and replaced with bumps of the correct height.

[virginiastreet@slcgov.com](mailto:virginiastreet@slcgov.com) | 888-556-0232  
<https://www.slc.gov/mystreet/2024/01/03/virginia/>

**NEIGHBORHOOD EASTER EGG HUNT**

APRIL 19 2025	Arrive 8:45 am	Egg hunt starts 9:00 am sharp
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**589 East 18th Avenue**  
**Snow, rain or shine**  
**Breakfast taco truck**  
**Easter Bunny**  
**Don't forget your basket!**

**Feed Utah Food Drive**



**UTAH FOOD BANK**

Join youth in the Avenues in support of the "Feed Utah Food Drive". The mission of the Utah Food Bank is fighting hunger statewide.

415,000 Utahns, which equates to 1 in 8 individuals, are at risk of missing a meal today. Even more alarming is that one in six Utah youth are unsure where their next meal is coming from.

The Food Bank requests that food donations meet the following criteria: All natural ingredients, low sodium, low sugar, no high fructose corn syrup.

Most needed food items: Peanut Butter, Mac & Cheese, Canned Meats (tuna, chicken or beef), Chili, Spaghetti O's/Ravioli, Canned Fruits, Other Boxed Meals.

Saturday, March 15th, 9:00 am -11:00 am, 135 A Street  
 Questions? Contact Heather Aslett: 801-318-4122



**Special Olympics Utah Health & Wellness Fair**

**Saturday, March 1, 2025** at Glendale Middle School  
 1430 Andrew Ave, Salt Lake City, UT 84104

Free health screenings, educational activities, and interactive wellness experiences designed to empower individuals with IDD and their families.

Sam Robinson, [health@sout.org](mailto:health@sout.org),  
 (801) 363-1111 ext. 106