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

May
2026
Vol. XLIII
Issue 5

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

MAY COMMUNITY MEETINGS

GACC Community Meeting - May 6 - Hybrid
The GACC meeting will be held at the Sweet Branch Library, and on Zoom at 6:00 pm. The Zoom link will be at www.avenuescouncil.org at 5:00 pm on May 6.

GACC Board Meeting - May 13 - Hybrid
The Board Meeting will be held at the Sweet Branch Library and on Zoom at 6:00 pm. If you need the Zoom link or special accommodations, contact Steve Miller at gaccchair@avenuescouncil.org.



May 2026 Chair's Message by Steve Miller MD

Dear Neighbors,
As I write this newsletter, I'm reminded of the rain storms that we have had over the last two weeks.

What a blessing!! It is nice to see the many flowers that are blooming throughout the Avenues and in Memory Grove. It is truly a marvelous season of beauty and rebirth. I hope that each of you have had a wonderful Spring/Easter season with friends and family. I'm looking forward to putting my tomatoes in the garden and watching them grow.

As many of you know, we are in a period of transition at the Greater Avenues Community Council. I am leaving for Hong Kong in June to serve as the Asia Area Medical Authority for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. In the next month we need to elect a new GACC chair and chair elect at our community meetings. I have loved serving on the GACC and I will miss seeing each of you at the meetings, and in your neighborhoods and gardens. I hope that each of you take the time to look for ways to help each other and say "hello" to each other.

The other day, I was biking along 11th Avenue and ran into a good friend whose son attended Wasatch Elementary School, Bryant Middle School and West High School with our oldest daughter. It was fun to catch up with him and to see that we both continue to enjoy all that this wonderful community has to offer.

I hope that each of you will join us at the Memory Grove cleanup on Saturday, May 9th. It is a great time to work with each other and the parks department to beautify this historic park. Have a wonderful May and see you at the community meeting on May 6.

- Steve

MAY 6 COMMUNITY MEETING AGENDA

- 6:00-6:10 pm **Welcome and Announcements**
- Steve Miller GACC Chair
Committee Announcement of Candidates for Chair and Chair-elect and call for nominations from the floor
- 6:10-6:20 **Open Forum**
- 6:20-6:25 **Community Kindness Award** - Jenn Beck
- 6:25-6:40 **Friends of the Salt Lake City Cemetery**
- Dave Alderman
- 6:40-6:55 **Mayors' Office Report-Budget and other events** - Alicia De León
- 6:55-7:10 **City Council Updates**
- Councilmember Chris Wharton
- 7:10-7:45 **Community Reports**
- School Board, SLPD, Fire Department, Sweet Library, LDS Hospital
- 7:45 pm **Adjourn and Clean Up**

MEMORY GROVE ANNUAL CLEANUP DAY



SATURDAY, MAY 9, 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM
TOOLS AND GLOVES PROVIDED – ALL MATERIALS ARE SUPPLIED FOR VOLUNTEERS.
EVENT ADDRESS: 300 NORTH CANYON ROAD.



**Board Member Spotlight:
Nate Brunner**

My wife, Betsy, and I moved to the Avenues about two years ago and quickly fell in love with the neighborhood.

One of the things I love most about the Avenues is hiking in the nearby hills right above our neighborhood. I enjoy mountaineering and other outdoor pursuits, and I also love cooking and finding great food to enjoy with family and friends.

I work in finance and have spent most of my career helping large companies execute transactions such as acquisitions, divestitures, and debt refinancings. I joined the community council because I wanted to be more involved and contribute to the place we call home.

Since joining the board, I've been involved with the finance committee, and just recently stepped into the role of Treasurer, due to a vacancy in the position. I look forward to supporting the Council in that capacity. I'm grateful to be part of this community and look forward to meeting more of you!

GACC Officer Vacancies *by Dave Alderman*

As reported in last month's newsletter, we have a unique situation in the GACC officer positions. Earlier this year, we had the resignation of the Chair Elect. We also have the upcoming resignation of the Chair Steve Miller, as he has been called to a mission. After the last newsletter went to print, the has Treasurer also resigned.

A Nominating Committee, as announced at the April General Meeting, was formed to identify candidates for these positions. The process announced at the April Meeting and in last month's newsletter, was for the candidates to be announced at the May Meeting and a vote held at the June Meeting. The May meeting will be the last opportunity for anyone to volunteer to be considered for the positions.

Our Bylaws call for the Board to appoint a replacement for a vacant Treasurer, Secretary, or Past Chair position. They can also appoint a Chair Pro Tem to complete the Chair's term upon the current Chair's resignation. The Bylaws are silent on replacing a vacant Chair-Elect. It's safe to say that when the Bylaws were written, no one expected all these vacancies to occur at the same time. While these vacancies can be filled by Board appointments, that will leave us in the position of having a majority of the Officers appointed by the Board without input from the full Council. Therefore, we will proceed with a vote at the General Meeting to confirm the Nominating Committee's recommendations.

Because of the urgent need for a Treasurer, the Board appointed Nate Brunner as 2026 Treasurer at the April Board meeting. We appreciate Nate's willingness to take on this critical role.

The candidates for Chair and Chair Elect will be announced at the May Meeting, at which time nominations from the floor may also be made. The vote will be held at the June Community Meeting.

An Attractive More Fire-Wise Landscape

By Amy Merritt-Smith

With less snow and rain this winter, it's important to take these steps to make your landscape more fire-wise and water-wise. And attractive too!



Your garbage and recycling service offers twice yearly removal of larger quantity plant waste and bulk items.



The Salt Lake City Fire Department will visit your property free of charge, inspect, and offer guidance to improve your property's outdoor fire safety.



Planning landscape projects or replacing plants? Use this link for resources to create defensible space and choose fire-wise and water-wise landscape materials.

City Releases New Avenues Community Plan

by Jim Jenkin, Land Use Chair

The City Planning Department has been working on updating the 1987 Avenues Master Plan for about a year, and has released its draft of the new "Avenues Community Plan". Community input is critical at this point. The plan helps guide various City departments as they review applications for development and make decisions as to what is important to the Avenues area. This draft outlines the character of the Avenues and development guidelines important to all Avenues residents. In keeping with the current political climate, the plan is pro-development. See the new AVENUES COMMUNITY PLAN draft at avenuescouncil.org/project/land-use/; download or read the Draft at shape.sl.gov/en/projects/avenues-plan-update

Send any comments to landuse@avenuescouncil.org as well as directly to the Planning Department at avenuesplan@slc.gov.

The May Land Use Committee Meeting will discuss the Community Plan and all residents are welcome: 6:30pm, Tuesday May 12th, Sweet Library.

Historic Homes Tour May 16 *by Preservation Utah*

Come celebrate Preservation Utah's 60th anniversary and attend our **Annual Historic Homes Tour on Saturday, May 16th, 2026**. This year, the tour will include Homes and Businesses along South Temple Street. **Hours: 10 am to 4 pm**. Pre-Sale Ticket may be purchased online at www.preservationutah.org for \$30/ticket. Day of Tickets will be available at our Tour Headquarters located at 850 South Temple Street at the historic Ladies Literary Club for \$40/ticket. There are also **Volunteer Opportunities** for the Day. If you would like to volunteer as a Docent in one of the sites, please email Liz@preservationutah.org



Spring School Art Celebrations & Graduation by Ashley Anderson

Spring is a time to celebrate the schools serving the Greater Avenues by attending art events! In partnership with parent teacher organizations, elementary schools showcase student visual art, highlight student performances, and

fundraise for future arts instruction, while high schools celebrate the conclusion of the year's fine arts courses.

Save the Dates!

Wasatch Arts Showcase; May 1 – 5:30-8:00 pm

Open Classroom Art Stroll; May 8 – 5:00-9:00 pm

West High Art Show; May 14 – 5:00-7:00 pm

Ensign Gallery Stroll; May 15 – 5:30-8:30 pm

(Check school calendars for any revisions or details)

Secondary students in the Avenues will also be having promotion celebrations at Bryant Middle School and graduation events for the class of 2026 from West High.

If you see a graduate, congratulate them on their achievements and wish all students an exciting summer

break! Reach out to me with your thoughts and ideas about topics in the Salt Lake City School District.

ashley.anderson@slcschools.org



Colorful Black Bears

by Hilary Jacobs

You may be surprised to learn that American black bears live in the Salt Lake City Foothills. But don't be alarmed – these solitary mammals generally

avoid people, and they share their home range well.

Powerfully agile, black bears can run up to 35 mph and shimmy 100 feet up a tree in 30 seconds! They are opportunistic omnivores, eating mostly grasses, roots, berries, nuts and insects, although fish, small mammals and carrion can all be on the menu. Using their extraordinary sense of smell bears can locate food sources that are miles away.

During droughts, however, bears' food supplies become scarce, and warming weather is waking them from their hibernation earlier. Hungry bears become scavengers, following their noses into camps or populated areas. This can lead to dangerous human-bear conflicts. When in bear country, always secure food and trash in bear-proof containers.

Staying safe also protects the bears.

Cemetery Tree Planting May 16

Thank You for your previous support of the Salt Lake City Cemetery. Come join the Friends of the Salt Lake City Cemetery and the City's Urban Forestry Department in a volunteer tree planting event on Saturday, 16 May. Since 2021, volunteers like you have helped us plant over 270 trees—a huge step toward restoring what was lost in the 2020 windstorm. There are still many places where new trees are needed, and we'd love to have you.

We'll meet at 9 am at the Sexton's House on the corner of 4th Avenue and N Street. We'll plan to be through by noon. All tools will be provided, but bring gloves and wear sturdy shoes.

We ask for people to sign up in advance if possible. Please visit our website to sign up and learn more - <https://www.friends-slc-cemetery.com>.

Thanks again for your support. These events are always fun, meaningful, and a great way to care for one of Salt Lake City's most historic spaces. Hope to see you there!

- Dave Alderman, President, Friends of the Salt Lake City Cemetery.

Memory Grove Reseeding by Craig Ogan

We enjoyed having the Salt Lake City Art's Council's "Great Salt Lake Symphony" run for 10 days in Memory Grove. Now Salt Lake City Public Lands and Parks will start to rehab the aging and well used turf in the Park. Park maintenance technicians will start with repairing the park sprinkling system, then the turf with bee aerated before reseeding. The work will begin in April and be completed in a couple of weeks. As it will be important to keep off-leash humans and their dogs from disturbing the reseeded area, it will be fenced to facilitate the seed propagation and growth. There may be signs and other educational activities to get humans to "keep off the grass." You can help by asking your friends and associates who use the park to not disturb the planting while it gets established.

Mayday - Mayday! Are you prepared?

by Avenues CERT committee

I survived both the Sylmar & Northridge quakes (6.6/6.7 magnitudes) and would like to share a few things to think about in preparation of an emergency or event.

-Both quakes occurred in the early morning, while I was in bed. Check your room and beware of any items located above your head or next to your bed. Any object can become a potentially dangerous flying object.

-Strap your water heater to the wall. Many people had their water heaters twist off their foundation.

-The entire house was a disaster. All the kitchen cabinets flung open and emptied. This included the pantry shelves and fridge. It was a sticky and dangerous mess.

-Where are your emergency supplies? Ours were in the garage, but we couldn't get the door open. Keep those items accessible.

-We began to keep walking shoes in our cars in case an emergency happened and we needed to walk.

-Make a habit of keeping your gas tank pretty full. The lines become LONG following an event.

-Keep cash on hand at home or somewhere safe.

Your GACC Cert/Prep committee will be providing monthly tips for you. Be safe :)

CRAIG LAW & HUNTER JACKSON
May 15 - June 12

NIKITA NENASHEV & CAROLINE ROBERTS

ARTS & CULTURE GALLERY



www.slcp.org
801-594-8651
455 N F Street

Sweet Library May Events:

Monday-Thursday 10 am - 8 pm
Friday & Saturday - 10 am - 6 pm
Sunday - Closed
Closed : Monday, May 25 - In observance of Memorial Day

Summer Reading Challenge '26: Unearth A Story.
May 30 - Aug 1

Kids' Calendar

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

Teen Calendar

Teen Steam Friday, May 1, 3 - 4pm. We will be making creations with perler beads this month.
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 - 8 pm.

Adult Calendar

Book Club The Sweet Reads Book Club will meet on Tuesday, May 26 from 7 - 8 pm in the meeting room to discuss **Wild Dark Shore** by Charlotte McConaghy. At the end of the evening, copies for June's book, **The Anxious Generation** by Jonathan Haidt, will be passed out.

Art Exhibit The opening reception for paintings by **Heather Olsen**, her exhibit titled "**Birds of A Heather,**" will be held on Saturday May 9th from 4 - 5:30 pm. This exhibition is a love letter to all the birds who have shaped Heather's life.

The exhibit runs May 9 - June 20.

PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT

This publication is to conduct the business of the Greater Avenues Community Council (GACC).

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Newsletter: Olivia Christensen, newsletter@avenuescouncil.org
Online Newsletter: Thank you **Barack Williard**

The GACC web page is www.avenuescouncil.org



City Council District 3 May Message

by *Chris Wharton*

On May 5, Mayor Erin Mendenhall presented her recommended budget. I'm looking forward to working with my council colleagues to carefully review it, make any necessary adjustments, and adopt a final version before July.

Your input is an important part of this process. I hope to see you at an upcoming public hearing or hear from you by email or phone. You can learn more and get involved here: <https://link.slcp.gov/slcfy27>

There are a few fun spring activities you may want to check out as well: Wasatch Community Gardens Spring Plant Sale on May 9th from 8 am-1 pm at the Utah State Fairpark; Living Traditions Festival on May 15 - 17 at the Civic Center; Rose Park Festival on May 16 from 10 am to 4 pm at Picture Drive in Rose Park.

Please do not hesitate to reach out!

- Chris Chris.Wharton@slcp.gov
District 3 Liaison Olivia.Erickson@slcp.gov
District 3 web page: <https://www.slcp.gov/district3/>

The Community Kindness Program Winner for April is Maria George!

Maria is nominated by her neighbor, Ian Ferguson who said: "We are currently without a maintenance worker for the building as a whole, and Maria has stepped in to support her neighbors and keep things running around here. She is always friendly and willing to help or answer any questions she can around the building. With the help of her boyfriend Matt, they have kept the building running and the residents informed of what is going on, even through significant disruptions like a gas leak. Maria is a pillar of this community!" **She will receive a \$25 gift card to the Avenues business of her choice!**

PLEASE SUBMIT NOMINATIONS FOR FUTURE AWARDS!

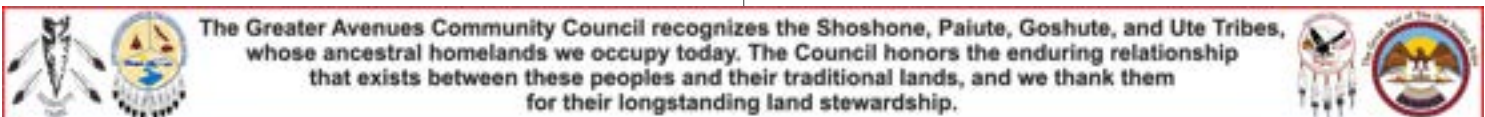
We draw a winner every month and we love highlighting the amazing acts of kindness and service in our community. Nominate your neighbors, friends, teachers - anyone who is showing care and respect through their service in our community. Winners receive a \$25 gift card to an Avenues business of their choice!

Rules/Instructions:

Nominees must live in the Greater Avenues to qualify. To submit a nominee simply

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

Thank you to those who have submitted nominations and to those who serve our community!



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JOHN WOOD CUONG TA & HUMOR, A GROUP SHOW
Apr 17 - May 8

GALLERY

Sun SAFETY

Wear sunglasses 

Wear a hat 

Wear sunscreen 

Drink lots of water 

Wear protective clothing 

Avoid direct sunlight 



ih Intermountain Health
LDSHospital.org

Learn more about Intermountain Skin Cancer Care here: 

North Bench Pump Station Has an Exciting Update! by Sophie Friedrichs, SLC Public Utilities and Public Lands

Both Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities and Salt Lake City Public Lands have been coordinating to combine the North Bench Pump Station and 18th Avenue Trailhead improvement projects, allowing both efforts to occur simultaneously and reduce disruptions at the site. The following improvements can be expected to begin this Spring:

- The Meadow Trail will be shifted east and will be leveled, graded, and surfaced with a hard pack natural chat for utility vehicle access and accessible recreational trail use.
- The 18th Avenue Trailhead will be repaved and expanded to include 22 parking spaces, including one ADA-accessible parking space, a dedicated pad for a portable restroom, and a welcome plaza with trailhead amenities.

For more information about trails, trailhead improvements or revegetation, please reach out to the Public Lands Department. For more information on the 18th Avenue Pump Station construction, please reach out to **855-925-2801 (Project Code: 12065).**

<https://www.slc.gov/utilities/north-bench-pump-station/>

The Agenda is the monthly newsletter of the Greater Avenues Community Council, and is mailed free to all residents.

4th Avenue Well PFAS Mitigation Project

Construction Notice



The 4th Avenue Well is currently not being used as part of the water system after PFAS was detected during routine testing. Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities (SLC DPU) completed initial investigative work in late 2025 and is now beginning the next phase of testing to better understand how the well performs under normal operating conditions.

When?
Work is expected to begin as early as May 7, 2026 and continue through May 15, 2026.*

What?

- Reinstallation of the well pump that was removed during earlier testing
- Cleaning of the well using a "brush and bail" process to remove sediment buildup
- Restarting the well under normal operating conditions for additional water quality testing
- Temporary traffic restrictions and closures near the south side of the well to allow equipment access
- Clearly marked traffic control to maintain safety for residents and visitors

Why?

Initial testing completed in December 2025 did not produce conclusive results, likely because the well was not actively operating at the time.

This next phase of work will allow the City to:

- Evaluate PFAS levels while the well is running under normal conditions
- Collect more accurate and representative water quality data
- Better understand how the well may be safely used in the future

The results will help guide decisions about the long-term future of the 4th Avenue Well.

Stay Informed
To sign up for regular email updates about this project, please send an email to 4thAveWell@slc.gov with "Updates" in the subject line.



CONTACT US
Project Hotline: 801-616-3326
Email: 4thAveWell@slc.gov

*Construction schedules are subject to change due to weather, utility conflicts, and/or material delays.



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

GACC Community Meeting
May 6th - 6:00 pm
Sweet Branch Library and Zoom
The Zoom link will be at
www.avenuescouncil.org on May 6th

MAY MORNINGS AT GILGAL GARDEN

Join us every Sunday morning in May to discover the history and artistry behind this mysterious garden in the heart of Salt Lake City.

Chat with a historian, explore the garden and learn more.

10 a.m. - 12 p.m.



PART OF UTAH'S
ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH

Friends of the Salt Lake City Cemetery

by Dave Alderman

Did you know the Salt Lake City Cemetery is the largest municipal Cemetery in the country? Did you know that it's administered by the Parks Division of the City's Public Lands Department? Which means it is also one of the most unique city parks in the country.

The Friends of the Salt Lake City Cemetery is an all-volunteer, non-profit 501(c)3 organization formed to work with the City and other stakeholders to preserve, protect, and enhance this cultural treasure. The Friends do this by 1) Raising awareness of the Cemetery; 2) Organizing Community Engagement activities (see below); and 3) Fundraising for enhancements to the Cemetery. (We are currently working with a consultant to prepare a nomination for the National Register of Historic Places.) We have two upcoming community engagement activities. **On May 16th, we will have a volunteer tree planting from 9-12.** And we will have a post-Memorial Day Clean-Up on the evenings of June 3rd and 4th and Saturday morning June 6th. These are great opportunities to support the cemetery, enjoy the green space, and meet some neighbors.

To learn more about the Friends and to sign up for our community activities, scan the QR code, visit the website at <https://www.friends-slc-cemetery.com/>, or better yet, attend the May GACC General Meeting.




People's Art Gallery at the Avenues Street Fair on October 10

by Kathryn Wright

The People's Art Gallery includes youth as well as adult categories. Youth of all ages who live on the Avenues are invited to enter their artwork in the People's Art Gallery which will have a large booth at the Street Fair. It's free and it's fun! Students, as the school year ends, you may want to save artwork from this year to enter in the Fall. Applications for submission of entries to the gallery will be available in June.

You can find out more here: avenuescouncil.org/street-fair



Environmental Tip by Jill van Langeveld

Reduce "phantom drain" energy consumption. Save energy by turning off lights and unplugging appliances when not in use. Of all the easy sustainability tips at home, this one has perhaps the biggest potential to reduce your carbon footprint. If you plug them into surge protectors they can be very easy to turn off.

Drought Information Released by Jim Jenkin

The National Weather Service has released the current Water Outlook, both as a written information statement and a narrated Youtube video. Things are not good, and you can understand why by watching the video. Drought report: <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>