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July 2026 Vol. XLV Issue 7

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



Chair's Message for July by Dianne Leonard

This month at our meeting we will be talking about water, or lack thereof, and taking care of the greenspaces that we enjoy. We will hear about taking care of our trees which are critical to the health of our urban area. We know that trees help clean the air, reduce water evaporation

and provide shade which reduces the temperature of paved areas and buildings. Trees also contribute to mental well-being. The dappled light that filters through the leaves is relaxing and soothing. The sounds of the birds as they sit on the branches can help lower blood pressure and create a feeling of contentment.

We are very fortunate to live with trees and green space as part of our neighborhood. Green space is not just lawn, it is made up of all living plants. The city is offering incentive programs to help encourage the planting of more water-wise and native plants in our yards and park strips. Council Member Wharton shares some information regarding this in his message in this issue. I look forward to seeing many of you at our July meeting!

- Dianne

Be Fire-Safe With All Outdoor Activities

By Amy Merritt-Smith

The Fourth of July and Pioneer Day are here, reminding us to celebrate safely.

The best way to enjoy fireworks is to attend a public show staged by professionals. Salt Lake City will light the sky with its third annual Drone Shows for both Independence and Pioneer Days. Find more here:

https://www.slc.gov/events/event-calendar/

The Gateway hosts a July Fourth evening of activities and fireworks. Find more here:

https://atthegateway.com/calendars/4th-of-july-2026/

Consider celebrating at home with glow sticks, noise makers, or silly string instead. Remember that fireworks are prohibited east of 900 East and north of South Temple.

Operate fire pits per manufacturers' instructions, placing them at least 15 feet from all flammable structures and surfaces. This includes homes, buildings, trees, sheds, vehicles, adjoining properties, and wood decks, among other things. Keep your fire pit away from overhanging branches.

Finally, clean up any dry plant material around your property. Your green waste can or the free annual green waste Call-to-Haul, are good disposal options.

https://www.slc.gov/sustainability/waste-management/c2h/

JULY COMMUNITY MEETINGS

GACC Community Meeting - July 1 - Hybrid

The GACC meeting will be held at the Sweet Branch Library, and on Zoom at 6:00 pm. The Zoom link will be posted at 5:00 pm on July 1 at www.avenuescouncil.org.

GACC Board Meeting - July 8 - Hybrid

The Board Meeting will be held at the Sweet Branch Library, and on Zoom beginning at 6:00 pm. If you need the Zoom link or special accommodations you can contact Dianne Leonard at gaccchair@avenuescouncil.org.

JULY 1 COMMUNITY MEETING AGENDA

- 6:00-6:10 pm Welcome and Announcements - Dianne Leonard
6:10-6:20 Open Forum
6:20-7:05 How to Keep Your Yard Alive in a Drought - Tony Gliot, Urban Forestry, and Laura Briefer, Salt Lake City Public Utilities
7:05-7:50 Community Reports - City Council, School Board, SLC Mayor's Office, SLPD, Fire Department, Sweet Library, LDS Hospital
7:50 pm Adjourn and Clean Up



Board Member Spotlight: Larry Perkins

After a career in International Banking, which included stints in Australia, Indonesia, Singapore, Japan, and Greece, Larry moved to the Avenues some 35 years ago. He and his wife Gayle love living in the Avenues and have shown an affinity for living at

intersections - living successively on the corners of 5th & D, of 3rd & H, of 11th & E, of 12th & G, and currently on 12th Avenue at the top of E Street. We value all of our friends in the Avenues and look forward to meeting new neighbors as New Friends.



City Council District 3

by Chris Wharton

Hello neighbors,
As we celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the United States this month, let us all take time to reflect on our progress in expanding opportunities for all, safeguarding our rights and liberties, and striving toward a more perfect union.

A major phase of the Beck Street Sewer Rehabilitation Project has been completed. Through August, 800 North between 300 West and 400 West will be restricted to local traffic only, and on-street parking on both sides of 800 North will be limited while the temporary bypass system remains in place.

Residents may be eligible for Utah's Landscape Incentive Program, which offers up to \$3 per square foot for replacing lawn with water-efficient landscaping. Eligible projects include park strip, side yard, and full yard conversions. The program has helped Utah residents save more than 100 million gallons of water annually. Learn more here: [tinyurl.com/SaveWaterLandscape](https://www.tinyurl.com/SaveWaterLandscape)

Remember, fireworks are not allowed in the Avenues district at any time.
Happy July, Chris



Mysterious Black Widows

by Hilary Jacobs

Utah is home to the remarkable Western Black Widow spider. Female widows are shiny black, with a large spherical abdomen, long legs, and the unmistakable scarlet hourglass mark underneath.

Nocturnal, Black widows spin their haphazard but incredibly strong webs in inconspicuous, dark spaces. They want nothing to do with you, and they won't bite unless terribly threatened, inadvertently grabbed, or when guarding their egg sacs. Their neurotoxin venom causes pain or other severe symptoms, but while medical care is advisable, the bite is rarely life-threatening.

So why do we fear this beautiful spider? Bad press has ruined her reputation. Please resist killing these residents who provide important pest control services. Instead consider carefully securing her in a jar and then release her under a sagebrush bush in the foothills where she'll spin a new life away from yours.

JARED WRIGHT
FOR SCHOOL BOARD PRECINCT 3

Twenty-two years as a teacher, principal, and parent in Salt Lake City schools have given me something no policy brief can: a deep, firsthand understanding of the challenges our families face and a clear vision for how we move forward. It's time to put that experience to work.

JAREDFORSLCSCHOOLS.COM



School Board Update

by Ashley Anderson

One of my roles on the Salt Lake City School Board is serving on the Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee. The County is an important partner for district schools because our

high school teams swim at its pools, and the County also supports all students through the My County Rec Pass program.

Did you know that from birth to their 19th birthday, all kids can access any Salt Lake County Rec Center at no cost? Visit your closest County Rec Center to sign up and learn about the pools, climbing walls, sports leagues, ice rinks, weight rooms, and other amenities available for kids. Physical activity is important, especially on hot summer days, and this County resource is one way to keep kids active and healthy while staying cool.

To learn other details and find an application to complete in advance of your visit, visit the County website:

<https://www.saltlakecounty.gov/parks-recreation/my-county-rec-pass/>

Have other questions or ideas to help district students and schools? Email me any time:

ashley.anderson@slcschools.org



Simple Changes Can Save Gallons

by Jill van Langeveld

1. Turn Off the Faucet When Brushing Teeth. Did you know that leaving the faucet running while brushing your teeth can **waste up to four gallons of water per minute?**

That's a lot! To save water and make a difference, simply turn off the faucet while you brush. It's a simple habit that will help conserve water and protect our planet.

2. Take Refreshing, Short Showers. There's nothing quite as refreshing as a cool shower when the summer heat gets too intense. Keep it short to save water. Challenge yourself to take quick showers and finish up before your favorite song ends. By reducing your shower time by just two minutes, you can **save up to 1,000 gallons of water over the summer.**

3. Be a Leak Detective. Did you know that **even a small leak can waste hundreds of gallons of water?** Prevent water from going to waste. Become a leak detective at home. Check faucets, toilets, and pipes for any leaks. Don't forget to check outside. I noticed that the ground was always damp by one of the outside faucets, which had a hose attached. We dug around it and found a gaping hole in the pipe. If you spot a leak, get it fixed promptly.

Remember, we want to make sure every drop is used wisely!

Helping Your Landscape Survive the Drought

by Laura Briefer, City Public Utilities Director

You have probably heard that Utah is in a drought. This past winter was the warmest on record, followed by a warm and mostly dry spring. These conditions place added stress on our water supplies, Great Salt Lake, and our home landscapes.

While reservoir levels are currently stable, now is a good time to conserve water and prepare for a scarce water future. Small changes in the way we manage our yards and gardens can make a meaningful difference.

Here are a few simple ways to reduce water use while keeping your landscape healthy:

- Water lawns less frequently.
- Consider replacing traditional turf with low-water lawn alternatives.
- Deep-water trees to encourage strong root growth.
- Add mulch around plants and garden beds to retain soil moisture and reduce evaporation.
- Check irrigation systems regularly to prevent leaks and eliminate water waste.

Using water wisely helps protect your landscape, preserves water in our reservoirs, and supports ongoing efforts to sustain Great Salt Lake.

To learn more about drought-wise landscaping and water conservation, visit:

www.slc.gov/utilities/conservation/droughttips or contact Salt Lake City Public Utilities at **801-483-6900**.

Avenues Tree Watering

by Tony Gliot, City Forester

The Greater Avenues Community Council is home to some of Salt Lake City's largest and oldest trees. Trees have thrived in the Avenues because generations of property owners and tenants have nurtured them.

In times of drought (when water conservation is extra important), our resident trees should still be allocated a reasonable share of water so they can keep giving us all the amazing benefits that contribute to the health, beauty, and livability of our city.

Aim for one watering per week (April, May, October, and November) and two waterings per week in the hottest months (June, July, August, and September). But pay attention to what the weather and temperatures are doing. If it seems extra hot, maybe add a watering day. If we get some rain and cooler temps in the middle of summer, maybe subtract a watering day that week.

Don't worry too much about the specifics (like duration, frequency, or gallons of water). Instead, focus more on achieving soil saturation when you water. You want the ground around your tree to be a bit squishy when you are done watering.

Trees are extremely efficient water users, and they provide so much in return for the water we give them. So don't be afraid or ashamed of choosing to nurture your trees during drought.

For more information about tree watering, visit: <https://www.slc.gov/urban-forestry/how-to-water-a-tree/>, or contact the Salt Lake City Urban Forestry Division at **801-972-7818**.

Bad Bushes Block Sight Lines

by Jim Jenkin

One of the concerns collected in preparation for the Avenues Plan Draft was the safety of intersections in the Avenues.

A complaint I hear often is that vegetation in the parking strip limits sight distance at intersections, e.g., there is a Rose of Sharon planted on a corner on 5th Ave, a bushy shrub on U Street, and a row of columnar shrubs on E Street, as well as others.

All of these appear to conflict with City codes protecting sightlines at intersections, but, more importantly, they make intersections less safe for all users.

When asked about these hazards, I always suggest the first step is to contact the neighbor to make sure they appreciate the hazard they create - most don't.

Complaints (anonymous or not) can also be addressed to the City through MySLC.gov or through your Mayoral or City Council office (ask for your district liaison).

As Avenues drivers, the best measure we can take is planning ahead so we don't feel rushed.

Please send comments on this article to

landuse@avenuescouncil.org.

Wishing you safety,

Jim, Jcjenkin@gmail.com

Summer in City Creek Canyon

If your summer plans include City Creek Canyon, keep the following in mind:

*City Creek Canyon Road is only open on weekends and holidays: Bikes and pedestrians only.

*City Creek Canyon Road is closed during the water treatment plant construction past picnic site #16.

*Picnic sites may not be reserved during the construction project, but Sites #1 - #16 are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Please clean up all trash.

*Stay alert: Be aware of your surroundings and move out of the way of any project vehicles.

More information about the City Creek Treatment Plant Upgrade Project can be seen at:

<https://www.slc.gov/utilities/city-creek-canyon/>

Information from City Creek Treatment Plant Upgrades

Calling Avenues Artists! by Kathryn Wright

Applications are now being accepted for the People's Art Gallery at the October 10, 2026 Avenues Street Fair!

Artists of all ages and abilities who live on the Avenues are invited to enter a work at no cost. Submissions may include paintings, drawings, photography, or sculpture.

The art will be on display all day during the Street Fair. Fairgoers may vote throughout the day for a youth and an adult People's Choice Award.

The application is available at:

www.avenuescouncil.org/street-fair.

Contact Kathryn Wright at kathrynjwright7@gmail.com or **385-235-9882** for further information.

The Community Kindness Program Winner for June is Jan Root!

Jan is nominated by her neighbor, Carlisle Carroll who said: Jan is a multi-talented Avenues resident. She leads the community exercise class, which meets 2x/week at the Federal Heights LDS building. (M & W 8:30 – 9:30am). She sends a fun email to class members with humor and insights about life as reminders of class, and provides a Zoom link for those unable to attend in person. At the end of each class, Jan leaves us with a positive affirmation and renewed strength!! She plays multiple instruments and sings in a community band called ZIVIO performing monthly at a dance party for the European Folk Dance Society. She is also the lead singer and songwriter in a group called "ANNTiques". Jan holds a PHD and was CEO at a Utah based company UHIN (Utah Health Information Network) which provides enhanced communication between medical professionals. Many thanks and praise to a master knitter, gardener, cyclist, our friend, Jan Root!

URGENT!! WE ARE RUNNING LOW ON NOMINATIONS! PLEASE SUBMIT NEIGHBOR NAMES FOR FUTURE AWARDS!

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!

PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT

This publication is to conduct the business of the Greater Avenues Community Council (GACC).
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Online Newsletter: Thank you **Barack Williard**
The GACC web page is www.avenuescouncil.org



The City Library
THE SALT LAKE CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

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

Mon-Thurs 10 am - 8 pm; Fri & Sat 10 am - 6 pm;
Sunday - Closed

All Locations

Closed: Saturday, **July 4** for Independence Day, and Friday, **July 24** for Pioneer Day

Sweet Library July Events:

Kids' Calendar

Book Baby Storytime. Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am.

Family Storytime. Thursday mornings at 10:30 am.

Playtime. Friday mornings from 10 am - noon.

Unearth a Story: Terracotta Painting. Sat. July 11 from 11 am to noon. Decorate your own terracotta dish using inspiration from UMFA's Greek + Roman pottery collection.

Dino Dig. Thursday, July 16 from 2-3 pm. Kids and dinosaurs can "dig" for a dinosaur sealed in oobleck and keep the toy inside! While supplies last.

Earth Detectives with Clark Planetarium. Thursday, July 23, from 2-3 pm. A hands-on program where curiosity and the Clark Planetarium lead the way!

Teen Calendar

Dungeons & Dragons for Beginners. (10 years old and up) The 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month from 6-8 pm.

Intro To Engineering. Monday, July 13, 1-3 pm. Tweens and teens can learn about engineering through hands-on projects with the University of Utah's Price College of Engineering. You'll build, create, and explore the engineering design process.

Adult Calendar

Book Club. The Sweet Reads Book Club will meet on Tuesday, July 28, from 7:00 to 8:00 pm in the meeting room to discuss America's First Daughter by Stephanie Dray. At the end of the evening, copies of August's book, Broken Country by Clare Leslie Hall, will be passed out.

Picasso Self Portrait Workshop: Wednesday, July 15 from 6-8 pm. Participants will create a bold, Picasso-inspired self-portrait using a wide range of colorful markers. Working from a mirror, we'll guide step by step through selecting colors and combining sketches into a final piece of art. Registration is required.

Jewish Community Center

2 N. Medical Dr., **801-581-0098**,
www.sljcc.org



IJ & Jeanné Wagner
Jewish Community Center

Free Summer Concert Series:

Disgusting Brothers Band

Wednesday, July 22 | 6:00 - 8:00 pm

JCC East Lawn | Bring Blankets and Chairs

Join us for this free, family-fun event! | Iceberg Shake Truck on Site!



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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**SUMMER
GROUP SHOW**

July 17 - August 14

ARTS & CRAFTS GALLERY

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2026 AVENUES STREET FAIR

Animals of the Avenues

DATE: OCT 10 | TIME: 10 AM - 5 PM |
LOCATION: 1ST AVE (I to O St)

JOIN US! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
BLOCK CAPTAINS
PEOPLE'S ART GALLERY

www.avenuescouncil.org/street-fair

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

GACC Community Meeting July 1st - 6:00 pm Sweet Branch Library and Zoom

Fourth Avenue Well - PFAS Mitigation Update

In the Fall of 2023, the Salt Lake Department of Public Utilities took the Fourth Avenue Well out of service after routine testing detected trace amounts of PFAS, often referred to as forever chemicals.



This Spring, the pump was reinstalled, and the well was prepared for additional testing under normal operating conditions. Over the next several weeks, the well will operate continuously while Public Utilities collects and analyzes water samples to help us better understand PFAS levels in the well over time and provide information to evaluate future options for the well.

During this period, water will be discharged to the storm drain system and will not enter the drinking water system. Residents may notice water flowing near the well site as part of the testing process. Based on the PFAS levels identified to date, the water meets current drinking water standards and is considered an allowable discharge to the City's storm drain system. See details at <https://www.slc.gov/utilities/4th-ave-well/> Information taken from the Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities.

Avenues Street Fair Needs Sponsors by Sam Pannunzio

Did you know that the Avenues Street Fair costs approximately \$30,000 to produce each year? We rely on the generous support of our sponsors to bring this historic event to life!

Any net funds generated by our sponsors go right back into the neighborhood for community betterment projects and to fund the printing and mailing of this monthly newsletter.



Interested in becoming a sponsor or know a business that would?

Scan the QR code for sponsor package details or email sampannunzio@gmail.com.

Interested in supporting but don't own a business?

Sponsor as a Friend of the Avenues Street Fair for a minimum of a \$100 donation.

FREE Community Exercise Class by Jan Root

The Avenues has a free exercise class that has been meeting twice per week since 1986! We work on core strength, flexibility and balance. People of all abilities and ages attend. We meet at the Federal Heights Ward (1300 Fairfax Road) gymnasium at **8:30 am on Mondays and Wednesdays** (enter from the east). Rug samples are available to use or you can bring a towel or yoga mat.

Questions? janroot@xmission.com

HELP WANTED

The GACC Is looking for Volunteers to join committees.

Website Committee

We are looking for someone with website experience to Chair a committee of volunteers to maintain and update the GACC website.

Newsletter Committee

Each month we send The Agenda, our GACC Newsletter, to over 8,500 homes and businesses in the Greater Avenues. We are looking for someone to Chair this committee to help coordinate the collection of articles and work with our volunteer editor, advertising manager and online newsletter coordinator.

Finance and Wildfire Committees

The Finance and Wildfire Committees are looking for additional members to help guide the work of managing the finances of the GACC and the Firewise work on education and preparedness for fire issues in the foothills and in the Greater Avenues.

Contact gaccchair@avenuescouncil.org for more information

Free Neighborhood Meditation by Drifting Mountain Zen

At the historic William F. Beer Estate, 181 B Street



Wednesday evenings 7 - 7:30 pm

Thursday mornings, 7:30 - 8 am,
plus Thursdays, coffee/tea at 7 am.

Chairs, cushions, and mats are available, and instruction is available upon request.

