



www.avenuescouncil.org



**August
2026**
Vol. XLVI
Issue 8

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



Chair's Message for August *by Dianne Leonard*

At our Community Meeting last month we learned about taking care of our trees and gardens and helping them through the dry and hot summer. At our house we spent the hottest day ever recorded in Utah without air conditioning. Of course, our A/C died the day before the record was set, and we spent three

long days waiting for the repair person.

We were fine. Our home was built in 1908 to passively block summer sun and welcome the warming rays in the winter. This helped our house stay cooler than it could have been. We have a basement that is part of our living space and so we were able to find refuge there. I did spend quite a bit of time checking on neighbors that I know do not have air conditioning. It drove home to me how important it is that we know our neighbors and that we all look out for each other.

Each month as we learn about the recipient of our Community Kindness Award it makes me feel so fortunate to live in a neighborhood of good and caring people. Another of our strengths is in the way we pull together to volunteer and get things done.

We have a large group of dedicated neighbors who come together each year to put on the premier neighborhood Street Fair in Salt Lake City. This year our Street Fair will be October 10. It takes over 150 volunteers to make the Street Fair happen. We have a core group of volunteers that have been meeting for several months now to plan and prepare. Our volunteer coordinator is working with all the committees to help ensure that they have the folks they need to make the day run smoothly. In this newsletter you will see a plea to volunteer.

I was fortunate to meet a neighbor while walking who reminded me that not everyone has access to online sign-ups and may not be able to connect virtually to volunteer. If you cannot sign up online, I invite you to attend our August and September meeting in person and we will have a computer available for you to sign up or if you prefer we will have a paper sign up that you can give us your name and phone number so we can get you signed up. We need you all!

For those of you who would like to do something to help our neighborhood but volunteering at the street fair may not be a place you would like to give your time, there are lots of other ways to get involved. Our Service Committee has informed us that families who have students in our schools sometimes struggle to cover the cost of school lunches. We have school lunch debt at all of our neighborhood schools. We have heard that food pantries are seeing increased requests for assistance. If you have the means, consider contacting the one of the schools and paying off some of the lunch debt or donating to a food pantry. Our Grants Committee is seeking

applications for projects that will benefit our neighborhood as well. We will hear this month about a CIP project proposal from one of our very young residents. One of our Avenues youth, Elizabeth, is seeking help accessing the playground at Wasatch Elementary. CIP proposals are designed to benefit the community for years and if approved are supported by city funds and agencies.

There are many ways to get involved. I realize that you are involved in ways that I may never know and I thank you for that.

We have an amazing community and it is great to hear from you with concerns and questions about how to make our lives better. Please continue to reach out to me with questions or concerns. gaccchair@avenuescouncil.org

- Dianne

AUGUST COMMUNITY MEETINGS

GACC Community Meeting - August 5 - 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 August 5 at www.avenuescouncil.org.

GACC Board Meeting - August 12 - 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.

AUGUST 5 COMMUNITY MEETING AGENDA

5:15-5:50 pm	School Board Candidate Meet and Greet
6:00-6:10	Welcome and Announcements - Dianne Leonard
6:10-6:20	Open Forum
6:20-6:30	School Board Candidates - Ashley Anderson and Jared Wright
6:30-7:05	West High School - New Construction Updates - VCBO Architects
7:05-7:50	Community Reports - City Council, Salt Lake School Board, SLC Mayor's Office, SLPD, Fire Department, Sweet Library, LDS Hospital
7:50 pm	Adjourn and Clean Up



Board Member Spotlight: Dylan Gonzales

Hi neighbors! My name is Dylan, I have been living in the Avenues for 2 years with my wife and dog. I graduated from UVU with a mechanical engineering degree, which has lead me to working in water infrastructure! You can usually catch me doing some outdoor rock climbing in Big Cottonwood Canyon.

I joined GACC to grow closer to the community I have grown to love over the last couple years. It has been a pleasure getting to know my neighbors and see what our community is all about!

Meet The Candidates *by David Berg*

Greater Avenues residents are invited to meet Salt Lake City School Board candidates **Ashley Anderson** and **Jared Wright** on August 5 at the Sweet Library. An informal outdoor meet-and-greet begins at 5:15 pm, followed by the GACC monthly meeting at 6 pm, including the School Board candidate forum around 6:20 pm. Staying informed strengthens our community! This forum leads into our larger October Meet-the-Candidates event for all GACC-area ballot candidates that will appear on our November ballot, including these two SLC School Board candidates.



City Council District 3 *by Chris Wharton*

Many thanks to neighbors and visitors for complying with the firework restrictions that protected our City through the July holiday celebrations. Residents across District 3 shared their concerns and voiced their support for a citywide firework ban that protected countless lives, homes, infrastructure, and open spaces, at a particularly dangerous time. Your input helped make a difference at the local and state level. I encourage everyone to remain engaged on this topic and the ongoing wildfire risk facing our community.

Residents have also been inquiring about the City's new short-term rental regulations. Any property operating as a short-term rental in an approved zoning district must now obtain a business license before advertising the property or accepting bookings. Bookings have a two-night minimum stay requirement, and no single rental property may exceed 200 bookings per year. These restrictions have been put in place to preserve the integrity of our beloved neighborhoods and retain housing availability during our current housing crisis. You can find more information on rental regulations here: link.slc.gov/ShortTermRental.

Additionally, the summer season has brought many roadwork, road closure, and overnight parking concerns to the Council Office. You can find information and updates on current City construction projects at link.slc.gov/SLC-Street-Projects. You can always report parking violations using <https://link.slc.gov/Parking-Illegally>.

Thank you for expressing your care for our City by sharing your continued support, concerns, and questions with the City Council. I wish you a fun and safe close to your summer activities!



Back To School August 18 *by Ashley Anderson*

A new school year kick-offs on August 18th and students from the Greater Avenues will be welcomed at Wasatch, Ensign, Open Classroom, Bryant, West, and other district schools of their

choice. Check your school's specific calendar for Back to School Night information!

This year, bond repayments will begin for high school rebuilds, and with declining enrollment, the board has directed district leadership to focus on significant financial effort to reduce ongoing expenses. It's been requested that these reductions focus on the central office and not classroom resources. The board also recently reallocated funds to preserve social workers in our high schools and keep meeting the needs of students and families.

Have ideas about what's most critical to fund as we open this year's budget book? Send me an email!

– Ashley Anderson; ashley.anderson@slcschools.org. Excellence and Equity: every student, every classroom, every day, www.slcschools.org.



Remarkable Raccoons *by Hilary Jacobs*

With their distinctive black mask, a ringed tail and thick grayish-brown fur, the North American raccoon sports an iconic look.

Naturally curious, raccoons have excellent memories and a knack for solving problems. They have very sensitive front paws and use their dexterous "fingers" to grasp food as well as to manipulate objects—like opening containers or unclipping bungee cords. Their paw sensitivity increases underwater, hence "washing" helps raccoons examine what's at hand. And they are among the few mammals that can descend trees head first. This intelligence has made them extremely adaptable. Originally found primarily in wooded areas, raccoons have expanded into habitats across the country, from mountainous terrains to big cities. It helps that they aren't picky eaters, with a diet including invertebrates, small vertebrates, eggs, fruits and nuts. If you meet these masked denizens of the foothills, take some time to admire their intelligence.



Energy Tip for August *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 with the main surge protector switch.

Stay Clear.... Don't Let Curiosity Hinder Wildfire Response *by Captain Scott Winkler, SLCFD*

We've had a busy and scary start to the wildfire season in Utah. After a very dry winter and mild spring, Salt Lake has had several significant fires threatening properties and prompting the "Ready" condition of the "Ready, Set, Go" notification and evacuation system for some of our residents of Capitol Hill and the Avenues.

Both the Sandhurst 2 fire (June 10th) and the Bonneville fire (June 20th) came very close to homes, but luckily there was no real property damage. This is thanks to the conscientious efforts of residents who harden their properties to wildfire effects by brush clearing and creating defensible space landscaping, as well as a coordinated aggressive response from your Salt Lake City Fire crews.

There were challenges to these incidents when outsiders showed up near the fires for photos and a close look. There is high potential for cars and bystanders to impede fire crews and equipment from accessing critical areas or neighborhoods and hamper the ability of affected residents to evacuate should that order come. There were several times when civilian drones were spotted flying near the Bonneville fire, temporarily grounding aviation assets. This is against the law and puts our ground crews and pilots in danger.

As this is early wildfire season, there will certainly be more "Red Flag Warning" days with high winds and low humidity adding to the potential of more foothill fires. The SLCFD is doing all we proactively can to keep neighborhoods and residents safe. Remember, curiosity can cost lives. Trying to get a photo or content isn't worth delaying firefighters. Keep the roads clear for the responders.

Visit <https://avenuescouncil.org/project/wildfire-preparedness/> for more information.



New State History Museum Now Open at the State Capitol *by Kati Miller*

Utah's first state history museum, the Museum of Utah, celebrates our unique history, culture, and art through world class exhibits, programming, and community spaces. An extension of the Utah Historical Society, the Museum fosters curiosity about the past, informs the present, and strengthens our shared future. Housed inside the new North Capitol Building, the Museum of Utah serves as a gateway to the Capitol Complex, engaging visitors as they explore Utah's past and consider their place in shaping Utah's future. The Museum of Utah is free admission, open daily: Monday, 11 am to 8 pm; Tuesday – Thursday, 9 am to 8 pm; Friday – Sunday, 9 am to 6 pm. Learn more on the museum's website: <https://history.utah.gov/museum/>

West High School Construction Update

Get Ready for Back to School! We are excited to host Salt Lake School District officials and their architects from VCBO to give a detailed update on the design and construction of West High School.

They'll provide an update on their timelines, impacts to the local area, their preservation efforts, and even bring in a 3D model of the campus. See more at

https://www.slcschools.org/168271_3.

The Capital Improvement Program (CIP): SLC's Suggestion Box *by Joseph "Jurphy" Murphy*

Do you have an idea of how to improve the city or the Greater Avenues community? Does it cost more than \$50K? Maybe you want to improve Memory Grove? Or want better trails in the Foothills? Or more speed humps in the Avenues?

SLC's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is the method constituents can propose their ideas to be included in the city's annual budget. Come to our August GACC meeting to hear more about the process--as well as some tips and tricks--from a member of the CIP advisory board.

Use the QR code to learn more about the process and timeline. Constituent applications are due at the end of September 2026 for the city's 2028 fiscal year (Jul '27 - Jun '28) budget.



Dangerous Crossing

by Elizabeth Wynne, Avenues resident, age 9

Children from the Avenues cannot cross over to the Wasatch School playground in the summer. This is because South Temple is way too wide and busy for just a child to cross alone without a grownup. One possible solution is opening the pedestrian underpass under South Temple, and adding security that goes through the tunnel to make sure nobody's hiding in it. (The tunnel is currently closed in the summer.) Adding a HAWK light over South Temple at this location is another idea. (A HAWK light is a pedestrian-activated stoplight.)

GACC wants to hear from people in the Avenues if you would also support these ideas, so that City Transportation can be convinced that action is needed here. Please send your thoughts to

gaccchair@avenuescouncil.org. Thank you, Elizabeth



Jewish Community Center

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



IJ & Jeanne Wagner
Jewish Community Center

Free Summer Concert Series

Glitter Bombs Band - Wednesday, August 12 | 6 - 8 pm
JCC East Lawn | Bring Blankets and Chairs
Join us for this free, family-fun event! | Food Truck on Site!

Active Aging Workshop

Seasonal Nutrition for Lifestyle Camp; Performance
Thursday, August 27 | 11 AM | JCC Dance Hall
Free and Open to the Public

Keep Watering Our Trees by Salt Lake City Urban Forestry

Does it make sense to keep watering our trees, even when we are conserving water on our lawns? YES! Lawns can bounce back from dormancy, but our mature neighborhood trees are vital infrastructure that take decades to replace.

Here are the 2 water-wise tips from Urban Forestry to keep our trees thriving:

- **Water Deeply, Not Frequently:** Trees prefer a slow, deep soak rather than quick surface sprays. Mature trees generally only need a deep soak once a week during peak summer.
 - **The Root Zone:** Water the area under the tree's branches (the drip line), not the trunk itself. A hose works better, aim for soaking ground 12" to 18" deep.
- Thank you for helping keep our street green and shaded for everyone!

BONUS: Trees boost our property values: Houses with mature trees typically see a 7% price increase over comparable homes without trees!

<https://www.slc.gov/urban-forestry/>



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Scan the QR code to take the Healthy Heart quiz

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

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Contact newsletterbilling@avenuescouncil.org to get mor information about advertising in our community newsletter.

The Community Kindness Program Winner for July is Noah Swanson!

Noah is nominated by his neighbor, Susan Menconi who said: "I recently witnessed an extraordinary act of selfless assistance from Noah that truly warrants this recognition. On May 17th, my friend found herself in a rather precarious situation while driving. As she was making a right turn from 6th Avenue onto C Street, her vehicle's front passenger tire unexpectedly dropped into a very deep and significant rut positioned right at the edge of the curb. Her car became completely stuck, unable to move, creating a highly stressful and potentially damaging predicament. Noah, who lives in the corner house, immediately offered to help. He was calm and practical. He got out his tools and jacked up her car. He then proceeded to place wooden planks under her car. More people came to help and we were able to push the car out of the rut. Her car was undamaged and she was able to leave and return home. Thank you for considering Noah Swanson for the kindness award." He will receive a \$50 gift card to the Avenues business of his choice!

Note the increase in amount of the award to \$50!!!

Nominate your neighbors, friends, teachers - anyone who is showing care and respect through their service in our community. Winners receive a \$50 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 jennbeck@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

Sweet Library August Events:

Monday-Thursday 10 am - 8 pm
Friday & Saturday - 10 am - 6 pm
Sunday - Closed

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.

Dig Into Science with Mad Science. Saturday, August 8 at 11 am. What is beneath us? Dinosaur fossils, rocks, and ancient people. Come explore in this fun program that ends with Vesuvius erupting!

Storytime Time Celebration. Thurs. Aug 13 10:30 am. Join us at Sweet Library for a storytime celebration! Ages 2-4.

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 - 8 pm.

Adult Calendar

Art Exhibit. Starting on August 17 a new art exhibit, Rebirth & Healing, will be available at the Sweet Branch featuring Nancy Steele-Makasci, a professor of Art at Utah Valley University. The paintings are inspired by Japanese woodblock prints that combine watercolor on paper with the use of Japanese-style hake brushes transforming the absorbent paper into intervals of vibrant colors. The repetitive strokes are both meditative and healing. The exhibit will run through October 3 with a closing reception on that day.

Art Class. Join us on Saturday August 22 at 2 pm with UMOCA to reinvent old glass jars with foam clay, beads and other decorative items. Bring your own glass jar or take one of ours! This event is geared towards adults. While supplies last.

Book Club. The Sweet Reads Book Club will meet on Tuesday, August 25 from 7 - 8 pm in the meeting room to discuss *Broken Country* by Clare Leslie Hall. At the end of the evening, copies for September's book, *The Elements of Marie Curie* by Dava Sobel, will be passed out.

ARUP Blood Drive August 19

Utah State Capitol Main Building
Visitor's Lobby by Conference Room
109, 10 am to 2 pm. To register visit

<https://www.utahblood.org/blood-drive-location> and click on the Utah State Capitol link. All ARUP blood donations go to the University of Utah Hospital System and Huntsman Cancer Center.



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.





www.growtheflowutah.org



Yard Sign Pick-up

Saturday, Aug 8
Willow Pond Park

6059 s Murray Pkwy Ave
(1080 W) - at the gazebo
near the pond

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

suggested \$5 donation



The LakeFree Screenings:

Sept. 1 Broadway Centre
Cinema <https://slfs.org/>

Sept. 3 Westminster College
6PM Register: bit.ly/4xIjNwS

Legislative Water Development Commission Meeting

August 20, 2026 at 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

Room 110 Senate Building

Link to Agenda:

<https://le.utah.gov/Interim/2026/html/00002275.htm>

Link to committee page for live streaming:

<https://le.utah.gov/committee/committee.jsp>

Grow the Flow's strategy depends on more than policy experts and paid staff. It depends on people across Utah building relationships, organizing their communities, and making the lake a priority for their elected leaders.

See more information here:

<https://growtheflowutah.org/2026/08/06/grow-the-flows-grassroots-strategy-and-how-you-fit-in/>

Visit the Great Salt Lake level tracker here:

<https://growtheflowutah.org/laketracker/>



Pink water washes over a Great Salt Lake salt crust in May.
Photo: Rick Bower/AP via AXIOS.com



Next Street Fair committee meeting

Saturday, August 29 at 10:15 a.m.

at the Avenues Library, 455 North F Street

Sign Up to Volunteer at the Street Fair

We need over 200 volunteers on the day before, the day of, and the day after the Fair. See the volunteer job descriptions sign up for shift(s) at the link below.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0444A5A62FAAF9C43-64977244-49th>

Whether you can sign up for one or multiple shifts throughout the weekend, your help makes a big difference.

General Fair info:

Saturday, October 10, 2026

1st Avenue between I and O Streets

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

<https://www.avenuescouncil.org/street-fair>

Email streetfair@avenuescouncil.org with any questions about being part of the Street Fair Planning Committee.



FREE!

**All Concerts
Start at 7 p.m.**

CONCERTS BY THE CREEK Anderson-Foothill Branch

Aug 5 · Karlie McKinnon

Sep 2 · Thistle

Sep 16 · The Alpines

POPLAR GROOVES Chapman Branch

Aug 12 · Gavanni

Sep 9 · Kate MacLeod

RHYTHMS AT RIVERSIDE Day-Riverside Branch

Aug 19 · Sinking About

Sep 16 · Oddfather

MARMALADE JAMS Marmalade Branch

Aug 10 · Sandpaper Beartrap

Sep 14 · J. DOGGESS

SOUNDS OF SUMMER Sprague Branch

Aug 13 · Chaz Prymek

Aug 27 · Erasole James

Sep 10 · Naphthylamine

Sep 24 · Ezequiel Busquets

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CLIMATE CHANGE GROUP SHOW

August 21 - September 11

12:11:13 GALLERY

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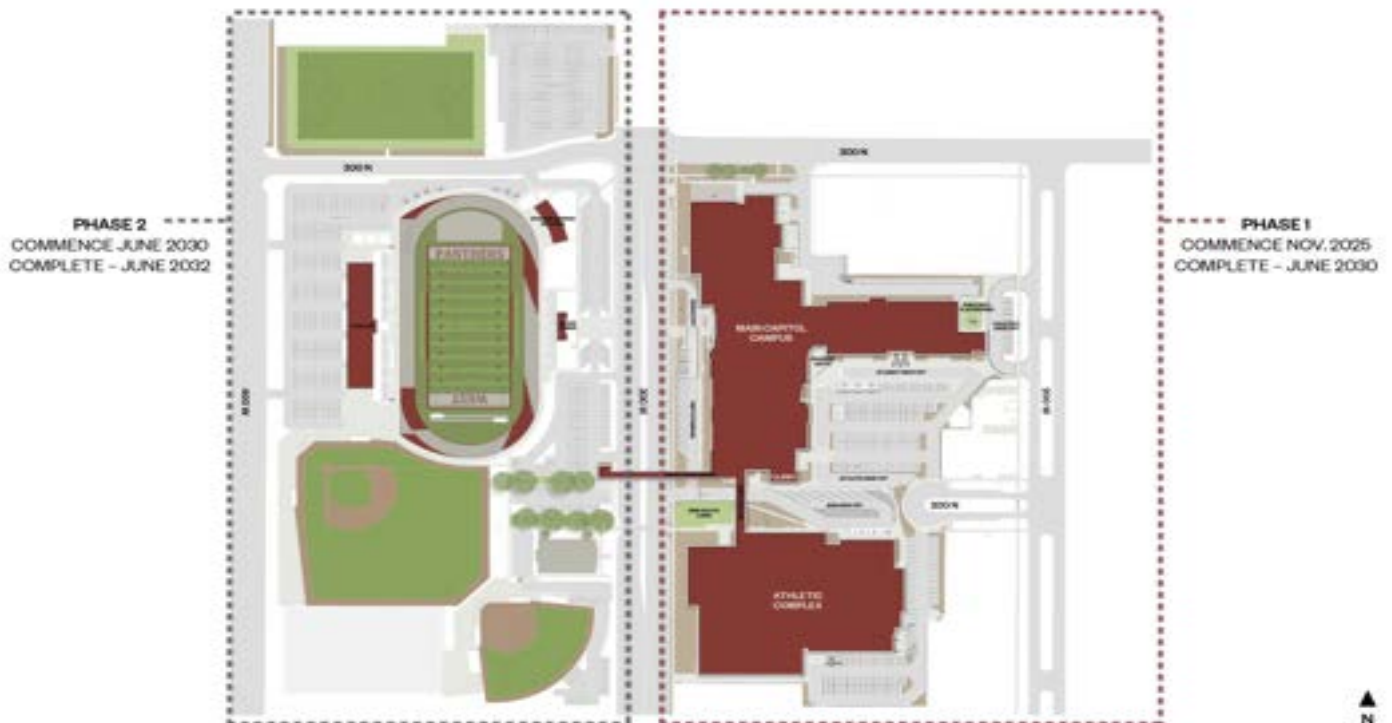

West High School Construction Update

Get Ready for Back to School! Salt Lake School District officials and their architects from VCBO presented a detailed update on the design and construction of what will be the new West High School.

See the renderings below, and more information at https://www.slcschools.org/168271_3



The design for the pedestrian bridge which will cross over 300 West, and the entire front of the school.



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



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

Artists of all ages and abilities who live on the Avenues are invited to enter a work in the People's Art Gallery at the Avenues Street Fair at no cost. Submissions may include paintings, drawings, photography, sculpture or pottery. There will be an Adult and Youth People's Choice Awards selected by Street Fair voters. Artwork will also be professionally judged and prizes awarded in age and ability categories.

The application is available at

www.avenuescouncil.org/street-fair.

The deadline for entries is October 2.

For further information, contact Kathryn Wright at 385-235-9882 or kathrynwright7@gmail.com.



STREET FAIR 2026 SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2026

10 - 5PM · 1st AVENUE I-O STREET

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Apply now → <https://bit.ly/4prmJP>



CALL FOR ARTISTS PEOPLE'S ART GALLERY

We're inviting local artists to show their work in this year's gallery tent. All mediums, all skill levels welcome — painting, photography, textile, sculpture.

Apply now → <https://bit.ly/44oTtFN>



Presented by the Street Fair 2026 Committee
@streetfair2026 www.avenuescouncil.org/street-fair

Neighborhood Whole Foods Plant-based Potluck Luncheon

Saturday, August 29 at Noon

Terrace Falls Condos
Social Room (5th floor)

171 E. 3rd Ave (east entrance)
Everyone is welcome!

Bring healthy whole foods
with minimal oils, salt, and sugar.

We would like to avoid animal products
and refined grains.

Free Neighborhood Meditation Sessions 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,
coffee/tea at 7 am.



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

<https://www.driftingmountainzen.org/>

Art...
OFF THE GRID
AVENUES OPEN STUDIOS



SAVE THE DATES - AVENUES OPEN STUDIOS

The 11th annual Avenues Open Studios takes place Friday, September 18, 2026, from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM, and Saturday, September 19, 2026, from 11:00 AM to 8:00 PM.

This free neighborhood event features 32 local artists and makers showcasing fine art, photography, jewelry, textiles, and handmade crafts directly in their home studios or host Avenues homes!

<https://www.facebook.com/AvenuesOpenStudios/>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/DaObi2Lktpd/>