

## OF THE

# GREATER AVENUES COMMUNITY COUNCIL

# www.slc-avenues.org

May, 2020 Vol. XXIV Issue 5

Representing the Avenues and Federal Heights neighborhoods of Salt Lake City, Utah

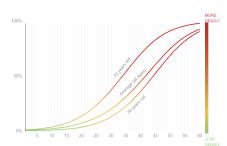
# Chair's Message for May by Laura Cushman

By the time this newsletter hits your mailbox, many of us will have been practicing some version of Stay Home, Stay Safe for 6 weeks. Six weeks! Likely, we will be in some version of social distancing for the foreseeable future, and we all understand that the only thing we can be certain about, is that we can't be certain about anything. The one exception, may be that it is a great time to get outside. With more people working from home, less time commuting and a multitude of businesses closed, the outdoors are more accessible than ever.



I live on a popular pedestrian thoroughfare in the Avenues and one of the joys I have experienced during this challenging time is seeing people out and about, at a safe social distance, of course.

Spring naturally draws people out of their homes and into their neighborhoods after a long break during the winter. It feels easier and more comfortable to walk to the store, waiting for a bus doesn't seem unbearable and runners remember how good the pavement feels beneath their feet. We have a beautiful neighborhood to explore by foot or bike, but I'll admit, all these people out and about worry me. I am worried because drivers in our neighborhood do not follow traffic laws. I'd like to point fingers and say it is the visitors speeding by our driveways and rolling through stop signs, but I've attended enough community council meetings and heard from our District Detective enough times that the biggest traffic law offenders on our streets are Avenues residents. While many of us are spending more time at home, and looking for a bit of fresh air and vitamin D, please remember 2 things: Follow the speed limit and STOP at stops signs. Below is a graph adapted from AAA Foundation that collected data on pedestrian collisions to demonstrate the increase of severity of injury for each mile an hour increase. Put simply, speed kills. Just the difference of 5 mph, can be the difference of a tragic outcome. Today and every day, please adhere to speed limits and put the safety of others first. It's just not worth it.



Now, if you are someone out on foot or bike, here are some things you can do to stay safe, aside from 6-foot spacing. 1. Try to minimize use of your phone while walking. If you must send a text or search for a number, pull to the side, stop, and resume when you

are done. 2. While listening to music, use just one ear bud, so your other ear can listen for voices and vehicles. 3. Stop at every intersection before crossing even if you have the right of way (remember my second request above?). 4. When dark outside, wear lighter colors and use lights that help you see and to be seen. Blinking lights with high lumens are best

Being able to get outside and move about is probably the best escape we have right now, I know it has certainly saved my head most days during this pandemic. Let's try to be safe and care for others by adhering to a couple of things that are certain these days, stop signs and speed limits. *Stay safe!* 

# The May 6th GACC meeting will be virtual!

7:00-7:30: Reports.

7.30-7.40: 2019 Financial - Michael Hughes Treasurer

7:40-8:15: Shireen Ghorbani, SL County Councilwoman,

updates from SL County.

8:15-8:30: Open announcements.

Details will be posted updated at the GACC website https://slc-avenues.org/.

The password and meeting ID will be posted at https://slc-avenues.org/ at 5 p.m. May 6th, the day of the 7 p.m. meeting.

# Letter to our community from the Salt Lake City Mayor

As you may already be aware, Salt Lake County recently released zip-code specific data regarding the spread of COVID-19. What this information seems to show is alarming—there appear to be areas within our city that are being more heavily impacted than others. With over 1,000 confirmed cases in Salt Lake County and ten deaths, I am writing to ask for your assistance in utilizing your unique ability to help communicate the urgency of protecting our vulnerable communities from the spread of this highly contagious disease.

While we know that staying home is the best way to minimize the threat of exposure and spread of the virus, that is not always possible for our residents. When people do go out, to work, recreate, or shop, it is critical to maintain a social distance of six feet or more. Where this is not possible, particularly in workplaces or retail establishments, people

need to wear a cloth face covering or mask.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) cites recent studies that have shown a significant portion of infected individuals do not ever show symptoms but are contagious, and those who eventually do are able to transmit the virus before symptoms arise. Wearing a mask or cloth face cover is advised by the CDC for anyone in areas where distancing is difficult to maintain, especially in areas of significant community-based transmission.

Cloth face coverings can be made from household materials, even t-shirts, and help to both protect from contracting the virus, as well as prevent the spread from individuals who do not know they are sick. The CDC has a helpful website on making cloth face coverings.

If people believe they may have COVID-19 and want to be tested, please refer them to the website testutah.com where they can be

screened and possibly scheduled for a test.

Whatever your opportunity may be as a community leader to spread this urgent information about vulnerable areas in Salt Lake City—be it a pulpit, as a business owner, social media influencer, landlord, school principal, teacher, or community organizer—we ask that you do what you can, as soon as you can.

(cont. on pg.4)





#### **Community Meetings**

If you have questions please contact GACC Chair Laura Cushman at gaccchair@slc-avenues.org. All are welcome!

#### GACC Council Meeting

The May 6th meeting will be virtual! Details will be posted at the GACC website https://slc-avenues.org/. The password and meeting ID will be posted at https://slc-avenues.org/ at 5 p.m. May 6th, the day of the meeting. Meeting will be at 7 p.m.

#### **GACC Board Meeting**

The Board meeting will be Virtual! May 13th, 7 p.m. If you wish to participate send a message to the chair Laura Cushman at gaccchair@slc-avenues.org.

### Community Life / Resources / Free Stuff!

Sweet Branch Library, 455 F Street, 801-594-8651, www.slcpl.org/branches/view/Corinne+and+Jack+Sweet.

Please check the web page at https://about.slcpl.org/sweet for frequent updates.

City Library update: Given the estimated progression of COVID-19, and the need to limit community gatherings, The City Library has determined that we will cancel all programs and events through September 1st.

This decision aligns with guidance from our County and State that stresses the importance of social distancing, and also aligns with the recent decision by the Governor to extend the closure of Salt Lake City public schools through at least May 1, as well as the timeline in the Governor's recently released Utah Leads Together Economic Plan.

City Library's Staff is currently working to develop alternative ways to offer programs and services to our community such as recorded storytimes on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Please check the City Library website frequently for updates at https://services.slcpl.org/.

Neighborhood Avenues Exercise Class, Federal Heights Ward-Building, 278 North Alta Street, East Entrance.

#### The Agenda

Publisher's Statement

The monthly Greater Avenues Community Council newsletter "The Agenda" is mailed free to all residences in the Avenues. This publication is created to conduct the business of the Greater Avenues Community Council. Mail correspondence to P. O. Box 1679, Salt Lake City, UT 84110. For advertising call 801-859-5858 or email newsletter@slc-avenues.org.

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The GACC web page is www.slc-avenues.org.



Mondays and Wednesdays, 8:30 a.m. to 9:40 a.m. FREE! Questions? Renate Nebeker, 801-534-1443, renatenebeker@ gmail.com.

City Academy, 555 E. 200 S., www.cityacademyslc.org, Tuition-free 7th-12th grade public charter school – Personalization, schedule flexibility, real-world learning. Even while the building is closed, we are registering new students for next fall. Visit our website to start the process or call 801-596-8489. Graduation May 30 at 2 p.m.

Tenth East Senior Center, 237 S 1000 E, www/slco.org/aging-adult-services or 385-468-3140 Please call or check the website for updates about hours and activities during the "hiatus" for heath issues. The building is currently closed and activities have been suspended except for lunch. During the closure of Senior Centers, each Senior Center will offer a drive-thru pick-up for the regular lunch. Tenth East Senior Center will offer the drive-thru meal from 11:30 am-1:30 pm, Monday-Friday. Turn into the parking lot and come to the southeast side of the building. Please call 385-468-3140 to reserve a meal. You can still receive a meal without a reservation, but calling ahead helps the staff anticipate number of meals needed. Stay healthy.

**Utah Iris Society** provides FREE access to its shows for bearded irises in May. Sadly the show for early irises has been cancelled. The second show on Saturday, May 23, may still take place. The show will be at the Sugar House Garden Center, 1602 E 2100 S, with the doors open to the public as soon as judging is complete, usually about 1:00 pm. Great opportunity for photographers. The show closes at 5:00. Call 801 209-9225 for an update closer to May 23.

# Call for Artists Avenues Open Studios

Everyone Welcome. Date of Show September 26, 2020. Please call Anne 801-554-9805 or Kim 801-608-8310 for information.

# Learn about *Upcoming* Street Resurfacing in the lower Avenues.

#### Provide Feedback by May 10th.

The draft design will apply to:

D St. from South Temple to 4th Ave.

G St. from South Temple to 3rd Ave.

K St. from South Temple to 3rd Ave.

Please visit: https://www.slc.gov/mystreet/lower-avenues-d-g-k-q. Email: streetresurfacing@slcgov.com Phone: 801-535-6630



# 4th Avenue Well Project Update

Plans are moving steadily ahead. The City held a Virtual Open House on 3-30-2020. For those of you who were not able to join, here is a link to the slide deck that was used during the meeting and a video of the open house itself.

Https://www.slc.gov/utilities/fourth-avenue-well-project/. Https://youtu.be/-mfVBdawO5o.

The next step is for Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities (SLCDPU) with the help of CRSA and Bowen Collins



to submit a packet to the Historic Landmark Commission (HLC) and for the project to get put on the HLC's May 7<sup>th</sup> agenda. HLC meets on the first Thursday of the month so if they don't get on May's agenda they will try for

the June 4<sup>th</sup> agenda. The meetings will be virtual so if you are interested you can access them on these platforms.

Youtube – SLC Live. Meetings SLCtv Channel 17 Live.

The Department of Public Utilities said that they will provide us with more information about



landscaping (planning complete as shown in slides), final sound mitigation, and actual timetable for construction. Sound mitigation has been a difficult point for the neighbors and the city has been working to try to get the sound down to acceptable levels.



The work and dialog continue even during social distancing.

by Jill Van Langeveld

# **Street Surface Treatment Project** in Lower Avenues

Virus or no virus, street construction projects will soon be starting in the lower Avenues. D and Q Streets between S. Temple and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and G and K Streets between S. Temple and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue will receive a surface treatment this summer.

This includes repairs to the pavement, a chip or slurry seal, and restriping. Access and parking will be restricted for a maximum of 6 daytime hours on 1-3 days for each area. There may also be some changes to striping and markings. Those that live along these streets will receive a flyer with more information before the work starts.

Additional information can be found on the project website at www.slc.gov/mystreet/lower-avenues-d-g-k-q. The project team can be reached at streetsurfacing@slcgov.com or 801-535-6630.

by Dave Alderman

# **Utah Department of Health COVID-19 update**



Currently, anyone experiencing flu-like symptoms (which now includes fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, muscle aches and chills, or decreased sense of smell or

taste) should be tested for COVID-19. https://coronavirus.utah.gov/testing-locations/.

# **Memory Grove Cleanup Postponed**

Many of us have developed an increased appreciation and passion for our local parks and trails given our confinement to our homes as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Spring is here, temperatures are warming, and our hillsides are becoming vibrant with green grass and wildflowers. What an incredibly welcoming scene, right?

But, many experts are now saying that six feet may not be enough when we are outside running, biking, and frolicking through the park. Yes, it is true that risk of infection from being outside is low, but introducing strenuous activity to the equation can introduce new risks due to the fact you are breathing heavier. Because of this, the GACC has decided to postpone the 23rd Annual Memory Grove Cleanup, which was scheduled for Saturday, May 9th. For many of you who have participated in the event in the past, you know that planting flowers and trees, transporting mulch, and thinning trees can be a rather strenuous activity.

The Memory Grove Cleanup is a wonderful neighborhood event which includes hundreds of volunteers, LDS Hospital, and the City of Salt Lake City, and we are saddened to postpone, but each other's safety is the top priority. As the situation evolves, our Board will meet and assess the potential to reschedule the event if it is safe enough to do so.

Thank you for understanding, and please watch for future updates.

Check this website for info on how to be safe and keep others safe while running: https://www.npr.org/2020/04/13/833242474/how-runners-can-keep-themselves-and-others-safe-during-the-pandemic.

by Brian Berkelbach - e. berkelba@gmail.com - c. (609) 425-2169

# **2020 Spring Plant Sale Fundraiser**



The Best Little Plant Sale in Utah is being re-imagined to keep our community healthy!

Pick up times being planned for May 6-10 (subject to change), 9 am - 5 pm (subject to change), Green Phoenix Farm, 622 W. 100 S., SLC. Huge variety of tomatoes, including dwarf varieties, a large selection of annual vegetables, and organic herbs, seed potatoes and onion starts. Curbside pick up or delivery option (for additional fee). We are working to accept SNAP EBT benefits (food stamps) Your purchase supports WCG's community garden and education programs.

For more information please visit: https://wasatchgardens.org/news-and-events/events/item/6-spring-plant-sale#how-to-plant-sale.

#### Air Quality - Winter Inversion or Summer Ozone

We made it through our annual Winter Inversion Season relatively unscathed with just a few short episodes. Now we can relax our efforts until next November. Right? Afraid not! We are now beginning our Season of Summer Ozone.

Utah has a summer time air quality problem called ozone that is just as harmful as our wintertime inversions. In fact, because we can't see it, feel it, or taste it, like inversions, ozone can be even more dangerous.

Wait a minute, isn't ozone supposed to be good? It is only "good" if it is in the right place. Salt Lake City, like the rest of the world, not only benefits from having a strong ozone layer in the atmosphere, but we need it to survive. On the other hand, ozone near the surface causes serious health risks for our children, the elderly, those with health concerns and all the rest of us as well.

A typical hot summer day with stagnant air is the perfect recipe for ozone. Cooking all the emissions from the day together by the hot sun makes the afternoon a difficult or even dangerous place for your lungs. Long-term exposure to ozone can be like a sunburn on the lungs. Short term exposure can make breathing more difficult.

Ground Level Ozone is formed when hydrocarbons (also known as volatile organic compounds or VOCs) and nitrogen oxides (NOx) chemically react in the presence of sunlight and heat. As temperatures change throughout the day so do the levels of ozone. The air quality is generally better in the mornings, so taking advantage of any opportunity to shift outdoor activity to morning hours is a good move.

#### How do these chemicals get into our air?

- NOx is produced from the reaction of nitrogen and oxygen gases in the air during combustion. When nitrogen is released during fuel combustion it combines with oxygen atoms to create nitric oxide (NO). This further combines with oxygen to create nitrogen dioxide (NO2). Nitric oxide is not considered to be hazardous to health at typical ambient concentrations, but nitrogen dioxide can be. Nitrogen dioxide and nitric oxide are referred to together as oxides of nitrogen (NOx). Nitrogen oxides are emitted by automobiles, power plants and other combustion processes.
- VOCs are emitted from automobiles, gasoline stations, paint, degreasers, cleaning fluids, and many other sources. The EPA site also includes: wood preservatives, aerosol sprays, stored fuels, glues, adhesives, permanent markers, dry-cleaning clothing, pesticides, building materials, home furnishings, copiers and printers, correction fluids, even carbonless paper.

#### Now that you know we have the problem, what can we do to help?

There are no perfect answers, but there are practical solutions. The first thing we can do is limit our own emissions of NOx and VOCs that are precursors to ozone. Our largest personal emission source is our automobiles. We can reduce our mobile emissions by following <u>TravelWise</u> -- taking transit, carpooling, trip chaining, being idle free, reducing the number of cold-starts your car has, and maintaining proper tire pressure -- just like you've been doing all winter. When the weather is nice out, you can, look for opportunities to walk, ride a scooter or bike, or join Bike Utah in biking all over the state.

At home, you can open your windows and use fans while turning off your air conditioning – this will limit the amount of emissions your home produces. For some people with seasonal allergies, this may not be an option. When using solvents at home (1) read label instructions carefully, (2) throw away partially full containers of old or unneeded chemicals safely, and (3) buy limited quantities. Remember the containers leak fumes even when you think you have the lid on very tight.

Also, look to purchase electric lawn equipment, or upgrade your gas can to an EPA approved gas can. The emissions saved from replacing 1000 old gas cans with the EPA approved cans is the equivalent of taking 108 cars off the road every day for five years.

Finally, download the <u>UtahAir app</u> from the Utah Department of Environmental Quality. This app will give you daily forecasts, to allow you to monitor and understand what is going on in our area. <u>KSLWeather app</u> is also helpful to see when and where the pollution is.

For us to be successful, we all must work together. Find something that you can do today and, by working together, we will make the air cleaner so we can all breathe easier.

Sources: EPA and Utah Division of Air Quality websites.

by Jill Van Langeveld



#### Mayor's letter cont. from pg.1

Please, feel free to call or email my office to share with us the needs and opportunities you see in your community. My office's contact information, Salt Lake City-related FAQs, and resources for COVID-19 can be found here.

I sincerely appreciate your leadership and assistance during this unprecedented time to help keep our people and communities safe.

Thank you,

Mayor Erin Mendenhall 801-535-7743, Erin.mendenhall@slcgov.com



# Flush Only Toilet Paper – another problem because of hoarding due to Covid-19



On Wednesday March 25, 2020 the Utah Department of Environmental Quality's Division of Water Quality, the Water Environment Association of Utah and the Wasatch Front Water

Quality Council issued a press release to remind residents of the hazards posed by flushing wet wipes, paper towels and napkins down the toilet.

The flushed products have caused an increase in backedup toilets and overflowing sewer lines in Utah. Even wipes marketed as "flushable" will clog pipes, the release stated.

Erica Gaddis, Director of Utah's Division of Water Quality, said in a prepared statement: It is critical that people help protect the integrity of Utah's wastewater infrastructure during the coronavirus public health emergency. Wet wipes, napkins and paper towels do not break down as easily as toilet paper and can clog the system. It is important that residents only flush regular toilet paper down the drain.

Unlike toilet paper - which dissolves easily in liquids - wipes and paper towels absorb moisture and survive through miles of sewer pipes to sewage treatment plants. There, at the treatment

plant, they clog pumps and other equipment.

"Please be aware that flushing anything other than the '3 Ps' (pee, poop and toilet paper) can cause problems with sewage collection and treatment," said Giles Demke, President of the Water Environment Association of Utah, which represents some 500 wastewater professionals, in the news release.

Clogged and overflowing sewers are not only a problem for residents dealing with a backed-up line in their home. Failures

at sewage treatment plants can result in overflows and spills into lakes, rivers and reservoirs where the sewage can harm public health and the environment, the release said.

by Jill Van Langeveld

### Water Check: Save Water, Save Your Landscape, Save Money

There is a lot going on this spring that seems far more important than saving water. But while it may feel we can't do much about earthquakes and COVID-19, we absolutely have the capacity to conserve water. With this in mind, have you thought about getting a free Water Check?

The Water Check program is a free service designed to reduce water use while maintaining landscape health and beauty.

The service is offered to homeowners, property owners, and property managers with in-ground, pressurized lawn sprinkler systems through a partnership with Utah State University, the Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake & Sandy and the SLCPU's Conservation Program. The Water Check program helps people conserve water and strives to enhance landscapes by teaching homeowners and property managers how to conserve water and avoid the detrimental impacts of overwatering.

Water Check teams practice social distancing and reports are delivered electronically, so everyone stays safe while learning how to use less water.

Schedule a free Water Check! Visit www.cwel.usu.edu.
To learn more ways to save water, visit www.slc.gov/utilities/conservation.

Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities Stephanie Duer, Water Conservation Programs stephanie.duer@slcgov.com.

# WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

We appreciate the generosity of so many who are reaching out, seeking ways to support the COVID-19 response. Challenging times like these are inspiring untold acts of generosity, large and small. We're looking out for each other – especially the most vulnerable.

#### HERE ARE SOME WAYS YOU CAN HELP: Donate to the Rapid Response Fund

Intermountain has created a fund to help ensure we have a ready source of flexible funding to meet crisis needs, both now and in the future. Today, the fund helps cover outlays for equipment to protect the health of our caregivers, testing for COVID-19, virus research and treatment, and other needs specific to this pandemic. You can make a donation on our COVID-19 web page.

#### Share a Note to Our Caregivers

Our caregivers are working in heroic ways during this pandemic. Your notes of gratitude are tremendously appreciated and provide muchneeded "emotional boosts." Feel free to post signs around our campus or send a message to our caregivers on our COVID-19 web page.

#### Make a Non-Cash Donation

Due to the surge in need, Intermountain Healthcare is currently accepting donations of medical-grade Personal Protection Equipment (PPEs) and other industrial-grade hospital supplies helpful in an emergency. If you have a business or represent a company that might have such items, please contact Becky Lloyd at 801-442-3338 or becky. Iloyd@imail.org.

**Please note:** Intermountain is following CDC recommendations to keep our patients and caregivers safe. Due to risks related to exposure and infection, homemade masks and donations such as toys, blankets, stuffed animals, or other physical items are not being accepted at this time. Instead, please consider giving online.

#### Socially Engage

During this time of social distancing, we encourage you to find new ways to stay connected to friends, family, and community. Please help spread correct information to your networks and social media channels. You can find accurate and current information on our COVID-19 web page.

Visit our COVID-19 web page for more information.

Go to IntermountainHealthcare.org and click on the COVID-19 button.





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For more information about Coronavirus (and other health topics), visit Idshospital.org/healthyliving



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# Important dated material. Please deliver in-home by April 30.

Greater Avenues Community Council thanks LDS Hospital for their generous sponsorship of our activities. We encourage your support of these events and businesses who give their support to the Greater Avenues Community Council.

