



the  
**WEST VIEW**



- Celebrating the lives and accomplishments of two outstanding west-side women.

Pages 12 & 13

# Welcome back

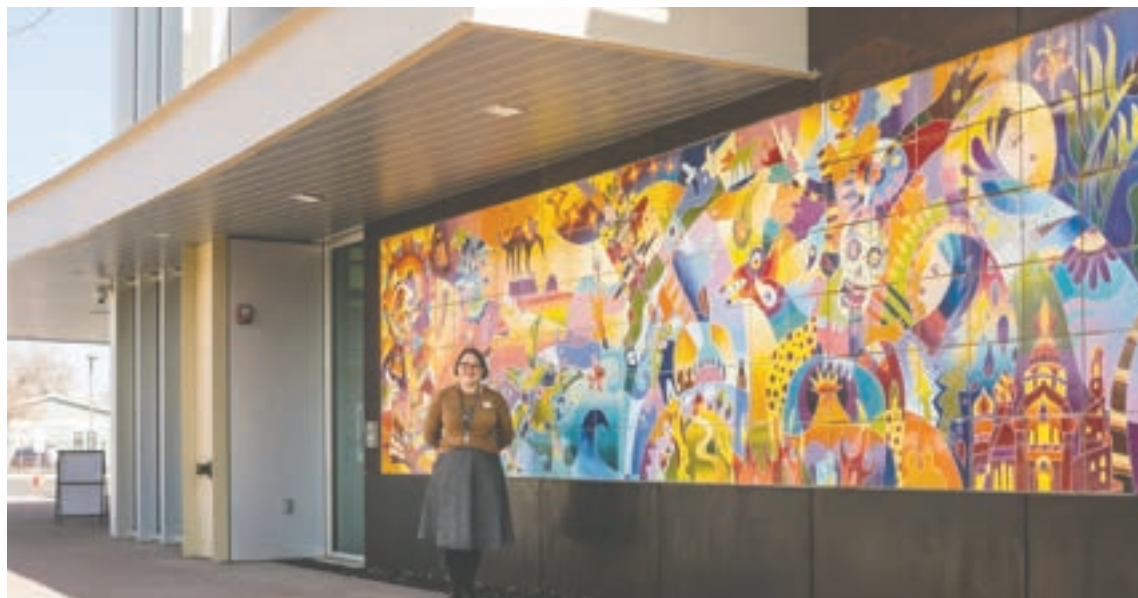


PHOTO BY DAVID RICKETTS

Brooke Young, manager of the Salt Lake City Glendale Branch Library, is excited to begin welcoming back members of the public to the library after many months of closed doors.

## Libraries open doors to visitors after long COVID-19 shutdown

By Janice Evans

No one could have imagined that Salt Lake City libraries would be closed to the public for the better part of a year. The libraries tried to re-open last fall, but when COVID-19 cases spiked, they had to shut down again. Now, they're open for limited use as of March 15. Patrons can spend up to an hour at a time in the libraries.

Many members of the community rely on libraries to get critical work done – to pay bills, make insurance claims, file court documents or apply for jobs. During the pandemic, those services were largely interrupted, even as demand persisted or

even compounded.

Day-Riverside Branch Manager Erin Mendoza said her usual patrons are among the most vulnerable in the city as they work in the “service industries” and risked daily exposure to the COVID virus.

Mendoza also said patrons who are homeless, who are always vulnerable, were even more destitute after the pandemic forced libraries to close their doors to the public. “They needed a safe, warm place to go, and when we had to shut down, they literally had no place else to go,” said Mendoza.

**See Libraries, page 6**

## International Market to open at Utah State Fairpark this summer

By Sheena Wolfe

A public market, called the Fairpark International Market, is scheduled to open at the Utah State Fairgrounds in June, and area residents are asked to help establish products, events and classes at the new venue.

The grand opening is scheduled for June 3-6 at the Fairpark's Barn 9, located on the south side of the fairgrounds on North Temple just west of the Fairpark rail station. A new pedestrian entrance to the market is scheduled to be installed directly across from the station.

“The Fairpark has a long history of providing community events,” said Larry Mullenax, the Utah State Fairpark Executive Director. “We envision the International Market to be a place where people can come together to shop, talk, listen to music, eat, play chess, attend classes on various subjects including nutrition and enjoy public art.”

Approximately 20 businesses will be operating inside Barn 9 during the opening months and more will be added as customers and neighbors give input of what they would like to see at the market.

The current bookings include

fresh produce from area growers, meat products, arts and crafts, boutique items and innovative new products. In addition to the shops inside Barn 9, an outdoors area will include covered eating and gathering spaces, food trucks and small concert stages.

Community members who would like to participate in planning future vendors and events or give comments on the market can do so online at [www.Utah-StateFair.com](http://www.Utah-StateFair.com), said Mullenax. There will be links for vendor applications, public comments and voting on seven possible logos for the market.

“We want this market to be reflective of the surrounding neighborhoods' needs,” said Mullenax. “We hope to encourage everyone who may want to play a role in the future of the neighborhood to get involved in creating our very own outdoor safe space for everyone to enjoy.”

As the market grows, Mullenax expects barns adjacent to Barn 9 to also host vendors and activities, and he hopes to see the market successful enough to be open year-round. “We are lucky to be a part of such an incredible community,” he said. “Our intention is to get started and then

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**OUR MISSION**

To increase awareness of west-side issues through local journalism that informs, engages and connects diverse communities in Salt Lake City.

**OUR VISION**

Through a commitment to social justice and increasing civic participation we create a more informed, engaged and equitable community.

**ABOUT US**

*The West View* is a product of West View Media, a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) community news organization that offers an authentic look into Salt Lake City's West Side through stories written primarily by community members.

Published quarterly, *The West View* is mailed to 22,000 homes and businesses throughout the Fairpark, Glendale, Rose Park, Westpointe, Jordan Meadows and Poplar Grove neighborhoods. An additional 2,000 copies are hand-distributed to local businesses and public spaces in nearby areas.

**STORY SUBMISSIONS**

If you would like to contribute a story to *The West View*, please pitch your story idea to our Community Newsroom by sending an email to: editors@westviewmedia.org. Include your full name, address and phone number. You will be invited to attend a Community Newsroom meeting to discuss story ideas and to receive feedback from newsroom participants.

*The West View* reserves the right to edit all submissions and letters for libel, slander, clarity and length. All submissions become the property of *The West View* upon publishing.

**TO GIVE FEEDBACK**

West View Media welcomes comments, suggestions, and corrections. Contact editors@westviewmedia.org or Executive Director Turner Bitton at turner@westviewmedia.org or 801-564-3860.

**from the editors**

**By Charlotte Fife-Jepperson and Rob Ware**

While building this issue of *The West View*, we found ourselves returning frequently to a discussion of diversity. We hear over and over from community members that cultural diversity is one of the most beautiful things about Salt Lake City's west side. Even the mayor's recent report card lauds diversity as a marker of community growth and strength.

But how is diversity a source of growth and strength? We assert that diversity for diversity's sake is not valuable as an end in and of itself. However, the diversity of cultures represented on the west side can be a constant reminder that no set of experiences or specific cultural background is inherently superior to any other. Every community member is entitled to dignity, respect and opportunity; however, we recognize an undeniable inequality in access to those things.

Discrimination against Black and Indigenous people, immi-



grants and other people of color, has existed in the Salt Lake valley since before our west-side neighborhoods were established – on Goshute, Ute and Shoshone land.

As a society, we've recently made progress in recognizing that history of discrimination, but as 99-year-old Poplar Grove resident,

Mrs. Florence "Honey" Lawrence, said in an interview for this issue, "We have only made slight progress" towards equality over the past 70-plus years. "If there are still incidents [of hate and racism] happening, how can we call that progress?" she said.

We must recognize that our playing field is not equal, even on the west side, because some of us began the game with certain advantages that come with the color of our skin, the language we speak, our religious beliefs, or certain documents we obtained by chance at birth. We believe that, in a moral society, it is incumbent on all of us to help secure equality for all. This is especially true for those who enjoy a position of relative privilege.

Let us not look the other way when we see harmful policies, acts and even symbolic gestures of hate. Let us admit when we make mistakes. If we truly appreciate our community's diversity, let us work harder to address the inequities by making changes in the systems of our organizations and institutions to build a community that is welcoming and prosperous for all.

**de los editores**

**Por Charlotte Fife-Jepperson y Rob Ware  
 Interpretado por Vicky Lowe**

Mientras ensamblamos este número de *The West View*, nos encontramos regresando con frecuencia al tema de la diversidad. Escuchamos una y otra vez a los miembros de la comunidad decir que la diversidad cultural es una de las cosas más hermosas del lado oeste de Salt Lake City. Incluso, el reciente reporte del alcalde sobre las calificaciones de la comunidad elogia nuestra diversidad como un indicador del crecimiento y la fortaleza. Pero, ¿cómo es la diversidad una fuente de crecimiento y

fortaleza? Afirmamos que la diversidad solo por el bien de la diversidad no es un fin valioso en sí mismo. Sin embargo, la diversidad de culturas representadas en el lado oeste puede ser un recordatorio constante de que ningún conjunto de experiencias o culturas específicas es inherentemente superior a cualquier otro. Todo miembro de la comunidad tiene derecho a la dignidad, respeto y oportunidad; Sin embargo, reconocemos una innegable desigualdad en el acceso a esos derechos.

La discriminación contra personas negras e indígenas, inmigrantes y otras personas de color, ha existido en el valle de Salt Lake desde antes de que se establecieran

an nuestros vecindarios del lado oeste – en tierras Goshute, Ute y Shoshone.

Como sociedad, hemos avanzado recientemente en el reconocimiento de esa historia de discriminación, pero como la residente de Poplar Grove de 99 años, la Sra. Florence "Honey" Lawrence, dijo en una entrevista para esta publicación, "Solo hemos logrado un ligero progreso" hacia la igualdad durante los últimos 70 años o más. "Si todavía hay incidentes [de odio y racismo], ¿cómo podemos llamar a eso progreso?" expresó.

Debemos reconocer que nuestro campo de juego no es igual, incluso

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**From EDITORES, page 2**

en el lado oeste, porque algunos empezamos el juego con ciertas ventajas que vienen con el color de nuestra piel, el lenguaje que hablamos, nuestras creencias religiosas, o ciertos documentos que obtuvimos oportunamente al nacer. Nosotros creemos que, en una sociedad moral, nos incumbe a todos ayudar a asegurar la igualdad para todos. Esto es especialmente cierto para aquellos que disfrutan de una posición de privilegio relativo.

No miremos para otro lado cuando veamos políticas, actos e incluso gestos nocivos simbólicos de odio. Admitamos cuando cometemos errores. Si realmente apreciamos la diversidad de nuestra comunidad, trabajemos más duro para abordar las desigualdades mediante la

realización de cambios en los sistemas de nuestras organizaciones e instituciones para construir una comunidad favorable y próspera para todos.



PHOTO BY CHARLOTTE FIFE-JEPPERSON

## COVID-19 vaccine rollout underway

Longtime Glendale resident, Reed Riddle, gets the second dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine at the Mountain America Expo Center. Vaccinations are free and will be available without age restrictions or medical qualifiers after April 1.

For information, visit [slco.org/health/COVID-19/vaccine](http://slco.org/health/COVID-19/vaccine). To schedule a vaccination, call 385-468-7469 or visit [vaccinefinder.org](http://vaccinefinder.org). UTA is offering free fares on all transit modes to and from vaccination appointments through June 30. Riders must show an appointment confirmation when boarding. For information, call 801-RIDE-UTA.

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**BUDGET**  
PRESUPUESTO

# New city program facilitates stewardship of natural spaces

By Cody Egan

Salt Lake City has launched a new interactive calendar to help residents engage with events hosted through the Trails and Natural Lands Division's (TNLD) Volunteer Stewardship Program. This program aims to inspire investment and care in shared natural spaces and foster an inclusive community by providing volunteer opportunities at local nature areas.

Many of the new calendar's upcoming events take place at locations on Salt Lake City's west side, including the Jordan River Trail and the 9-Line Bike Park. Activities include clean-up days, trail workdays, habitat restoration and dig days for the bike park. Since the structured volunteer events will be held outside, most events are scheduled between April and October.

**More engaged residents can participate in proactive stewardship activities, serving "as the eyes, ears, and ambassadors" for sites that they visit regularly.**

Residents of all backgrounds are encouraged to participate, and mixing demographics is a hopeful byproduct of the calendar events. Joseph Peterson, Communications Specialist for the TNLD, noted that the activities are also opportunities to connect with someone through manual labor, which doesn't typi-



PHOTO COURTESY OF SALT LAKE CITY PUBLIC LANDS

Volunteers walk toward the Bend in the River section along the Jordan River Parkway Trail in Glendale.

cally require people speaking the same language. He suggests it's an excellent opportunity for diverse neighborhoods to work together towards a common goal, overcoming the language barrier that may otherwise prevent connections between neighbors of different backgrounds.

Katie Riser, Volunteer, Outreach and Education Coordinator for the

TNLD, notes that to promote volunteer safety to participants in these events, the city has taken several necessary precautions to minimize the possible spread of COVID-19. Group events will be limited in size, and all meetings will be conducted outside. Additionally, residents can participate in various events that range from very minimal human interaction to events with a small

group of volunteers.

More engaged residents can participate in proactive stewardship activities, serving "as the eyes, ears, and ambassadors" for sites that they visit regularly. Riser notes that if you are a regular walker, biker or kayaker on the Jordan River or Jordan River Trail, then the program wants your feedback as a Volunteer Steward.

Volunteer Stewardship activities include periodically taking photographs to document changes, completing written reports, performing minor maintenance, talking to neighbors and visitors and alerting TNLD staff of unwanted uses or issues that need attention.

In addition to the Volunteer Stewardship Program and event calendar, the TNLD often reaches out to local community councils for input, volunteer opportunities and other acts of community engagement. There are currently six west-side community councils providing venues for west-side residents to protect natural lands in their communities, and each council is open to participation in any way its community members are comfortable doing so.

The new volunteer calendar can be found at <https://www.slc.gov/stewardship>. Those interested in participating can also view and sign up for these events by downloading the Golden Volunteer Opportunities App.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SALT LAKE CITY PUBLIC LANDS

Cyclist takes to the dirt jumps at Poplar Grove's 9Line Bike Park, part of the city's Trails and Natural Lands division, which relies on volunteers to help change up and maintain.

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## Hello Westside!

The Salt Lake City Council set aside money to collaborate with homeless outreach providers and other service providers to assist with outreach and cleaning the North Temple area. Financial assistance is available to help with biowaste and sharps removal on private property. You may request clean-up services by downloading the SLC Mobile phone app or by calling 801-535-6402.

It is especially important that everyone has a warm place to stay with winter upon us. Salt Lake City is working with the Salt Lake Valley Coalition to End Homelessness to open a shelter for the winter months. Learn more about the efforts to prevent and end homelessness at [homelessutah.org](http://homelessutah.org).

## ¡Hola vecinos!

El Concejo Municipal de Salt Lake City apartó dinero para colaborar con proveedores de servicios sociales para personas sin hogar y con otros proveedores de servicios para asistir con la promoción y limpieza del área de North Temple. Asistencia financiera está disponible para ayudar con la eliminación de desechos biológicos y materiales filosos en propiedad privada. Puede pedir servicios de limpieza descargando la aplicación móvil de SLC o llamando al 801-535-6402.

Con el invierno a la vuelta de la esquina es especialmente importante que todos tengan un lugar cálido en donde descansar. Salt Lake City está trabajando con Salt Lake Valley Coalition to End Homelessness para abrir un refugio estos meses de invierno. Para mantenerse informado visite: [homelessutah.org](http://homelessutah.org).

## Community resources to explore if you or someone you know is facing the risk of homelessness:

### Recursos de la comunidad que puede explorar si usted o alguien que conoce se enfrenta al riesgo de la falta de hogar:

#### Salt Lake City Housing Stability Program and Rapid Rehousing: Programa de Estabilidad de Vivienda y Reubicación Rápida de Salt Lake City:

- Rental Assistance / Asistencia con el Alquiler:
  - Asian Association of Utah: 801-467-6060
  - Catholic Community Services: 801-363-7710
  - Utah Community Action: 801-359-2444
- Mortgage Assistance / Asistencia de Hipoteca
  - Community Development Corporation of Utah: 801-994-7222
  - NeighborWorks Salt Lake: 801-539-1590
- Rapid Rehousing / Reubicación Rápida
  - The Road Home: 801-359-4142

State of Utah and Salt Lake County Rental Assistance available. Learn more by calling 2-1-1. Asistencia con el alquiler del Estado de Utah y del Condado de Salt Lake también está disponible. Aprenda más al respecto llamando al 2-1-1.



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## From Library, page 1

One encounter that both sobered and gratified Glendale Branch Manager Brooke Young was her experience helping a woman who was living in her car. “She managed to get a job, but she needed to fax at least a dozen documents to a number of government agencies and to a non-profit organization willing to help her with some of her rent at her new apartment,” Young said.

Patty Steed is another veteran Salt Lake City librarian who was forced to balance pandemic precautions and library services. Today, she serves as the branch manager of the venerable Chapman Library, now celebrating 103 years in operation. “While our community was disappointed when we had to shut down, they were also very supportive and understood the necessity,” said Steed. “This community, which is somewhere between 50-60% Latino, was hit hardest during the pandemic.”

At all the branches, library staff have tried to find other ways to be helpful.

Through the early months of COVID, all the branches’ staff

learned to connect creatively with each other and with their patrons. For example, all city branches offered take-home craft kits called “Take and Makes” with projects such as pillow, magnet, and macramé plant holder kits.

Those innovations also extend to more traditional library services, and are often as simple as a phone call. “People can call and tell us ‘I have a three year old who’s interested in trucks – do you have any picture books in Spanish about trucks?’ and we’ll gather 20 books on trucks and have it ready so they can pick up the sack of books,” said Young. Unsurprisingly, ebook check-outs have “gone through the roof.”

Young said during these troubled times, they also got some much-needed help. “We received a large federal grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Science to hire digital navigators – to start to close the digital gap that the community has,” she said. “They meet people and help them find hot spots and low-cost internet. We’ve now given out more than 200 laptops and we’re still helping our families get access to digital services.”

“But one thing that has been surprising and gratifying is how much people love and miss the library, and how much they want our physical materials,” said Young. “They want the books, they want the DVDs and they miss the meeting spaces.”

Over the past year, it has been unusually quiet in the Glendale Branch. Young and her team miss all the kids who used to hang out at the Glendale Library afterschool and worry about the older adults who used to come in and read the papers every morning and catch up with their friends.

Because the Glendale Branch is close to at least six schools – including elementary and secondary schools – students typically come to the library and wait for their parents to get off work and pick them up.

“Having 150 kids in this library every day is a blessing and a curse. There’s an incredibly loud wall of noise,” she said. “When other patrons come in, they don’t appreciate it, but they put up with it.”

In contrast, Chapman is more of an old-fashioned, quiet library.

During the shut-down, Chapman staff began serving a cou-



PHOTO BY DAVID RICKETTS

Glendale Branch Manager Brooke Young and staff, Saia Langi and Maria Campos, help a mother and her kids check out books on March 15, the day the library started welcoming patrons back.

ple that visited the library every Wednesday to pick up books. The staff loads books, mostly fiction, in one bag for the wife and one for her husband. “She climbs up the stairs and knocks on the door,” Steed said. “Sometimes her husband is waiting for her in their car. I look forward to having them in the library again.”

Steed described another older patron, who “had struggled with ordering DVDs online, pre-pandemic. Now, she’s a pro! She uses the app on her phone.”

Steed and her colleagues at the other west-side branches said they can’t wait for the ‘new normal,’ and they appreciate now more than ever that their work not only provides books, DVDs and craft kits, but also much-needed social connection.

At the Day-Riverside Branch, Mendoza said that before the pandemic a number of older adults would visit the library every morning. “They would come in to read the newspapers and socialize with their friends,” she said. “Frankly, I’m worried about some of them, because the library is often the only time of their day when they’re

not alone.”

All three branch managers said they’ve learned a lot and that the brainstorming and innovations will serve these communities in the future.

Like the other west-side libraries, Steed and her team serve their very diverse communities with technical support. Before the libraries opened back up on March 15, the Chapman staff used the COVID down time to set up computers, printers, fax machines and other tech gear to provide for safe social distancing.

The computers and printers are set up on tables that were built 100 years ago, along with the shelves that hold books, DVDs, newspapers and magazines. Like all public libraries, tax forms are available through April 15, along with staff to help fill out and file tax forms.

She concluded by finding a silver lining in these opportunities to improve infrastructure and processes. “When the COVID pandemic passes and it’s safe for all of us to gather in the library, I think we’ll retain some of the innovations that we came up with.”



PHOTO BY DAVID RICKETTS

Erin Mendoza, Day-Riverside Branch manager, poses in front of the library. She and her staff miss having patrons in the library every day.



COURTESY OF STATE FAIRPARK

Above is a rendering of the Fairpark International Market to open in June. Businesses selling meats, produce, boutique items and art will be inside Utah State Fair Building 9 – located on North Temple. Outside there will be food trucks, covered eating and gathering areas, and at least one stage for small concerts or dancing.

## From Market, page 1

build on success.”

The Fairpark International Market has been in the planning stages since 2019 when the Salt Lake City Redevelopment Agency contracted a feasibility study that indicated Fairpark was a viable spot for a market and could initially draw 2,000 people a day. The Westside Coalition – a group of community leaders focused on advocating for the health, wellness and quality of life of west-side residents – lobbied for the public market to be held at the Fairpark, and the project was endorsed by the Salt Lake City Council in December of 2020 as a needed commodity.

In addition to the new public market, the management of the state fairgrounds is currently putting together a new masterplan for future programming and events. Community residents will have an opportunity to participate in this process at a later date to be announced on the State Fair website.

**“We want this market to be reflective of the surrounding neighborhoods’ needs”**

**Larry Mullenax**  
Executive Director of Utah State Fairpark

The Fairpark International Market will be open from 2-10:30 p.m. on June 3-6, June 17-20, July 8-22 and July 29 - August 1. The planned operating hours are from 2-10:30 p.m. in order to avoid competition with other similar city venues and events which generally operate during the morning and early afternoon.



PHOTO BY SHEENA WOLFE

Utah State Fairpark Executive Director Larry Mullenax stands in a kitchen that can be used by local residents to qualify as food items for retail marketing at the Fairpark International Market to open in June.

# Excellence in the Community free concert series survives online

By Michael Evans

Excellence in the Community has presented live concerts throughout Northern Utah for over two decades, but their last live concert in Salt Lake City was with Dee Dee Darby Duffin on March 15, 2020.

Because of the pandemic, they cancelled concerts in Ogden and Salt Lake, and one in Price was scuttled the same day as the show. (Executive Director Jeff Whitely confirmed that despite the late cancellation, “We paid the band, it wasn’t their fault.”)


Excellence tested an online show on March 25, 2020, paused for lockdown, and resumed on April 16, settling on live-streamed performances on Wednesday and Saturday nights throughout the pandemic. Excellence in the Community presented 106 concerts in 2020, mostly streamed after April, in addition to an exceptional series of four live “Drive In Concerts” in Holladay during the summer.

The live stream crew includes Whitely, video specialist Will Larson, Austin Meeks of Taylor Audio, Carter Madsen, Jesse Burrup, pho-




PHOTO BY LEX ANDERSON


Technician's view of Gallivan Hall during a live streaming concert, upstairs above the ice skating rink at the Gallivan Center in Downtown Salt Lake City.



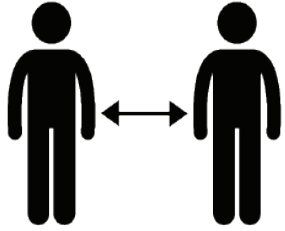
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tographer Lex Anderson, and Adrian Miller.

“We try to keep [staff numbers] extremely low. We work very closely with city and county health regulations — nobody gets into the Gallivan Center without wearing a mask. Forehead temperatures are scanned for everybody,” said Whitley, detailing precautionary measures taken due to the pandemic.

In the performance area, artists are spaced six feet apart and masks stay on unless performing or rehearsing. Other measures include hand sanitizer, contact-tracing forms and even limits on the number of performers. “We think in quintets. Occasionally we’ll have six,” said Whitley, noting that the streaming team has “problems with spacing and camera angles if there are more people.”

Despite presenting obvious issues for live music, the pandemic has also provided some new opportunities. “Vedrana Subotic, a Music professor at the University of Utah, had previously lined up an Intermezzo Chamber Music Series for the sum-

mer at Westminster College’s theater,” said Whitley. “They couldn’t allow the public gathering, so she gave us a call to see if we could make something happen.” That something was initially six Monday night concerts, and the partnership has continued with one Intermezzo concert per month.

While Intermezzo includes members of the Utah Symphony, Excellence has also presented some very successful shows working with Paula Fowler of Utah Opera, demonstrating the series’ — and the venue’s — versatility. “The Gallivan Center is a quality venue. Daynes Music has provided the seven-foot Steinway,” Whitley proudly states. “We’re very grateful to have a platform that allows us to work with musicians to give them a chance to perform, and we believe in the healing and transformative power of music.”

Despite the increase in classical programming, jazz continues to contribute to the success of Excellence. The series features world-class players who teach at Utah’s

colleges and universities, like Corey Christiansen from Utah State and Phil Kuehn from Snow College. West High School graduate and sax-master Ray Smith also performs regularly, as does his colleague Steve Linderman of BYU.

The late Courtney Isaiah Smith, a pillar of the Salt Lake music scene, performed almost a dozen online dates for Excellence before his untimely, tragic passing last February. The blues are also represented by the likes of Harry Lee, who grew up on Salt Lake City’s West Side and performed during Black History Month.

The internet has brought these local talents to audiences from surprising places outside the United States, with 255,000 viewers watching Intermezzo’s Tango concerts and 607,000 watching Mariachi De Mi Tierra on January 2, 2021. Whitley said that Excellence gives Utah musicians international exposure with their live streams: “Monika Jalili’s January concert caught the attention of the BBC. They aired an interview with her and a clip of

**“We try to keep [staff numbers] extremely low. We work very closely with city and county health regulations — nobody gets into the Gallivan Center without wearing a mask. Forehead temperatures are scanned for everybody,”**

**Executive Director Jeff Whitley**

our concert. The Voice of America published an article in Farsi about her and posted a link on their site.”

Whitley’s goal after the quarantine is to continue live streaming, along with conventional live concerts once it is safe to hold them again. However, this would double the technical budget of every show.

During the pandemic, this increase was largely covered by public funding because private sources were significantly reduced due to COVID-19. “Our community needed music, our musicians needed opportunities, and our city leaders agreed,” Whitley noted, praising the vision of Salt Lake City Mayor Erin Mendenhall and Gallivan Center Director Talitha Day. “They like what Excellence is doing, and see it as a benefit to the community.”

With funding, Whitley sees that benefit as scalable. “If every sector — private, governmental, and corporate — put in a little bit of money, we could change Utah rapidly for such a small amount,” says Whitley, “We are a very modest non-profit, but have a formula that could be taken to any part of the state. Our simple vision is: Utah has amazing diverse talent and resources, so let’s harness that talent. We want every kid to grow up saying: ‘My town gave me great music.’ That’s very possible for us, to make our drive for artistic excellence more visible and part of the Utah brand.”



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**SALT LAKE COUNTY**  
PARKS & RECREATION

# The economic impact of the pandemic on west-side businesses continues

By Joseph B.V. Arrington  
& Edgar Zúñiga

So many aspects of everyday life have changed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The spectrum of these changes range from small inconveniences for some to drastic life changes for others. This rings true not only for citizens of Salt Lake City's west side, but also for its small business owners. For many businesses, operations either slowed down or were temporarily stalled; for some, the changes brought the final nail in the metaphorical coffin for their entrepreneurial dreams.

The west side hosts a rich diversity of businesses, and each of them have had unique challenges due to the pandemic. In the tech sector, Westpointe resident and Salt Lake City School Board Member Joél-Léhi Organista's Machitia App found itself losing out on thousands of dollars of promised funds. Machitia App is a project developing technology to improve educators' abilities to collaborate and create plans for culturally responsive teaching environments – a need the pandemic's impact has arguably made even more urgent.

In the housing industry, Utah Top Remodelers owner and project manager, Jay Reza, saw the pandemic bring instant ramifications for his business. Although he had home jobs lined up before the pandemic, he recounted how two of his bigger clients – slated to provide large profits – hesitated to begin. One of them is still indefinitely paused, the owners understandably awaiting pandemic restrictions to be lifted.

When the pandemic first hit, Reza recalled being "greatly alarmed" by the virus. His main crew of six teammates had to regrettably be lowered to two for both their safety, as well as being unable to continue offering everyone their promised 40 hours a week. A further blow came when one of his team members fell ill, causing all of their jobs to stall



PHOTO BY DAVID RICKETTS

Employees prepare food to order in El Jaripeo's food truck in the 600 North Smith's parking lot. The company's five mobile locations have seen weekly sales fluctuate as much as 50 percent over the course of the pandemic.

while they were in quarantine.

"I [myself] didn't get sick until about nine months into the pandemic," he recounted. "Besides my quarantine time, I've been working through the entire pandemic."

Many small companies saw a glimmer of light during this time due to resources former President Trump's administration offered, such as the Paycheck Protection Program and other SBA-sponsored programs; however, Reza's experience with this, like many others', did not garner instant relief.

"Support from the government... it was difficult to get and took a long minute to get approved," said Reza. "A deposit I initially was told I'd been denied I actually randomly got three months late. My business is very, very expensive to run but I caught up on some bills thanks to [that] deposit. I'm thankful we [eventually] got that deposit because otherwise it would have been very, very, very tough."

As an entrepreneur, it is vital to have a source and focus to keep going during hard times. Reza stated his drive to keep going came from his family and his clients. The joy

from providing for his family, as well as helping others realize the vision of their house's potential, were great motivators for him. He is also grateful for the support of many organizations, such as the Boys & Girls Club, but he believes that if his company were situated somewhere on Salt Lake's east side, then he would have opportunities for more resources.

To his fellow entrepreneurs during these tough times, Reza advises pushing forward and continually improving their craft, whatever it may be. He credits his own proactive attitude for being able to overcome some of the setbacks faced by many companies.

In the service industry, Maria Santiago has owned and operated Mexican food trucks alongside her brother and sister for more than fifteen years in Rose Park and West Valley City, but business had never taken a hit like it has during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The first week of the pandemic when everything shut down, sales dropped by more than 30 percent," Santiago told The West View in Spanish. "Unfortunately, we had to

let one person go because we could not afford to cover their salary."

El Jaripeo, Santiago's Rose Park food truck, has been at the 600 North Smith's parking lot for two years, where it serves more than 200 customers a day and has become best known for tripe tacos.



PHOTO BY DAVID RICKETTS

El Jaripeo's brick-and-mortar restaurant was forced to temporarily close during the pandemic. It remains closed to the public, but continues to serve as a prep kitchen in support of the company's food truck fleet

It took Santiago months to recover from the March shutdown last year. When former Governor Herbert asked Utahns to stay home in the fall, before Thanksgiving, sales once again suffered, dropping by more than 50 percent.

"We tried to research to get some type of help from the government, but it's been impossible," said Santiago. "Earlier on during the pandemic, we feared what would happen and if we would have to shut down our businesses."

The pandemic did force her brother to close down the family's brick-and-mortar restaurant, El Jaripeo Grill, which serves dishes from their native Oaxaca, Mexico. The restaurant, now closed to the public, is where Santiago, her siblings, and some 17 employees prepare food for all five of the family's west-side food trucks.

All things considered, Santiago is grateful to still be in business, for her family and her employees' sake. Despite it all, Santiago says she's living the American dream in the Beehive State. "Thank God we arrived in the state of Utah, it has been a blessing. Thank God we've been able to establish ourselves here."

# El impacto económico de la pandemia en los negocios del “West Side”

Por Joseph B.V. Arrington  
y Edgar Zúñiga  
Interpretado por Edgar Zúñiga

Tantos aspectos de la vida cotidiana han cambiado debido a la pandemia de COVID-19. La gama de estos cambios va desde pequeños inconvenientes para algunos hasta cambios drásticos de vida para otros. Esto es cierto no solo para los ciudadanos del “West Side”, el oeste de Salt Lake City, sino también para sus propietarios de pequeños negocios. Para muchas empresas, las operaciones disminuyeron o se estancaron temporalmente; para algunos, los cambios acabaron con sus sueños de emprendimiento.

El “West Side” alberga una rica diversidad de negocios, y cada uno de ellos ha tenido desafíos únicos durante la pandemia. En el sector tecnológico, Joél-Léhi Organista, residente de Westpointe y miembro del consejo escolar de Salt Lake City, perdió miles de dólares en fondos prometidos para su aplicación Machitia. Es un proyecto que desarrolla tecnología para mejorar la capacidad de los educadores y fomentar la enseñanza de una forma culturalmente abierta, que va dirigida a un cuerpo estudiantil diverso.

En la industria de bienes raíces, el propietario y gerente de proyectos de Utah Top Remodelers, Jay Reza, vio que la pandemia traía consigo un golpe instantáneo para su negocio. Aunque tenía proyectos en la mira antes de la pandemia, dice que dos de sus contratos más importantes, programados para generar grandes ganancias, se vieron afectados. Uno de ellos todavía está en pausa indefinida, los propietarios, esperan que se levanten las restricciones de COVID-19.

Cuando la pandemia empezó, Reza dijo estar “muy alarmado” por el virus. Lamentablemente, su equipo principal de seis empleados tuvo que ser reducido a dos para reducir la posibilidad de contagio y también para poder pagarles 40 horas a

la semana. Otro golpe se produjo cuando uno de los miembros de su equipo se enfermó, lo que paró todos sus proyectos mientras estaban en cuarentena.

“Yo no me enfermé hasta aproximadamente nueve meses después de la pandemia”, relató. “Además de mi tiempo en cuarentena, he estado trabajando durante toda la pandemia”.

Muchos pequeños negocios vieron un rayo de esperanza durante este tiempo, debido a los recursos que ofreció la administración del ex presidente Trump, como el Programa de Protección de Cheques de Pago y otros programas patrocinados por la SBA [La Administración de Pequeños Negocios]; sin embargo, la experiencia de Reza con esto, como la de muchos otros, no fue la de un alivio instantáneo.

“El apoyo del gobierno... fue difícil de conseguir y tardó bastante para que se aprobara”, dijo Reza. “Un depósito que inicialmente me dijeron que me habían negado, en realidad lo recibí inesperadamente con tres meses de retraso. Mi negocio es muy, muy caro de administrar, pero me puse al día con algunas facturas gracias a [ese] depósito. Estoy agradecido de que [eventualmente] recibimos ese depósito porque de lo contrario habría sido muy, muy, muy difícil”.

Como emprendedor, es vital tener una fuente y un enfoque para seguir adelante en tiempos difíciles. Reza dijo que su impulso para seguir adelante fue su familia y sus clientes. La alegría de mantener a su familia, así como de ayudar a otros a lograr la casa soñada, fueron grandes motivadores para él. También está agradecido por el apoyo de muchas organizaciones, como el Boys & Girls Club, pero cree que si su empresa estuviera ubicada en algún lugar del “East Side”, el este de Salt Lake, entonces tendría oportunidades de recibir más recursos.

A sus compañeros emprendedores durante estos tiempos

difíciles, Reza les aconseja seguir adelante y seguir mejorando su oficio, sea lo que sea. Él asegura que fue su propia actitud proactiva que le ayudó a superar algunos de los contratiempos a los que se enfrentan muchas empresas.

En la industria alimentaria, María Santiago ha sido propietaria y operadora de camiones de comida mexicana junto a su hermano y hermana durante más de quince años en Rose Park y West Valley City, pero el negocio nunca había recibido un golpe como durante la pandemia de COVID-19.

“La primera semana de la pandemia, cuando todo cerró, las ventas cayeron más del 30 por ciento”, dijo Santiago a The West View. “Desafortunadamente, tuvimos que despedir a una persona porque

no podíamos cubrir su salario”.

El Jaripeo, el camión de comida en Rose Park de Santiago, ha estado en el estacionamiento del Smith’s de la 600 North Smith desde hace dos años. Atienden a más de 200 clientes al día y se han vuelto más reconocidos por sus tacos de tripa. Santiago tardó meses en recuperarse del cierre de marzo el año pasado. Cuando el ex gobernador Herbert pidió a los habitantes de Utah que se quedaran en casa en el otoño, antes del Día de Acción de Gracias, las ventas volvieron a sufrir, cayendo en más del 50 por ciento.

“Tratamos de saber cómo obtener algún tipo de ayuda del gobierno, pero ha sido imposible”, dijo Santiago. “Intentamos investigar para conseguir algún tipo de ayuda del gobierno, pero ha sido imposible”,

dijo Santiago. “Al comienzo de la pandemia, temíamos lo que podría pasar y la posibilidad de perder nuestros negocios”.

La pandemia obligó a su hermano a cerrar el restaurante tradicional de la familia, El Jaripeo Grill, que sirve platos de su natal Oaxaca, México. El restaurante, ahora cerrado al público, es donde Santiago, sus hermanos y unos 17 empleados preparan comida para los cinco camiones de comida de la familia.

Santiago está agradecida que sus negocios sigan a flote, por el bien de su familia y sus empleados. A pesar de todo, Santiago dice que está viviendo el sueño americano en el estado de la colmena. “Gracias a Dios que llegamos al estado de Utah, ha sido una bendición. Gracias a Dios hemos podido establecerlos aquí”.



PHOTO BY DAVID RICKETTS

“Trate de ser lo más productivo posible. Sea entusiasta hasta en el fracaso... intente todo lo que pueda para salir y tener éxito, pero ¿si se convierte en un fracaso? Acéptelo y [continúe haciéndolo] tantas veces como pueda hasta que sea cada vez mejor”.

# YWCA Utah recognizes Rep. Sandra Hollins for her community and civil service

By Angie Eliason

Utah State Rep. Sandra Hollins was recognized by YWCA Utah in September 2020 for her dedication to the community and was named Woman of the Year at the 2020 Leader Luncheon alongside Dr. Angela Dunn, state epidemiologist, and Neylan Mcbane, founder of Better Days 2020.

YWCA Utah is dedicated to advancing the well-being of women through safety, opportunity and advocacy. Each year the organization recognizes women in the community whose work embodies the YWCA mission of eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

Hollins has upheld the mission and values of the YWCA through her advocacy for Salt Lake City's underserved populations. In 2015 she took service to a new level by running for office to represent District 23. Hollins never thought about serving her community through a political position until former District 23 Rep. Jen Seelig asked her to. After some contemplation, she decided to run.

Her focus on homelessness and poverty precedes her run for office, and she has carried the fight for those issues into her work on the hill. Since being elected, Hollins has also fought for issues relating to substance abuse recovery and the school-to-prison pipeline, having sponsored a bill on the latter that a west-side resident brought to her.

Recently, she advocated for funding the Arts Castle located at 915 West and 100 South, a project sponsored by the Utah Arts Alliance that will provide a place for art and cultural experiences on the west side.

Looking at what Hollins has accomplished in her term thus far, it

is apparent that she has risen to the challenge of representing Salt Lake City's west side and amplifying voices that are often underrepresented in politics. She believes that having diverse voices at the table strengthens our democracy, and this belief is reflected in all she does.

As Utah's first Black female lawmaker, Hollins is a pioneer in establishing that diversity. "When I was elected, I was surprised to learn that I was the first to open that door. My goal is to keep that door open for others," said Hollins. "My experience as the first Black female representative has been mostly positive but not without its challenges," she elaborated. "There are those who struggle with me being in this elected position, but I chose to stay focused on representing my community."

For others interested in crossing the threshold into leadership and political positions, Hollins encourages searching for opportunities to lead and learn. "You may be out of your comfort zone, but in that zone, you will find your greatest growth."

Although she's always searching for opportunities to lead and learn, Hollins also enjoys a perfectly comfortable comfort zone consisting of family movie nights with lots of junk food, and keeping in touch with her New Orleansian roots by cooking creole and southern soul food on Sundays.

She relocated from New Orleans to Salt Lake City in 1993 with her

growing family, and they instantly connected with their new Fairpark neighborhood. "We fell in love with it because it reminded us of where we grew up," said Hollins. "As we visited the property our future neighbors came over to greet us and immediately made us feel welcome."

Drawing from her training as a social worker and experience with community activism, Hollins has become a strong voice for west-side communities, a position she feels honored to be trusted with. Even when it's her work being recognized, Hollins uses her platform to ensure that other

voices get acknowledged, supported, and celebrated. In response to the YWCA honor, Hollins insisted on instead highlighting the contributions of others.

"We are fortunate that there are several women in our community that work as advocates and empower women and improve the lives of others," said Hollins. "I want to take a moment to recognize all those west-side women whose advocacy work often goes unnoticed – women like Ms. Elizabeth Montoya, who quietly works to make sure that families on the west side have access to food, and Ms. Dolores Salters, who has dedicated her life to working as a civil rights advocate in our community. I want to honor all those women whose names we may never know. I honor and appreciate you."

**"When I was elected, I was surprised to learn that I was the first to open that door. My goal is to keep that door open for others. My experience as the first Black female representative has been mostly positive but not without its challenges."**

Rep. Sandra Hollins

## West-side women

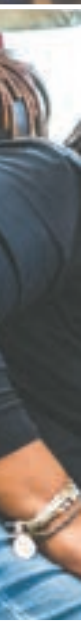


PHOTO COURTESY OF ROSS CHAMBLESS

### Clockwise

Rep. Hollins speaks with colleagues during the 2021 legislative session, which concluded on March 5. She is currently the only Black Lawmaker in Utah's House of Representatives.

Florence "Honey" Lawrence talks about the four generations of women represented in the family photo she holds. (clockwise from top, left: Judy Williams, Tawn Sawyer, Florence Lawrence, and Tiffany Sawyer). Lawrence sits between her granddaughter, Tiffany Sawyer, and her son, Art Lawrence and his dog, Minnie Bear.



# side

March is Women's History Month. These leaders are an inspiration to our community.



PHOTOS BY DAVID RICKETTS



## One of the 'Ladies of Post Street' celebrates 99 years of life

By Charlotte Fife-Jepperson

Born in 1922, Florence "Honey" Leggroan Lawrence has experienced a lot in her lifetime.

Her great, great grandfather, Nathan Bankhead, was brought to Utah by John Bankhead – a Mormon pioneer from Mississippi. Nathan was one of 32 enslaved African Americans brought to Utah by a group of southerners called the Mississippi Saints.

Mrs. Lawrence was born in Murray, Utah and moved to Salt Lake City as a teen, where she attended Jackson Junior High and West High School. She married Arthur Charles Lawrence in 1945, and shortly afterwards they bought a home on Post Street in Poplar Grove, where she has lived for 73 years. They had three children – two boys and a girl.

Mr. Lawrence worked for Union Pacific Railroad and passed away at the age of 50, leaving Mrs. Lawrence to raise their youngest son, Ricki, on her own. Early on, she worked in private homes, cleaning and doing domestic work. Later she landed an office job for the State Department of Social Services, and worked there until she was 72 years old.

Soon after she retired, she began to take care of her great grandchildren, Malik and Tawn. "She basically raised them," said her 45-year-old granddaughter, Tiffany Sawyer.

"Now, I have to depend on my family," said Mrs. Lawrence, who lives with her 78-year-old son, Art.

There were several Black families who lived on her street, including the well-known Utah civil rights activist Alberta Henry. "Mom and Mrs. Henry became bosom buddies until Mrs. Henry died," said Mrs. Lawrence's daughter, Judy Williams. The two women worked together in the NAACP, of which Mrs. Lawrence is a lifetime member.

Sawyer said that she used to attend NAACP luncheons with her grandmother, where she would

help her collect money from attendees at the front table. Sawyer recalled one luncheon with awe – the time when Rosa Parks came to Utah and was a guest speaker. Sawyer had the honor of sitting at the same table with Parks, who after noticing she was pregnant, asked her when the baby was due. "It was an amazing experience," said Sawyer, and added that her grandmother, who is affectionately called "Honey" by her family, has had an incredible influence on her life.

Art Lawrence likened his mother's leadership style to that of a "lieutenant," who worked diligently alongside Alberta Henry in a supportive role. "One of the most important things that they worked on together was the creation of the Alberta Henry Foundation, which provided college scholarships to Black students," said Art.

Mrs. Lawrence and her son, Art, talked a little about the racism that they experienced in the neighborhood. "Some of the boys on our street were really good at calling names," said Art. "That man (the boys' father) gave me a lot of trouble," said Lawrence. "But, why are we talking about that? That was in the past," she said.

When asked if she thought we had made progress as a community in terms of racial equality and social justice, she said, "Yes, to a certain extent. I'd say we've made slight progress."

Post Street and 1000 West, between 300 and 400 South, was one of the few areas where Black families could buy a home back in 1948. Even one block east, on 900 West, Mrs. Lawrence's sister had to get written permission from the neighbors before she was allowed to buy a home there.

There were three influential Black ladies on Post Street who were close friends – Mrs. Alberta Henry, Carolyn ?, and Mrs. Lawrence.

These "Ladies of Post Street" used to meet and talk about the Bible. "We were all different religions, but we made sure not to argue over

who was right or wrong, only to have discussions," said Mrs. Lawrence, who was raised as a devout Seventh Day Adventist. "Church was our life," she said. On the Sabbath day – from sundown on Friday until sundown on Saturday – they turned off the television, put on gospel records, and studied the Bible.

Her granddaughter, Tiffany Sawyer, recalled all the family gatherings they had on Saturday evenings after church when she was a young girl. "When the weather was nice, we would eat dinner outside and then the adults would sit on the porch, while us kids played."

On the walls of Mrs. Lawrence's home hang African-inspired art, family photos, and about a dozen framed awards or tributes that she has received over the years. Ceramics and sewing are two hobbies that Mrs. Lawrence has enjoyed over the years, and her house shows it. Many cheerful ceramic figures adorn her shelves. Colorful quilts, curtains and other handmade décor help create a cozy, comfortable atmosphere. "I have tried to make it a home, not just a house," she said.

Her daughter, Judy, admires her mother for "the strides she has made and her stamina." "She came out of a time when there wasn't much opportunity, especially for Black women," Judy said. Judy was the first Black student to become Valedictorian at West High School and was the first in her family to attend a university. "Because my mother didn't question her abilities to do outstanding things, I didn't question myself; I just followed in her footsteps," Judy said.

Today, Mrs. Lawrence is humble about her past accomplishments. She says that her memory isn't what it used to be. "It comes and goes. I look at all the awards and plaques on the walls and my kids have to tell me what they were for, because sometimes I remember and sometimes I can't."

"I am in the latter days of my life. God's been good to me," she added, with a sweet smile.

# Early detection of colorectal cancer saves lives

## Huntsman Cancer Institute offers free screening

By Annie Dayton

Rose Park resident, Teresa Williams, wears a pink face mask as she talks about losing her husband of almost 19 years, Layne Williams.

“We found out in the spring of 2012 – he was just 40 years old.” Though Layne was young, healthy and an avid runner, he had been experiencing abdominal discomfort for many years. He talked about it with his doctor and tried a variety of dietary changes, to no avail.

At one point, he asked his doctor if it could be cancer and they laughed because he was so young and healthy. He eventually ended up in the ER because he thought he was having a heart attack, but they found a tumor the size of a baseball. “He passed away in September of 2015,” Teresa explained, after a three-year battle with colorectal cancer.

For Luisa Auva’a Tupou, a Community Health Worker with the Utah Pacific Islander Health Coalition, colorectal cancer also hits close to home. Her 60-year old aunt is currently battling colorectal cancer and her 40-year old sister recently was experiencing symptoms, prompting her to obtain a colonoscopy in which several polyps were removed.

For people who have a history of colorectal cancer in their family, a colonoscopy screening is recommended younger than the average age of 50. Because Layne Williams was only 40 at the time of his diagnosis, his four children are recommended to receive colonoscopies at age 30.

Colorectal cancer is a deadly disease – it has a 14% survival rate if it is found late. However, if found early, it has a 90% survival rate.

The best way to detect colorectal



PHOTO BY LYNN MARCHANT

Layne Williams, who died at the age of 40 from colorectal cancer, plays with his children in his lab at Blackrock, a BioTech firm.

cancer early is through screening, which is why Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI) joined the National Screen to Save initiative. In the past two years, HCI has received funding to offer free screenings to some of the most at-risk communities in Utah, which include residents 50 years or older of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander descent and residents 50 years or older in certain rural counties.

Salt Lake City’s west side is home to many families of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Island descent. The Pacific Islander community has the lowest screening rates and the highest incidence and mortality rates of colorectal cancer out of all racial and ethnic groups in Utah.

Tupou explains that members of the Pacific Islander community often will not seek out medical attention until they are experiencing symptoms, which can often be too late. Compounding this health disparity is that the Pacific Islander community is an underserved population and in many cases a lack of transportation and health insurance can lead to a



PHOTO COURTESY OF TERESA WILLIAMS

Layne and Teresa Williams were married for almost 19 years before he died from colorectal cancer.

reduction of regular health care visits. It is not uncommon for older generations to have issues obtaining appropriate identification, and immigration status can be a factor as well in discouraging needed medical attention.

Nathaniel Ferre is a Community Health Educator with HCI and runs the Screen to Save Program.

“There are two types of factors that contribute to colorectal cancer; family/personal history and lifestyle factors,” he said.

You are at higher risk for colorectal cancer if you are over the age of 50; if you have had a close relative diagnosed with colorectal cancer or colorectal polyps; and if you have been diagnosed with inflammatory bowel disease, Lynch Syndrome, or Crohn’s disease.

Lifestyle factors that may increase your risk of colorectal cancer include using tobacco in any form; lack of physical activity; a diet low in fiber and/or high in fat, processed, and red meats; and high alcohol consumption – more than 3 drinks per day for males and two for females.

The general recommendation is for all adults to get screened for colorectal cancer starting at age 50. Some lifestyle factors that contribute to colorectal cancer can be modified, but family and personal health history factors cannot be changed, which is why screening is so important.

The two most common ways to get screened are a FIT kit or

colonoscopy. A FIT kit is an at-home stool test, free to qualifying participants of the Screen to Save program. No preparation is needed and it is meant for adults of average risk with no history of colorectal cancer or polyps. Results may indicate a need for a colonoscopy.

A colonoscopy is an examination used to detect changes or abnormalities in the large intestine (colon) and rectum using a colonoscope. If necessary, polyps or other types of abnormal tissue can be removed to be checked under a microscope for signs of disease.

Both FIT kits and colonoscopies should be discussed with a person’s doctor and health insurance to determine what is covered and what is the best screening tool based on each individual’s situation.

While the Screen to Save program has a short video that provides education about colorectal cancer and screening in English and Spanish on their website, it is not yet available in other languages, so Tupou facilitates live Zoom sessions in Samoan.

Because the virtual format is often challenging for older generations, outreach is being directed on Instagram and TikTok, so that tech-savvy teens can help their parents and grandparents learn about the risks of colorectal cancers.

“If we can convince the younger generations about the importance of screening for colorectal cancers, they can convince their elders that this isn’t just about saving their lives, but the lives of their children and grandchildren as well, because the risk greatly increases for the siblings and children of those diagnosed with colorectal cancer,” said Tupou.

To find out more about Huntsman Cancer Institute’s Screen to Save program, visit <https://redcap.link/communitycrc> or contact Nathaniel Ferre, Community Health Educator at Huntsman Cancer Institute, [nathaniel.ferre@hci.utah.edu](mailto:nathaniel.ferre@hci.utah.edu), 801-540-0845.

# Construction progresses on Three Creeks Confluence Park

By Sarah Wolfe

A group of University of Utah students presented an ambitious project to Salt Lake City in 2014.

These students traced three creeks – Red Butte, Emigration and Parley’s – from their headwaters to their confluence with the Jordan River, finding that all three spilled out at the same location. They created site plans to demonstrate the potential of this location and, more broadly, the potential for stream daylighting (bringing the creeks up to the ground surface) for the Salt Lake Valley.

This was the beginning of the

Three Creeks Confluence project and it led to the creation of Seven Canyons Trust, a nonprofit working to uncover and restore the buried and impaired creeks in the Salt Lake Valley.

The confluence is located at 1300 South and 900 West in Glendale, in a previously run-down and neglected site. Over \$3 million was secured from Community Development Block Grants, Salt Lake City TRAK funding and other sources for the construction of the Three Creeks Confluence project, which is re-creating this neglected space and bringing these waterways out

into the open again.

Two hundred feet of combined stream, buried in concrete for 100 years, have now been uncovered in a newly restored channel. Two bridges have been installed, though they aren’t yet open to the public. An east-west bridge will create a gateway for local school children and other community members to access the Jordan River Trail. A north-south bridge, with art designed by local artists, will allow for anglers to toss a line into the new channel. A plaza will provide a venue for relaxation, education and celebration. All spaces will be

ADA accessible, and they’ll be host to plantings of native trees, shrubs, grasses and wildflowers due to be completed by summer.

A grand opening celebration for this exciting addition to the west side is tentatively scheduled for late spring or early summer. In the meantime, please avoid the work zone site for your safety.

*Editor’s Note: Three Creeks Confluence is part of a larger, 100-year plan to revitalize a connected sys-*

*tem of greenways situated along the seven major creeks flowing out of the Wasatch Range. Community members can share their thoughts about this long-term vision in an online survey at [sevengreenwaysvisionplan.org](http://sevengreenwaysvisionplan.org). The survey is offered in both Spanish and English and will be one of three public engagement opportunities for this project over the next year.*

*To learn more about Seven Canyons Trust, visit [sevencanyonstrust.org](http://sevencanyonstrust.org).*



Views of Three Creeks Confluence Park located at 1300 S 900 W. show preliminary construction last February. When the park is complete, there will be areas for fishing, river and trail access, native vegetation and public art to enjoy.

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY SLC PUBLIC LANDS

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**opinion**

# Grading Mayor Erin Mendenhall's 'report card'

By Dorothy Owen

With the start of the new year, Mayor Mendenhall issued the first "Salt Lake City Annual Progress Report Card." The results are commendable.

Rather than letter grades, the report card uses a color-coded system of green (completed), yellow (in process) and red (delayed/not done). It addresses three broad areas of challenge: harnessing growth, promoting environmental resilience/stewardship and developing inclusive communities.

The report identifies 57 specific tasks that are distributed nearly equally among those three challenge areas, 27 of which were scheduled to be completed within the first 100 days with the remain-



ing 30 tasks to be finished in the first year. Of the 27 tasks that were to be undertaken during the first 100 days, 55% were completed, 33% remained in progress, and 11% (3) had been delayed. Of the 30 remaining first-year tasks, 23% were

completed while 40% were either delayed or not done.

All told, this is a remarkable achievement for a new administration, particularly since a global pandemic, an earthquake, a hurricane-strength wind storm, a homelessness crisis and widespread social justice protests caused massive distractions during this time. The outcome warrants well-deserved recognition that city governance is very demanding and requires a well-trained, supported and committed workforce reflecting the diversity of people being served.

Tasks related to environmental challenges appear most impacted by the tumultuous events of 2020, with 6 of the 11 objectives graded "red" and 3 of 11 graded "yellow." Only two of these were completed — one being planting 1,000 trees on the west side. Of particular concern — and not completed — are the two Inland Port objectives addressing growth, environment and equity concerns.

While most objectives apply to all Salt Lake City residents broadly, a number are of particular importance to west-side residents, including affordable housing, homelessness, equity and inclusion. The report's conclusion on the last two of these is especially commendable: growth was equitable ("for the good of every resident"), and communities demonstrated "inclusive opportunities for all."

The report card also identifies several west-side projects. These include the successful tree-planting initiative in west-side neighborhoods, expanding youth programs in the northwest area of the city, holding roundtables to better understand west-side businesses and funding a year-round public market on the west side.

Also included are broader, far-reaching efforts such as changing west-side master plans, analyzing the "impacts of Inland Port development on transportation and the environment" and negotiating to ensure "Northwest quadrant development is leading-edge and reflective of the City's social and

environmental goals."

For the coming year, the Mayor's Office has released the framework of its second progress report card, characterized as an annual work plan to "recharge, reset, rebound." The growth, environment and community framework continues, and a fourth area — supporting employees' physical, mental, and economic well-being — was added.

This new plan expands to 124 objectives. To make navigation easier, objectives are grouped into 20 categories including innovation, community-engaged development, intentional equity and emergency preparedness.

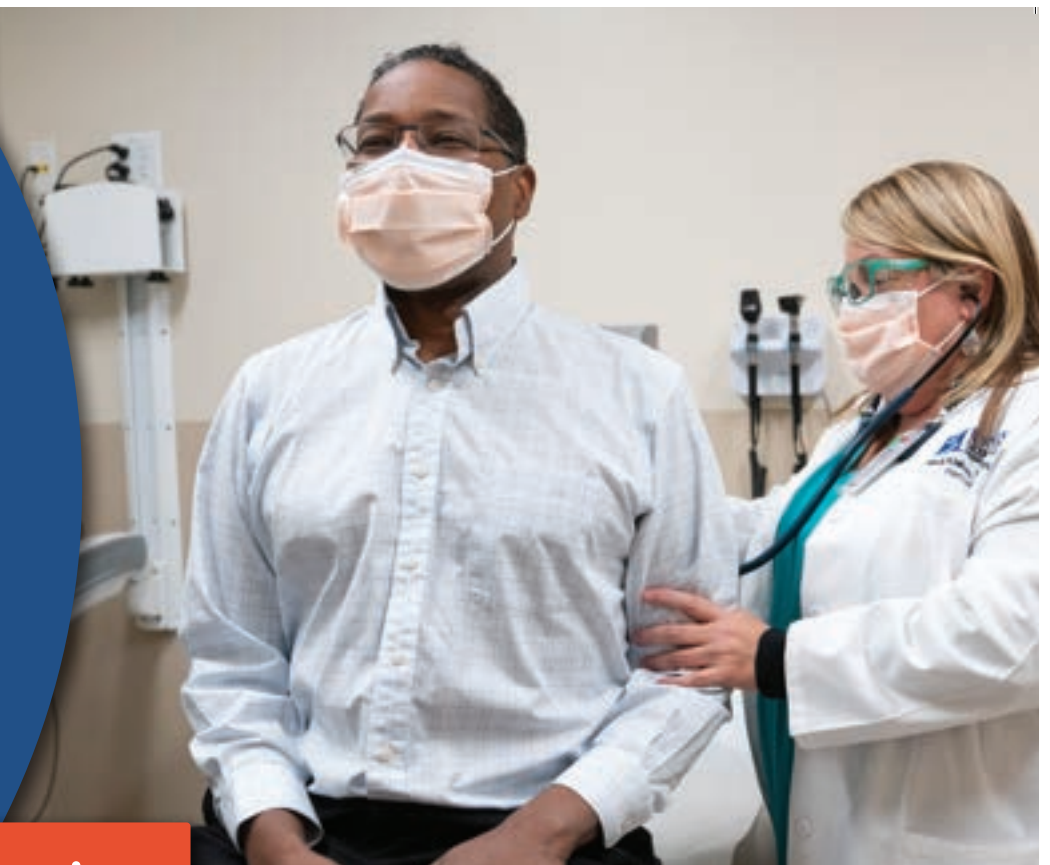
To learn more, read the Mayor's 2021 plan at <https://www.slcc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/2021-Plan.pdf>

Dorothy Owen is a board member of the Westside Coalition and Chair of Westpointe Community Council.

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PHOTOS COURTESY OG-WOI COLLECTIVE

## Community comes together to create a public orchard

Volunteers paint the new logo on the kiosk in the Og-Woi People's Orchard in mid-March. Located on the Jordan River trail in Fairpark, the Og-Woi People's Orchard and Garden is a community collective experiment into whether food can be free, according to the organizers. The word "og-woi" is the Shoshone word for river, chosen because the project is located near the Jordan River on land that was stolen from the Ute and Shoshone tribes. Fruit trees, berry bushes, flowers, as well as garden beds of veggies are being planted and cared for by volunteers. You can learn more at the Og-Woi Facebook group.

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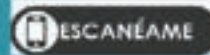
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# Coffee truck creates a ‘buzz’ in Rose Park

By Angie Eliason

What started as a way to fill the desire for a local coffee shop in Rose Park has blossomed into a neighborhood icon that keeps folks connected. When people expressed the need for a coffee shop on the west side in community council meetings, Trina Perez, owner and operator of Buzzed Coffee agreed and thought, “I’m going to do it.”

An avid coffee lover herself, Perez saw the lack of local options in Rose Park, and knew she wasn’t alone in longing for a great cup of coffee close to home. After months of research and training from the Specialty Coffee Association of America, Perez transitioned from teaching special education to entrepreneurship when she opened Buzzed Coffee in 2016.

Offering organic, fair-trade coffee and local baked goods by way of a 1997 FedEx truck-turned-mobile coffee shop, Perez has cultivated a remarkable operation.

When asked about sharing her love of coffee with the community, Perez said, “I believe coffee shops are catalysts for a lot of great things. They’re beautiful places for connecting and community.” Even without a brick and mortar shop, Perez has created a space for people to come together, more so than she thought possible prior to opening.

While a food truck was more feasible than a traditional shop, Perez noted that establishing a food truck came with unique challenges. “One barrier to getting the truck started was that banks and traditional lending

sources aren’t keen on lending money to the food and beverage industry. I was told ‘no’ a lot,” she said. Eventually, Perez secured a loan from the city’s Economic Development Loan Fund. Without that loan, Perez isn’t sure whether Buzzed Coffee would exist.

Owning a food truck also comes with issues specific to the truck. “Last year was super challenging. COVID for sure was hard, but when the truck’s transmission blew in February it was a super hefty expense. Loss of income from temporarily closing and repair costs added up. We finally opened again, and two weeks later lockdown hit,” Perez said.

Despite the challenges they’ve encountered, the Rose Park community has shown massive support and the amazing Buzzed Coffee team has persevered.

Although her goal is to open a traditional coffee shop, Perez feels that operating a coffee truck during a pandemic has some advantages. People seem more comfortable standing in line outside, even in the cold, rather than inside a shop. The truck also provides a natural physical barrier which protects the team and the customers, allowing them to safely continue business.

When the going does get tough, Perez pictures Jorge Fierro, owner of another west-side business, Rico. Shortly after opening, Fierro told Perez ‘don’t give up’ several times during a conversation, and she thinks back on that interaction fondly.

The supportive and collabora-

tive nature of the west-side business community resonated with Perez and is reflected in her own business practices. For example, all prep, cleaning and storage is done at Sugar Space Arts Warehouse, a multi-use warehouse near 800 West and 200 South that includes commissary kitchen space.

During warmer months, Buzzed Coffee hosts pop-up cafes and invites local musicians to perform. Local baked goods from establishments such as Fillings and Emulsions are regularly featured on the menu. Supporting and partnering with local businesses is an important component of Buzzed Coffee’s business practices.

Perez has lived all over Salt Lake and believes there’s a different element of human connection within Rose Park, which makes it a pretty magical part of town. She also says that being part of people’s morning rituals makes her heart sing.

Whether it’s nitro brew, a latte or a buzzed chai, Perez hopes you’ll taste the love and care that she and her team put into every drink. Buzzed Coffee’s locations are listed on Instagram at @buzzedcoffeetruck, twitter at @buzzedtruckSLC and facebook under buzzed coffee truck.



PHOTO COURTESY TRINA PEREZ

Owner of Buzzed Coffee, Trina Perez, left her teaching job in 2016 to follow a dream of opening up a coffee business that would serve the residents of Rose Park.

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THE SALT LAKE CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM



# A family business with bold fare, bolder ambitions

By **Ivan Carrasco**

Anyone who grew up in a Mexican kitchen will experience a taste of home when they enjoy a gordita from the Más Gorditas food cart.

The Hernandez family, including siblings Ipza and Areli, launched Más Gorditas in the midst of the Coronavirus pandemic and roughly at the beginning of the Utah winter — a bold move on both counts. But when your recommended menu item is named “La mera, mera” (“the main one” or “the boss” in English), being bold is your brand identity.

According to Ipza, the key to launching a food cart in the middle

of a pandemic is “working hard.” That’s characteristically bold in its simplicity, and it’s also something many can understand; hard work is tough no matter what line of work you’re in. Ipza figures that, “if you can make it through a pandemic, you can make it through anything,” though she does allow that some hardships are more bearable than others. Whether because of the frigid mornings or snowy days, Ipza said, “we’re definitely looking forward to summer.”

The Hernandez family, whose familia traces back to Talpillo, Mexico, also has bold aspirations for their newly launched business. Más Gorditas is a family collec-



PHOTO BY DAVID RICKETTS

You can find the Más Gorditas food truck parked next to Club Try-Angles at 251 W Harvey Milk Blvd. on Mondays. Check their schedule on Instagram and Facebook @masgorditas.

tive business, meaning everyone who works in the operations of the business has equal duties and equal pay. The family’s shared goal is one day opening a local restau-

rant that serves as an accessible community space whether here on the west side or elsewhere.

For readers who are unfamiliar, a gordita is a pocket-sized pastry

made of corn masa (maize dough), hollowed out and stuffed with a variety of ingredients. La mera mera gordita is stuffed with a combination of braised pork, red chili sauce, lettuce, tomatoes and other vegetables. You can also top them with sour cream and cotija queso (cheese) — in a few words, pockets of food heaven!

The weekend recommendation? The fresh pozole; a traditional mexican soup that is slow cooked, with the main ingredients pork and hominy being simmered and bathed in a rich and tasty broth that can be topped with a variety of fresh veggies. Más Gorditas also offers tasty vegetarian and vegan options.

The Más Gorditas cart is nomadic, serving a variety of locations within Salt Lake County. For the pleasure of west-side residents, the Hernandez family parks the cart at Club Try-Angles, located near 300 West and 900 South, on Mondays. Más Gorditas will also be launching a website soon.



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# Central Ninth: Building a neighborhood

By Rachel McKeen

Exiting TRAX at Harvey Milk Boulevard and 200 W, you might notice the newly opened Spy Hop Youth Media Arts Center, the burned out shell of Henrie's Dry Cleaners, Blue Copper Coffee Room and a heck of a lot of construction. What's less apparent is the work and organizing by residents and businesses that have – and will continue to – define the area.

The neighborhood surrounding the stop is squeezed east of the Granary, south of Downtown, west of Liberty Wells, and north of Ballpark; 10 years ago your phone might have tagged you in "The People's Freeway." Since 2013, the area's actual residents have called it Central Ninth.

"It's a geographical Bermuda triangle," said Jesse Hulse, co-founder with Jason Foster of Atlas Architects. "It surprised me how off-the-radar this area was for years, even today," Foster added. Since the early 2000s, what the two architects have recognized here is creative

opportunity, access to transit and proximity to downtown: "stuff was rough, but the bones were good."

By 2013, Hulse and Foster had moved their architecture firm from downtown Salt Lake to the heart of Central Ninth, convincing Blue Copper to join them. It was both good business and a community-minded gesture. "If we brought a good quality coffee shop," said Hulse, "it would draw people."

The patio in front of the coffee shop, Foster continued, "was symbolically important to the publicness of [our mission]. We had to set a tone with the first building." They chose the area for its potential to become the kind of place they wanted to work – a place that wasn't generic and had shops, walkways and gathering spaces that appealed to neighborhood residents as well as people from a wider area.

Part of their vision involved transforming dangerous alleyways and derelict property and addressing drug peddling and nefarious activity, winning the architects allies in the Redevelopment Agency



PHOTO BY DAVID RICKETTS

Blue Copper Coffee Room weathers both COVID-19 and neighborhood construction.

of Salt Lake City (RDA) and among the neighborhood's existing residents.

Kort Utley, RDA Senior Project Manager, wrote, "Central Ninth

was created and cultivated by residents and area business owners. These people continue to be the neighborhood champions." However, he and the RDA deserve credit for significant changes to the area, including the 2005 900 S TRAX Station opening, to which the RDA contributed \$1.2 million.

Making Central Ninth more pedestrian-friendly and walkable has been a longtime RDA goal, because when "it's safe, convenient, and more comfortable to get around as a pedestrian, people walk more," Utley explained, "and that fosters a greater sense of community."

Elke Phillips, who moved to the area in 2004, also notices the positive difference more passersby make on her block. Indeed, it was part of what initially drew her to the area. Phillips previously lived in West Valley and Salt Lake proper before moving to Central Ninth.

She loved the home she found – a Victorian that hadn't been updated – but what really moved her to buy was the neighbor who noticed her looking and came to greet her. "I realized someone cared," Phillips said. From the start, Phillips' experience with the neighborhood was positive.

"People were friendly. Everybody would sit outside and get together as a front porch community."

Continuing her commitment to her neighborhood, Phillips got involved in the Ballpark Community Council, which was then the closest Community Council for the area. She remembers the impact of the RDA – especially Ashley Easterling, an RDA community organizer at the time – and specific projects responding to the needs of her immediate area. "Ballpark has some issues that are different than ours, so it was nice to have these businesses involved. They care about resident issues here," Phillips said.

With business and resident engagement, Central Ninth formed its own Community Council in 2018, gaining autonomy as a result of its independent identity. The Ballpark and Central Ninth Community Councils still work together at times, but becoming a neighborhood with its own name and its own Community Council gave Central Ninth residents more power to effect change, formalizing what might have otherwise been sidewalk or front porch conversations.

The Central Ninth Community

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Council gives residents input on everything from new development to city planning. Paul Johnson, Central Ninth resident since 2005 and current Community Council Chairperson, shared, “My biggest concerns for our neighborhood are the large numbers of rentals coming in. Rentals do play a big role in the community and bring great energy and life to the neighborhood, but the ability to put down roots is very important to our long term prosperity.”

Johnson reports that the Central Ninth Community Council’s current main priority is a streetscape redesign of 900 South between 300 West and West Temple. The \$7 million project will add trees and green space, extend sidewalks and bike lanes and improve parking.

Representing the RDA’s rationale for the project at the March 1 Central Ninth Community Council meeting, Utley recalled years of outreach asking residents: “What do you want in your neighborhood?” The answer (and basis for

the 900 South redesign) has been consistent: slower traffic, tighter streets, and beautified landscaping.

Emily Sherman, a Blue Copper barista since 2017, sees a downside to the continuing development and construction. “There’s a loss of character with the apartments where the community garden was. We don’t see the same regulars and sense of community.”

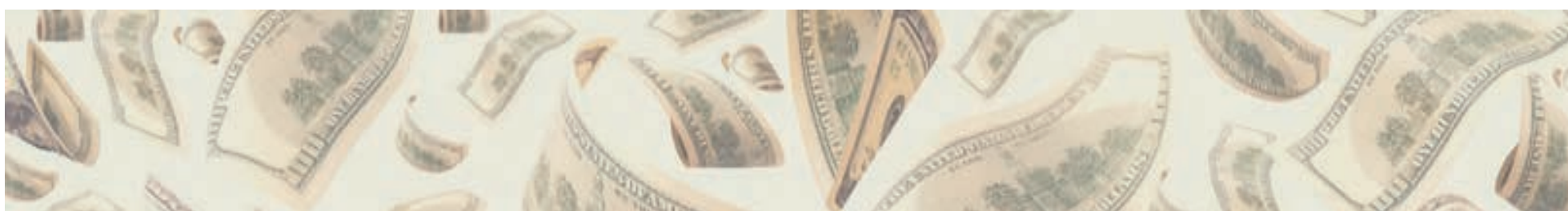
Newer residents like Amanda Ouellette, who’s rented in Central Ninth for two years, appreciate the people and businesses in the area, but do recognize one downside – specifically, “lots of people who don’t live here parking.” Still, she plans to stay put, even as new developments promise a growing stream of visitors.

One of those visitors is Cory Bernardo, who highlights the people he meets there as the core of what makes Central Ninth a distinct neighborhood. “People talk to you, they’re nice,” said Bernardo. “That’s what makes a neighborhood to me: the people.”



PHOTO BY DAVID RICKETTS

Shops in the Local Central 9th Market adapt to make the best of COVID-19’s challenging economy.



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\*An application does not guarantee mortgage payment assistance. For qualifying Salt Lake City Homeowners that have experienced COVID-19 hardship. Eligibility based on income requirements\*



## communitycouncils

Community councils are neighborhood-based organizations developed to help community members directly advocate for change in their communities. Their job is to provide various city departments with input and recommendations generated directly from the community. These councils consist of local residents, service providers, property and business owners. Meetings are open to the public. To find out which community council area you live in, visit: [www.slco.gov/commcouncils](http://www.slco.gov/commcouncils)

### ● Ballpark Community Council

**Chair:** Amy Hawkins  
703-728-9151 | [amy.j.hawkins@gmail.com](mailto:amy.j.hawkins@gmail.com)  
**Meets:** 1st Thursdays at 7 p.m.  
[facebook.com/BallparkCC](https://www.facebook.com/BallparkCC)

### ● Fairpark Community Council

**Chair:** Tom King  
801-502-1991 | [earth4alllife@gmail.com](mailto:earth4alllife@gmail.com)  
**Meets:** 4th Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. (except December)  
[fairparkcommunity.org](http://fairparkcommunity.org)

### ● Glendale Community Council

**Chair:** Turner C. Bitton  
801-564-3860 | [chair@glendaleutah.org](mailto:chair@glendaleutah.org)  
**Meets:** 3rd Wednesdays at 7 p.m.  
[www.glendaleutah.org](http://www.glendaleutah.org)

### ● Jordan Meadows Community Council

**Chair:** Joseph Arrington  
801-793-0355 | [jbvarrington@gmail.com](mailto:jbvarrington@gmail.com)  
**Meets:** 2nd Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.  
[www.jordanmeadows.org](http://www.jordanmeadows.org)

### ● Poplar Grove Community Council

**Chair:** Erik Lopez  
801-602-9314 | [poplargrovecouncil@gmail.com](mailto:poplargrovecouncil@gmail.com)  
**Meets:** 4th Wednesdays at 7 p.m.  
[poplargroveslc.weebly.com](http://poplargroveslc.weebly.com)

### ● Rose Park Community Council

**Chair:** Kevin Parke  
801-452-3833 | [kevin.s.parke@gmail.com](mailto:kevin.s.parke@gmail.com)  
**Meets:** 1st Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.  
[roseparkcommunitycouncil.org](http://roseparkcommunitycouncil.org)

### ● Westpointe Community Council

**Chair:** Dorothy P. Owen  
801-503-7850 | [dorothy.owen@gmail.com](mailto:dorothy.owen@gmail.com)  
**Meets:** 2nd Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.  
[westpointecc.org](http://westpointecc.org)

### ● Westside Coalition

[westsidecoalitionslc@gmail.com](mailto:westsidecoalitionslc@gmail.com)  
**Meets:** Alternating Tuesdays at 6 p.m.  
[www.facebook.com/westsidecoalitionslc](http://www.facebook.com/westsidecoalitionslc)

## resources and event info

# communitybulletin

### Government and Health Resources

#### Center for Disease Control (CDC)

[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)  
1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636)

#### State of Utah

[coronavirus.utah.gov](http://coronavirus.utah.gov)

#### Utah Department of Health

[health.utah.gov](http://health.utah.gov)

#### Utah Coronavirus Hotline

1-800-456-7707

#### Utah Division of Multicultural Affairs

Works closely with state and local agencies to elevate the unique concerns and impacts that COVID-19 has on underserved, underrepresented, and systemically marginalized populations.  
[multicultural.utah.gov](http://multicultural.utah.gov)

#### Salt Lake County Government

[slco.org/covid-19/](http://slco.org/covid-19/)

#### Salt Lake County Health Department

[slco.org/health/COVID-19](http://slco.org/health/COVID-19)  
385-468-4100

#### Salt Lake County Health Department Flu Shot Resources

[slco.org/health](http://slco.org/health)  
385-468-SHOT (385-468-7468)

#### University of Utah COVID-19 Resources

[healthcare.utah.edu/coronavirus](http://healthcare.utah.edu/coronavirus)

### Free COVID-19 Testing

#### State of Utah - Testing Locations

[coronavirus.utah.gov/utah-covid-19-testing-locations](http://coronavirus.utah.gov/utah-covid-19-testing-locations)

#### Salt Lake County Health Department

Tuesday and Thursdays, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Maverick Center Overflow Lot, 2051 West 3100 South  
Registration required in advance. Call 385-468-4082 or visit [bit.ly/SLCoMavCOVIDTest](http://bit.ly/SLCoMavCOVIDTest) (Note: Closed 12/24/20-12/26/20 and 12/31/20-1/2/21)

#### Utah Wellness Bus

Call ahead to schedule an appointment at 801-587-0712 (English) or 801-436-7118 (Spanish).  
[facebook.com/utahwellnessbus](https://www.facebook.com/utahwellnessbus) or [twitter.com/UtahWellnessBus](https://twitter.com/UtahWellnessBus)

### Food Resources

#### Utahns Against Hunger

[www.uah.org/covid19](http://www.uah.org/covid19)

#### Emergency Food and Community Resources

[www.uah.org/images/pdfs-doc/Salt\\_Lake\\_County\\_Sheet.pdf](http://www.uah.org/images/pdfs-doc/Salt_Lake_County_Sheet.pdf)

#### Utah 211 Help

Phone 2-1-1, online [www.211utah.org](http://www.211utah.org), or email [211ut@uw.org](mailto:211ut@uw.org)  
Connecting people to housing and utility assistance, food resources, transportation, mental health and addiction help, medical, dental, and vision, domestic violence and abuse resources, legal aid and more.

#### Salt Lake City School District Meals on Wheels

801-301-6476  
[www.slcschools.org/departments/business-administration/child-nutrition/](http://www.slcschools.org/departments/business-administration/child-nutrition/)

#### Salt Lake Community Learning Center Food Distribution

Families can come to one of the Community Learning Centers

(CLCs) to pick up a bag of emergency food:

- Liberty CLC (1078 S. 300 E.): Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
  - Glendale CLC (1388 S. 1340 W. Navajo Street): Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
  - Rose Park CLC (1104 W. 1000 N.): Wednesday from 8 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
- [www.slcschools.org/news/2019-20/coronavirus-information/food-for-families](http://www.slcschools.org/news/2019-20/coronavirus-information/food-for-families)

#### Food Assistance FAQs - Department of Workforce Services

[jobs.utah.gov/covid19/snapfaq.pdf](http://jobs.utah.gov/covid19/snapfaq.pdf)

### Emotional Relief Help Lines

#### Utah Strong Recovery Project

Free support for stress, anxiety, loneliness and worry. Available daily from 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. Call or text 385-386-2289 or email [utahstrong@utah.org](mailto:utahstrong@utah.org)

#### Utah Coronavirus Mental Health Treatment Locator

[coronavirus.utah.gov/mental-health](http://coronavirus.utah.gov/mental-health)

#### Intermountain Healthcare Relief Hotline

1-833-442-2211  
Caregivers available 10 a.m. - 10 p.m., 7 days a week. Counseling is available in 19 languages.

#### NAMI Utah

National Alliance on Mental Illness Mentor Help Line. Monday - Friday, excluding holidays, 9 a.m. - 4:15 p.m. 801-323-9900 or 877-230-6264  
[www.namiut.org](http://www.namiut.org)

#### Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administrative

SAMHSA's Free and Confidential National Helpline for individuals and families facing mental and/or substance use disorders. 24/7, 365-days-a-year 1-800-662-4357  
[www.samhsa.gov](http://www.samhsa.gov)

**Utah Domestic Violence Coalition**

Domestic violence crisis intervention, emergency shelter, and safety planning.  
1-800-897-LINK (5465)

**Crisis Help Lines**

For those having suicidal thoughts or for those who are helping people with suicidal thoughts

**University of Utah Neuropsychiatric Institute (UNI) Crisis Line**

801-587-3000

**UNI's Warm Line**

801-587-1055

A recovery support line operated by certified peer specialists available daily from 3 p.m. - 11 p.m. to provide support and encouragement to individuals experiencing mental health crises.

**National Suicide Prevention Lifeline**

1-800-273-8255

**Crisis Text Line**

Text HOME to 741741

**Safe Utah**

Free 24-hour crisis mobile app with mental wellness tips.  
801-587-3000  
www.SafeUT.org

**Employment Resources****Department of Workforce Services (DWS) COVID-19 Resources**

jobs.utah.gov/covid19/index.html

**DWS Employment Center**

jobs.utah.gov  
720 South 200 East  
Salt Lake City, UT 84111  
801-526-0950  
Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
This location has a free videophone for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

**Unemployment Insurance FAQs - Department of Workforce Services**

jobs.utah.gov/COVID19/uifaqemployees.pdf

**Refugee Services - Department of Workforce Services**

Employment assistance, skills training, and case management.  
250 West 3900 South, Building B

Salt Lake City, UT 84107

801-618-5096

refugee@utah.gov

**Child Care and Education Support****Office of Child Care**

Information and resources regarding child care services during COVID-19.

1-800-670-1552

jobs.utah.gov/covid19/covidocc.html

**Salt Lake City School District Family Resource Hotline**

Support hotline for families needing help with homework, student tech/devices, emergency food resources and other basic needs. Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

801-301-6476

Support in other languages can be provided as needed.

**COVID-19 Business & Nonprofit Assistance****Salt Lake City Business and Employment Services**

801-535-7200 or email ed@slc.gov.com

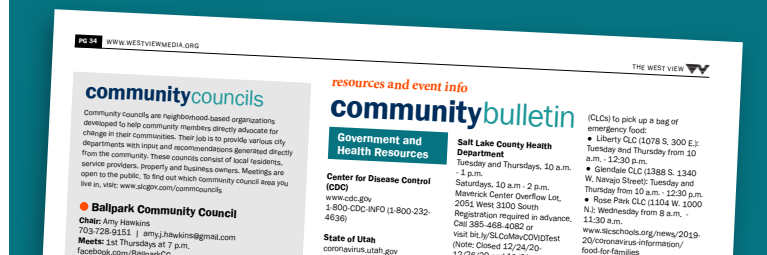
www.slc.gov/ed/covid19

**Salt Lake County Resources for Businesses**

www.slco.org/health/COVID-19/business

**Be part of the bulletin!**

Submit events & resources to editors@westviewmedia.org.

**Salt Lake County Business Relief Hotline**

385-468-4011

Assistance navigating federal state and local relief options.

**Utah Leads Together Small Business Bridge Loan Program**

801-538-8680 or email  
bridgeloan@utah.gov

Business.utah.gov

**Utah Small Business Development Center**

This organization may be available to help small businesses access federal assistance programs, advise businesses on how to manage disruptions associated with COVID-19.

utahsbdc.org

**Women's Business Center**

This organization may be available to help small businesses access federal assistance programs, advise businesses on how to manage disruptions associated with COVID-19.

wbcutah.org

**Minority Business Center**

This organization may be available to help small businesses access federal assistance programs and advise businesses on how to manage the disruptions associated with COVID-19.

www.mbdba.gov/

**Local First Utah**

www.localfirst.org/covid19

**Small Business Administration Loan Resources**

1-800-659-2955

www.sba.gov

**Utah Nonprofits Association**

801-596-1800

www.utahnonprofits.org/resources

**Resources for Households****Utah Community Action**

For renters who are not receiving unemployment benefits or unable to pay their rent due to circumstances related to COVID-19 may be eligible for assistance. Meals and case management resources also available.

801-359-2444

www.utahca.org/coronavirus

**Comunidades Unidas**

801-487-4143

www.cuutah.org

**HOST - Homeless Outreach Service Team**

If you or someone you know needs clothing, dental care, food, housing assistance, obtaining an ID, medical assistance, shelter or work, HOST may be able to provide assistance.

801-799-3035

**Utah Housing Coalition**

801-364-0077

www.utahhousing.org/covid-19.html

**Utility Assistance**

The HEAT program provides energy assistance and year-round energy crisis assistance for eligible low-income households. If you are in danger of shut-off or need assistance paying your bills, contact your local HEAT office.

801-521-6107 (Salt Lake) or  
1-866-205-4357

jobs.utah.gov/housing/scso/seal/offices.html

**Relief for Landlords and Homeowners with Federal Housing Agency (FHA) Mortgages Impacted by COVID-19**

www.fhfa.gov

**Protecting Immigrant Families**

Quick reference guides on immigrant eligibility of federal public programs during the COVID-19 health crisis.  
protectingimmigrantfamilies.org

**Outdoor events****Earth Day Celebration**

April 24, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Poplar Grove Park, 750 S Emery St. (In case of bad weather, it will be moved to May 1.) Come paint a mural, plant flowers and trees, and clean up litter. For more info, register at www.eventbrite.com/e/earth-day-placemaking-event-tickets-143798107009

**Living Traditions Festival**

Cultural performances and presentations:

- May 15: Washington Square, noon - 6 p.m.
- May 22: Chase Home Museum in Liberty Park, noon - 6 p.m.
- May 23: The Gateway, noon - 6 p.m.
- May 29: International Peace Gardens in Jordan Park, noon - 6pm
- June 26: Washington Square, noon - 7 p.m.



# the WEST VIEW

## CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

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### jordan river: heart of the west side

## Be an outdoor explorer on Salt Lake City's west side

By India Nielsen Barfuss

In 2019, the Utah State Legislature unanimously passed a concurrent resolution supporting Utah's Every Kid Outdoors (EKO) Initiative, which highlights research that shows time outdoors benefits kids. In this resolution, the legislature and Governor Cox "recognize it is critical for the well-being and development of Utah's children that we promote a healthy, active childhood filled with outdoor experiences."

Because of that legislation, the Utah Office of Outdoor Recreation (OOR) facilitates an EKO passport program and, in 2020, managed a one-time grant from the Legislature to support outdoor youth programming, such as after-school rock climbing classes in partnership with Boys & Girls Clubs students, Elevated Mountain Guides mentors, Momentum Climbing Gym learning space and others.

#### Why does it matter?

Time outdoors – as little as 20 minutes at a time – has been shown to have universal positive effects on physical, social, and mental health.

It has been shown to decrease blood pressure, heart rate, and even cortisol (stress hormone) levels. One study found improved self-esteem and mood within five minutes of exercising outdoors, with the greatest self-esteem improvements in youth.

Other studies have found that when kids learn and play outdoors, it can improve their problem-solving skills, creativity, and performance in reading, writing, math, and science. Learning and playing outdoors can also help youth improve their relationship skills and reduce stress and anger, and persons of all ages experience health benefits by simply being in an outdoor space like a park, even if they're just sitting on a bench.



#### Passport program

Utah has an EKO passport program with 10 free or low-cost outdoor activities that any kid can enjoy, regardless of background or ability. Any kid who completes all 10 activities can send their passport to the Utah Office of Outdoor Recreation and receive a prize donated from local outdoor companies. The passport is available (with instructions on how to turn it in) at [business.utah.gov/outdoor/eko](http://business.utah.gov/outdoor/eko).

#### Opportunities to complete (and enjoy) the passport on the west side

Observe nature and wildlife in Utah: Have you visited the Fred & Ila Wetlands Preserve just north of the International Peace Gardens? It's a



PHOTO BY  
CHARLOTTE  
FIFE-  
JEPPERSON

Jasmine Walton and Connie Lanier navigate the Jordan River in a canoe during a team-building activity for their work at NeighborWorks Salt Lake last summer.

### ROMPIENDO LAS BARRERAS DEL LENGUAJE

Para leer la historia en español visite [www.westviewmedia.org](http://www.westviewmedia.org).

beautiful place to experience an escape into nature while still being in a major city.

Explore Utah's 44 state parks: One state park on SLC's west side is The Jordan River Off-Highway Vehicle State Recreation Area, located north of the Regional Athletic Center, near the border with Davis County. Please note, the State Park has an entrance fee, riders must be at least 8 years old and those between ages 8 – 16 must complete an educational program before riding.

Experience "The Greatest Snow on Earth": Watch the flakes fall or make a snow angel if you're feeling warm enough. If you want to try

something you haven't done before, the University of Utah rents snowshoes, cross-country skis and more.

Gaze at the starry sky: Step outside after the sun sets and look up – notice which stars and planets you see.

Bring along a friend to discover nearby nature: Visit your closest park and notice the plants, animals, or built environment.

Splash in Utah's rivers, lakes, and streams: The Three Creeks Confluence in Glendale is where Red Butte, Emigration and Parley's Creeks meet and flow into the Jordan River. The grand opening of this restoration project near 1300 South and 900 West will take place in late spring, after native flowers, plants and trees are planted. The site is a wonderful place to relax, fish, learn about the creeks or simply enjoy your commute.

Follow a trail: You can follow the Jordan River Parkway trail by foot, bike, kayak, and more.

Plant a seed: Test your green thumb in your yard, a community

garden or even inside your house – studies show bringing nature indoors has mental health benefits, too.

Play on Utah's rocks and mountains: You might need to drive or take UTA just a bit to get to the Wasatch or Oquirrh mountains, or you can check out fun terrain, dirt jumps, and pump tracks at the 9 Line Bike Park.

Be a steward and take care of Utah's outdoor places: You can get involved in events and volunteer opportunities with the city and learn what it means to be a steward of outdoor places, why it's important to pick up after your dog and how to plant seeds and trees. If you're interested, you can learn more at: [www.slc.gov/parks/trails-natural-lands/volunteer](http://www.slc.gov/parks/trails-natural-lands/volunteer).

*India Nielsen Barfuss is a Program Manager at the Utah Office of Outdoor Recreation and lives in Jordan Meadows with her husband and rescue cat. For more information about the Every Kid Outdoors Program and to download a passport, visit [business.utah.gov/outdoor/eko](http://business.utah.gov/outdoor/eko).*