

The West View

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Community news focused on west Salt Lake City

Summer 2016

FEATURE

OUR HOMES

Firsthand stories behind some of the unique homes on Salt Lake City's west side

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The kitchen is the heart of Astrid Martinez and Tom Kowalczyk's home. This is where they spend most of their time, experimenting with different cooking techniques and savoring new foods with friends. A variety of fresh herbs and cookware, such as a molcajete y tejolote, are kept on hand. This is their happy place.

PHOTO BY LUKE GARROTT

NeighborWorks Salt Lake makes lasting community impact

By Lilliana Ceceña

There is a yellow house on Montague Avenue in Glendale that is really more backyard than house, with chickens that wake up the entire block at 6:30 a.m. sharp every day. There are hot Japanese chili peppers, mint leaves, fruits and vegetables growing in the garden. This is my house.

It was the first home my immigrant mother bought in 1998 and the house my siblings and I were raised in. It is also where we learned that in the United States, neighbors are not just acquaintances, but family. This special connection between neighbors is common on the west side.

NeighborWorks Salt Lake, a local neighborhood revitalization organization, understands the unique character of west side neighborhoods. Their comprehensive mission of "...creating

opportunities through housing, resident leadership and economic development..." is what sets them apart from other housing organizations and makes them effective at enacting change and building strong community ties on the west side.

Homeownership is one of the most recognized strategies that NeighborWorks uses to create neighborhood stability. "Homes can be a family's greatest source of wealth or the first step towards building wealth," said Executive Director Maria Garciaz.

NeighborWorks offers services that help existing homeowners fix their home through low-interest home improvement loans. First-time homebuyers can receive homebuyer education and help from their realtor in finding the right home and the best mortgage loan product. Homeowners who are finding it difficult to keep their home due

to unfortunate circumstances can also learn how to work with the bank to keep their home. Using these tools, individuals learn what it takes to keep up with the commitment of owning a home and how to be a good neighbor, with support before, during and after the process.

Another program offered by NeighborWorks, as it relates to housing, is real estate development. Neighborhoods are transformed and strengthened with a lot of care and planning. After vacant and/or run-down homes are purchased, the magic begins. New homes are built with thoughtful consideration of the characteristics of surrounding homes and the needs of future owners. As these individual home projects are completed, the neighborhoods begin to transform, adding to the pride, safety and unity of its residents. This neighborhood revitaliza-



NWSL staff and YouthWorks alumni stand with national NeighborWorks guests on the porch of a Fairpark home that was renovated by YouthWorks and sold to a first-time homebuyer. The youth did a major interior demolition and repainted the exterior along with landscaping.

PHOTO BY SWEET DEE PHOTOGRAPHY

tion is what keeps attracting new homeowners to live on the west side.

By design, NeighborWorks always prioritizes resident needs. Because they don't rely only on government dollars, they have flexibility in their operations to address community needs. The majority of their funds are raised from private sector grants and

program revenue. In addition, their 17-member volunteer Board of Directors has a 51-percent west-side resident majority. "The residents can always have the final say," said Garciaz. More than 100 west side residents have served on NeighborWorks' board.

STAFF



PUBLISHER/EDITOR

Charlotte Fife-Jepperson

COPY EDITING

Sarah Morton
Leisa Manuel

LAYOUT

Nicole Woodland, Cellar Door
Creative Design

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Jon Burton

CONTRIBUTORS

Lynda Angelastro
Misty L. Brown
Lilliana Ceceña
Martus Chau
Brett Crane
Annie Dayton
Michael Evans
Manu Giron-Fonua
Heidi Fullmer
Luke Garrett
Ty Harrison
Gabriella Huggins
Jeremy King
Giles Larsen
Leisa Manuel
Astrid Martinez
Troy Mumm
Dorothy Owen
Dan Potts
David Ricketts
Mark Smedley
Elise Stanley
Heidi Steed
Gordon Storrs
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Ray Wheeler

AD SALES

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OUR MISSION

To strengthen community identity, increase civic involvement, and foster social justice for the diverse community members in west Salt Lake City.

ABOUT US

The West View is a product of West View Media, a non-profit, 501(c)(3) community news organization that offers an authentic look into Salt Lake City's west side through stories written by community members.

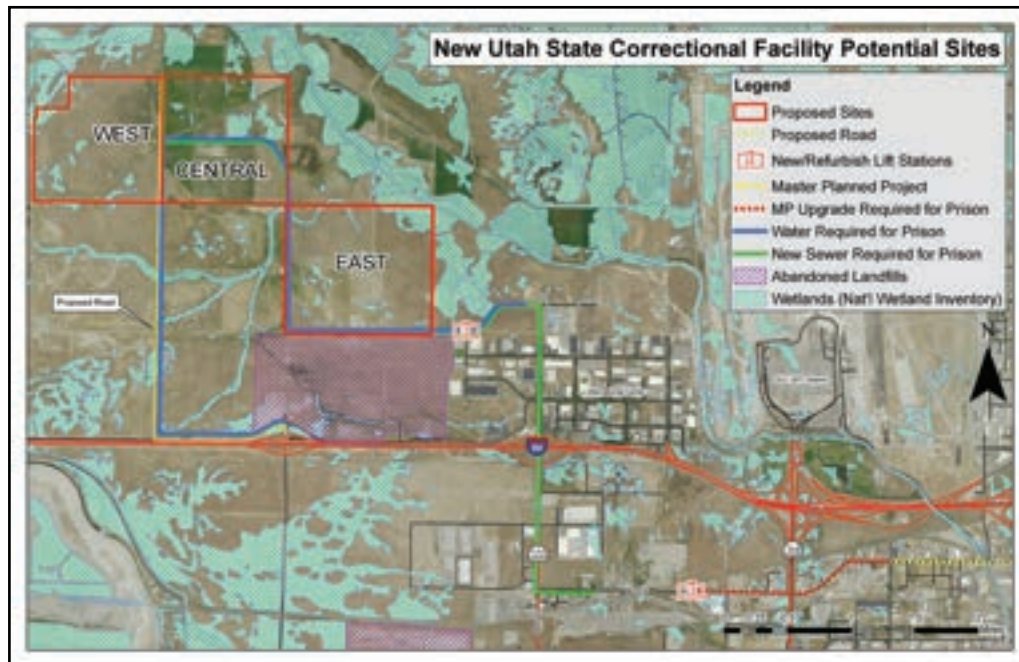
Published quarterly, *The West View* is mailed to 20,000 homes and businesses throughout the Fairpark, Glendale, Rose Park, Westpointe, Jordan Meadows and Poplar Grove neighborhoods. An additional 2,000 copies are hand-distributed to local businesses and public spaces in nearby areas.

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State prison relocation generates concern and perhaps opportunity



By Dorothy Owen

The new Utah State Prison, to replace the current facility in Draper, will house 4,000 people on a 360-acre site west of the International Center. Site acquisition and preparation costs have been estimated at \$154 million with additional construction costs expected to exceed half a billion dollars. It will be the largest, most expensive and controversial "housing" project ever to be planned in Utah. Three sites are currently being evaluated within the northwest quadrant of Salt Lake City.

The State's goals are to develop a "state of the art facility incorporating best practices and highest national standards" and to design a facility that "enhances programs, reduces recidivism and improves security." Such modern prisons look more like schools or medical campuses. As a result, the state now sees itself as building a new "Utah State Correctional Facility" rather than a new "State Prison."

To put this endeavor into perspective, the building of the State Correctional Facility could be compared to the construction of the Intermountain Medical Center (IMC), the

largest hospital in the region, with a 452-bed-capacity on its 100-acre site in Murray. The IMC was designed to become a "center of excellence" similar to the "state of the art" facility envisioned by correctional facility planners. IMC cost \$572 million to build in 2007 — an amount that will be exceeded before the new correctional facility is scheduled to open in 2020.

The IMC complex was built to replace LDS Hospital which was landlocked by residential neighborhood growth that restricted its ability to meet future needs — not unlike the Draper prison facility whose once isolated site is now surrounded by large business buildings and residential housing. The IMC site needed extensive environmental remediation, as does the proposed west Salt Lake City correctional facility site(s), which face major environmental concerns including toxins from an old city landfill, degradation of wetland habitat, and nearby seismic faults that could liquefy the soil during an earthquake.

It took ten years to plan and construct the IMC and over a thousand employees and physicians were involved in different planning and design teams. It was an investment that paid off.

In 2013 the IMC was nationally recognized by *U.S. News and World Report* as one of the best hospitals in the country. Whether the new Utah State Correctional Facility will be as successful will depend upon the State's ability to collaborate with others in a thoughtful, transparent process avoiding a political process controlled by self-interested developers.

A 10-member Prison Development Commission has been established of which seven members are elected legislators, one is the Executive Director of the Department of Corrections and one is the Executive Director of the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice. The remaining member is appointed by the Governor and must be a resident of the community where the prison is to be built.

Governor Herbert appointed Carlton Christensen to the commission, a long-time former Salt Lake City Councilman living on the west side. Christensen is currently the Salt Lake County Director of Regional Development. As a result, he is well aware of local community concerns as well as the eco-

NEIGHBORWORKS continued from **PAGE 1**

In order to optimize their impact they have additional programs that build capacity of residents to create positive change in their community. "Bricks and mortar are important, but what creates lasting change is investing in the residents," said Garciaz.

Billy Palmer is one example of the positive outcomes of NeighborWorks' leadership programs. He is now the chair of the YouthWorks committee, a program that he benefitted from as a teen.

In 1989, Palmer was a 17-year-old adolescent experiencing difficult times when he enrolled in the YouthWorks program, which teaches youth employment and leadership skills. Garciaz was the

program director then. His group was assigned to build a home for a low-income family. Palmer, who was all too familiar with the feeling of constantly moving and dealing with hard circumstances, understood what the home would mean for this family.

Palmer would encounter NeighborWorks again in 2004, this time as part of the first class of the Westside Leadership Institute. He left with more knowledge, training and understanding of community organizing and was energized in his efforts to get people to exercise their right to vote. As the 2015 recipient of the Dorothy Richardson Resident Leadership Award, he was rec-

ognized nationally for his impact and community service.

Palmer currently serves as Vice President on NeighborWorks' Board of Directors, co-host of a weekly Radio Active talk show, and on the Glendale Community Council board. Palmer says that investing in and shaping the youth of our community is the most rewarding thing he's done, because he has experienced firsthand how much of an impact it had on him as an adolescent.

Since 1977, NeighborWorks Salt Lake has engaged residents in the neighborhoods they serve in the creation of programs that meet the needs of the communities, and that is what makes it so unique. Some of their initiatives in 2016 include building 23 market-rate, townhome-style units and preserving seven blighted affordable units near 300 West and 800 North. There will also be a project to build another 17 townhome-style, mixed-income units at the corner of 1000 W. and 200 S.

NeighborWorks Salt Lake's multi-pronged approach to neighborhood revitalization, including market rate and affordable housing, economic development, resident leadership and youth development programs, will contribute to long-term sustainability that will attract diverse residents and appropriate development on the west side for years to come.

EMAIL: wvm.editors@gmail.com




YouthWorks teens help build a fence at the Road Home shelter playground in 2015.


PHOTO COURTESY OF NWSL

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SLC teen inspired by Arches National Park trip

By **Manu Giron-Fonua**

I took a trip with 14 other YouthWorks alumni to Arches National Park last April. We spent three days and two nights camping near Moab, a few miles from Arches National Park. While we were there, we were granted the opportunity to get out and explore the land with a group of people who shared similar interests.

Throughout the time I spent with fellow YouthWorks alumni, I learned to appreciate our national parks. I also learned how to respect our lands and keep them in the same state they are in. With that information I was able to go home and share stories and information with my family about what the national parks really mean to the history of Utah, and what we could do to help preserve our land.

One of the guest speakers was

former NFL Offensive Lineman Darryl Haley. Darryl provided us with inspirational words. What I really took away from the time I spent with Darryl was to "Live Life in 40 second Increments." (For those who don't know what that means, it has to do with football and how every play lasts for 40 seconds.) This really spoke to me and really influenced me to live my life in the now rather than dwelling so heavily on the past and worrying about what the future has to bring.

The trip was very inspiring. Thank you to all of the people who made the trip possible, and thank you to YouthWorks for inspiring youth to follow their dreams through helping others achieve theirs.

Manu Giron-Fonua is a resident of Rose Park and an alumnus of YouthWorks Salt Lake.

EMAIL: wvm.editors@gmail.com



Manu Giron-Fonua (top left) and fellow YouthWorks Salt Lake alumni spent a weekend in April camping in southeastern Utah. They spent a day exploring and learning from park rangers in Arches National Park as part of a collaborative project between National Parks Conservation Association, Friends of Arches and Canyonlands Parks, and YouthWorks Salt Lake.

PHOTO COURTESY OF NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION



SORENSEN SUMMER FUN DAY CAMP



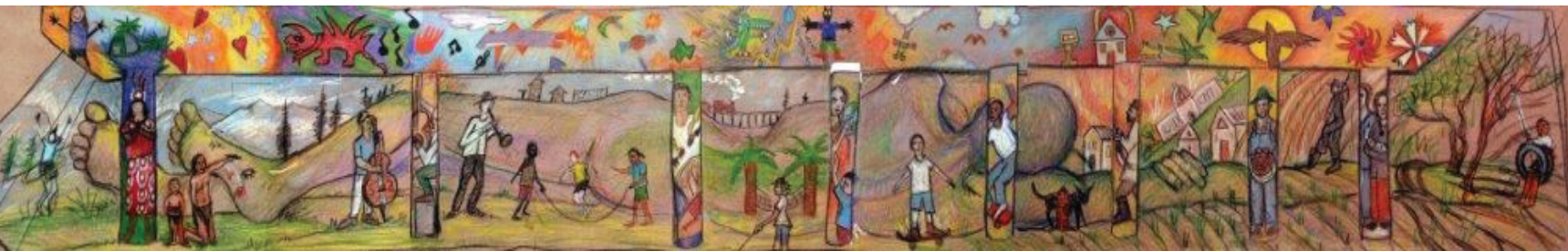
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Community Leadership Programs



Home Improvement Loans



Preserving an urban farming culture in Glendale

By Misty R. Brown

To walk 10th West in Glendale is to travel back in time. The air tells you...this is farmland. There are fields of fresh-turned earth waiting for the next assignment, robust fruit trees and grapevines overhanging sidewalks, and makeshift stands where you can buy farm fresh eggs and organic produce.

The city grew up around this place – around the farms and people, around the chickens and the barns – and if something isn't done to protect it, the city will grow over it. In many ways it already has.

It is something a group of residents on 10th West are trying to reverse. They hope to establish lasting protection for the historic urban farms of Glendale by reinstating the pre-1950s agricultural zoning on their properties. They call their rezoning group “Glendale Chickens.”

Carol Hovey, a second generation landowner on 10th and one of the leading proponents of the rezoning effort, said, “The story of rezoning or retro-zoning 10th West is about our agriculture character and history...and embracing our area as an important part of the city that deserves to have protections in place.”

Glendale is minutes from modern downtown Salt Lake City, but parts of the neighborhood are deeply rooted to the past. The first agricultural settlements were created in the early 1870s with the construction of the George Q. and Caroline Cannon house, which still stands at 1354 S.1000 West.

The families who settled here turned up the ground for the purpose of making an agricultural-based life – a lifestyle that has virtually remained unchanged ever since. More than fifty years of aerial photography and family narratives provides the proof.

And yet in the 1940s and '50s, in conjunction with the

development of the first major subdivisions springing up in Glendale, much of the land along 10th West was arbitrarily rezoned as R1-7000; Single Family Residential. Although the zoning changed, the primary use of the land did not. Life on 10th simply doesn't match the paperwork. What happens from day to day is not in compliance with city code, leaving it vulnerable to conflict and encroachment.

For decades the city's enforcement was capricious; only occasional citations were issued. The most recent rash of citations began when a new neighbor moved in. Complaints about chickens, horses, farm trucks, and tall grasses began to pile up.

The neighbors of 10th West mostly keep to themselves, but after news of increasing sweeps of animal control and city citations slowly made its way up and down the clothes lines, a group of concerned neighbors gathered in a large circle on a front lawn, along with then City Councilman Kyle LaMalfa, to decide what to do about it.

All the prominent families were represented. Dressed head-to-toe in working western-wear, they brought blueberry muffins, a plate of fresh baked cookies, and the history of the area. Their fathers and grandfathers were the original landowners here.

Others present included neighbors from the surrounding area interested in protecting the land that drew many of them to relocate here. “We moved for the land,” said Colby Ries, a 10th West resident and supporter of the rezoning efforts. He relocated his then young family to Glendale over a decade ago in search of open space. “We wanted to grow a big garden and raise chickens so we could live more sustainably.”

The neighbors agreed that in order to gain the needed



One of the iconic free-range chickens of 10th West struts around a field during “Free After 3,” when neighbors typically let their chickens out of their coops between 3:00 p.m. and sunset.



10th West resident James Wayman speaks with re-zone supporters at an organizing meeting.

PHOTO BY MISTY BROWN

URBAN FARMING continued from **PAGE 6**

protections, the properties in question must be rezoned from the current ill-fitting R1-700 to an AG-2 Agricultural District with a modification of the required lot size from a two-acre minimum down to a qualifying 1/2 acre, site specific.

The rezoning proposal is an opt-in program; only those wishing to rezone, sign on. Along with the paperwork and meetings is a large application filing fee and a smaller but still significant fee for each household that wants to be included in the rezoning.

The agricultural designation will give landowners real protection for their open spaces, agricultural actions and equipment, stables and kennels, and functional fencing. It would support seasonal farm stands, community gardens, and it opens the door to build protections for the farm animals that have always been here.

It would also help the families access programs, such as reduced water rates, that support the cultivation of urban gardens and other sustainable practices.

The urban agriculture on 10th is what open space supporters, urban planners, community garden pop-ups, environmentalists, hipsters, politicians, all say they wish to preserve and cultivate.

In fact, on page 33 of the West Side Master Plan the historic character and potential of the area is mentioned: "The large intact lots [signature to 10th West] present conditions that provide unique development opportunities. The potential for interior block urban agriculture is one of those opportunities."

"Regardless of the dollar value, there is something more valuable in our community that keeps families here. We don't often see a place up for sale on 10th West or any adjacent properties. There is intangible value in the open space, the enormous old trees, the proximity to the Jordan River and the many thousands of migrating birds," said Hovey.

What you will find on 10th West is uncommon and it is endangered. The rezoning effort isn't just about chickens; it is about a community wanting to preserve its way of life.

If you have questions regarding the 10th West Agricultural rezoning efforts please feel free to contact r.b.urbanfarming@gmail.com or GlendaleChickens@yahoo.com, or follow them on the [Glendale Chickens Facebook page](#). For more information on [B.U.G. Farms](#) visit them at www.backyardurbangardens.com.

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10th West residents Colby Ries and Misty Brown grow their own food on their all-organic "R & B" farm.

PHOTO BY MISTY BROWN

STATE PRISON continued from **PAGE 2**

economic development potential of the project.

Last January Jim Russell, the assistant director of the State Division of Facilities Management (DCFM), told the Prison Development Commission that it planned to create an "outreach committee" that would meet regularly and include members of community groups concerned with challenges, particularly environmental issues, fac-

ing the project. Since that time the State has abandoned this approach. They are not planning any public hearings regarding their evaluation and election of a specific site location.

Fortunately, Christensen successfully asked the State to at least develop a website to keep the public informed. The State website, at www.newutah-statecorrectionalfacility.com, lists "transparency, flexibility,

quality, and collaboration" as the values guiding the project's development. To make this value commitment a reality,

Christensen encourages local community members to take the initiative to review available information frequently, and to assure transparency, more community input and involvement.

— **EMAIL:** wvm.editors@gmail.com

What west side residents are saying about the planned state correctional facility:

State Representative Sandra Hollins: Her major concerns about the project include environmental impact and city liability. Her goal is to mitigate impact on the community through local employment opportunities. "We need to develop educational opportunities so local residents can take advantage of a wide range of jobs and professions at the new correctional facility."

Carlton Christensen (local representative on Prison Development Commission): He believes that the new facility could create good-paying jobs for local residents. He prefers the site that is furthest northwest. "Settlement of soil and liquefaction are also issues at all three sites; the State wouldn't be able to move inmates in the event of an earthquake."

District 1 City Councilman James Rogers: "We are forced to make lemonade from lemons, but the new correctional facility can be an opportunity to create jobs that change people's lives." He strongly favors the west site and believes it is "imperative to Northwest quadrant economic development."

Dorothy Owen (west side resident and author of this news story): "Because cost estimates keep rising, I am concerned that money will be spent on foundation fill and other site costs, instead of programmatic changes."

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OPINION

Not in my backyard

By Brad Bartholomew

As residents of the west side, we seem to be called out as NIMBYs (Not In My BackYard) whenever we stand up and say enough is enough. Being called a NIMBY should never make us stop raising our voices on behalf of our community.

In our “backyard” now are four state-owned correctional facilities, a number of halfway homes and once the new prison is located in our backyard, we will have 95 percent of the state’s incarcerated population.

Currently there are four low-income housing projects being proposed along North Temple west of I-15. Heavy concentration of low-income housing in one area is counterproductive to building and sustaining a

“To be affordable, housing cost is 30% of income.”

healthy community with a mix of income levels and a strong local economy where we build each other up.

We do need more fair housing choices in Salt Lake City, including affordable, low income, subsidized housing, transitional, and market rate. But, by continuing to concentrate low income housing in one area of the city that has been historically marginalized, we are not providing families in need with access to choice. Keeping families of need in low income areas continues the cycle of poverty and overburdens schools that already have the majority of their students on free lunch.

The discussion of affordable housing gets complicated and technical quick. According to HUD, affordable housing is based on the Area Median Income (AMI) and uses the US Census Data to come up with a dollar figure based on family size. To be affordable, housing cost is 30% of income. Accord-

ing to HUD, the AMI for a family of four in the Salt Lake area is \$72,200. An affordable house for Salt Lake is determined to be \$236,000 for a family of four. The majority of homes in Salt Lake City under this threshold are on the west side of Salt Lake City.

We need to differentiate between affordable and low income housing. Affordable housing is when families making between 80% and 120% of AMI can purchase a house or pay rent with 30% or less of their income. Low income housing is for those making under 80% AMI and subsidized housing under 50% AMI. For those who are making under 30% AMI they are transitioning from homelessness.

The proposed projects will have a majority of units for below 80% of AMI. The County is building a project on South Temple, The Bodhi, with 80% of the 80-100 units are below 80%

“It is time to let the city know we want economic opportunities on the west side and to stop using us as a dumping ground for all the unwanted projects. It is time to say Not In Our Backyards!”

AMI. This places people with economic disadvantage right in the very heart of what they are trying to get away from to improve their lives.

It is time to become NIMBYs on the west side and to let the County and City know we want housing choices for low income families to be spread across the city and other cities. It is time to let the city know we want economic opportunities on the west side and to stop using us as a dumping ground for all the unwanted projects. It is time to say Not In Our Backyards!



Rose Park is gentrifying

By Gabriela Huggins

Last summer, I spotted a copy of the July SLUG Magazine on a rack at the local thrift store. As I waited for the clerk, I eagerly thumbed my way to an article I’d heard about a couple days earlier – a thirty-something white male’s impressions upon moving to Rose Park. In the article “Rose Park Life” I read this man’s description of my neighborhood, playing off familiar stereotypes of drug houses and shady neighbors, and lamenting his inability to find good iced coffee, apparently completely oblivious to Mestizo Coffeehouse and the drive-thru coffee shop that, at the time, was in the Rite Aid parking lot near his home.

This obliviousness about Rose Park seems commonplace. As a kid, my friends would avoid coming over for fear of being shot outside of my home. I remember my mother’s embarrassment upon telling people she lived in Rose Park and the way their faces would change from interest to concern and disgust. Just after graduating high school, a friend and I cringed when a classmate who grew up on the east bench referred to Rose Park as being in the middle of nowhere. I felt constant frustration that people could talk about the

west side of Salt Lake City without ever traveling west of I-15.

Growing up in Rose Park was always pleasant for me; it was a small and quiet community of winding roads, post-WWII-era homes, and large parks. It is still easy to find an enthusiastic soccer game at Riverside Park or a delicious torta (Mexican sandwich) and flavorful ice cream at the local “heladeria.” Rose Park, an historically blue-collar neighborhood, is now one of the most diverse areas in the valley and has long been ignored and underdeveloped. Residents of Rose Park face unique challenges such as limited access to fresh food and more access to predatory loan centers than banks and credit unions. But there is growing interest in this neighborhood.

As Salt Lake City becomes an ever more expensive place to live, people are buying up affordable homes in Rose Park. Some are remodeling them and “flipping” the properties, making a profit. Home prices are skyrocketing. As older residents pass away or move out and young families and new residents move in, some worry about the negative effects of gentrification, such as the displacement of low-income and minority populations.

Recent studies reported on by

NPR: National Public Radio and The Atlantic suggest that gentrification is not as responsible for displacement as commonly believed, and often helps raise the median incomes of residents who stay in gentrifying neighborhoods while also bringing new business and safer streets. But stories of displacement are not uncommon, especially in the context of larger cities like New Orleans and New York City.

Though changing neighborhood demographics do not always signify gentrification, Rose Park has many characteristics of a neighborhood vulnerable to gentrification: a significant number of residents over the age of 65 and a high percentage of low-income households, to name a few. Unfortunately, region, sample size, and the populations being studied pose challenges to understanding underlying causes and long-term effects of gentrification across the nation.

The jury may be out on the impacts of gentrification in Rose Park in the near future, but what is interesting are the expectations of newcomers to the neighborhood and how changing demographics may change the landscape of this tight-knit community.

OPINION

Let's keep it clean

By **Martus Chau**

My name is Martus Chau. I am from Vietnam. My mom and I moved here to Utah in 1993, and I've been living in the west Salt Lake area ever since. This is where I have raised my family. It is my home now and will be forever.

I am a person in long-term substance abuse recovery now and am concerned about some of the businesses in our

community that enable, support, and promote crime for their own selfish profit.

You may have heard in the

"I think our police department and neighborhood watch groups need to be more aware in order to keep Utah a lovely and safe place for our children to grow in."

news about a place called the "Mouse Pad." This was an incognito gambling establishment where thugs, drug dealers, and addicts hung out, and yes, I once was one of them. I was amazed at the loophole this business took advantage of to commit crime out in the open. They allowed gambling under the guise of "sweepstakes" games.

Once I got sober I called the police and told them how I used to get high then commit crime to find money so I could try my luck at the "Mouse Pad" or similar

establishments that remain open. I told them of times I had won thousands of dollars and been paid in cash. After many times calling I became resentful that these places remained open. I am very pleased now to drive by and see the "Mouse Pad" is shut down. Justice finally caught up with them.

Unfortunately there are still several places out there like the "Mouse Pad." I am willing to testify, expose and do whatever it takes to put a stop to this.

I am also concerned about

the growing number of smoke shops in our neighborhoods that somehow can legally sell fancy looking pipes for meth, marijuana, and crack. I can literally go to a drive-through at some of these smoke shops (or gas stations) 24/7 and buy any instrument for drug use. What is the law waiting for? One day the customer could be your son or daughter.

I think our police department and neighborhood watch groups need to be more aware in order to keep Utah a lovely and safe place for our children to grow in.

Transitional correctional facilities: good or bad?

By **Jamaica Trinnaman**

Salt Lake City's west side is home to four state or county transitional facilities that offer formerly incarcerated people a roof over their heads as they attempt to step back into the community. These four facilities combined have the potential to house roughly 500 men and women. Fortitude Treatment Center alone, situated near 900 West and 1700 South in Glendale, can house up to 306 offenders. The United States incarcerates more people for drug offenses than any other country. Today, transitional housing is seen as an effective and often more affordable way to ease offenders back into society. That, along with increased mental health and substance recovery benefits allotted by the Affordable Care Act, leads many to believe that we will see more "halfway houses" and other types of transitional housing in the future.

This shouldn't necessarily alarm us as data suggests that an increase in admissions to substance abuse treatment programs is associated with reductions in crime rates overall, but what does it mean

for those of us who quite literally become neighbors to these facilities?

While many of us support the idea of transitional housing, it is difficult to shake the concerns that come along with having them just around the corner. The Fortitude Treatment Center has been a contentious topic at recent Glendale Community Council meetings. Recently elected

"For me, this issue is complicated. Not even a year ago I walked my sister into a detox facility in Orange County, California."

Vice Chair Chris Gintzon said, "People are primarily concerned with the safety of their neighborhoods." Many also worry about negative financial impacts on the neighborhood.

A study published in May of 2015 in The Journal of Sustainable Real Estate suggests that property values can go down by as much as eight to 17 percent near a drug or alcohol treatment center. For

those whose largest investment they will ever make is the purchase of their home, this is a serious concern.

For me, this issue is complicated. Not even a year ago I walked my sister into a detox facility in Orange County, California. I remember the wave of relief I felt upon pulling up to the facility and seeing that it was in a quiet neighborhood, removed enough from the city to avoid a number of pitfalls, and encompassed enough in a neighborhood to remind her that she could be a part of something good again.

In talking with my west side friends, many of whom are new home owners, the feedback I get is not so much about disdain for these facilities as it is about being heard. They want to know where they can go with concerns. Gintzon encourages them to attend their community council meetings. "There will always be your city council member and your state representative in attendance, not to mention someone representing the Mayor's Office and other city departments. These people are the decision-makers. Come and be heard," he said.

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Wildlife Housing: Restoring natural habitat on the Jordan River

By Ty Harrison

Restoration ecology is a new field that is gaining popularity nationally. Its purpose is to correct the unintended consequences of changes that humans have made to our natural environment. The Jordan River, which runs through the middle of our beautiful Salt Lake Valley, is a perfect example of a once thriving ecosystem that we have radically altered. Many of us would like to help heal this damaged river.

I grew up on an 80-acre family homestead farm on the east bank of the Jordan River in an unincorporated area of south Salt Lake County called Crescent. I have seen the Jordan River flood and cover our pasture bottoms twice, once in the early 1950s and then again in 1983 and 1984. After each flood the river was channelized (deepened and straightened), destroying the important willow habitat used by the wild animals I saw as a child.

For over 20 years I have been involved in a government-funded effort in south Salt Lake County to bring birds and other wildlife back to the river. Funds were appropriated by Congress as part of the Central Utah Water Project (CUP) to correct ecological damage along both the Provo and Jordan rivers. Additional funds came from the federal Superfund settlement for Jordan River damage by heavy metals released by U. S. Smelting, Mining and Refining Co. in Midvale.

When the 120-acre Jordan River Migratory Bird Reserve restoration effort was started in 1995 in South Jordan, we consulted with Dr. Frank Howe, the non-game bird specialist then with Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and now a professor at Utah State University. Our question to him was, "What can we do to improve wildlife and bird habitat to compensate for past damage by flood control, stream channel-

ization and overgrazing of these floodplain pastures?" His advice was to restore native trees and shrubs to create island-like groves of native plants with a multilayered canopy along the river.

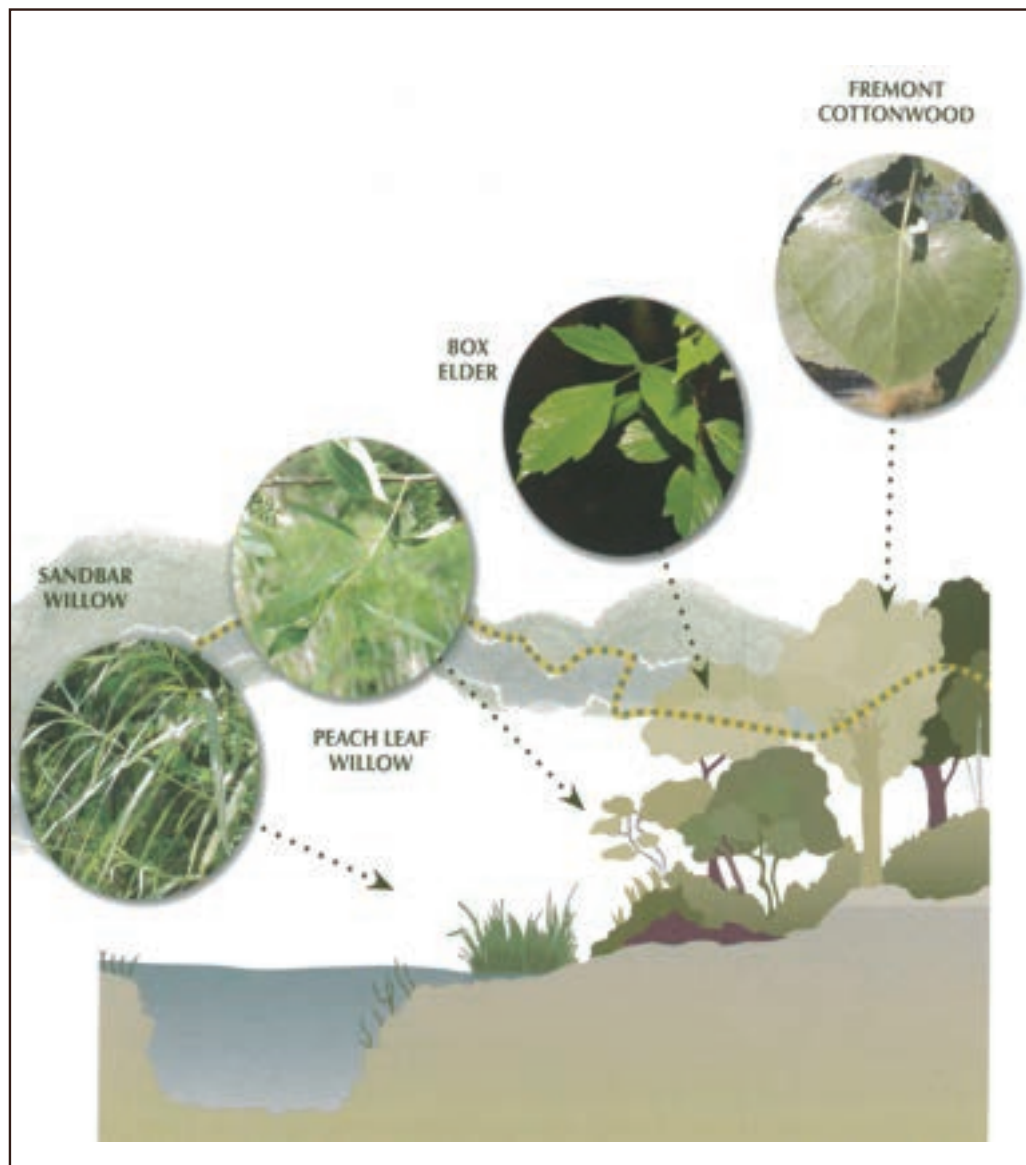
The discipline of ecology recognizes that plant and animal species work together in multi-species "communities" like those of the human species. Wildlife depend on plant communities that have a complex layering, or stratification, of vegetation and an optimum mix of food sources to sustain animals through their annual cycle.

Unfortunately, this complex native tree and shrub canopy has been destroyed by various human activities, including agriculture and repeated river "channelization" – human straightening of the naturally winding river channel, deepening of it with dredging to remove accumulating river-bottom sediments, and piling-up of dredged sediment on the banks, which steepens and heightens them.

Furthermore, native plants have been crowded out by ecologically useless, non-native trees and shrubs like Russian olive, Russian Thistle, tamarisk, phragmites and Siberian elm. Native insects like Mourning Cloak, Swallowtail, and Monarch butterflies need the native tree, shrub, and herbaceous species to reproduce; they cannot use the introduced trees and shrubs since they are not evolutionarily adapted to them.

Over the past fifteen years, using many volunteers from the Great Salt Lake Audubon Society and Tree Utah, we have planted over 100,000 native trees and shrubs in 120 acres of old floodplain pasture to help create islands of multi-layered or stratified forest canopy which will provide habitat for the native insects that become food for the birds. We call this a food chain, or more properly, a food web.

Similar projects, though



Stratification: Native shrubs such as sandbar willow, woods rose and golden currant live under or around the shorter trees like box elder and peachleaf willow, which live under taller ones like the fremont cottonwood. Nesting birds eat insects that live at different heights in the riparian forest canopy, then later eat the ripe fruits of the shrubs, scattering seed in their feces. Illustration is from *Reawakened Beauty: The Past, Present, and Future of the Jordan River*, COURTESY OF THE CENTER FOR DOCUMENTARY EXPRESSION AND ART.

smaller, have more recently been initiated along the Jordan River in Salt Lake City between 2100 South and 200 South with enthusiastic support from neighborhood volunteers.

Restoration is a lengthy process. The good news is this process is working. We are documenting the return of many native bird species. For example, Bullocks oriole nests have been built in trees that volunteers planted in 1998. The ecological layering or stratification process has been started, but may take over a one hundred years to complete. This is,

coincidentally, the lifetime of a Fremont Cottonwood tree, and the frequency of the "hundred-year-flood" which naturally plants cottonwood and willow trees and shrubs along the Jordan River.

The bottom line is that we now know how to successfully do restoration ecology on the Jordan River. The challenge for Salt Lake City and other municipalities along the river is to find the will and resources for restoring meaningful wildlife habitat to this river for future generations.

To learn more about the natu-

ral history and restoration efforts on the Jordan River, purchase a copy of *Reawakened Beauty: The Past Present and Future of the Jordan River* published by the Center for Documentary Expression and Arts here in Salt Lake City, by calling them at (801) 355-3903, or visit the Jordan River Commission's website at www.myjordanriver.org.

Dr. Ty Harrison has a PhD in ecology and is a Westminster College Emeritus Professor of Biology

EMAIL: wvm.editors@gmail.com

Conserving water on your property

By Dan Potts

Salt Lake City residents live in the second driest state in the nation, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Conserving water in our semi-arid climate – with hot, dry summers – makes sense.

The following are suggested ways to conserve water on your property. My wife, Karen, and I have successfully used these conservation methods in our own Salt Lake City yard for decades. Plant more desert plants, instead of exotic, water-guzzling plants that currently surround most of our homes. You can visit the Jordan River Water Conservancy District or Red Butte Gardens to get landscaping ideas that keep your yard attractive while conserving more water.

Karen and I have had a lot of success using native trees and shrubs surrounded by ground covers like phlox, sedum, and thyme that insulate the soil; and bulb flowers like crocus, tulips and daffodils that provide lots of color in the spring – all requiring very little water.

Salt Lake City no longer requires you to only grow water-hungry Kentucky Bluegrass and shade trees in “their” parking strip in front of your house. Twenty years ago, before the famous Utah Rivers Council “Rip Your Strip” promotion, we ripped out the lawn in our parking strip and have saved water and money since. We dropped the soil level in the strip and moved 22 wheelbarrow loads of beautiful topsoil out of that strip to our backyard vegetable box bed garden.

Lower the soil level in planting beds that are adjacent to hard surfaces, like driveways and sidewalks, to keep water from running off into the street and down our storm drains. This will not only increase percolation of water into the soil, but will also reduce the amount of polluted runoff water that kills fish and other aquatic life in the Jordan River.

Another way to decrease runoff is to minimize the use of

hard surfaces. For example, use either movable, elevated stepping pads in higher traffic areas, or turfstone in driveways and patios. Concrete turfstone provides a lattice which even allows planting lawn in its holes.

Watering during dry periods works well for traditional shallow-rooted exotic plants, but the opposite is usually true for the above recommended xeric (desert) plants. They have adapted to drier conditions by preserving their water by closing their stomata (mouths) during dry periods, but open up to absorb water in anticipation of rain. Over-watering during dry periods promotes shallower roots.

Many Utah native plants can send their roots about eight feet down to our local water table. Sage brush, like the one in our parking strip, can send roots down at least 25 feet, and once established, requires no additional water. However, watering desert plants if it is predicted to

rain, but fails to accumulate more than a half inch allows you to “fill them up.”

Use some of the leaves and lawn clippings from your yard as mulch around your plants. Mulch conserves water by first capturing the water as it falls from the sky or overhead sprinklers, and then by insulating the soil from Utah’s hot, dry conditions, reducing evaporation.

Catch and use all of the rain and snow melt off of your roof. Either divert water from your rain gutter to where it can easily enter the soil, or catch it in a rain barrel for later use. Rain barrels may be purchased from Utah Rivers Council or Salt Lake City Public Utilities.

We invite you to check out our front yard at 415 South 1000 West, knock on our door or give us a call at (801) 596-1536 if you want to learn more about conserving water on your property.

– **EMAIL:** wvm.editors@gmail.com



Planting low maintenance, native plants in your yard can be an attractive way to conserve water.

PHOTO BY DAN POTTS



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Victorian-era Fisher Mansion: a treasure in limbo



Historic photo (left) The Fisher mansion was built in 1893 for German beer brewery magnate, Albert Fisher. The immediate site context to the home has not changed in the 123 years of its existence, however the building itself has degraded considerably over the years. Previous restoration estimates totaled over \$1 million. **PHOTO (RIGHT) BY ASHLEY KING.**

By Jeremy King

At the turn of the nineteenth century, the Fisher mansion would have fit perfectly amongst the row of stately homes along Brigham Street (now South Temple) east of downtown Salt Lake City. Sadly, that is not the case today as this prominent building, located alongside the Jordan River at 1206 W. 200 South, has been allowed to degrade to a state of disrepair. Nevertheless, it is still worth visiting the site because most of its significant architectural features are still visible.

On the exterior, although the house is a good example of Victorian architecture, it is missing such classic Victorian features as a corner tower or turret. It could be categorized as Richardsonian Romanesque because of the heavy use of masonry; rough-faced stonework at the base, columns and lintels; the round arched decorative elements; the rounded southeast corner and the low-sloped roof. It is easy for

the onlooker to walk all the way around the home to get the full experience of all four sides.

Notice the magnificent stone-framed bay windows. There is also a little bit of flamboyance in the tall, patterned masonry chimneys and the large eaves overhangs, but this is a much more down to earth “Victorian” era home than some of the more ostentatious mansions which began to grace Brigham Street on the east side of the city at the turn of the century. The Fisher mansion is no less important however, as the architect, Richard Kletting, was also renowned for his design of the Utah State Capitol complex.

Although the mansion is boarded up today with no interior access except by prior arrangement, it is worth getting inside if you can. More Victorian splendor is evident on the interior. The bay windows are again strongly expressed, this time with wood trim. You will see the arch theme again in the doorways. Inside, you will find beautiful wood panel-

ing and glass insets. Natural light floods down from skylights above the dramatic open stair atrium.

The mansion has unfortunately lost a significant degree of its original grandeur over the past century due to a series of neglectful proprietors. Salt Lake City Corporation purchased the mansion in 2006 and commissioned a report in February 2010 to determine potential future use for the building.

In 2011, according to the to the SLC Mayor’s Office, the City received a \$150,000 federal “Save America’s Treasures” grant, which they matched. \$300,000 was used for repairs to the carriage house. Renovation on the mansion itself seems to have stalled, although the Utah Heritage Foundation and the City recorded a preservation easement in 2015 that protects against undesirable development and alterations of the mansion.

As the 2010 report suggests, “The Fisher Mansion presents a number of opportunities as a



Extensive use of wood paneling, glass insets, and skylights allows natural light to penetrate the interior spaces. **PHOTO BY RAY WHEELER**

demonstration of what can be accomplished when adaptively using an existing historic landmark for contemporary use.” It would be wonderful to see this Salt Lake City landmark recapture some

of its former glory and at the same time be a useful amenity for residents and Jordan River trail users alike.

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EMAIL: wvm.editors@gmail.com

New renovation may uncover old lead hazards

By Annie Dayton

When buying a fixer-upper, many homeowners look forward to the renovation process that allows them to improve the home to their specific tastes. What they don't always realize is that during the improvement process, harmful chemicals can be released, posing health hazards for those exposed.

Take Brittanie and Jeff Smith, for example. The couple was married in 2012, welcomed their first child in 2014, and bought their 1952 Rose Park home in August of 2015. Like many young couples buying older homes, they had quite a few changes and improvements they wanted to make to the home before moving in.

First came the demo. They ripped out all the carpet to expose the original hardwood floors. Then they took out the

wood-paneled walls and drop ceiling in the basement. All new electrical and insulation on the exterior walls and attic was completed as well as new drywall to replace the wood paneling. The bathroom and kitchen are in the process of getting completely overhauled, although the couple was able to salvage the existing cabinets and spruce them up with a coat of paint.

The couple wanted to keep the home's original wood doors despite decades of wear and repainting. In order to get a clean start, they removed the doors and sanded them down in their garage. Little did they know that lead paint had been used at one point on their front door and by sanding it down, hazardous lead dust was released.

As the costs of the renovation were mounting, Brittanie heard about Salt Lake County's Lead

Safe Housing Program from a neighbor and applied once she realized that she qualified and could be eligible for free services. The qualifications are simple: applicants must live in Salt Lake County, live in a home built before 1978, be pregnant or have children under the age of 6 living in or visiting the home, and meet income qualifications.

Qualified applicants have a host of free services available to them, including free lead testing and remediation that includes repainting and possible window replacement.

The Smiths had already started their renovation before they applied for the Lead Safe Housing Program but a comprehensive risk assessment showed where there were still lead hazards, including all the lead dust in their garage.

Although an EPA-approved lead informational pamphlet is

required to be given to all buyers of homes built before 1978 (when lead paint was banned), many new homeowners, including the Smiths, underestimate just how hazardous lead is. To find out how old your home is, you can do a parcel search on the Salt Lake County Assessor's website at www.slco.org/assessor.

Most people know that kids aren't supposed to eat lead paint chips but don't realize that simple home improvements, such as sanding painted surfaces, might release lead dust and increase the chances of children ingesting it. And once lead is ingested, it can cause health, behavior, and learning problems, especially for children under the age of six.

As part of the lead remediation for the Smith home, the garage floor was repainted after the lead dust was removed at

no cost to the family. In addition, the program also paid for a radon test to ensure that there were not elevated levels of the radioactive gas that causes lung cancer. Fortunately, the test came back with normal results but if the radon levels had been elevated, a radon mitigation system – often retailing for over a thousand dollars – would have been installed at no cost to the homeowners.

Annie Dayton is the Outreach Coordinator for Salt Lake County Lead Safe Housing Program and a Rose Park resident. If you live in an older home and want to make sure your children or children who visit are not exposed to lead hazards, contact Salt Lake County's Lead Safe Housing Program, at 385-468-4892 or visit slco.org/lead-safe-housing.

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1⁸ 5 3 4

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BODY MASS INDEX (BMI): LESS THAN 25

Your Body Mass Index (BMI) is a measure of your body fat based on your height and weight. A healthy BMI should be 25 or under. Carrying extra weight can lead to high cholesterol, heart disease, diabetes and many other chronic diseases.

CHOLESTEROL: LESS THAN 200

Sometimes the body makes and stores extra fats and cholesterol. A "sudden" heart attack may not be sudden at all, but caused by years of living with high cholesterol which can cause plaque to build up inside the arteries, restricting blood flow and putting you at risk for heart attack or stroke. Since there are no obvious symptoms of high cholesterol, it is important to know your cholesterol numbers.

Go to MyHealthyChoices.me to calculate your BMI and take an important heart disease risk assessment.

BLOOD PRESSURE: LESS THAN 120 | 80

Blood pressure is a measure of the amount of force it takes for your heart to pump blood through your body. High blood pressure has no symptoms and increases your risk of heart attack or stroke, and for developing kidney disease. Have your blood pressure checked regularly.

BLOOD GLUCOSE: 80 TO 120

Glucose is sugar in the blood that is the body's main source of energy. Diabetes, or high blood sugar, can cause problems with your heart, eyes, feet, kidneys, nerves, and other body parts. High or low blood glucose should be medically managed.

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DOUBLE

E TRUCK

Castle on a shoestring: small home, built large

By Ray Wheeler

After a lifetime of working on construction projects across America, at age 63, Ken John's life savings are modest, as is his income. He now works full time as a shelf-stocker at the NPS store, whose large warehouse of heavily discounted "damaged" construction materials, hardware and tools, is a treasure-trove for west-side contractors and has served as a massive construction materials-bank for Ken.

To finance his retirement dream home construction project, Ken gambled his entire life savings to buy a typical 50' x 100' city home lot at a housing-recession low of \$43,000.

Remarkably, Ken John has not owned a car or any other motorized vehicle for 31 years. Anyone

doing the smallest construction project knows how many trips to the nearest building supply store may be necessary on a single day, as new design problems continually arise. For Ken, who commutes around town exclusively by racing bike, and who recently took a hip-dislocating fall off that bike on an icy winter day, building his own house required the advance planning and logistical mastery of a chess grandmaster.

Yet despite the budget and transportation challenges of this project, Ken is creating a thing of magic and wonder: an utterly unique three-story structure with a floor plan of just 480 square feet, which nevertheless has the interior feel of a European castle.

His innovative experiment in home design sits right next to my own house, and I have partici-

pated in most stages of its gradual construction, marveling at the build and finish quality he has squeezed out of a \$70,000 construction budget for a brand new house of strikingly original design inside and out.

The first two floors have 9-foot ceilings and are topped by a roomy attic. The house features an open, chandeliered atrium and kitchen. Ample windows and an eight-foot high front door offer views of the Jordan River, the International Peace Gardens, and the newly created Fife Wetland Preserve.

For a more in-depth description of the building of Ken's small home, and a photo gallery of this epic triumph of innovative DIY design, go to www.westviewmedia.org.

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When you want a perfect fit, sometimes you've got to make it yourself. When his low-budget, 700 square-foot DIY home construction is complete, 6' 7" Ken Johns will never again need to stoop when entering his own house.

PHOTO BY RAY WHEELER

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

HAND - Heavily invested in improving neighborhoods

Salt Lake City's Division of Housing and Neighborhood Development (HAND) is heavily invested in improving neighborhoods in the city, primarily for households making less than 80% of median income, or \$59,050.00 for a four-person household. In HAND, we do this in 2 main ways; the first is through rehabilitation in which we help fix problems that arise in the home, like a leaky roof or a new furnace. The second is providing loans to help people buy their first home.

In the rehabilitation program our team will provide a free inspection to identify all code deficiencies and understand the major issues of the homeowner. If the homeowner decides that they would like to fix the issues, our team will organize all of the contractors and ensure the project is completed in a professional manner and to the satisfac-

tion of the homeowner. In addition, the City also offers loans for the project at a low interest rate. This program is a great tool for homeowners who may not know how to find a qualified contractor to do repair work or who are in need of a loan to get work completed.



The "Emery House" will include 2,100 square feet, 4 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms and a two car garage when it is completed in June. The mid-century modern house is designed to be very energy efficient and will be certified through the Passive House Institute US (www.phius.org).

As part of our first-time homebuyer program we develop property and build new houses for households that make less than 80% of median income. These houses have been scattered throughout the city's west side and central city areas with the goals to help main-

tain and add to the city's housing stock and to lift the neighborhoods where the projects are built.

Currently, we have a new home under construction on the corner of Emery Street and 4th South. This project's guiding principles are to lift the neigh-

borhood by building a new single-family house, to invest in the neighborhood by building a house valued above the average values of the area, and to build using techniques that will result in a very energy efficient house. The "Emery House" will be built to achieve PassivHaus certification, which means the house must be exceptionally energy efficient and airtight. This type of housing is better on our environment, produces low utility cost, and continues to improve neighborhoods.

Both of these programs are designed to support our residents and the homes in which they thrive. Whether you are looking to purchase your first home or you need repair work done, our team is here to work with you. For more information or to find out if you qualify, please call: 801-535-7228 or visit us at: www.slcgov.com/hand/housing-programs.



Brett Crane's highly-embellished kitchen, the room that required the most effort and attention, is a blend of modern and Victorian elements.

PHOTO BY TIM COREY

How I restored my old home to its original grandeur and beyond

By Brett Crane

Fifteen years ago, I came across a 100 year-old, run-down house for sale, and immediately envisioned it restored to its original grandeur. Built in 1902 by David H. Clayton, it was one of the first houses constructed west of the Jordan River. The Claytons farmed a large swath of land along the west bank of the river for many years before it was developed into what is now Glendale. Clayton's father, William B. Clayton, was one of the earliest settlers of the Salt Lake Valley and wrote the popular LDS hymn, "Come, Come Ye Saints."

I have always been fascinated by old houses and their history. I had hoped to find one of my own to fix up, and this one was certainly a fixer-upper! It had sat vacant for about a year and had been severely vandalized inside and out. Many of the windows had been broken, and graffiti marred its every wall and ceiling. At 28 years old, I was undaunted even by the dilapidated wiring and plumbing.

Eager to get started, I moved in the beginning of April and weathered several chilly nights with no heat or electricity. It didn't take long to realize what an enormous project I'd taken on.

My first reality check came with the spring rains. I had just spent a couple weeks installing a new oak floor, only to see it quickly soaked as rainwater penetrated several areas of the roof. Five layers of asphalt shingles and the original wooden shakes all had to come off before I could then sheath and re-shingle it. It's a steep and complex hip-style

with five dormers – not exactly a beginner's roof. It took me the next two full summers to complete.

By this time I had a table saw set up in the parlor and an arsenal of electrical hand tools. All I needed was a few new skills to accompany my enthusiasm. I learned the basics of wiring and plumbing from the internet, home improvement store demonstrations and the few friends I had left who'd survived the roofing project. Frustration was no stranger as I slowly gained experience inside those old walls. It seemed like each task I took on came with a list of others that needed to be done first.

The front porch had settled nearly eight inches and required shoring up to bring the sagging roof back into alignment. The brick pillars bolstering each of the seven support columns had begun to flounder. I replaced the crumbling brick with concrete footings and placed a 4x4 through the center of each column, lending these aging beauties additional support. The back porch columns had tragically been removed and replaced with an enclosure by a previous owner. I found great satisfaction in ripping it off and replacing them, restoring some of the original architectural charm.

The kitchen required the most effort, planning, and time. Growing tired of 7-Eleven hotdogs and the inability to adequately entertain company were two motivators. Since modern amenities have transformed kitchens of a hundred years ago so immensely, it left me with some tough decisions, aesthetically. I chose to incorporate

modern, economic appliances but smothered them with gaudy-enough cabinetry to amuse any proper Victorian. I spent three full winters constructing the cabinets on site, garnishing them with appliques, turned spindles and carved cherubs.

I began spending summers creating a garden I've named "Weeping Cedars," where several species of pines, junipers, and cedars thrive in the clay soil. I enjoy shaping and training trees to give them a more aged character, much like bonsai but on a larger scale. Accentuated with a koi pond and dotted with Japanese maples, it has a Japan-meets-Utah appeal. Manicured evergreens contrast sharply against a red rock backdrop, all under a canopy of pendulous cedars and pergolas.

I've enjoyed the birds and other wildlife the garden attracts, even though this also includes predators like the Kingfisher that pluck out the bright-colored fish from the pond.

I'm pleased with how the place has taken shape over the years, but it's still a work in progress. The floor plan remains mostly original, and I've refinished the previously painted woodwork, embellishing with chair rails, crown molding, and coffered ceilings, as many homes of this time period would likely have had. The 10-foot ceilings, broad pocket doors and tall windows beget a stately ambience of an era long passed. I'm proud to play any role in preserving this part of history.

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EMAIL: wvm.editors@gmail.com



Brett Crane sits in the living room that he has transformed from a dilapidated, graffiti-covered wreck to a victorian-inspired, art-filled parlor.



A lush, purple wisteria vine hangs on a pergola that Brett Crane constructed in his backyard in Glendale

PHOTOS BY TIM COREY

Advantages of co-owning a home, going solar

By Giles Larsen

Like most homeowners, my journey toward home ownership started with other people's money – the bank's money, yes, but also two close friends' money. We were going to buy a house together.

Not just any house, but a 100-year-old fixer-upper on a big piece of land. With a porch! Glendale was the perfect match for us: close to downtown, ethnically diverse, large lot sizes for urban agriculture, and access to the hidden gem of the Jordan River.

We removed the asbestos ceilings ourselves, refinished the wood floors, and insulated everything. That summer, the earth felt the plow and we were growing our own food. The clucks of hens could be heard soon after.

Truth be told, we weren't just any homeowners. Not only were we going to co-own the property, but we were going to live in it together too. One single guy and a married couple in a 1200 square foot, 2-bedroom rambler. We would split the mortgage, utilities, everything. Through a "Tenants In Common" contract that we

drafted ourselves, we divided the property into private use spaces and common spaces. I had the front living room and bedroom, they had a back bedroom and two living rooms, and we shared the kitchen and bathroom.

Why would you cooperatively own a home and live together with friends? It's simple: to reject capitalism!

Capitalism is a system that profits most when you're isolated from your fellow human beings. Each individual or family has to have their own car, their own fridge, their own cheese grater. You end up spending a lot of money on all those things in your cupboards and closets and garages that you could have shared with others while splitting their costs.

So you end up working more to pay for those items too, meaning less money and less time to spend on things that matter most. In my case, only three years after buying the house together with my friends, I was able to pay off my share of our house's principal entirely, because we had split it three ways. That meant that I had no monthly

mortgage or rent payment – leaving me with quite a degree of financial freedom.

Environmentally, co-living makes sense too. Instead of heating a home in the winter for two people in one home, and just myself in another home, it's possible to use a fraction of the energy by living together.

Because living sustainably was important to us, we made improvements like installing a tank-less water heater, building a sunroom for passive solar heating, and mounting a photovoltaic solar array to the roof for generating all of our electricity.

In the end, I offered to buy out my friends because they had started a family, and the space was beginning to feel cramped with two new children. Nevertheless, we still had a successful seven years of co-ownership. Like any relationship, it required constant communication and hard work. But many hands make meaningful work, and fond memories.

Giles will be teaching a Do It Yourself Solar workshop on June 18, 10 – noon. Register at www.wasatchgardens.org/workshops

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EMAIL: wvm.editors@gmail.com



Giles Larsen's solar system, which produces two times the energy he uses, cost \$5,500, but half of that was refunded through tax incentives. Because Giles installed the solar panels himself, he will be able to pay off the investment in eight years. **PHOTOS BY MIKE EVANS**

Steenblik house: remnant of old dairy farm

By Heidi Steed

The large covered porch of the old Steenblik farmhouse gives off a cozy glow as the inside lights shine through the glass panes on the front door, lighting the entryway. There is no doorbell, so I knock on one of the glass panes on the large front door. After a few moments Legrand and Cindy

"...every element in the home tells a tale about the generations of Steenblisks who have lived there."

Steenblik welcome me into their home.

Once inside, warm wood accents meet the eye at every turn; hardwood floors below, built-in wall shelves to the right and wood window frames above. Legrand mentions that his father helped build the home for Legrand's grandparents in the 1920s and that his father was a cabinetmaker by trade. All of the wood treatments suddenly tell a story about the home's history and as we explore the house it becomes clear that almost every element in the home tells a tale about the generations of Steenblisks who have lived there.

Legrand pulls off an oil paint-

ing from the wall and hands it to me. At first I don't recognize the house in the painting, but he explains that it is the very house I am standing in. It is understandable that I do not recognize it at first, considering the house in the painting is surrounded by a bending river and fields of grass and trees, not the rows and rows of the brick bungalows that are now there.

The house I'm standing in has changed quite a bit too. Parts of the large outside porch have been enclosed decades ago as the house was expanded to create rooms for the growing family. Legrand grins as he points out

FARMHOUSE PAGE 19



The Steenblik family's home, surrounded by stately trees, serves as a reminder of the Steenblik Dairy Farm that used to exist on this Rose Park property years ago. Today, the home borders Riverside Park. **PHOTO BY DAVID RICKETTS**

STEENBLIK continued from **PAGE 18**

that one of the kitchen doors was once the back door of their house. It seems that each generation has left their mark on the house as the family added-on to it.

A large kitchen with all of the modern amenities takes center stage in the house. Cindy Steenblik laughs, and tells me that the kitchen sink used to be inside a pantry-like closet in the old kitchen. When she and Legrand decided to take over the family home she refused to do dishes in the small room, so the kitchen floorplan was opened up and the kitchen sink moved into the main kitchen with a few other modern

kitchen updates.

A lot of the vintage elements from the original house are still very apparent, bedroom doors still have the original hardware; golden knobs and skeleton key locks and the family even kept many of the vintage air-intakes from the old coal burning furnace. A few of the older door frames are charmingly ascue, a result of digging under the house to install the old coal furnace, a modern amenity of its time.

The house has stood in the neighborhood long before it was known as Rose Park. When the house was built, the Jordan River flowed naturally,

right up next to the property; tall trees in the backyard mark the old river banks. Located on the corner of the lot, the house is just one part of a larger Steenblik homestead that once included a barn and the family-owned dairy business. Longtime Rose Park residents might fondly remember when the family's dairy was operational, but newer residents might also recognize the family name from the small pocket park with the colorful dairy cat sculptures, located at 1100 North and 800 West, which was named after Joseph F. Steenblik

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EMAIL: wvm.editors@gmail.com

Man catches DIY bug, builds home

By Mark Smedley

Just less than a dozen years ago a condition that I have had most of my life fully manifested, that DIY (Do It Yourself) disease. So I did what I could to alleviate the symptoms, I designed and built a house.

It happened like this: I was searching around the Poplar Grove neighborhood for a home to buy. On one of my forays with a realtor, I discovered that a property across the street from Poplar Grove Park no longer had a little storefront gracing its north side. It was now an empty lot with a "For Sale" sign. I went home and started drawing house plans.

The disease progressed rapidly. I was no longer able to see any of the existing housing in the neighborhood as suitable for me. So I made an offer on the lot, and just let the disease run its course, treating it by completing the design, applying for building permits, hiring a friend/contractor to help me, excavating a large hole in the ground, pouring concrete, etc.

I have had the "green" bug for a long time and it's easy to go green when designing your

own house and starting with a hole in the ground. Place several large windows on the south side, store the solar energy in a concrete floor, insulate the walls well. By following that design criteria, I built a home that costs less than \$400 per year to heat. I anticipate that amount will drop below \$200 when I place solar panels on the roof to heat the floor and the household water. (Home building projects seem to last forever, hence I am still not done.)

Taking advantage of the sun is the primary green feature of my home, but I also used as many recycled and environmentally friendly products as I could. Bamboo grows to maturity in about seven years and makes great material for cabinetry and trim. And it's beautiful. I purchased interior doors, bathroom sinks, coat hooks, etc. from George's Architectural Salvage. This stuff can add character to anyone's home. There are many interesting countertop products available. I used Paperstone and stainless steel for mine.

Since steel is the most recycled stuff on the planet,

I used it for my garden fence. Corrugated steel without galvanic coating oxidizes nicely. The result: a reddish (rusty) fence that never requires painting. The one I built will probably last eighty years, and then someone in the neighborhood can recycle it again.

The best thing about building my own house is that now I have a home that quite suits me. It is environmentally friendly, architecturally interesting, filled with natural light, complete with a large sunny yard to grow vegetables for cooking delicious meals in my kitchen.

If you are ever in the neighborhood, look for the green stucco/grey metal siding house with the curved corrugated steel fence across the street from the northwest corner of Poplar Grove Park. If I am out grubbing around in the garden, stop by and I will give you a tour and introduce you to my chickens, Pasqual, Patina, Paulina, Pot and Pie, Noodle and Soup, and Yaki. (Teri unfortunately got eaten by a raccoon.)

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EMAIL: wvm.editors@gmail.com



Mark Smedley's DIY home is a modern addition to the Poplar Grove Park neighborhood with its interesting rooflines, windows and corrugated steel fencing.



The inside of Mark Smedley's home is full of natural light and a feeling of openness. Mark in his loft, where he spends time doing one of his favorite pastimes – reading.

PHOTOS BY DAVID RICKETTS

Keeping it in the family

By Heidi Fullmer

We were moving back to Salt Lake from Orem in 1996, and my husband Paul's parents were ready to sell their house on 773 North Catherine Street. Paul spent his teen years in this house in Rose Park and we both loved the charm and character of it, so we decided to buy it.

Paul's grandfather, Roelof Steenblik, based the design on the homes he saw in Holland where he served a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The steeply pitched roof stands out among the homes in the neighborhood. For many years the house was painted bright yellow and it was a "signpost" for those driving in Rose Park; quite often people would tell you to turn left at the tall yellow house.

This old house has history. Roelof built the house in about 1932. We found newspapers from that time in the walls. (Newspaper and sawdust were

apparently insulation at the time.) He thoughtfully designed the stairs to the second floor with a shorter than normal rise for his wife Dena's shorter legs. Babies were born in the house, and we understand that one of their teenage boys would shoot pheasants out of his bedroom window, back when there was a field to the west of the home.

There is now a very modern element to our house. We have a shed on our property, and often over the years it would get tagged with graffiti. It was frustrating to have our 80-year-old neighbor painting over it because we didn't get out there fast enough. We have been fortunate that young artists have asked to paint murals on it. They give us an idea of what they would like to paint and what they expect their costs to be. We pay for the paint and then give them the go-ahead. What a blessing it is to have art covering that large space. We still get graffiti, but maybe there is honor among artists and it doesn't get tagged quite

as often.

When we bought the home twenty years ago, it was in need of some tender loving care. We could see the potential and were up for the challenge. We updated the wiring, which consisted of a combination of knob and tube wiring, as well as some from a later date. We replaced the plumbing and put in a sprinkler system. We replaced a shake shingle roof with architectural shingles. We completely gutted and updated all of the rooms, except the kitchen and the bedroom/bathroom over the garage. We've done the majority of the work ourselves, although we had help with the re-plumb and installation of a new breaker box.

Roelof loved this home and we do too! We guess that's what happens when you build something that means so much to you. It was a great feeling to know he was so pleased with the remodeling that we had completed before he passed away.

EMAIL: wvm.editors@gmail.com



Sean Fullmer stands in front of his family's iconic, Dutch-inspired home in the Rose Park area.



To combat illegal graffiti that often got put up on the side of their garage, the Fullmers began partnering with local artists to have murals painted. PHOTOS BY DAVID RICKETTS

Couple adds art and culture to their home

By Astrid Martinez

My husband, Tom, and I instantly fell in love with the house we bought in the Fairpark neighborhood. There was lots to love! It was in the perfect location for us - only one freeway exit away from

our favorite downtown amenities, and rich in character and diversity, which is something you don't find very often in other neighborhoods across the valley.

One of the major things that drew us to the home was the great remodel it had gone through.

The prior owners made the place look very modern and fresh. They added hardwood floors throughout the living spaces, and did some incredible upgrades in the kitchen and bathroom. It took away a lot of stress of having to do a big remodeling project with any other house

we would've bought.

We moved in and right away got to work with adding our own eclectic style. My love for color and art is evident throughout the house. There is a wall dedicated to authentically crafted Guatemalan masks, which pays respect to my heritage.

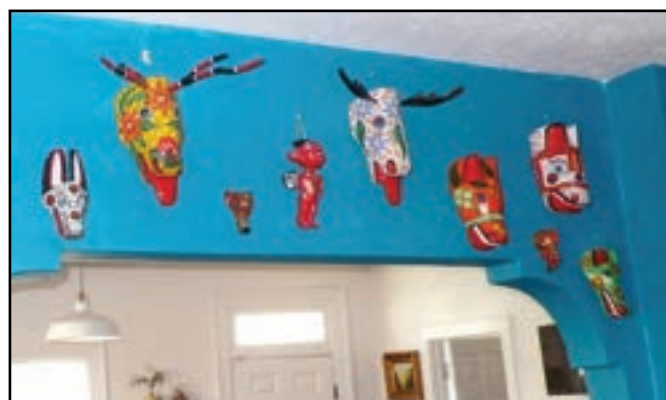
We turned the front yard into a water conservation-friendly garden full of beautiful grasses and low-maintenance plants. Our backyard is also our very own water-smart oasis. Using very little water in our

CULTURE PAGE 21



Astrid Martinez and Tom Kowalczyk put their personal touch on every aspect of their home.

PHOTO BY LUKE GARROTT



Astrid's collection of Guatemalan masks is displayed on a colorful dining room wall.

PHOTO BY ASTRID MARTINEZ

CULTURE continued from PAGE 20

yards is something we take pride in. It's an ethical practice we hope more people will start incorporating in their homes.

Tom and I love working on our yard, maintaining our garden, taking care of our lovely chickens, and finding the pleasure of simply hanging out and eating a meal amongst the plants. Our house was the first original house on the street and it used to be a working farm. We have carried on the spirit of the old farmhouse in our urban garden.

Our artistic taste fits perfectly in our diverse neighborhood! Instead of feeling like we are adding something different to the community, we actually feel we are enhancing the diversity and personality that already exists in our neighborhood.

We want to encourage our community to beautify their spaces. We hope that our house inspires our neighbors to take pride in their home, in their street, and in their city.

EMAIL: wvm.editors@gmail.com



Orlan Owen (left) and Gordon Storrs stand beside one of the long walls of their "live-in art gallery."

PHOTOS BY LUKE GARROTT

The live-in art gallery we call home

By Gordon Storrs and Orlan Owen

Recently divorced and living in an apartment in the Marmalade District, I quickly realized I did not like living with someone above and below. I had always wanted to design and build a house and saw my need to get out of the apartment as an opportunity.

I embarked on a house building adventure with few resources and unbridled optimism. I was convinced I could build my own home, because I had previously built a shed and remodeled a house. To make the dream come true I needed financing and an inexpensive lot.

With a referral from friends at NeighborWorks Salt Lake to the Community Development Center, I was shown a lot in the Fairpark neighborhood that was priced right and available. Although the lot was a mere 29 feet wide, it was also 191 feet deep, and I knew it would work with an efficient design. I had lived on the west side prior to my divorce, and loved the area. With the financial help of a friend and my eldest daughter, we made an offer on the lot, and it was approved.

I jumped into creating four different plans for the house and gave them to local architect Lloyd Platt. I wanted a contemporary house that was exciting: with twenty-foot high spaces, contemporary kitchen, a bridge, unusual exterior design, and a live-in gallery with plenty of walls for art. I wanted to be able to see the trees through a window from

the entrance, sloped ceilings, and a balcony bedroom. Lloyd came back with a design that incorporated all of the ideas and was within budget.

The 1,300 square foot unique home with a two-car garage would be finished within a \$150,000 budget. I drew on my experience with architects, planners, and builders in my job as Master Planning Coordinator at Salt Lake Community College for the courage to begin the financing and building process. I also gained courage to attack this project from my dad, who taught me that I could do anything I decided to do.

With a friend's help I was able to obtain construction financing, secure Planning and Zoning approval and begin the adventure as the project's general contractor.

Finalizing the design, we added another 500 square feet and made some changes, as Salt Lake City Planning and Zoning rigidly required six and ten-foot side yards which meant that the house could be no wider than thirteen feet. That was doable. However, the garage design proved more difficult. After Planning turned down the original garage plan, they helped design a 9 x 50 foot two-car, tandem garage entered from the side, which in the end, was a happy solution.

Now came the hard work. A subcontractor poured the footings, foundations, and concrete floor. People passing by thought it was a swimming pool.

The lumber to frame the house was delivered all in one load and dumped on the ground. When

I arrived at the lot to begin the creation of the masterpiece, I remember sitting on the pile of lumber and thinking to myself, "What in the world have I gotten myself into?" I eventually picked up the hammer, saw and tape measurer, and framed the garage (the easy part).

With the help of the building inspectors, family members and amazing friends, we finished building the house in six months. I moved into the laundry room after about two months, while construction was still in progress. We worked until about 11:00 p.m. every night after work and all day Saturday and Sunday. I did the framing, the electrical, the sheetrock, the piping for the hot water heater, the insulation taping, the ceiling installation, and the painting. I had subcontractors do concrete work, excavation, plumbing and shingling (I was afraid of falling off the roof). I was exhausted at the end of every day.

The house turned out as I hoped. We love living here in our Fairpark community. We love waking up every morning inside a space that makes us feel happy and alive. Since finishing most of the inside of the house, with plenty of art on the walls, we have finished most of the landscaping with trees, flowers, vegetable gardens, fruit trees and outdoor living spaces.

My thanks to all who helped us create this vision and to those who make the Fairpark neighborhood an exciting place to live.

EMAIL: wvm.editors@gmail.com



The bedroom reflects Astrid's Guatemalan heritage with bright colors and natural woods. The headboard was constructed as a partition for a walk-in closet behind the bed.



Astrid and Tom's backyard glows with strings of lights and festive Papel Picado – decorative paper flags traditionally displayed during Dia de los Muertos.

PHOTOS BY ASTRID MARTINEZ



In her studio, Astrid Martinez displays a beehive frame that she is turning into an art piece.

PHOTOS BY LUKE GARROTT

Temple Square gardener cultivated 'oasis of peace' in Rose Park home

By Elise Lassig Stanley

Talisman West, home of the late LDS Church gardener Peter Lassig, was designed and constructed in 1976 by Peter and his father Don Lassig. The Rose Park location was chosen because of its proximity to Temple Square, Peter's home-away-from-home for 40 years, and for the bucolic setting of the parkway that the home is situated on just steps away from the beautiful Jordan River.

The home's name is Peter's tribute to designer Frank Lloyd Wright's winter home, Taliesin West.

The original design allowed for Talisman West to be built in phases so that it was affordable for the young Lassig family to build and live in, while planning for the eventuality of upgrading and completing a number of dream additions.

In 2002, Peter pulled out the original house plans and sketched in long-awaited changes. The first step was to convert the garage into a passive solar greenhouse. Peter had studied passive solar energy during graduate school at Utah State University.

He built the roof of the garage out of 12 inches of concrete, strong enough to hold the weight of a parked car. The bottom stories of the garage and adjoining room have steel beams that are clad in wood to avoid a foreboding appearance. At the same time, he also pushed out existing windows and added bay windows in several locations, inviting sunlight that bathes the home in warmth and allows Janet Lassig the light needed for 350 plants throughout the home, including marvelous oversized ferns that grace a number of the rooms.

Downstairs, the garden room is impressive, but the upstairs greenhouse, reached by a

moveable ladder, is magnificent. The greenhouse is humid and beautiful, with creeping fig covering walls and columns, fragrant jasmine in bloom in early spring and a flickering chandelier on eye-level at the top of the ladder staircase.

When they were young, the eight Lassig children imprinted a "wreath of hands" in the greenhouse cement that is still there today.

Peter designed the angle of the roofline so that sun entered the front windows in the winter-time only. In the greenhouse, the 27-degree angle of the glass is exactly perpendicular to the sun on the day of Winter Solstice, another testimony to the love of both science and physical poetry within Peter's soul.

The home is gracious, with both art and books throughout.

Many of the plants, both within the home and in the spectacular gardens outside, are souvenirs from travel, while other plants are gifts from friends and family.

The kitchen and sunroom windows look out on trees that Peter planted throughout his life. An enormous wrought iron wisteria trellis follows the lines of the home on the west side, with additional iron work on an arbor at the rear of the lawn and a gazebo entered through a garden gate. Just inside the back garden gate is an espaliered pear tree, delighting Peter and Janet with its first pears over the past few summers.

The old grandfather of the back gardens is an enormous slide that has delighted generations of Lassig children, grandchildren, and neighborhood children alike. Iron gates salvaged from his childhood home in Holladay frame the entry to the lawn and gardens, while beautiful "peachy pink" roses are tucked into the property everywhere.

The approach to the double



"Talisman West," home of Janet Boyer McMaster Lassig and the late Peter Lassig, is graced with gardens filled with peachy pink and purple blooms.

PHOTOS BY JENNIFER LASSIG STANIFORTH

front doors includes oversized sandstone steps salvaged from an excavation at the mouth of Parley's Canyon. With permission, Peter was able to move them with cranes and trucks to Talisman West.

Peter designed iron hayrack planters, which were then created in Mexico, to grace the front windows. These planters are filled with ivies and blooms during spring and summer months.

As in many labors of love, Talisman West is still not finished; Janet continues to plan for peachy pink gardens to come. But it is a physical manifestation of a lifetime of striving for excellence, for contribution, and for beauty.

Together, Peter and Janet combined their love of gardens and their love for each other and family to create a Garden of Eden in Rose Park, a sanctu-

ary for the senses, and an oasis of peace.

The late Peter Lassig worked for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints as a landscape architect and head gardener of Temple Square. Among his many projects was the landscaping for Day Riverside Library near his home in Rose Park. Peter died on October 25, 2016.

EMAIL: wvm.editors@gmail.com



Wasatch Commons resident, Joel Cannon, pulls a wagon full of food to their weekly potluck meal in the Common House.



PHOTOS BY DAVID RICKETTS

Cohousing emulates old-fashioned way of life

By Lynda Angelastro

Most homebuyers spend far more time looking at a potential home than checking out the larger community. For one kind of housing project, ignoring the community is nearly impossible.

Cohousing is a unique type of project first built in Denmark, and the only one in Utah is located right here on the west side of Salt Lake City. It is called Wasatch Commons Cohousing and has twenty-six homes clustered on about four acres of

property in Glendale, between Utah and Cheyenne streets, just a block or so south of California Avenue. Like many of the original European cohousing ventures, Wasatch Commons Cohousing is committed to community living, diversity and environmental sustainability.

Americans are now more mobile than ever before, and attached garages and air conditioning keep people tucked indoors and off of neighbor-friendly porches. The result is often a street or neighborhood where

residents have few connections. The cohousing concept strives to produce old-fashioned communities where neighbors know one another and children roam more freely than is possible in most modern neighborhoods.

At Wasatch Commons there are no garages and there is no driving inside the community. Parking is confined to the outside edges of the development. Children ride bikes, grown-ups take walks, and community cats lounge on the wide pathways with no fear of being disturbed

by traffic. This safe and accessible design supports the primary aim of cohousing, which is to develop relationships. To further foster friendship, members eat together several times a week. Potlucks are held twice a week. A community café is held on Saturday mornings and an inexpensive paid meal is typically available every week.

Wasatch Commons is very committed to diversity. You'll find many parts of the world represented, along with a variety of faiths and personal philosophies. Occasional foreign exchange students, Peace Corps presentations and overseas dance troupes add to the multicultural mix. And for broader economic diversity, a partnership with Salt Lake Housing Authority has allowed some of the units to be offered as part of an affordable housing program.

Environmental sustainability is also a much-prized value at Wasatch Commons. In the one-and-only garage there are two lawn mowers, snow shovels, a rototiller, rakes and other garden tools can be borrowed instead of

owned. Facilities for guests are available in the Common House so that residents can own or rent smaller homes, while still having the ability to host visitors. Community members also grow much of their own food and are encouraged to support local businesses.

To help them understand the unique benefits and responsibilities of living at Wasatch Commons, potential residents are asked to attend several community meetings before they move in. With its commitment to community, diversity and the environment; cohousing at first glance appears to be quite different from mainstream housing. Look a little harder, and this neighborly housing concept is more like the old fashioned way of life many of us enjoyed years ago.

For more information about the Wasatch Commons Cohousing community, call (801) 251-6233 and leave a message, or find Wasatch Commons Cohousing on Facebook.

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A temporary shelter, resembling a cliff dwelling, was constructed with rocks and a Styrofoam insulation gun to glue a double wall of tarp to the bottom of the Fremont Avenue bridge.

Homes of the Homeless

By Ray Wheeler

Any west-sider knows that homeless people are embedded within and scattered throughout our communities. We glimpse them in flashes, determinedly pushing shopping carts, bikes, or bike trailers loaded with their entire belongings up and down our sidewalks and trails, sleeping on park lawns, even digging for aluminum cans in our trash cans.

Many live intermittently in our public homeless “shelters.” But many gravitate to, and travel along, river corridors, probably because of the riparian forest that allows them privacy.

On my kayak paddles on the Jordan River, I see improvised dwellings daily. Occasionally, while gliding through one of the river tunnels formed by overhanging tree branches, a new dwelling will appear at my elbow. Yikes! Human eyeballs stare from a cave-like hollow in the willows or phragmites thickets. A brief, awkward exchange of banal greetings – “Hey there!” – and they vanish in my boat wake as suddenly as they appeared.

Sometimes we do have time to chat. One man told me that he lost his livelihood as a house painter after he was badly disabled in a machete attack by an angry driver at the dangerous “S” curve of Big Cottonwood Canyon. As he was recovering from the injury his mother was killed in a fire, which totally de-

stroyed the house in which they had lived. I thought this story sounded suspiciously theatrical, and asked if I could see the scar from this injury. He yanked up his shirt: there it was, an angry ridge of flesh running from his neck across his chest to his rib cage.

Some of the homeless people that I encounter are intellectually or physically disabled. Many are unable to find jobs because of criminal records, some are highly intelligent, competent and skilled, and a large number of them are heroin or methadone addicts.

The handiwork of some of the grander transient homes is impressive. One couple from Texas lived from fall until spring in their insulated “cliff dwelling” under the Fremont Bridge on the bank of the Jordan River.

There has long been a major tent village just downstream from the Fisher Mansion and 200 South. The mansion’s elegant carriage house rooflines tower above bright orange and blue dome tents, shredded tarps, bike frames, shopping carts, and prolifically scattered trash spilling down into the river. Another transient dwelling along the back side of the Glendale Golf Course has been ingeniously camouflaged within a dense thicket of ten-foot high, tasseled yellow phragmites grass, coyote willow branches and prickly Russian olive trees. Over my decade of residence on the West Side, I’ve heard many complaints – and added some

of my own – about the copious quantities of trash laid down by our nomadic human visitors, especially on the banks of the Jordan River.

A friend and I recently spent 12 hours sorting and bagging the contents of a single abandoned transient camp, resembling a small city dump about fifty feet in diameter. We collected 200 articles of damp clothing; 50 shoes; 220 pounds of bike components; three collapsed tents, a tarp and two sleeping bags; five rugs; a very large furniture cushion; a large plastic dog house and 30 pounds of canned food; a car battery; several stage lighting stands; a laptop computer and other e-waste; and 25 pounds of hazardous materials including no less than 100 hypodermic needles, about 30 of them floating loose in the mess.

The impact of our growing population of homeless people is a substantial city management problem.

The Brazilian city of Curitiba has worked out an ingenious solution to its trash problem. The city pays semi-homeless slum-dwellers bus tokens for each bag of trash brought to trash collection stations. The bus passes allow the poor to move easily around the large city and commute to whatever jobs may be available. Perhaps our city could provide something similar to our homeless “urban campers.”

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EMAIL: wvm.editors@gmail.com



Kevin Edgar smiles after he and I sorted and stuffed 1,030 pounds of trash into 26 sixty-five gallon trash bags from the largest transient camp dump we have ever encountered.



This “home” near the east side of Glendale Golf Course is camouflaged with phragmites, a plant used for home construction in the Middle East.



Perennial transient camp downstream from the Fisher Mansion at Jordan River at 150 South.

PHOTOS BY RAY WHEELER

West-side Community Councils Report

By Liesa Manuel

Each of Salt Lake City's seven city council districts includes multiple neighborhood community council areas. Neighborhood community councils are run by elected volunteer boards that hold monthly meetings about ten months of the year. Community Council meetings enable the exchange of information and ideas between residents and various city government liaisons. Local representatives for the Utah House and Senate are often present.

Community councils stimulate interest in community projects such as Jordan River Cleanups or public mural projects. Community Council participation can also be a link to involvement in the city's many volunteer citizen boards such as the Human Rights Commission or the Police Civilian Review Board.

Although all residents are welcome, attendance at the six community councils serving the roughly 20,000 households in west Salt Lake City varies.

In January, over 100 people attended the Glendale Community Council because of controversy related to the terms of office and election scheduling for board member positions. Attendance remained strong in the months of February, March and April since a new board was elected. Problems related to the Fortitude Treatment Center and the contradictions between that center's actual function and the model that was initially presented to the Glendale community is a recurrent topic at the GCC.

By contrast, the Jordan Meadows Community Council meeting has had very low attendance this year – only three people attended the January meeting. Attendance improved dramatically in February when Mayor Biskupski, the police and fire chiefs and other city officials made appearances. Mayor Biskupski said in regards to city housing policy that they will create a community where people can live anywhere in the city. "This won't be the dumping

ground that you've felt it was. I just won't allow that to happen," she said. The Jordan Meadows Community Council elected Jim Goostrey as its new chairman in April and held elections for vice chair and treasurer in May. (Treasurer Roger Gridley recently passed away following a long illness, and longtime Vice Chair Cal Noyce will not seek re-election.)

Also preparing to hold elections this year is the Westpointe Community Council. The current board is encouraging residents to get involved with the council and to join the board. Attendance has not been as high as the board has wanted, but an average of 15 people has allowed for some worthwhile discussions and for council participation in an Arbor Day tree planting project.

Recent discussions have included zoning rules for the northern part of the neighborhood that allow for an increase in "light industrial" construction projects – primarily warehouses.

The Poplar Grove Community Council maintains a strong average attendance of thirty people per meeting, although a possible city zoning change that would allow expansion of The Inn Between (a homeless hospice center) boosted those numbers in April. This council has made recommendations for CDBG expenditures on the 9-Line trail, including benches and waste cans, and participates in Jordan River cleanups. It is proud of five successful years turning its Night Out Against Crime into a community festival known as "Groove in the Grove."

The Fairpark Community Council has a steady attendance of about 40 residents this year, partly because it has maintained a momentum of focusing on local planning and economic development initiated last year when Fairpark Community Council members successfully gained support from state and city officials for the Utah State Fair Park. Resulting legislation is intended to ensure that the Utah State Fair Park will remain the home of the

Utah State Fair and also reserves one State Fair Park Board position for a local resident. More recently, council discussions have focussed on the concentration of high-density, low-income housing projects along North Temple. They also recently organized a successful, fundraising Plant Sale.

City master plans and neighborhood improvement are important to residents of any part of the city, but big changes will happen on the West Side in the near future. Salt Lake City uses Redevelopment Agency (RDA) funding to integrate business, housing and transit improvements in the city after considering the priorities of residents, local businesses and other community partners. Improving west side neighborhoods is a stated goal of both the Salt Lake City Council, sitting as the Redevelopment Agency Board, and of Mayor Biskupski.

The City has committed to at least part of a bike/pedestrian linear park project known as the 9-Line by purchasing an abandoned rail corridor. Linking 900 East and 600 West with a bike trail along 900 south is the heart

of the plan, but improvements will stretch further west as the 9-Line intersects with the Jordan River Trail and connection points for TRAX transfers. Other possible RDA targets are housing and business developments along 900 West in the Poplar Grove/Glendale areas, the Granary district around 200 West, and parts of North Temple.

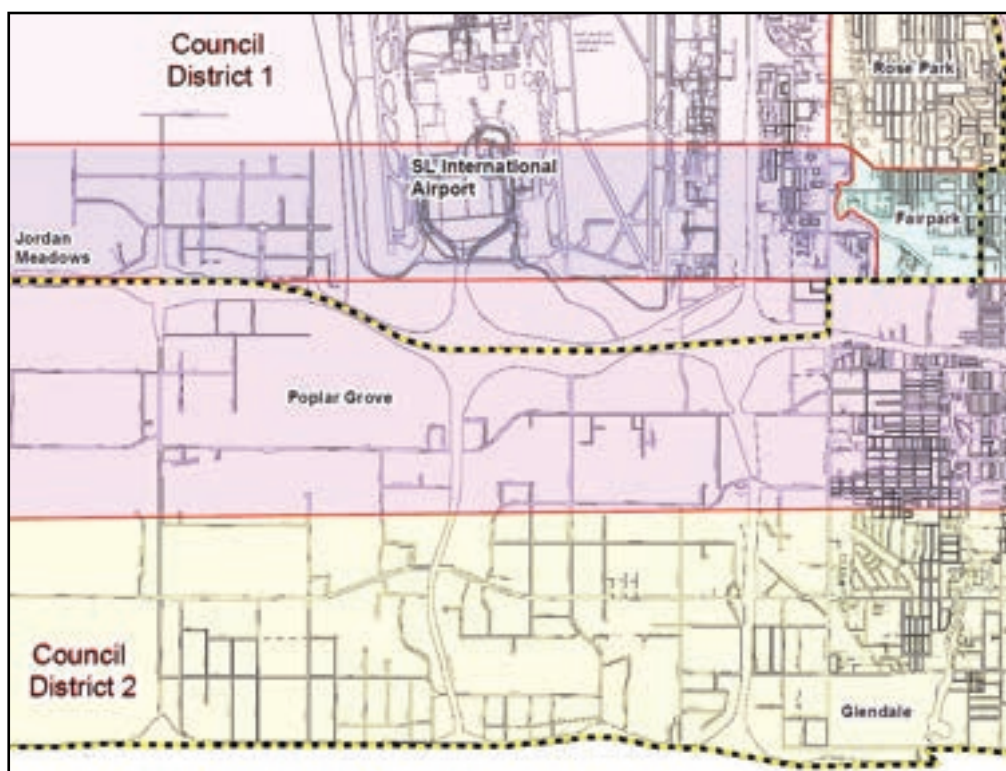
District Two Councilman Andrew Johnston told the Glendale Community Council that high density housing RDA projects are essential to accommodate population growth and the need for affordable housing at a range of income levels. Smaller, neighborhood-specific projects could be funded with separate grants. An example is uncovering the three creeks that feed the Jordan River around 900 West and 1300 South. The effect would be similar to the stretch of City Creek that has been "daylighted" near North Temple and State Street. For more information about RDA planning projects visit www.slcrcda.com.

At a well-attended Rose Park Community Council meeting in May, City Councilman James

Rogers stressed the importance of developing the Northwest quadrant master plan to encourage good economic growth and development in the area. He reiterated the City Council's 3 priorities this year: economic development, improving infrastructure, and promoting affordable housing throughout the city.

Rose Park Community Council recently organized a "Jane Jacobs" Walk, where community members toured the neighborhood and talked about assets and new developments they would like to see. They also organize regular cleanups of the 600 North overpass, and their popular, annual Rose Park Community Festival in May. They need residents to show up at the June 7 City Council meeting to show support for pedestrian safety improvements on 600 North. More info at www.SlowDown6thNorth.com. RP council meetings are live-streamed and archived on YouTube at www.youtube.com/channel/UCAoBejiOY88tDTM-BRdAr4g/live

EMAIL: wvm.editors@gmail.com



Add this caption: Salt Lake City Council Districts 1 and 2 are located on the west side of the city. These districts are divided up into six, smaller neighborhood community council areas.

MAP COURTESY OF SALT LAKE CITY CORP

communitycouncil

GET INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY COUNCIL!

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, go to www.slcgov.com/commcouncils.

Fairpark Community Council

Fourth Thursdays: June 23, August 25, 6:30 p.m., Northwest Multipurpose Center: 1300 W. 300 N. (No meetings in July, Nov, Dec)
Chair: Bryce Garner, 801-885-1352
brycegarner@gmail.com
Website: <http://fairparkcommunity.org>,
Facebook: Fairpark Community Council

Glendale Community Council

Third Wednesdays: June 15, July 20, Aug 17 at 7 p.m., Glendale Library: 1375 S. Concord St. (1240 W.) (No meeting in Dec.)
Chair: Sean Crossland, 385-202-6445
gccchair@gmail.com
Facebook: Glendale Community Council
Facebook Closed Group: Jordan Meadows Community Council

Jordan Meadows Community Council

Second Wednesdays: June 8, July 13, August 10, 6:30 p.m., Day Riverside Library: 1575 W. 1000 N. (No meeting in Dec.)
Vice Chair: Cal Noyce, 801-531-6137
calnoyce@aol.com

Poplar Grove Community Council

Fourth Wednesdays: August 24 at 7:00 p.m., Pioneer Precinct 1040 West 700 South (No meetings Jun, Jul, Nov, Dec)
Chair: Marti Woolford 385-743-9767
poplargrovecouncil@gmail.com
On Facebook as PoplarGroveCouncil

Rose Park Community Council

First Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., Day-Riverside Library
Day-Riverside Library: 1575 West 1000 North (No meetings in July, Aug.)
Chair: Blake Perez 801-702-2522
blakeperez@hotmail.com
Facebook: Rose Park Community Council

Westpointe Community Council

Third Wednesdays: June 15, July 20, Aug 17, 6:30 pm
Day-Riverside Library: 1575 W. 1000 N.
Chair: Erin Youngberg
801-815-0130
erin@westpointecc.org
Facebook: Westpointe Community
YouTube Channel: Westpointe Community Council



communitybulletin

Sorenson Multicultural Center

855 West California Ave, 385-468-1300

Swagg ON 9TH

Fridays: June 17 and July 1, 8, 15, 6 - 9 p.m.
FREE music, food, dancing, activities, and community resources for all ages.

Summer Swim Lessons

Morning, evening and Saturday lessons for all swim skill levels. Call 385-468-1300 for dates, times and session availability

Summer Basketball

Recreational youth basketball program with focus on fun and skill building.
Kids, K - 6th grade, Cost: \$26
3 clinics and 3 games on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings.

Summer Soccer

Recreational youth outdoor soccer program with focus on fun and skill building.
Kids, Pre-K - 6th grade, Cost: \$26
6 games on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings.

Starlite Dance Academy

Cheerleading, tap/ballet combo, hip-hop and tap/ballet/jazz combo classes, held on various days throughout the week, \$15/month

Tae Kwon Do Classes

\$15/month
Tuesdays and Thursdays: 6 p.m. Beginner, 7 p.m. Intermediate, 8 p.m. Advanced

Sorenson Unity Center

1383 South 900 West, 801-535-6533

SLC Homeless Services Public

Workshop Monday, June 13, 6 - 8 pm
The workshop is part of a 2-week series asking the public's input on where two new homeless resource centers should be located in the city. For more info visit <http://www.slc mayor.com/homeless-service>.

Swagg ON 9TH

Fridays: June 24, 6 - 9 p.m.
FREE music, food, dancing, activities, and community resources for all ages.

Family Film Series

6:00 p.m. FREE family film on the last Friday of each month. Children under 16 require adult supervision.

Chapman Library

577 South 900 West, 801-594-8623

Super Summer Challenge 2016

This summer reading program is for all ages and involves more than just reading. Receive prizes for completing challenges in the following categories: read, explore, make, discover and do. Register and pick up a tracker and calendar of events at any SLC Public Library location. June 4 - August 20.

Origami Workshop

Saturday, June 25, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Learn the art of paper folding, beginner and advanced paper folders welcome.

HawkWatch: Parade of Raptors

Saturday, June 25, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Day Riverside Library

1575 West 1000 North, 801-594-8632

Scales and Tails Reptile Show for kids

Monday, June 20, 2 p.m.
Come see a variety of friendly reptiles.

Graff Lab Stencil Workshop for teens

Saturday, July 2, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Learn how to create your own street art stencil in this workshop using provided materials.

Bolly X Cardio Class for adults

Saturday, July 16, 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.
50-minute cardio-fitness dance class

Glendale Library

1375 South Concord, 801-594-8660

NASA at Glendale

Wednesday, June 29, 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Learn about NASA's Space Launch System (SLS) Program and how the SLS rocket will bring humans to deep space and eventually to Mars, with Twila Schneider, Education Outreach Specialist for the SLS Program.

3D Printing Class

Monday, July 11, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Kids ages 7 and up can make their own Olympic medal using the Library's 3D modeling software and printer. Register one week before by calling the Glendale Branch.

Marmalade Library

280 W 500 S, 801-594-8680

Kids Ballet Workshop with SLC Ballet

Thursday, June 30, 2 p.m.

Learn about being a dancer from professional and student dancers. Kids can enjoy a short dance class and a performance from SLC Ballet

Teen Mind Sprint Challenge

Friday, July 29, 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Meet other teens and work together to solve a series of STEAM-centric challenges. Participants will rotate through different partners as they complete activities incorporating science, technology, engineering, art and math.

River's Bend Senior Center

1300 West 300 North, 385-468-3015

Western Party

Thursday, June 23, 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

A fundraising dinner party with entertainment by "Ballads of a Lady" – performer Sheery Breenan. Cost: \$5

Summer Olympics: Live Your Passion

Friday Aug. 5 - Friday, Aug. 19

Join us for a variety of games. Call the center for more details.

Enhanced Fitness Classes**Sunday Anderson****Westside Senior Center**

868 W 900 S, 385-468-3155

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 11 a.m. in the cafeteria

Blood Pressure, Blood Glucose and Fitness Screenings

July 13, 8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m., by Fortis Nursing

Summer Buffet Carnival

June 30, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. at Jordan Park,

Main Pavilion. Lunch, games and entertainment for ages 60+. RSVP by June 20 at the Center

International Peace Gardens

Jordan Park, 1060 South 900 W.

HawkWatch: Birds & Parks in the Peace Gardens

Saturday, June 11, 10 a.m.

Learn about native raptors in the area and how we can protect them.

Peace Garden Festival

Saturday, Sept. 17, 12 p.m. – 5 p.m. Free Admission

Sugar Space

130 South 800 West, 385-202-5504

Craft Sabbath

First Sundays, 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Craft Sabbath is a monthly gathering of local artists and crafters selling jewelry, sculpture, clothes, dolls and more. "Craft_Sabbath" for updates.

UNP Partners in the Park

FREE food and activities for families. Learn more about higher ed. and other resources. 6 – 8 p.m.

June 21 – Jordan Park

June 28 – Sherwood Park

July 12 – Poplar Grove Park

July 26 – Rose Park Elementary

August 2 – Northwest Rec. Center

Urban Greens Market

Buy fresh, local produce at mobile farm stands June 17–Nov. 14.

Glendale/Mountainview CLC, Mon. & Thurs. 2-4 p.m.

Hartland Partnership Center, Mon. & Thurs. 5-7 p.m.

Sorenson Unity Center, Mon. 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Neighborhood House, Mon. & Fri. 4-6:30 p.m.

Sherwood Park, Fri. 12-2 p.m.

All locations will accept SNAP/EBT and Double Up Food Bucks, text "MARKET" to 51555 for updates.

West View Community Newsrooms

Friday, June 16, 9-10:30 a.m. at the West View

Media office, 641 W. North Temple, Suite 300

Tuesday, June 21, 6-8 p.m. at the Sorenson

Unity Center. All west SLC community

members are invited to help determine the

content for our Fall Jordan River/Recreation

& Sports Issue. Come and be a part of your

community paper!

HELP WANTED**PART-TIME BOOKKEEPER/
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

The Center for Documentary Expression and Art (CDEA), a Salt Lake City-based non-profit corporation founded in 1983, seeks a reliable, part-time bookkeeper experienced and efficient in QuickBooks, working on project budgets, preparing organizational reports for an annual audit, and assisting with preparation of grant proposals. CDEA has a small staff and a large group of contractors, so strong communication skills are a plus.

Specific duties: preparing and sending monthly invoices; receiving and verifying vendor invoices; preparing monthly payments and financial statements; documenting in-coming and out-going payments; collecting and reviewing time sheets (including in-kind documentation); contributing to budgets for CDEA proposals; and coordinating as needed with the executive director. The position also entails light secretarial work such as answering the phone, and maintaining contact as needed with the organization's staff, independent contractors, and vendors.

Hours: 4-8 hours per week (hours can be flexible)
Remuneration: \$17.50 - \$21.50/hr (based on your experience)

Previous work in the non-profit sector is preferred but not mandatory. Please send a resume with at least two references and a cover letter to Executive Director Leslie Kelen, lkelen@cdeautah.org or Leslie Kelen

Center for Documentary Expression and Art

243 East 400 South, Ste 301

Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

801-231-0235



CENTER FOR
DOCUMENTARY
EXPRESSION
AND ART

The West View

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS! Get involved in your community newspaper by contributing stories, helping with distribution, or copy editing. If you are interested, send us an email at wvm.editors@gmail.com.

Postal Patron

West side Wildlife **Western Chorus Frog**



Dan Potts

WEST VIEW MEDIA



Western Chorus Frog, *Pseudacris triseriata*

I first encountered this unique frog as a kid, when I heard its loud mating calls in the spring.

Their call is a repeating, rising, rasping one-to-two second “prreeeep, prreeeep, prreeeep” that can carry for half of a mile on a calm day or night.

I found it difficult to sneak up on this critter, since it quit calling every time I tried to move

closer.

Because its calls were so loud, I was expecting to find a large western toad or a leopard frog. When I finally spotted it, to my surprise, the frog was tiny – only about one inch long! I simply could not believe how loud this frog was able to call for its small size.

The fact that this aptly named

frog actually belongs to the tree frog family helps to explain its abilities, as most tree frogs are very loud. However, the chorus frog is a unique member of that family as it does not possess the typical suction cups at the ends of its toes like other tree frogs, which allows them to climb trees.

Instead, the chorus frog has the traditional toes of most aquatic

ground frogs and toads, which allows them to navigate the edges of ponds, wet meadows, flooded areas and anywhere there is shallow water with vegetation for them to hide in.

They are also good swimmers, and usually escape by swimming under the water like other frogs.

Their most likely predator is probably the exotic, introduced, large bull frog, that is now widespread in most lowland water habitats.

Chorus frogs can be easily identified because of their small size, but can also be distinguished from other young frogs by their relatively pointed snout, and the five dark brownish-green stripes that extend from the nose through the eyes and along their back and sides.

As a teenager I became so infatuated with this small frog that with the help of my mother, Norma Benson, who is an expert oil painter here in Utah, I created an oil painting of one (see accompanying photo).

Over the decades I have found the chorus frog and its captivating calls from the Salt Lake Valley floor all the way up to some of the highest natural lakes in the Uinta Mountains.

Here on the west side, we should be able to hear them now during the daytime through June, although as it gets hotter they mostly call at night. Listen for them in wetlands near the Jordan River, like in our new Fred and Ila Rose Fife Wetland Preserve on 900 South, and see if you can sneak up on one.



The West View appreciates the generous support and partnership of UNP.

**1060 S. 900 West 801-972-3596
www.partners.utah.edu**

Join your neighbors this summer at the 5th Annual



**Tuesday, August 2nd 6-9pm
outside the Pioneer precinct 1040 W. 700 S.**

**Community Celebration • Information Booths • Live Music
FREE food • Kids Activities • Live Performances & more!**

