Ensuring South Salt Lake is a Great Place for Business

There are lots of great reasons to support and grow our business community in South Salt Lake. Successful businesses provide jobs; bring needed goods and services to our community, and provide a sustainable tax base to help fund City infrastructure and services.

That’s why an important element of my 5-point Strategic Plan is to support our existing businesses and recruit new businesses to the City. South Salt Lake has always been a good place to do business. It’s hard to beat our location with good freeway access, convenient mass transit and close proximity to Utah’s capital and major universities. We also have a steadily growing employee base because of new residential building and interest from developers.

So how do we ensure that South Salt Lake is a great place for business? First, we need to strengthen relationships between the City and existing businesses. Our Community & Economic Development Department is committed to helping our existing businesses succeed and grow in our City. In addition to stellar customer service, our staff offers a variety of resources for businesses of all sizes. We are committed to implementing our Economic Development Strategic Plan and we also work closely with our friends at the South Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce to help them promote South Salt Lake as a great place to do business.

Second, it’s essential that we continue to attract new businesses and development – especially in our new Downtown and Creative Industries Zone. 2017 was a great year for South Salt Lake as we saw the completion of projects like WinCo Foods, The Pie Pizzeria, and Rite Aid. This year, we celebrated the opening of the Wasatch Renal Clinic and soon we’ll see other businesses opening like Moochie’s on State and McDonald’s and Carl’s Jr. on 3300 South.

But we don’t sit around and wait for businesses to knock on our door. It takes smart master planning and zoning to provide an attractive environment for new business. Our Creative Industries Zone is already taking shape with existing staples like Signed & Numbered, Sugar Post, Wave Products, Western Art Glass and new businesses like The Commonwealth Room, Salt Fire Brewery, Custom Canvas Prints and Beehive Distilling.

We’re also working closely with the investor and development community to bring new energy and ideas to South Salt Lake. Last month, our Economic Development department hosted 30 of the State’s most successful developers at an event called “Opportunity South Salt Lake” where the group came up with ideas and strategies for making our business district a more vibrant and active place.

As South Salt Lake grows and evolves, my mission is to create a balanced economy that supports and improves quality of life for all of our residents.
City Council Corner

Since I began my campaign last year, crosswalk safety has been a major concern of mine. During the budget discussions recently, I proposed $100,000 go towards flashing warning lights on some of our city crosswalks. These are the orange flashing lights with poles on both sides of the street. However, crosswalks on State St. need to be taken care of by UDOT, since State St is a state road.

Unfortunately, while on my way to a city event in June, I witnessed a cyclist get hit by a car while crossing in the crosswalk at 3000 South and State St. Luckily, he was not seriously injured.

This crosswalk has high amounts of traffic passing through it everyday. With six lanes, State St can be a very dangerous place to cross. As I have been back to this crosswalk several times in the past month, it amazes me how fast the road is and how easily motorists don’t see those crossing.

In this specific case, I had stopped at the crosswalk in the right hand lane. The driver next to me did also. But the driver in the inside lane did not see the cyclist once he was approaching. If you see cars stopped in the middle of the road, it is likely they are at a crosswalk stopped for somebody crossing.

Soon after attention was made of this accident, UDOT reached out to me. I am hopeful a red flashing light, similar to the one a couple of blocks down the road near Reams can be installed at this intersection before another more serious accident happens.

We all need to watch for each other. As drivers, please look for cyclists and pedestrians in these busy crosswalks. And when we are the pedestrians, please make eye contact with all the drivers before and while proceeding through the crosswalks.

Hopefully, as summer begins, we can all be more aware of those crossing the streets and have a safe summer.

Note: Opinions expressed here may not be representative of all Members of the City Council.

Where’s Horton?

Help celebrate 80 years in South Salt Lake, a city founded on the fundamentals of a public water and sewer system. The Horton Tank was built a decade after the city’s founding to create a pressurized water system. Follow Horton around town on a photo scavenger hunt during our 80 day anniversary countdown from July 5 to September 22. Learn fun facts about the history of South Salt Lake and win prizes each week! Join us on Facebook @southsaltlakecity.

City News

Where’s Horton?

HAPPY 92ND BIRTHDAY!

Don Caddy, lifelong South Salt Lake resident, turns 92 this month. We wish him a Happy Birthday!
Community Awareness and Fireworks Safety

With our 4th of July and 24th of July celebrations this month, I would like to share a few safety tips and ask that we all be aware and curious to our surrounds and neighbors. The City of South Salt Lake is growing rapidly with new developments and new people moving into our city, which means there is much more to take into consideration while enjoying fireworks this season.

One risk posed by setting off fireworks is structural damage to your property and properties around you that may be under construction as well. This could be caused by bad weather conditions, high winds or not enough space. Ideally, you need a large open space, creating distance from structure to keep them safe. If by chance the weather isn’t in your favor, it is best to call it a night. This will not only keep your audience safe, it could also protect your property and properties around you.

As we celebrate, we need to be respectful of the men and women that have spent parts if their lives in service to our nation. The noise and explosions of fireworks can seem like summer fun to many, but they may also trigger serious PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) symptoms for some combat veterans. Firework explosions can also often cause anxiety and distress for our elderly, create discomfort for those with asthma and epileptics can experience seizures following a fireworks display.

Also, let’s not forget our four legged family members. When frightened by fireworks dogs have been known to injure themselves and others by trying to escape the noise, potentially causing damage to property as well. If you have pets, I encourage you to keep them inside your home to prevent them from running away or getting injured.

Please enjoy your July holiday celebrations and stay safe!

2018 Fireworks Discharge Dates & Times

Between the hours of 11:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m. except as noted:

- July 2nd – 5th
  (July 4th extended to midnight)
- July 22nd – 25th
  (July 24th extended to midnight)

Beautiful Yard Award

Nominate a SSL Lake Beautiful Yard Today!

Mayor Cherie Wood’s Beautiful Yard Award is her way of thanking SSL residents who have made exceptional efforts that impact their neighborhoods in a positive way. Beautiful yards make neighborhoods more attractive and vibrant. It's easy to nominate, please take a moment to contact the Urban Livability Department at 801-464-6712 or vlelo@sslc.com to recognize a deserving yard.

Congratulations to Judy Mincher! Thank you for your commitment to a Beautiful Yard!
**City Capital Improvement Highlights**

- **400 East and the S-Line Streetcar**
  The signals have been installed and successfully tested. Pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles should be cautious as this new system is now online.

- **Sunset Avenue Pavement Reconstruction**
  The project has been awarded to Stapp construction as part of a larger street projects package. Work on Sunset will consist of installing new asphalt pavement, curb and gutter, and sidewalk. The project will be completed later this summer.

- **2700 South**
  Roadway improvements and bike lane striping were awarded to Stapp Construction as part of a larger street improvements project. Work will be completed during the 2018 construction season.

- **Penney Ave**
  Stapp Construction has completed roadway excavation and is currently installing storm drain pipe. When storm drain work is completed installation of new curb and gutter will commence. The project will be completed by the end of summer.

- **Parleys Trail - Main to West Temple**
  This project has kicked off with UTA and Granite Construction. A one-block segment of trail will be built in the S-Line streetcar corridor, in the style similar to the sections east of State Street. It will include a 12’ wide concrete trail, lighting, landscaping and smooth transitions to street crossings at Main Street and West Temple.

- **Lions Park**
  Work has begun to prepare for a playground to be installed on the west end of the park. A grant from KaBOOM! and JetBlue is making the project possible. Public Works and Public Assets have begun by installing a sidewalk around the perimeter and moving irrigation. A community build day will be held on Thursday, August 9 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. All are welcome to volunteer and help build this great feature that SSL kids and parents designed!

- **Streetcar Double Track**
  UTA and Stacy Witbeck construction are working in the S-Line Streetcar corridor between 300 East and 500 East to build a second track parallel to the first. This allows trains to pass each other more frequently, speeding up times between trains from 20 minute intervals to 15 minute intervals.

- **Plant a Tree for Free**
  New trees are popping up around South Salt Lake, thanks to a grant from Rocky Mountain Power and volunteers through the city’s Community Connection program. Trees are being planted in front yards and in wide park strips. Anyone in the city is eligible to receive a free tree by contacting the Urban Livability Department at 801.464.6712 or vielo@sslc.com.
Community Happenings

Celebrate Parks and Recreation Month in July

South Salt Lake has one of the most popular and diverse recreation programs in Utah. Credit goes to the people who keep the events, sports leagues, camps and rec centers going. This includes not just city recreation staff and parks staff, but also great volunteer coaches, commitment from Promise SSL staff, and donors such as Dry Creek Charity who sponsor Break Thru Soccer.

Aaron Wiet, the SSL Recreation Director points out what makes these programs tick. "We are focused on making programs high-quality, affordable, and tailored to our community. We have a huge diversity of participants and are always updating our offerings to meet requests and trends." New offerings for adults include the Hiking Club, 5x5x5 adult softball league and of course, Pickleball. For youth, the Ready to Ride bike program, summer soccer league and new playgrounds across the city are keeping kids busy and fit.

"Our mayor has made investing in people a top priority. Personal health and happiness is our mission and it is also rewarding to bring people together and build unity," says Wiet.

Join the city for several celebrations of new and exciting parks and recreation offerings this summer:
- Cool Summer Nights at Fitts Park on July 13, July 27 and August 10 at 6 p.m.
- Grand opening of Central Park on August 7 at 7 p.m.
- Ribbon cutting for Lions Park Playground with KaBOOM! and JetBlue on August 9 at 2:00 p.m.

Utah Home to Longest Continuous Trail Network West of the Mississippi

Bikers, hikers and strollers are celebrating the newly joined Golden Spoke Trail, which spans 106 miles through 34 cities from Ogden to Provo. A group ride on June 2 led people through the regional trail systems to all meet in the middle at Salt Lake City’s newly completed bridge at North Temple. The event was modeled on the Golden Spike ceremony when the cross-continental railway was completed at Promontory Point.

The Trail network includes the Ogden River Parkway, Denver and Rio Grande Western Rail Trail, Legacy Trail, Jordan River Trail, Murdock Canal Trail and the Provo River Parkway. South Salt Lake has the Jordan River Trail, as well as part of the 8-mile Parley’s Trail connection to the Wasatch Mountains. The Jordan River Parkway Trail was planned in the 1970s and is just now completed.

The ceremony included words from Ogden Mayor Mike Caldwell, Millcreek City Mayor Jeff Silvistrini and Governor Gary Herbert. They recognized the nearly $500 million spent to date on these trail networks. Governor Herbert also highlighted the state’s goal of creating 1,000 new miles of family friendly trails across Utah in the next 10 years. Leaders point toward federal, state and local active transportation projects planned for the next five years total over $200 million, many paid for by Proposition 1, which was approved by voters in 2015 along the Wasatch Front in Davis, Weber and Tooele counties, but not in Salt Lake, Utah or Box Elder counties.
Utah International Charter School opened its doors for students in the Fall of 2013. For the first few years there wasn’t a senior class, but one youth did graduate the fall of 2015. Over time the graduating class has grown from 7 to 30. This year’s graduating class included one youth who was so committed to graduating from high school that he spent 2 hours every day commuting from Ogden when schools near him said he was too old. The class also included his best friend from a refugee camp they lived in before coming to the United States who he never thought he would see again only to end up in the same small school in Utah. This friend received a near full ride scholarship to Westminster College and will be attending in the fall. Congratulations to the 2018 grads!