

# NORTH SALT LAKE INSIDER

## STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

I was first sworn-in as Mayor of our great City ten years ago, in January of 2010. At the start of the last decade, it was an uncertain time. We were just recovering from the great recession. Many homes were under water with their mortgages. We as a City had just experienced a decade of rapid growth and had over 16,000 residents. We were just starting the process of building our current city hall. We had not built Legacy Park in Foxboro, Tunnel Springs Park nor Wild Rose Trailhead Park. For the fiscal year ending 6/30/2010, the City had \$82.5 million in assets, \$2 million in non-restricted cash, \$13.7 million in long term bonds and we were out of compliance with our water bonds.

What a distance we have traveled over the last ten years. As of our last fiscal year end, we have over 21,000 residents, assets of \$119.5 million our "rainy day" fund is fully funded to the state maximum, our water and other utility funds are healthy and we have our outstanding bonds down to \$6.85 million. Lee's Marketplace has anchored a retail center on Redwood Road and we have had significant growth in our industrial park. Yes, we have had our issues, but we are making progress albeit slow. We have reached a tentative agreement on the Eaglepointe Landslide litigation

which we are hopeful will lead to full remediation in the near future. Stericycle has not relocated, but they have had no bypass events for several years. They have informed us that they still intend to move but



have not given us a firm date.

The challenges we face over the next decade are sure to be different than those of the last. Our State continues to grow, the business environment is great and unemployment is very low. This good news leads to other problems that we must now struggle with. Housing affordability is a definite problem as is air quality, water supplies and other growth issues. As a City, we continue to work with the State, other local districts and cities to accommodate the growth in a well-planned manner. I realize

that housing density is an issue with many of our residents. It is certainly not what many of us grew up with as children and may not include housing types that we would personally choose, but it has made it possible for many great residents to locate into our City.

As we deal with issues over the next decade, I have comfort in knowing that we have great citizens and a great staff to address them.

Below you will find more detailed updates on various topics that may be of interest. Thanks to a great staff, our City Council, residents serving on our various boards, and our many volunteers that make our City so great.

## FINANCIAL HEALTH

In 2019, we adopted a General Fund budget of \$12.35 million. We've maintained the City's

"rainy day" fund at 25% of the General Fund, the maximum allowed by State Law. The City has very little long-term debt, most of which has been issued for water and parks projects. The City has a diverse tax base and healthy industrial park that helps to keep our property tax rates reasonable. Most City assets are in good repair, although as these assets age, repairs to roads and other infrastructure will require increased investment. North Salt Lake currently has 63 miles of



## STATE OF THE CITY (CONT.)

roadway and 102 miles of water lines. Although built for varying degrees of useful life, many of these are over 30 years old and are in need of replacement or repair. Our goal is to maximize use through proper maintenance and repair. We are committed to re-invest in roads, water lines and other utilities so that City services are useable, safe and efficient.

### CITY LANDSCAPE CHANGES

The City continues to see the effects of changes implemented in the 2013 update of the General Plan. The Plan recognized the changing pattern of development occurring throughout the State and the demand for affordable housing by providing for denser housing and mixed-use developments along major transportation corridors, such as Highway 89. One example of this new development pattern is the NSL City Center mixed-use project currently under construction just north of City Hall on the corner of Highway 89 and Center Street. In 2019, 88 new housing units were completed in North



Salt Lake. This growth, while it appears quick and intense in

the Town Center, is a moderate level of growth and change for the City.

The City is actively working to shape plans and development for the next decade. The City is currently in the process of creating a form-based code (FBC) that will apply to future development along Highway 89. Form-based zoning shapes development by regulating building design instead of land use. In addition to the form based code, the

City is partnering with Bountiful and Centerville to create an Active Transportation Plan for South Davis County. The Active Transportation Plan will guide and enable the City to expand trails and bike lanes throughout the City and the South Davis County region. In the very near future, we will work to update parts of our city master plan as well as our parks and trails plan. I invite you to participate in these processes. These plans are our guiding documents to future growth and it is important that we hear your voice as we put them together.

### QUALITY OF LIFE

As a City, we continue to be concerned about livability issues. With the increase of population in the Town Center area, we are working to expand and improve Hatch Park. We have also been successful in obtaining grant funds to improve safety issues. With the assistance of UDOT and Wasatch Front Regional Council funding, we rebuilt two major portions of Orchard Drive installing new sidewalks south of Center Street, and along Center Street west of Redwood. Also with grant assistance, we built an extension of the Jordan River Trail that branches off of the Legacy Parkway Trail, south of I-15 and continues north to Porters Landing and Center Street.

This year, the City hosted the finish line to Phase 3 of the Tour of Utah cycling event at Eaglewood Golf Course. While challenging



the bikers with our steep hills, this internationally renowned event showcased our beautiful city to the world. In addition, the City held its annual Liberty Fest, which has become a regional draw with its fireworks, 5k race, and Eaglewood car show. The City is also proud to host regular food truck roundups and farmer's market at Legacy Park throughout the summer months.



### TRANSPORTATION

The reconstruction of the Redwood Road at I-215 interchange has been completed. To improve this longstanding traffic bottleneck, the City co-funded a traffic study with UDOT which led to the reconstruction of the interchange as well as improving the intersection of Center Street and Redwood Road, the widening of Redwood Road between Center Street and I-215, and the addition of new on and off-ramps to the freeway. These improvements make it easier for residents and businesses to access I-215.



We are continuing our efforts to get a study funded for the proposed bridge over the rail line corridor at 1100 North, so that one of our east-west corridors can be separated from the potential for long train delays and unsafe conditions of having trains and automobiles on the same level. The final right-of-way and design study is estimated to cost close to \$5 million and we are requesting funding through the State and other sources to help defray that cost. We have the support of UDOT, Wasatch



## STATE OF CITY (CONT.)

Front Regional Council, surrounding cities and Davis County for this project, and we feel strongly that once the study is funded, it will pave the way for the City, State, UDOT, UTA and Union Pacific railroad to partner and pay for the bridge project.

Finally, we have made additional progress on the proposed bus rapid transit (BRT) project that will connect West Bountiful to downtown Salt Lake City (and potentially the University of Utah). This BRT corridor will come through the City on US89 and we expect three stations to make this transit line convenient and efficient for residents in the City Center. The buses in the project will have more frequent service, preferential traffic privileges and amenities such as WiFi to make it more appealing. The project is in the final design stages and could be funded in 3-5 years.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

The NSL Police Department had an active year, made more difficult by higher turnover in personnel than usual. In 2019, the City's detectives solved two homicide cases and carried a busy workload. Our Police officers perform very important and proactive work to keep the City of North Salt Lake as safe and as crime-free as possible. They have been out in many neighborhoods talking to various groups, hosting the annual Night Out Against Crime, maintaining our effective K-9 officer program, training and assisting in crossing guard services and many other important functions.

Also in 2019, our Fire District replaced the fire station in Centerville which had been outdated and outgrown. Our district has five fire stations (two in North Salt Lake). The District also purchased a ladder truck stationed at the Foxboro station that is capable of firefighting and rescue maneuvers in multi-story buildings as well as accessing difficult fire sites that was not possible before. We have excellent emergency fire and paramedic first response in our community and are well-served by



the fine men and women in the South Davis Metro Fire District.

## VOLUNTEERS

This year, the Council and I give special thanks to all of the various volunteers that make North Salt Lake such a great community. Public service comes with a price and it is gratifying to see our neighbors taking time out of their busy lives to make our City better. Whether you serve on our Planning Commission, Parks Trails and Arts Board, Uniting Neighbors committee, with the Youth City Council, direct any of our fabulous celebrations and festivals, or help carry out any of these, or many of the other activities that make this such a great community; we would like to thank you for your selflessness and willingness to serve. For those that want to become more involved, follow us Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, or contact City Hall.

The City continues to grow and evolve. We are blessed not only with great access to the vibrant business climate of the Salt Lake valley, but also the wonderful scenic and recreational opportunities right outside our doors. We will inevitably face challenges, but our future is bright thanks to the City's capable employees, citizen volunteers of many kinds, and our great residents.

With 2020, we welcome our newest City Council member, Natalie Gordon. Natalie has been serving actively on the City's Planning Commission and was elected in November to the City Council. We also congratulate continuing Council Members Brian Horrocks and Stan Porter who were both re-elected for another term.

2019 has been another great year and I speak for the entire City Council in thanking all of our fine residents for the opportunity to serve you.

  
Mayor Len Arave



## SENIOR LUNCH

Mark the date of February 12th for the Senior Lunch Bunch at 11:00 a.m. It will be potluck, which is always yummy!! So bring a favorite dish to share and a small gift to play bingo.



Our presenter will be Burke Olson from the Deseret News who will talk about digital media. Hope to see you there!!

## VITA TAX PREP

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program provides income tax assistance to low-income individuals.



VITA volunteers will be at City Hall on Mondays between 3 and 8 pm from February 3rd until April 15th.

For more information, and to make an appointment:

[www.utahtaxhelp.org](http://www.utahtaxhelp.org)

## MASTER CHORUS



## LOVE TO SING?

REHEARSALS FOR "WE LOVE SHOW TUNES"  
BEGIN NOW! CONCERT IS MARCH 7TH.



[nslmasterchorus.org](http://nslmasterchorus.org)

## COMMUNITY GARDEN

We are looking for a new community garden coordinator! Contact Councilmember Stan Porter at [stan.porter@nslcity.org](mailto:stan.porter@nslcity.org) for more information.



**SAVE THE DATE**

- Jan 20: MLK Day - Office Closed
- Jan 21: City Council
- Jan 28: Planning Commission
- Feb 3: VITA Tax Prep 3-8 pm
- Feb 4: City Council
- Feb 10: VITA Tax Prep 3-8 pm
- Feb 11: Planning Commission
- Feb 12: Senior Lunch Bunch
- Feb 17: Presidents Day: City offices closed for business. VITA only.
- Feb 17: VITA Tax Prep 3-8 pm
- Feb 18: City Council
- Feb 24: VITA Tax Prep 3-8 pm

- **DOES THE CITY HAVE YOUR CURRENT INFORMATION?**
- **COULD WE CONTACT YOU IN AN EMERGENCY?**
- **IF YOU'VE DISCONNECTED YOUR HOME PHONE, DO WE HAVE YOUR MOBILE #?**



**UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Email [Carmenw@nslcity.org](mailto:Carmenw@nslcity.org).**

**POLICE REMINDERS**



**NSL POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**NON-EMERGENCY DISPATCH (801) 298-6000**

PROPERTY CRIME

**PREVENT IT**

- KEEP GARAGE DOORS CLOSED.
- TAKE KEYS & KEY FOBS WITH YOU.
- KEEP VALUABLES OUT OF PLAIN SIGHT.
- LEAVE EXTERIOR LIGHTS ON AT NIGHT OR USE MOTION DETECTING LIGHTS.

**2020 CITY EVENTS CALENDAR NOW AVAILABLE! DOWNLOAD AT [WWW.NSLCITY.ORG](http://WWW.NSLCITY.ORG).**

- GARBAGE & RECYCLING DATES
- PARKS & ARTS EVENTS
- SPLASH PAD DATES
- SENIOR LUNCH BUNCH
- EASTER EGG DASH
- LIBERTY FEST
- FARMERS MARKET
- SUMMER RECREATION
- SPRING & FALL CLEANUP
- AND MORE!

**CITY DIRECTORY**

- Animal Control (801) 444-2200
- Building Inspections (801) 335-8721
- Burn Plant & Landfill (801) 614-5600
- City Manager (801) 335-8725
- City Recorder (801) 335-8709
- Code Enforcement (801) 335-8677
- EMERGENCY 9-1-1**
- Mayor (801) 335-8718
- Operator (801) 335-8700
- Police (non-emergency) (801) 335-8650
- Utilities (801) 335-8702
- Utility Emergencies (801) 560-3718

- MAYOR**  
Len Arave
- COUNCIL MEMBERS**  
Lisa Baskin  
Natalie Gordon  
Brian Horrocks  
Ryan Mumford  
Stan Porter

**CITY MANAGER**  
Ken Leetham

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