

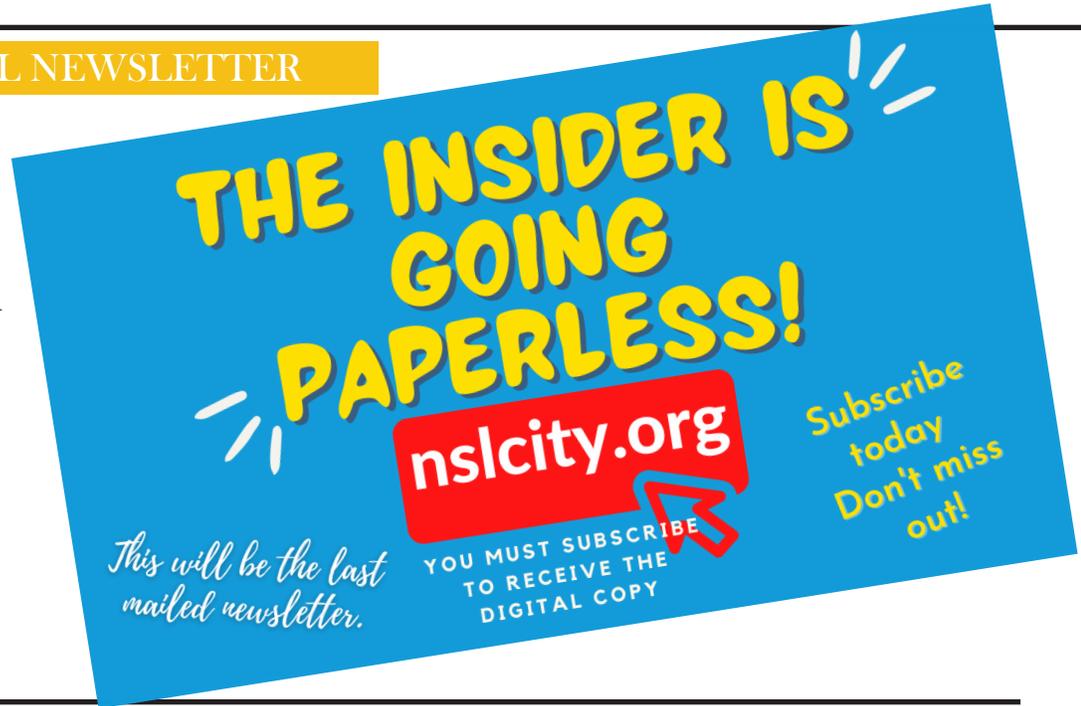
# NORTH SALT LAKE INSIDER

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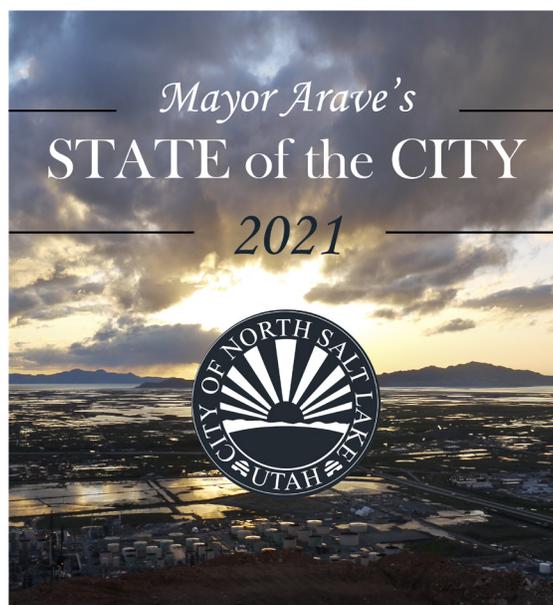
## MAYOR'S STATE OF THE CITY 2021

The year 2020 will be known as the year of the virus, riots, earthquakes and windstorms. There is no doubt that it was a difficult year. For me, more than any other in my memory, it has been a year of divisiveness. It has been a year of raw emotion with some being attacked as racist, fascist supporters of a dictator and others labeled as socialist communists bent on destroying our country. Some supported mask mandates and others questioned their effectiveness or necessity. It has been a time where attacks on an individual's character seemed to be more important than a discussion of ideas.

In my time as mayor, there have been many times I have heard things that I haven't wanted to hear; things that I thought

were preposterous, mean-spirited, insulting or totally uninformed. I have tried never to reject these things out of hand because normally there is an element of truth in them. Rarely, if ever, have I found such comments totally without merit. Whether it has been some additional piece of information or looking at the situation from a different perspective, I have always found listening to these opinions valuable even if often uncomfortable. This does not mean that I have been persuaded by every adverse opinion given me. Far from it. I do believe listening has improved many decisions I have made.

Rarely do we have enough information or the perspective to make decisions with absolute confidence. Each of us, as we look



## STATE OF THE CITY (CONT.)

back in life, will see that some decisions we made with absolute certainty were bad choices. As a nation and as a community, we need to approach our problems with the humility this realization should instill in us. If we understand this, our greatest hope is that someone will help us find that piece of information or perspective that will help us avoid bad choices. Although we may consider people boorish, uneducated, out of touch or as fools, our best hope as a country and community is to listen respectfully and discuss problems thoughtfully. What does not work is rejecting people's concerns out of hand or trying to suppress discussion. As we have seen violence breakout throughout our nation, including in Salt Lake City, our best hope to avoid this is to participate in open and respectful debate with only one predicate. One must realize that we may be wrong in our opinion. I would hope our primary goal this year as a society is not in unity of opinion, but in unity of respect for those with whom we disagree. My hope is for this to be especially true as we discuss issues that affect our wonderful City.



2020 was difficult, and it affected our community in many ways we did not expect. Although we were initially concerned about potential revenue losses, our sales tax revenue actually increased and most other revenue sources, other than road funding, remained stable. The City continues to be in good financial condition in most of its funds and we have maintained our rainy day fund. The housing market is strong and property values are increasing.

Although most residents have done surprisingly well financially with continued employment and stimulus checks, many have been severely impacted financially. Stress from this, impacts of contracting COVID, social distancing and other matters have affected the mental health of many. Crime issues such as domestic violence, vehicle thefts, and burglaries, as well as thefts from cars have increased this year. There have been way too many incidents of domestic violence, responses to custody issues, non-violent family issues, and other domestic issues. We appreciate the help of our dedicated police and county health department in working these difficult cases.

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
The City has 63 miles of streets and 128 miles of water lines?

North Salt Lake received federal funds from the CARES Act related to COVID-19 response which has enabled us to partner with Davis County to distribute \$925,000 in business aid to 56 companies in our City. We have also shared our CARES Act funds with other public partners as part of their COVID-19 responses including South Davis Metro Fire District, Davis Education Foundation, South Davis Recreation District, Davis Mosquito Abatement District and Wasatch Integrated Waste Management.

The City continues to be a desirable place to live and we continue to attract businesses as well as residents. During the pandemic, the City Building Department saw a significant increase in inquiries and permits for home remodels and repairs, the construction of fences, sheds, and pergolas. The City also issued several permits in 2020 for businesses and saw the opening of many small retail enterprises. Amazon Prime Delivery is expected to be open late spring of this year, at 989 West Center Street. The facility will employ up to 800 people and will utilize electric delivery vans. Other new businesses which opened, or will soon, include Quick Quack Car Wash, Domino's Pizza, Cyprus Credit Union (Village Inn site), Love's Carpet Cleaning, MC Green & Sons Construction, Hardwoods in Harmony, KB Nails Lash & Brow, and Backyard Dog Care & Boarding.



As we mature as a City, we are seeing the need to perform significant repair on roads that are now 20 to 30 years old. Increased construction in the State



has increased our costs and made scheduling more difficult. State funding for roads has decreased due to reduced travel during COVID. There are several roads in the City that need attention and we are accelerating projects as funding becomes available. Work on maintaining and improving our water systems continues. The City has funded these needed improvements through its water fund which is currently stable.

## STATE OF THE CITY (CONT.)

With our continued growth we continue to invest in livability projects. We are currently master planning an expansion to Hatch Park as well as researching other recreation options. The City received a \$1 million grant for an engineering feasibility study for a bridge on I100 North over the railroad corridor to improve our east/west traffic. The Utah Transit Authority continues its planning on a bus rapid transit (BRT) project that will provide faster bus service from Farmington to downtown Salt Lake City including along Highway 89 in our city. This should significantly improve usability for transit users.



Operating the City during COVID has often been difficult. We provide many critical functions including water delivery, repairing roads, policing and

other functions. A major infection breakout in any of these departments would severely affect our ability to provide services. This has meant that we have had to work with varied staffing hours and methods of operations and communication. We understand that this may have negatively impacted how you worked with us and we thank you for your patience and hope to be back to normal soon.

Operation of Eaglewood Golf Course has been encouraging. In spite of shutting the course down earlier in the year, the course has been busy. The course had 62,274 rounds (9 holes) which is the most play we've experienced since 2008. Golf Course revenues are the highest ever recorded for a calendar year. At the recommendation of a temporary citizens' committee, the City organized a 5-person Golf Committee to review course operations and make recommendations to the Council. At the



recommendation of the committee, the City formed the position of General Manager of the course and hired Tyler Abegglen in that position.

On September 8, the Wasatch Front experienced a strong windstorm that destroyed thousands of trees and caused significant property damage. The City's Public Works crews removed over 2,000 trees, and with the aid of UDOT resources, equipment from the Utah National Guard, and borrowed equipment from other cities who had less damage, we were able to quickly clean up the City's streets. I thank our crews for that miraculous effort and also thank the residents of the City for your efforts to help one another and to take debris on



your own to the Bountiful landfill. Together all of us were able to clean the City and recover quickly.

Needless to say, 2020 has been a difficult year. We have had a tremendous effort from our employees, our volunteers, both formal and informal, as well as other government agencies to help us through this. Thanks to these, we have weathered the storm well, metaphorically and in actuality. I appreciate the honor I have to serve you as mayor.



Len Arave



VACCINE PLAN



WHEN CAN I GET VACCINATED?

Vaccines are NOW available for:

- Healthcare workers
- Long-term care facility staff and residents
- First responders
- People ages 70 and older
- K-12 teachers and school staff

WHO'S NEXT?

Vaccines expected in MARCH for:

- Other age groups
- People with certain underlying medical conditions
- Those who live in congregate settings that are at higher risk

ALL UTAHNS

We expect COVID-19 vaccines will be available to all Utahns in April-July 2021.

**801-525-4900**  
for help scheduling an appointment.

You don't need to "get on a waiting list" to be vaccinated. When the vaccine is available, we expect to have it available at many locations. This includes your local pharmacy, your doctor's office, and local health department.

TAX HELP

The VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program will not be hosted in North Salt Lake this year. Go to <https://taxhelp.utah.gov> for information about free tax return preparation throughout Utah in partnership with the IRS.



CALENDAR

- Feb 23: Planning Commission
- Mar 2: City Council
- Mar 9: Planning Commission
- Mar 14: Daylight Savings
- Mar 16: City Council
- Mar 17: St. Patrick's Day



ONLINE SERVICES: HOW DO I?

Did you know we offer a variety of online services? The "How Do I?" Menu on the City's Home Page allows you to:

- Pay Utility Bills
- Apply for Building Permits
- Request Records
- Reserve a Park Bowery
- Submit Concerns & More!



CITY DIRECTORY

Ace Disposal	(800) 724-9995
Animal Control	(801) 444-2200
Building Inspections	(801) 335-8721
Business Licensing	(801) 335-8701
City Manager	(801) 335-8725
Code Enforcement	(801) 335-8677
Court	(801)335-8640
<b>EMERGENCY 9-1-1</b>	
Mayor	(801) 335-8718
Operator	(801) 335-8700
Park Reservations	(801) 335-8721
Planning & Zoning	(801) 335-8705
Police (non-emergency)	(801) 335-8650
Utilities	(801) 335-8702
Utility Emergencies	(801) 560-3718

10 East Center Street  
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