

Mayor Cherie Wood's State of the City Address

March 15, 2017

- Thank you Gyanu Dulal for reminding us of our place on this earth
- Thank you SSL Honor Guard and Deputy Police Chief Dwayne Ruth for drawing us together in reverence for our country.
- Thank you Rick Taggart for bringing us together with a moment of shameless flattery, just like every good awards ceremony.

Welcome to the 2017 State of the City Address and Best of South Salt Lake Awards!

First, I want to recognize the most important people in my life.

- My three sons, Jordan Wood, Jayden Wood and Jaxson Wood
- My mom and dad, Lucille and Everett Taylor
- My siblings and support network

Next, thank you to our City Council for catching the vision and being a part of making great things happen in our city. As I read your name, please stand:

- Council Chair Ben Pender
- Vice-Chair Shane Siwik
- Council Members: Mark Kindred, Portia Mila, Sharla Beverly, Johnny McConnell, and Kevin Rapp

I also want to recognize other hard-working elected officials, Millcreek City Mayor Jeff Silivstrini, Murray City Mayor Ted Eyre, Salt Lake Co. Deputy Mayor Karen Hale, and Utah Democratic Party Chair Peter Corroon.

This year, I get to look back on seven years as mayor, each one wildly different from the one before. And somehow 2,630 days in office seems like a piece of cake compared to public speaking for the next 60 minutes.

I'd like to do an "icebreaker" to show you the kind of roots we all have in South Salt Lake. Everyone stand up, please. PAUSE. All of you who have lived or worked in the city for five years or less, please take a seat. Everyone else stay standing. Now everyone..10 years. Now 20 years...30 years... 40...50...60...70 years. This is what a legacy looks like. Thank you for your devotion to our community.

Every day, I hear someone say “I want to live in South Salt Lake. Or I want to work in South Salt Lake. Or I want to invest in South Salt Lake.” And every day, people ask how we do it. What keeps us moving forward? What makes us Utah’s Small Town with Big City Opportunity? First, we have a vision. Second we have a team committed to that vision and Third, we work our hardest every day to make progress toward that vision. The result - we are building a legacy.

Legacy means “something transmitted or received from an ancestor or predecessor or from the past.” I am keenly aware of South Salt Lake’s ancestors, predecessors and past, having grown up here as a third generation resident. My parents and grandparents were a part of building the community that I loved growing up in. Now it is my responsibility as mayor and a mom to care about the future of the fourth generation, not just my kids, but every kid in South Salt Lake. My motto as mayor has become “What I want for myself and my family, I want for everyone in my community.” I felt like I was a part of everyone’s family when I was growing up. The legacy I inherited was a community that truly cared for one another. That is the legacy our team strives to build in South Salt Lake.

I know the key to success is in the relationships we have built, the times we have shared and the vision we are all working toward. And success has a remarkable snowball effect. This is why I am so committed to keeping our team together – we are on a roll. Here are some of the successes we have had:

Our Police Department is a local legacy, starting in 1939. With so many businesses and residents to watch out for, they have one of the highest call volumes in the valley. But they still treat everyone they encounter like family. They are making dramatic changes in our community through community policing strategies like Coffee with a Cop and Business Watch, mentoring youth at the PAL Boxing Center, Bowling with a Cop, and by getting involved in Community Connection, Good Landlord and other programs to strengthen neighborhoods to prevent crime.

With crime prevention, the little victories make all the difference. This winter, Jerry Silva, one of the officers who mentors youth at the PAL Boxing Center took 3 South Salt Lake teenagers to the National PAL Mentoring conference in Washington DC. These youth—Omar Garcia, Alex Padilla, and Abby Lopez —had an eye-opening experience as they saw that what we do for our youth is an important strategy for community policing all across the country. The biggest lesson they learned was that what you see about police officers in the media is very rare. They met the 99% of officers who are passionate about protecting people and making a difference. The youth came home wanting to be advocates for our local police department to help them make a difference.

Our Public Works Department has a huge legacy – they are the reason South Salt Lake was incorporated - to provide sewer to a group of enterprising soon- to-be-residents. We are still

providing those services at a very low cost, along with services found nowhere else, such as low-cost clean up dumpsters. (Shameless plug, for \$25 you too can rent a SSL dumpster)

Our Recreation Department employees are all legends. They run the best organized leagues, find the most caring coaches, and plan the biggest events. They host community events like this throughout the year. The recreation department's mission is first and foremost to build community unity – a huge part of our city's vision.

Another integral part of our team is our **local Chamber of Commerce**. When the number of people who work in your city in the day outnumbers the number of people who sleep here at night, you better treat your businesses like family— 2,500 of them. Thank you to our Chamber for helping us do that for over 80 years.

Now let's talk about moving forward.

South Salt Lake is Utah's Small Town with Big City Opportunities. We see it every day with new businesses, new residents, first-time home buyers, young families and new immigrants.

We believe so firmly in being a city of opportunities, we took this beyond being a community vision—we have made promises. Everything we do, every single day is helping us keep these promises, with the idea that everyone gets on board and makes these their goals.

So let's talk about these promises:

Promise 1. Every child has the opportunity to attend and graduate from college. We mean every single kid, and we intend to help them from birth to college graduation. For free. From free preschool, to free afterschool programming at 14 community centers (one in every neighborhood) to the free college scholarships at Salt Lake Community College (*PACE and Trio scholarship*), Westminster College and Stephens Henager College just for South Salt Lake residents. We know every dollar spent now will pay off in the future, and our donors do, too. We are thrilled to announce that a large endowment was established this year at Westminster College to allow South Salt Lake youth to attend free of charge.

This goal of attending college isn't easy. It takes a whole lot of work. One youth in our Promise program moved here as a refugee 2 years ago. His mom had been in this country first and sent every dollar she could back home for him to attend school. When he finally made it to the US under the refugee resettlement program, he jumped right in at the Utah International School, with his sights set on college. He enrolled in the Walkways to Westminster program to help prepare, but sadly when he took the ACT test, he didn't score high enough to be admitted. Undeterred, he kept studying and working with his Promise SSL and Westminster mentors, determined to improve his score. He retook the ACT, scored high enough to be admitted into Westminster and he can now attend next fall.

Promise 2. Everyone has a safe, clean home and neighborhood. We have been working for over a decade to become the first community where people choose to buy a home. I am happy to report that property values in SSL rose 13% in 2016 - the third highest jump in SL County (behind Bluffdale and Holladay). There are over 1,000 housing units in the pipeline in SSL right now. That alone will grow the city's population by 8%.

We have residents that were so excited to move here, the first thing they did was call the Mayor's office and ask how they could get involved. That is Ray deWolf's and Megan Walsh's story. They were so thrilled to find a new home in our brand new Riverfront neighborhood off of 700 West that shortly afterwards they called me and asked what they could do to help this community. We figured it was about time their corner of the city had a representative on our Planning Commission, so Ray is now eagerly learning the ropes of our city ordinances and speaking up for his neighbors.

For those of you who say - "Growth, what's in it for me?" the answer is easy: more people contributing property tax and sales tax to our city, county and local schools; more funding for new parks and public projects; more rooftops to attract shops, restaurants and local businesses; keeping up with the growth in Utah to maintain our political power and standing; attracting more of the best residents and businesses in the state; and, keeping the American Dream alive, which is, by the way, changing fast.

More millennials and empty nest Baby Boomers are choosing apartments, townhomes and twin homes instead of owning a single family home. They are paying a premium for multi-family homes, which are actually in short supply. We are pleased to see them move to South Salt Lake, put down roots and make a difference. Corey Thomas is one of these residents. She is an ambitious young leader and director of an arts non-profit, who rents an apartment as a lifestyle choice. She is so enthusiastic about our community that she is running for City Council this year. She is just one example of how we are becoming a community of choice.

Promise 3. Everyone has an opportunity to be healthy and to prosper. This is why we are continuing to develop the Mill Creek Trail on 3300 South. It's also why we are bringing more people to the Jordan River Parkway with new amenities and habitat restoration. It is why we are investing in the westward expansion of Fitts Park. It is why we have been building a local jobs pipeline with a clear path from high school to higher education and training straight into a career.

Sometimes that training to jobs pipeline is all that's needed. The Promise SSL team helped one youth from our PAL Boxing program enroll in a specialized 10-week training course for composites at Salt Lake Community College. He was hired by Boeing following completion of the program. He is now enrolled in Salt Lake Community College again to get his associates degree and to continue improving his skills and resume.

Keeping South Salt Lake prosperous is also why I committed to keep taxes low since the day I took office. I feel like a broken record here, but I have to say it every year or people don't believe it.

I am not proposing a property tax increase in this year's budget. Let me say it one more time, I am not proposing a property tax increase in this year's budget. A big shout out and thank you, to our city council who helped us keep this promise. No property tax increase in South Salt Lake in 11 years.

As many of you know, South Salt Lake's share of its sales tax revenue has been cut down each year due to a Utah law passed in 2006. The final cut was in 2016 and for years, people predicted doom and gloom. But the fact is we made it through the 2016 revenue drop without missing a beat. More impressive, we did it without raising property taxes or taking on new debt. The only large debt owed now is my gratitude to our finance director, Kyle Kershaw, who kept us on course for a balanced budget for over a decade.

We did this with a combination of tactics. On the conservative side, we cut expenses every year, bit by bit, until our budget was as lean as it could be. We also kept our staff lean, adding only 7 new full time staff positions in the last ten years, even as the city grew. We did more by letting our staff create new teams and committees that maximized results for their efforts. We welcomed hundreds of new volunteers, and created programs to put them to work, including the Community Connection program, which has had \$1.3 million in volunteer time contributed in its 7-year history.

On the innovative side, we went all in on economic development, partnerships and fundraising. Our downtown and streetcar neighborhoods are now blossoming because of careful investments, good planning, and reinventing our city's image. There are 6 construction cranes up in South Salt Lake! At this moment, there are \$80 million in development projects in SSL. And \$80 million MORE to come in 2017. In the last two years, South Salt Lake has added 230 more businesses. That is 10% growth in 2 years! A major medical building, Wasatch Renal Center is under construction at 3702 S. State St. As a result of projects like these, property values, investment in new buildings, and sales tax from new residents will keep our city revenues growing.

We became masters at leveraging, partnerships and fundraising. Promise SSL is our city's biggest initiative, and has a \$3.9 million budget which is 97% funded by grant dollars and philanthropic donations. Promise brings over 130 partners to the table, providing countless free and low-cost services to our residents.

New money comes to South Salt Lake because funders, donors, businesses, partners and developers believe it is the best place to invest.

Let me give you a small example of this investment. The lunch you are being served today was cooked at Central Park in Head Start's building, in their commercial kitchen that serves lunch to 4,000 kids a day, and prepares a mean Chicken Marsala for a fancy awards lunch.

How did that happen you may ask?

I want to share with you how the Central Park Community Center came about, because this is one example of how we do government differently.

We started discussing the need for more preschool slots with Head Start, and before we could blink, they were ready to pay for building demolition, build 4 new classrooms and throw in a commercial kitchen with a culinary training program. We received grants and donations from United Way, Larry H. Miller Foundation, Bimbo Bakeries, Savage, IRC, United Way, K2 Church, Jordan Water Conservancy District and Community Development Block grants to build a basketball court, pickle ball court, new irrigation system, green space and lighting, a community garden and a new outdoor restroom. We leveraged a \$2.3 million land purchase into a \$7.5 million community complex. More than half of the Central Park Community Center was paid for by others. Central Park is now the center of our recreation programs, our PAL boxing mentoring program, our early childhood efforts, local job training and right now, your lunch plate. I would like to thank the culinary wizards in training, who cooked and served your lunch today as a part of Utah Community Action Program's Sautee program. Can you all please give a wave so we can thank you for the delicious lunch?

South Salt Lake is truly a small town with big city opportunities. We are the second smallest city in the county but rank with the largest in the state on what we offer to residents and businesses. And when it comes to what we offer youth and families, we rank not just at the top in the state, but on par with the best in the entire country. I think that is right where we belong.

We have set the foundation for Downtown with the streetcar, new zoning, and three new projects under construction. The Arts District is ready to take flight, too. I have also taken the first step, along with UDOT, UTA, Salt Lake City and Salt Lake County to make big changes on State Street, so it can regain its status as a place for people in the heart of our community. That's called Life on State. I will not stop until the day when people know exactly where downtown South Salt Lake is.

The big news today is about Winco! We have worked hard to bring a grocery store to South Salt Lake, and after an excruciating delay, Winco broke ground last month. Get your invitation to the March 27 groundbreaking ceremony on your way out.

We have some challenges ahead. I'm sure you've all heard that our small but successful city has been targeted as a proposed location for the homeless shelter. We all know that there

needs to be a compassionate and effective solution for the homeless. But I am steadfast in the belief that South Salt Lake is not the best fit for our citizens – or the homeless population. Our City is already supporting many facilities and services for disadvantaged populations. We cannot expect our public safety and other departments to accommodate a 200-bed facility. In addition, the two sites in our city do not meet the criteria outlined by the State Homeless Coordinating Committee. South Salt Lake is a compassionate and kind community – just look at how we have embraced our refugee friends. But we know these sites do not serve the homeless population or our residents. I believe both deserve more and I will fight for you. Go to our new website stand-up-southsaltlake.com to see how to make your voice heard. Look for a flyer on your table.

We are not yet finished with Granite High. For years, I have stood up for what my community wanted, to honor the legacy of Granite High. I will continue to fight for the best possible project. At this point, we will have 75 new families moving into to a proposed residential neighborhood on the property. We are working on a library, which will be a huge community asset, and I hope some green space. But that scenario comes along with a commercial center, which has been controversial. I vetoed a Walmart last year because I feel it doesn't belong at this location. The final decision has not been made, but things are moving quickly. I need you to help me keep up the fight. Contact your council members and tell them to stand up for what you hope to see at Granite High.

And now, I get to take the time to brag about some of the people who took a chance on this small town and made it big. I have to do some bragging because our award winners are the type of people who would never brag about themselves. They would, instead, share the credit or point out someone else who is doing something great. This is exactly why we want to shine the spotlight on them today - they deserve the recognition and so does South Salt Lake!

Citizen of the Year

Ida Bickley

I have been trying to give Ida Bickley a Citizen of the Year award for years, but she just kept insisting that she didn't deserve it. Finally, this year, I had built up such a case, she couldn't argue with me anymore. Ida and her daughter Laurie have volunteered at the Columbus Library three days a week for 11 years. This year, she became a champion of the people as she rallied neighbors and friends at countless City Council and Planning Commission meetings to fight for their neighborhood in the plans for Granite High. She took a stand, spoke her mind, and received a standing ovation every time. Every meeting she would warn me that she might get herself in trouble, and I assured her that I have only one "get out of jail free card" and that I am saving for her. Ida Bickley, you are South Salt Lake's Citizen of the Year!

Education Leader of the Year**Afton Lambson, Lincoln Elementary**

Lincoln Elementary School Principal, Afton Lambson, leads with a tenaciously positive mindset, setting the tone for success for every student. Lincoln has been a part of the Promise South Salt Lake program for five years, offering homework help, STEM activities, prevention support, and activities to youth and families. Principal Lambson has been a huge supporter of bringing these resources to the kids, and bringing the kids to the program, which has grown to over 120 youth. “Congratulations to South Salt Lake Education Leader of the year, Afton Lambson!

Volunteer of the Year**Chad Carpenter**

Chad and Sisa Carpenter and their 3 children have been a fixture of the SSL Recreation program for years. They bring fun and good sportsmanship to every team they coach—T-Ball, basketball, baseball, and more. Chad has a true love for the kids and embodies a love for the game. Sisa goes the extra mile to produce team keepsakes. If we were measuring each team’s record by the smiles on our kids faces, Chad Carpenter would have a city record for consecutive wins. The Volunteer of the Year award goes to Chad “Hot Wheels” Carpenter!

Community Champion**Don Ward**

Don Ward taught high school AP History for 35 years at Alta High, and was loved by everyone who knew him there. Now, he is a hero to the kids and families at Granite Park Junior High AND Hser Ner Moo Community Center, as he visits them and supports them nearly daily to help them adjust to their new lives. When he decided to start giving back, he put calls out to his huge following of friends and former students on Facebook. Every time he did so, the donations and volunteers flooded in from people around the valley.

Typical of Don, he humbly gives credit to his friends who make the contributions, but clearly none of this would have started or carried on without his championing the cause. If Don wasn’t the voice for these families, much of the good work wouldn’t happen. Don Ward, you are a true Community Champion!

Senior Citizen of the Year**Jane Qualizza**

Our next honoree and her can-do spirit has helped her become a leader at our senior center. She took charge of the Walk with Ease program, and helps out wherever needed. She livens things up on the trail, at lunch or while Wii bowling, with stories about family connections to Al Capone, her ancestors arriving through Ellis Island, working for the newspaper, and dresses she

has bought in Las Vegas. A life well-lived is always a measure of success, and that is why Jane Qualizza is our Senior Citizen of the Year.

Young Leader of the Year Aaron Dustin

Our next award goes to a young person who is starting to build a record of success. Aaron Dustin has been involved in our community through Boy Scouts, Eagle Scout projects, and Youth City Council. Now, as Youth City Council Mayor, he puts in the time to meet and plan YCC events and service projects, and involves other teens in serving their community. His passion is service, and he wants to find new opportunities to give back and leave the YCC inspired to continue them. The SSL staff knows and loves Aaron as he is always volunteering to set up and work at community events such as the Daddy Daughter Dance and Freedom Fest. He is an example of how anyone, regardless of age or interest, can lead and serve. Congratulations to Aaron Dustin, Young Leader of the Year, and thank you to his supportive parents, Jennifer and Michael Dustin, for sharing him!

Council Champion Ben Pender

Getting things done in city government is tricky business. A community's needs and wants always outnumber the time and money available. Every year, SSL City Council decides what are the most important policies, projects and programs to continue, start or fund. Ben Pender tackles this task like a detective would (his day job)—carefully looking, listening and reflecting on what he finds. City employees appreciate that he is getting to know the intricacies of their departments. City Council members appreciate that he asks them each where they stand on issues and creates a consensus. He has stepped up to become Council Chair this year and the many hours he is putting in to find answers, seek common ground and work together is yielding results. Congratulations and thank you to Ben Pender, this year's Council Champion!

Legacy Family of the Year The Kershaws

Ruth and Eddie Kershaw bought a home on Nowell Circle in South Salt Lake 59 years ago. They raised four kids here. Eddie Kershaw was a volunteer firefighter starting in the mid- 1960s, back when the sirens would go off at the fire station to call them all in for emergencies. Ruth Kershaw was a court clerk for the South Salt Lake municipal court for 20 years. Kyle has worked for the city for over 30 years, and has been the Finance Director for 13. Boy, he didn't know what he was getting into when he took that job! But he must still say good things about it, because his sons, Ryan, Matt and Seth thought South Salt Lake would be a great place to work,

too. Ryan has worked in the Parks department, Seth has worked in the utilities area and Matt became famous for meeting his wife, Jillian, when they were both employees in the Promise South Salt Lake program. The Kershaws are proof that South Salt Lake is a place you can get your start, and leave a legacy, too. Thank you to the Kershaws who are here today to accept this award as our Legacy Family of the Year.

Community Advocate of the Year Robyn Ivins, President of Cottonwood High PTA

South Salt Lake was thrilled this year to expand afterschool programs to finally reach high schoolers who attend Cottonwood High. Our youth were eager to participate, but quickly found out there was one big problem—they were hungry! These high schoolers eat lunch at 10:30 a.m., and were now staying at school for homework help, clubs, sports and other activities until 6 or 7:00 p.m. I have high school boys and I know that asking them to fast for 8 or 9 hrs would be courting disaster.

Robyn Ivins saw this need and responded fast. She emailed every person in her contact list to ask for snacks. Within one week, the room where they kept the snacks was completely overflowing. She said she realized that while the snacks were great, many of the students were actually not eating again until breakfast at school the next morning. Again, she reached out and asked for monetary donations so they could make dinner to serve the youth each night. The response was overwhelming. Robyn helped other PTA parents to get involved and feed the students home cooked meals for several months, until the Granite School District could fund it. The PTA still provides snacks, just to ward off hunger.

Robyn has made our kids feel like family, and we are so lucky she has become a part of ours. Robyn Ivins is proof that one person truly can change everything, which is why she is South Salt Lake's Community Advocate of the year.

Teacher of the Year

Yuri Perez, Cottonwood High School

When the opportunity arose to be a teacher for high school students who were newcomers in the United States, Yuri Perez answered the call and made teaching his full-time job. Today, he teaches math and life science, has made close ties to the Promise SSL program and is now seeing the rewards of his efforts.

Yuri loves to see students persevere and overcome obstacles, because somebody encouraged them to do so. Fortunately, he answered the call to be a teacher at Cottonwood High School where he is South Salt Lake's Teacher of the Year.

**UW Promise SSL Partner of the Year -- Jon Pierpont, Utah Department of Workforce Services
Presented by Bill Crim, United Way of Salt Lake Executive Director**

The Department of Workforce Services is helping us achieve our promise that everyone has the opportunity to be healthy and prosper. Executive Director Jon Pierpont, has led this team in forging remarkable bonds with Promise South Salt Lake and we are honored to recognize him with this award.

Jon Pierpont assures that DWS programs meet the needs of each of the 2,811 children and families in Promise South Salt Lake programs in every one of our 14 neighborhood welcome centers. DWS staff serve on the Promise Jobs and Economic Development Initiative (also known as the JEDI Council) to help us with our local jobs pipeline. They are the backbone of support for refugee and immigrant families in schools and the community, including at the Utah Refugee Training and Education Center at 3900 South 300 West. DWS staff are always there to help any South Salt Lake resident find their way to full employment and self-sufficiency.

Our deepest thanks go out to Jon and his DWS team. The Promise SSL Partner of the Year Jon Pierpont!

Rock Stars

Each year, I recognize a handful of our employees for excellence at their jobs, with our customers, and as role models. This year, we shared the honors at our annual employee party in December, to let their peers be there to share in their success. I have invited our rock stars today to be recognized by their adoring fans here, and I will ask them each to stand: Lyn Creswell, Christie Hoins, Chad Keller, Ben Vaea (V-EYE-a) Alex White, Anthony Pappas, Christina Cline, Troy Perkins, and Edward Lopez. Join me in thanking them for their service to this community.

Employee of the Year

Leann McFalls

Out of this all-star cast, one of them is chosen to be Employee of the Year. This is something that every department gets to weigh in on to choose a person that is a team player and an all-star to everyone. This year, the honor goes to the person who plays a very important role in our lives – our payroll and accounts payable manager, Leann McFalls.

She is responsible for processing over 350 paychecks every two weeks, as well as hundreds of accounts payable disbursements every month. She always finishes this monumental task in time so everyone gets paid on time and accurately. For this, she has earned a new nickname, “Fast Cash McFalls.” She will often adjust her vacations and time off in order to process the bi-weekly payroll. Leann is accommodating to city employees by helping them make necessary

changes and trouble shoot problems. Leann is fun to be around, and a calming influence in the high stakes finance world at city hall. Join me in congratulating our Employee of the Year – Leann McFalls. Leann, you will have your own special parking space at City Hall.

Best Legacy Business RC Willey

Founded in 1922 by R.C. Willey in Syracuse Utah, this local business has grown to become one of the top ranked retailers in the country. While their enormous store and corporate headquarters on 300 West doesn't look like a typical family business, it is still run by the family, and driven by small business values. Since the SSL store opened in 1991, it has never had a layoff, and has always shown a profit, including during the last recession. They promote from within and treat their employees as their greatest asset. South Salt Lake is home not only to a large store with 140 employees, but also to their corporate headquarters with another 200 employees, and of course, the giant whale. RC Willey is celebrating their 85th birthday this year and just completed an amazing facelift of both the inside and outside of their showroom. South Salt Lake thanks Dave Cook, Director of Stores and Bart Taylor, Store Manager for leading this store into a new era. Thank you to RC Willey for building a legacy in South Salt Lake. You are the 2017 Best Legacy Business!

Best New Business HOJ Engineering

Sometimes the best new business in the city is actually quite an old business expanding its horizons. In 2016, this 52-year old company moved to South Salt Lake's new Riverfront development at 3700 S 700 West from just a few blocks further south. Hoj's business is a hybrid of engineering, manufacturing, wholesale supplier, installer and maintenance service. They provide warehouse equipment and high tech supply chain solutions to help companies speed up the whole process of filling and shipping orders and inventory. Don't be fooled by the industrial look of their building—the interior architecture is as modern as their approach to doing business. Employees have great views out of the second floor office spaces and brightly lit break rooms, all with hip, modern design. Congratulations to Hoj Engineering, Best New Business!

Best Community Builder Mountain Land Design

You may not know Mountain Land Design unless you have shopped for a new kitchen or bath and stepped into their gorgeous showroom, but they are no secret to designers and builders in this state. They have spent years promoting South Salt Lake as a destination for builders and remodelers and helped create the Utah Design District. They are champions of our PAL Boxing program, and support Business Watch and police as they help keep the downtown SSL

neighborhood safe. Anytime they are asked to help, they don't just show up, they ask if they can host and put out their welcome mat. This is all a credit to founder and owner Dan Devenport, who started the business from scratch and has built it into a legacy. And now, he is doing that for South Salt Lake as the Best Community Builder Awardee!

Best Business Volunteers

Bimbo Bakeries

Bimbo Bakeries is an anchor business and a large employer at 3475 S 300 West. They stay busy baking for a wide range of labels while filling the air with the sweet smell of fresh baked bread! Their employees work shifts around the clock but still find time to give back to the community.

Their group volunteered by planting trees and landscaping around the Central Park Community Center. As an added bonus, they brought a \$5,000 donation, which helped build the outdoor pickle ball courts, giving a big boost to that growing program.

A 2017 volunteer day is in the works with yet another park amenity planned thanks to their generosity. Thank you to Lisa Butterfield and Joyce McDonald for your enthusiastic support and partnership with our community. Bimbo Bakeries employees are the SSL Business Volunteers of the Year!

Best Diner

Left Fork Grill

What makes a good diner? It is a mix of things, including good food, friendly service, and of course, great pie! Left Fork Grill is all that with a touch of class. Owner Jeff Masten is a graduate of the New England Culinary Institute and spent years as chef of notable Salt Lake restaurants before venturing out in 2006 to open Left Fork Grill. The diner is a landmark along West Temple and 3900 South, and is still the only restaurant in the booming neighborhood by the Meadowbrook TRAX station. Their classic sandwiches melt in your mouth... I've heard great things about their tuna melt, and they have built in a pie shelf at every table to make sure you don't leave without savoring a slice of home made pie. A little tip – ask for the top secret— Crème brulee banana pie but you have to order it 24 hours in advance. Left Fork Grill lives up to its motto, "Where Café Meets Gourmet," making it the Best Diner in South Salt Lake!

Best Building Remodel

2121 S. State

State Street is about to see some big changes. This building, across the street from the upcoming Downtown South Salt Lake, is on the leading edge. Gary Doctorman took the former Sentinel Life Insurance building, gutted it inside and out, and turned it into a multi-tenant, mixed-use building. It reflects the modern architecture of the original building with

contemporary style and comfort. Thanks to architect David Petersen and colorist Deborah Anderson. Long time SSL broker, Scott Romney, helped acquire the property and bring Big Brothers Big Sisters of Utah and Prevent Child Abuse Utah as tenants to the building and to our city. Thank you for investing on State Street and revitalizing one of South Salt Lake's classic buildings—it is the Best Building Remodel of the year!

Best Commercial Building Sprinkler Supply

High-class design is not just for our downtown, it is found all over our business district, impressing customers and commuters, too. Sprinkler Supply, a locally-owned distributor of irrigation equipment, stands out at 3121 S 300 West in the heart of an industrial-commercial supplier zone. Like many of its neighbors, they serve the construction and manufacturing industries. But owner Gary Galittli (ga-LIGHTLY) sets his company apart with quality design and construction that shows that they put customers first and want them to feel appreciated.

They took two old buildings, combined them into one that looks brand new, with attractive landscaping and signage, too. Congratulations to this year's Best Commercial Building, Sprinkler Supply!

Best Residential Design - Adams Garden Cove by "Mock" Enterprises and Sancus Development

Developers often say that they love to build in South Salt Lake because people want new homes mixed into established neighborhoods. Dan Maack and Bruce Sancus proved this to be true three times over as they built the Adams Garden Cove subdivision of 9 homes over a 15 year period. The homes next to historic Nibley Park golf course feature custom-build layouts and features. The master bedrooms have en suite bathrooms with double vanities and custom tile. The kitchens have granite counters, under counter lighting, real wood floors, and wood cabinets. Other unique selling points were the bonus room over the garage and the small, low-maintenance yards on a narrow, quiet street.

The homes sold out in one day at 12% higher than asking price. These homes instantly raised neighborhood property values and paved the way for more successful projects. Thank you Dan and Bruce, your Adams Garden Circle is the Best Residential Design of the Year!

Best Transit-Oriented Development Via Apartments

Castlewood Development has been helping build one of the most vibrant TODs at the 3900 S Meadowbrook Station with the addition of Via Apartments. Phase 1 with 80 units opened in

2016 while Phase 2 with another 58 units is under construction now. The apartments on West Temple have beautiful balcony views across Harmony Park to the Wasatch Mountains. The west-facing apartments overlook a stylish outdoor living patio, all perched above a ground floor parking structure. South Salt Lake is proud to have Via Apartments—this year’s Best Transit-Oriented Development!

Best Small Business

Firehouse Subs

Firehouse Subs near the corner of 700 East at 3900 South is a hot spot in South Salt Lake. The franchise was founded by firemen, with a mission to support the local fire departments in service and in spirit. Their restaurants have inspired more than a few people to become firefighters. Local owners Parul and Vishvas Patel worked with the SSL Fire Department to share their story by putting into their store fire memorabilia and a large mural of a crew fighting a fire.

Through the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation, they donated a video (LA-RIN-JA-SCOPE) laryngoscope to the SSL Fire Department. This critical piece of equipment helps medics see into a person’s throat as they are clearing the airway to help someone breathe. This equipment was used recently to rescue a Unified Police detective who needed to be resuscitated from a cardiac arrest at his office. The South Salt Lake paramedic at the scene was grateful for the extra guidance the equipment gave and relieved to revive the patient. Thank you Firehouse Subs for caring so much about our firefighters and the people whose lives they save. You are the Best Small Business in South Salt Lake!

Best Public Art – Lars Call for “Inside South Salt Lake”

Our city is becoming a home for the arts, artists and people who create and make things with their hands. The South Salt Lake Arts Council decided it was time people noticed and created the “Inside South Salt Lake” project last year with photographer Lars Call. Artists and creators of every type were invited to have their photograph taken and wheat-pasted onto walls around the Commonwealth District in Downtown South Salt Lake.

Lars Call hosted an epic photo shoot with 50 local artists and creators. The photos brought out the personalities of these creators and brought light to the artistry and energy behind the doors and walls in the warehouses in our city. Thank you, Lars for bringing our city to life through art. You are this year’s winner for Best Public Art!

Congratulations to all our award winners. I want to also recognize each one of you here today as a part of our community’s legacy. Thank you for all you do.

“People with good intentions make promises. People with good character keep them.” My deepest gratitude to all of you who have helped deliver on these promises. We have a legacy to tend to. Let’s get back to work.