

Mayor cherie Wood's 2016 State of the City Address



Welcome everyone!

Thank you Father Mike for your spirituality and thoughtful prayer, Rick Taggart for your completely impartial introduction, SSL Honor Guard for always adding reverence and respect to this occasion, Police Chief Jack Carruth for leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Welcome to the 2016 State of the City Address and Best of South Salt Lake Awards!

Marilyn Monroe said, "We are all of us stars, and we deserve to twinkle." So we have rolled out the red carpet for you, the best residents and businesses, the best employees and partners, the Best of South Salt Lake!

To run for elective office and serve the public is no easy task. It takes perseverance, which means: steadfastness in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success. I'd like to recognize the following and give them a Perserverance Award for their service:

South Salt Lake City Council:

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

Also deserving of the Perserverance Award are Dignitaries in the audience: Salt Lake County Mayor Ben McAdams, Murray City Mayor Ted Eyre.

I'd like to thank my department heads for their hard work, dedication and accountability, I present to each of you an award for Best Director... please stand, you deserve recognition:

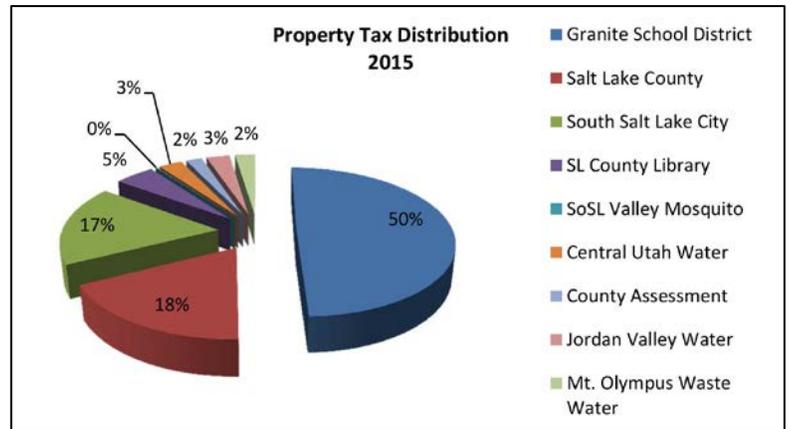
- Lyn Creswell City Attorney
- Kyle Kershaw Finance Director
- Jack carruth, Police Chief
- Ron Morris, Fire Chief
- Kari Cutler, Promise SSL Director
- Dennis Pay, City Engineer
- Dave Alexander, Streets Division Manager
- Jason Taylor, Water Division Manager
- Corby Talbot, Wastewater/Stormwater Division Manager
- Mike Florence, Community & Economic Development Director
- Kristin Reardon, Court Administrator
- Charee Peck, Chief of Staff
- Sharen Hauri, Urban Design Director
- Scott Turnblom, MIS Manager
- Mont Roosendaal, Public Assets Director
- Craig Burton, City Recorder
- Antoinette Evans, currently acting Urban Livability Director
- Aaron Wiet, Recreation Director

Special thanks to Julie Taylor, Leslie Jones, Myrna Clark, Sharen Hauri, Charee Peck, Kari Cutler for all of their hard work to put this event together.

Through what has been known as the worst recession since World War II, our city stayed stable and steady through economic downturn and recovery, which has been an Oscar-worthy performance.

Since taking office in January of 2010:

- The City's property tax rates have stayed the same. Only 17% of your property taxes go to South Salt Lake. 50% go to Granite School District, and 18% to Salt Lake County. Included in your taxes are police and fire, and recreation programs. Many other cities pay for these through special service districts in addition to their property taxes. When the media has compared our taxes to other cities, their fees to service districts have not been included in their total taxes. So, they misrepresent South Salt Lake as having the highest tax burden per resident. We know that our residents do in fact pay less and get more.



- Last year we received over \$3 million dollars back in grants from your state and federal governments, donations, and in-kind services. That's over \$120 for every single person in the city, or \$30 dollars back for every \$1 dollar of taxpayer money spent. This is a phenomenal investment dividend.
- We have balanced the budget for 6 years, as required by Utah State law
- We have reorganized and regrouped, and combined employees and departments together where skills and services make the most sense, lowering the number of city-funded employees, and doing more with less.
- Yet remarkably, the number and quality of new services we provide to residents has boomed, including:
 - Promise South Salt Lake – This initiative brings together 7 leadership councils and 110 partners to provide essential services to South Salt Lake residents. Last year, Promise proudly served 2,578 youth and their families.
 - Community Connection - this will be the sixth neighborhood to be touched by the service of hundreds who volunteer time, money, and hard work to help us beautify our community. This year's Community Connection area goes from 21st South to I-80, State St to 500 East. We invite you to roll up your sleeves and join this great effort.
 - We have created dozens of public art pieces – murals and Utility Box art
 - Built 4 new parks/green spaces (McCall, Central Park, Gateway Garden on the S-Line, Millcreek Trailhead)
 - Opened 2 new community centers (Scott School, Central Park)
 - Completed the S-Line streetcar
 - Built the first segment of Parley's Trail
 - Added 13 new preschool classrooms serving 325 children
 - established a strong foundation for an Economic Development boom
 - and we can't forget Pickleball and Wii bowling!

Other programs have been strengthened, including:

- Victim advocates
- The City Ambulance service
- the Arts Council
- And last but not least, our community has grown and changed in beautiful ways.

How did we do it? We did it with you, through collaborations and partnerships, volunteers and mentors, state and federal grants, new investment in our city from philanthropic donors, and with creativity and open minds. We have discovered ways to adapt and innovate, to find new resources and create opportunities. We have come to learn that if we share tools, collectively we can make South Salt Lake great. That is what Promise SSL, Community Connection, Coffee with a Cop, Neighborhood Watch, and all our collective impact programs and partnerships are about.

We can shine the spotlight on City departments for their many accomplishments.

Police Dept.

- The South Salt Lake Police Athletic League (or PAL) boxing program located in the Central Park Community Center will receive the National FBI Director's Community Leadership Award for 2016
- Additionally, Police Chief Jack Carruth has forged a strong relationship between PAL and 5-time world heavyweight champion boxer, Evander Holyfield. Evander made a surprise appearance at the PAL Awards dinner and visited the Central Park Community Center to meet SSL youth and their families. Evander Holyfield now serves as the spokesperson for the National PAL organization. We hope to see him in South Salt Lake again soon.
- Our Police Dept continues to make our community safer. Some special interest groups manipulate the numbers to make claims that our crime rate is the highest in the valley. Here's the scoop. As you likely know, our city's population is just under 25,000. During the daytime, we have 75,000 people here. Our city triples in size because of the folks that come into the city to work, and because we are a major transportation hub, we have thousands of additional people that pass through our city each day. If I use the crime stats and calls for service for the "daytime" 75,000, then assign those numbers to the actual 25,000 population, our crime rate appears THREE TIMES what it actually is. Using the method, we will always look like the crime rate is falsely high. That's true for any city that has a large business influx. We triple in size, so we would always be #1, Salt Lake and Ogden double, so they will always be #'s 2 and 3. As for the bedroom communities that lose population during the day, using this logic, they come out looking like there is less crime than there actually is. Using this method is like asking everyone in the city to take on the responsibility of being a law-abiding citizen for an additional two people that work here.

Fire Dept.

The Fire department continues to respond to the highest number of calls in the valley, with excellent response times. Fire Chief Ron Morris lobbied to pass legislation to reimburse our ambulance service fully for Medicaid patients, which provides an additional \$150,000 annually to support this top-quality service.

Public Works

In the Public Works Department, the Streets Division reconstructed a section of Malvern Avenue, utilizing city staff and resources to save over \$200,000. The Sewer Division is now funded to complete projects critical to public health, including the lining and repair of the 500 East sewer line.

To dramatically improve the quality of your drinking water, the Water Division installed a new treatment system for the removal of phosphates. Did you know that they delivered 362 million gallons of clean water to the City last year?

Promise

Our Promise initiative operates in partnership with United Way, Westminster College, Salt Lake Community College, Stevens Henager College, and over 110 other entities! The collective contributions of these organizations, with help from the State Office of Education, Department of Workforce Services and others brings 3.2 million dollars of educational resources, jobs, housing, medical services, and other basic needs for South Salt Lake residents. Promise South Salt Lake was recently recognized by the US Department of Education for family involvement, was featured by the National Summer Learning Project for Summer Programs, and also received recognition from the National Afterschool Association for having the most influential leader in local government.

Recreation

With a new outdoor pickle ball court coming to Central Park this summer, the Recreation Department is growing the pickleball program as fast as they can. They are also bouncing around ideas for enhanced basketball programs to utilize the new outdoor basketball court, thanks to the \$25,000 donation from the Larry H. Miller Foundation.

Community Development

2015 was a busy year for Community and Economic Development:

- with 611 building permits issued, they normally average 550
- They typically see \$230,000 a year in building permit revenue, but this fiscal year they expect to collect over \$1 million.
- The City currently licenses 2,150 businesses, an increase of 140 over the previous year.
- With the approval of the Downtown South Salt Lake master plan and zoning, we will see 20,000 new jobs and 10,000 new residents. That is 3 million square feet of office and retail space and 2,500 new homes. The city's population and employment will increase by 30% in just one little corner of our city. And what an amazing corner it will be.
- This April, in this amazing corner, you will get to be a part of history as we break ground on Downtown South Salt Lake. We are so excited for Winco, and the first new housing in our Downtown. It is time to celebrate! Look for an invitation soon.
- We are growing in every corner of the city. The Riverfront project is under construction near 3700 South 900 West. They are building single-family and multi-family homes as well as a flex-industrial office park. The Streetcar neighborhood is also booming with two major housing projects being built by well-respected developers.
- In my neighborhood, the Pie Pizzeria will be open this summer. My boys will single-handedly keep them in business. I look forward to joining you there for a slice.

Why does all this growth matter? More residents and businesses contributing to sales tax and the property tax base increases city revenue, and our local services get even better. Our economic development efforts are PAYING OFF!

I am proud to announce that I will not propose a property tax increase in the 2016-2017 budget. We have met the challenge associated with the 2016 sales tax reallocation and closed a \$3.8 million dollar gap. In the 2016-2017 budget, we are taking a 25% cut in our sales tax allocation due to changes the State Legislature made over a decade ago. We have been making smart choices and adopting creative strategies for economic development to continue the great momentum.

Granite High Property

I have watched my community struggle for nearly a decade over the former Granite High School property.

When the school was closed we created new pathways for our high schoolers to succeed in the absence of such a great institution. Then in a bond election an attempt to preserve this community treasure was blocked. Now, for the first time in my memory, the community has stepped up and fought hard for a development that would honor our community, our neighborhoods, and the great historic value of this property. But a majority vote by city council changed the General Plan to move forward with a developer's plan.

We are not desperate! We are a first class community that deserves a first class project. We must consider more than how much quick revenue can be generated and how many homes can be built. A viable plan must connect the property from its historical past to its potential future.

Therefore I vetoed the ordinance to amend the General Plan.

I am concerned about the size and scale of the proposed retail uses, and the impact it will have on traffic and community identity. Unlike our downtown redevelopment project, that includes a grocery store, new housing, and convenient access to transit and highways, the Granite High School site is surrounded by single-family neighborhoods.

I am concerned about the proposed green space in the developer's plan. Who is paying for it? Who is developing it? Who is maintaining it? If it's the city we need to know what those costs are. The residents deserve to know the developer is not paying for it, especially when we just had a Parks bond that failed in November.

Not all development sites are equal, and the old Granite High School site presents opportunities and challenges that are found nowhere else in the community. I am concerned about losing a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to develop this site that respects a community legacy of over 100 years. Therefore, planning for the redevelopment of the Granite High School site deserves scrutiny, diligence, and collaboration between community stakeholders.

The City Council has announced a Special Meeting to reconsider my veto, at 7:30 PM, Monday, March 21st, in the City Council Chambers at City Hall.

John F Kennedy said, "Let us never negotiate out of fear, but let us never fear to negotiate."

It is impressive what we have done with our small budget. If you feel like your need for statistics has not yet been met, please visit the city website at sslc.com, read the On the Move City Newsletter, or better yet schedule some time to come chat with me. I'd love the opportunity to hear from you. Now its time for the

Best of South Salt Lake Awards

BEST: SUPERLATIVE OF GOOD ; OF THE MOST EXCELLENT, EFFECTIVE, OR DESIRABLE TYPE OR QUALITY. ONE WORD SAYS IT ALL.

This room is filled with stars that make our city a shining example. We have come together to recognize your achievements in our community, with a little touch of Hollywood.

And now for our first award:

Community Champion



Vilia Van Tonder is a business owner known for her accounting expertise and also has a secret identity making delectable Vilia's Chocolates, which just located in our city. Vilia just completed her term as the Chair of the South Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce and is the leader of the lively Women in Business Committee. She is best known for her passion and enthusiasm for the City of South Salt Lake. To our good fortune, Vilia has unofficially become our city spokeswoman! She just can't stop telling everyone she meets how wonderful our city is. **The Community Champion Award goes to Vilia Van Tonder!**

Business Volunteer



For over 35 years, Rick Ruseler has been a resident and business owner in South Salt Lake. Rick and his company, Timberline Tree & Landscaping, generously donate equipment, labor and time to assist with Community Connection projects and residents in need. He is a valuable part of our team effort to help clean up neighborhoods for a safe, clean and beautiful city. **The Business Volunteer of the Year Award goes to Rick Ruseler and Timberline Tree & Landscaping!**

Resident Volunteer



Bill Van Os became an invaluable part of the Community Connection project in 2015, when his neighborhood became one of the most successful revitalization stories in our ~~Community Connection~~ history. He participated in all scheduled events in the project area and was key to uniting the neighborhood. Numerous times he would volunteer tools or materials from his home to help a neighbor. His 'sharing is caring' attitude sparked a new level of community involvement in the neighborhood. **The Resident Volunteer of the Year award goes to Bill Van Os.**

Educator of the Year



Marianne Jeo began her education career 5 years ago when she started teaching 3rd grade at Woodrow Wilson Elementary School. She believes all students can learn and she inspires each of her students to meet their personal potential. She believes positive thinking equals positive results. Her students' math data ranks among the highest in the district for Title 1 teachers, and her students outscore school and district averages. Marianne has the ability to make everyone around her work harder and reach for the stars. **The Educator of the Year Award goes to “Mrs. Jeo”.**

United Way-Promise South Salt Lake Partner



Granite Park Jr High Principal Danny Stirland makes his Promise community center possible for our youth. He sees every challenge as a potential asset while serving more than 700 students in one of the most diverse schools in Utah. Danny, his teachers, and faculty take great pride in the youth and families they serve. One of Danny’s first projects for Granite Park was to establish the Tumaini Center (the Swahili word for “hope”), which offers a two-week orientation course for young refugees who are preparing to enter South Salt Lake schools for the first time. Students learn about school culture and work on their communication and literacy skills in English, as well as math and computers.

The 2016 United Way-Promise South Salt Lake Partner of the Year Award goes to Danny Stirland.

Community Icon



Barbara Tanner and her late husband, Norm, have been longtime philanthropic powerhouses in Utah. She is a booster of our Promise Initiative and recently became the founding sponsor of the South Salt Lake-Westminster College partnership. Walkways to Westminster is a college preparatory program helping South Salt Lake youth become college-ready through experiences, mentorship and coaching. Her service never stops. At 99 years old, Barbara is one of the most active women I know. It is with admiration and gratitude that I recognize the South Salt Lake Community Icon, Barbara Tanner. She couldn’t be with us today as she is still at her winter residence out of state. Accepting the award for Barbara today is President Steve Morgan, of Westminster College.

Employee 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: Joe Cummings, Dustin Permann, Debbie Peddersen, Brandon Bancroft, Julie Taylor, Eddie Chacon, and Andy Wagner, who cannot be here today. Join me in thanking them for their service to this community.

Employee of the Year



Bonnie Owens is a champion for 274 youth as the Promise South Salt Lake Center Coordinator at Woodrow Wilson Elementary School. Under Bonnie's leadership the number of tutoring students has nearly doubled, as she inspires and empowers youth to succeed. Bonnie and the Woodrow Wilson Program were honored in Washington D.C. by the National Center on Afterschool and Summer Enrichment for her very popular summer program. She inspires greatness and radiates light that makes those around her feel welcomed and loved. **The SSL Employee of the Year award goes to Bonnie Owens!**

Best Business



Founded by Les Olson and his wife, Reva in 1956, Les Olson Company has been a family-owned and independently operated business since its beginning. They offered their 12 young children the chance to “buy-in” to the business with the savings from their piggy banks. The company began by selling dictation equipment, and as technology advanced, Les became the first person in Utah to sell a copy machine. The kids remained core to the business, and eventually the second generation took over. Now, the third generation is at the helm. All 200 employees are treated like family. Les Olson Company continues to grow, expand and give back to South Salt Lake. **The Best Business Award goes to Les Olson Company.**

Best Employer



WesTech Engineering is an international company with offices in Brazil, China, South Africa and India and headquarters in South Salt Lake. WesTech manufactures and engineers processing equipment that provides water and wastewater solutions for industrial uses and municipal needs. This employee-owned company is constantly working to do the right thing for all people and the environment. Designed to LEED green building standards, their building provides every employee a space with a view and natural lighting. **The Best Employer Award goes to WesTech Engineering.**

Best Restaurant



It's nearly impossible to drive across the northern border of our city without encountering the aroma of slow-smoked pork, hearing blues music or meeting Pat Barber. He has been our ambassador on the Food Network's “Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives.” The food is award-winning, and he probably doesn't need one more “Best of” award on his walls, but we have never before had the chance to highlight Pat's Barbecue. Thank you to Pat's Barbecue for being a friend to the city. **The Best Restaurant Award goes to Pat Barber and Pat's Barbecue.**

Best Friend of Youth



United Way of Salt Lake is “Changing the Odds” for South Salt Lake youth and families. They are co-leading our work in education, health access and improved economic stability for our community’s most vulnerable children, youth and families. United Way of Salt Lake does whatever it takes to help SSL provide high quality programs for 2,500 youth. We honor them for their dedication, commitment and unwavering support for the young people of South Salt Lake. The Best Friend of Youth Award goes to United Way of Salt Lake. Accepting this award today – Lindsey Edwards.

Best Legacy Business



Founded over half a century ago, American Funds & Trusts is led by Dick Taggart and now his son Rick. Their support of SSL businesses, residents, employees and city leaders has never wavered. They are backbones of the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce and its Business Education Committee and the South Salt Lake Rotary. This is a great family business whose light will never go out in South Salt Lake. **The Best Legacy Business Award goes to American Funds & Trusts.**

Best Home Builder



Hamlet Homes has built 291 homes for families in South Salt Lake. Led by Michael Brodsky, they have completed 4 major projects in our community, and have a knack for making a small site or cozy cottage irresistible through thoughtful design, high quality materials, and attractive common spaces. They have brought 1,000 new residents to our city (4% of our population). I applaud their commitment to our community! **The Best Home Builder Award goes to Hamlet Homes.**

Best New Business



Dented Brick Distillery purchased a home built in 1919, in a semi-industrial area near the 3300 South TRAX station. They saved the bricks as they dismantled the home and built a 14,000 square foot distillery with a warehouse and production floor sized for rapid growth. The beautiful building houses a 28-foot tall Copper Still, which just turned out its first product: Antelope Island Rum. They have enthusiastically promoted their business and proudly boasted about their South Salt Lake location. **The Best New Business Award goes to Dented Brick Distillery.**

Best Education Partner



With our community’s promise that every child will have the opportunity to attend and graduate from college, we know that education comes in many shapes and sizes. Westminster College is a force for educating an entire community. Year after year, they donate time, talent, money, volunteers and armies of curious, compassionate students to serve our community. They facilitate the Write Here Writing Center, Venture college course for adults and the Mentoring with Moo program. Westminster students staff mobile health clinics, work with our Arts Council on public art, and teach youth to appreciate the Jordan River ecosystem. Every year they find new ways to get involved and make a meaningful impact in South Salt Lake. I thank

President Stephen R. Morgan for making this partnership thrive! **The Best Education Partner Award goes to Westminster College.**

Best Senior Champions



Our seniors are the greatest! They are fierce competitors – committed to training, with nerves of steel, and darn good looking too. I am talking about all of our seniors, of course, but we could only highlight a few for this “best of” award. The Columbus Senior Center is home to the 2015 Salt Lake County Wii Bowling champions, the Pirates. Wilson Pace, John A. Pace, Jane Qualizza and Harold Mathews broke Taylorsville’s two-year winning streak and returned the trophy to South Salt Lake for the

first time since the 2011 annual tournament. **The Best Senior Champions Award goes to the Pirates Wii Bowling Team.**

Best New Industrial Building



Tennis and Track Company makes the most beautiful basketball, tennis and pickleball courts in the West. When it came to building a new warehouse for operations, it wasn’t easy to make an industrial building look special, but Miles Minson, Brian Renner and Lee Renner went the extra mile to make the interior and exterior high quality, modern and classy. With wood floors, high ceilings, and a kitchen, the well-lit, spacious warehouse will accommodate plans to expand at the same fast pace that makes them a success. **The Best New Industrial Building Award goes to Tennis and Track Company!**

Best New Commercial Building



Salt Lake Motorcycle Company recently relocated to a prime spot on 2100 South in Downtown South Salt Lake, and they couldn’t be more thrilled. Their company helps customize and restore motorcycles and sells fashionable gear and stunning merchandise. Their building’s design utilizes reclaimed wood and recycled motorcycle parts, and features three full roll-up doors so the bikes can be displayed outdoors or taken for a spin. Owner Chris Aardema raves about the great location and is excited about the tremendous foot traffic their new store is seeing. **The Best New Commercial Building Award goes to Salt Lake Motorcycle!**

Best Place for Kids



Utah Children’s Theatre is an icon in the competitive Utah theatre market, dedicated to enriching children’s lives through the performing arts. They have live theatre performances in an intimate 180-seat theatre, open to schools, field trips and the general public. Plus, they offer theatre camps, classes and workshops for youth to develop their craft. This business is all in the family with James Parker, his four siblings and parents Tom and Joanne Parker, who purchased and renovated the former Avalon Theatre on State Street, reviving its glory days. They are training future Oscar winners, so kids, when it is your turn to accept your big award, don’t forget to thank the Utah Children’s Theatre. **The Best Place for Kids.**

Best Place for Pets



South Salt Lake has the BEST pet day camp in the valley...“Paws down”. Camp Bow Wow provides our friends a space to play for the day or to stay for the night. They provide training, grooming services, and a rocking Halloween party each year. Owner Sharon Opfermann is one of the best friends a city could have, and one of the best friends your dog will ever make. She makes Camp Bow Wow South Salt Lake’s Best Place for Pets (and for their people). **The Best Place for Pets Award goes to Camp Bow Wow.**

Best Creative Art



The SSL Urban Livability Dept. has installed 28 art wraps on utility boxes around the city. Their staff was so excited about putting art on every corner in the city that they decided to make one themselves. Together they attended a Paint Nite® event and each painted their own version of the ‘Firefly Me to the Moon’ piece.



The utility box on the SW corner of 2100 South and 300 West now displays a montage of the Urban Livability Department’s paintings. **The Best Creative Art Award goes to the South Salt Lake Urban Livability Department – for Firefly me to the Moon!**

Best Public Art



Master artist Shae Peterson’s skills teeter between graffiti artist and street artist. This past fall he was inspired to paint his largest solo project, a colossal 100 foot ‘God Like’ mural on the corner of 3300 South and 300 West. People are slowing at one of South Salt Lake’s busiest intersections to catch a glimpse of this breath-taking art, made entirely with spray paint. Thank you, Shae Peterson, for sharing your talents and making the



South Salt Lake community a brighter place! I am proud to honor your amazing mural. **The Best Public Art Award goes to Shae Peterson and SRIL Art (pronounced “surreal”).**

Best Recreation



When spring fever hits, the whole city is itching to get outside, and the best place to go in South Salt Lake is Golf the Round. At 81 acres, Golf the Round is the city's largest open space. Golfers find solitude and beautiful views, at this nine-hole, 2,800 yard, par-33 course, which is just the right challenge for all ages. The putting course, covered driving range, golf training center and golf pros can help you elevate your game. Golf the Round is home to Utah's First Tee golf and character education program, helping kids find a lifetime sport while learning important life skills. **The Best Recreation award goes to Golf the Round!**

Best Donut



There is a line out the door at Fresh Donut & Deli most every morning. Many a morning I may or may not be found in that line! The service is fast and the donuts are scrumptious. People from all over the valley tell us Fresh Donut and Deli is the best donut in the state. **The Best Donut Award goes to Brenda and Wilson Le at Fresh Donut & Deli.**

Best Catering



How did you like your lunch? Delicious! We have definitely stepped up our menu and service at city events for one simple reason – Sauté Catering. This catering company finds its home at the Head Start kitchen in Central Park, which also happens to serve 4,000 meals a day to Head Start preschoolers throughout the valley. Sauté is led by Liz Guerrero and Hayden Seeley, who train people for the culinary field and give them their first job in catering. Many of the participants are parents of preschoolers in Head Start's program. They strive for excellence and it shows – in the food, the décor, and the impeccable service. **The Best Catering Award goes to Saute'.**

Best Cake



Cakes de Fleur makes cakes to order, or you can stop in and choose from their case of decadent cakes, cupcakes and cake candy pops ready to purchase. Using all natural ingredients, Laurlee Morrison makes everything from scratch – the batter, the buttercream frosting and the decorations. Few other bakers insist on the level of quality that makes her baked goods superior to the competition. **The Best Cake Award goes to Cakes de Fleur.**

Best Lunch Spot

This tiny café on State Street has people lined up out the door for their delicious Vietnamese food that is so good, you'll be telling your friends about it. South Salt Lake was the first to share these delectable, exotic flavors with hungry restaurant goers. **The Best Lunch Spot award goes to Oh Mai.**

Best Dessert



Francesco and Lisa Amen-dola make Sweetaly gelato the best, and they make it look like a piece of cake. Their store feels like you are stepping into a family-owned gelato shop in Italy. You can get a cup with a few different flavors, a gelato cake, or a few scoops of gelato on Italian bread for a very Italian lunch. **The Best Dessert Award goes to Sweetaly Gelato!**

Best Deli

Town & Country Market is a South Salt Lake "go to" that has been open since the 1950s. They have the biggest, tastiest sandwiches in the city and a very friendly staff. Sitting there, eating a picnic lunch, it almost feels like you are back in time. **The Best Deli Award goes to Town & Country Market.**

Conclusion

Congratulations to all our Best of South Salt Lake award winners. I hope you feel you are among the stars this afternoon. It is an honor to have each of you here and a part of our great city.

In closing,

- our economic development efforts are paying off
- we have fought hard to close the 2016 sales tax gap with no property tax increases
- our finances are stable and conservative
- because of teamwork and partnerships we accomplish more with less
- our youth are making enormous gains in education, self-confidence and life skills
- our community looks better than it ever has before

We often talk about how the stars have aligned.... Lucille Ball said, "Luck? I don't know anything about luck. I've never banked on it and I'm afraid of people who do. Luck to me is something else... hard work and realizing what is opportunity and what isn't."

And Sam Ewing said, "Hard work spotlights the character of people; some turn up their sleeves, some turn up their noses, and some don't turn up at all."

Thanks to all of you who always turn up! The future is bright for South Salt Lake!