

## Around The Town

### News from My Hometown Northwest

### April 2024

Katie Riser, Special Projects Manager for the Salt Lake Mayor's office recently said "Our goal is to make Salt Lake City a beautiful place to live that all can enjoy. This is our second year working with My Hometown, and they have shown a tremendous ability to organize and provide manpower and resources where needed." New MHT Executive Directors Carlton and Kathy Christensen concur: "It's gratifying to see what has been accomplished, and we're excited and encouraged for what we can do in the future." Following is a summary of recent projects:

#### Earth Day 2024

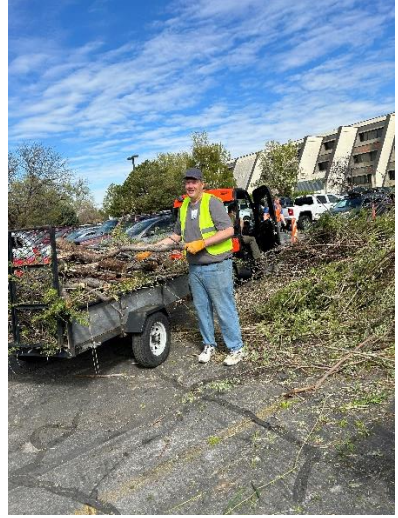
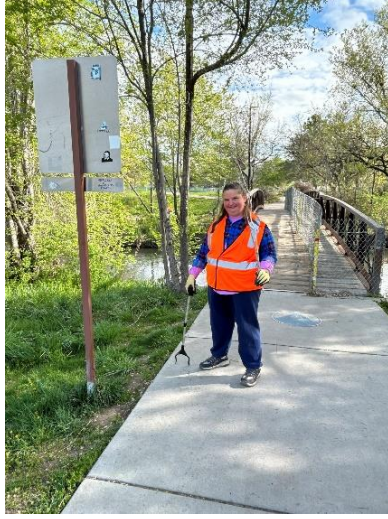
About 350 volunteers gathered at Cottonwood Park on Saturday, April 20 (to commemorate Earth Day) and worked for hours along the banks of the Jordan River to clear debris, weeds and overgrown areas, scrape and repaint pavilions, and remove garbage. "If we commit to it, we'll do it, and do it well" said Jared Parker, who along with Robin Egan, Tim Herzog, Steve Sturzenegger and Doug Stevens served as Project Coordinators for the day which drew more participants than any project to date. See what coming together looks like below:













## DOS “Now” Tree Removal Project

For some time, Angel and Andriana Vines have worried about a tree located close to their home in Rose Park. Because of its location and size, maybe 20’ high and sandwiched in between two houses, it wouldn’t be an easy project. But Damon Purdue is acquainted with the couple (who are both blind) and knew its removal was urgently needed. So, he recruited fellow My Home Town Northwest volunteers Mike Farley, Tim Herzog and John Whittaker to help. Within hours, the tree was down and completely removed from the premises. Other projects, including a front porch ramp, chain link fence and security system will soon be needed to help the Vines feel even safer.



## ESL Classes

“Gratifying,” is how Craig and Joan Anderson describe what has happened with the program they oversee that helps Rose Park area residents learn English as a second language. With two semesters nearly completed and as many as 30 attendees per session, additional classrooms and instructors have helped meet the needs of these enthusiastic students. To help keep interest high, the Andersons have held periodic drawings for prizes and gift certificates. You might say it’s been absolutely “Gratificante” for all!





## Youth Activities

Youth leaders Doug and Becky Farly have created from scratch, so to speak, a vibrant program that appeals to local youth ages 11 – 18. Their now fully formed youth council plans and implements quarterly activities and events, and they recently added a monthly sports night to this burgeoning program, which already includes snowboarding and skateboarding classes, a recent Painting night for future artists, youth dances and parties. Youth have supported these programs in droves, with as many as 200 attending some events. To say the program has been well received is an understatement. See the young artists, highlighted in pictures below:



## Pickleball Open Play

Beginning in February, MHT began inviting residents to play Pickleball every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday at the CRC building, located at 947 West 200 North where three painted courts and nets await. Pickleball paddles and balls are also available for any who want to play but need equipment. Over 25 people have signed up to play so far, and the intent is to expand participation going forward. Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the nation, and you can see why when you watch how much fun these players have.





## Sports Programs

Local baller “Coach D” provides expertise for young men and women who want to sharpen their skills as part of the Jayhawks basketball program. It’s actually quite amazing to see the progress these young players are making, and though Coach D doesn’t make it easy, the benefits are concrete. Passionate Futsal players also compete together each week at the CRC. The good thing is, there is still room for growth in both programs. Reach out to Mike (801-580-2224) or Tamie Snarr (801-913-0734) for additional information.



## Folk Dancing

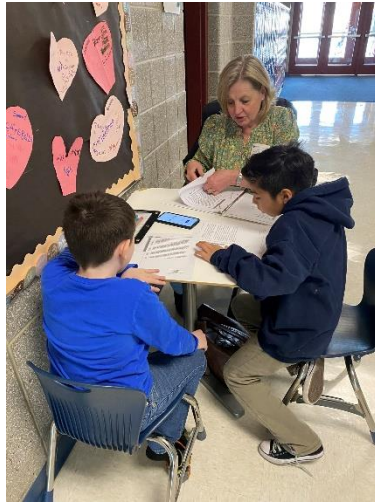
Interest continues to build in monthly Folk Dances held at the CRC building. Come and show off your moves on the hardwood. Instruction available. No experience needed. Kendrick and Kris Bytheway help coordinate the program.





## **Reading Program:**

Liz and Gaylen Zentner are committed to helping students at Backman Elementary and other area schools reach required reading levels. And, you can help. Currently over 30 volunteers serve as tutors/readers for an hour or so each week. That's a good start, but Gaylen says we need 50 volunteers by next fall. Currently 80% of the Backman student body is still below level.



## **My Hometown Conference (Saturday, April 13)**

MHT Northwest co-founders Jeff and Julie Olson recently hosted a seminar to help volunteers better understand MHT's mission and learn about new initiatives, programs and opportunities. Informative breakout sessions were also held throughout the morning event.

## **Volunteer Profile: Marylee Bingham**

### **From Rural farm girl to a Big City Banking Career**

It was in her hometown of Rupert, Idaho where Marylee learned to become the wonderful example and friend she is known for throughout MHT. "I couldn't have asked for a better place to grow up," she says. "I had the perfect childhood."

When she was two years old her father, a World War II Veteran, received 100 acres from a US Government Lottery that gave thousands of acres of undeveloped land away to servicemen. Although it meant hours and hours of hard work every day,



Marylee and her 6 siblings loved their freedom, the great outdoors, and the wonderful, tightknit community that evolved in Rupert. “We probably had 30 different religions, so diversity and getting along was very important, and a great life lesson,” she says.

After high school, Marylee attended Ricks College and then BYU, where she graduated with a degree in Education. But she took a different path. While working in a bank during college, she became enamored with the industry, and ended up having a career in International Banking, working for such mainstays as US Bank, Merrill Lynch, and most recently Zions Bank. “I meant to retire 5 years ago, but loved it too much.”

Marylee joined MHT at the beckoning of CRC Co-Directors Dirk and Lisa Anjewierden, her neighbors (she served in a church leadership position as Lisa’s predecessor—one thing led to another...and to another). Marylee oversees communications services at My Home Town via Vanilla, a computer software program. She says the thing she loves most about MHT is the people she serves with.

With retirement nearing, Marylee says she’s excited to look at new opportunities: “I’m sort of a spur of the moment person,” she quipped. She loves to garden (she took the Master Gardener Class), take walks and play golf, for starters. One thing is clear: Marylee loves life, and loves a little adventure (she even did a housesitting stint in Hawaii), so she’s probably open to just about anything. Let’s wait and see!





