

# BETWEEN THE CANYONS

The official newsletter of Cottonwood Heights | ch.utah.gov

## Weigh in on the 2022-2023 city budget

Council member Scott Bracken



About the time this newsletter hits your mailbox, the city will post for public review a tentative budget for the July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023, fiscal year. The tentative budget outlines where we expect to get the

revenue we use to provide city services and how those funds are to be allocated. You can peruse the documents and analyze the tentative expenditures now in preparation for the public hearing coming up on May 17, 2022.

I'd like to point out a couple things about our tentative budget and the current economy. Everyone has been hit by inflation over the last year, including the city, and our costs for materials, personnel, and all other items have increased. We do not get a "special pass" for being a governmental agency.

Property tax revenues to the city, about 14 percent of your total property tax bill, are not adjusted with inflation. This means a 7 percent inflation rate over 12 months decreases the purchasing power of our property tax by that same 7 percent. About 37 percent of the city's overall revenue comes from property taxes.

Another point: As housing values go up, the certified tax rate goes down, so there is no windfall/revenue increase to the city when assessed values go up. The net result is that the purchasing power of property tax decreases year-over-year.

Sales tax revenues follow our collective spending patterns. We have been fortunate that our sales tax revenues only flattened over the first year of the pandemic (rather than decrease as they did in some areas) and have gotten back on a positive track this

Weigh in continued on page 3

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#### **CITY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**

UPCOMING TENTATIVE AGENDA ITEMS

#### MAY 3

- GOOGLE FIBER PRESENTATION
- SALT LAKE CITY UTILITIES BOARD REPORT
- POLICE DEPARTMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS FLEET FINANCING
- BIG COTTONWOOD CANYON MARATHON DISCUSSION
- SURPLUS PROPERTY

#### **MAY 17**

- CENTURY LINK PRESENTATION
- TENTATIVE COUNCIL BUDGET DISCUSSION
- PROPOSED BUDGET ADJUSTMENT
- COMMUNITY SURVEY DISCUSSION
- PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2022-2023
   CITY BUDGET

TO FIND FULL AGENDAS, VISIT CH.UTAH.GOV

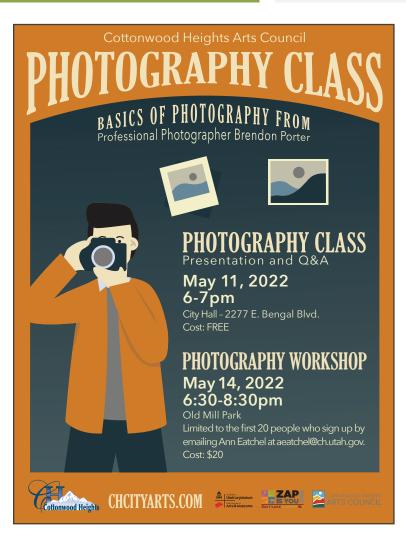
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#### **EVENTS CALENDAR**

- MAY 11: PHOTOGRAPHY CLASS
- MAY 14: PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP
- MAY 21: ASPEN WINDS CONCERT
- JUNE 6 JULY 6: PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW AND CONTEST
- JUNE 24: GHOSTBUSTERS: AFTERLIFE IN MOUNTVIEW PARK
- JULY 28-30: BUTLERVILLE DAYS

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT CH. UTAH. GOV AND CLICK COMMUNITY CALENDAR





# Sign up as a vendor or parade participant for this summer's Butlerville Days!

Butlerville Days, scheduled for July 28-30, 2022, is only a few months away! We're now accepting applications for both the parade and vendor booths.

Parade. Held Saturday, July 30, at 11 a.m., the Butlerville Day parade begins at 3425 E. and Bengal Blvd. and ends at 2495 Bengal Blvd. at the

Guthrie Skate Park. Floats, musical groups, classic cars, businesses, and community dignitaries can fill out a parade application at **bvdays.com**.

**Vendor booths.** Promote your commercial or home business and crafts at Butlerville Days on Friday, July 29, from 4-9 p.m. and Saturday, July 30, from 12-9 p.m. in Butler Park (7500 S. 2700 E.).

Booth costs (include a 10-foot by 10-foot space):

- Home crafts: \$65
- Home business: \$175
- Commercial businesses and services: \$330

Fill out an application at **bvdays.com**.

For more information about Butlerville Days, email Ann Eatchel at aeatchel@ch.utah.org.

year. This growth in sales tax is where we can cover a lot of city service cost increases (police, fire, road work/public works, and planning).

Sales taxes amount to roughly 33 percent of our total revenue. When sales tax revenue goes up equally with costs, the budget can be balanced without any tax increases or significant fee additions. Sales taxes for 2022 are on track to be well over \$8 million.

Like most governments, personnel costs make up the bulk of our expenditures; however, capital projects are also an essential annual expenditure. Cottonwood Heights will be in the fifth and final year of our five-year road surface maintenance program.

This focus of capital funds over that time has allowed us to not fall behind in much of our capital needs and will allow our next five-year plan to address road reconstruction more heavily where needed and keep things in good shape.

The council has discussed and is moving forward with design plans for an upgraded public works yard. We've received many questions about why all our snowplows and other equipment are allowed to sit out in the weather all year round, and we hope to solve that with new garage space and facilities to keep our equipment in good shape and allow our employees to better maintain it on-site. This saves us time and money.

An added benefit of keeping our snowplow trucks in garages is that they can be pre-loaded and stored with salt before a storm hits. This allows the drivers to get out plowing as much as an hour sooner as they won't have to wait in line to fill up their trucks.

With construction prices continuing to rise faster than inflation and the federal government having promised to raise interest rates over the upcoming year, costs will continue to rise. We are also fortunate at this time to have access to one-time funds from the federal government, a recent refinance of existing bonds that reduced interest costs, and other cost savings by upgrading the space so that we can keep capital bonding expenses as low as possible. Moving forward with these plans now will save us more in the future and allow us to provide better service next year.

Please take the opportunity to look over the tentative budget before the city council adopts it on June 21, 2022. Now is the time to make any needed adjustments for our next fiscal year.

## Find out how your property and sales taxes fund Cottonwood Heights services

Most services Cottonwood Heights provides are funded through general tax revenues, including property tax and sales tax.

#### **Property tax**

Cottonwood Heights' largest source of revenue is property tax, which represents 37 percent of total general fund revenue. Salt Lake County assesses real and business personal property within the city, collects taxes for those properties, and then distributes those funds to individual taxing entities. Taxes are distributed to school districts, municipalities, counties, and special districts. See the chart on the right for the relative percentage of each resident's property tax distributed to individual taxing entities.

By state law, primary residences are taxed at 55 percent of their value as assessed by Salt Lake County. All other real and business personal property is taxed at 100 percent of assessed value. Every June, the county submits a certified tax rate providing the city the same revenue amount as the previous year, plus an extra amount for any new property development within city boundaries during the prior year. Unless the city chooses to adopt a higher tax rate, property tax rates decrease when values increase due to a downward adjustment in the levy rate, which keeps tax levels steady. Cities must evaluate and sometimes increase rates above the certified rate to add collection services or keep pace with cost inflation. The city implemented a 2019 increase, but the average increase from 2014 to 2021 (outside the 2019 increase) was 1.04 percent.

#### **Relative tax rates**

The chart on the right shows tax rates for other cities in Salt Lake County for the 2021 tax year. For cities in the Unified Fire Service Area and/or a law enforcement service area, those rates are added to the city rate. The average property tax rate for these

cities is 0.002308 and the median rate is 0.002026. Cottonwood Heights' rate for the 2021-2022 fiscal year is 0.001740.

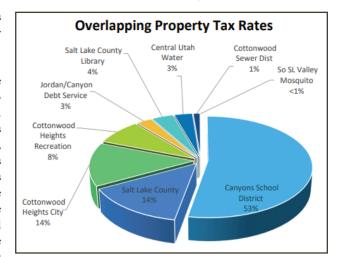
#### Sales tax

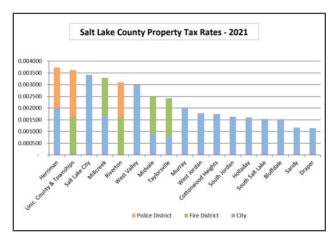
Sales tax is the second-largest source of revenue for the city, representing 33 percent of total governmental revenue. Retail sales in Cottonwood Heights are charged a tax rate of 7.25 percent, and 1 percent of the 7.25 percent is assessed by the city. However, half of this revenue comes directly to the city, while the other half is distributed statewide based on population. Cottonwood Heights receives slightly more from the population distribution than it does from sales. In the fiscal 2021 year, the city received \$1.10 for every \$1 of local option sales tax collected.

Sales tax revenue fluctuates with inflation and the economy. Cottonwood Heights collected \$7,894,215 in sales tax revenue during fiscal year 2021. Fiscal year 2021 collections were 17.49 percent higher than 2020. Before knowing the full collections, the city set the 2021 budget at \$7.2 million. Now, projections show the amount collected will likely be around \$8 million for this budget year.

The remaining revenues come from:

- 6 percent energy sales and use tax
- 5 percent cable franchise tax
- State and federal grants
- Service charges (permits and licenses)
- Court fines





For more information about how Cottonwood Heights uses its funds, visit **ch.utah.gov/your-government/ finance** and click on the **FY 2021-2022 Adopted Budget Book**.

## Police department auctions signed Post Malone guitar for Camp Hope program

Chief Robby Russo



The Salt Lake district attorney's office recently challenged Salt Lake valley police departments to support Camp Hope, a summer camp for children and teens 8-17 impacted by domestic violence who

enjoy horseback riding, rafting, and camping in Utah's mountains.

The Cottonwood Heights police department accepted the challenge, and our own superstar resident Post Malone donated a signed Fender Squier guitar, which we auctioned to kick off fundraising.

Thanks to the residents who shared our social media posts and media outlets who promoted the auction, including Cottonwood Heights' own "DB" Danger Boy and Hooker from radio station Rock 106.7, many people throughout the valley donated to the cause.



Jodi Avila of Magna took home the signed Post Malone guitar with a top bid of \$5,600 on April 1. Her children are huge Post Malone fans and she enjoys helping children, regularly donating to children's causes and her local elementary school.

While large contributions make a difference for Camp Hope, which is completely funded by the district attorney's office, smaller donations of even \$5 to \$10 add up, too.

Sim Gill, Salt Lake County district attorney,



recently spoke about the importance of this camp for children and teens.

"Trauma is inter-generational — it's passed from one family to another. By interrupting that, we can have the best outcomes for not only them but their families," he said.

To contribute or learn more about Camp Hope and Sim Gill's vision for helping youth, visit slco.org/district-attorney and click Donate to Camp Hope.

## Follow these seven steps to prevent mosquitoes from breeding and biting

The South Salt Lake Valley Mosquito Abatement District (SSLVMAD) promotes public health and quality of life by reducing the number of larval mosquitoes that develop to adult stage in stagnant water, including ponds, pasturelands, and birdbaths. Help control the mosquito population by:

 Eliminating unnecessary standing water from your property

- Emptying and refreshing desirable standing water at least weekly
- Treating livestock watering troughs and ornamental ponds with mosquito control products (free from SSLVMAD)
- Reporting other standing water to the SSLVMAD

To avoid being bitten by mosquitoes:

- Use Environmental Protection Agencyapproved mosquito repellents
- Wear light-colored, loose clothing that covers as much skin as possible
- Avoid outdoor activities between dusk and dawn (peak mosquito activity times)

For more information about mosquito control or to request services, visit **sslvmad.org**.

## Bengal Boulevard roundabout: Here's what to expect when it's complete

Cottonwood Heights and the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) began constructing a roundabout at the intersection of Bengal Boulevard, 2300 E. and 2325 E. on April 4. Crews will work Monday through Saturday between 7:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. and expect to complete the project by fall 2022.

In-road construction will not begin until Brighton High School students leave for the summer. Traffic will then shift to one lane in either direction, and the speed limit will be reduced from 35 to 25 miles per hour.

Roundabouts are safe and efficient because they:

- Promote a continuous flow of traffic
- Require fewer lanes for an intersection
- Lower travel speeds (roundabout speeds average 15-20 miles per hour)
- Don't require drivers to rush to beat traffic lights
- Prevent t-bone and head-on collisions

with curved roads and oneway traffic

To successfully navigate the roundabout when it's complete:

- Slow down and get in line at the entrance to the roundabout
- Yield to traffic already in the roundabout
- Drive counterclockwise to your exit once you enter the circle
- Look for pedestrians and use your turn signal before exiting the roundabout

For project updates, visit **ch.utah. gov/bengal-blvd**, email **bengalblvd**. **roundabout@gmail.com**, or call the project team at 1-385-557-7090. ■

See a video with a rendering of the future roundabout at **ch.utah.gov/bengal-blvd** 



## Attend a public hearing May 4 for the sensitive lands ordinance update

The Cottonwood Heights Planning Commission is holding a public hearing Wednesday, May 4, at 6 p.m. at City Hall (2277 E. Bengal Blvd.) for an update to the city's Sensitive Lands Evaluation and Development Standards (SLEDS) code.

Cottonwood Heights is in the process of updating the ordinance that regulates development in city areas that are potentially susceptible to naturally occurring hazards. The ordinance has been adjusted several times in the past but is currently being updated to incorporate more current data and industry best practices.

The ordinance protects the public from naturally occurring hazards by requiring comprehensive engineering standards when development occurs in city areas where such hazards are known to exist. It includes extensive pre-construction engineering and design requirements to properly study and provide mitigation for potential hazards.

Hazards requiring additional study and regulation by the SLEDS ordinance include:

- Steep slopes
- Earthquake ground rupture potential
- Landslides
- Rockfall/debris flow

- Flooding/shallow ground water
- Riparian waterway protection

For more information, contact the Cottonwood Heights Community & Economic Development department at 801-944-7000 or planning@ch.utah.gov.

Subscribe to Planning Commission emails (and get event and committee updates, too) at **ch.utah.gov/emails.** 

## Cottonwood Heights has less recycling contamination, but we can improve

Wasatch Front Waste & Recycling District collects recyclables weekly and drops them off at a local sorting facility. The district's contamination rate — the amount of trash found in blue recycling bins — last quarter was 27 percent, compared to 20.56 percent in Cottonwood Heights.

While the city's level was lower than the district level, residents can continue to reduce the amount of non-recyclables collected in recycling bins. The largest contaminant in Cottonwood Heights is plastic packaging materials. This includes:

Bubble wrap

- Styrofoam
- Padded envelopes
- Plastic wrap

Styrofoam cannot be recycled and should go in the trash bin. However, you can take bubble wrap and plastic film to grocery stores that recycle plastic, including Target and Smith's.

By removing these contaminants and others, including wire, packaging plastics, and food waste, you protect sorting machines from jamming and keep other recyclables clean for processing. Visit wasatchfrontwaste.org for more information.



# Apply for a small business assistance grant until June 10, 2022

The Cottonwood Heights business assistance grant provides up to \$5,000 to qualifying city businesses for eligible expenses, including operating costs, employee incentives, and technology and business improvement investments.

Eligible businesses must:

- Hold a current Cottonwood Heights business license
- **Have 25 or fewer** full-time employees
- Have begun operating on or before Jan. 1, 2021
- Have an owner at least 18 years old
- Provide valid employer ID numbers or Social Security numbers (if established as sole proprietors)
- Document and report grant fund use

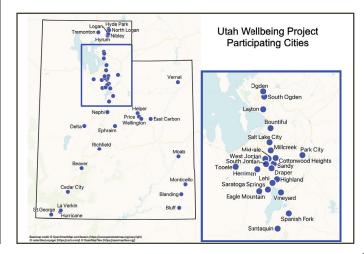
The city will accept grant applications through June 10, 2022. For more information, visit **ch.utah.gov/grants**, email **citygrant@ch.utah.gov**, or call 801-944-7067.



# Share feedback through Utah State's Utah Wellbeing Survey!

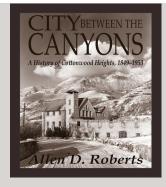
Cottonwood Heights has partnered with Utah State University's Utah Wellbeing Project to conduct a public wellbeing survey. Visit **tinyurl.com/Cottonwood2022** to take the 10-minute survey (you must be at least 18 years old). Disponible en español.

The Utah Wellbeing Project tracks wellbeing perspectives in Utah, from rural areas to larger and rapidly growing cities. More than 14,000 Utahns have participated. For more information, contact Dr. Flint at courtney.flint@usu.edu.









## **Buy the book!**

Find more community stories in City Between the Canyons: A History of Cottonwood Heights, 1849-1953. Buy yours at City Hall for \$20 (3 for \$50) or online at ch.utah.gov/history-book for \$25 (3 for \$59) with shipping.



### City council members

MAYOR: Michael Weichers DIST# 1: Douglas Petersen DIST# 2: J. Scott Bracken DIST# 3: Shawn E. Newell DIST# 4: Ellen Birrell

**CITY MANAGER:** Tim Tingey

## City office

2277 E. Bengal Blvd.

Cottonwood Heights, UT 84121 Phone ...... 801-944-7000 

#### Numbers to know

Emergency	911
Dispatch	840-4000
Fire authority	743-7200
Animal control	944-7100
Justice court	273-9731

#### Call direct

City manager	944-7010
City planning	944-7065
Public works	944-7000
Recorder	944-7021
Finance director	944-7012
Code enforcement	944-7095
Police administration	944-7100

## City council meetings

- May 3: Work session at 4 p.m., business meeting at 6:30 p.m.
- May 17: Work session at 4 p.m., business meeting at 6:30 p.m.

City council meetings are held the first and third Tuesday of every month at 4 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Agendas are posted at least 24 hours before public meetings on ch.utah.gov.

### Planning Commission

The Planning Commission generally holds meetings at 6 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month.

### Editor

Lindsay Wilcox

## Brighton High's School's Nicole Shon named Canyon School District's top high school teacher

Nicole Shon, who teaches chemistry and science at Brighton High School, has helped her students love challenging courses that cover everything from protons to the periodic table. You could call it a symbiotic relationship.

"She is literally the best teacher I've ever had," one student said in nominating Shon for the Bengals' 2022 Teacher of the Year award, which she won.

Shon was also honored as Canyons District's High School Teacher of the Year and is among 47 school-based winners across the district, including the Cottonwood Heightsarea teachers listed below.

"Ms. Shon is loved by her students and known for her kindness and patience in teaching a challenging subject," Principal Tom Sherwood says. "She makes it her personal responsibility to ensure that all students learn and enjoy their experience in her classroom."



#### 2022 teachers of the year

- Jessica Nelson: Butler Elementary
  Heather Derderian: Canyon View Elementary
  Rebecca Jimas: Ridgecrest Elementary
  Danielle Wheeler: Oakdale Elementary

- Katherine Cance: Butler Middle School

### Follow the Historic Committee on Facebook!

Learn more about Cottonwood Heights' history by following the Historic Committee on Facebook! Committee members share facts about the community and ways to get involved, including walking tours, City Hall exhibits, and booths at Butlerville Days. Visit Facebook.com/

#### CottonwoodHeightsHistoricCommittee.

The Historic Committee is also seeking more volunteers. Members meet monthly to plan initiatives highlighting city history. To fill out an application, email culture manager Ann Eatchel at aeatchel@ch.utah.gov.



## Three tips for sustainable spring cleaning

Spring has arrived, and for many people, this also means it's time for spring cleaning. If you're inspired to rejuvenate your space, consider implementing a few sustainable practices.

Donate excess. Drop off housewares, clothing, and appliances you no longer need at your local thrift store or, for ultimate convenience, list items on an online marketplace or donation forum instead. Consider these resources and remember to verify donations are being accepted before you go.

- **Deseret Industries (deseretindustries.org)**
- The Salvation Army (satruck.org)
- Goodwill (goodwill.org)
- Local Buy Nothing Project groups (buynothingproject.org)
- Big Brothers Big Sisters Utah (bbbsu.org)

Use reusable supplies. Paper towels, plastic bottles, and disposable dusters can quickly accumulate into a trash heap. Repurpose old pillowcases and t-shirts for dusters and rags or opt for reusable versions. Many online retailers offer these supplies and include free shipping!

Go digital. Unsubscribe from catalogs, opt for online billing when possible, and digitize files using a scanner (but remember that hard copies are critical for some records). Once you've sorted a pile of paper to shred, consider bringing it to a community shred event. While you can't recycle at-home paper shredding in curbside bins, many large-scale shred events implement bulk recycling for the byproducts. Cottonwood Heights will hold a community shred event this summer, so watch for a date coming soon.

## Business spotlight

## Fortis Private Bank | 6975 S. Union Park Ave. #180 | fortisprivatebank.com

Fortis Bank offers loans to small- and medium-sized businesses, providing local businesses working capital to help with the everyday cash flow fluctuations. Investing in Utah and the surrounding communities is important to everyone at Fortis, and it is their privilege to provide growth capital, serve as advisors, and serve as a local community partner.

Fortis is insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) and is a state-chartered bank with offices in the Denver and Salt Lake City metropolitan areas. The bank provides business and personal clients with a full suite of loan, treasury management and deposit products, with an emphasis on commercial and specialty clients. To learn more about Fortis, visit fortisprivatebank.com.



## Mountain Land Physical Therapy | 1950 E. Ft. Union Blvd. #2 | mlrehab.com/cottonwood

Mountain Land Physical Therapy is pleased to announce the grand opening of its 40th clinic. With new equipment, a large gym, and private treatment rooms, this new clinic will provide the highest quality of care to Cottonwood Heights residents.

Madison Splan, PT, DPT, WCS, and her staff have years of experience treating common issues, including back, neck, and knee pain, pelvic health issues, and sports

and orthopedic injuries. They also offer post-surgical rehabilitation and specialty services such as aquatic therapy, ASTYM services, dry needling, Graston treatment, and vertigo treatment.

Mountain Land Physical Therapy looks forward to serving you and making friendships that will last a lifetime. Visit mlrehab.com/cottonwood to learn more and make an appointment.



## The SG Dance Company | 7817 S. Highland Dr. #A | thesgdancecompany.com

The SG Dance Company offers classes for ages 2 to 102, including jazz, tap, ballet, hip-hop, musical theater, tumbling, contemporary and fitness. They also offer summer camps, retreats, workshops and special guest teachers in ballroom, break dancing, and line dancing.

SG Dance Company's mission is instilling a love of dance while inspiring confidence, discipline, and respect for the performing arts. They provide a technical foundation and believe everyone can increase their physical, emotional, and intellectual well-being through the dance program. Check out the summer schedule at **thesgdancecompany.com** or call 801-598-5044.





Visit our local businesses for their May specials. To participate in Love Your Locals, email Sherrie at smartell@ch.utah.gov.

# The SG Dance Company | 7817 S. Highland Dr. #A | thesgdancecompany.com

The SG Dance Company is offering a free fitness class trial week to new customers who mention this Love Your Locals feature. Enjoy unlimited classes for a week, including buti and vinyasa yoga and dirty fit. New classes are coming in June, including cardio fuse. Zoom links are also available if you'd prefer to work out from home. Offer expires Aug. 20, 2022.

