



Cottonwood Heights, UT | January 2023 | FREE

BETWEEN THE CANYONS

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

Will our 2023-2024 budget reflect our values?

Council member Ellen Birrell



The statements in this article are the author's views and not necessarily the views of the entire city council.

As your elected representative, I accept the ultimate responsibility for a casualty-free traffic system: shaping policy and setting in motion the powers vested in our municipal government to ensure that our city streets meet the most stringent safety guidelines rather than just meet the minimum standards.

The 2021 Cottonwood Heights Tomorrow survey pointed at transit, more active transportation, traffic calming and improved pedestrian facilities as residents' top priorities. The city then administered a 2022 scientific survey that showed similar findings and included view sheds, water management and housing

availability/affordability as priorities.

A city government's responsibility for public health, safety and oversight of infrastructure is achieved through policies, codes and ordinances. This compels us to examine how Cottonwood Heights can remain fiscally sound yet meet the needs and some of the desires its residents express.

Whether you live on or near quiet streets, we all drive the collectors and arterials. Fatalities and serious injury from speeds over 35 mph, as well as the associated noise of fast-moving vehicles, is a growing challenge.

UDOT's "Gondola B phased in" announcement includes a six-lane width Wasatch Blvd. expansion for 2.6 miles of SR-210. UDOT EIS data shows a slowdown of six minutes possible 27 years from now (see the Little Cottonwood Final EIS Volume 2, Chapter 10A of the Air Quality Technical Report). There is no current need for additional lanes. The widening seems to be associated with Gondola B's 2,500-stall parking garage

Reflecting our values continued on page 3

CITY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

UPCOMING TENTATIVE AGENDA ITEMS

JANUARY 3

- SUSTAINABILITY MASTER PLAN DISCUSSION
- ADMINISTRATION YEAR-END REPORT REVIEW
- TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN DISCUSSION
- SENSITIVE LANDS EVALUATION AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS (SLEDS) ORDINANCE CITIZEN COMMENTS
- HOUSING PLAN CITIZEN COMMENTS
- POLICE AND PUBLIC WORKS STAFF REPORTS
- ARTS COUNCIL AND PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS
- INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH SALT LAKE COUNTY FOR 2022-28 UTAH POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (UPDES) MEDIA PROGRAM

JANUARY 17

- BUDGET ADJUSTMENT DISCUSSION
- HILLSIDE PLAZA BOND DISCUSSION
- HILLSIDE PLAZA PROPERTY ACQUISITION DISCUSSION
- BOND PARAMETERS RESOLUTION
- FIRE AND FINANCE DEPARTMENT STAFF REPORTS
- SENSITIVE LANDS EVALUATION AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS (SLEDS) ORDINANCE CONSIDERATION
- PARKS, TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

TO FIND FULL AGENDAS, VISIT CH.UTAH.GOV.

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WHAT'S INSIDE

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EVENTS CALENDAR

- **JAN. 21:** FILM FESTIVAL AT BUTLER MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
- **FEB. 4:** THEY REM HIP HOP PERFORMANCE AT BUTLER MIDDLE SCHOOL
- **FEB. 22:** CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY BEGINS AT CITY HALL
- **FEB. 24:** SWEETHEART PAINT NIGHT AT CITY HALL

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT CH.UTAH.GOV AND CLICK [COMMUNITY CALENDAR](#)

Free Entry

Cottonwood Heights Film Festival

January 21, 2023

Butler Middle School Auditorium
7530 S. 2700 E. (southeast entrance)

4:30 p.m. Preshow: HawkWatch Int.
See and learn about birds of prey.

5:00 p.m. The Eagle Huntress

7:00 p.m. Waste Land

For more information, visit
CH.UTAH.GOV

Made possible with support from **UTAH FILM CENTER**

THEY REM

SAVE THE DATE FOR A CELEBRATION OF
HIP HOP CULTURE, MUSIC & DANCE

FEB 4, 2023
7:00PM

BUTLER MIDDLE SCHOOL
7530 S. 2700 E.
ADMISSION \$10

CHCITYARTS.COM

ZAP IT IS YOU

Join the Arts Council! Members meet monthly to plan and deliver arts projects in the city, which include:

- Summer musicals
- Art displays
- Concerts
- Activities at Butlerville Days

Interested in joining? Fill out an application now at chcityarts.com.

Artist spotlight: Whitney Horrocks

Whitney Horrocks is a minimalist and abstract expressionist painter who lives in Cottonwood Heights and owns The Smartest Artist, an educational art studio for kids and teens.

After earning a bachelor of fine art degree with an emphasis in drawing and painting from the University of Utah, Whitney taught elementary and junior high school for six years. She also has a longstanding studio practice, showing work in various galleries in Salt Lake and Park City.

In her current role, Whitney teaches students the elements of art and principles of design, along with other concepts, including:

- **Observational and perspective drawing**
- **Life and figure drawing**
- **Color theory**



- **Acrylic and watercolor painting**
- **Art history**
- **Authentic assessment**

To learn more about Whitney's art, visit thesmartestartist.com. You can also see her work on display at City Hall (2277 E. Bengal Blvd.) Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in January. ■

Reflecting our values *continued from cover*

and an adjacent proposed private ski village (see April 2020 "La Caille Ski Village" traffic study submitted within the EIS process) instead of "southbound commuters" as UDOT has asserted. If finalized and funded, our state planners' unnecessary build-out and spending for the trucks, dirt, noise and danger that years of construction will bring in support of a gondola project for which a majority of Utahns disagree creates urban blight for us.

Our canyon parking lots are full. Practical approaches that will sufficiently reduce traffic include:

- **Limited free parking** to cars with three- or four-person occupancy (that all four ski resorts need to implement)
- **Multi-hub system of "Transit and Carpool"** lots dotting the Salt Lake Valley so canyon enthusiasts can leave their vehicle closer to where they live or lodge
- **A comprehensive app** that directs motorists to their best options during peak hours
- **Snow sheds** and/or tolling

Organizations such as StrongTowns.org and various U.S. cities demonstrate that community resiliency comes from prioritizing walkability and affordable mobility and housing. My vision is for a unified and safe city that is safe and connects rather than divides us.

Here are 11 items I have brought forth for council budgetary consideration for 2023:

- **SR-210 improvements:** I would like to appeal to the UDOT Region 2 director to

immediately amend road design on the south side of the Ft. Union Blvd. intersection and on the south side of the high-T intersection to slow vehicles. Amendments to the 2019 Wasatch Blvd. Master Plan are also necessary.

- **Implement form-based code** for the 2300 E. Ft. Union Community Development and Renewal Agency (CDRA) district and Big Cottonwood Canyon gravel pit area, favoring human-scaled, mixed-use, smart city planning
- **General Plan update:** Budget to reflect more green space and traffic calming through road redesigns
- **5-year transportation plan:** Use a safe systems approach, magnifying active transportation, and include a safety action plan
- **Office and retail:** Audit existing office and retail types, occupancies and parking stall usage to inform strategic economic and land use development
- **Create a resident public safety committee**
- **Make all master plans, resolutions, city code and ordinances** easily searchable on the city website
- **Evaluate the city water system**
- **Encourage resident-led sustainability initiatives**
- **Use Zoo, Arts & Parks funding** for preserving trees, planting new trees, and



UDOT's Final EIS Wasatch Blvd. expansion rendering. (Note that mature pine trees were removed to build the retaining wall.)

possibly creating community gardens

- **Create a strengths, weaknesses, threats, and opportunities (SWOT) analysis** for our community about the potential 2030 Winter Olympics

Residents with passion and expertise related to process, infrastructure, sustainability, conservation, reducing air pollution, the Great Salt Lake and climate change can be empowered through city recognition and support.

Please join me for a town hall meeting, including a question-and-answer session, on Monday, Jan. 30, from 6-8 p.m. at City Hall (2277 E. Bengal Blvd.) Let's fend off more cut-through traffic and support walkability, cleaner air, and healthier living. ■

Cottonwood Heights Redevelopment Agency evaluating acquiring Hillside Plaza

In 2006, the city council created the Cottonwood Heights Community Development and Renewal Agency (CDRA) as a mechanism to allow community development, economic development and urban renewal in the city as authorized by Utah state law.

Recently, the city council (acting as the CDRA's governing body) directed the CDRA to evaluate the possible purchase of the increasingly vacant Hillside Plaza shopping center property consisting of about 10 acres on the southeast corner of Fort Union Boulevard and 2300 E. (excluding, however, the Walgreens parcel).

The CDRA subsequently entered into a contract to purchase the property and is currently conducting a due diligence process before finally deciding whether to close the purchase. This process includes evaluating environmental conditions, property conditions, tenant leases, funding options, and other pertinent information concerning the possible acquisition.

The current property owner has had interest in selling the property for several years, and multiple developers have proposed pursuing mixed-use (housing and commercial) projects with significant



housing density on the site.

In response to residents' concerns about the type, design and scale of the developments private investors proposed, the CDRA board provided direction to evaluate the purchase, respond to these concerns, and have more options to implement the vision for the area detailed in the city's Fort Union Boulevard Master Plan.

This master plan outlines goals for the area, including creating a more livable place with a higher quality of life, providing a balanced mixture of land uses in the area, and implementing transportation- and pedestrian-oriented mixed-use development to foster a vibrant and positive "town center" environment for the area, with public spaces to complement commercial and residential private investment.

On Dec. 13, the CDRA board and the city council each enacted legislation establishing a reinvestment area plan for the 2300 E. Fort Union area. Creating this area plan allows the CDRA to use additional financing tools legally available to promote reinvestment, including bonding options for land purchase consideration.

The CDRA will continue the due diligence process provided in the purchase contract, which runs through the end of January. If there are no major concerns, the CDRA will consider proceeding with the purchase and providing bond financing through public meetings in January and February.

We will provide more details about this potential property purchase in the February Cottonwood Heights newsletter. ■

Police department partners with Brighton High alumni for special holiday gift

Police chief Robby Russo



The Cottonwood Heights Police Department has often talked about our relationship with the Canyons School District and how we respond to threats in our schools. We also work

collaboratively in community outreach.

Charisse Hilton has worked in our school system for decades; she served as the former principal at Brighton High School and now works in the Canyons School District office in external relations. Over the years she has developed relationships with alumni that evolved into a culture of giving back to the community. The police department was fortunate to participate in one such program involving some deserving students.

A group of BHS alumni from 2002 has a special bond with Ms. Hilton from their high

school experience. Now successful adults in our community, they still regularly meet with Ms. Hilton. This year, their objective was providing a holiday experience for a group of students with disabilities who attend Canyons Transition Academy in Sandy, focusing on job skills and community outreach.

This humble alumni group, with many members who still live in our city, rented out a theater at Jordan Commons playing the Christmas classic *Elf*. Students enjoyed a visit from Santa (our very own Sergeant Gary Young), School Resource Officer Kelly Taylor, and Officer Evan Hawksley as well.

The video of that event is priceless, as they marched from



the CSD office to the theater, with an escort from our Sandy police department colleagues, for the movie. It is a most gratifying experience for the police department to be allowed the privilege to participate in these events.

We are so proud of our relationship with the schools and alumni who embraced what the holiday season is all about. ■

Sign up for the police department's Citizens Academy classes by Feb. 20

The Cottonwood Heights police department is holding its Citizens Academy classes again beginning Feb. 22. Citizens Academy allows Cottonwood Heights residents, business owners and employees access to CHPD officers and department resources.

Classes include:

- **Lethal force/firearm simulator:** Participants receive an introduction to the rules governing an officer's use of force, including an overview of weapons systems and how officers use them. Class members also participate in simulated real-life situations where they have to decide if or when to deploy force.
- **Valley Emergency Communications Center (VECC) tour:** Participants will tour

the VECC, which provides police and fire dispatch services for the city.

- **Criminal investigation and evidence collection:** This segment introduces participants to crime investigation and includes hands-on experience.
- **Gangs and narcotics:** Gang and narcotics enforcement investigators will provide insights on local investigations.
- **Domestic violence and K9s:** Investigators and the department's victim advocate will provide an overview of domestic violence investigations. Participants will have the opportunity to meet the department's K9 officers and their handlers.
- **Traffic enforcement:** This segment

introduces participants to tactics police officers use to enforce traffic laws and investigate violations. Officers also provide an overview of their roles in the department.

- **Less-lethal force and SWAT teams:** In this class, participants meet the department's SWAT team and learn more about their equipment. They also learn more about less-lethal weapons available to officers.

Classes begin Feb. 22 and continue each consecutive Wednesday evening until April 5. Participants are encouraged to attend all sessions but can miss one or two sessions and still graduate from Citizens Academy.

To sign up, email citizensacademy@ch.utah.gov or call 801-944-7100. ■

Wasatch Backcountry Alliance now offering free ski shuttle each Saturday

Wasatch Backcountry Alliance has partnered with Utah Mountain Shuttle to provide free shuttles to Big and Little Cottonwood Canyon each Saturday during ski season. You must make reservations before 5 p.m. the Friday before riding at wasatchbackcountryalliance.org/shuttle.

Big Cottonwood Canyon

- **Parking:** Butler Elementary School (7000 S. 2700 E.)
- **Dropoff:** Solitude and Brighton ski resorts

Little Cottonwood Canyon

- **Parking:** LCC Park and Ride (4385 Little

Cottonwood Canyon Rd.)

- **Dropoff:** Grizzly Gulch

When riding the shuttle, arrive 10 minutes early for pickup and to the trailhead 15 minutes before the designated return time.

The shuttle picks up passengers at 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 12:30 p.m. Return shuttles arrive at 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 3 p.m. The schedule and parking locations may change as the season continues.

For more shuttle information, visit wasatchbackcountryalliance.org/shuttle. ■



Fill out a form now for Wasatch Front Waste to collect your Christmas tree

Wasatch Front Waste & Recycling District will be collecting live Christmas trees during January. Fill out a curbside tree pickup request form at wasatchfrontwaste.org or call 385-468-6325.

Put your undecorated trees on the curb, and WFWRD workers will collect them the day after your regular collection day. If they don't pick up your tree that day, they will return the following week. Remember to:

- **Remove all snow, decorations, lights, or flocking** from the tree
- **Cut trees taller than eight feet** into smaller sections
- **Put your tree stand away** (WFWRD can't accept trees in tree stands)

Do not put trees in your garbage, recycling, or green waste cans. As a reminder, Wasatch Front Waste cannot accept artificial trees. ■



Winter waste pickup reminders

Help WFWRD drivers by moving waste and recycling cans from behind the snowbanks on collection day and clearing the snow off the lids.

As the winter months continue, bad weather can affect WFWRD's ability to provide timely service to your neighborhood. Follow Wasatch Front Waste on Facebook ([/wasatchfrontwaste](https://www.facebook.com/wasatchfrontwaste)), Instagram ([@WFWRD](https://www.instagram.com/WFWRD)) and Twitter ([@WFWRD1](https://twitter.com/WFWRD1)) to learn about service delays due to weather or traffic and get recycling tips and updates. ■



Download WRWRD recycling guides

Visit wasatchfrontwaste.org or scan the QR code below to check out the recycling guides and learn what goes in the can! Familiarize yourself with items that are currently recyclable. From paper to plastic to cardboard, Wasatch Front Waste is working hard to find new opportunities to accept more materials and make sure they are recycled in the most eco-friendly way possible. By reducing contamination, WFWRD can continue to keep costs low for all residents. Remember: When in doubt, throw it out! ■



UTA seeking public comments on five-year service plan through Jan. 23

The Utah Transit Authority (UTA) is developing a five-year service plan to guide potential service planning changes over the next few years and ensure people can travel where they need to go. Their goals include:

- **Aligning UTA's service network** with

new projections of available revenue

- **Achieving higher long-term ridership** by aligning service with emerging travel patterns
- **Strengthening customer confidence in UTA** by ensuring public transit is

available when and where people need it

- **Supporting public engagement** by soliciting need-based, specific feedback

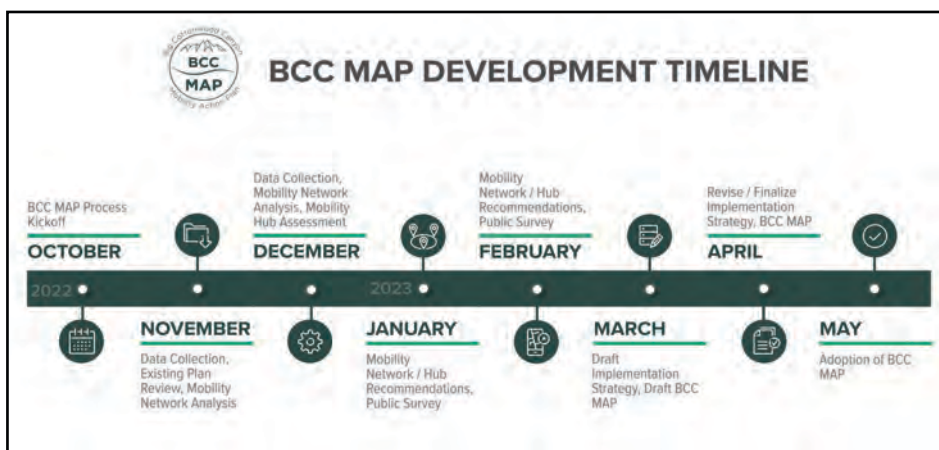
To learn more about the five-year service plan and submit your comments by Jan. 23, visit rideuta.com/FYSP. ■

Central Wasatch Commission: Big Cottonwood Canyon mobility action plan

The Central Wasatch Commission has embarked on the Big Cottonwood Canyon mobility action plan (BCC MAP). The plan will identify and develop strategies to guide multi-modal transportation investments in the canyon.

The BCC MAP will build upon foundational documents, public and stakeholder input, new and emerging technologies, and enhanced transit options to identify projects, policies, funding sources, and corresponding next steps that activate further investment in a year-round mobility system serving all Big Cottonwood Canyon users.

Learn more at cwc.utah.gov/transportation/big-cottonwood-canyon-mobility-action-plan. ■



Learn about the Cottonwood Heights woman behind Utah figure-skating

Did you know former Cottonwood Heights resident Ida Shimizu Tateoka was instrumental in starting Utah's figure-skating movement?

Born in Weston (Preston), Idaho, on December 12, 1923, Ida moved to Los Angeles, California, when she was four years old. There, inspired by Sonja Henie, she gained a strong interest in competitive figure skating.

Ida returned to Utah in March 1942 at the onset of World War II and settled in Springville, Utah, for two years before moving to Butlerville, Utah, in March 1944. She continued her skating at Hygeia Iceland in Sugar House and helped organize the first skating club in Utah, the Utah Figure Skating Club, in 1949-50. She was a board member for 38 years and president for six years.

Ida also served in many positions for the United States Figure Skating Association. She became the first figure-skating judge in

Utah in 1953 and a national judge in 1963. Ida subsequently became an international judge and eventually a world judge. As a world judge, she participated in the 1984 Sarajevo Olympics men's competition when Scott Hamilton won the gold medal.

Some of the other top skaters Ida judged over the years include:

- Peggy Fleming
- Dorothy Hamill
- Kristi Yamaguchi
- Holly Cook
- Michelle Kwan
- Katarina Witt
- Tara Lipinski
- Sara Hughes

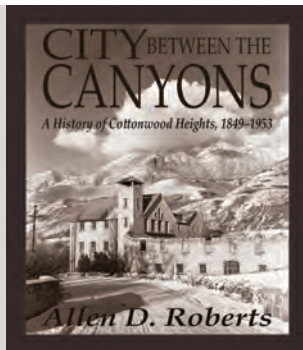
Ida helped bring two U.S. figure-skating Championships and the 2002 Winter Olympics to Salt Lake City. She passed away on October 16, 2016. ■



Join the Historic Committee! Members meet monthly to plan initiatives celebrating city history. Past efforts include:

- Gathering information about historic sites and creating historic markers
- Guiding the publication of *City Between the Canyons*
- Staffing a rotating exhibit at Butlerville Days

Interested in joining? Fill out an application now at ch.utah.gov/history.



Buy the book!

Get your very own copy of the hardbound history book *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. ■

COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS PARKS & RECREATION



Membership options!

We offer Memberships for
3 Months & 1 Year!

HAPPY
New Year!

Join Now

CARDIO & FITNESS ROOMS - SWIMMING - ICE SKATING - RACQUETBALL - TRACK & MORE!

City council members

MAYOR: Michael Weichers

801-944-7087 | mweichers@ch.utah.gov

DIST# 1: Douglas Petersen

801-944-7089 | dpetersen@ch.utah.gov

DIST# 2: J. Scott Bracken

801-944-7086 | sbracken@ch.utah.gov

DIST# 3: Shawn E. Newell

801-300-3068 | snewell@ch.utah.gov

DIST# 4: Ellen Birrell

385-910-5942 | ebirrell@ch.utah.gov

CITY MANAGER: Tim Tingey

801-944-7010 | ttingey@ch.utah.gov

City office

2277 E. Bengal Blvd.

Cottonwood Heights, UT 84121

Phone 801-944-7000

Fax..... 801-944-7005

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.....840-4000

Police administration.....944-7100

City council meetings

- **Jan. 3:** Work session at 4 p.m., business meeting at 7 p.m.
- **Jan. 17:** Work session at 4 p.m., CDRA meeting at 6 p.m. (tentative time), business meeting at 7 p.m.

City council meetings are held the first and third Tuesday of every month at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. unless otherwise noticed. 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

Apply for Canyon School District's 2023-2024 supplemental kindergarten beginning Jan. 25

Ready for takeoff? Kindergarten sets up students for a successful school launch, and the countdown to enroll for the 2023-2024 year has begun! Four schools in the Cottonwood Heights area are pleased to offer supplemental hours of kindergarten instruction:

- **Brookwood**
- **Butler**
- **Canyon View**
- **Granite**

You can apply to enroll for the 2023-2024 school year starting Wednesday, Jan. 25, at 10 a.m.

Students must be 5 years old by Sept. 1, 2023, to participate in the opt-in, tuition-based

program. Space is limited and applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Supplemental kindergarten provides four additional hours of instruction every school day. Participants begin and end school the same time as their first- through fifth-grade peers. The program is \$2,950 a year, and you can pay this in monthly installments.

A 10 percent discount is available for parents and guardians who pay the yearly tuition in full at one time. Financial-need scholarships also are available for qualifying students.

Visit canyonsdistrict.org for more about supplemental kindergarten. ■

Cottonwood Heights Amateur Radio Club takes first place in radio field day competition

The Cottonwood Heights Amateur Radio Club (CHARC) recently learned they took first place in the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) field day competition held last June. Operators ranged from 10 to 80+ years old and communicated throughout the U.S. and into Canada.

CHARC also placed first in this competition in 2021, 2019, and 2016. ■



Welcome Express Employment Professionals to Cottonwood Heights!



City officials welcomed Express Employment Professionals, located at 7177 S. Highland Drive, Suite A, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Nov. 17.

Mountain America Credit Union: Watch for these email phishing red flags

Know how to spot a phishing email, as fraud is rampant in our society. Here are our top three red flags to watch for:

- **Check the sender's email carefully.** If you don't recognize it or see misspellings, (e.g. @cotonwdhts.utah.gov), don't open it or engage with it.
- **Don't click links or attachments** unless you've specifically requested documents or information through email — even if it

looks like it's coming from a friend.

- **Reconsider confirming your identity.** Legitimate companies won't ever ask you to do this through unsecure digital channels. If the URL begins with "https" and not "http," it's a secure site.

Mountain America offers complimentary, one-on-one financial coaching and free financial literacy seminars to businesses interested in helping their employees achieve financial wellness. ■



COME AND SING!



Cottonwood Heights Children's Choir

FREE TO PARTICIPATE
GRADES 3-6
FEBRUARY – MAY

Wednesdays, 4-5 pm at City Hall
Registration and information @ Chcityarts.com








Sweetheart Paint Night

Bring a sweetheart (spouse, partner, friend, etc.)!

Friday, February 24, 2023
6:30 - 8:30 pm
Cottonwood Heights City Hall
2277 E. Bengal Blvd



Instructor
Whitney Horrocks
from
Smartest Artist



Must be 16 and older to attend.
Limited seating; registration is required.
The cost is \$7 per person and includes light refreshments and all supplies.

For more information and to register:
CHCITYARTS.COM

