



Cottonwood Heights, UT | September 2023 | FREE

BETWEEN THE CANYONS

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

Fiscal Responsibility

Mayor Mike Weichers



July 1 was the official start of the 2023/2024 budget year for Cottonwood Heights. We are happy to report that the city did NOT raise the property tax mill rate for the 5th consecutive year. It's important to remember that the city share of a property tax bill is only a small portion of the total bill and other taxing entities can and did raise rates for the 2023/2024 fiscal year. Over the last 3 years, Cottonwood Heights and Draper are the only municipalities within Salt Lake County to not raise property taxes.

Fiscal responsibility is of the utmost

concern for the City Council and the duty to allocate resident tax dollars for services is considered a sacred obligation. The task is a multi-month endeavor and includes analyzing department needs and requests with expected revenue each year. Multiple committees are formed from the Council and Staff to evaluate staffing levels, wages and compensation increases, along with other budgetary responsibilities for each department. The City Council participates in a yearly retreat in January to study and advocate for projects that range from road maintenance, storm water management, safe road improvements, active transportation, sidewalk repairs and enhancement, and multiple other projects that bring value to our community.

Sales Tax revenues exceeded \$9 million for

Fiscal Responsibility continued on page 3

CITY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

UPCOMING TENTATIVE AGENDA ITEMS

SEPTEMBER 5

- SHORT-TERM RENTAL REPORT
- WASATCH FRONT WASTE AND RECYCLING DISTRICT REPORT
- BUTLERVILLE DAYS WRAP-UP
- SPORT COURT REGULATION MORATORIUM DISCUSSION
- FEDERAL ROAD PROJECTS FUNDING
- SLEDS
- STORM WATER DESIGN CONTRACT
- COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND RENEWAL AGENCY (CDRA):
 - ADVISORY COMMITTEE PARAMETERS DISCUSSION

SEPTEMBER 19

- WASATCH BLVD MASTER PLAN DISCUSSION
- BONNEVILLE SHORELINE UPDATE
- BUDGET AMENDMENT
- FIBER DISCUSSION
- CITY INITIATED REZONE/CODE CHANGE OF FORT UNION AND WASATCH BLVD.
- FEDERAL ROAD PROJECTS FUNDING

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

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EVENTS CALENDAR

- **SEPTEMBER 9:** BIG COTTONWOOD CANYON MARATHON
- **SEPTEMBER 9-17:** ANNUAL STATEWIDE TRAILS & WATERWAYS CLEAN UP
- **SEPTEMBER 26:** RIBBON CUTTING AND OPENING CEREMONY FOR FERGUSON PARK
- **OCTOBER 27:** MONSTER MASH AT COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS REC CENTER
- **NOVEMBER 27:** LIGHTS THE HEIGHTS AT CITY HALL

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



Cottonwood Heights Arts Council Presents

Around the World
Winter Scenery
or winter Celebrations
Art Show

The Cottonwood Heights Arts Council is hosting the "Around the World Winter Scenery or Winter Celebration Art Show" in December. If you have a piece of art that represents winter or a winter celebration, the council would be delighted to exhibit it in the show. To submit your wall artwork, please email Mallory Blue-Fearing at mblue-fearing@ch.utah.gov and provide photographs of your work. Due to limited space, not all art pieces will be selected. The show is not a contest, but rather an opportunity to showcase your talent and creativity.

CHCITYARTS.COM

www.got-vote.org

MUNICIPAL ELECTION DATES

September 5: District 2 Primary Election Day
 November 21: General Election Day

The post offices does not forward ballots. If you need your ballot mailed to an address other than the address where you are registered to vote, contact the Salt Lake County Election Office.

To receive a mail-in ballot you must be registered to vote no later than eleven days before an election.



Fiscal Responsibility continued from cover

the first time in Fiscal Year 2022/2023 and has solidified itself as the largest revenue source for our city. That is a 4.70% increase year over year and a 27.28% increase over the last 5 years. Overall revenues exceeded 2022/2023 fiscal year budgets by \$290,000.

There are many reasons why Cottonwood Heights is financially sound, beginning with the wisdom of our city founders. Creating the right mix between property and sales tax at incorporation took a lot of foresight. Continuing sound financial principles, with low debt levels, all contribute to positive current economic conditions. We look forward to tackling upcoming opportunities and challenges with the same conservative financial framework that has existed since the incorporation of our great City. ■



Representing Cottonwood Heights: A Commitment to Water and Housing

Representative Gay Lynn Bennion



As the Utah Legislature's representative for most of Cottonwood Heights, my top commitment is to listen and learn from you, my constituents.

Two of my top priorities, water and housing, are of great importance to all of us. I take seriously my responsibility to work with professionals in our state and nationwide so we can advance the best policies and spending priorities for Utah.

Regarding water, I want to thank you for your active conservation. Even after a winter of record snowfall, it's impressive to see many of you replacing your parking strip turf with waterwise landscaping. If you want reimbursement, be sure to engage with **Utah Water Savers** in advance.

I am serious about wanting to advance excellent water legislation. During the past two legislative sessions, I sponsored and passed **HB 131** (codified Watershed Restoration Initiative) and **HB 217** (reduce school water use), and am continuing to focus on water-related concerns.

I consistently attend meetings with the Utah Water Task Force. I was invited to join a study group on water depletion accounting, which will allow Utah to more fairly compare our

water use with other Colorado River Compact members. Also, many members of the Utah Water Task Force are state water experts. During the 2023 legislative many on the task force expressed concern that almost half of the bills relating to water were not brought to them for review. We are committed to changing this statistic.

Thanks to input from a constituent, I have organized a working group to address the benefits of local riparian corridor (streams and waterways) overlay zones and ordinances. Cottonwood Heights is one of the forward-thinking communities, along with Lehi and Salt Lake City, in adopting these policies. Riparian corridors improve water quality, reduce the risk of flooding, and improve sustainability and resilience for humans and nature. Since May, our group has been working to gather model ordinances, toolboxes, and other resources in one central repository. We have also added workshops on this topic to educate more local leaders and are creating draft legislation to help Utah be more prepared for the greater range of water events we are likely to experience with a changing climate.

At the **People's Great Salt Lake Summit**, we heard from farmers who have cut water use by 50% using laser leveling and surge flooding. Another farmer, whose family focuses on soil health, reported these practices also help reduce water demand and increase crop yield by

as much as 20%. I am happy to see agriculture water optimization on the rise in Utah.

The other top priority for me is housing affordability. Recently I **reported** to The Commission on Housing Affordability about the impacts of institutional investors in the housing market. Their cash housing purchases threaten to drastically **erode home ownership**. Also, following concerns voiced by a landlord, I have worked with the County Assessor regarding options to avoid increasing property taxes that tend to drive up rental prices.

Finally, I do have deep concerns about practices that lead to problems for Utah that can adversely impact populated areas (such as our Division of Mining's concern that **they cannot deny small mining requests**). But overall, I have optimism for our great state's future. Our communities are dedicated to working together to create a world filled with hope for our children and grandchildren.

I appreciate talking with my constituents and encourage you to contact me at 385-224-9197, gjbennion@le.utah.gov, and www.gaylynnbennion.com.

Also, Senator Kathleen Riebe and I invite you to join us at a Town Hall on September 21 at 7 pm, to be held at the Cottonwood Heights City Building, 2277 E. Bengal Blvd, 84121. ■

Road Rage

Chief Robby Russo



You might be correct if you think there are more aggressive drivers on the roads. The police department has noticed more reported incidents of reckless driving

and road rage, which have sometimes resulted in property damage and violence. There have been news stories about accidents and even shootings that started from minor traffic issues. It's difficult to pinpoint the exact triggers for these incidents, but tailgating and being cut off are common causes. During the winter ski season, drivers tend to become more impatient and frustrated, sometimes leading to physical altercations and arrests.

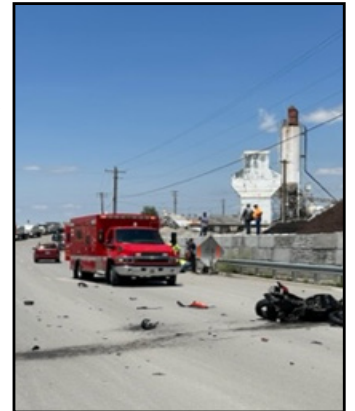
There has been an increase in complaints at crosswalks, with drivers engaging in brake checks or speeding through residential

neighborhoods. This causes frustration and puts people in difficult situations. "Aggressive driving" is a term used to describe a category of dangerous behaviors on the road, such as following too closely, driving at excessive speeds, weaving through traffic, and running stop lights and signs. Aggressive driving can escalate to gesturing in anger, yelling at other drivers, confrontation, physical assault, and even murder. "Road Rage" is the term used to describe the extreme angry and violent behaviors of aggressive driving. It's important to note that aggressive driving is a traffic violation, while road rage is a criminal offense.

In 2018, Utah passed a law prohibiting police departments from establishing ticket quotas or minimum citation requirements. While this was meant to prioritize safety over profit, it has unintentionally led to a reduction in traffic enforcement. In any industry, if you want something to be done, it needs to be measured. Therefore, the unintended consequence of this

law is a reduction in traffic enforcement. The increase in road rage incidents may be attributed to the population growth in Utah and a decrease in enforcement of red lights, speeding, tailgating, and laws meant to protect pedestrians and cyclists.

The Cottonwood Heights police has been working with the city council to appropriate additional resources to address issues such as ski traffic, speeding in school zones, and aggressive driving. Our goal is to address minor issues before they escalate into the road rage incidents we have been witnessing. ■



PACK IT OUT UTAH

Are you passionate about the environment and looking for a way to make a positive impact in your community? Join the 4th annual Statewide trails and waterways cleanup - Pack It Out Utah! This program is a great opportunity to take the initiative and act as stewards of our watersheds and public lands by cleaning up the trash we find left behind after the busy recreation season.

Utah's public lands are experiencing an increase in outdoor recreation, especially during the summer, which can lead to an increase in garbage ending up in trails, parks, neighborhoods, campgrounds, and eventually, our waterways. By participating in Pack It Out Utah, you can find a local clean-up event near you or choose your own site and clean up trash in your neighborhood, a local park, a favorite trail, or a nearby waterway. Anywhere trash is collected will have a positive impact on your local environment and water quality.

It's important to remember that no matter where you live, you are in a watershed. Everything we do in a watershed affects the water quality. Therefore, by taking part in Pack It Out Utah, you are contributing to the preservation of our environment and the protection of our natural resources. The program is sponsored by USU Water Quality Extension, so visit their website (<https://bit.ly/pack-it-out-2023>) today to find all the event information and get involved in this great initiative! ■



When: September 9-17, 2023

Where: Utah - Statewide

You can participate two ways:

- 1) Find a local cleanup event near you
 - 2) Collect trash in your neighborhood or a local park, trail, or waterbody
- Anywhere trash is collected will have a positive impact on your local environment

How to Get Involved:

- 1) Choose an event near you or location to pick up trash
- 2) Clean up trash and record what you collect using our datasheet
- 3) Dispose of trash
- 4) Submit your data on our website



Pick up leaf bags and drop off bagged leaves beginning October 16

As the temperatures cool down and we head into fall, Wasatch Front Waste Recycling District (WFWRD) will begin their seasonal fall leaf pickup service. Starting Monday, October 16, residents can pick up leaf bags at the following locations:

- **City Hall (2277 E Bengal Blvd.)**
- **Whitmore Library (2197 E Fort Union Blvd.)**
- **Cottonwood Heights Recreation Center (7500 S 2700 E)**

Due to limited supplies, WFWRD requests you take only one roll of leaf bags per household and not pick up bags for your neighbors. Once you fill your bags with leaves, you can take them to Bywater Park (3149 Banbury Rd.) and put them in the designated trailers. We do not collect leaf bags sitting at your curb. Please do not dump garbage or other items at these or other locations, and do not put leaves and other yard waste in your recycle cans.

You are welcome to take leaf bags from any site for your own compost. ■



Have a sustainable Halloween!

Spooky season is around the corner so here are some tips to help you succeed when it comes to Halloween waste and recycling. Decorations such as spider webs, string lights, plastic pumpkins, and yard signs are not recyclable in your blue recycling cans. Instead, save decorations for next year or take them to your local thrift store for re-use.

Candy wrappers and candy containers are also not recyclable so throw them in your black trash can.

When trick-or-treating, try re-purposing an item for your or your child's trick-or-treating container like an old pillowcase or re-usable grocery bag.

Pumpkins and old fruits and veggies can be thrown in your green waste curbside can if you have one. If you would like sign up for the curbside green waste program, follow this link to subscribe: <https://wasatchfrontwaste.org/services-requests/additional-subscription/green-waste>. ■



Can I Recycle...Magazines?

Do you have a collection of old magazines or monthly magazine subscriptions? Recycle them in your blue curbside recycling can! #RECYCLERIGHT #utahrecycles ■



WFWRD Is Hiring

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Important Permitting Information for Home Remodeling and Additions

During the summer and fall, many residents consider remodeling or adding additions to their homes. However, before embarking on a house project, it is crucial to be aware of some important permitting information.

Below are outlined the types of projects that require a building permit.

- **All house additions;**
- **Interior house remodels (excluding floor and interior wall coverings);**
- **Accessory buildings, including but not limited to private garages for automobile storage, sheds, greenhouses, home**

workshops, children's playhouses, storage buildings, decks, and pools (including hot tubs/spas). Please note that one-story detached accessory buildings smaller than 200 square feet do not require a building permit but must still adhere to setback and height requirements;

- **Fences taller than 6 feet;**
- **Retaining walls higher than 4 feet;**
- **Electrical, mechanical, and plumbing work.**

If you are uncertain whether a particular remodel or addition requires a permit, please

do not hesitate to contact the city at permits@ch.utah.gov or visit the Building Permits web-page for further information: <https://www.cottonwoodheights.utah.gov/city-services/building-permits>

To proceed with your house project, it is essential to comply with all relevant regulations and obtain the necessary permits. ■



The Old Mill

The Old Granite Mill, also known as the Desert News Paper Mill, is a historic building located at 6900 Big Cottonwood Canyon Road in the City of Cottonwood Heights. This iconic building is one of only four historic buildings in Cottonwood Heights that has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The site for the Old Mill was selected in 1879 by leaders of the L.D.S. Church with the intent of constructing a papermaking mill near the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon. Construction on the original building began in 1880. The mill was constructed from gray coursed granite ashlar that had been discarded from the construction of the L.D.S. Temple in downtown Salt Lake City. Construction of the building was completed in 1883 and the Old Mill operated as a functioning paper mill until a major fire in April 1893 gutted the building and caused massive damage to the roof and papermaking machinery. After the fire the building sat unused for a number of years

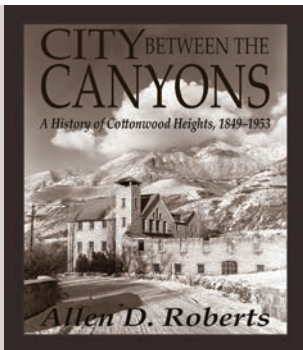
before the present frame structure was rebuilt with a hipped roof in 1927.

After its renovation in 1927 the Old Mill was used exclusively from the late 1920's into the 1970's as a nightclub and discotheque. The uncovered South wing was used as an outdoor dancing area for that purpose. In later years, before it was condemned, the Old Mill also served as the site for an annual haunted house in September and October.

If you're interested in learning more about the history of the Old Mill, be sure to check out the Cottonwood Heights



Historic Committee's exhibit at City Hall from October 1st through November 14th. This exhibit is a great opportunity to learn about the fascinating past of this iconic historic building. ■



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. ■

THE 39TH ANNUAL

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City council members

MAYOR: Michael Weichers
801-944-7087 | mweichers@ch.utah.gov
DIST# 1: Matt Holton
801-944-7089 | district1@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 | tingey@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 944-7060
 Public works 944-7000
 Recorder 944-7021
 Finance director 944-7012
 Code enforcement 840-4000
 Police administration 944-7100

City council meetings

- **Sept 5:** Work session at 4 p.m., CDRA meeting at 6 p.m. (tentative time), business meeting at 7 p.m.
- **Sept 19:** Work session at 4 p.m., business meeting at 7 p.m.

City council meetings are held the first and third Tuesday each month at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. unless otherwise noticed. Agendas are posted at least 24 hours before public meetings at ch.utah.gov/agendas.

Planning Commission

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

Editor: Beatriz Mayorga,
Communication Manager

Canyons Virtual Academy Expands

Founded in 2011, Canyons Virtual Academy previously known as Canyons Online, has brought the benefits of digital learning to tens of thousands of Utah high school students from as far north as Logan to as far south as St. George.

Now, the same proven, personalized learning will also be open to younger students. Starting this fall, any Utah student in grades 6-12 can enroll in CVA's accredited online courses completely free of charge. "We are privileged to be able to serve all Utahns as one of only a handful of fully-accredited and certified Statewide Online Education Programs (SOEP)," said CVA Principal Amy Boettger. "Now we'll be able to help even more students." Any student can enroll and students can take as few or as many classes as they like. What's more, they can learn

from anywhere, at any time, and at their own pace. "If you like your neighborhood school, you can stay at your neighborhood school while supplementing or getting a jump on your studies with CVA's self-paced online courses," said Boettger. Students often use CVA to free up their regular school schedule for more electives. Or, they may use it to graduate early or stay on track with their learning from remote locations. The Academy enrolls students year-round. To request more information, email communications@canyonsdistrict.org or call 801-826-5220. ■



Looking for Advanced Learning Opportunities for Your Child?

Does your child have an insatiable curiosity, a need to explore subjects in surprising depth, or ability to quickly learn complex information? If so, consider applying for Canyons School District's SALTA magnet program.

SALTA, Supporting Advanced Learners Toward Achievement, serves students who demonstrate significantly high cognitive and academic abilities in comparison to peers. Students in kindergarten through the seventh grade can apply to test into the program

starting Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2023. The deadline for submitting an application is midnight on Friday, Oct. 6. Due to the time-intensive and rigorous nature of the process for determining a student's fit for the program, parents are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the testing requirements well before completing an application. After applying, parents will receive an email with information about testing times and locations. Questions? See canyonsdistrict.org or call 801-826-5044. ■

SUSTAINABILITY

Electric Vehicle Charging at Home

Ian Harris, Associate Planner/Sustainability Analyst

- Charging during off-peak times or utilizing solar power can save additional money in power costs,
- Charging infrastructure can increase your home value.

For those in apartments or who may not have a private garage, the city is exploring ordinances for EV charging in new multifamily and commercial developments. Public chargers are also increasingly commonplace, with two available at City Hall. If you are interested or in the market for an electric vehicle, these benefits and increased accessibility of charging options may assist with your decision! ■

As electric vehicles (EVs) become more commonplace, many people in the market for a new or used car may wonder if an EV is right for them. There are many reasons to purchase one – reduced emissions and tax credit incentives to name a few. However, there can be some uncertainty and questions when it comes to vehicle range and charging.

For homeowners considering EVs with a private garage or carport, installing a charger can be relatively easy and affordable. Standard EV chargers (known as "Level 2"), which utilize 240 V power, offer convenience and efficiency, and help mitigate the concerns of having a limited range day-by-day.

Some things to keep in mind when considering home EV chargers:

- EV chargers can often be found for less than \$500,
- Rocky Mountain Power offers a rebate of up to \$200 for chargers and installation,
- If your garage has a 240 V outlet, you can easily install your own charger. If not, an electrician should be consulted,



Business spotlight

Nice & Neat Homes | niceandneathomes.com

Looking for a professional organizing company that can make your living space more beautiful, customized, and functional? Nice & Neat Homes is the perfect solution. Their team of experts specializes in one-day transformations that are both efficient and of high quality. They even shop for organizing products that perfectly fit your space, providing you with manageable solutions that save time and energy.

Nice & Neat Homes offer a variety of services, including organizing existing spaces, packing and unpacking into new homes, holiday gift wrapping, holiday decor setup and take down, and more. With a 5-star rating and experience in hundreds of homes, their goal is to provide an excellent customer experience. Schedule a complimentary consultation for your next project at niceandneathomes.com! ■



M Studio | (801) 557-6681 | mitchjohansonphotography@gmail.com



Meet Mitch Johanson, the owner of M Studio - your friendly neighborhood photo fanatic. Mitch has been rocking it in Cottonwood Heights for 40 years. Mitch has always had a deep love for photography, and his mission is to help people appreciate the beauty of our world. He offers photography classes for all ages and skill levels, and he can even work within your budget to make sure that everyone can enjoy this exciting hobby. In addition to taking stunning photos, Mitch also offers printing, photo restoration, and framing services to help you preserve your precious memories. Give him a call or send a text at (801)-557-6681. ■

September Artist of the Month:
Cheryl H. Merkley

Cheryl H. Merkley graduated with a BFA in fine art, with an emphasis in painting and drawing, from the University of Utah in 1997.

She studied under Paul Davis, David Dornan, and Tony Smith.

Her favorite medium is oil and she loves to paint directly from life. She enjoys portraying beauty in our everyday lives, with bold bright colors, loose brush strokes, and thick juicy paint.

Her studio is at 3474 South 2300 East #3 Millcreek.



Cheryl's art will be displayed in the lobby at City Hall (2277 E. Bengal Blvd.) Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. through the month of September.



Get the latest news from Cottonwood Heights through email and social media

Don't miss any Cottonwood Heights news! Visit ch.utah.gov/emails to get notifications about city council agendas, committee, council and board meetings, events, jobs, road projects, and volunteer opportunities. You can also follow Cottonwood Heights on Facebook (/CHCity), Instagram (@cottonwoodheights), Twitter (@CHCity), and NextDoor (@CottonwoodHeights).

"Water Conservation Tips: Don't Forget to Water Your Trees"

We commend all those who are reducing their water consumption and usage related to watering your yards. Do keep in mind, while you may choose to let your grass go dormant or die, your trees require continuing watering to the levels they have been accustomed. Please continue to water trees to prevent any unnecessary loss of these important features in our community.