

# BETWEEN THE CANYONS

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

# State of the City Address

Mayor Mike Weichers



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

I begin by saying the state of the city of Cottonwood Heights is strong and sound. I would like to emphasize some noteworthy facts that

demonstrate this.

Our Finance and Administration department, under the direction of Scott Jurges, has received the Distinguished Budget Presentation award for 16 consecutive years, along with multiple other high-performance recognitions.

Our IT staff continues to exceed expectations with running our complex computer networks and for keeping us safe from nefarious actors. Their diligence in training staff and implementing cybersecurity measures to protect the city is as important a work as is being done at the City.

The city is financially secure. Our General Fund ending balance for the 2022/2023 budget year was \$9,474,275. After setting aside the reserve amounts required by state law and city policy, just over \$7,075,971 is available for appropriation throughout the 2023/2024 budget year. The fiscal responsibility of staff and the Council is one reason we are 1 of 2 municipalities within SL County to not raise the property tax mill rate over the last 5 years, even during the unprecedented inflationary environment of the last 2 years.

Our Cottonwood Heights Police Department (CHPD), under the leadership of Chief Robby Russo, has continued to be one of the most effective public safety organizations in the state. The department works closely with the Cottonwood Heights community to strengthen relationships and foster trust. This is exemplified by the Cottonwood Heights Citizens Police Academy, an annual program aimed at enhancing confidence and dispelling

State of the City Address Continued on page 3

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#### CITY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

**UPCOMING TENTATIVE AGENDA ITEMS** 

MARCH 5 (ABBREVIATED MEETING DUE TO THE DEMOCRAT & REPUBLICAN CAUCUS MEETING WORK SESSION FROM 4 PM - 5 PM, BUSINESS

- TAVACI PROPOSED ANNEXATION DISCUSSION
- ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT
- SAFE ROADS AND STREETS GRANT DISCUSSION
- SPORTS COURT DISCUSSION
- PROSPECTOR DRIVE CONTRACT

#### MARCH 19

- LOBBYIST REPORT
- SENAWAVE FIBER DISCUSSION
- VETERANS MEMORIAL REPORT
- LEGISLATIVE POLICY OPTIONS REPORT
- SNOW PLOW/HEAVY EQUIPMENT STRATEGY DISCUSSION

#### APRIL 2

- COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS PARKS & RECREATION SERVICE AREA REPORT
- TOURISM RECREATION CULTURE CONVENTION FUNDING DISCUSSION
- SALT LAKE COUNTY LIBRARY WHITEMORE LIBRARY UPDATES
- EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN REPORT

TO FIND FULL AGENDAS, VISIT CH.UTAH.GOV

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#### **EVENTS CALENDAR**

- MARCH 1: SWEETHEART PAINT NIGHT
- MARCH 5: ABBREVIATED CITY COUNCIL MEETING (DUE TO THE DEMOCRAT & REPUB-LICAN CAUCUS MEETING)
- MARCH 1-31: ART EXHIBIT: TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE
- MARCH 15-16: BEAUTY AND THE BEAST MUSICAL AUDITIONS AT CITY HALL
- MARCH 19: CITY COUNCIL MEETING
- MARCH 30: EASTER EGG HUNT AT BUTLER PARK
- APRIL 1 MAY 4 : ART EXHIBIT: UTAH WOMEN MAKING HISTORY

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







# BUTLERVILLE DAYS

Make sure to save the date for Butlerville Days on July 25th, 26th, and 27th. We're looking for a Parade Chair and Sponsors to ensure the success of this family-friendly event.

By sponsoring Butlerville Days, you can enjoy the following advantages:

- Gain recognition as a community partner
- Enhance your visibility in the community
- Provide special event offers to attendees

To learn more about volunteering or sponsoring, please visit Butlervilledays.com or reach out to Ann Eatchel at 801-550-8255.

misconceptions between the police department and the community.

Along with our Police Officers, I wish to acknowledge and thank our firefighters and representatives from the Unified Fire Authority for their appropriate and timely response to recent pedestrian & auto accidents that have occurred in our city. Many lives have been saved due to the heroism of both our Police & UFA partners.

The Cottonwood Heights Public Works department, under the leadership and direction of Matt Shipp, continues to operate effectively. The department surveyed over 2,700 manholes, collected 650 tons of debris while street sweeping, repaired over 4,000 potholes and cleaned over 4,300 storm drain grates. They also raised 172 storm drain manholes that had been covered before Incorporation. Our Public Works department is the literal definition of local government, where the rubber hits the road in providing services to our residents.

We are excited for the opening of the city's new Public Works building this spring. This facility will provide indoor storage of our snowplows and other equipment and an improved salt storage area that will allow for a more expedited response to winter storms on our roads.

Our Community and Economic Development department, led by Mike Johnson, has been effective in implementing a variety of projects and planning efforts. This past year, the department staff processed 60 land-use applications, coordinated and reviewed 71 Design Review Committee (DRC) requests, reviewed and issued 829 building permits, and conducted 2,116 site and project inspections.

Our Records, Culture and Human Resources department is led by Paula Melgar. This department has been effective in managing multiple administrative functions in the city, including election services, human resources, records management, and city events. In conjunction with the Arts Council, staff held auditions and facilitated the Guys and Dolls play performance with highly positive Attendance

and reviews. The culture staff facilitated a virtual Easter "bunny hop", in addition to an Easter egg hunt that attracted thousands of our younger residents to Butler Park.

Along with volunteers from the community, Staff planned and organized a memorable Butlerville Days, including 3 days of activities, on stage entertainment, and both a drone and live firework show. Residents reported it as one of the best Butlerville Days in memory.

In conclusion, I want to highlight some areas of priority that the City Council will be reviewing:

- Continue to find ways to improve the safety of our roads and enhance pedestrian protection in the community;
- Continue to support our police and fire department in public safety efforts;
- Build the tax base through effective, economic development efforts;
- 4. Finalize a vision for future redevelopment of



- the Hillside Plaza property into a true "town center" for our community;
- Facilitate planning processes to formulate and adopt an updated general plan for the city;
- Continue to work strategically and methodically through budget processes to be effective and efficient in the use of taxpayer dollars:
- Work to secure additional grant funding to maintain existing infrastructure and to enhance all city services;
- 8. Continue to preserve and enhance existing trails and open space areas.

I wish to reaffirm again that the state of Cottonwood Heights is strong and sound. I believe that Cottonwood Heights is an exceptional city whose strength comes from the wonderful and service-minded residents, exceptional staff, and diligent elected officials that together work to make our community better each day.

Subscribe to emails and get the latest news about city events, Arts Council efforts, and volunteer opportunit<u>ies!</u> You can also get agendas for public meetings and be notified when we post a new job or a road work update. Visit ch.utah.

Visit ch.utah. gov/emails to sign up for the notifications you want today!



# **Enforcing Crosswalk Violations**

Police Chief Robby Russo



Ensuring the safety of pedestrians is a top priority for our police department. In recent times, we have witnessed an increase in car-pedestrian collisions that have resulted in grievous

injuries and fatalities. It has been observed that when drivers are pulled over for not yielding to pedestrians, they often seem to be unaware or confused about the relevant laws.

The Utah Code 41-6a-1002 outlines the duties of drivers to give way to pedestrians:

(a) Unless otherwise specified in Subsection (2), drivers must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians by either slowing down or coming to a complete stop if necessary: (i) when the pedestrian is crossing the road within a marked crosswalk and is on the same half of the road as the vehicle; or (ii) when the pedestrian is close enough to the opposite half of the road that there exists a potential danger.

As pedestrians, vigilance is key. Making sure to establish eye contact with drivers to confirm they are aware of your presence and are alert is a helpful practice. All too often, pedestrians are put at risk by drivers who are distracted by their phones or committing other traffic offenses like speeding, making unsafe lane changes, or running red lights. Even when pedestrians have the

right of way, it offers little consolation in an encounter with a 4,000-pound vehicle.

Our police department has taken an active stance by enforcing crosswalk laws within the city. An example is an image showing

the scene of a recent pedestrian accident juxtaposed with an undercover officer conducting enforcement





operations at the same location. In school zones, a zero-tolerance policy has been adopted, and officers are also disguising themselves as civilians to monitor crosswalk compliance.

Motorists who fail to yield are stopped and ticketed by waiting uniformed officers. We are determined to sustain these enforcement efforts throughout the year to improve pedestrian safety.

# Discover the Hidden Gem of Mill Hollow Park: A Park with Unique Topography and Rich History

Ronna Cohen, Parks, Trails, & Open Space Committee Member

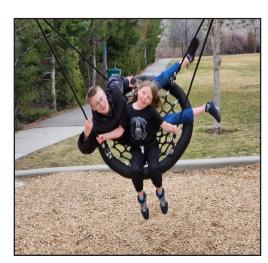
Established in 1977, Mill Hollow Park is a hidden gem. The Park boasts a unique topography of steep, sheer hills, the result of former gravel pit operations on the site. Located off 3000 East at 2900 East Hollow Mill Drive (6800 South), the Park has amenities to suit all: Pavilion rental with capacity for 75, new playground, athletic fields, restrooms, one tennis court, and a walking path around its 6.8 acres.

The Park is cherished by its surrounding neighborhoods and is part of the Volunteer



in the Parks Program. Volunteers provide another set of eyes on the park every week; picking up trash, noting any issues and reporting back to the Park Captain and the City Park and Recreation Department. Chelsey Voss, Captain of the Mill Hollow volunteer squad is particularly delighted with the new 2023 playground with equipment for all ages and abilities. Interested in becoming a Volunteer in the Park? Reach out to Andrew Davis at andrew@cottonwoodheights.com

The Park was part of the original homestead of Jannet Ritter, one of only five women in our city to obtain a homestead grant. On January 26, 1875, her husband William was killed in a snowslide in Big Cottonwood Canyon, where he worked as a miner. His body and five others were not recovered until the snow melted. The slide was 200 feet wide, 1/2 mile long and 80 feet deep in places.



#### **Know Before You Throw**

Wasatch Front Waste & Recycling District

On Tuesday, January 30th, a fire occurred in the cargo bed of one of our recycling trucks while on route in an east Millcreek neighborhood.

We are grateful that the driver was only shaken up and not injured, and for the quick response of the Unified Fire Authority to extinguish the flames. The damaged truck was towed to the salt pile area along Wasatch Boulevard to allow the UFA space and time to extinguish the fire completely.

Pam Roberts, General Manager & CEO, stated, "I am so thankful that our driver was not injured, and I thank the Unified Fire Authority and Millcreek teams for acting so quickly, dosing the flames and keeping everyone safe. This is an example of why waste and recycling collection is such a dangerous job. The truck got so hot that the CNG Tanks off-gassed as they are designed to do, so the tanks did not explode".

Inspectors have determined that the cause was not a mechanical or truck malfunction. The cause appears to be a non-recyclable item that was placed in a recycling can. While the item has not yet been identified, common causes for fires in trucks are batteries, which may spark as the truck compacts the materials. Any type of battery can cause this issue. Other items that have been known to cause fires in trucks are empty propane tanks, hot ashes from fireplaces or barbeques, or chemicals such as household hazardous waste (HHW).

As a reminder, everything marked "recyclable"

is not always recyclable through the blue can pick-up. Batteries, particularly the probable culprit this case, are difficult to dispose of. Although recyclable, thev must not be

placed in your curbside cans. There are locations that accept used batteries, such as Home Depot. Please take the extra time to dispose of them properly.

The action of a resident who thoughtlessly or unknowingly placed the wrong item into their recycling can cause a very dangerous and expensive problem. The initial estimate from the manufacturer for repairs to the truck body is \$110,000 - \$125,000. A new truck body is roughly \$189,000 and does not include the need to re-route recycling services with the truck out of service. For context, a new truck currently sells for approximately \$400,000.

We also cannot say enough how grateful we are that this fire did not cause injury to the driver, any bystanders, or property damage besides the truck. We encourage everyone to think carefully about what you are putting in your garbage, recycling and green waste cans. Ms. Roberts tells us this type of fire, called a "Hot Load," happens more often than we know. This recent issue is the worst she has seen in her career.

Please help prevent this from happening in your neighborhood and find guides to what is and is not accepted in recycling cans on our website: https://wasatchfrontwaste.org/how-recycle.



You can also follow Wasatch Front Waste & Recycling District on Facebook (/WasatchFrontWaste), Instagram (@wasatchfrontwaste), and Twitter (@WFWRD1) to get the latest updates.

# Seven Butler Middle Students Earn Top Marks in District Science Fair

How do plants respond to different types of music? How much bacteria is growing in the half-empty metal water bottle you keep on your desk? Can a computational algorithm predict Diabetic retinopathy? Can computers help detect Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia? These are just a few of the questions students explored leading up to the 2024 Canyons School District Science Fair. Students (grades 5-12) from schools all across the District entered projects. Seventy-two students, including seven from Butler Middle School, were finalists, which means they advance to the regional level

to compete at the 2024 University of Utah Science and Engineering Fair, March 4-8. Top regional winners will be eligible to compete at national and international contests.

Butler Middle School Science Fair Winners:

- Lisa Chamber
- Madison Pierringer
- Sophie Glime
- Hazel Bolke
- · Layne Campbell
- Lila Olson
- Suidah Stoman ■



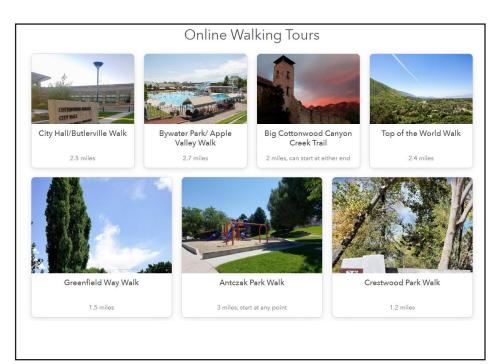
# Stretch your legs this spring and explore the city through our walking tours!

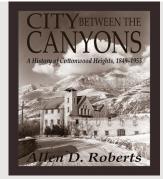
The Historic Committee partnered with our Parks, Trails and Open Space Committee and geographic information systems specialist a few years ago to create walking tours for different areas of Cottonwood Heights. Spring is a great time to explore the city on foot and discover a new favorite place!

Online walking tours are available for the following areas:

- City Hall/Butlerville
- Bywater Park/Apple Valley
- Big Cottonwood Canyon Creek Trail
- Top of the World
- Greenfield Way
- Antczak Park
- Crestwood Park

Visit ch.utah.gov/maps to view all of the online tours or download printable PDFs of each tour to carry while you walk.





# 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.



## 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: Suzanne Hyland

801-944-7086 | district2@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

#### 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	
Public works	944-7000
Recorder	944-7021
Finance director	944-7012
Code enforcement	840-4000
Police administration	944-7100

### City council meetings

- March 5: Work Session at 4 p.m. 5 p.m., business meeting at 5:15
   p.m. 6:00 p.m. (ABBREVIATED
   MEETING DUE TO THE DEMOCRAT &
   REPUBLICAN CAUCUS MEETINGS)
- March 19: Work Session at 4 p.m. (tentative time), business meeting at 7 p.m. (tentative time)
- April 2: Work session at 4 p.m. (tentative time), 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

# **Enrolling Now for Full-Day Kindergarten**

Full-day kindergarten has been such a success that Canyons District will, once again, be offering it at each of its top-ranked elementary schools. Parents can still choose to have their child attend on a half-day schedule, though most — all but 71 of CSD's current 2,100 kindergartners — choose the full-day option. The start of the new school year may seem far away, but now is the time to consider where

to enroll your five-year-old for the 2024-2025 school year. Contact your school of choice for information about kindergarten orientation dates. For information about enrolling as a new student or applying to attend a school outside your neighborhood boundaries, please call 801-826-5031 or visit canyonsdistrict.org.



# SUSTAINABILITY

# Three Sustainable Landscaping Ideas

Ian Harris, Associate Planner/Sustainability Analyst

Slowly but surely, our mild winter will soon be warming into a pleasant Utah spring. With the longer days and warmer temps comes the familiar itch to spend more time outside with nature. For many, that means yard work, gardening, and brainstorming new ideas to improve our yards for the summer.

As you think about what you'd like to do in your yard, consider these three ideas to improve your sustainability, and even save some money in the process:

- 1. Plant a tree! Trees provide a plethora of sustainability benefits, like clearing our air, reducing erosion, providing habitat for wildlife, and cooling down our city. Because of these benefits, well-maintained trees can add value to your home and are a good use of irrigation water. Consider planting a tree this year by purchasing a heavily discounted tree from the city's Sapling Sale event this April! (More information on the event is coming soon.)
- 2. Replace non-functional lawn with water-wise landscaping! Whether it's used by kids, dogs, or adults, many people find their lawns to be essential parts of their yard. However, front and side yards often contain turf that serves only an aesthetic purpose. Consider replacing a patch of lawn with water-wise landscaping for a more sustainable,



dynamic, and cheaper yard. Visit **UtahWaterSavers.com** before starting work to see if you're eligible for rebates and visit **Localscapes.com** to get inspiration on beautiful, climate-smart ideas.

When purchasing equipment, look for electric! Extended use of gas-powered lawnmowers, leaf blowers, and weed hackers can be a big source of localized air pollution. Corded and battery-powered yard equipment is now standardly available and may fit your needs. Electric equipment is quieter, healthier, easier to maintain, and about the same price as non-electric counterparts. The Utah Division of Air Quality has previously funded equipment exchanges. While no program has been announced for this year, if you're in the market for a new mower, do some research to see what incentives may exist when it's time to buy. ■

# Business spotlight

# Gold Design Co. | www.golddesign.co | golddesigncompany@gmail.com

Gold Design Co. is a local creative studio built on building brands. Curating thoughtful experiences and propelling brands with stories to tell, they capture attention and meaningful connections. They specialize in brand identity and website design, and much more!

Gold Design Co. understands that your

brand allows them to create designs that authentically mirror your identity and connect with your audience. They can craft designs that don't just catch the eye but speak the language of the brand. They are dedicated to helping your brand find its niche, stand out among competitors, and thrive in its market.



# Savvy Investments LLC | 970-209-5964 | danielleUTrealtor@gmail.com

Danielle Fraser, owner/manager of Savvy Investments LLC is operating a real estate license under the brokerage Selling Salt Lake.

Selling Salt Lake is a fun, friendly, and professional real estate brokerage that will help you buy or sell your home or investment property under the best terms for YOU! Their clients are top priority, so give them a call and give them a chance to dazzle you with top-notch service!





Visit local businesses for their February specials.

To feature your business, visit **ch.utah.gov/business-association.** 

# Gold Desgin Co. | www.golddesign. co | golddesigncompany@gmail.com

Gold Design Co. is offering a promotion to show our appreciation for our Cottonwood Heights family! We're running 10% off of any service we provide (website design, brand building, custom logos, and more!) Until March 31, 2024. From all of us at Gold Design Co., Thank you. We appreciate your support and partnership and look forward to building community this year!

GD CO

#### PLEASE TAKE 10% OFF OF ANY SERVICE!

AS A THANK YOU TO OUR COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS COMMUNITY FOR BEING SO WELCOMING + SUPPORTIVE

FROM NOW UNTIL MARCH 31, 2024 FOR MORE INFO GO TO WWW.GOLDDESIGN.CO

# Savvy Investments LLC | danielleUTrealtor@gmail.com | 970-209-5964

DurDanielle Fraser, the owner/manager of Savvy Investments LLC, is running a real estate license through the Selling Salt Lake brokerage. She is

offering an in-person professional Real Estate consultation or Home Staging consultation with an expiration date of July 1, 2024.



# Yoga Sunné | info@yogasunne.com | 801-943-010 | 2242 E Fort Union Blvd.

THANK YOU VETERANS ■

