



Cottonwood Heights, UT | February 2020 | **FREE**

# NEWSLETTER

[www.ch.utah.gov](http://www.ch.utah.gov)

## Five Points of Wisdom: The New Survey Results are In

By Council Member Tali Bruce



As elected officials and city staff members, it is our duty to ensure that Cottonwood Heights is the best possible version of itself. We take great pride in our city and want to make sure

that we are attentive to our No. 1 priority, which is our residents. Therefore, in November, we administered a scientific random sample survey to better understand which items are the most important to Cottonwood Heights citizens. The survey included a random sample of residents who participated.

In January, we received the results of the survey. This feedback is particularly important in determining how we prioritize our planning

and efforts to make Cottonwood Heights the best place it can possibly be. Listed here are our five big takeaways from the survey:

A majority of residents report high quality of life and approve of the direction the city is headed. Three out of four approve of city elected officials' job performance, and two out of three say they receive an excellent or good value for their tax dollar.

This is reassuring news and supports our goals. We understand that people choose to live here because of our high quality of life and premium value. Seeing that most of the residents surveyed seem satisfied with the state of our city lets us know that we are doing some things right. We always want to improve and like to hear what we can do to keep getting better.

Residents most positive evaluations of Cottonwood Heights focus on safety and

*"Five Points of Wisdom", continued on page 3*

### Snow Removal Questions?



Contact us:  
**801-944-7000**  
[Snowevent@ch.utah.gov](mailto:Snowevent@ch.utah.gov)



#### JANUARY 21

APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENTS FOR ARTS COUNCIL

APPROVAL OF CITY CONSENT CALENDAR

### CITY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

#### UPCOMING TENTATIVE AGENDA ITEMS

##### FEBRUARY 4

- EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT DISCUSSION
- ZONE MAP AMENDMENT – FROM R-1-8 TO NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL AT 2540 E. BENGAL BLVD.

##### FEBRUARY 18

- INTRODUCTION OF UFA FIRE CHIEF RYAN PILGRIM

TO FIND FULL AGENDAS,  
[WWW.COTTONWOODHEIGHTS.UTAH.GOV](http://WWW.COTTONWOODHEIGHTS.UTAH.GOV)

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WHAT'S INSIDE

ARTS & EVENTS.....2  
 CITY NEWS.....3  
 PUBLIC SAFETY.....4  
 HISTORY.....6  
 COMMUNITY.....7  
 BUSINESS.....8

History Question of the Month

When and where was the first school built in our city?

Answer on page 6



**Cottonwood Heights Arts Council Presents**

# Photography Show

March 1-31, 2020

Applications are available online at [CHCITYARTS.COM](http://CHCITYARTS.COM)

Applications will be accepted until february 21 or until available space is filled. Email [artscouncil@ch.utah.gov](mailto:artscouncil@ch.utah.gov) for more information.

Cottonwood Heights ARTS COUNCIL ZAP IS YOU Cottonwood Heights

PRESENTED BY  
 COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS  
 ARTS COUNCIL

# MUSICAL THEATRE MASTERCLASS

**WHAT** COME LEARN FROM LOCAL MASTERS OF THE PERFORMING ARTS ABOUT HOW TO IMPROVE THEATRE AND AUDITION SKILLS

**WHEN** SATURDAY - MARCH 7, 2020  
 10 AM - 12 PM

**WHERE** COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS CITY HALL  
 2277 E. BENGAL BLVD. CWH, 84121

**WHO** FREE FOR ALL AGES OVER 6



**ADAM CANNON**  
 With his 15+ years of directing experience, he will be sharing many helpful insights of what directors are expecting during your various theatre auditions.



**DR. BJ BEDONT**  
 By using his formal training and time as a music educator he will be explaining effective ways you can showcase vocal talents and choose the right audition pieces.



**MICHELLE MOORE**  
 Having been trained in a variety of dance styles and with 10 years of teaching others how to become comfortable moving their bodies, she will help with dance routines.

[www.chcityarts.com](http://www.chcityarts.com)

Cottonwood Heights ARTS COUNCIL ZAP IS YOU

# Cottonwood Heights Film Festival

March 14, 2020

4 P.M. **Eagle Huntress**

The Eagle Huntress is a documentary that follows a 13-year-old Aisholopan girl, as she trains to become the first female in twelve generations of her Kazakh family to become an eagle hunter, and rises to the pinnacle of a tradition that has been handed down from father to son for centuries.

PRE-SHOW 3:30 P.M. - **HawkWatch International**  
 See and learn about raptors and other birds of prey.

7 P.M. **Waste Land**

This film follows renowned artist Vik Muniz to the world's largest garbage dump in Brazil. There he photographs an eclectic band of self-designated pickers of recyclable materials - who transforms it with the power of art. Winner: Audience Award, World Cinema Documentary - 2010 Sundance Film Festival; Winner: Audience Award - 2010 Berlin International Film Festival.

**Free Admission**  
 Butler Middle School Auditorium  
 7530 S. 2700 E. South East Entrance



Cottonwood Heights  
 CH.UTAH.GOV

"Five Points of Wisdom", continued from cover

family-friendliness, as well as its convenient and scenic location.

Our city is beautiful, and our location is simply the best in the valley when it comes to recreational activities combined with convenience. With freeway access and unmatched proximity to the canyons, it is our responsibility to protect and preserve our attractive and pristine home. We are glad to hear that residents value the safety of our community as much as we do.

When asked if they would rather see the city use existing funds and reduce other service expenditures or assess a new storm water fee to address infrastructure needs, two-thirds of respondents say they would rather use existing funds and reduce expenditures elsewhere.

Fiscal responsibility is extremely important to us as a Council. We value our resources and we will look at all avenues and options as we determine how to continually update our infrastructure. Our staff takes tremendous pride

and caution when looking at city finances and we are proud of their diligence. This takeaway from the survey will have to be evaluated, as we know there are needs to upgrade city infrastructure.

When considering how they would choose to allocate funds from the Cottonwood Heights City budget if the decision were theirs, respondents allocate an average of 10% of their budget to street maintenance. Other top priorities include snow removal, renewable energy, and city parks.

There are several shared resources here in the city. However, the No. 1 shared resource is our city streets. The maintenance and upkeep of this critical infrastructure impacts everyone which is why street maintenance and snow removal remain top of mind. We are also striving to implement policies related to renewable energy and have goals to be a completely "green" community within the next 10 years.

Residents are generally interested in seeing off-leash dog areas created in Cottonwood

Heights City parks. Just over half of residents would like to see a portion of their favorite park devoted to off-leash dogs, and off-leash dog areas are commonly requested improvements for parks throughout the city.

As a Council, we have discussed at great length funding a dog park in Cottonwood Heights. We've worked with staff to develop a timeline to formulate a decision on investing in a dog park in the city. We will definitely deliberate soon.

We truly appreciate feedback from our residents and the survey is available to view and download on our website. There are many ways to give feedback: online, via email or over the phone, and we are always ready to listen. The input helps us understand public views which helps in the decision-making process.

I repeat this often, I like to hear your concerns. I love to hear your solutions. ■

## Public Open House - Bonneville Shoreline Trail Access Plan

Thursday, Feb. 20  
Cottonwood Heights City Hall

The city is working to develop a plan that addresses proper access to the Bonneville Shoreline Trail in Cottonwood Heights. All residents and members of the public interested in the future of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail are invited to attend a public open house on Thursday, Feb. 20 to provide feedback and direction on potential Bonneville Shoreline access points.

The Bonneville Shoreline Trail is a regional recreation amenity planned throughout the Wasatch Front. A portion of its potential alignment crosses through the eastern portion of Cottonwood Heights in the foothills of the mountains. Proper access is critical to the success of any future trail, and until now no formal study of trail access has been completed. The city would like to better understand types of access required for regional trail systems, possible locations for those access points, and the impacts of trail access to the nearby area. To address these things, the city is preparing an access master plan to better understand future trail accessibility, and its accompanying opportunities and challenges. Join us on Feb. 20 to provide this valuable input. ■

## Artist Spotlight: Cheryl H. Merkley

Cheryl H. Merkley's art career began when she moved to Cottonwood Heights 34 years ago and met longtime resident Melva Nelson.

Nelson would invite several women over to paint and teach them art lessons. She introduced Merkley to the world of watercolor and helped mentor her until she started school at the University of Utah. Merkley ended up graduating from the U in 1997, earning a BFA in fine art with an emphasis in painting and drawing.

Merkley and Nelson remained close. In fact, a month before Nelson's passing, they were painting poppies together in Highland, Utah. Today, Merkley keeps a picture of her friend above her easel with the word 'inspire' to remember Melva and how she inspired her on the path of becoming an artist.

But Nelson wasn't Merkley's only inspiration. Merkley first started in nursing at the University of Utah and while doing her undergraduate work, she took a drawing class. The professor asked her why she wasn't majoring in art. That one remark changed her life; the next day she changed her major.

While at the U, she studied under great professors such as

Paul Davis, David Dornan and Tony Smith. Merkley's favorite medium is oil, and she loves to paint directly from life. She enjoys portraying the beauty in our everyday lives with bold and bright colors, loose brush strokes and thick, juicy paint. She says she likes to almost feel as if she is carving the object out of paint.

Her studio is located at 3474 S. 2300 East #3, in a charming building that was a historical radio factory during World War II. Watch for the black-and-white door and stop in and say 'hello.' Her website is [Cherylmerkley.com](http://Cherylmerkley.com). ■





## SNOW REMOVAL | FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The unique topography and location of Cottonwood Heights makes our community one of the most beautiful and vibrant areas in the Salt Lake Valley. One of the unique challenges of life in Cottonwood Heights is the means by which snow is plowed from our streets. There are three distinct elevations in our city, including the lower areas west of Highland Drive, the bench between Highland Drive and Wasatch Boulevard and the neighborhoods above Wasatch Boulevard, in the foothills of the mountains.

These higher elevations are prime dumping grounds when winter storms roll in, causing Cottonwood Heights to register some of the deeper accumulation totals compared to other communities. Lake effect storms increase these challenges.

The city has a great responsibility to clear the roads as soon as possible, and depending on the severity, timing and length of any particular storm, the time it takes to complete plowing may vary. The city has guidelines that dictate its responsibility, but there are other responsibilities specific to residents.

The overall goal of this responsibility is made easier when we partner with neighbors to speed up the process – clearing the roads of any obstacles that stand in the way of our trucks. Keeping streets clear of parked vehicles, emptied garbage cans and snow from driveways and sidewalks is essential to prompt plowing. We can accomplish as we work together.

Many have valid questions about plowing in Cottonwood Heights. As such, we have supplied the following list of frequently asked questions to address these concerns.

As always, we welcome concerns and questions, and we ask that you review these commonly asked questions to see if your inquiry has already been answered:

**I saw a Cottonwood Heights snowplow driving around during the storm with its blade up. Why wasn't it plowing?**

It is the goal of the Public Works Department to plow streets systematically and efficiently. When snowplows are moving from one location to another to re-load salt, they lose weight (ballast) in the truck and therefore lift their plows to go reload; or, if roads are ice packed, the plows will be salting areas

and have their plows lifted. Plowing wears down the blades so leaving it in contact with the roadway when there is not a need causes unnecessary wear on the equipment.

**Why can't I park on the street during a storm?**

Not only is it a violation of city code, it prevents the plows from plowing the entire street. All cars must be removed from the road during storms for safety and plowing efficiency.

**What can I do if cars parked on the street are causing a hazard or restricting plowing operations?**

You can report these to the police department through a non-emergency dispatch number by calling 801-743-7000.

**Why can't I blow the snow from my driveway and sidewalk into the city street?**

Blowing this snow after the plows have been through an area creates ice patches that are dangerous to the traveling public. It is better to blow this snow into your lawns; it keeps the roads clear.

**Who do I call to report problems with snow removal?**

You should contact Cottonwood Heights at 801-944-7000 during regular office hours Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., or send an email to [snowevent@ch.utah.gov](mailto:snowevent@ch.utah.gov) if you feel we have missed a road or an area within 24 hours after the end of the storm. Someone will be dispatched to review and send a truck if needed.



**Who is responsible for clearing sidewalks in front of city-owned property?**

Sidewalks along Cottonwood Heights property are contracted to be cleared by Cottonwood Heights Recreation District. If there is an issue with sidewalk snow clearing on these sidewalks please contact City Hall at 801-944-7000.

During a snowstorm, our trucks are out and working in the assigned areas and routes; we do not stop a plow in one area to move it to another area because of phone calls. A phone call or an email does not alter the routes of the snowplow drivers. This would be a very inefficient system and the chances of roads getting missed is greatly increased. ■



## Answer

**Question,** continued from page 2

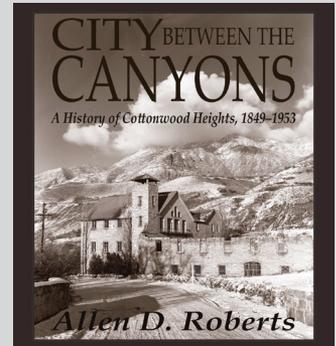
Education is a high priority for those living in Utah. The same was true of the early settlers of our city. By 1850, those settlers had built a log schoolhouse, located along the Little Cottonwood Creek bottom lands (east of today's 1300 East.) Silas Richards, one of the first settlers and a farmer, taught school with between 30-35 students in attendance. He did this during the school years from 1850 to 1852. In 1852, the Salt Lake County Court created school districts in several of the existing communities. Union became School District 23. While the schools in Utah professed to be public, they were mostly parochial in nature. In 1854, a new two-story school and meeting house was erected within the Union Fort. The old school was used as a house by the Forbush family.



## Buy the Book!

Stories of our community can be found in the book "City Between the Canyons: A History of Cottonwood Heights 1849-1953."

The book would be a great gift. Pick up yours at City Hall.



Published September 2016 – Gayle Conger ■

# REGISTER NOW FOR FLAG FOOTBALL

Online @ [chprsa.activityreg.com](http://chprsa.activityreg.com) or in-person at CHRC!

Deadline for football registration is March 18th, 2020



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CAMP COUNSELORS | CUSTOMER SERVICE  
REPRESENTATIVES | ADMISSIONS

## City Council Members

- MAYOR** - Michael J. Peterson
- DIST# 1** - Douglas Petersen
- DIST# 2** - J. Scott Bracken
- DIST# 3** - Tali C. Bruce
- DIST# 4** - Christine Watson Mikell
- CITY MANAGER** - Tim Tingey

## City Office

2277 E. Bengal Blvd  
 Cottonwood Heights, UT 84121  
 Phone ..... 801-944-7000  
 Fax..... 801-944-7005

## Numbers to Know

Emergency..... 911  
 Dispatch ..... 743-7000  
 Fire Authority ..... 743-7100  
 Animal Control ..... 743-7000  
 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

- Feb. 4** - Work Session 5 p.m.,  
 Business Meeting 7 p.m.
- Feb. 18** - Work Session 5 p.m.,  
 Business Meeting 7 p.m.

*(Work session reconvenes after business meeting.)*  
 Agendas are posted 24 hours in advance of public meetings.  
 For details about the agendas, go to: [www.ch.utah.gov](http://www.ch.utah.gov)

## Planning Commission

The Planning commission holds meetings at 6 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month. This month's meeting will be held on Feb. 5.

## Editors

Tim Beery, Kim Horiuchi

## Graphic Designer

Megan Pace

# Valuing Seniors: Wisdom Comes with Age

By Miriam Aiazzi, Cottonwood Heights Business Association Board

Cottonwood Heights is a wonderful place to live, not only for our proximity to some of the best ski resorts in the world but also because of our diverse population. Twenty-four percent of that cross section is made up of individuals over the age of 55, which has prompted many requests for the allocation of a senior center in the area. Taking this matter seriously, I started my research and contacted Salt Lake County Aging Services to find out what the likelihood was of us getting a senior center. This is what I discovered:

We have 19 senior centers in Salt Lake County. Three are privately run and overseen by the state. It is anticipated that by the year 2030, our senior population will outnumber our school-age children. Still, despite these numbers, senior center attendance

has been on the decline. This is attributed to two things: Many seniors are opting to remain in the workforce post retirement age; and seniors are opting to join recreation centers instead of attending a senior center. In 2018, the number of people served in the two centers closest to Cottonwood Heights (Sandy and Murray) were 1,700 and 1,900, respectively.

With that in mind, Salt Lake County Aging Services is not currently planning to build any more senior centers. However, anyone over the

age of 55 can access and attend any other senior center. The two closest to our city are located at 9310 S. 1300 East in Sandy, and 1635 E. Murray-Holladay Road. Membership, transportation and a hot meal served daily are free, although small donations are encouraged if possible.

Please visit [slco.org/aging](http://slco.org/aging) or call 385-468-3200 for a list services provided by the division, including free rides for vital medical appointments, the Meals on Wheels program, legal services, assistance for veterans, and



caregiver support, to name a few.

In addition, the Cottonwood Heights Recreation Center offers a variety of exercise programs geared toward seniors, Monday through Thursday between 9:45 and 10:45 a.m. These include cardio, dance, circuit and yoga classes. A Silver Sneakers program serving over 1 million seniors nationwide also is offered, and the staff at the CHRC front desk can assist with eligibility requirements. Please visit [cottonwoodheights.com](http://cottonwoodheights.com) for details or call 801-943-3190. ■

## Get ready for **THE BIG ONE!**

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Friday 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
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 \$5.00 per day

\$4.00 Online Early Bird Special until February 1, 2020  
 Children 12 and under FREE

[BeReadyUtahExpo.org](http://BeReadyUtahExpo.org)

#BeReadyUtahExpo

**Preparedness,  
 Health, and Safety**

## Business Spotlights

### Orangetheory Fitness | 6953 S. 1300 East

Orangetheory Fitness describes itself as more than a gym: It's a community filled with people who want to better themselves from the inside out. The center's workouts are focused not only on physical challenges but internal ones as well.

The goal is for members to get "more life," and taking a first class is the first step to achieve that. Orangetheory Fitness has certified personal trainers who lead every workout to support you while you are on your fitness journey. They use heart-rate reading technology during workouts to make them more personalized to each individual. Come try their one-hour workout! ■



### The Gee Group - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Utah

Lori Gee has been a resident of Cottonwood Heights for 27 years. She is active in the community, serving on several boards and as a Brighton High booster and supporter. She has also been an active real estate agent for most of those 27 years. In 2017, her daughter-in-law Mariah hired on as her assistant, later obtained her license and will join The Gee Group as a full-time agent in 2020. The Gee Group specializes in the Cottonwood Heights-Holladay-Sandy area and in luxury real estate. However, they also enjoy working with first-time homebuyers, new construction and investment properties along the Wasatch Front. Lori Gee has been one of the top agents in the valley for several years. She is in the top 1 percent in the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices network and was named the No. 3 producing agent in her company in 2018 and 2019 along the Wasatch Front. ■

**The Gee Group**

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**MARIAH GEE** REALTOR®  
mariah@bhhsutah.com | (801) 989-4626

**BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY**  
HomeServices  
Utah Properties

### Towne Storage

7183 S. Union Park Ave.

Towne Storage offers self-storage units for rent in Cottonwood Heights. Their facility is equipped with several convenient features and is well-located for quick and easy access for both individuals and businesses. The units are secure and climate controlled. They have a place to store your outdoor equipment, holiday decorations, or even the contents of an entire home. Convenient U-Haul rentals are available at the facility. Take a moment to browse their available space at [www.Townestorage.com](http://www.Townestorage.com), or stop by to reserve a unit. ■



### Death by Chocolate

Thursday, Feb. 6 | 5 to 7 p.m.

Cottonwood Heights City Hall, Community Room  
(2277 E. Bengal Blvd.)

Tickets – \$10 each/\$15 per couple

Restaurants, bakeries and catering companies will bring their favorite chocolate desserts to the Cottonwood Heights Business Association's Death by Chocolate event. Attendees can sample all the chocolate creations and visit with friends and neighbors during this open house.

A few of the vendors are Alpha Coffee, Carmine's, Cie's Creations, Mon Cherie Catering, Starbucks, The Chocolate Palette and Trader Joe's.

You can purchase tickets by clicking on the Death by Chocolate page at [www.cottonwoodHeights.utah.gov](http://www.cottonwoodHeights.utah.gov) ■

