



Cottonwood Heights, UT | December 2025 | FREE

# BETWEEN THE CANYONS

The official newsletter of Cottonwood Heights | [ch.utah.gov](http://ch.utah.gov)

## Embracing Change: Preparing for Fall and Winter

Council member Shawn Newell



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

Rolling into fall we are enveloped in a kaleidoscope of vibrant colors. These rays and reflections signal impending changes. There will be changes in the weather and the earlier darkening of our skies. As residents, we'll be preparing for the overlay of winter by making hurried steps to cover and store some of our personal amenities. Others will be reaching high in closets and digging deep into storage for those winter clothes.

We'll be enjoying brief conversations with neighbors as we rake the fallen foliage in our yards. Chatter will abound as the conversations will be about the city, the grandeur of our snowcapped mountains, and the golden hue of foliage.

Cottonwood Heights City will undergo some key preparations for the impending winter. In preparation for early snowfall, there will be proactive maintenance done on the city's fleet of snow plows. The individuals that serve on our public works team are charging into fall by clearing brush, sweeping the streets, and overseeing the timely completion of critical infrastructure projects that might be impacted by shifts in the weather. The continued work on the major reconstruction

*Embracing Change: Preparing for Fall and Winter Continued on page 3*

### CITY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- DECEMBER 2
  - SURPLUS ITEMS
  - CHICKEN COOP ORDINANCE
  - CONTRACT FOR CARNIVAL
- DECEMBER 16
  - STORM WATER MASTER PLAN DISCUSSION
  - UDOT BCC ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE
  - FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PRESENTATION
  - ADOPT GENERAL PLAN WATER PORTION
  - UTAH RENEWABLE COMMUNITIES URC
  - POLICE DEPARTMENT SURPLUS ITEM
- JANUARY 5
  - OATH OF OFFICE
- JANUARY 6
  - UTAH OPEN LANDS TRANSIT TO TRAILS PROGRAM
  - INAUGURATION

FOR FULL AGENDAS, PLEASE VISIT [CH.UTAH.GOV](http://CH.UTAH.GOV)

## A Celebration of Service: Farewell Open House for Mayor Mike Weichers

Join us as we celebrate and thank Mayor Mike Weichers for his dedicated service to our community. A farewell open house will be held on **December 30th, 2025 at 4:30 PM** at 2277 East Bengal Blvd., Cottonwood Heights, UT 84121. All are welcome to stop by, express their appreciation, and wish Mayor Weichers well in his next chapter. ■

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## EVENTS CALENDAR

- **NOVEMBER 18 - JANUARY 2:** WINTER WONDERS GROUP ART EXHIBIT
  - **DECEMBER 1:** LIGHT THE HEIGHTS FROM 5 - 7:30 PM AT CITY HALL
  - **DECEMBER 5:** CHRISTMAS CONCERT WITH ECLIPSE 6
  - **DECEMBER 25:** CITY OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS DAY
  - **DECEMBER 30:** A CELEBRATION OF SERVICE: FAREWELL OPEN HOUSE FOR MAYOR WEICHERS WILL BE HELD AT CITY HALL AT 4:30 PM
  - **JANUARY 1:** CITY OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED FOR NEW YEARS DAY
  - **JANUARY 5:** OATH OF OFFICE AT 3 PM
  - **FEBRUARY 7:** COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS ARTS COUNCIL LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION
- FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [CH.UTAH.GOV](http://CH.UTAH.GOV) AND CLICK COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**Cottonwood Heights Arts Council  
Lunar New Year  
Celebration**

**2026  
Year Of The Horse**

**February 7, 2026 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.**

Celebrate the Lunar New Year, the most important holiday in China, with a FREE family event featuring Chinese culture through art, music, and martial arts.

- Traditional Chinese Musical & Dance Performances
- Interactive Childrens Crafts (While supplies last)
- Kung Fu and Tai Chi Demonstration

Cottonwood Heights  
City Hall  
2277 E. Bengal Blvd.

Presented with  
The Asian Arts and Culture Association

[CHCITYARTS.COM](http://CHCITYARTS.COM)

Cottonwood Heights Arts Council  
ZOO ARTS & PARKS SALT LAKE COUNTY  
Utah Division of Arts & Museums

**WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!  
TAKE OUR SURVEY**

Did You Miss the First Survey?

No problem! Sign up now for the second survey and let your voice be heard in Cottonwood Heights!

Do You Have Just One Minute Each Month?

Join forces with your friends and neighbors to ensure your opinions are considered on important local issues.

To participate, take a moment to sign up here or scan the QR code:  
<https://www.flashvote.com/dashboard/cottonwood-heights-ut>

**ON DISPLAY AT  
COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS  
CITY HALL LOBBY  
2277 E BENGAL BLVD  
WEEKDAYS - 8AM TO 5PM  
NOVEMBER 18- JANUARY 2**

**Cottonwood Heights Arts Council**

*Art Exhibit*  
**Winter Wonders  
Group Exhibit**

**Featured Artists:**

Jeff Anderson	Cheryl Merkley
Kara Bult-Haight	Kylie Pregill
Everleigh Curran	KayLynn Reilly
Deborah Day	Susan Riedley
Tomer Duwek	Cathi Silcox
Robert Fuerer	Kacy Krummel
	Laura Williams

[CHCityArts.com](http://CHCityArts.com)

Utah Division of Arts & Museums  
Cottonwood Heights  
ZOO ARTS & PARKS SALT LAKE COUNTY

Pictured: "Wintery Reflections" by Susan Riedley, oil on canvas

Embracing Change: Preparing for Fall and Winter *Continued from cover*

projects occurring on many of our streets will be limited. This includes curb and gutter, lighting, and storm drain upgrades and repairs. I see fall as an opportunity to reflect on the year's activities and accomplishments. The public works department continues to work on the city's landscape and beautification projects. Trees have been planted, and issues around irrigation of city-owned property have been addressed.

As the days get darker earlier, we as a community will need to be vigilant in monitoring our speeds on our streets. This is an area that we can all be conscious of, as we traverse our neighborhoods. Our public safety is continually being considered and improved by your council and staff. However, diligence by all in watching out for bicyclists and pedestrians is paramount in keeping our roads safe. As pedestrians,

we need to remember to wear high-visibility clothing and to utilize reflectors and lights so that we are more readily recognized when traversing our neighborhoods. The addition of the police department's traffic safety team is proving to be a benefit to residents as well. The implementation of these additional officers enhances our law enforcement team and engenders the community's overall safety needs. Safety on our roads is a responsibility we all bear. Let's work together to make our streets safer.

This is our city's 20th celebration. Cottonwood Heights did not get this far without you, the residents. This is a result of a collective accomplishment mindset by



our community members, service providers, and leaders. As we move into winter and begin a season of holiday celebrations, let's maintain an appreciation for our families and our community. ■

## December at the County Library | Whitmore

## Cottonwood Heights Senior Corner

Teens	Family	Adults
<p><b>Teen Craft Program: DIY Holiday Cards</b> Monday, December 1, 4 pm Add a personal touch to your holiday greetings this year! Come and make your own holiday cards.</p> <p><b>Teen Monthly Origami: Gift Bow</b> Monday, December 8, All day Includes folding instructions and paper. This month's origami is a gift bow. Packets are first come, first served.</p>	<p><b>SYNKOFA: A Celtic Christmas Concert</b> Thursday, December 4, 7 pm Join the Celtic Jazz ensemble SYNKOFA for a Celtic Christmas Concert. Get ready for an evening of Celtic and world roots music with a Gypsy flair. This concert is for all ages.</p> <p><b>Utah Puppet Theater</b> Friday, December 5, 11 am Enjoy a fun and funny puppet show presented by the Utah Puppet Theater!</p> <p><b>Hark! The Herald Angels Ring: The Cottonwood Presbyterian Bell Choir</b> Tuesday, December 9, 7 pm Join the Cottonwood Presbyterian Bell Choir for an evening of joyful holiday music.</p> <p><b>Jeanie Luke Choir Holiday Concert</b> Thursday, December 18, 4:30 pm We are a small choir of senior citizens who wish to share cheer with popular holiday tunes and traditional carols. Come join the fun and sing along!</p> <p><b>Babcock Performing Readers: Banjo &amp; the Snowy River</b> Thursday, December 18, 7 pm The ballads of A.B. "Banjo" Paterson have helped define the national identity of Australians for many years. His poems offer tales in a rhythm and rhyme that beg to be read aloud. Come listen!</p>	<p><b>Whitmore Library December 2025 Adult Reading Challenge: Start a series!</b></p> <p><b>All Ability Kits</b> Monday, December 1, All day Pick up an activity kit designed for ADULTS and TEENS with intellectual disabilities while supplies last!</p> <p><b>Fundamentals of Yoga</b> Wednesday, December 3, 5:45 pm Explore the fundamentals of yoga including poses, breath work, meditation, and philosophy. Learn adaptable yoga poses that work for different body types and abilities. <b>Please bring your own yoga mat.</b></p> <p><b>Sound Bath Experience</b> Wednesday, December 10, 5:30 pm Join sound healing practitioner Jenny Wigham for a journey into sound and relaxation. Be prepared to lie down, rest and enjoy. Bring a mat, blanket, pillow, warm clothes or anything else to help you get nice and cozy.</p> <p><b>Adult (and Teen) DIY: Ugly Sweater Day</b> Friday, December 19, 11 am - 5 pm Saturday, December 20, 11 am - 5 pm Get into the spirit of Ugly Sweater Season with this fun DIY activity for adults and teens!</p> <p><b>Red Cross Blood Drive</b> Friday, December 26, 11 am - 5 pm Give blood to help others. Schedule your appointment at <a href="http://redcrossblood.org">redcrossblood.org</a> or 1.800.RED.CROSS, or just drop in the day of.</p>
Kids		
<p><b>Read to a Dog!</b> Saturday, December 13, 11 am Read a book to Geo, a trained therapy dog who loves being read to! Sign up at the children's desk on the day of the activity.</p>		
Whitmore Gallery		
<p>Look for art by Mark Marzolf coming mid-December!</p>		
Closures		
<p><b>Wednesday, December 24</b> - Library closes at 2 pm <b>Thursday, December 25</b> - Library closed all day <b>Wednesday, December 31</b> - Library closes at 6 pm <b>Thursday, January 1, 2026</b> - Library closed all day</p>		
 <p><b>The County Library   Whitmore</b> 2197 E Fort Union Blvd Cottonwood Heights, Utah 84121   801.943.4636 <a href="http://thecountylibrary.org">thecountylibrary.org</a></p>		



# COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS SENIOR CORNER

*Having Transportation Issues?*

**The county provides a RIDES FOR WELLNESS program specifically for seniors aged 60 and older. This service picks you up from your home and returns you once your appointment is finished. If you currently have a vehicle, consider volunteering as a driver for others in need! You can drive a Salt Lake County vehicle for just one four-hour shift twice a month. For more information, call (385) 468-3283.**



- A class is available at the Mt. Olympus Senior Center every Thursday at 10:30 AM. This session focuses on maintaining our physical, mental, and cognitive health as we grow older.

**Contact Us!**

Mt. Olympus Senior Center  
1635 E. Murray Holladay Rd.  
Holladay, UT  
Call (385) 468-3130 for more information.

## Tips for a Safe and Joyous Holiday Season

Assistant Fire Chief Riley Pilgrim



As we approach the winter holiday season, many will be decorating and hosting get-togethers with family and friends. Though this is a fun time of year, there is also an increased risk of home fires due to the addition

of decorations, candles and Christmas trees. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has provided the following facts to raise awareness:

- U.S. fire departments respond to an estimated average of 790 home structure fires per year that began with decorations, excluding Christmas trees. These fires caused an annual average of 4 civilian fire deaths, 33 civilian fire injuries and \$14 million in direct property damage.
- Electrical distribution or lighting equipment was involved in more than two in five home Christmas tree fires.
- Nearly one in five Christmas tree fires were started by lamps or bulbs. Eight percent were started by candles.
- Roughly two of every five home Christmas tree fires started in the living room.

- Candle fires peak in December and January with 11 percent of candle fires in each of these months.
- Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires, followed by Christmas Day and Christmas Eve.
- Year round, one-third (33%) of home decoration fires were started by candles. This jumped to almost half in December when candles started 46% of such fires. Cooking started one-fifth (19%) of decoration fires.

Source: "Christmas Tree Safety Tip Sheet," 2020, <https://www.nfpa.org/downloadablesources/safety-tip-sheets/christmas-tree-safety-tip-sheet>

In an effort to celebrate the holiday season safely, we have a few tips that we would like to share.

- The use of candles becomes very popular this time of year. Please place lit candles away from decorations and ensure they are out before leaving your home.
- Have furnaces, fireplaces, and chimneys inspected and maintained on an annual basis if possible; replace furnace filters regularly.

- Test your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors monthly.
- When cooking, pay close attention to what is going on. It is easy to become distracted
- This is also a popular time for Christmas trees. Trees can present some unique hazards, but can be safe by doing the following:

1. Be sure to check and water live trees daily.
2. Closely inspect lighting strands; remove and do not use if you see any damage to the lights or cords.
3. Keep trees at least three feet away from any heat source.
4. Turn off lights before going to bed or leaving your home.

- Ensure walkways, paths, and stairs are free from snow and ice. If you have a fire hydrant near your home, try to remove snow within three feet.

We hope you and your family have a happy holiday season! ■

## UDOT Environmental Assessment for Big Cottonwood Canyon Published

The Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) will publish the Environmental Assessment (EA) for Big Cottonwood Canyon this month. The study is evaluating transportation solutions to reduce wintertime traffic congestion on State Route (SR) 190 in Big Cottonwood Canyon:

- Enhanced bus service
  - Mobility hub at bottom of Big Cottonwood Canyon
  - Tolling
  - Resort bus stops
  - Improvements to existing bus stops located at Cardiff Fork, Spruces Campground, Silver Fork, and the Silver Lake/Solitude Nordic Center
  - Bus priority features to improve enhanced bus service operations and performance
- UDOT will hold a public comment period**



(Dec. 3, 2025 - Jan. 9, 2026) and two public meetings and submit formal comments. **hearings this month (Dec. 17 & Dec. 18) to gather input from the community. The community is encouraged to review the EA, attend the public**

For more information on the study and to sign up for alerts when the EA is published, visit [udotinput.utah.gov/bccstudy](http://udotinput.utah.gov/bccstudy). ■

## Storm-water Tip of the Month

Spread holiday cheer, but not your oil! If you spill hazardous chemicals, clean them up using an absorbent such as kitty litter and dispose of waste in the trash. Hosing down a spill pollutes our creeks and is harmful to aquatic life. ■

## Wasatch Front Waste & Recycling District: Thank You for another Green Year!

The Wasatch Front Waste & Recycling District has announced that the last pickup date for Green Waste Collections in Cottonwood Heights will be on Wednesday, December 12th, 2025. Please note that residents should refrain from placing their green cans out on the curb after this date, as they will not be collected or emptied. Green waste collections will resume on the week of March 9th, 2026.

Thanks to your support, WFWRD have successfully diverted an estimated **5,000 tons** of green waste from landfills this year and have composted the same amount to create healthier soil in our communities.

If you would like to begin participating in their green waste program in 2026, please visit [wfwrdutah.gov](http://wfwrdutah.gov) or call 385-468-6325. We appreciate the continued support of our loyal patrons! ■



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

Did you know that Wasatch Front Waste and Recycling diverted 36 tons of Christmas trees from landfills last year?

Wasatch Front Waste & Recycling District will be collecting live Christmas trees during January. Fill out a curbside tree pickup request form at [wfwrdutah.gov](http://wfwrdutah.gov) 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. Due

to high demand, it may take more than one week to complete all requests.

- **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 garage, recycling, or green waste cans. As a reminder,



Wasatch Front Waste cannot accept artificial trees or flocked trees. ■

## Holiday Wrapping for a Greener Season

The holidays are a time for giving and nothing builds excitement quite like a beautifully wrapped gift. But that festive paper can create a surprising amount of waste. Each year, Americans use an estimated 4.6 million pounds of wrapping paper, and about half of it can't be recycled because of metallic coatings, glitter, or plastic films.

Those shiny designs may look cheerful, but they're made from mixed materials that

can't be separated during the recycling process. This year, make the season a little greener by choosing simple, paper-only wrapping without metallic coatings or plastic layers.

Looking for creative alternatives? Try brown kraft paper, newspaper, old maps, or your child's artwork. Kid made wrapping adds a unique touch that family and friends love. After the gifts are opened, recycle clean, non-metallic wrapping paper in

your recycle can, and keep ribbons, bows, and glittered wrap out, they belong in the trash. A few thoughtful choices can help keep holiday cheer high and waste low! ■



## New Signs Installed at Ferguson Canyon Trailhead

Cottonwood Heights Parks, Trails & Open Space (PTOS) Committee



Have you ever wondered who Ferguson Canyon is named for? Or maybe about how it and the other canyons bisecting the Wasatch Range were formed? Or even where the trail through Ferguson Canyon leads? All this information and more is covered within a series of new signs recently installed

at the mouth of Ferguson Canyon, 7721 Timberline Drive, Cottonwood Heights. The signs were a collaborative project between PTOS, Cottonwood Heights city staff, and Envirosigns, the same company that created signage for Ferguson Park. The seven new signs, which replaced signage that had faded and been vandalized over the years, were installed on existing metal platforms along the trailhead's ADA-compliant sidewalk and small pavilion. When you go to Ferguson Canyon, leave your car

in the large parking lot at Ferguson Park and then follow the way-finding signage from the park to make the short walk to the trailhead. ■





## From Farmland to Suburbia: The Post-War Transformation of Cottonwood Heights

As Cottonwood Heights transitioned from farmland into the vibrant residential community we know today, the period immediately following World War II brought a surge in housing development. The first subdivisions within the future city boundaries were platted between 1953 and 1956, transforming the area into a burgeoning "garden suburb" and adding thousands of new residents. Among these early developments, two distinct neighborhoods stand out: Greenfield Village and Cottonwood Ridge.

Platted starting in February 1953, Greenfield Village is the largest and arguably the most distinctive of the earliest neighborhoods. Encompassing approximately 205 acres and divided into 371 parcels across six phases (Plat A through E and H) between 1953 and 1960, this enormous development helped define the mid-century suburban landscape of Cottonwood Heights. The neighborhood forms a roughly fan-shaped area situated at a key historic junction: the intersection of Fort Union Boulevard (7000 South) and Highland Drive (2000 East), a spot historically known as Colebrook Corner.

Greenfield Village was an ambitious, multi-developer project, with early plats involving companies like Peak Improvement Company and

Cannon-Papanikolas Construction Company. Advertised with slogans like "Quiet, Secluded, Beautiful" and "Quality, Personality, Charm," the homes were predominantly Ranch-style in traditional brick, conventional American, and even "old colonial" designs. The neighborhood was forward-thinking, setting aside a large lot for commercial development—a strip mall was built there by 1964—and benefiting from a brand new elementary school and an LDS Church meetinghouse within walking distance. Notably, the various phases introduced different architectural variations, from traditional wide-façade ranches to narrower frame perpendicular ranches with carports, built to fit the uniquely curved streets like Meadow Downs Way and Village Green Road.

Platted in December 1953, Cottonwood Ridge is one of the smallest of the early subdivisions, with only 34 parcels on approximately 8.9 acres. It is located in the historic Butler Hill neighborhood, near the intersection of Fort Union Boulevard and 2700 East. This area had been the default center of community life in Butlerville since the 1880s, anchored by the Butler Elementary School (built in 1923) and the Butler Ward LDS Church meetinghouse. The subdivision runs along both sides of Virginia



Hills Drive (2715 East), featuring a traffic-slowing chicane at its entrance from Fort Union Boulevard. The neighborhood's namesake "ridge" lies behind the western parcels, offering potential views. Cottonwood Ridge was owned by Ormond S. and Mildred P. Coulam and quickly filled with homes. By 1956, almost all lots were occupied, often by commuter families and small business owners, reflecting the growing connection to Salt Lake City. The first houses were built in 1953, with the majority completed by 1955. While the subdivision was an early example of suburbanization on Butler Hill, it has seen significant change. Due to its valuable views, many of the original 1950s ranch-style homes have been altered or replaced with newer, larger homes, including multi-story residences. ■

**GIVE THE GIFT OF HISTORY!**

Wrap up a little piece of history this season with *City Between the Canyons: A History of Cottonwood Heights, 1849-1953*.

\$10 – at City Hall  
\$15 - online with shipping:  
[ch.utah.gov/history-book](http://ch.utah.gov/history-book)

**CHRC**  
*Holiday*

**Cottonwood Heights**  
Parks & Recreation

**FREE**

**SKATE WITH SANTA!**  
**SATURDAY, DEC. 20TH**  
**2 PM - 4 PM**  
All Ages

You do NOT need to register for this event!

MORE DETAILS TO COME!  
check [CHparksandrecUT.gov](http://CHparksandrecUT.gov)

## City council members

**MAYOR:** Michael Weichers  
801-944-7087 | [mweichers@ch.utah.gov](mailto:mweichers@ch.utah.gov)  
**DIST# 1:** Matt Holton  
801-944-7089 | [district1@ch.utah.gov](mailto:district1@ch.utah.gov)  
**DIST# 2:** Suzanne Hyland  
801-944-7086 | [district2@ch.utah.gov](mailto:district2@ch.utah.gov)  
**DIST# 3:** Shawn E. Newell  
801-300-3068 | [snewell@ch.utah.gov](mailto:snewell@ch.utah.gov)  
**DIST# 4:** Ellen Birrell  
385-910-5942 | [ebirrell@ch.utah.gov](mailto:ebirrell@ch.utah.gov)  
**CITY MANAGER:** Jared Gerber  
801-944-7010 | [jgerber@ch.utah.gov](mailto:jgerber@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..... 944-7002  
Recorder ..... 944-7015  
Finance director ..... 944-7012  
Code enforcement ..... 840-4000  
Police administration..... 944-7100

## City council meetings

- **December 2:** Work Session at 4 p.m. (tentative time), business meeting at 7 p.m. (tentative time)
- **December 16:** Work session at 4 p.m. (tentative time), business meeting at 7 p.m. (tentative time)
- **January 6:** Work session at 4 p.m. (tentative time), business meeting at 7 p.m. (tentative time)

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](http://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

# Dual Immersion Applications Close Friday, December 19th: A Pathway to More Learning, Career Prospects, and Fun

Dual-Language Immersion is a great way to learn another language. More than that, it's a proven path to academic success and wide range of career prospects. Canyons School District has some of the most extensive language immersion offerings in Utah. Twenty-one elementary and secondary schools offer dual immersion programs in Spanish, French, or Chinese — and the time to consider applying is now.

**Applications for the 2026-2027 school year close Friday, Dec. 19, 2025.** Any kindergarten-aged student who will be starting the first grade in fall 2026 may apply. Students in DLI spend half their day learning in English and the other half learning in a world language. The programs continue through high school where students can work to pass the Advanced Placement exam in the 9th or 10th grades and take college-level courses for early college credit.

The result? Higher academic achievement on end-of-year tests and bilingual skills that open up job



opportunities for students and give them a competitive advantage when applying for college

Learn more at [canyonsdistrict.org](http://canyonsdistrict.org) ■

## SUSTAINABILITY

# Sustainable Winter Living: Staying Safe and Fire-Wise This Season

Maverick Yeh, Planner III

Winter in Cottonwood Heights brings the glow of holiday lights, the crackle of fireplaces, and the warmth of family gatherings. It's also the time of year when home heating and decoration fires are most common due to cooking and decorations—nearly half of all such incidents nationwide occur between November and February. Practicing fire-safe habits at home is not only about safety; it's also an essential part of living sustainably. Preventing fires in the home reduces the risk to our community and strengthens our resiliency as a community.

As you prepare your home for the cold months ahead, start by making sure your heating systems are running efficiently and safely. Having a qualified professional inspect and clean furnaces, chimneys, and vents each year. This is a small investment not only to prevent fires but also improves energy efficiency and reduces both utility costs and emissions.

When cooking, using candles, space heaters, and Decorations please keep anything flammable—like furniture, curtains, and wrapped gifts—at least three feet away from these sources of heat and avoid overloading

outlets. Please make sure stoves/ovens, space heaters and decorations are turned off, candles are out before leaving your home. Replace old light strings with modern LED versions, which uses less power and generates less heat.

Inside the home, make sure smoke and carbon monoxide alarms batteries have been changed, tested and working properly. Keep fire extinguishers within easy reach. If you're using a live Christmas tree, keep it well watered—dry branches can ignite within seconds. Remember to keep fire hydrants on your property clear of snow for quick access in case of an emergency.

By taking a few simple precautions, we can all enjoy a warm, bright, and safe holiday season while protecting the environment and our neighborhoods. A sustainable community is one that stays safe, prepared, and mindful—especially in the heart of winter. ■



## Health Committee Spotlight

### Fostering a Healthier Community: Health in the Heights Coalition

The **Health in the Heights Coalition** is a grant-funded program that guides communities through a proven five-phase community change process called Communities that Care (CTC). Grounded in prevention science, CTC promotes healthy youth development, strengthens protective factors, and reduces problem behaviors across the community.

**Our vision:** Cottonwood Heights is a connected community of youth and adults, empowering one another to grow as healthy, compassionate, and engaged citizens.

**What We Do:** Health in the Heights guides our community through a process to build a sustainable system that prevents the most widespread health and behavior problems before they start. The coalition is made up of a wide variety of community members who make this process happen.

Using prevention science and data-driven strategies, the coalition works to:

- Address the predictors of problem behaviors before they occur
- Identify and reduce **risk factors**
- Strengthen and enhance **protective factors**
- Implement **tested and effective programs** proven to create lasting, positive change



*Photo Courtesy: Health in the Heights Committee*

#### Our Impact So Far:

Together, coalition members have:

- Hosted **National Drug Take Back Day** events
- Offered **QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer)** Suicide Prevention trainings
- Tabled at numerous community events to share prevention resources
- Earned the **Healthy Utah Community** designation for Cottonwood Heights City

This designation and all the coalition's volunteer-driven efforts reflect a shared commitment to ensuring every resident has the opportunity to live a healthy, thriving life. With strong support from city officials and key community leaders, **Health in the Heights** is excited to continue implementing strategies that make Cottonwood Heights a healthier, more connected community for all. ■

### Prepare for winter weather: Tips to follow

Cottonwood Heights' snowplow drivers work hard whenever there is snow, plowing even on holidays and weekends to ensure residents can safely drive throughout the city. Follow these tips to make it easier for crews to clear the snow in your neighborhood:

- **Move snow onto your lawn, not into the street.** When you blow/shovel snow from your sidewalk into the street, it creates dangerous ice patches after drivers have already plowed.
- **Clear all snow or ice from your sidewalk and driveway within 24 hours of the end of a storm.** Review Cottonwood Heights code section 14-32-060 for more information.

- **Help neighbors who have mobility issues to clear their driveways and sidewalks after a storm.** The city doesn't have the resources to clear private sidewalks and driveways.
- **Don't park on the street after any snowfall and not until 24 hours after the end of a snowstorm.** If plows are unable to get around your vehicle to clear the road, a towing company may tow your car. See Cottonwood Heights code section 11.20.130 for more information.
- **Remove- trash and recycling cans from the street within 12 hours of Wasatch Front Waste & Recycling District collection.** Note: WFWRD generally

delays collection on snow days to allow snowplows time to clear neighborhoods. See Cottonwood Heights code section 9.05.030 for the full ordinance.

Our snowplow drivers follow assigned routes, prioritizing the main streets to maintain safe travel for the largest volume of traffic. The city strives to plow every city road within 24 hours after a storm ends.

**Follow Cottonwood Heights on Facebook (/CHCity), Instagram (@cottonwoodheights) and NextDoor or subscribe to city emails (ch.utah.gov/emails) for plowing updates.**

You can also call the city at 801-944-7002 to report a snowplowing issue. ■

Reach more than 13,000 Cottonwood Heights households each month by promoting your business in *Between the Canyons!* Our business spotlights and Love Your Locals campaign help you get the word out about the unique foods, products, and services you offer – and it's FREE.

To learn more or share your company with us, visit [ch.utah.gov/business-association](http://ch.utah.gov/business-association).