

Cottonwood Heights, UT
September 2014 • FREE

NEWSLETTER

801-944-7000

www.ch.utah.gov

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Property Taxes, Property Valuation and City Revenues

By Mayor Kelvyn Cullimore, Jr.

Recently you should have received your property tax notice for 2014. This notice has two important sections. The first is entitled "Notice of Tax Changes." In this section, the Salt Lake County Auditor itemizes the taxes levied against your real property and the entity that is imposing the tax. The most important parts of this section are the columns that compare the new taxes for 2014 to the taxes levied in 2013.

The taxes from year to year should be identical unless one of two things changes. The first thing to look for is whether there is an entry in the columns entitled "If 2014 Increase." An entry in these columns shows the dollar change and the percentage by which that entity is raising their tax levy on your property. Follow the line to the right and it will tell you when a mandatory public hearing is being held by the taxing entity to receive comments from the public relative to the proposed tax increase. This is your opportunity to be heard if you oppose this tax increase. You can also write to the elected officials managing the entity raising taxes.

If there is no entry in the columns entitled "If 2014 Increase," and the tax levied by a taxing



Mayor
Kelvyn Cullimore, Jr.



authority in 2014 is higher or lower than in 2013, it means the county assessor has changed the valuation of your property. This is the second reason why your property tax assessment may have changed from 2013. To confirm this, look at the section of your tax notice entitled "Notice of Property Valuation." This is the second most important part of the notice you have received. That section will show the 2014

Property Taxes, continued on page 3



Arts Council Members Needed!

Are you a Cottonwood Heights resident who loves the arts and wants to help the community? We have the perfect opportunity for you: volunteer to be a member of the Cottonwood Heights Arts Council!

The arts council sponsors several community arts programs and events each year such as concerts, writing and photography classes and contests, art shows and theatrical productions. If you are interested in applying to be a member of the council, please submit a letter of interest and application to Linda Dunlavy at ldunlavy@ch.utah.gov. Applications can be found on the arts council's website, www.arts.ch.utah.gov. ■

Community Orchestra Needs You

The Cottonwood Heights Community Orchestra has begun rehearsals for the 2014-15 season. The orchestra has many great musicians but is still in need of musicians on the following instruments: violin, viola, cello, bass, bassoon, oboe, English horn, bass clarinet, trumpet, French horn, trombone, tuba and percussion. The orchestra rehearsals are on Thursday nights at Butler Middle School in Room C 110 from 7 to 9 p.m. Those interested in joining are encouraged to attend a rehearsal. For more information please contact Music Director Shaun Davis at chcorchestra@gmail.com. ■



Cottonwood Heights
**ART
SHOW**

Submissions Deadline: Aug. 30
Art Exhibit: Sept. 1 - 30
Open House: Sept. 18, 7:00
All events at Whitmore Library

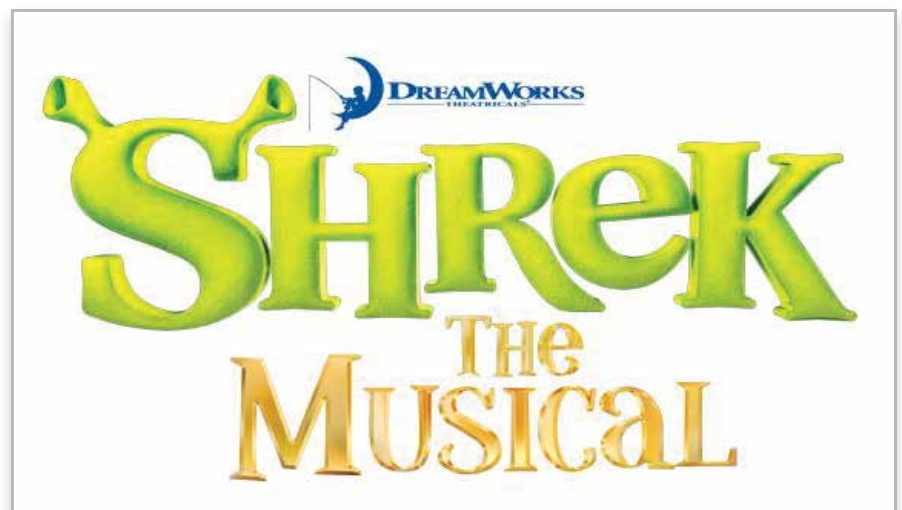
More Information:
www.arts.ch.utah.gov

Be a Part of "Shrek!"

The Cottonwood Heights Arts Council is assembling the production team for "Shrek, the Musical," our 2015 production!

We need to have the following positions filled: Director, Production Assistant, Vocal Director, Orchestra Director, Choreographer, Make-up Artist, Costumer, Set Manager, Prop Master, Sound Designer and Lighting Designer. If you are interested in applying for any of these positions, please send a resume and letter of interest to Linda Dunlavy at ldunlavy@ch.utah.gov with the subject line "Production Team (position) Shrek." If you have any further questions, please call [Maradon Nettleship](tel:801-647-6156) at 801-647-6156. These positions will be open until Sept. 17, 2014. ■



Market Value and compare it to the 2013 Market Value. It also shows the Taxable Value, which is 55 percent of the total Market Value. Under Utah law, 45 percent of the value of a primary residence is exempt from property tax. However, any change in the market valuation will be a contributing factor to an increase (and sometimes a decrease) in your assessed property taxes.

It is possible that you may see a change in the market valuation of your property and not see any corresponding change in the taxes assessed. That is because Utah's "truth in taxation" laws require every county to certify that the rate set by any taxing authority in that county is calculated to yield the exact same tax revenue for that taxing authority as the year before - after adjusting for inflation. In other words, if your tax from a particular entity was \$1000 in 2013 and your property value increased by 10% in 2014, the new certified tax rate approved by the county would be reduced so that when it is applied to the new valuation it still yields the same \$1000 assessment in 2014 as was assessed in 2013. Therefore, if your taxes generally went up in 2014, it is because the valuation on your home exceeded the average inflation for your area. Likewise, if your taxes generally decreased it is because your valuation did not keep pace with the inflationary average for your area.

If you feel that the valuation of your property is overstated, you have the right to appeal that valuation to the county auditor. However, any appeal must be filed before September 15, 2014.

So, to review, if your taxes increased from 2013 to 2014, it is either because a taxing entity raised the tax levy on your property above the approved certified rate set by the county, or it is because the valuation of your home increased by a greater percentage than was assumed for your area.

This year, Cottonwood Heights residents will notice that the line itemizing the Jordan School District Old Debt Service declined this year over last year because Canyons District, in collaboration with Jordan District, refinanced the debt at a lower rate, thus saving taxpayers money.

On my tax notice this year, approximately 50 percent of the taxes were assessed by school districts. About 24 percent of the levied property tax relates to Salt Lake

snow removal, infrastructure support, parks and trails, street lighting, storm drain systems, planning and zoning services, business licensing, economic development support, and community events like Butlerville Days, just to name a few of the services provided.

The city of Cottonwood Heights is now in its tenth year of existence. During the last decade the city has never raised its property tax rate above the certified rate determined by Salt Lake County. We collect approximately \$6 million each year in property tax. That number has not deviated materially from the first year we were a city. We are pleased that in our first 10 years we have not added any new tax burdens nor have we increased property

"During the last decade the city has never raised its property tax rate above the certified rate..."

County services. Fifteen percent of the assessed taxes are levied by the city of Cottonwood Heights. The remaining 11 percent are small taxing entities such as the Mosquito Abatement District, the Cottonwood Heights Parks and Recreation Service Area (which is a separate entity from the city that operates the Cottonwood Heights Rec Center and some area parks), Cottonwood Improvement District (sewer) and Central Utah Water Conservancy District.

With that 15 percent of your property tax, the city is able to provide you with fire protection, police services, emergency medical services, animal control and code enforcement, street repair and maintenance,

taxes despite some pretty lean times during the recessionary years.

Only in 2015 are we expected to return to the same level of sales tax revenue we enjoyed in 2007. While it may not be possible to continue to provide the same level of service in the next 10 years without some additional sources of revenue, we will work hard to continue to manage the city in the same fiscally responsible way we have in the past.

We appreciate the taxes that you pay to support the municipal services we provide. We want you to know that we respect the stewardship we have been given to manage your tax dollars wisely in providing these municipal services. ■

Thank you, Rebecca Kitchen

The Cottonwood Heights Arts Council would like to thank Rebecca Kitchen for her wonderful work this year as the director of "Fiddler on the Roof." She has been an active member of the arts council since its beginnings and has been instrumental in its vision and its growth.

Rebecca has participated in every play that the arts council has produced. For the last two years, she served as the assistant director and this year was her debut as the director for "Fiddler." Though it is a very well-known show with iconic musical numbers and characters, she helped everyone involved to portray the story with vitality and respect for the Jewish people.

Her contributions to the arts council and especially this production have been of the highest quality. Her leadership is valued. Thank you, Rebecca, for the magic you brought to the community through this first-rate production! ■



Going for a Hike?

By Asst. Chief Mike Watson



Assistant Chief
Mike Watson

It was a beautiful, typically hot July day. I went for a hike with two of my friends to escape the heat and do some fishing at a mountain lake. At about 2 p.m., dark clouds rolled in and we found ourselves getting pummeled by hail as the temperature plummeted. Hail? It was 98 degrees in Salt Lake City and we were getting hailed on!

Fortunately, we were prepared with the right equipment and clothing and everything turned out fine. Drastic weather changes are common in our Utah mountains and deserts. Unfortunately, hiking accidents are common scenarios as well.

Numerous factors come into play if you want a safe hiking experience. Thunderstorms, lightning, a surprise snowstorm, dangerous wildlife, or maybe an unstable rock at the edge of a cliff are just some the hazards you could encounter while out on the trail. Having the proper gear, making sure you are in good physical condition, paying close attention to your surroundings, and using good judgment are all essential for a safe hiking trip.

This month's safety message includes several tips and suggestions to help you have an enjoyable and survivable experience.

Don't travel alone. Like any rule, there are exceptions. If you are just going for a stroll in a nearby, well-traveled area you are as safe there as anywhere. But if you travel through heavily forested areas, with steep canyons and winding trails, you can easily get lost. Use good judgment. Traveling with a hiking partner will help you in many ways, especially if he or she is an experienced hiker. People in pairs are much less likely to panic. They can assist one another up steep grades and apply first-aid when needed. A hiking partner can

travel back to the trailhead if you are injured. And, if needed, body heat can be much better conserved when there are two people traveling together. If you are hiking with children, keep them in your sight at all times.

Know where you're going. Stay on clearly-marked or well-traveled trails unless you are experienced enough to take the uncommon route. Such trails may not be as interesting or feel much like an adventure, but getting lost is interesting in a very unpleasant kind of way. A map, a compass and/or a GPS unit is a must for any kind of serious hike. Naturally, it has to function in the area where you hike. Not all units will continue to function in every area. Get the details of where you

Proper gear, good physical condition, paying attention to surroundings, and good judgment are all essential for a safe hiking trip.

plan to go and ask someone who knows.

Take some basic gear. You can go overboard on gear. But for anything more than a simple, two-hour hike over easy terrain, a large chunk of peace-of-mind can be bought very cheaply. Take a lighter or matches. A knife, especially one with lots of genuinely useful (as opposed to merely impressive) gadgets can be a literal lifesaver. A simple first aid kit can also be a lifesaver. Gauze and bandages, anti-bacterial cream and other standard items are essential. Anti-itch and sunburn pain reliever are useful. Of course, you have to have some first-aid knowledge. A flashlight or headlamp is a must. All these things are small and lightweight.

Take basic provisions. Water or other fluids like sports drinks are obviously essential. Heat stroke can kill, but is easily preventable. Just remember water weighs about eight pounds per gallon. Take what you need, but not much more. If you plan



on drinking water from the backcountry, it must be treated for Giardia, which is a parasite that can cause an intestinal infection with a variety of symptoms. To avoid this infection, boil water for at

least one minute or use a filter capable of removing particles as small as 1 micron. Take energy foods such as snack bars or granola.

Tell others where you are. Give a family member or a friend your hiking itinerary and your estimated time of return. Make sure you check in with this person upon your return. If you don't return within the expected time, have them contact local authorities or dial 911.

Check the weather forecast before heading out. Count on temperatures being cooler, and expect it to be windier in the mountains than in the lower elevations. Expect hot temperatures with few areas of shelter in desert areas. Know what to do if lightning is in the area.

Try to avoid sweating in cold weather by dressing in layers. Hypothermia is the dangerous lowering of the body's core temperature. It results in physical collapse

Hike, continued on page 5

and a diminished mental capacity. You can help to avoid this situation by keeping dry. Even during the summer, a wet hiker can succumb to hypothermia at the higher elevations. If your clothes do get wet, change into dry ones as soon as possible. Avoid cotton clothing. Always carry a wind-resistant jacket and rain gear, even on sunny days.

Know the signs of heat exhaustion. As part of your first aid training you should know the signs of heat exhaustion and what to do if someone in your party exhibits these signs. Stay well hydrated, always carry sunscreen, and wear head protection such as a baseball cap or a wide-brimmed hat.

Don't attempt to cross a rain-swollen stream. When crossing a stream that is more than ankle deep, wear shoes to

protect your feet and use your hiking poles or a sturdy stick for support. Also, make sure you unbuckle any straps on your pack that are connected to your body so that the pack can be easily discarded if necessary.

Our fire crews have been very busy in our canyons this year. Remember, you are responsible for your own safety! Stay on designated trails, watch your footing and be safe while you venture out to enjoy our beautiful Utah. ■

CHARC: Good Neighbors in an Emergency

By Martha Cardon

Effective neighborhood watch and emergency preparedness programs require the help of many dedicated and talented volunteers who work closely with Cottonwood Heights' city management and police department. One of these groups is the Cottonwood Heights Amateur Radio Club (CHARC), formed earlier

this year. Their mission statement is "to provide a pool of trained radio operators to, upon request, assist city officials and emergency response personnel in dealing with incidents and emergencies in which normal communications facilities are insufficient."

Led by Carlos Cardon, Grant Gardner, Rod Rothbauer and Bart Van Allen, the CHARC has been busy organizing, writing standard procedures, and interacting with city management. CHARC organized a major city-wide communications drill for the Great Utah ShakeOut on April 17. The group also provided support for the Tri the Heights Triathlon on May 31 as well as Butlerville Days on July 24. They have been issued the FCC call sign W7RCH ("W 7 Radio Cottonwood Heights").

Neighborhood watch and emergency preparedness programs help to provide our community with maximum response and effectiveness in case of an emergency. Are you a "HAM" radio operator? If so, the CHARC invites you to come and be a part of this vital service to our community. Send an email to ch.amateurradioclub@gmail.com and let them know you'd like to be involved.

Block captains – those stalwarts who get to know their neighbors and report conditions in an emergency – are also needed. Block captains are the eyes and ears of the community in a disaster, and feed information about their immediate area up the line to precinct and district communications specialists. Contact Debbie Mackintosh at deb.mackintosh@gmail.com to learn more. ■

BECOME AN EVERYDAY HERO PUBLIC SAFETY FAIR FAMILY EVENT

SEPTEMBER 11, 2014

Butler Park
7500 South 2700 East
5 p.m. – 8 p.m.

- » K9 Demonstration
- » UFA Demonstration
- » Emergency Preparedness Vendors
- » Public Safety Vendors
- » Public Awareness Booths
- » Free "Everyday Hero" photo booth for kids



FREE SLICE OF PIZZA FOR THE FIRST 500 ATTENDEES

Adopt-a-Roadway Program

We would like to thank the staff at Creek Road Dental for their participation in the Cottonwood Heights Adopt-a-Roadway program. Thanks to their efforts, litter along Danish Road didn't stand a chance!

To participate in the Adopt-a-Roadway program, contact the Cottonwood Heights Public Works Department at 801-944-7090. ■



CH Historic Committee Hosts City Leaders

Cottonwood Heights city leaders got a peek into the past at a garden get-together on Wednesday, Aug. 13. The Cottonwood Heights Historic Committee displayed artifacts and pictures and gave a presentation relating to historic Danish Town, which was first settled by Andrew Hansen, Sr. in about 1872, when he obtained a land grant in the area.

The event venue was the historic Alvin R. and Annie Green house on Danish Road. Annie was the first daughter and

third child of Andrew Hansen, Sr. Annie and Alvin built their home on her father's property. Today, the property is owned by historic committee member Gayle Conger, granddaughter of Annie and Alvin Green. This home is one of only two houses still remaining from the Danish Town era. Thanks to Gayle's efforts, the house was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2000.

On behalf of the historic committee, Gayle hosted the group to good

conversation, light refreshments and a tour of the beautiful house and two-acre gardens. It was a wonderful evening! ■



What's the Status of City Hall?

It's been six months since the Cottonwood Heights City Council announced plans to build a new municipal center to house the city's administrative offices and police department, as well as community spaces for residents to gather. The building will be located on approximately 4.7 acres of land on the northwest corner of Bengal Boulevard and 2300 East.

Here is the status on the project as of the beginning of September.

- All parcels of property have been purchased and are now vacant. Asbestos testing has taken place in all the existing buildings on the property, and a few of them will require remediation before they are torn down. The asbestos removal is

expected to be finished by the end of September. After the asbestos removal, the entire property will be fenced while old buildings are demolished. This phase should be completed by the end of October.

- A survey of the property has been conducted to see which trees can be salvaged when construction starts.
- All municipal sales tax bonds which were issued have been sold, allowing for \$14.5 million in funding for this project. Sales tax bonds are repaid with future sales tax revenues, meaning a property tax increase was not necessary in order to fund the municipal center.
- The city has contracted with GSBS Architects, who are in the process of

working with city leaders to prioritize the city's needs and create a site plan and drawings of what the new building may look like and how it will function.

- The city council will finalize a contract with Layton Construction in September to build city hall.
- City leaders are working with Rocky Mountain Power to bury the power lines along Bengal Boulevard from approximately 2200 East to 2400 East.

As the municipal center continues to take shape, the city will host another open house to show plans and take public comment. It is anticipated that the open house will take place sometime in late September. For updates, visit our website, www.ch.utah.gov, and follow @CHCity on Twitter and Facebook. ■

Forum to Address Future of Wasatch Canyons

The League of Women Voters is sponsoring a community forum to discuss Mountain Accord and the future of recreation, transportation, the environment and the economy in the Central Wasatch Mountains. The meeting will take place in the Tessman Auditorium at the Salt Lake City Main Library on Sept. 18 at 6:30 p.m.

Mountain Accord Program Director Laynee Jones will moderate a discussion among panelists representing Salt Lake City Public Utilities, the University of Utah, Wasatch Mountain Club, and Uinta-Cache-Wasatch National Forest. A question and answer period will follow the panel discussion. ■



BE THE VOICE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

**PRESERVE THE LEGACY OF THE
CENTRAL WASATCH MOUNTAINS**

Visit www.mountainaccord.com
between now and January to learn more
and share your vision for:

TRANSPORTATION

RECREATION

ENVIRONMENT

ECONOMY

COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS RECREATION CENTER

•7500 SOUTH 2700 EAST• (801)943-3190•

REGISTRATION IS HAPPENING NOW

Swimming Lessons
Pre-Comp
Boy Scouts

Classes begin the week of September 15

FIT KIDS IS STARTING BACK UP

Monday-Thursday 4:00 pm-4:45 pm
\$2.00 Each

Classes are limited so come early and be a
part of our fun kids fitness classes!

Come register for our 8TH ANNUAL COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS ADULT TENNIS TOURNAMENT

Registration is open until September 7 at utahtennis.com
Tournament dates: September 15-20

LEARN TO SKATE SPECIAL

"2 for 1"

Two (2) skaters
can register for the price of
one (1)

*Fall Session 1 only,
both skaters must register at the same

SUMMER ISN'T OVER YET

The outdoor pools will still be open
Saturdays and Sundays from Noon until 4pm
September 6 & 7 and September 13 & 14;
all indoor pools will be closed until September 15,
for re-plastering and repairs



COTTONWOODHEIGHTS.COM



FIND US ON FACEBOOK

City Council Members

MAYOR - Kelynn H. Cullimore, Jr.

DIST# 1 - Michael L. Shelton

DIST# 2 - J. Scott Bracken

DIST# 3 - Michael J. Peterson

DIST# 4 - Tee W. Tyler

CITY MANAGER - John Park

City Office

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84047

Phone(801) 944-7000

Fax.....(801) 944-7005

Numbers to Know

Emergency..... 911

Dispatch 840-4000

Fire Authority 743-7100

Animal Control 840-4000

Justice Court..... 273-9731

Call Direct

City Manager 944-7010

City Planning 944-7065

Public Works 944-7090

Recorder 944-7020

Finance Director..... 944-7012

Code Enforcement... 944-7095

Police Administration. 944-7100

City Council Meetings

Sept. 2 - Work Session 6 p.m.

Sept. 9 - Work Session 6 p.m.,
Business Meeting 7 p.m.

*(Work session reconvenes after
business meeting.)*

Sept. 16 - No meeting

Sept. 23 - Work Session 6
p.m., Business Meeting 7 p.m.

*(Work session reconvenes after
business meeting.)*

Sept. 30 - No meeting

Agendas are posted 24 hours
in advance of public meetings.
For details about the agendas,
check our web site:
www.ch.utah.gov

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Upcoming Marathon to Impact Traffic in Canyon, City

The Big Cottonwood Marathon and Half will take place on Sept. 13. The race has the potential to heavily impact traffic in Big Cottonwood Canyon and along Wasatch and Fort Union Boulevards on the morning of the race. Please be aware of the following information, and plan alternate routes ahead of time if needed.

The marathon is being staged at Brighton Resort and the half marathon is being staged at Spruces Campground. Runners will be in the canyon from approximately 7 a.m. to noon. During that time, the westbound lane will be reserved for runners and a pilot car system will be used to coordinate traffic flow up and down the canyon in the eastbound lane.

Once runners leave the canyon, they will run westbound on Fort Union Boulevard to the finish venue between 1300 East and Union Park Avenue. Because the course runs through the city, several road closures will be in place during the event.

- Wasatch Boulevard will be closed between Fort Union Boulevard and 6200 South. All Wasatch traffic will be diverted to I-215 or Union Park Avenue for north-south travel.
- Old Wasatch Boulevard will be closed between 6200 South and Oakcliff Drive.
- Most of Fort Union Boulevard will be open for east-west travel during the event, but lane restrictions will be in place to accommodate runners.
- Fort Union Boulevard will be closed between 1300 East and Union Park

Avenue from 12 a.m. on the day of the race until the conclusion of the event.

- Northbound and southbound traffic will not be allowed to cross Fort Union Boulevard between Wasatch Boulevard and Union Park Avenue from approximately 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.



Join us for some fun in the sun.

Saturday, September 6

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Mountview Park
(1651 E. Fort Union Boulevard)

- Splash Pad open for Canines**
- Police K9 Demo**
- Animal-friendly Vendors**
- Contests**

More information: ch.utah.gov/get_involved/community_events.html

New Businesses in Cottonwood Heights

BUSINESS

BUSINESS ADDRESS

BUSINESS TYPE

Brock Best Photography

6794 S. 1300 E.

Photography

Integrated

Sports Performance

3436 E. Bengal Blvd. #A

Sports Personal Training

Utah Home Builders

6965 S. Union Park Ctr. #260

Residential Development