



Cottonwood Heights, UT | February 2022 | FREE

# BETWEEN THE CANYONS

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

## I'm humbled and grateful to be your new mayor

### Mayor Mike Weichers



It's been a couple of months now since the election, and I am still extremely humbled and grateful I have the opportunity to be the mayor of Cottonwood Heights. There is much to do, and I understand the responsibility and trust I

have been handed. I feel grateful for the opportunity to be able to represent our great city in many different capacities.

I also look forward to continuing to meet as many of our residents as possible over the next four years and to working alongside many of you to solve problems together.

While campaigning over the past year, a common frustration from our citizens was a lack of awareness of city council agenda items that can directly affect

their neighborhoods. I encourage you to sign up for city meeting email notifications to receive full agendas in advance so you know what issues and items will be discussed. You can click the banner on the homepage or visit [ch.utah.gov/emails](http://ch.utah.gov/emails) to subscribe to meeting announcements for:

- City council
- Architectural Review Commission
- Arts Council
- Board of Adjustment
- Historic Committee
- Planning Commission

Of course, you are always welcome to attend meetings in person or online through Zoom and participate in public comment periods. If you are unable to view the meetings live, watch them on our YouTube channel ([youtube.com/c/CottonwoodHeights](https://youtube.com/c/CottonwoodHeights)) at your convenience. Our goal as a council is to provide transparency by having as many of our residents as possible aware in advance of the issues the council will

*I'm humbled and grateful continued on page 3*

## CITY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

### UPCOMING TENTATIVE AGENDA ITEMS

#### FEBRUARY 1

- CITATION HONORING MAYOR PETERSON
- PARKS & RECREATION REPORT
- NUISANCE ORDINANCE DISCUSSION
- MID-VALLEY ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN INTRODUCTION
- REAPPOINTMENTS TO THE ARTS COUNCIL
- RACQUET CLUB DRIVE PARKING PETITION

#### FEBRUARY 15

- MOUNTAINOUS PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT
- SLC PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD REPORT
- NUISANCE ORDINANCE DISCUSSION
- Y2 ANALYTICS COMMUNITY SURVEY DISCUSSION

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

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History question  
of the month**Answer on page 6**

Alva Tanner, a South Cottonwood resident, made a terrible discovery on his way from Union to Sandy on Feb. 18, 1874. What was it?

Cottonwood Heights is now hiring for the summer *Willy Wonka* production

We're now hiring talented professionals for the summer 2022 production of *Willy Wonka*, which will be performed in July. Positions include:

- **Costumer**
- **Set builder**
- **Sound design**

- **Stage manager**

Send your resume to culture coordinator Caroline Whitmore at [cwhitmore@ch.utah.gov](mailto:cwhitmore@ch.utah.gov). ■

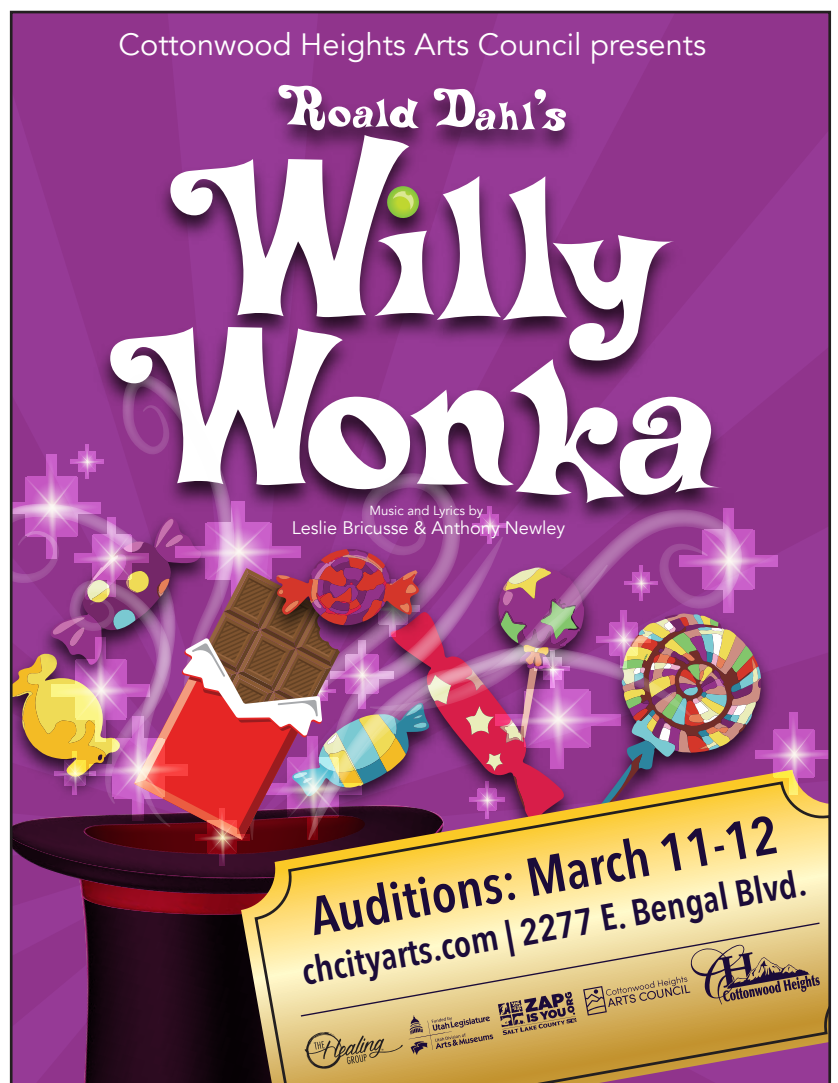
Volunteer for or sponsor the  
2022 Butlerville Days celebration!

The Butlerville Days Committee is looking for new members. If you are interested in organizing the parade, bingo, or craft vendors or would like to help during the event, email culture manager Ann Eatchel at [aeatchel@ch.utah.gov](mailto:aeatchel@ch.utah.gov).

We also need sponsors for this year's event, scheduled for July 28-30, 2022. Sponsoring Butlerville Days allows you to:

- Promote your products
- Gain recognition as a community partner
- Increase your visibility in the community
- Support Cottonwood Heights by offering event deals for patrons

The Butlerville Committee prides itself on having a fun, entertaining family event. For more information, visit [Butlervilledays.com](http://Butlervilledays.com) or call Ann Eatchel at 801-550-8225. ■





*I'm humbled and grateful* continued from cover

be discussing.

Another advantage to being informed is the opportunity to be engaged and involved in many of the community-focused activities that our city offers. Each month there are opportunities to attend city events and activities, created with the hope that our residents will want to participate and either renew or create a sense of community that brings people together.

Last, I want to recognize the citizens for whom I may not have been their first choice. I want them to know that I am committed to being their mayor and to listening to all voices. A wise former mayor of our city once said, "We are a great community, not because we are all alike, but because we are able to take the best from every corner and combine it into a city where people want to live."

I reaffirm my commitment to fight for the ideals of our community together, shoulder to shoulder with each of our citizens to make sure we all have a voice together. ■



**Mayor Weichers, left, stands with former mayors Mike Peterson and Kelvyn Cullimore**

## City council work sessions now begin at 4 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of each month

Update your calendars! The city council now holds its work sessions at 4 p.m. instead of 5 p.m. Business meetings still begin at 7 p.m.

## Attend the General Plan open house on Tuesday, March 8, to share feedback

Over the past year, the city has been working on an update to its General Plan, the overarching master plan that guides the city's direction in areas such as land use, transportation, and economic development. As part of this update effort, project consultants are holding an open house

**Tuesday, March 8, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at City Hall (2277 E. Bengal Blvd.)** to gather community members' feedback on their visions for Cottonwood Heights' future.

Resident and business owner feedback is critical for creating a plan that represents our community's

identity today and our hopes for it tomorrow. Please join us and provide your input on this important plan! We will also share all open house materials to the project website, [cottonwoodheightstomorrow.org](https://cottonwoodheightstomorrow.org), if you'd prefer to engage virtually.

## Johnson family recognized for saving neighbor's life during 2020 house fire

Unified Fire Authority assistant fire chief Riley Pilgrim recognized the Johnson family at a city council meeting last month for their heroism when their neighbor's home caught fire in 2020.

13-year-old Aspen Johnson was celebrating her birthday on Aug. 24, 2020, when she noticed smoke coming from her next-door neighbor's garage and deck area. She quickly realized this was not normal and told her parents, Dave and Abby Johnson.

Dave knew his neighbor Steve Adamson was home asleep with both of his dogs and immediately ran to the house and pounded on the door. The fire had now overtaken the garage, deck, kitchen and living room area.

Abby Johnson called 911 and told neighbors to the east to evacuate their homes. Her son Chase helped her knock on neighbors' doors and also watched his younger brother, Dash, at home. The fire was now burning the shared fence and trees on the adjoining property.

Steve finally responded to Dave's urgent banging on the door. He wanted to go back in to save his dogs, but Dave stopped him, saving his life. When firefighters arrived, they described the fire as "unsurvivable" and could not enter the home to search it. Both dogs later died in the fire.

Former Cottonwood Heights resident Brent Adamson, whose brother was rescued and who nominated the Johnson family for the award, said, "It is clear to me that had the Johnsons not all responded so quickly to this emergency, Steve would not have survived." ■



Have a great story to share about a Cottonwood Heights resident or family? Email us at [pr@ch.utah.gov](mailto:pr@ch.utah.gov).

## Winter fire hydrant maintenance: Know where the clear-away zone is

Assistant fire chief Riley Pilgrim



Maintaining a clear and workable space around fire hydrants during the winter months is critical. In general, this responsibility falls on the residents who own or occupy property nearest a hydrant. When

responding to structure fires, time is of the essence.

If you have a hydrant on or near your property, here are things you can do to ensure firefighters can connect to the hydrant when needed:

- **Shovel or snowblow three feet of space on each side and behind the fire hydrant**
- **Maintain an open corridor from the**

**street to the front of the fire hydrant**

- **Make sure clearings go all the way to the ground whenever possible or at least one foot below the hydrant caps at a minimum**

Some neighborhoods organize an Adopt-A-Hydrant program. This helps neighbors realize they need to clear snow around hydrants and maintain space around them. It also allows you to help others with these tasks when you're already out shoveling or snowblowing your driveways and sidewalks.

Consider talking to your neighbors about a reasonable schedule you can follow when the next snow storm hits. If you do notice a damaged or leaking fire hydrant, contact your water company.

As always, thank you and have a safe winter! ■



## UCAIR: Three ways to improve air quality during Utah's winter months

Ask Utahns about winter in the Salt Lake Valley, and they might mention two things: snow and air quality. The same place that offers the "greatest snow on Earth" also frequently tops charts for the worst air pollution in the country.

Luckily, individual action can go a long way

in improving air quality. The Utah Clean Air Partnership, UCAIR, offers many helpful tips for actions you can take at home, work, or in the community. A snapshot of these options includes:

**At home: Turn down the thermostat**

Lowering your thermostat, even by just several degrees, is a great way to boost the energy efficiency of your home. By cutting energy consumption, you are also cutting the emissions impact of your home. To make things even easier, consider installing a smart thermostat that

automatically adjusts the temperature based on time of day and occupancy.

**At work: Telecommute**

If your line of work allows it, consider working from home on poor air quality days. Approximately half of Utah's winter-time emissions come from vehicles, so eliminating unnecessary car trips by telecommuting can have a big impact.

**In the community: Be idle-free**

When you do make trips in your vehicle, please refrain from idling. Emissions produced from idling are easily trapped in the winter inversion, meaning that the emissions from your vehicle directly affect air quality around you.

For resources that address air pollution, visit [ucair.org/what-you-can-do](http://ucair.org/what-you-can-do). To view current air quality conditions, visit [deq.utah.gov/division-air-quality](http://deq.utah.gov/division-air-quality). ■



## 5 myths (and truths) about the COVID-19 vaccine from Utah physicians

Check out the following common myths (and facts) about the COVID-19 vaccine from the Utah Department of Health:

**MYTH: The vaccines aren't effective**

**FACT:** Data from both the clinical trials and real world studies show the COVID-19 vaccines are incredibly effective at preventing sickness, hospitalization, and death. Recent studies show the vaccines work against the new variants of the virus identified so far and prevent virus transmission to other people.

**MYTH: COVID-19 vaccines change your DNA**

**FACT:** The COVID-19 vaccines (Pfizer and Moderna) are mRNA vaccines and don't interact

with your DNA in any way. They don't have any live virus in them and can't give you COVID. Messenger RNA (mRNA) is genetic material that tells your body how to make proteins. These vaccines teach your body to make copies of the spike protein on the virus, triggering an immune response to create antibodies to protect you.

**MYTH: COVID-19 vaccines contain microchips**

**FACT:** COVID-19 vaccines do not contain a microchip or tracking device. This misinformation spread to scare people and has been proven false.

**MYTH: Kids don't need the COVID-19 vaccine**

**FACT:** There is a common misunderstanding that children do not get COVID-19 or are not

at risk for severe illness from the virus. However, some children do get sick enough to require treatment in the hospital.

**MYTH: I had COVID and don't need vaccines**

**FACT:** Even if you still have some immunity from having the virus, studies are showing the immunity from the vaccines better protects against variants, keeps you from even getting the virus again, and lasts longer than natural immunity. Vaccination is a much safer and effective way to develop immunity than being infected by the virus because you don't know how COVID-19 will affect you. Visit [coronavirus.utah.gov/vaccine-facts](http://coronavirus.utah.gov/vaccine-facts) for more information. ■



## Check the recycling guide before putting items in recycling bins

Take time to familiarize yourself with recyclable items. As a reminder, plastic bags cannot be recycled in WFWRD bins, but many grocery stores accept these (and plastic film) for recycling.

Visit [wasatchfrontwaste.org/recycling](http://wasatchfrontwaste.org/recycling) for a list of locations that recycle glass and e-waste. By reducing contamination and keeping plastic bags out of recycling, you can continue to keep costs low. Remember: When in doubt, throw it out! ■

## Wasatch Front Waste's green waste program to resume March 16

Wasatch Front Waste and Recycling District's weekly green waste collection program will resume Wednesday, March 16, for Cottonwood Heights residents.

Residents pay the one-time \$60 fee for the can and \$126 per year for the service, which diverts green waste from the landfill to be processed into mulch at the Salt Lake Valley and Trans-Jordan landfills. A green waste can is less expensive than an additional black garbage can, which costs \$204 per year. For more information on this program, visit [wasatchfrontwaste.org/green-waste](http://wasatchfrontwaste.org/green-waste). ■

## Call WFWRD about broken or damaged recycling and trash cans

If your garbage or recycling can is broken or damaged due to normal wear and tear, call WFWRD at 385-468-6325. A technician will come and repair or replace your cans; your service fees cover these costs. You can also complete an online service order request at [wasatchfrontwaste.org/report-a-problem-or-request-service](http://wasatchfrontwaste.org/report-a-problem-or-request-service). ■

### Recycling Guide

All Items must be **EMPTY** and **DRY**

**Plastic Bottles, Tubs, Jugs, & Jars (no lids)**



**Metal, Aluminum, & Empty Aerosol Cans**



**Cardboard, Mixed Paper (Office/Junk), Paperboard & Paper Bags**





**Plastic Bags**

Wasatch Front Waste & Recycling District  
604 West 6960 South, Midvale, Utah 84047  
Phone: (385) 468-6325 • Fax: (385) 468-6330  
[Info@wasatchfrontwaste.org](mailto:Info@wasatchfrontwaste.org) • [www.wasatchfrontwaste.org](http://www.wasatchfrontwaste.org)





## WESTMINSTER TAX CLINIC

an official VITA site

Free tax preparation and filing January 24-April 18, 2022

**SALT LAKE SITE**

**Salt Lake County Government Center**  
2001 South State Street  
Salt Lake City, UT 84190

*Monday-Thursday*  
4:30-9:30 PM  
*Saturday*  
10:00 AM-6:00 PM

Appointment-only site

**PARK CITY SITE**

**Summit County Library Kimball Junction**  
1885 West Ute Blvd  
Park City, UT 84098

*Tuesday*  
10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Appointment-only site

**WEST VALLEY SITE**

**SLCC West Valley Center**  
3460 South 5600 West  
West Valley City, UT 84120

*Thursday*  
10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Appointment-only site

Visit  
[westminstercollege.edu/taxclinic](http://westminstercollege.edu/taxclinic)  
or call 801.210.8291 to schedule an appointment.











Point your camera at the QR code and follow the link to schedule an appointment.

## Get free tax preparation and filing at the Westminster Tax Clinic (a VITA partner)

Need help with your taxes this winter? The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers free tax preparation and filing for eligible residents Jan. 24 - April 18, 2022, through the Westminster Tax Clinic.

You may qualify for the VITA program if you:

- Earn a moderate income or less
- Have a disability
- Are a senior citizen
- Don't speak English well

Appointments are required at the Salt Lake City, West Valley, and Park City sites. To make an appointment, use the QR code on the adjacent flyer, visit [westminstercollege.edu/taxclinic](http://westminstercollege.edu/taxclinic), or call 801-210-8291. ■



## Answer

**Question,** continued from page 2

Alva Tanner found his father-in-law, Peter Van Valkenburg, lying dead in the road. Silas Richards, the justice of the peace and coroner in Union, had Van Valkenburg's body taken to his home for an inquest.

Richards learned that Van Valkenburg was coming home from Sandy with a wagonload of manure when he experienced a problem with the wagon. While Van Valkenburg was repairing it, someone fired almost a dozen shotgun balls, killing him.

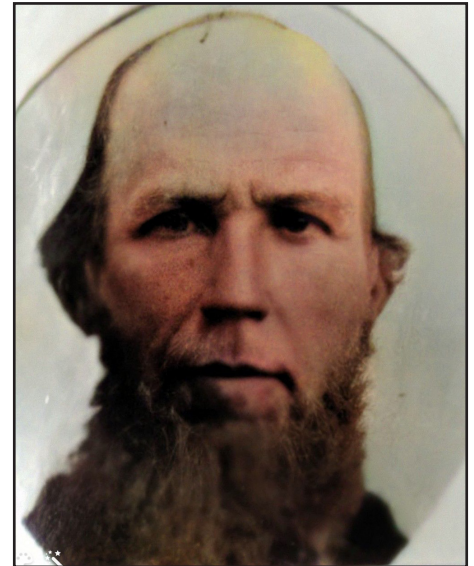
During the inquest, Salt Lake County Deputy Sheriff Martin Florida pursued those who had shot Van Valkenburg, arresting seven men. Florida eventually charged two with murder — stepson-in-law William Kelly and Philip Shafer, a blacksmith living with the Kelly family.

Three others were charged with complicity, but the charges were dismissed due to lack of evidence. The other two, a Sandy saloon keeper and ex-stepson-in-law Thomas Fox, became the main witnesses for the prosecution in the trials of Kelly and Shafer.

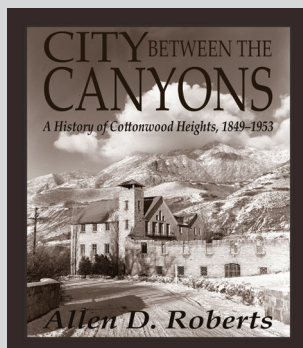
Shafer was tried in the Salt Lake Third District Court, found guilty of first-degree murder and sentenced to death. He appealed and was later convicted of second-degree murder and sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Kelly was convicted of second-degree murder in Provo's First District Court and also sentenced to 10 years in prison. A jury determined the motive for the murder was a longstanding dispute over property.

Van Valkenburg was buried in the Union Pioneer Cemetery on Creek Road. ■



**Peter Van Valkenburg**



### Buy the book!

Find more community stories in *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](http://ch.utah.gov/history-book) for \$25 (3 for \$59) with shipping. ■



  
**COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS**  
 PARKS & RECREATION SERVICE AREA

Text NEWSLETTER to 801-943-3190 for the latest  
 Parks & Rec digital newsletter!

## City council members

**MAYOR:** Michael Weichers

**DIST# 1:** Douglas Petersen

**DIST# 2:** J. Scott Bracken

**DIST# 3:** Shawn E. Newell

**DIST# 4:** Ellen Birrell

**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. 1:** Work session at 4 p.m., business meeting at 7 p.m.
- **Feb. 15:** Work session at 4 p.m., business meeting at 7 p.m.

Work sessions may reconvene after business meetings.

Agendas are posted at least 24 hours before public meetings.

For agenda details, visit [ch.utah.gov](http://ch.utah.gov).

City council meetings are held the first and third Tuesday of every month at 4 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

## Planning Commission

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

## Editors

Lindsay Wilcox, Kim Horiuchi

## Utah legislature update on budget and water use

Representative Gay Lynn Bennion



*Note: We invite all state legislators representing our city to contribute content on a rotating basis.*

As Utah House Representative for District 46 (most of Cottonwood Heights) I'm grateful for this opportunity to provide an update on important issues this session.

**Budget:** Utah received over \$1 billion in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and other federal funds due to the pandemic. Because our economy recovered so quickly, we can use funds proactively. Our budget this year will be \$20.77 billion. With a healthy economic state, there's a temptation to cut taxes.

However, some of my constituents who are retired state employees have expressed concerns that the normal 2% annual retirement increase isn't keeping pace with inflation. Other constituents with disabled adult children are concerned that group homes that provide care for their children are closing due to staff shortages caused by low pay and hope that staff funding can increase. And there are various other competing needs, which I believe should be considered before taxes are cut.

**Water:** We continue to experience extreme drought conditions throughout western states. Utah will invest half a billion dollars in water infrastructure, and \$250 million will provide secondary water metering. Research finds people reduce water use by 20-30% when water is metered. This alone could provide 80,000 acre feet from the Bear River drainage area to the Great Salt Lake, which is at historic low levels. The dust on the 800 square miles of

exposed lake bed is increasing PM2 and other dangerous particulates in our air, endangering our health.

Utah's water laws promote use, not conservation. Fortunately, wise leaders recently passed water banking, split-season leasing, and other laws to allow water sharing while maintaining the water right. These new laws allowed Rio Tinto to donate 21,000 acre feet of annual water to the Great Salt Lake for the next 10 years.

I serve on the Natural Resources Committee and am a sponsor of HB131, the Watershed Restoration Initiative, which would create an endowment fund to increase the division's work, reducing wildfire risk and improving forest and watershed health through innovations like beaver dam analogs.

**Community:** As I connect with constituents, I report a great need. Some of you feel lonely and isolated, unconnected from one another. This is in part due to the pandemic, but it has been a trend over the last few decades.

As I have met residents, I have been able to connect them with their neighbors. In some instances, these neighbors have shared a fence for decades but haven't made time to connect. I have met people who feel they don't have friends here in our wonderful community.

Do you know your neighbors? Is there someone who would benefit from a conversation with you? Let's strengthen ourselves and our community by connecting with one another.

Visit [gaylynnbennion.com](http://gaylynnbennion.com) or call Gay Lynn at 385-200-1794. You can also join her Zoom town halls on Feb. 10 and Feb. 24 (with Senator Kathleen Riebe). ■

Don't miss a single event update! Visit [ch.utah.gov/emails](http://ch.utah.gov/emails) to subscribe to city emails, including:

- Event notifications
- City council meeting agendas and reminders
- Employment opportunities
- Digital city newsletters
- Road projects
- Committee meeting reminders (Arts Council, Historic Committee, Architectural Review Commission, and Planning Commission)
- Public notices
- Volunteer opportunities



## Business spotlight

### Rocky Mountain Paints Cottonwood | 7035 S. 1300 E. | Benjamin Moore retailer

Our team is thrilled to be serving the Cottonwood Heights community! We offer a wide range of Benjamin Moore paint and sundries to help with all your home improvement needs. With 10+ years of experience, we strive to provide trusted guidance, quality products, and exceptional service to all.

Visit us today and find out how we can help you with your next project! We speak English and Spanish. ■



### Attend the Rocky Mountain Paints Cottonwood ribbon cutting February 22!

Welcome Rocky Mountain Paints Cottonwood with us! Attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony on Tuesday, Feb. 22, at 11 a.m. at 7035 S. 1300 E. ■



Contact or visit our local businesses for their February specials.

### Botanique Savon Artisanal | 801-550-8072 | botaniquesavon.com

Botanique Savon Artisanal is offering three local specials during February:

- A gift box with a solid lotion bar, bath bomb cube, shower steamer and luxury lip butter: **\$16**
- A three-pack of bath bomb cubes: **\$12**
- Individual 3-ounce bath bomb favors: **\$3 each or 10 for \$25**

All items are available in a variety of fragrances. To order, email Deborah at [botaniquesavon@gmail.com](mailto:botaniquesavon@gmail.com). ■

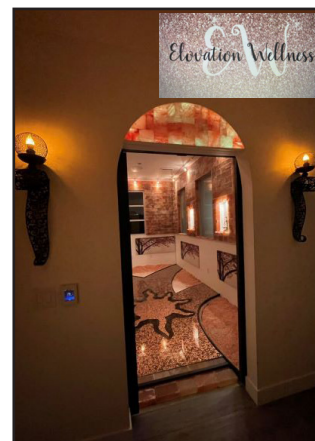


### Elevation Wellness | 6800 S. Highland Drive #200

New clients: Buy a Himalayan salt room five-session pass for \$150 in February and receive one free punch-pass for a loved one, coworker or friend.

You can also add a 20-minute targeted LED light therapy salt room (lined with medical-grade pink Himalayan salt bricks and featuring heated salt floors) treatment for \$15.

Visit Elevation Wellness during February to learn more about the special. ■



### Rocky Mountain Paints Cottonwood | 7035 S. 1300 E. | A Benjamin Moore paint retailer

Visit the new Rocky Mountain Paints Cottonwood store to get 15% off all purchases through Feb. 28. This offer is valid in-store only. ■

Interested in participating in Love Your Locals? This is a great way to promote your business and meet new customers from Cottonwood Heights! Email Sherrie Martell at [smartell@ch.utah.gov](mailto:smartell@ch.utah.gov) or call 801-944-7067 to learn more.

