



Cottonwood Heights, UT | July 2026 | FREE

BETWEEN THE CANYONS

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

Building Beyond the Challenges

Council Member Ellen Birrell



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

One of Cottonwood Heights' greatest strengths is our location—and the

people who call it home.

Our location, however, also brings challenges. Cottonwood Heights serves as both a gateway to canyon recreation and a route for thousands of regional commuters each day. As our region continues to grow, we must balance transportation needs, public safety, environmental stewardship, housing demand, and long-term financial

sustainability.

Serving on the City Council over the past four years has provided valuable perspective. Like many communities, we navigated a period marked by high inflation, changing sales tax revenues, infrastructure investments, and rising operating costs. During that time, the City chose to bond for additional buildings. Our expenses went up but chose not to increase property taxes, instead drawing on reserves and deferring maintenance. As we prepare future budgets, city leaders have started a citizen budget committee, cut staffing and certain services, and evaluated how best to maintain essential services, invest in infrastructure, and preserve the quality of life residents expect.

Many of the concerns residents raise are connected to broader changes affecting our region. Longer wildfire seasons, the resulting poor air quality,

Building Beyond the Challenges Continued on page 3

CITY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- JULY 7
- PUBLIC WORKS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET
 - INITIAL FINDINGS FOR CREEK ROAD CROSSWALK STUDY
 - SURPLUS BADGE AND GUN
 - APPOINTMENTS TO ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE
 - APPOINTMENT TO HEALTH IN THE HEIGHTS
 - EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION
 - APPOINTMENT OF YOUTH CITY COUNCIL ADVISOR

- JULY 21
- HISTORIC COMMITTEE REPORT
 - CANYONS SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT
 - FOLLOW UP ON CHARM EVENT
 - FINANCE REPORT
 - CONTRACT AGREEMENT WITH KIMLEY HORN FOR THE CITY COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY ACTION PLAN

- AUGUST 4
- AMENDING THE PDD-2 TO CHANGE THE PROPOSED HOTEL TO A CONDO
 - UNIFIED FIRE AUTHORITY REPORT

- AUGUST 11 AT 6 PM
- TRUTH IN TAXATION

FOR FULL AGENDAS, PLEASE VISIT CH.UTAH.GOV

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EVENTS CALENDAR

- JUNE 15 - JULY 31 : ART EXHIBIT AMERICA250 DISPLAY AT CITY HALL
- JULY 2 - 3 : CITY OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON THURSDAY, JULY 2ND IN OBSERVANCE OF THE INDEPENDENCE DAY HOLIDAY.
- JULY 16 - JULY 18 : BUTLERVILLE DAYS
- JULY 23 - 24 : CITY OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON THURSDAY, JULY 23RD IN OBSERVANCE OF PIONEER DAY HOLIDAY
- AUGUST 11: TRUTH IN TAXATION MEETING AT CITY HALL FROM 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

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



Art Exhibit
Cottonwood Heights
America 250 Ad Hoc Committee

June 15th - July 31st, 2026
Mon - Thurs - 7 am to 5 pm
Cottonwood Heights City Hall
2277 E. Bengal Blvd.

Dear America,

Students and residents in the city have written heartfelt letters addressed to “Dear America.” These letters will be on display at City Hall, and residents are invited to stop by, read through them, and experience the thoughts, hopes, and perspectives of our locals. We encourage everyone in the community to come and take a look and even write one of your own.

“Dear America” stationary is available at City Hall, Whitmore Library, CH Rec Center, and some local businesses: Rooted, Alpha Coffee, Coventry, Dali Crepes, Culpa Coffee, Cottonwood Cafe, and on the city website.



RED, WHITE & BLOOM

CELEBRATE AMERICA'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY BY RECOGNIZING THE PATRIOTIC PRIDE IN OUR COMMUNITY

AMERICA



UTAH

COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS CITY



WE INVITE RESIDENTS TO NOMINATE NEIGHBORS WHO GO ABOVE AND BEYOND WITH OUTSTANDING PATRIOTIC YARD DISPLAYS THAT SHOWCASE THEIR LOVE FOR OUR COUNTRY AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT.

FROM FLAGS AND LIGHTS TO CREATIVE RED, WHITE, AND BLUE DECORATIONS, WE WANT TO SEE THE YARDS THAT HELP MAKE OUR CITY SHINE.



NOMINATIONS OPEN JUNE-JULY. WINNERS ANNOUNCED IN AUGUST.

VISIT CH.UTAH.GOV TO COMPLETE THE NOMINATION FORM AND HELP US HONOR THE MOST PATRIOTIC YARDS IN OUR COMMUNITY!



AMERICA'S Potluck
★ JULY 5, 2026 ★

— LET'S SHOW THE NATION —
WHAT UTAHNS BRING TO AMERICA'S POTLUCK!

Come join the movement to build connections within your community by spreading the word and planning to host a potluck—of America250 Potluck.



BUILD CONNECTIONS
Strengthen community through food and friendship.



CELEBRATE TOGETHER
Honor America's 250th anniversary with your neighbors.



FIND OR HOST A POTLUCK
Join a local potluck or pin your own on the map.



SHARE WHAT MATTERS
Share your favorite dishes, stories, and traditions.



One Nation. Many Dishes.
★ ★ ★
STRONGER TOGETHER.

SCAN HERE



TO FIND A POTLUCK NEAR YOU OR HOST YOUR OWN AND PIN YOUR POTLUCK!



BUTLERVILLE DAYS
250

July 16th - 18th, 2026
Butler Park, 7500 South 2700 East
Cottonwood Heights City

Event Details: CH.UTAH.GOV/BVD

Building Beyond the Challenges Continued from cover

outside pressures on our water resources, and the shrinking Great Salt Lake. All of these regional concerns coupled with the everyday pressures that individuals and families face, may create feelings of anxiety and helplessness.

These feelings and the realities that are responsible for these feelings require thoughtful consideration and, at times, difficult choices.

Fortunately, Cottonwood Heights is not starting from scratch about some of these concerns. Previous councils adopted master plans and resolutions which spelled out reduction of carbon emissions, open space preservation, tree-lined streets, active transportation including transit, housing to meet various income levels, and walkable & bicycle-friendly roadways. Those guiding principles remain valuable as we consider future development, infrastructure and general plan update decisions.

Recent efforts by Cottonwood Heights council members to address some of these issues include stronger regulation of short-term rentals, continued

support for recycling and waste-reduction programs, improvements for safer mobility, new housing and redevelopment projects that will shape our community for years to come.

However, there is still much to be done and the most important voices in continuing to advance the issues that matter most to our community, come from residents of this great community.

I encourage you to stay informed by signing up to receive **CWH email alerts** (ch.utah.gov/subscribe), making comments on ch.utah.gov or share them at city council meetings at 7:00 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of each month.

By staying informed, together we can navigate tough decisions ahead, while preserving what unifies Cottonwood Heights -- our connection to the outdoors and our collective spirit of supporting and helping one another. By staying engaged, listening to each other, and working toward shared goals, we can strengthen our community and continue to thrive.

Here are some upcoming events to further



engage with our wonderful Cottonwood Heights community: Butlerville Days July 16-18, the Truth in Taxation Hearing August 11, and Community Block Party in October. ■

July at the County Library | Whitmore

Teens

Teen Monthly Origami: Sauropod
Monday, July 13, All day
Includes folding instructions and paper. This month's origami is a sauropod. Packets are first come, first served.

Teen Craft Program: Dinosaur Trinket Dish
Monday, July 20, 4 pm
Come make your own trinket dish with a dinosaur twist!

Teen Bird a Month: Allosaurus Gull
Monday, July 27, All day
Come in every month in 2026 to make a different seasonal bird. This month's bird is a California Gull getting into the summer reading spirit with an allosaurus suit! Packets are first come, first served, while supplies last.
Sewing needle not included

Early Learners

Family Storytime
Tuesdays July 7, 14, 21, 28
10:15 am

Storytime fun for the whole family. We'll be talking, singing, reading, writing and playing.

Ready, Set, Move!
Thursdays July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
10:15 am

Can you 'head, shoulders, knees and toes' with the best? Music and movement for little ones and their grown-ups.

Play & Learn
Thursdays July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
11 am

Interactive play and early learning activities for children ages 0-5 and their caring adult(s).

Family

Summer Reading Program
Summer Reading ends July 31st! Don't forget to bring your tracker sheet in by then.

Utah Puppet Theater
Friday, July 10, 11 am
Enjoy a fun and funny puppet show presented by the Utah Puppet Theater!

Wizard Magic Show
Saturday, July 11, 11 am
Prepared to be amazed with the wizarding magic of magician Jason Fun.

Family STEM: Phabulous Physics
Friday, July 17, 11 am
Explore the physics of the world around us with Tori Andersen, a science demonstrator.

Family STEM: Eocene Ecosystems
Monday, July 27, 11 am
Explore Utah's past with fossils from the Natural History Museum of Utah!

Mont Magic Show
Wednesday, July 29, 11 am
Come enjoy a fun and interactive magic show with magician Mont Duston!

Kids

Lego Club: Summer Edition!
Wednesday, July 1, 11 am
Build and create with tons of our LEGO® bricks. Held in the storytime room upstairs.

Read to a Dog!
Saturday, July 25, 11 am
Friday, July 31, 11 am
Read a book to Kings or Geo. therapy dogs who love being read to! For kids of all ages. Stop by the children's desk on the morning of the activity to sign up.

Adults

All Ability Kits
Wednesday, July 1, All day
Pick up an activity kit designed for **ADULTS** and **TEENS** with intellectual disabilities while supplies last!

Adult Drop-in Activity: International Drop a Rock Day
Friday, July 3, All day
Drop in to paint a small rock with uplifting words or artwork, then choose a fun place to leave it for others to find! One rock to paint per person, while supplies last.

Ceramics Painting with Judy
Thursday, July 9, 6 pm
Paint your own ceramics! Learn different techniques and styles of painting. All supplies, including ceramics, are provided. For **ADULTS** and **TEENS**.

Jewelry with Judy
Tuesday, July 14, 6 pm
Make unique jewelry to give as gifts or to keep for yourself! All jewelry supplies are provided. For **ADULTS** and **TEENS**.

Nonfiction Book Club
Wednesday, July 15, 7 pm
Join us for a discussion of new and noteworthy nonfiction books. This month's book is *Being Mortal* by Atun Gawande. New readers are always welcome!

Localscapes Gardening
Saturday, July 18, 11 am
Learn how to create a water-efficient, low-maintenance yard with the Localscapes method. This class covers design basics, free local resources, and substantial rebates available through Utah Water Savers. See real-life success stories and discover how to improve curb appeal while saving time and money. In partnership with Jordan Valley Water Conservation District.

Adult DIY Kit: Summer Reading Tote
Tuesday, July 21, All day
Pick up a summer-reading themed book bag kit for all your library books! Available beginning Tuesday, July 21st at the Whitmore welcome/information desk, while supplies last.

Cottonwood Heights Senior Corner



COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS SENIOR CORNER

Stay Active, Stay Healthy!

Did you know many health insurance providers offer **FREE** gym memberships for seniors through programs like SilverSneakers®? A quick call to your insurance provider can help you find out what fitness benefits are available to you.

The Cottonwood Heights Recreation Center proudly participates in SilverSneakers and offers a variety of fitness opportunities, including aquatic exercise classes. Water fitness is easy on the joints while providing resistance to help improve strength, flexibility, balance, and cardiovascular health.

Be sure to check out the Cottonwood Heights Summer Water Fitness Class Schedule!

Looking to learn something new? The Mt. Olympus Senior Center is now offering: Conversational Spanish Classes
Wednesdays & Fridays | 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
¡Qué bien!

Fraud & Scam Prevention Class

Wednesday, July 29 | 11:30 a.m.
Learn how to recognize scams and protect yourself from fraud.

Keep up the great work and continue investing in your health, learning, and well-being!

Mt. Olympus Senior Center
1635 E. Murray Holladay Rd.
Holladay, UT

Call (385) 468-3130 for more information.

Contact Us!

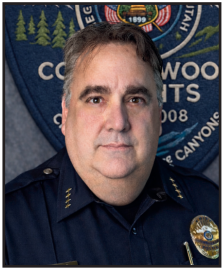


The County Library | Whitmore

2197 E Fort Union Blvd
Cottonwood Heights, Utah 84121 | 801.943.4636
thecountylibrary.org

Keep Your Children Safe at Butlerville Days

Police Chief Robby Russo



Butlerville Days is just around the corner! Each July, our city hosts one of the community's most anticipated events, featuring a carnival, food vendors, a car show, children's activities, live music, and a spectacular drone show.

The celebration attracts thousands of visitors, with attendance often exceeding 10,000 people at a time.

With crowds of this size, it is not uncommon for children to become separated from their parents or guardians. While the Cottonwood Heights Police Department works diligently to reunite families as quickly as possible, these situations can be stressful—especially

for young children who may be frightened, upset, or unable to provide important contact information.

To help keep families connected, the Cottonwood Heights Police Department will have a booth at the event offering free child identification wristbands. Parents and guardians are encouraged to stop by the booth upon arrival. Officers will provide a wristband on which a parent's or guardian's cell phone number can be written.



This simple tool allows officers or event staff to quickly contact a parent if a child becomes separated, while minimizing

the need to share personal information publicly.

We strongly encourage all families attending



Butlerville Days with young children to take advantage of this free service. A few moments at the police booth can help ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone.

We look forward to seeing you at Butlerville Days and helping make this year's celebration both fun and safe. ■

Protect Your Family from an Invisible Health Risk: Test Your Home for Radon

Did you know that radon is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers? This naturally occurring radioactive gas can enter homes through cracks and openings in foundations and build up indoors without any visible warning signs, odors, or symptoms.

What makes radon especially concerning is its unpredictability. One home may have low radon levels while a neighboring home may test at levels that pose a serious health risk. The only way to know whether your home has elevated radon levels is to test.

Testing is simple, affordable, and takes just a few minutes to set up. A short-term radon test can provide

valuable information about the air quality in your home and help you determine whether additional action is needed.

The Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) offers radon test kits at a nominal cost, and residents can also request a free radon test kit through [UtahRadon.org](https://utahradon.org). Testing is simple, affordable, and provides valuable information about the air quality in your home.

Taking a few minutes to test your home today could help protect the health of your family for years to come.

For more information about radon and testing



options, visit the Utah Department of Environmental Quality's Radon Program: **Utah DEQ Radon Program** (<https://deq.utah.gov/dwmrc/radon?utm>)

Learn more about radon, order a test kit, and find additional resources to help keep your home safe. ■



As we gear up for a fun-filled July full of fireworks and celebrations, please keep in mind a few important safety and disposal guidelines:

- **Cool before you**

toss: After use, place spent fireworks in a fire-safe container and allow them to cool

completely. If possible, soak them in a small bucket of water to prevent accidental flare-ups.

- **Do not recycle:** Firework casings—even cardboard ones—cannot be recycled. They contain chemical residues and are often made from multiple materials. Once cooled, place them in your black garbage can.

- **Save or repurpose:** If you have leftover, unused fireworks, consider saving them for Pioneer Day or re-purposing them responsibly.
- **Think green:** Explore environmentally friendly alternatives to fireworks, like laser light shows or LED displays. ■

Fireworks Restrictions Update

Due to extreme wildfire conditions across Utah, Governor Spencer Cox has issued a statewide executive order prohibiting the use of all personal fireworks through **July 5, 2026**.

Personal fireworks are prohibited throughout Cottonwood Heights and all of Salt Lake County through July 5.

Residents can view the updated fireworks information and restriction

map by visiting:

- **Salt Lake County Fireworks Information:** <https://saltlakecountyem.gov/be-prepared-community-outreach/fireworks/>

The previous fireworks discharge hours and maps showing legal discharge areas are temporarily suspended while the statewide ban remains in effect.

Residents are encouraged to celebrate safely by attending professional fireworks displays, which are still permitted under the Governor's order.

Thank you for helping reduce wildfire risk and protect our neighborhoods, open spaces, and first responders. ■

Important Update: Statewide Fireworks Ban Now in Effect

Personal Fireworks Prohibited Throughout Cottonwood Heights and Salt Lake County Through July 5

Due to extreme wildfire conditions across Utah, Governor Spencer Cox has issued a statewide executive order prohibiting the use of all personal fireworks through July 5, 2026.

As a result, personal fireworks are not permitted anywhere in Cottonwood Heights City or throughout Salt Lake County during this period.

The executive order was issued in response to ongoing drought conditions, elevated temperatures, and the increased risk of catastrophic wildfires. Even a single spark can ignite dry vegetation, threatening homes, neighborhoods, natural open spaces, and public safety.

What Residents Need to Know

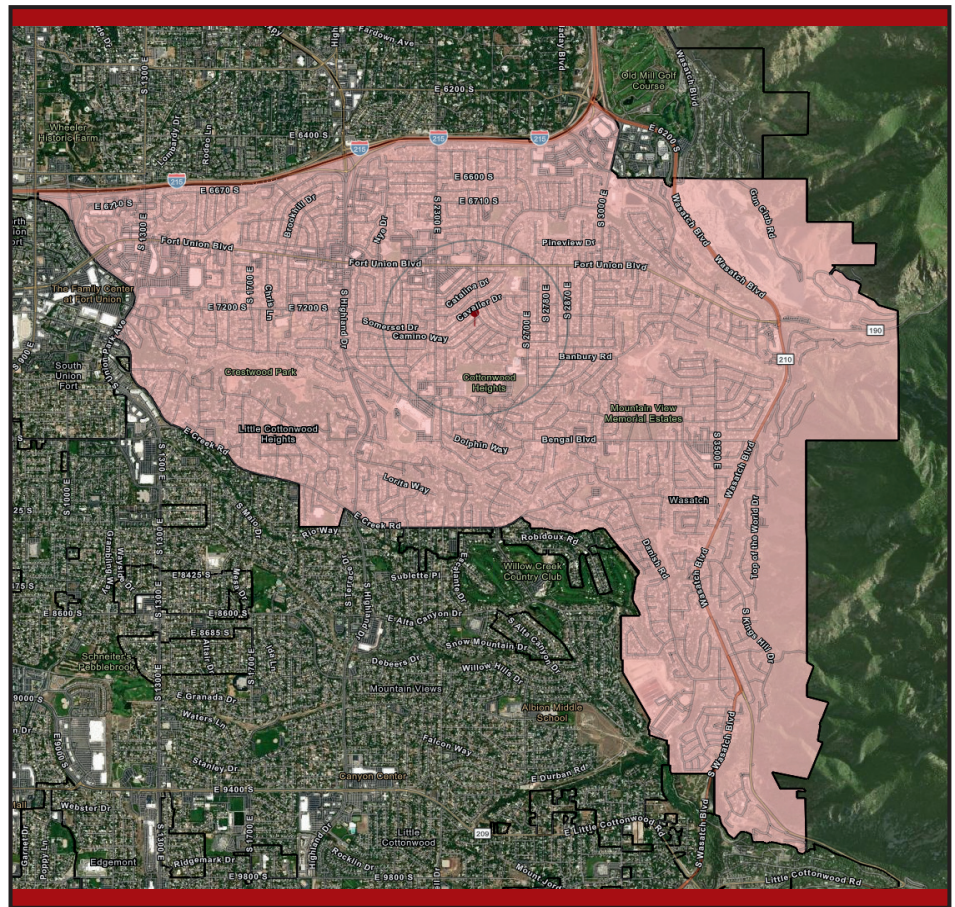
- Personal fireworks are prohibited throughout Cottonwood Heights and Salt Lake County through July 5, 2026.
- Professional fireworks displays are still permitted and remain the safest way to celebrate the Independence Day holiday.
- Salt Lake County Emergency Management has updated the county fireworks map to reflect the statewide restrictions.

View the updated fireworks information and county restriction map: <https://saltlakecountyem.gov/be-prepared-community-outreach/fireworks/>

Celebrate Safely

Cottonwood Heights City encourages residents to celebrate Independence Day by attending one of the many professional fireworks displays taking place throughout the Salt Lake Valley. Professional shows provide a safe and enjoyable way to celebrate while helping reduce the risk of wildfire.

Residents are also invited to attend the **Butterville Days Fireworks Finale on Saturday,**



July 18, 2026, at Butler Park. The evening will conclude with a spectacular professional fireworks display following the community drone show at approximately **10:00 p.m.**

Why These Restrictions Matter

Utah continues to experience exceptionally dry conditions, creating an increased risk of wildfire across the state. Even a single ember from a personal firework can quickly ignite dry grasses and vegetation, placing lives, homes, businesses, first responders, and our treasured open spaces at risk.

We appreciate the cooperation of our residents as we work together to protect our community and reduce the risk of devastating wildfires.

Looking Ahead

State officials will reassess wildfire conditions after **July 5** to determine whether additional restrictions will be necessary ahead of the **Pioneer Day** holiday.

Cottonwood Heights City will continue to provide updates as additional information becomes available. ■

Stay Connected with Cottonwood Heights!

Want to know what's happening in our city? From community events and road projects to City Council meetings, job openings, and our digital newsletter – it's all just a click away. Sign up for our email updates and never miss important news that impacts you and your neighborhood.

Subscribe now by scanning the QR code or visit the following link: cottonwoodheights.utah.gov/subscribe



Be informed. Be involved. Stay connected.

Storm-water Tip of the Month

Happy Independence Day! Just don't be so "dense" that you forget to clean up firework waste! Fireworks that are not cleaned up wash into our creeks and can damage aquatic life. Sweep up and throw all firework waste in the trash. ■

Celebrate Heritage at Butlerville Days with the Cottonwood Heights Historic Committee!

With summer in full swing, the Cottonwood Heights Historic Committee is once again preparing for Butlerville Days! This year we are offering residents a chance to connect with the local stories and history that has shaped our city. Visit the Historic Committee Booth on July 17th and 18th! This year our historical exhibit will include a collection of historic aerial maps that illustrate how our city has evolved over the decades, as well as panels discussing the history of moving water, people, and goods in Cottonwood Heights. And if you are looking to expand your personal library, we are pleased to offer the official city history book for the low price of only \$10. It is a wonderful resource for anyone wanting a deeper understanding of the people and events that built Cottonwood Heights.

Historic Trail Walk: Big Cottonwood Canyon Trail (July 18 at 11 AM)

On Saturday morning, the Historic Committee will also offer a guided historic walk along the lower part of the Big Cottonwood Canyon Trail! Attendees



should meet at the Old Mill Village at 11 AM. This walk offers a unique perspective on the early settlement of Cottonwood Heights in the shadow of Big Cottonwood Canyon. We will follow the historic signage to the iconic Old Mill. This is a fantastic opportunity to enjoy the scenery while learning about the history that makes this corridor so significant to our region.

Join the Conversation

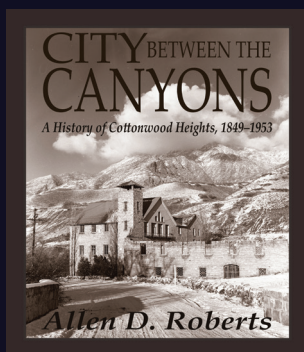
The members of the Historic Committee are passionate about preservation and education, but our favorite part of Butlerville Days is the opportunity to meet

and talk with you. Hearing your family stories and seeing your enthusiasm for our shared past is what drives our work. If you find yourself inspired by our local history and want to play an active role in preserving it for future generations, we are looking for new voices to join our committee. Whether you are a long-time resident or a newcomer with a love for research and community service, we encourage you to apply. To learn more about volunteering and how you can contribute, please visit <https://www.cottonwoodheights.utah.gov/community/volunteer>.

We look forward to seeing you at Butlerville Days! ■



Book Sale



Buy the book!

Get your very own copy of the hardbound history book *City Between the Canyons: A History of Cottonwood Heights, 1849-1953*! Buy yours at City Hall for **\$10** or online at ch.utah.gov/history-book for **\$15** with shipping. ■



22ND ANNUAL
COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS PARKS & RECREATION



FOUNDATION

501(C)(3)

CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

JOIN US FOR OUR CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT AND HELP MAKE A LASTING IMPACT IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

EVERY SWING, EVERY TEAM, AND EVERY SPONSORSHIP HELPS SUPPORT PROGRAMS, OPPORTUNITIES, AND RESOURCES THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR LOCAL FAMILIES AND CHILDREN.

**WEDNESDAY | 26 AUGUST 2026
AT THE RIDGE GOLF COURSE
8AM SHOTGUN START**

YOUR PARTICIPATION HELPS SUPPORT:



YOUTH PROGRAMS & SCHOLARSHIPS
COMMUNITY RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES
LOCAL FAMILIES IN NEED



SAFE SPACES FOR KIDS TO LEARN, GROW, AND PLAY



LEARN MORE ABOUT
SPONSORSHIPS,
DONATIONS,
THE FOUNDATION,
& MORE

PUTT-ING THE COMMUNITY FIRST.

City council members

MAYOR: Gay Lynn Bennion

801-944-7087 | mayor@ch.utah.gov

DIST# 1: Matt Holton

801-944-7089 | district1@ch.utah.gov

DIST# 2: Suzanne Hyland

801-944-7086 | district2@ch.utah.gov

DIST# 3: Shawn E. Newell

801-300-3068 | snewell@ch.utah.gov

DIST# 4: Ellen Birrell

385-910-5942 | ebirrell@ch.utah.gov

CITY MANAGER: Jared Gerber

801-944-7010 | 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

- **July 7:** Work session at 4 p.m. (tentative time), business meeting at 7 p.m. (tentative time)
- **July 21:** Work session at 4 p.m. (tentative time), business meeting at 7 p.m. (tentative time)
- **August 4:** 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.

Planning Commission

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

Editor: Beatriz Mayorga,
Communication Manager

Fueling Summer: Free Meals for All Children, June 1-July 31

Did you know when school is out for summer, school-aged children can still access free school meals? Three Canyons District schools are serving up free breakfast and lunch from June 1 to July 31, 2026 as part of the federally approved Seamless Summer Meals Program. All children 18 years and younger are eligible to dig in — no enrollment or proof of residency required. Meals are served Monday through Friday at the locations listed below. Breakfast is available from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., and lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

- **East Midvale Elementary**, 6990 S. 300 East
- **Midvale Elementary**, 7830 S. Chapel Street



- **Sandy Elementary**, 8725 S. 280 East, Sandy
Enjoy Summer Recess and circle your calendars now for back-to-school registration, which starts Monday, Aug. 3. ■

SUSTAINABILITY

Planning for a Sustainable Future

Maverick Yeh, Planner III

Did you know that one of the City's most important sustainability tools is the General Plan?

Cottonwood Heights is currently updating its General Plan, which serves as the community's long-term vision for the future. While many people associate the General Plan with zoning and development, it also plays a major role in shaping sustainability efforts throughout the City.

The General Plan helps guide decisions related to housing, transportation, parks, trails, open space, infrastructure, and environmental stewardship. These decisions help inform how the City grows, invests resources, and maintains the quality of life that residents value.

Sustainability is about meeting today's needs while preserving opportunities for future generations. In practical terms, that means planning for efficient use of water, protecting natural resources, maintaining infrastructure, supporting healthy neighborhoods, and ensuring the City remains financially resilient.

Many sustainability initiatives begin with General Plan policies. For example, the General Plan can support:

- **Water conservation and drought resilience**
- **Urban forestry and tree planting efforts**
- **Parks, trails, and open space preservation**
- **Safe walking and biking connections**

- **Responsible growth and neighborhood compatibility**
- **Efficient use of public infrastructure**

The General Plan does not directly approve development projects, but it helps establish the framework that guides future decisions. As community needs change over time, updating the General Plan helps ensure that City policies continue to reflect resident priorities and long-term goals.

Most importantly, the General Plan belongs to the community. Public participation helps identify what residents want to preserve, improve, and prioritize for the future.

As Cottonwood Heights continues its General Plan update, we encourage residents to stay informed and participate in the process. Opportunities to weigh-in will be shared on the city's website, social media channels, and the city's newsletter in the coming weeks and months.

A sustainable future starts with thoughtful planning today. ■



Wasatch Front Waste & Recycling District: Grilling, Camping, & Propane Tanks

Summer means more time spent grilling and camping.

- Allow coals and ash to cool completely for at least 48 hours before attempting to discard them.
- Never throw hot ash directly into household trash or onto the grass.
- Transfer completely cooled ash into a non-combustible, heavy-duty metal container.

What should you do with empty propane tanks?

All propane tanks—whether large grill tanks or small 1-gallon green camping canisters—are considered Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) and ***should never be placed in your garbage or recycling can.*** These tanks pose serious safety risks during collection and processing due to the potential for explosion.

Instead, drop them off at your nearest HHW

facility for proper recycling and safe disposal. These sites are free to use and ensure that hazardous materials are handled correctly.

Need help finding a location? Visit the “How to Recycle” page on our website and scroll down to “Household Hazardous Waste Disposal” for a list of nearby drop-off sites.

<https://wfwr.utah.gov/how-recycle/hazardous-waste> ■

Download the Wasatch Front Waste & Recycling District Mobile App

Stay on top of your trash, recycling, and green waste collection with the Wasatch Front Waste & Recycling District mobile app. Get collection reminders, holiday schedule updates, service alerts, and access the Recycle Right search tool—all from your smartphone. **Download it today for free on the Apple App Store** (<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/wasatch-front-waste/id1507832124>) or **Google Play** (https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.wasatchfrontwaste.recollect.waste&hl=en_US). ■

Community Volunteers and Utah Open Lands Celebrate Earth Day with a Stewardship Event at the Cottonwood Heights BST Open

On April 23, more than a dozen Cottonwood Heights residents joined Utah Open Lands (UOL) staff and board members in celebrating Earth Day with an evening improving the Cottonwood Heights Bonneville Shoreline Trail (BST) open space, located on the north side of Little Cottonwood Canyon's mouth. UOL Conservation Director Emily Ingram began the event with a tutorial about how to identify and remove Dyer's Woad and myrtle spurge, two common Wasatch Foothills invasive plant species, and best practices for planting the native plant seeds provided by UOL. The volunteers then broke up into groups, with some heading up to the open space's steeper terrain while others got to work on its lower elevation areas. By the end of the evening, the group had filled five 42-gallon garbage bags, representing

roughly 150 pounds of Dyer's woad and myrtle spurge removed from the land. The group also cleaned up a concrete slab and other trash that had been dumped there and planted almost of full bag of native plant seeds—a mix of grasses, shrubs and pollinators. The Cottonwood Heights BST open space spans 25.21 acres and was purchased and protected in 2020 through a joint effort between the City of Cottonwood Heights, UOL and a groundswell of more than 450 individual donors.



The effort to complete an access point to the BST and other public lands nearby is currently underway. ■

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