



MOUNTAIN ACCORD: Your input is essential!

City Council Article Kelvyn H. Cullimore, Jr. – MAYOR

When city leaders are facing a big decision, citizen input can be invaluable in helping shape the outcome of those decisions. In most instances, citizen comments positively influence the discussion, help shed light on solutions not previously considered, and change the outcome for the better.

As we look forward, we know that there are very big decisions looming with regard to the central Wasatch Mountains, particularly the Cottonwood Canyons. Besides the positive economic impact the tourism industry brings to local businesses, the canyons provide us with opportunities for recreation, leisure, and escape. They are also a critical source of drinking water for our valley, which mandates good environmental stewardship.

The canyons are a beautiful respite from the stress of the daily grind, and we want as many people as possible to experience the Wasatch Mountains. However, unless we find ways to handle increased traffic, pollution and wear and tear, the canyons are in danger of being loved to death.

Cottonwood Heights has joined with organizations such as Salt Lake, Summit and Wasatch Counties, Salt Lake City, Park City, Sandy City, UTA, the US Forest Service, Wasatch Front Regional Council, Save Our Canyons, Ski Utah and others to form Mountain Accord. The purpose of Mountain Accord is to ensure the environmentally responsible vitality of the central Wasatch Mountains and surrounding communities for the foreseeable future.

However, in order to implement solutions to the recreation, transportation, environmental and economic issues facing the central Wasatch, we need to know what you want those solutions to be. In other words, your contribution to this process is just as important as any other participant's involvement.

Mountain Accord has outlined a process for the public to

help shape the future use of our mountains and canyons. Phase One, which has just begun, will allow the group to gather public input, come up with several possible scenarios, choose a preferred plan and then decide on the actions necessary to implement that plan. During Phase Two, the members of the Mountain Accord team will work to implement the proposed actions identified in Phase One. Our goal is to complete Phase One within a year in order to begin Phase Two of the project.

So, by now you may be wondering, "How can I register my comments and ideas?" There are many ways to contribute your input, including the following:

- Submit comments through the Mountain Accord Web site at www.mountainaccord.com. This site is ground zero for information, updates, and public comments. The site includes educational materials, past studies of the canyons, maps and more. You can also sign up for the Mountain Accord electronic newsletter.
- Interact with @MountainAccord on Twitter.
- Email questions to info@mountainaccord.com. Comments can be sent to comment@mountainaccord.com.
- Attend public meetings. The first public scoping meetings happened in Park City and Salt Lake City during the first week of February, but there will be more opportunities to participate later this year. Keep an eye on the Mountain Accord Web site for details on upcoming meetings.

Every resident of Cottonwood Heights will have the opportunity to give their input into this process, and we encourage all citizens to be actively involved. Broader participation will lead to balanced outcomes that best represent the interests of our community.



City Council Votes To Amend Exotic Animal Ordinance

At city council meeting on Jan. 28, the Cottonwood Heights City Council voted to amend portions of Title 8 of the city's municipal code. The vote was 4-1, with Councilman Mike Shelton voting against the ordinance.

The revisions have to do with the housing of exotic animals such as non-venomous snakes, lizards and gerbils within a private residence. The new ordinance allows up to five exotic animals to be kept without a permit. Between five and 25 animals are allowed as long as the owner obtains a

hobbyist permit from the city upon compliance with various stringent requirements. Housing more than 25 animals is considered a commercial enterprise required to be conducted in a commercial animal establishment located in an appropriately-zoned area of the city.

The ordinance also requires that the total area of a dwelling dedicated to the housing and maintenance of all of the exotic animals on the premises cannot exceed the lesser of five percent of the habitable

floor area of the residence or 250 square feet.

Before the vote, Councilman Shelton expressed reservations about the reach of the ordinance, saying he dislikes the idea of laws dictating how residents may pursue hobbies that aren't a public nuisance and don't

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CITY INFORMATION: City Council Members

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CALL DIRECT:

Customer Service & Snow Removal Comments	944-7000
City Manager.....	944-7010
City Planning.....	944-7065
Public Works	944-7090
Recorder.....	944-7020
Treasurer.....	944-7077
Finance Director.....	944-7012
Code Enforcement.....	944-7095
Media Relations	944-7015
Police Administration.....	944-7100

To hear the agenda for the next city council meeting call: 944-7003
For the planning commission agenda call 944-7004

For details about the agendas, check our web site: www.ch.utah.gov

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NUMBERS TO KNOW:

Emergency.....	911
Dispatch.....	840-4000
Fire Authority.....	743-7100
Animal Control.....	840-4000
Justice Court.....	273-9731



Chief's CORNER



Situational Awareness



Chief Robby Russo

Let's pretend you have loaded up your grocery cart and are walking to your vehicle in the parking lot. You leave your bag on the child's seat of the shopping cart, nearest the handle, while you place your purchases inside the car. Savvy criminals are watching and waiting for you to be distracted so they can walk by and grab your purse. They know it will be the last item you grab from your cart as you're getting ready to leave. The more experienced bandits try only to get your wallet so you don't realize you've been victimized until they've already started running your credit cards.

Criminals cruise store parking lots looking for this routine. (In this area, most incidents happen at big box stores.) They will watch you grab items off the shelf or read labels in the aisle, and when your back is turned they steal your belongings

from the cart. You won't notice it; in busy stores, a person walking by your cart will not register as odd.

In one recent case a victim's wallet was taken from a West Valley Wal-Mart. She is from the Middle East and before she knew she was a victim, the female suspect had donned a head scarf to impersonate her, gone to the bank and drained the victim's account. Then the suspect and her accomplice rented a car under the victim's name and got a hotel room.

Later on, a two-man detective unit in Cottonwood Heights noticed a vehicle driving erratically in the city. They initiated a traffic stop, but the driver failed to yield and attempted to flee. He struck a power pole and then a fence before the vehicle became disabled. The driver, a white supremacist and longtime gang member, tried to run but was apprehended two blocks away. The female passenger was recently released from

the Utah State Prison. They were on their way to start a shopping spree with the West Valley victim's life savings when the unsuspecting officers attempted a simple traffic stop.

One way to prevent this type of theft is to make it a habit to not leave your belongings unattended. Most importantly, be aware of your surroundings and the people near you and report suspicious activity to CHPD at (801) 840-4000.



HISTORICAL QUESTION

Do you know which Butlerville resident:

- Was born in Madison, Tennessee on Aug. 11, 1863?
- Moved to Provo, Utah and then to Salt Lake City in 1889?
- Moved to Butlerville about 1910?
- Was a dairy farmer for several years?
- Worked as a general contractor?
- Was the Butler Precinct Democratic Chairman?
- Was the Salt Lake County Roads Supervisor for District 8 for seven years?
- Had a son who was blinded in an explosion, but was still able to work as a mechanic?
- Died suddenly at his home in Butlerville on October 31, 1935?

Employees in the Spotlight

April Ensign

April Ensign is the Victim Assistance Coordinator for the Cottonwood Heights Police Department. She has been working in the victim services field for over seven years. April began working with victims of domestic violence and sexual assault at CAPSA (a domestic violence shelter in Logan, UT) as a volunteer advocate answering the crisis line, helping in the shelter, responding to call outs, and eventually managing a case load of clients.



After graduating with her master's degree in Social Work from the University of Utah in 2009, April began working in the city of Cottonwood Heights with all victims of violent crime. The Victim Assistance Program in Cottonwood Heights offers crisis intervention, community resource and referrals, safety planning services, assistance in obtaining court orders, and advocacy in the criminal justice system.

A little over half of April's case load in Cottonwood Heights involves working with victims of domestic violence, a topic April is extremely passionate about. This led her to serve on the governing board for the Salt Lake Area Domestic Violence Coalition (SLADVC), a local non-profit agency striving to raise awareness for domestic violence in the Salt Lake community. On Feb. 5, April received the coalition's Courage Award for her work in the field of domestic violence prevention.



www.cottonwoodheights.utah.gov

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH IS SIMPLE

Unusual Burglars In Our Midst

By Ronna Cohen



Over the past few months there have been several of what Cottonwood Heights Police describe as very unusual burglaries. Three have occurred in Cottonwood Heights and two in Sandy, although one was interrupted while in progress. Police believe that these burglaries may continue unless the criminals are caught.

What makes these burglaries unusual and hard to prevent is that all of the homes were unoccupied at the time of the crimes. Thieves entered the homes by breaking a back window or door and then brazenly drove a vehicle into the garage, closed the garage door and leisurely looted each home. Sometimes they stayed for days and prepared meals in the victims' own kitchens!

To keep their activities from being seen, the robbers blocked windows with mattresses. With no fear of being discovered, the criminals were able to clean out the homes. Artwork was stripped from walls and even appliances were trucked off.

So, how do they know which houses are unoccupied and ripe for the picking? Some telltale signs include unplowed driveways, buildup of newspapers and flyers, or cooperative vacationers updating social media sights from exotic, far off places. Vacation pictures posted daily are great fun, but they really do let people know that you will not be home that night.

Cottonwood Heights Police Lt. Mark Askerlund and Officer Randy Maurer believe each of us can help bring this crime spree to an end. If you know a family is out of town but you notice tire tracks in the snow leading to their garage, don't go knocking on the door. Doing so might put you at risk. Instead, call police dispatch at 801-840-4000 and report this suspicious behavior. You can also call dispatch if a stranger, perhaps posing as a solicitor or salesperson, knocks on your door to inquire about neighbors. Please don't release any information if you are not sure of the identity of the person who is inquiring. However, call 9-1-1 immediately if you spot probable criminal behavior, such as someone you don't know climbing over a neighbor's fence.

Take notice of the "rhythm" of a house when neighbors are away. Did the homeowners leave lights on timers that suddenly aren't working? Are there unusual light patterns where light is coming from window perimeters but not from the rest of the window? And if you hear a security alarm, don't wait: call 9-1-1 immediately. Your quick action could enable

police to catch the robbers in the act.

If you are one of our community's "snowbirds" and you leave your home for extended periods of time during the winter, tell your neighbors and give them contact information. At your own home, have a loud alarm and motion lights at all entries. Be sure to have mail and papers collected and arrange for someone to keep your premises shoveled after snow storms. Have neighbors or friends check your home regularly.

As Lt. Askerlund says, "Whether you are a member of neighborhood watch or just a good neighbor, know your neighbors. Have their contact info. Keep an eye out."



To volunteer or to learn more about Cottonwood Heights Neighborhood Watch call Sheila at 801-944-7032



ELECTED OFFICIALS SWORN IN TO OFFICE

On Jan. 7, three recently elected city leaders were sworn into office. Mayor Kelvyn Cullimore Jr. was sworn in for his third term. District Three Councilman Mike Peterson was sworn in for his first full term, and District Four Councilman Tee Tyler began his second term.

All three men were sworn in by Judge Augustus Chin, who presides over the Holladay Municipal Justice Court. Eleven-year-old Cottonwood Heights resident Lexi Walker performed a rendition of "America the Beautiful" at the beginning of the ceremony.





BUTLERVILLE DAYS IS 10 YEARS OLD!

On July 24, 2014, we will celebrate the city's tenth annual Butlerville Days celebration. We have big plans this year and we need your help!

If you would like to help the committee make this year's event one to remember, please consider volunteering your time and talents to the Butlerville Days Committee. There are also many opportunities for financial sponsors. Please email Chairman Mike Hanson at butlervilledays@ch.utah.gov or City Events Coordinator Ann Eatchel at aeatchel@ch.utah.gov



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City Council Votes To Amend Exotic Animal Ordinance



endanger public safety. He believes the keeping of exotic animals within one's home to be one of those hobbies.

"It is my opinion that to expand government restrictions on personal property rights to a point where they limit the keeping of a thing that by law can have almost no impact, is an example of government going too far," said Shelton in a prepared statement. "If the quiet enjoyment of the activity I love has virtually no material impact on others, I want government to protect my right to do it, not take it away."

However, other council members felt that residential zones were not appropriate for a significant number of exotic pets and that the amended ordinance represented a compromise between overly stringent limitations and what could be perceived as government overreach.

The amended ordinance took effect soon after the vote

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Good Air Quality Is Our Responsibility

Wintry days in the Salt Lake Valley can be full of cold but brilliant sunshine, or—unfortunately for all of us—hazy, hazardous smog. It's easy to point the finger at others, but most of the pollution that builds up in our air is emitted from vehicles. In fact, according to the Utah Clean Air Partnership, vehicles account for 57 percent of workday emissions, while homes and other buildings contribute 32 percent and industry point sources contribute 11 percent.

We can all help improve air quality by following these suggestions from the Utah Division of Air Quality.

- Drive Less. Choose to carpool, use mass transit, walk or ride a bike to your destination. If you can, pack your lunch each day instead of driving to get it and postpone errands that can wait until the air is clearer. Ask your employer about telecommuting in order to save a trip to the office.
- Drive Smarter. Keep your vehicle well-tuned and choose driving routes that avoid traffic and other delays if possible. Don't let your vehicle idle. Instead, warm your vehicle up by driving it.
- Make good choices at home. Conserve energy by turning off lights and unplugging electrical devices when not in use. Buy less toxic or nontoxic household products, and keep all solvents and paints in airtight containers. Maintain your furnace, and keep wood-burning appliances, stove pipes and chimneys clean. Make sure not to burn wood, pellets or charcoal on mandatory "No Burn Days."
- Make good choices at work. If possible, work a flex schedule in order to avoid travel during peak driving times. If you are an employer, implement a rideshare program for employees. Keep fleet vehicles well-maintained and take advantage of tax credits to buy alternative fueled vehicles.

There are several groups in Utah that provide great information about air quality and suggestions on how to help improve it. If you have a moment, take a look at the good ideas these groups have to offer and try to implement some of them in day-to-day life. We can all work together to help clear the air.

Utah Division of Air Quality:

www.airquality.utah.gov or 801-536-4000

Utah Clean Air Partnership:

www.ucair.org or 801-536-4410

UDOT's Travelwise Program:

www.travelwise.utah.gov or 801-810-9473



COMMUNITY CULTURE



Join Our Community Orchestra!

The Cottonwood Heights Community Orchestra is in rehearsals in preparation for our first concert. The group is growing, but we still have many open positions which we are eager to fill before we schedule our first performance date. We have seen a great interest in the group over the past few months and want that momentum to continue.

Currently we have openings on the following instruments: Violin, Viola, Cello, String Bass, Bass Clarinet, Oboe, Bassoon, Trumpet, Horn, Trombone, and Percussion.

Rehearsals are weekly on Thursday nights from 7 to 9 p.m. at Butler Middle School. There is no audition requirement. Anyone interested should contact Shaun Davis at chcorchestra@gmail.com.

“Fiddler on the Roof” production team openings

We are gearing up for the arts council’s summer play, and we are looking for a music director, choreographer, costumer, tech crew, practice pianist and production assistant. If interested, please submit a letter of interest and resume to Linda Dunlavy at ldunlavy@ch.utah.gov



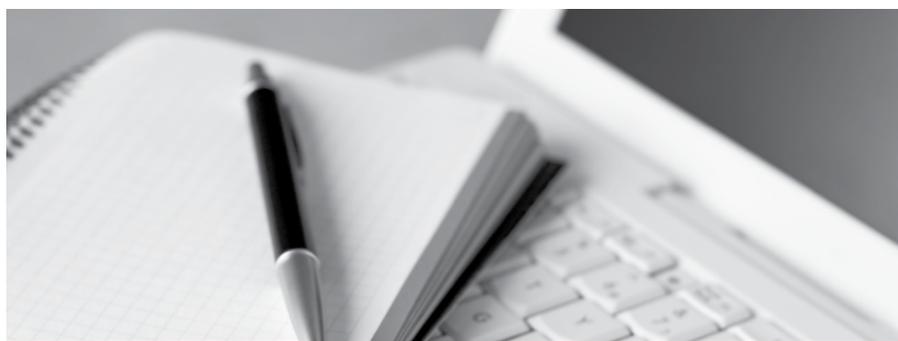
HISTORICAL ANSWER

Wilkins Goodrich and his wife Serena moved to Butlerville about 1910 along with their four children, Benjamin, Edward, Wilkins, and Dora. They lived on the east side of 2700 East, north of where the Butler Middle School is located today. At the time, there were just two other families living along that road.

Their son Benjamin, who was blinded in an explosion, was still living at home when his father died. Benjamin had lost both eyes in an

accident in 1916 while he was working at a mine in Alta. Giant powder caps he was carrying in his pockets exploded when he stumbled and fell. His eyes were so injured that it was necessary for the doctor to remove them.

After Mr. Goodrich’s death, Mrs. Goodrich sold the farm and moved in with her son Edward. Benjamin moved to Salt Lake where he lived with the Janes family until he passed away at the age of 98.



Register Your Phone, Email Address For Emergency Notifications

The Salt Lake Valley Emergency Communications Center (VECC) has instituted a regional communication system that sends notifications to residents and businesses within VECC’s jurisdiction when they are likely to be impacted by an emergency or a disaster. Because Cottonwood Heights contracts with VECC for police and fire dispatch services, this free service is available to city residents.

However, because the system uses the 911 database, only landline phone numbers are in the system. If you have an alternative phone system provider—such as a cable network or Voiceover IP provider (VoIP) or cellular phone—and would like to receive notifications through that device or through an email address, you must register those telephone numbers and email addresses with VECC.

To register your information, just go to www.vecc9-1-1.com and click the “VoIP Registration” tab at the top of the page. Then follow the instructions to receive future emergency communications from VECC.



CITY CONTINUES TO STREAMLINE SNOW REMOVAL PROCESS

January was a relatively dry month, with only a few small snow storms impacting the city. But during that time, city leaders and staff continued to streamline snow removal policies and procedures in order to better serve residents during future storms.

An updated snow removal policy and priority map has been added to the city Web site. That information can be found at www.ch.utah.gov/public_works.snowremoval.html.

The city has also created a better process for receiving comments and complaints from residents. To send comments about snow plow problems or icy roads in the city, residents can call 801-944-7071 or send an email to snowevent@ch.utah.gov.





February 2014

Cottonwood Heights City Communication Survey

Cottonwood Heights is considering changes in the way we provide information to residents. We want to make sure we are using the communication tools that are most effective in connecting with the people who live and work in the city. Please help us find the best solutions by taking a few minutes to complete this short, anonymous survey. There are several ways to submit your responses. If you prefer to complete it online, just go to www.ch.utah.gov and click the brightly-colored "Communicate" button. Or, you can remove this survey from the newsletter and mail it to Stephanie Dickey at the city offices, 1265 E. Fort Union Blvd. #250, Cottonwood Heights, UT 84047. Surveys are also available at the front desk at the city office.

Thank you in advance for your participation!

1) Which of the following city communication tools have you used? *(Check all that apply.)**

- City Website (www.ch.utah.gov)
- City Newsletter (mailed to homes as an insert in the Cottonwood/Holladay Journal)
- Facebook (www.facebook.com/CHCity)
- Twitter (@CHCity, @CHPolice)
- Email Notifications
- Help Desk
- I have not used any of these tools.
- Other

2) Which communications tools are you most likely to use regularly for information about local government? *Please rank in order from 1 (most likely) to 6 (least likely).**

- City Website
- City Newsletter
- Social Networks (Facebook, Twitter)
- Email notifications
- Text messages
- Phone/tablet app

3) When you visit the city website, what type of information are you usually searching for? *Check all that apply.**

- Meeting agendas and minutes
- Community news
- Community events
- Volunteer opportunities
- Employment opportunities
- Emergency alerts
- City departments
- Elected officials
- Calendar
- Contact information
- I have never visited the city website.
- Other

4) Do you access the city website via mobile devices such as smart phones or tablets?*

- Yes No I do not have a mobile device.

5) If you answered "yes" to the previous question, would you be more interested in accessing the city website on mobile devices via a downloadable app or as a responsively designed website (website senses and adjusts to any device)?

- Responsively designed website
- Downloadable app
- Unsure

6) In your opinion, what are some characteristics of a user-friendly government website?*

7) What type of information do you look for in the city newsletter?

*Check all that apply.**

- Community events
- Public safety information
- City financial information
- Volunteer opportunities
- City news
- Recreation center activities
- Community member achievements
- School information
- Public meeting information
- Calendar
- Other

8) What is your preferred method for receiving the city newsletter?

- Mailed as an insert in community newspaper
- Mailed separately to homes and businesses
- Via email
- No preference

9) In your opinion, how could we improve the city newsletter?

10) Which social media platforms do you use most frequently?

*Check all that apply.**

- Facebook
- Twitter
- Google+
- Instagram
- Pinterest
- Youtube
- Tumblr
- LinkedIn
- I do not use social media.
- Other

11) In your opinion, how could the city better communicate with residents?*

12) Are you male or female? *(Optional)*

- Male Female

13) What is your age group? *(Optional)*

- 12-18 19-35 36-54 55+

Thank You!



www.cottonwoodheights.utah.gov



Thank You, Volunteers!

On Jan. 25, Cottonwood Heights' city leaders and staff hosted volunteers from the city's boards, commissions and events committees at the annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at Heritage Gardens Reception Center.

At the event, five volunteers were given awards for their service to the community.

- *Supporting Community Development:* Perry Bolyard (planning commission).
- *Preserving Community History:* Gayle Conger (historic committee).
- *Excellent Community Partner:* Kent Dean (Whitmore Library).
- *Promoting Community Culture:* Becky Henriksen (arts council).
- *Community Volunteerism:* Christi Jones (arts council, Butlerville Days, Bark in the Park).

The banquet is an opportunity to honor the hard work of the volunteers who sacrifice their time and offer their talents to help the city accomplish its community goals. Attendees serve on Cottonwood Heights' planning commission, architectural review committee, board of adjustment, arts council, historic committee, youth city council, emergency planning group, Butlerville Days committee, Easter egg hunt committee and Bark in the Park committee.

Our sincere thanks are extended to everyone who works to make a difference in our city.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

All City Council business meetings are held in the council chambers, 1265 East Fort Union Blvd., Ste. 300. The work meetings are held in the conference room at the same address but in Ste. 250. The February meeting schedule is as follows:

- **Tuesday, February 5th**
5 p.m. City Council Budget Retreat
- **Tuesday, February 12th**
6 p.m. Work Meeting
(reconvenes following business meeting)
7 p.m. Business Meeting
- **Tuesday, February 19th**
6 p.m. Work Meeting
- **Tuesday, February 26th**
6 p.m. Work Meeting
(reconvenes following business meeting)
7 p.m. Business Meeting



Budget Amendment Hearing Scheduled

The Cottonwood Heights City Council is considering an amendment to the city's Annual Operating and Capital Budget for the current fiscal year. The amendments have to do with the allocation of recently-received grant monies and the appropriation of funds for city projects.

A copy of the proposed budget amendment is available on the Public Notices page of the city Web site, www.ch.utah.gov. A public hearing on the proposed changes is scheduled to occur during city council meeting on Feb. 11 at 7 p.m. at the city offices.

Feb. 11 at 7 p.m.

COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS NEW BUSINESSES

Below is a list of new commercial businesses which have opened in Cottonwood Heights within the past month.

<u>BUSINESS</u>	<u>BUSINESS ADDRESS</u>	<u>BUSINESS TYPE</u>
Robyn Hodges @Tangles Salon	7076 S. Highland Dr.	Salon Services
Security National Mortgage	6975 S. Union Park Ctr. #420	Mortgage Loans
Utah Mortgage Consulting	6965 S. Union Park Ctr. #300	Mortgage Marketing





February 2014

Cottonwood Heights Recreation Center

Looking for a Summer Job?

Need employment over the summer?...Application packets for summer lifeguards and swim instructors available at the main office at CHRC after Feb. 10. Come join our team!

Learn to Skate Spring Session & Show

Our spring Learn to Skate session is coming up & it includes not just ice skating lessons but show participation in our annual spring show! Registration for this session includes 6 classes, 30 minutes of instruction each class, skate rental, a simple costume to use in the show, & 6 FREE public skating sessions.

Spring Session I & Show begins Mar. 4 or 5

Register online at cottonwoodheights.com or at CHRC now as learn to skate spring classes fill up quickly.

Spring Show April 11 & 12, 7 pm

Learn to Swim this Winter at CHRC

Learn swimming basics with our qualified instructors in our indoor pools. Lessons available for all ages & ability levels. Register online at cottonwoodheights.com or at CHRC today.

Winter Sessions 3 & 4 (Mornings) begins Feb. 3 & 19

Winter Session 3 (Evenings) begins Feb. 18

2 for 1 Sweetheart Skate

Come to our Sweetheart Skate on Feb. 14 & get someone in for free with you with your paid admission! Join us for a cool time on ice...



Valentine's Day 7-9 pm

Water Workouts

Try our fun & challenging water aerobics classes at CHRC: increase cardio endurance, improve flexibility, & tone your muscles in the water.

2 for 1 Valentine's Day Water Aerobics

Get someone in for free with you to water aerobics classes that day with your paid admission.

Check Us Out Today

Adults, take a free tour of the Cottonwood Recreation Center & get a *FREE DAY PASS*! *offer limited to newcomers to CHRC only*

President's Day Hours

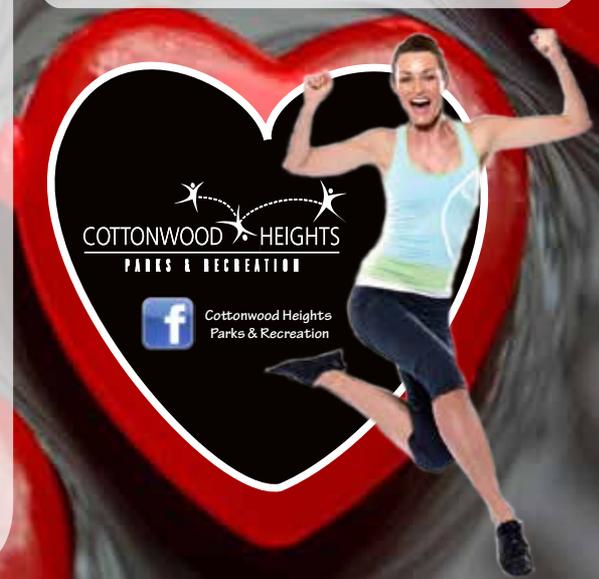
Looking for something to do on Feb. 17? With swimming, skating, basketball, racquetball, & fitness classes, the activities are endless at CHRC...

Public Skating Hours 2-4 pm

Splash Zone & Specialty Pool Hours 11am-4pm & 6-9pm

Racing & Diving Pools 1-4pm & 7-9:30pm

Facility Hours 5am-10pm



7500 E. 2700 S. Cottonwood Heights, UT / 801.943.3190 / cottonwoodheights.com

What Causes Water Main Breaks?

Lately, you may have noticed road crews working to repair several of the city's streets, particularly Fort Union Boulevard between 1300 East and 1700 East. These are not regularly scheduled repairs. Most winter road repairs—and associated lane changes and road closures—are a result of broken water pipes.

Water main breaks can happen for a variety of reasons. And, although main breaks can happen at any time during the year, most are likely to occur during extreme weather conditions.

It is most common to see system leaks and main breaks when the weather is frigid and both air and water temperatures drop. Air temperature at or below freezing causes the ground above a pipe to freeze, increasing external stress on a pipe. Hot, dry weather can also take a toll; ground shifts and the increased volume and pressure can also stress water mains.

Besides changes in temperature, other factors that contribute to breaks include:

- Pipe material. Most breaks occur in iron water mains. Water mains installed before 1980 are, for the most part, made of iron. Iron is not a very forgiving metal and has a tendency to crack when it expands or

contracts due to temperature changes.

- Soil erosion. A previous pipeline break, excavation or nearby construction activity can lead to unstable ground around water pipes.
- Age. The break rate for pipes increases after 60 years. Age alone, however, cannot always be used as an indicator of failure. Some pipes installed in the early 1900s have never broken.

So what is the best way to identify water main breaks? If a contractor, for example, hits a water line during an excavation it will be noticed quickly. On the other hand, if a small hole or crack develops, it may not be noticed right away. The



water will typically find its way to the surface and because the line is under pressure, water will continue to run until the break is repaired.

To help prevent small leaks from becoming big problems and in order to reduce water loss, know how to identify a potential water main break. Here's what to look for:

- Water leaking around a metal valve lid.
- Water leaking from a fire hydrant.
- Water seeping up out of the ground around a hydrant or meter box.
- Water seeping out of a road or other paved surface.
- A water meter that runs even when there is not water on in the house.
- Saturated soil or a puddle that never dries up.
- Sinkholes or undermined streets or sidewalks.

If you notice any of these telltale signs, call your water supplier. Two entities supply water to the residents of Cottonwood Heights. They are Salt Lake City Public Utilities at 801-483-6700 and Jordan Valley Water at 801-256-4401. Both phone lines are monitored 24 hours a day, seven days a week.