



Cottonwood Heights, UT
August 2018 • FREE

NEWSLETTER

www.ch.utah.gov

A Discussion About Property Taxes

Cottonwood Heights City Council

The City incorporated to create a sense of community pride, maintain local control and deliver services such as fire, police, public works and planning. As we strive to provide the best service possible, property owners in Cottonwood Heights recently received information that the city is proposing a property tax increase. In an effort to provide information to citizens, we would like to share some general historical background of city finances (the full table of information can be found with this article at www.ch.utah.gov).

Expenditures for salaries and benefits are for city employees and contracted services for attorney, engineer, building inspection, fire, sheriff (during the 2005-08 contract period), public works. Transfers from the General Fund to the Capital Fund are generally done to fund road projects.

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REVENUES (General fund & Capital fund)	2019 Proposed	2018	2015	2013	2011
Property Taxes	\$8,493,329	\$6,986,392	\$6,646,536	\$6,954,277	\$6,499,957
Sales Taxes	\$6,241,000	\$6,013,905	\$5,319,432	\$5,011,132	\$4,531,512
Energy Use Tax	\$2,070,596	\$2,092,189	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Taxes and Revenues	\$3,557,555	\$4,021,020	\$3,693,724	\$3,918,135	\$4,126,652
Total Revenues	\$20,362,480	\$19,113,506	\$15,659,692	\$15,883,544	\$15,158,121

EXPENDITURES (General fund & Capital fund)	2019 Proposed	2018	2015	2013	2011
Salaries, Benefits and Contracted Services	\$12,386,525	\$12,152,081	\$12,412,011	\$11,287,725	\$10,528,530
City Hall (Costs & Maintenance)	\$1,555,850	\$1,513,641	\$412,241	\$378,566	\$310,290
Capital Projects	\$3,746,764	\$2,009,220	\$3,593,233	\$1,179,488	\$2,289,007
Other Expenses	\$2,795,210	\$2,919,741	\$3,063,611	\$2,985,643	\$2,404,516
Total Expenditures	\$20,484,349	\$18,594,683	\$19,481,096	\$15,831,422	\$15,532,343

TRANSFERS- GENERAL FUND TO CAPITAL FUND	\$1,307,800	\$875,625	\$0	\$1,373,070	\$669,459
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Since incorporation, consumer prices have increased by 25.2 percent. City expenses are likewise impacted by inflation. The largest impact on the budget comes in the form of increased wages and benefits for employees. To attract and retain a good city staff, we have to keep pace with the marketplace.

Property taxes and many other revenue streams do not automatically increase for inflation. Likewise, inflationary adjustments are necessary with the vast majority of city funds going toward wages and benefits to those providing city services. The outcome is that eventually the expenses will exceed revenues. What this means is that over time, the nature of the city funding model requires a city to either increase tax revenues or reduce services.

We started the 2018-19 budget process by identifying approximately \$1 million in efficiency efforts and reduction of services. We also identified numerous other areas where service reductions

Taxes, continued on page 3

Upcoming Cottonwood Heights Events

- Aug. 2, 3, 4 & 6 "Big the Musical" - Cottonwood Heights Theater @ Butler Middle School 7:30 p.m.
- Aug. 6, 13, 20, 27 "Bites in the Heights" Food Truck Rally @ Mountview Park (every Monday in August) 5 - 8 p.m.
- Aug. 8 Cottonwood Connect @ City Hall 8 - 9 a.m. (see page 8)
- Aug. 14 Truth in Taxation Public Hearing @ City Hall 7 p.m. (Open House 5-7 p.m.)
- Aug. 24 Blood Drive @ City Hall 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. (see page 6)
- Aug. 28 & 29 "Ladies Who Lead" Women's Leadership Conference @ City Hall 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. (see page 8 for more details)
- September Arts Show @ City Hall
- Sept. 5 Planning Commission Meeting @ City Hall 6 p.m.
- Sept. 8 Big Cottonwood Canyon Marathon
- Sept. 15 Bark in the Park @ Mountview Park 10 a.m.

Thanks To Our Butlerville Days Volunteers!

We'd like to thank all the hard-working volunteers who donated so much of their time and talents to make July's Butlerville Days event such a great success. We look forward to working with you again in years to come. ■



A "Big" Thanks

The Cottonwood Heights Arts Council production of "Big the Musical" has been a "big" success.

We thank all patrons of the arts who gathered to enjoy this great show, and also appreciate all the performers and crew who donated their time and talents to make it happen.

The show continues its run into August with shows on Aug. 2, 3, 4 and 6 at the Cottonwood Heights Theater inside Butler Middle School (7530 S. 2700 East).

Tickets are \$10 per person and can be purchased at the door, at City Hall or online at arts.ch.utah.gov. ■

BCC Marathon Coming Sept. 8

The annual Revel Big Cottonwood Canyon Marathon and Half Marathon is coming on Saturday, Sept. 8.



The race will restrict access to Fort Union Boulevard, along with part of Wasatch Boulevard, from early in the morning to the afternoon.

More information will be available on the city website (www.ch.utah.gov) and in the September newsletter as the event draws near.

Please mark your calendars and plan your travel accordingly to avoid delays. ■

August Featured Artist: Jodi Steen

Born in Southern California, Steen started on her artistic journey taking in the beauty of the California hills and the vastness of the Pacific Ocean. After marrying, Steen and her husband moved to Utah so he could continue his education. Now living by the mouth of a canyon, they are enjoying raising three kids and a crazy dog.

"I approach my paintings in two parts. The sky with fluid and loose, long strokes, while the land, or water section becomes really tight as I lay in many layers of lines and texture. This is where I find balance that works together to create the whole painting."

Steen's unique paintings will be on display at City Hall all month in August. ■



Taxes, continued from cover

were possible, but we did not believe that these reductions were appropriate. Additionally, we identified a few areas where we believed that we needed to increase expenditures. We determined that some employee compensation and benefits needed additional money to remain competitive in the employment market. These efforts were guided by citizen comments, market study information, and recent citizen surveys.

Earlier this year, the city completed a comprehensive review of all roads within the city. The results of that study verify a significant need for additional spending on city roads. Our 2018 budget transfers an additional \$500,000 to the Capital Projects fund. This money is primarily dedicated to improve the condition of roads in the city.

In fiscal year 2015, the city made the decision to own rather than rent our city hall. An analysis demonstrated that while leasing a building was less expensive in the short term, our cost of owning a building was projected to grow at a much slower rate and would have a greater long-term financial benefit to the city. Constructing City Hall with additional meeting rooms and a gathering space has given citizens more opportunities to use it, as

"We started the 2018-19 budget process... guided by citizen comments, market study information, and recent citizen surveys."

well as providing a sense of place in the city.

The proposed tax increase is estimated to raise property taxes on the average home assessed at \$431,800 by \$7.98 per month/\$95.71 per year (for example, the annual city tax would increase from \$437 to \$532). We were required by law to pass a proposed budget before June 22 and then schedule a public hearing on Aug. 14 where citizens can voice their opinion for or against the proposed increase (an open house will also be held on Aug. 14 from 5-7 p.m.).

This public process is strictly outlined by

state statute and ensures that residents and property owners have time to review the proposal and speak in a public meeting before a vote is taken sometime before the end of August. At the time of this vote, the City Council can choose to adopt the full tax increase, pick a tax rate that is below the full amount, or choose not to increase property taxes.

If you own the average home in Cottonwood Heights, you will pay a total of \$532 in annual city property taxes if the full increase is adopted. Consider what you get for your tax dollar — having police and fire service within minutes of a call; public works repairing and plowing our roads year around; a variety of parks, trails, and open spaces; and many other municipal services that contribute to the quality of life in Cottonwood Heights.

Sincerely,

Mayor Michael J. Peterson, Council Members Michael Shelton (District 1), J. Scott Bracken (District 2), Tali C. Bruce (District 3), and Christine Watson Mikell (District 4) ■



Art Show Entries Needed!

Calling all artists! The annual art show is coming up fast.

Submissions for the show are due on or before Aug. 27.

For registration information about the show, visit arts.ch.utah.gov.

An open house for the artists will take place on Sept. 20 at 7 p.m. ■

September 15, 2018
Mountview Park
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Bark in the Park
AT THE SPLASH PAD

DOG FRIENDLY VENDORS NEEDED
 Contact City Events Coordinator
Ann Eatchel - Aeatchel@ch.utah.gov - 801-550-8225

Bark in the Park Set for Sept. 15

Mark your calendars for Sept. 15 and get your pooch out to the annual Bark in the Park. Let your dog splash around in the splash pad or you can see if they can complete the police obstacle course. There will be doggie treats, fun and entertainment for all. ■

City Passes Idle-free Ordinance

In mid-June, the Cottonwood Heights City Council passed Ordinance 299, which prohibits drivers from allowing their vehicle engines to idle for extended periods of time.

The new law will help reduce vehicle emissions, especially during the winter months.

Idling ordinance highlights:

- Restrictions on idling more than one minute
- Excludes public safety vehicles, including

police and fire

- Excludes idling that is necessary for the health and safety of a driver or passenger, including police K-9 or service animals
- Excludes idling necessary for testing after vehicle repairs
- Excludes heavy equipment with turbocharged engines necessary for charging brake systems (such as buses)



Since the purpose of the new ordinance is to educate rather than punish, three warnings must be given before a citation is issued. ■

Summer 2018 Road Projects Update

A handful of major road improvement projects have been ongoing through the summer and are expected to last into early fall.

These much-needed projects will accommodate increased transportation needs in the city and were performed in partnership with other stakeholders, including UDOT, Rocky Mountain Power, Salt Lake City Public Utilities and others.

Here are the updated projects that will affect traffic in the coming months:

Highland Drive/Fort Union Boulevard Intersection Expansion

This expansion will add an extra left turn lane in all four directions (two left turning lanes, instead of one), along with an improved I-215 on-ramp. During 2016 and 2017, the city purchased

property and moved large metal power poles and other utilities away from the streets to make way for some intersection widening.

The project is expected to begin in late August and will last from six to eight weeks.

2700 East Resurfacing

The main portion of this project was completed just before the July Fourth holiday, between Fort Union Boulevard and the CH Recreation Center. The remaining road between the Rec Center and Bengal Boulevard was resurfaced with a chip seal.

Fort Union Boulevard Resurfacing

This major CH thoroughfare was resurfaced with a chip-seal layer from 1300 East to 3000 East in late June and early July.

From 3000 East to Racquet Club Drive,



Salt Lake City is expected to repair the damage done from new water and sewage lines that were installed in 2016 and 2017. There is no established timetable for this project.

The estimated time frames and duration of projects are subject to change. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we improve transportation in Cottonwood Heights. ■

Citizens Gather for Roundabout Open House

On June 12, neighbors met with city officials, engineers and transportation specialists to learn about the planned roundabout that will be featured at the

intersection of 2300 East and Bengal Boulevard.

The new intersection is expected to reduce idling and increase traffic flow.

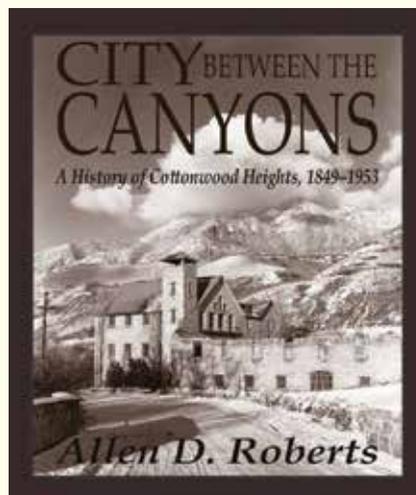
More information about the proposed intersection can be found at www.ch.utah.gov ■



CH History Book on Sale

Get some history. Allen Roberts' *City Between the Canyons: A History of Cottonwood Heights, 1849-1953* is on sale at City Hall.

You can purchase single copies of the book for \$20 each or in packages of three copies for \$50. ■



History Question of the Month

What Butlerville resident owned a brewery and hotel in Butlerville along with "Mill A" in Big Cottonwood Canyon?

Answer on page 7

Wrap Up Summer at Whitmore Library



There's plenty to do in August at Whitmore Library. For one, the library has telescopes available to check out if you're interested in seeing the Perseid meteor showers that are visible this month. Other activities include:

Storytime fun for the whole family. The library will be talking, singing, reading, writing and playing. Great for little ones 0-5

years old and their caregivers. (For families) Nature lovers may enjoy the library's Parade of Raptors, where a Hawkwatch International expert will bring three different raptors for children and families to see up close. Participation counts toward the ZAP Passport. (For families)

Two Summer STEM Camp options are available for teens: Coding 101 and Robotics 101. Each topic consists of two sessions.

Registration is required; you can call or stop by to be added to the list. (For teens)

For dates and times, please visit slcolibrary.org/calendar or call 801-943-4636. ■



Preventing Teen Suicide Takes Awareness

By Police Chief Robby Russo



Utah is growing and known for many beautiful things but being a leader in teen suicide is a distinction we don't want. Last month, I was invited to attend a presentation and group discussion at Brighton High School on teen suicide prevention. The auditorium was filled with parent groups and educators. The presenter spoke about the use of social media and cell phones, as well as intolerance among peers, as contributors to teen suicide. As we left the school, I also was briefed about a 12-year-old who took his own life. I've never been able to reconcile how children so young can get to such finality.

No family is immune. For me, the most important part of the presentation was learning about the warning signs, which are often noticed by those friends closest to the person.

I've learned two things in my journey: Most people don't want to die — they just want the pain to stop — and second, if you can just get the person past what often is a short window of crises, you have great success. I think the public would be shocked at the number of attempts police departments respond to every day. There has been a steady increase in the number of young people who are attempting suicide, or taking medicines (opiates), or harming themselves in some way because they are depressed. We need to focus on prevention, which includes keeping those medications secure and locking up your guns.

State Rep. Steve Eliason, who represents Cottonwood Heights, has made the opiate epidemic and preventing teen suicide his mission. "Specific resources are available to those in need of help," he says, "including the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1-800-273-



TALK (8255) and the SafeUT smartphone app where teens can access crisis counseling via text, chat or call and they can submit confidential tips to authorities."

We have made significant progress in bridging stigma that comes with mental health discussions and are especially helped by discussions of suicide and suicide prevention. If you need assistance or know anyone who does, tell someone. Utilize the app, hotline, school counselors or religious leaders, and please don't leave that loaded gun on your nightstand or in your car with children in the house. ■

CHPD Officer Spotlight: Devon Blaisdell

By Stan Rosenzweig



Before Officer Devon Blaisdell became a cop, he grew up in Utah, graduated from Granger High in West Valley City and enrolled at Dixie State University on a football scholarship. At Dixie State, he loved playing football while studying his major subject, Criminal Justice.

He has family and friends who are law enforcement officers and always enjoyed hearing their stories, which encouraged him to get involved in police work. He felt he could add to the narrative of helping people by being part of that bigger picture.

"I like being there for them in their time of need," he says.

Significant sports injury caused him to give up football pursuits, so he moved into police work full time — first with the West Valley PD and then with Cottonwood Heights. He is now part of the K-9 unit. In his off time, Officer Blaisdell plays golf and helps his dad, who owns an automotive shop. He enjoys the craft of metal welding and, together, father and son currently are building a 1940 pickup truck "from scratch." ■



Second Community Blood Drive Planned

Please join city staff and neighbors on Aug. 24 at Cottonwood Heights City hall to donate blood with ARUP Blood Services, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. A similar drive was held in January.

ARUP supplies life-saving blood to patients at Primary Children's Medical Center, Huntsman Cancer Institute, Shriners Hospital for Children and other hospitals and clinics along the Wasatch Front.

To sign up, go to www.arupbloodservices.org and use sponsor code "G058." Call 801-944-7077 for more info. ■

BLOOD DRIVE
 Friday, August 24
 11 am - 4 pm
Join us at City Hall!
 Save time, schedule online!
www.arupbloodservices.org, use sponsor code G058.
Give blood!

ARUP BLOOD SERVICES Your local, nonprofit blood-collection center (801) 584-5272 • www.utahblood.org

Sole blood provider for:

Register For Fall Programs Now!

SIGN UP FOR FLAG FOOTBALL

Fall Aquatics Programs Are Now Open For Registration

- Swimming Lessons
- Pre-Comp
- Boy Scouts

Register online via ActivityReg.com or in-person at CHRC!

chparksandrec

 COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS PARKS & RECREATION SERVICE AREA
 COTTONWOODHEIGHTS.COM

Groundbreaking to Mark the Start of Brighton High Rebuild

The Bengals are getting a new home—and to celebrate the start of construction, Canyons School District is hosting a



exit-points. For the first 16 months of construction no classrooms are impacted; the gymnasiums, main office and academic wings will remain untouched. More information can be found at bond.canyonsdistrict.org. ■

groundbreaking ceremony at Brighton High on Thursday, Aug. 9. The event kicks off with a reception at 5:30 p.m. followed by a ceremony at 6 p.m.

Hogan & Associates Construction has already begun preparing for the rebuild, which will be done in phases starting with construction of new performing arts and athletics facilities to the west and east of the existing building. Before crews can start work on these structures, they need to rearrange some of the parking areas and entry- and



Answer

Question, continued from page 4

Philander Butler was born in Randolph County, Indiana, March 18, 1841. He came to Utah with his father, brothers and sister in 1857 and they settled in South Cottonwood. Butler later moved to an area at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon in 1869 and was granted a license to sell liquor in 1871. Butler soon built an establishment for those working in the canyons to stop and rest and get something to eat and drink. A local newspaper referred to this place as the “Butler Hotel.” Butler also built a brewery on the property. Sometime around 1874, Butler

purchased “Mill A” in Big Cottonwood Canyon but had only run it for about one year when on the morning of March 18, 1875, a gigantic avalanche crushed the mill and surrounding buildings. Seven people staying nearby were rescued, but the mill was completely destroyed and never rebuilt. In 1881, Butler sold the property where his brewery was located to the Deseret News Company for \$800. He moved to Oregon where he worked in the lumber business. Butler returned to the Salt Lake City area in 1900 and a year later, he sold 130 acres of land located near the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon to William W. Sanders for \$5,000. Butler lived in Salt Lake City until he died Aug. 10, 1925. ■

City Council Members

- MAYOR** - Michael J. Peterson
- DIST# 1** - Michael L. Shelton
- DIST# 2** - J. Scott Bracken
- DIST# 3** - Tali C. Bruce
- DIST# 4** - Christine Watson Mikell
- CITY MANAGER** - John Park

City Office

2277 E. Bengal Blvd
 Cottonwood Heights, UT 84121
 Phone801-944-7000
 Fax.....801-944-7005

Numbers to Know

Emergency.....911
 Dispatch840-4000
 Fire Authority.....743-7100
 Animal Control840-4000
 Justice Court.....273-9731

Call Direct

City Manager944-7010
 City Planning944-7065
 Public Works944-7000
 Recorder944-7021
 Finance Director.....944-7012
 Code Enforcement.....944-7095
 Police Administration.....944-7100

City Council Meetings

Aug. 7 - Work Session 5 p.m.
Aug. 14 - Open House 5 p.m.,
 Business Meeting/**Truth in Taxation Hearing** 7 p.m.
Aug. 21 - Work Session 5 p.m.
Aug. 28 - Work Session 5 p.m.,
 Business Meeting 7 p.m.
(Work session reconvenes after business meeting.)

Agendas are posted 24 hours in advance of public meetings. For details about the agendas, go to: www.ch.utah.gov

Planning Commission

The Planning commission holds meetings at 6 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month. Next month's meeting will be held on Sept. 5.

Editors

Dan Metcalf, Kim Horiuchi

Graphic Designers

Emily Adams, EMDGraphics.com
 Megan Pace

"Bites in the Heights" Food Truck Rally!

Every Monday night in August is Food Truck Night at Mountview Park (1651 Fort Union Blvd). Bring your family to the park from 5-8 p.m. and enjoy a variety of tasty

meals from local food trucks. Spend some time outside, talking with neighbors and savoring your favorite foods on Aug. 6, 13, 20 and 27. ■



2018 Women's Leadership Conference



The Cottonwood Heights Business Association and the University of Utah Professional Education Department present a two-day conference for established or emerging leaders to help develop, strengthen and discover skills that will take them to the next level of influence and leadership.

Each day includes a light breakfast, a keynote speaker, breakout sessions, lunch

and time to network. The luncheon on Tuesday, Aug. 28 will also include an HR panel to discuss employee situations. Tickets are available at LadiesWhoLead2018.eventbrite.com. Contact pkinder@ch.utah.gov for more info. ■

Tuesday, Aug. 28 & Wednesday, Aug. 29
8 a.m.-3 p.m.
CH City Hall (2277 Bengal Blvd.)

Nominations Needed for Beautification Award Program

Do you or your neighbor have a beautiful yard? Fill out a nomination form for the Cottonwood Heights Landscaping/ Beautification Award. The program recognizes



well-maintained and attractive landscapes in our communities. The city invites all residential homeowners to enter.

Yards are judged by the Cottonwood Heights City Council, with a winner selected from each district. Additionally, you can nominate a commercial property for the Mayor's Award. Properties must be located in the city. Entries are due Friday, Aug. 24 at 5 p.m. Stop by City Hall (2277 E. Bengal Blvd.) to pick up a nomination form or download a form online at CH.Utah.Gov. Winners will be announced in September. ■

Keep Recycling

By now you have probably heard that recycling fees have increased and at times have been higher than landfilling the materials. It's also important to know that landfilling the recycling will not reduce costs.



WFWRD remains committed to providing residents avenues to recycle. The current services of weekly collections will continue because it is still worth it for the environment and the

future costs of not recycling.

Here are a few tips to keep costs as low as possible:

- Keep it clean: Make sure items are emptied. You don't need to wash your recycling, just a quick rinse if needed.
- When in doubt, throw it out.
- No plastic bags of any kind. Even bagging your recycling and placing the bag in the curbside recycle can drive up costs. ■



Area Cleanup

The Annual Area Cleanup program is underway! Cottonwood Heights residents can expect to see Area Cleanup containers from Aug. 24 through mid-September. Residents will receive a postcard in the mail identifying the exact date that the containers will be in their neighborhoods. Residents can also use WFWRD's Address Lookup Tool at <https://slco.org/wfw/> to find their specific scheduled date. Additional information about the program can be found on WFWRD's website at <http://wasatchfrontwaste.org/area-cleanup>. ■

