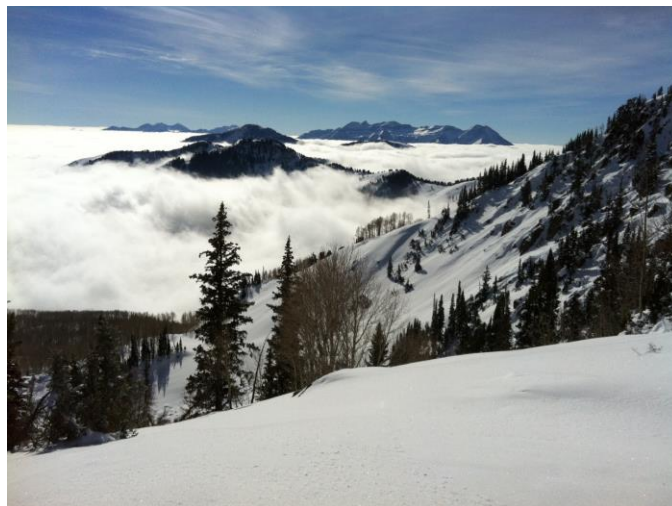




## TOWN OF BRIGHTON NEWS

### JANUARY 2024



Let us love winter, for it is the spring of genius ~ Pietro Arentino

### AVALANCHE ALERT

Currently the avalanche danger is **HIGH** and **EXTREME** for the mountains of northern and central Utah and southeast Idaho, which includes the Wasatch Range. Strong winds and heavy snowfall have created dangerous avalanche conditions. Avalanches failing on a widespread persistent weak layer buried under the new snow are very likely. **AVOID ALL AVALANCHE TERRAIN.**

## TOWN OF BRIGHTON ANNUAL REPORT 2023

### STEWARDSHIP AND PARTNERSHIP EXPENDITURES

- \$40,000 - Fuel Mitigation with Utah Forests, Fire and State Lands
- \$60,000 - 2 Rangers at Cardiff and Mill D with USFS
- \$20,000 - Restroom Cleaning/Maintenance with USFS
- \$15,000 - Adopt-A-Trails and Invasive Weed Program with Cottonwood Canyons Foundation

- \$10,000 - CWC Membership
- \$100,000 - Big Cottonwood Mobility Action Plan with Central Wasatch Commission
- \$7,500 - Big Cottonwood Community Council
- \$4,000 - Brighton Institute

## ACTIONS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The Town implemented two new housing programs in support of canyon locals and ski resorts:

***Turns for Tenants Program.*** The purpose of this program is to offer affordable housing for employees who work in the Town of Brighton. Families with an available house or a spare bedroom to rent for the winter season (or year around), could be eligible for some valuable incentives. ([Turns for Tenants Program](#))

***Lease to Locals Program.*** The purpose of this program is to provide a financial incentive for existing Short-Term Rentals to switch to a long-term rental for employees who work in the town. ([Lease to Locals Program](#))

- The BCC MAP (Big Cottonwood Canyon Mobility Action Plan) was completed in May and sets the stage to fund transit improvements and develop a parking management program for Big Cottonwood Canyon. Over 960 people responded with ideas and projects that would increase safety, reduce visitor vehicles, and support state climate goals and watershed protection. A majority of people asked for improved winter bus service, year-round transit to trailheads, improved restrooms, and informative signage. [BCC MAP Plan](#)
- A town parking reservation program was created to ease the winter parking crush. Drivers must sign up on weekends and holidays to park along the road from 7 am-1pm. Reservations are not required after 1 pm. Cost is \$10. [Town Parking Reservations](#)
- Brighton hired Kyle Morgan as Community Service and Support Officer (CSSO) to assist with parking, STR issues, and watershed enforcement.
- Short Term Rental discussions continued for a third year. In February, the Town Council imposed a 15% STR cap for Silver Fork and Pinetree. There will be no cap in the Brighton or Solitude communities. All other communities are not eligible for rentals because they are not connected to the sewer or are on USFS land. The current number of STRs: Brighton (19), Silver Fork (24), Pinetree (6), Forest Glen (1), Giles Flat (2), Solitude Village (107). Seven STR citations were issued in 2023 for operating without a business license. The STR Committee created a booklet for STR owners to promote best practices. MSD code enforcement, business licensing, and inspectors worked with Town Attorneys to coordinate and streamline tasks related to STR administration.
- Mayor Knopp coordinated with Rocky Mountain Power on a project to underground electric lines in the canyon for fire protection.
- The Town Council approved a Sustainability Plan on August 8 presented by Kazai Sustainability Consulting. The target is for the Town of Brighton to reach Net Zero (no carbon emissions) by 2030 through energy efficiency programs, public transportation initiatives, waste reduction efforts, attention to air quality and native plants and wildlife.
- Brighton obtained a \$25,000 grant to create a Local Broadband Plan which was adopted on August 1st. The objective was to document digital needs and promote reliable internet connection. During the planning meetings, SenaWave agreed to install the infrastructure. Homeowners have the option to connect if they want the high-speed service.
- The September Primary Election returned a surprising tie vote between Gavin Gnung and Heidi Westfall. The tie was broken by a legal roll of the dice in the County Clerk's office, an exciting

finish for the entire group of capable candidates. The candidates for the General Election included Adrienne Aldous, Jeff Bossard, Lise Brunhart and Gavin Ganung. Jeff Bossard and Lise Brunhart were the final winners in the November General Election.

- Brighton voters approved an additional 0.5% Resort Sales Tax. The Town Council decided to implement it only if necessary.
- The Budget was submitted to MSD, including a Capital Improvement Fund.
- The Town produced 12 monthly digital Newsletters and managed a full Town website.

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- A record snowfall of over 800 inches was recorded at the ski resorts. UFA, UPD and UDOT worked with Brighton's Mayor and Emergency Manager to provide timely information and good management during emergency situations.
- Jane Martain continued to refine community maps and contact info. She sent out 18 temporary road closure notices.
- BCCA and the Town of Brighton sponsored a Community Firewise meeting at Fire Station #108 in May to promote wildfire preparedness and Defensible Space.
- There were 107 families who signed up for Chipper Days. In all 1,438 hours were contributed by local homeowners toward improving neighborhood Defensible Spaces. Those hours will be used as in-kind match for next year's grant.
- No Fire Bans were implemented this year due to a mild summer and helpful late-season rain.

## SUPPORT FOR TOWN PROJECTS AND CONCERNS

- Helped host 4<sup>th</sup> of July Breakfast and Parade, Brighton Days Celebration, and Chipper Days.
- Supported expansion of high-speed internet service from SenaWave.
- Encouraged the repair of failing Verizon cell phone service and repeater stations in the canyon.
- Supported the reconstruction and improvement of the Silver Lake Boardwalk and Trail.
- Supported Brighton Institute programs, including Intro to Fungi, Self Defense, BCC Avalanche Awareness, 5 Open Mic Nights, Climate Change, Beavers in Brighton, Weeds & Seeds, Butterflies of the Wasatch, History of Avalanche Safety in BCC, BCC Water Treatment Plant tour.

## WINTER FIRE

Residents of Silver Fork were saddened to witness a cabin fire high on the north side of the community. A coordinated effort between Silver Fork Pipeline officials and UFA allowed fire suppression water to be readily available. But the cabin burned completely in the dry winter air. Fire fighters were able to contain the fire on-site. Our sympathy goes out to this well-loved, long-time canyon family as they find a path to rebuild. Their primary home is in Salt Lake City and no one was in the cabin at the time of the fire. The cabin was an all-electric structure, but the cause of the fire is not yet certain.



House fires are most common during winter months because of extra heating and lighting needs. Here is what to do to be ready in case of a fire:

- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home and outside every sleeping area and install a carbon monoxide alarm in a central location outside each sleeping area.
- Be sure your house number is readable from the street, even at night. [Get an Address Sign](#)
- Make sure your home heating sources are clean and in working order, especially fireplaces, and know the location of your propane tanks (even in the snow.)
- Know where your nearest fire hydrant is and keep it cleared of snow by about 4 feet.
- Keep your insurance up to date.
- A self-cleaning oven cycle should have someone on site until it's finished.
- Make sure fireplace and barbeque ashes are cold before leaving.
- Watch for worn electrical plugs and cords.
- Do not put hot ashes in the trash or the dumpsters.

## SNOW ROWS



UDOT snowplow drivers are asking for our help in busting the berms in driveways and entry roads that are created by the big UDOT plows. Their plow equipment unfortunately doesn't have the ability to groom around smaller areas. They would also appreciate our efforts to disburse the berm to the landscape, and not back onto the road. Snow that is shoveled onto the road creates ice patches. It's all part of living creatively in snow country. Help support our brightly lighted snowplows and their brave drivers!

## NEED IDEAS FOR A NEW YEARS RESOLUTION?

Increase recycling and reduce waste in your home by visiting the "How to Recycle" page at <https://wasatchfrontwaste.org/how-recycle> on the WFWRD website and following these tips:

- Avoid bagging your recyclables in plastic garbage bags. Throw your recyclables directly into your recycling can or place them in paper bags.
- Lessen your junk mail by removing your name from credit lists, catalogs, and more.
- Recycle or donate old or unwanted appliances, electronics and clothing.
- Invest in re-useable containers like water bottles, lunch bags, tumblers, and food containers.
- Visit our website and take advantage of one of our subscription services that helps to divert waste from the landfills.



<p><b>Plastic Tubs, Jugs, &amp; Plastic Containers</b> Botellas de Plástico Contenedores y tapas de plástico</p>		<p><b>NO Plastic Bags or Garbage Bags</b> NO Bolsas de Plástico <b>NO Food/Yard Waste</b> NO Desperdicios de Comida/Jardin <b>NO Plastic Packaging/Styrofoam</b> Sin Paquetes de plástico o Espuma de poliestireno/Unicel</p> 
<p><b>Metal &amp; Aluminum Cans &amp; Empty Aerosol Cans</b> Metal y latas de aluminio Aerosoles Vacíos</p>		
<p><b>Cardboard, Mixed Paper &amp; Paperboard, &amp; Paper Bags</b> Cartón                  Papel Mixto Cajas de Cartón          Bolsas de Papel</p>	 <p>*Clean Pizza Boxes ONLY *Cajas de pizza limpias SOLAMENTE</p>	

## TWO NEW BUSINESSES IN TOWN

The Big Cottonwood Towing & Recovery Service is now available to assist in pulling cars out of the snow. Owner Kyle Morgan of Silver Fork will be there to help stranded cars if the regular community snowplow is busy. He offers 24/7 service and can be reached at (801) 330-1335.

The Village Store at Solitude Mountain Resort has expanded to include a selection of liquor (the only package store in Brighton) baking and dairy products, eggs, and entrees. Locals are welcome. It's great to have this type of service in the canyon. The location is at the east corner of Eagle Springs West Condos.

## APPLY FOR THE CWC STAKEHOLDERS COUNCIL

The Central Wasatch Commission is recruiting three new members to serve on its Stakeholders Advisory Council. The Council is comprised of community members representing residents, environmental groups, ski resorts, recreational groups, and community organizations. They are charged with making recommendations to the CWC Board. It is a four-year term. If you would like to have the opportunity to make a difference in the Wasatch **[Complete an application here.](#)**





## WINTER TRAFFIC AND PARKING UPDATE



The UTA ski buses are among the hardest-working buses in the whole system. Both Cottonwood Canyons have 5 buses each running a regular schedule. This year, UTA has been adding “Exception Buses” (not on a public schedule) on weekends holidays and for every forecasted storm day. During MLK, for example, there were 5 extra buses in Big Cottonwood. Most every bus is full to capacity. Capacity is 70 passengers-standing-room-only. So far this year, UTA has counted 66,000 passengers. Last year at this time there were

55,000 passengers. In 2022 (a normal fully-staffed year) there were 70,000 passengers. This shows that UTA is very close to transporting as many passengers as they did before the UTA canyon staffing was cut in half. Bigger buses and “Exception Buses” have made the difference. Next year, UTA anticipates they will add several buses to bring the capacity to equal or exceed fully-staffed years.

The Town of Brighton implemented mandatory reserved parking on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and holidays from 7 am until 1 pm. The cost per reservation is \$10. Please note that more parking is released the night before or in the morning, depending on weather and cancellations. Here is a list of FAQs and links for parking reservations in Big Cottonwood Canyon:

How do I get a roadside parking reservation from the Town? [Roadside Parking](#)

How do I get a parking reservation at Brighton Resort? [Parking at Brighton Resort](#)

How do I get a parking reservation at Solitude Resort? [Parking at Solitude](#)

How can I stay updated on Canyon Road Status? [UDOT Road Conditions](#)

What is an Uphill Road Closure? [UDOT Closure Restrictions](#)

What is an Avalanche Closure? [UDOT Avalanche Info](#)

## SILVER LAKE LOOP TRAIL

For several years, the Forest Service has been at work on the Silver Lake boardwalk replacement project. It is a beautiful ADA compliant trail, comprised of both boardwalk and natural surface sections. The wooden retaining wall on the far side of the lake is falling, and the natural trail tread is uneven and collects water in places. Forest Service officials had hoped to complete all needed repairs, but the boardwalk portion has



taken most of the grant money. In an effort to help at this critical stage, Trails Utah applied for a \$150,000 grant from the Office of Outdoor Recreation. They also applied for a \$476,000 grant from the Salt Lake County TRCC Fund (Tourism, Recreation, Culture, Convention). Both grants were approved and the funding will be used for rock retaining walls and flattening out the natural trail tread. The work must be completed in 2024, or the funding will lapse. Local homeowners have been gracious to donate large rocks for the retaining walls. The work plan will require access through private property on the up-canyon side of the lake. It is a worthy and much appreciated summer project. Thanks to USFS, Trails Utah, and some of our local homeowners!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 20 Solitude Nordic Nights ▪ Meet at Nordic Center on the Brighton Loop ▪ Saturday, January 20 ▪ 6-9 pm ▪ Cost \$12 – Rental equipment available for \$16 ▪ Smores & Hot Chocolate ▪ Registration: [Solitude Nordic Nights | January 20 | Solitude Mountain Resort](#) Future Nordic Nights are scheduled for February 3 and 24, March 9 and 23.
- January 24 Geology of the Cottonwood Canyons ▪ Cottonwood Canyons Foundation lecture with Rodger Fry ▪ Wednesday, January 24 ▪ 6 pm ▪ Last Chance Lodge at Solitude ▪ Free ▪ Registration Required [Canyons Camp Signup](#)
- January 25 Avalanche Safety in the Wasatch ▪ BI lecture with Bruce Engelhard ▪ Thursday, January 25 ▪ 6 pm ▪ Fire Station #108 ▪ Free
- January 26 Moonlight Snowshoe Tour at Spruces ▪ Guided Tour with Cottonwood Canyons Foundation ▪ Friday, January 26 ▪ 6-8 pm ▪ Meet at Spruces Parking Lot ▪ Cost is \$10 ▪ Registration Required: [Select a Date & Time](#) Future Snowshoe Tours are scheduled for February 16 and 23 from 6-8 pm, and March 22 and 29 from 7-9 pm.
- February 15 Ski Waxing Clinic ▪ Brighton Institute Hands-On Workshop by Don Despain ▪ Thursday, February 15 ▪ 6:00 pm ▪ Fire Station #108
- February 17 Fireworks & Torchlight Parade at Solitude ▪ Presidents' Day Celebration ▪ Saturday, February 17 ▪ 6:30 pm ▪ Last Chance Lodge ▪ Free

## MEETINGS AROUND TOWN

### Planning Commission Public Hearing on Zoning in the Town of Brighton

January 31, 2024

6:00 pm

Fire Station #108 or online at

<https://slco.webex.com/meet/wgurr>

Join meeting in WebEx: Meeting number (access code): 961 841 420

Join by phone

Tap to call in from a mobile device (attendees only)

+1-213-306-3065 United States Toll (Los Angeles)

+1-602-666-0783 United States Toll (Phoenix)

Access code: 961 841 420

Join from a video conferencing system or application

Dial [wgurr@slco.webex.com](mailto:wgurr@slco.webex.com)

You can also dial 173.243.2.68 and enter your meeting number.

The Planning Commission has been working with staff over the past year at the Planning Commission public meetings to draft amendments to Title 19 (Zoning) of Town of Brighton Municipal Code. This amendment affects all areas within the Town of Brighton. The drafted sections of Title 19 will be proposed as a repeal and replacement of existing Title 19 of Municipal Code. This item covers ordinance text amendments ONLY. There are no map amendments proposed.

The Public can access a copy of the Draft on the MSD website:

<https://msd.utah.gov/367/Brighton-Active-Projects>.

### Brighton Town Council

Second Tuesday of each month – 6:30 pm [Meetings | Brighton Utah](#)

OR [www.utah.gov/pmn](http://www.utah.gov/pmn) (You can subscribe to this website to receive automatic notifications.)

### Brighton Institute Meeting

Second Monday of each month – 6 pm. Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86508034065>

Meeting ID: 865 0803 4065 Phone Connection: +1-253-215-8782

### BCCA Community Council

Second Monday of each month – 7 pm. Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86508034065>

Meeting ID: 865 0803 4065 Phone Connection: +1-253-215-8782

### Brighton Planning Commission Meeting

Third Wednesday of each month – 6:00 pm [Meetings | Brighton Utah](#)



## RESOURCES

### **Big Cottonwood Historical Society**

Check out stories about Big Cottonwood: [Historical Society — BRIGHTON INSTITUTE](#). If you have pictures, stories, or documents, let us know! Join in the adventure to discover and share canyon history!

### **Environmental Dashboard**

The Central Wasatch Commission's Environmental Dashboard has some great information about our canyon. Access the Environmental Dashboard at this link: [CWC Environmental Dashboard \(utah.gov\)](#)