

BLUFFDALE TIMES

MAYOR'S MESSAGE



I am thrilled to welcome the new year 2023! Although this is the beginning of a new calendar year, we are halfway through our 2023 fiscal year ("FY23"). In local government, our fiscal year begins July 1st and ends June 30th. I know that there are many questions regarding the FY23 budget, and I hope to be able to answer some of those.

In June 2022 the FY23 budget was passed with an increase to property taxes to cover a needed increase in costs. These increased costs included market raises already approved for the police department as well as inflation adjusted salary increases, targeted market wage increases, and additional positions for the fire department.

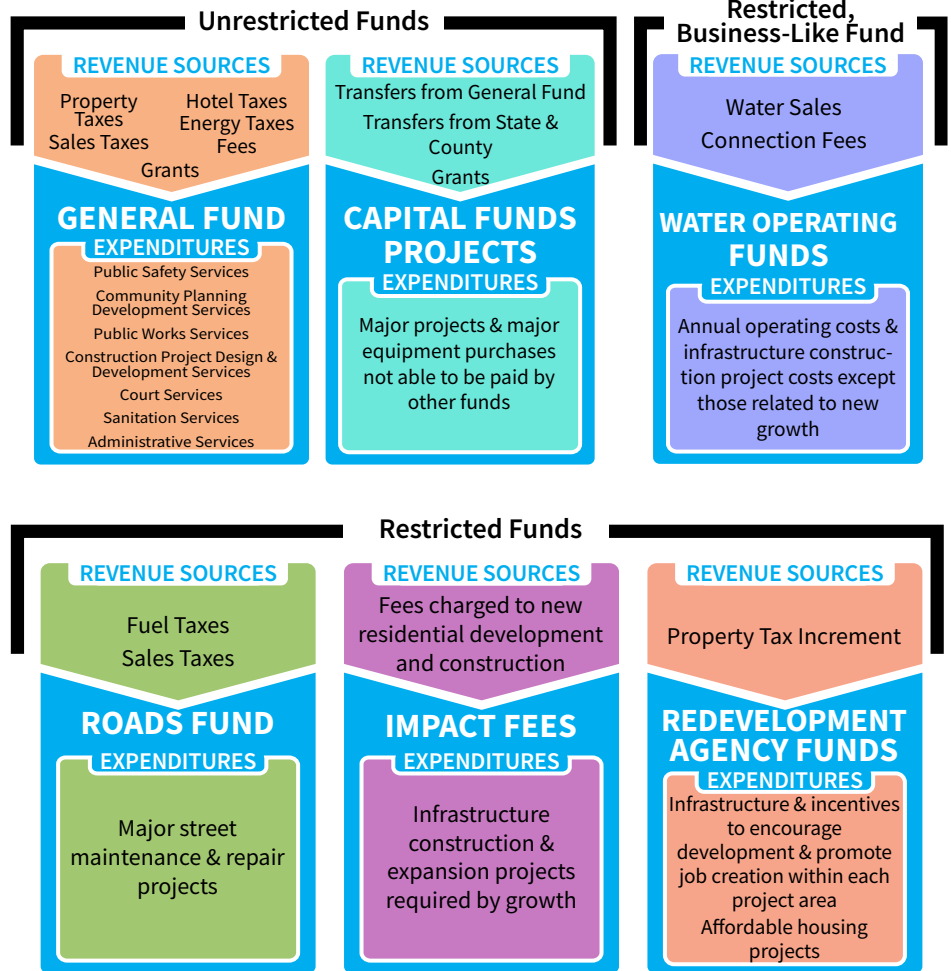
There were some concerns from residents regarding the tax increase, and a referendum was put on the ballot for the voters to decide. About 70% of the residents voted in favor of the referendum and so the City Council passed a budget adjustment in December reducing the city budget by about \$560,000 to offset the reduction in property tax revenue.

HOW IS GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTING DIFFERENT FROM CORPORATE ACCOUNTING?

In government, we use fund accounting (not to be confused with fun accounting). Different revenue sources

can only be used to pay for specific expenses. These differing revenues and expenses are tracked in separate funds (accounting books) as shown below.

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ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor: Natalie Hall

City Council: Wendy Aston, Traci Crockett, Jeff Gaston, Mark Hales, Dave Kallas

Meet with the Mayor

1st Wed., 5-6:30 pm

Council Chat:

3rd Wed., 5-6:30 pm

CITY CONTACTS

2222 W 14400 S | 801-254-2200 | info@bluffdale.com

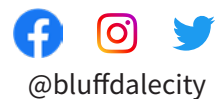
Monday-Friday | 8:30 am-5:00 pm

Emergency 911

Police Non-Emergency 801-798-5600 | **Public Works After Hours** 801-559-7783

SLCo Animal Control 801-743-7000 | **Utility Billing** 801-254-2200 x 403

Business Licensing 801-254-2200 x 414 | **Justice Court** 801-254-2200 x 417



Continued from front page

WHO AUDITS THE CITY?

The Bluffdale City Council, Local Building Authority of the City of Bluffdale Board, and Redevelopment Agency Board of the City of Bluffdale are all audited by an outside, independent accounting firm. The City Council received and approved on December 14, 2022, the Audit Report for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022. The Report was issued by Hansen, Bradshaw, Malmrose & Erickson, Certified Public Accountants. A copy of the report can be found <https://www.bluffdale.com/AuditReports>

IF WE HAVE MORE BUSINESSES, WON'T THAT INCREASE OUR SALES TAX REVENUE?

We have over 730 active businesses in Bluffdale. With an increase in businesses comes an increase to our public safety costs. We must have a larger fire department with different equipment to respond to a hotel. We need more police to be able to respond to large shopping areas. Bluffdale receives 0.5% of the sales tax collected from a point-of-sale ("POS") in the city. With online shopping, POS is where the package is delivered. The city also receives 0.5% of the sales tax collected based on our population size. Bluffdale only receives a total of 1% of sales tax collected. Sales tax is a revenue source that fluctuates depending on the economy.

HOW DO OTHER CITIES PAY FOR THEIR PUBLIC SAFETY?

Some cities pay for their public safety costs with their general fund like Bluffdale. Some cities set up special taxing areas to specifically cover public safety costs. In either case, all cities cover the majority of their public safety costs with property tax revenue because property taxes are the most stable revenue source we have.

WE RECEIVE PAYMENTS FROM THE NSA FOR WATER-WHY NOT USE THAT MONEY TO COVER THE SHORT-FALL?

This is government fund accounting. All revenue from the sale of water, from the NSA or anyone else, can only be used to pay for water department operating costs and water department projects.

WHY ARE WE BUILDING A BIG NEW PARK IN DAY RANCH RIGHT NOW?

The construction of the park is not paid for using money from the General Fund. The residents in the Day Ranch and Independence areas all paid impact fees when their building permits were issued. These impact fees were placed in the Impact Fee Fund and set aside for the park development and construction. The law states that impact fees must be used within 6 years. We don't want to lose the impact fees that were collected. However, the maintenance and operations of the park will come from the general fund. The park maintenance service level will be affected by the reduction in property tax revenue.

WHY BUILD A NEW PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING?

As stated before, the city plans and saves money for projects years in advance. This project was planned years ago. The public works building is currently on less than an acre. We do not have the space to store or even wash off our equipment in Bluffdale from the salt and sand (due to our lack of legal wash stations). We are unable to properly preserve our expensive equipment. The large vac truck costs over 1 million dollars. Again, every financial decision is evaluated for its current impact as well as the impact in 1, 5, 10 and even 20 years in the future. We can no longer afford to wait to build this building.

WE CAN BUILD A RAILROAD BRIDGE AT 14600 SOUTH, BUT WE CAN'T PAY FOR FULL TIME FIREFIGHTERS?

The one-way bridge project will be funded with State grants and funding. Those grants can not be used for city operating expenses.

WHY DON'T WE CANCEL ROAD PROJECTS TO COVER PUBLIC SAFETY COSTS?

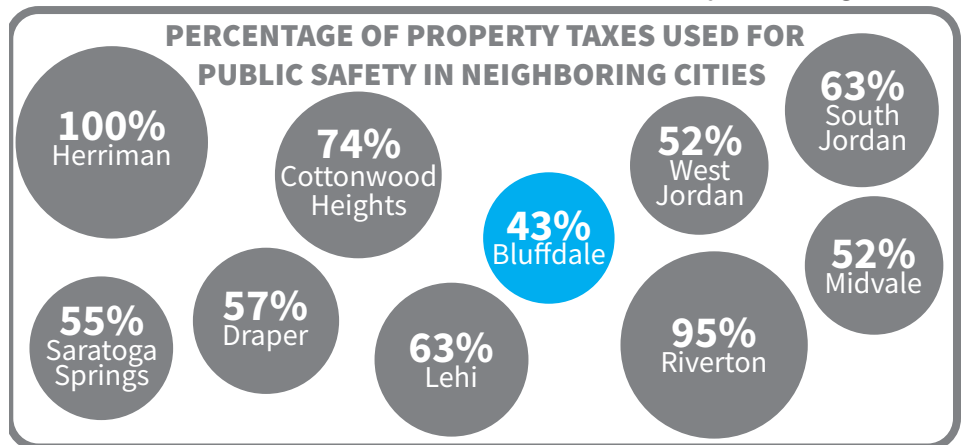
Again, fund accounting does not allow us to use fuel taxes on anything other than roads. If we delay road projects, the delay will take our well-maintained roads to a state of disrepair. Poorly maintained roads ultimately cost the city more in the future. Every financial decision is evaluated for its current impact as well as the impact in 1, 5, 10 and even 20 years in the future.

WHY NOT DIP INTO OUR RESERVES?

State law requires the city to have at least 5% and not more than 35% of revenue in reserves. Bluffdale historically has around 20% in our reserves. When I make my house payment, I pay it out of monthly, recurring income. When my water heater goes out or when I need new tires on my car, I pay for those items from my savings account. If the city used reserves (rainy day savings) to pay for ongoing expenses, it will not have those reserves when an emergency happens.

WHAT IS THE GOOD NEWS?

The good news is that we have our employees cross trained to do multiple jobs. We maintain our infrastructure now instead of pushing inevitably higher costs to future generations. We have 20% of our budgeted expenditures in reserves. We have improved our ability to compete in the labor market with the salary increases. We have exciting new projects planned. Best of all, we are all working together to make the adjusted budget work.



NOW WHAT? HOW WILL YOU MAKE THE ADJUSTED FY23 BUDGET WORK? WHAT CUTS WILL WE HAVE?

Cuts were made from every department in the city. I introduced our departments in the November news-letter <https://www.bluffdale.com/Nov2022-Newsletter>

Specifically, some of the expenses were reduced by canceling the purchase of some computers for employees, not filling positions in the parks, streets and water departments, having fewer events, not sending employees to be trained, and closing Fire Station 91. Not filling positions in the Public Works department will also affect service levels for snow plowing.

With a new fire chief, the original FY23 budget included a plan to increase fire department wages on July 1, to implement a bonus program, and to hire 3 full-time firefighters in February (one per shift). With the property tax decrease, we no longer can afford to hire the 3 full-time firefighters this fiscal year. Our plan remains to add full-time firefighters in increments in the future.

Our plan under the budget reduction is to reduce the daily firefighter positions available from 8 to 6. By reducing the daily positions and delaying the full-time positions, we can still do the bonus program and increase the wages of all firefighter positions by an additional \$3/hour. This brings our starting wage in the fire department up to the \$18/hour that we have elsewhere in the city. It also creates a greater incentive for firefighters to want to work here.

The reduction of shifts does not layoff any current firefighting/medical personnel—there will just be fewer shifts to fill. There have been many days we have had to close a station because of the high number of unfilled shifts. We believe that by cutting two shifts and raising wages, the city will have better overall coverage even with closing Station 91. Coverage will continue to be closely monitored and we will make additional changes, as necessary, to protect the city.

HOW CAN I GET HELP UNDERSTANDING OUR CITY BUDGET?

You can view the budget on our website <https://www.bluffdale.com/Budget>

I am happy to meet in person with any resident regarding the budget. Email nhall@bluffdale.com

BLUFFDALE CITY SNOW ORDINANCES



DO NOT PARK ON THE STREET DURING A SNOW STORM

Cars parked on the street make it difficult for the snow plows to do their job. If there are cars parked on the street in a cul de sac, the plows will not enter.



HOME OWNERS ARE RESPONSIBLE TO REMOVE SNOW FROM SIDEWALKS, MAILBOXES, AND FIRE HYDRANTS

Do not shovel snow into the street, keep it on your property.



TRACK THE SNOWPLOWS AT BLUFFDALE.COM/SNOW

Live tracking of our the City snowplows.

BLUFFDALE POLICE CITIZEN ACADEMY 2022



Shooting guns, traffic stops, crime scenes, and blood splatter might sound like a TV show plot line but it also describes the Saratoga Springs Police Department's citizen academy classes. Citizens are given the opportunity to do these and many other hands-on educational opportunities.

This program, held annually in the fall, is meant to give citizens a chance to learn what officers do on a daily basis and allow citizens to ask questions they might have in reference to officers' jobs. It is a free nine-week academy offered to any citizen age 21 and up living in Saratoga Springs or City of Bluffdale. Classes are held at the Community Room at the Saratoga Springs Public Safety Building one evening a week for a couple of hours. The next class will start September 14, 2023.



Five Bluffdale residents attended and graduated from the 2022 class. Two of these were our very own city council members Wendy Aston and Traci Crockett. Thank you to Fiston Tokenge, and Diane and Scott Workman who will now be serving our city as volunteers with the police department.

If you are interested in learning more about being part of the 2023 class please fill out this application: www.bluffdale.com/CitizensAcademyApplication If you have questions about the academy send them to mhamer@saratogaspringscity.com Get a video peek into what the academy looks like here: <https://fb.watch/h8Fj7XcTcc/>.

BLUFFDALE BUSINESS BUZZ

Welcome to all the new businesses in Bluffdale during the month of December 2022.

kykywillbeautify LLC

Modo Studios LLC

Griffeth Chiropractic

Superior Water Restoration LLC

BP Home Services, LLC

2H Investments LLC

Perlin's Custom Creations

IBIS Coatings & Contracting

A list of all businesses in Bluffdale can be found online at bluffdale.com/businessdirectory.

If you are a Bluffdale business and would like to be promoted on our Shop Local - Bluffdale Facebook page, email businesslicense@bluffdale.com.



Follow @Shop Local-Bluffdale on Facebook

HEALTHY BLUFFDALE COALITION

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Healthy Bluffdale Survey. Winners of the drawing will be contacted by January 25th. The three \$25 gift card prizes are supplied by the Salt Lake County Health Department. The Healthy Bluffdale Coalition (HBC) strives to implement a whole health approach that centers around the responsibility of individual citizens to know and care for their own health and prevention of illness. HBC is looking for businesses and citizens to be ambassadors of whole health in the community. If you would like to join the Coalition, fill out the volunteer application at www.bluffdale.com/VolunteerApplication. Meetings are held monthly on the third Thursday at 6:30 pm.

PROJECT UPDATES

DAY RANCH PARK

Construction continues on the Day Ranch Park. They are working diligently to install all the underground infrastructure for all the amazing amenities. Watch for monthly updates as construction progresses.

You can find designs and updates at www.bluffdale.com/DayRanchPark. If you have any questions you can email DayRanchPark@bluffdale.com

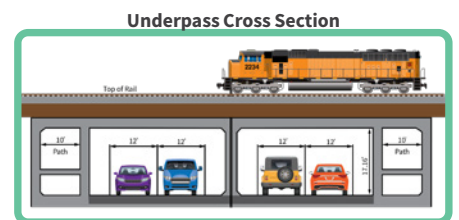
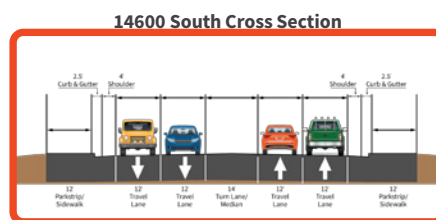


ONE LANE BRIDGE

The Open House for the One Lane Bridge Environmental Study was held December 6 at City Hall. The presentation boards and slides from the event are on the website at www.bluffdale.com/OneLaneBridge.

The Engineering Department is writing a request for proposal for the Contractor Management General Contractor (CMGC), which should go out in February with a selection in March. Once a CMGC is selected, the design process will continue.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE



UTAH TRANSIT AUTHORITY (UTA) FIVE-YEAR PLAN

The Utah Transit Authority (UTA) is developing a Five-Year Service Plan.

Our region is growing rapidly. Where and how we grow has impacts on the entire transportation network. This vision for the path ahead works to address these impacts through improvements to the transit system. The Five-Year Service Plan reflects UTA's intended service based on the best information available. To learn more about the Five-Year Service Plan and to submit your comments by January 23, visit rideuta.com/FYSP.

PRIMARY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL SUPPLY DRIVE

This year we held our first supply drive for Primary Children's hospital we asked for not just toys but clothes, blankets, crayons, books, activity kits, and more. In true Bluffdale fashion, our amazing citizens responded with great kindness and generosity making our first, of what will now be an annual drive, a huge success. We would like to thank our Bluffdale citizens, family, friends, and offer a special thanks to Summit Academy High School Bluffdale, Riverton High School HOSA, and the many church and scout groups that all chose our supply drive to support.

This supply drive is immensely beneficial to our community, it helps supply our local children's hospital with items it gives every child, year-round, that has to be treated there regardless of economic status, age, or severity of illness. This year my family saw what an impact these items have on a personal level. In March, we experienced every parent's nightmare - my son had to have a major emergency lifesaving operation followed by an extensive stay in the hospital. When we thought his recovery was well under way the unthinkable happened again and in July, he underwent a second major emergency lifesaving operation.

During his time spent in the hospital, I saw first-hand how a simple soft blanket made the harsh hospital bed feel just a little more like home, an inexpensive fidget toy was invaluable tool as a distraction from a fourth IV line being placed, and the choice of a toy helped replace the bad memory of a hard procedure with a more pleasant one. Any time spent in a hospital is hard, especially the longer the stay. Time moves so slow minutes feel like hours, hours feel like days, and days and nights begin to feel the same. So, when the activity cart comes to each room and provides paints, crafts, magnetic sand, clay or any other activity kit that someone has generously made and donated it provides a distraction and relief making the time seem to move faster. Though these items may seem small to some, to others who are in a place they don't want to be, experiencing something no one wants to experience with family only able to watch feeling completely helpless and vulnerable, these items are priceless, humbling and so appreciated.

On behalf of the City of Bluffdale Mayor and City Council I would like thank all of you who donated!
- Council Member Wendy Aston



CITY NOTICE

Beginning in January 2023, the collection process for past due Bluffdale utility accounts is changing. Accounts will need to be kept current monthly to avoid shutoff. We will no longer be hanging 24-hour notices on doors. Please read the complete policy at www.bluffdale.com/utilities

NOVEMBER 22, 2022 Red Cross Blood Drive

34 DONORS 6 FIRST TIME DONORS		GOAL 34 PINTS
WHOLE BLOOD 28 PINTS	8 PINTS RED BLOOD CELLS	
ACTUAL 108 LIVES SAVED		ACTUAL 36 PINTS
Each donation has the potential to save up to 3 lives		

DECEMBER 20, 2022 Red Cross Blood Drive

35 DONORS 1 FIRST TIME DONORS		GOAL 37 PINTS
WHOLE BLOOD 24 PINTS	18 PINTS RED BLOOD CELLS	
ACTUAL 126 LIVES SAVED		ACTUAL 42 PINTS
Each donation has the potential to save up to 3 lives		

SALT LAKE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES

2022 Fun Facts About Your Animal Shelter

As the largest, no-kill, municipal animal shelter in Utah, Salt Lake County Animal Services is an extremely busy place. The staff see a variety of animals throughout the year from big to small: horses, goats, cows, pigs, snakes, pet spiders, turtles and obviously the traditional, dogs, cats, guinea pigs and rabbits. Here are just some Fun Facts from this year.

Adoptions, Rescues & Return to Home

2,600 Pets were adopted or sent to rescue!

Another 1,500 went home to their owners.

Pet Food & Treats

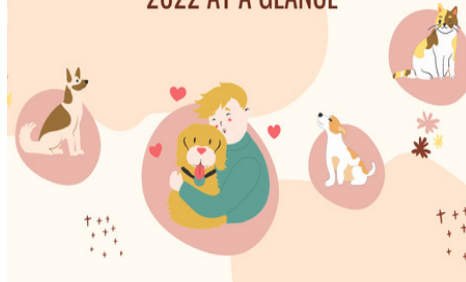
Over 21,000 pounds of food and treats were fed to shelter pets.

Volunteer & Foster Hours

32,500 Volunteer Hours

915 Pets to Foster Homes = 93,000 Foster Hours

Salt Lake County Animal Services 2022 AT A GLANCE



Spay & Neuter Clinic

3,300 Pets were sterilized by our in-house clinic.

Humane Education Presentations

Over 5,000 children and adults attended our community presentations.

For more on how to get involved, adopt, license, microchip, or donate, visit AdoptUtahPets.org

*All numbers were from 1/1/2022 -11/1/2022

BLUFFDALE YOUTH COUNCIL

Bluffdale Youth Council is a great way for youth ages 14-18 years old to learn about city government, make new friends, serve the community, and practice leadership skills. The Youth Council accepts applications all year long online at www.bluffdale.com/Youth-Council.



The Youth Council is hosting two fun events in February.

Bluffdale Youth Hoedown

Friday Feb. 10, 2023
6:00-9:00 pm
All Bluffdale City and surrounding cities youth 14-18 invited.

City Hall Community Room
Join us for line dancing lessons and light refreshments



Bingo Night

Monday Feb 13, 2023
5:00-7:00 pm

All Bluffdale City seniors 65 and older or anyone who wants to come!
Community Room Fire Station #92
(14895 Noell Nelson Dr)
Bingo, prizes, and light refreshments

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 pm. Meetings are open to any youth that want to attend.

COMMUNITY UPDATES

RIVERTON HIGH SCHOOL

Riverton High has been knee deep in snow and Silver Rush. This year's charity was The Children's Justice Center of Salt Lake County. Students were seen knocking at almost every door in Riverton and Bluffdale doing odd jobs for charity. Fun was had by all and The Children's Justice Center will be receiving a windfall of cash to improve the lives of children suffering from abuse and other devastating life circumstances.

In other news, girls and boys basketball and both wrestling teams are off to a very strong start. The RHS cheer team took first place at the UCA Regional Competition and qualified for Nationals in February. The ever-so-talented theater crew performed Bye Bye Birdie this semester and knocked it out of the park. RHS is also home to some extraordinary teachers. Melinda Van Komen, Cayli Van Thiel Berghuys Lebaron, and Mather Ulmer received the esteemed PTSA Teacher of the Year award. We applaud our great teachers and talented and charitable students. Riverton High truly has it all!

MOUNTAIN POINT ELEMENTARY

There is a common misconception that you need to know computer coding to participate in STEAM, but the students at Mountain Point Elementary prove that this approach to learning is for everyone. Tina Coverdell is the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics) teacher at this Bluffdale elementary school. She uses a variety of tech tools, creative activities and modalities to teach kindergarten through 6th grade students critical thinking skills. The motto in Tina's class is "mistakes are cool". She wants her students to learn from their mistakes and figure out how to do better next time, just as a scientist would. So far this year,

Kindergarten Virtual Learning

Kindergarten Enrollment for All Utah Students

- **Students Can Choose**
 - Daily live virtual instruction with teacher and classmates or
 - Work independently on customized path, place and pace of learning
- **Peak Time** - Optional in-person hands-on learning



To learn more about Kindergarten at Rocky Peak Virtual Elementary and to enroll, please visit rockypeak.jordandistrict.org or scan the QR code.



students have had the opportunity to work with robots, work with a variety of tech tools, practice coding, and paint while listening to instrumental music. Many times the students do not realize how much they are learning because they are having so much fun!!

SUMMIT ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL

Summit Academy High School excites a student's desire to learn and succeed now and in the future. Our dynamic student-teacher-family community sees each student as a whole person and together creates a challenging individualized educational journey toward intellectual success and personal well-being."

Open Houses for the 2023-2024 school year will be held on January 5th and January 17th from 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM. You will have the opportunity to see what SAHS has to offer to your potential student. Representative from our administration, teachers, clubs,

athletics, counseling, and support services will be present to answer any questions you may have. sahs.summitacademyschools.org

NORTH STAR ACADEMY

North Star Academy will hold their open enrollment for all openings for the 2023-2024 school year in early February, but the **lottery opens Jan 2** at www.north-staracademy.com.

ART SHOW

06-27 JANUARY
10:00-4:30

OPENING NIGHT JAN 06
5:30-6:30
BLUFFDALE CITY HALL
2222 14400 S. BLUFFDALE

IMPORTANT DATES

Connect with @Bluffdale City on Facebook or Instagram for more information.

ANIMAL LICENSING CLINIC



JANUARY 4
FEBRUARY 1
2-4 PM
CITY HALL
2222 W 14400 S

AMATEUR RADIO CLASSES



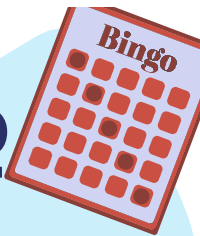
January 9, 23, 2023
Test January 28, 2023
www.bluffdale.com/HAM

BLUFFDALE YOUTH HOEDOWN



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10
6-9 PM · All Youth 14-18
CITY HALL COMMUNITY ROOM
LINE DANCING LESSONS
LITE REFRESHMENTS

BINGO NIGHT



MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13
5-7 PM
Bluffdale Residents 65+
STATION #92 COMMUNITY ROOM
BINGO, PRIZES, LITE REFRESHMENTS

BLUFFDALE ARTS DANCE NIGHTS



January 14, 2023 @ 7 pm
February 11, 2023 @ 7 pm
Bluffdale City Hall
bluffdale.com/Arts

BLUFFDALE ARTS PRESENTS

SEUSSICAL THE MUSICAL

MARCH 9-11, 2023
HIDDEN VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Tickets go on sale February 1
bluffdale.com/Arts

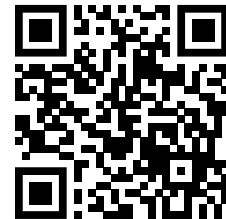
RIVERTON SENIOR CENTER

The Riverton Senior Center, located at 12914 S. Redwood Road, is open from 7:00am to 4:00pm, Monday through Friday. The Center offers a comprehensive range of programs to enlighten, educate and enrich the lives of Bluffdale residents age 60 and over.

Lunch is served from 11:30am-12:15pm Monday through Friday. Suggested donation for those 60 and older is \$4.00 and under 60 is \$8.00.

For questions about the meal or free transportation to the center, please call the Riverton Senior Center at 385-468-3040.

Check out the menu and planned activities for January on the website www.slco.org/riverton-senior-center



Scan for the Riverton Senior Center website to see current menu and calendar of events.

MEETING SCHEDULE	CITY COUNCIL	PLANNING COMMISSION	SECTION LEADER MEETING	YOUTH COUNCIL
	January 11, 7 pm January 25, 7 pm February 8, 7 pm February 22, 7 pm	January 4, 6 pm January 18, 6 pm February 1, 6 pm February 15, 6 pm	January 3, 6:15 pm February 7, 6:15 pm	January 17, 5:30 pm February 10, 6-9 pm February 13, 5-7 pm
	COUNCIL CHAT	MEET WITH THE MAYOR	HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION	HOLIDAY SCHEDULE
	January 18, 5 pm February 15, 5 pm	January 4, 5 pm February 1, 5 pm	January 5, 7 pm	January 2 - Closed January 16 - Closed February 20 - Closed
	HEALTHY BLUFFDALE			
	January 19, 6:30 pm February 16, 6:30 pm			