

THE Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council BULLETIN



Construction of State Capitol Building and dome, Shipler Commercial Photographers, 25 May 1914.

Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council Meeting

When: 17 March 2004, 6:30 p.m.

Where: Washington Elementary School

6:30 *Welcome & Minutes of 2/18/2004*

Peter von Sivers, Chair

6:35 *Police Report*

6:50 *Update on Community Matters*

7:05 *Discussion of the proposal to close Columbus Street*

Utah Capitol Hill Preservation Board

7:30 *Open Forum*

7:45 *Adjournment*

NEXT MEETING
APRIL 21, 2004, 6:30 p.m.

Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council Members

Chair	Peter Von Sivers	364-3310
Vice-Chair	Polly Hart	355-7203
Secretary	Christine Wade	918-0114
Treasurer	Kim Fowkes	521-0104
Historian	Hermoine Jex	364-5326

Neighborhood Trustees:

Capitol	Carol Wood	355-6475
DeSoto/Cortez	Katherine Gardner	328-1724
Ensign Downs	Dean Larsen	575-8135
Kimball	Victoria Collard	595-8575
St. Marks	Shauna Davenport	363-1905
Swedetown	Mary Solt	355-8507
Temple	William Call	364-1758
Warm Springs	Minta Brandon	355-1363
Washington	Bonnie Mangold	363-4634
West High	Erlinda Davis	531-1964

Mobile Watch	Joan Legge	355-8396
Bulletin	Kevin & Margaret Berchtold, Corinne & Stephen Sorenson	
Web Site	Cassandra VanBuren	

www.capitolhillcc.org

capitolhill@aros.net

Too Many Cars?

by Eric Jergensen

Many of us in the Capitol Hill neighborhood struggle with increasing traffic congestion on our major streets and, more recently, the increasing number of cars traveling on our side streets. This increase is problematic in our area, because, when our streets were designed, a high volume of traffic was never envisioned. These higher traffic volumes lead to accelerated degradation not only of our infrastructure, but also of the quality of life we enjoy in this neighborhood.

To mitigate this problem, two options are being discussed as part of the Capitol Preservation Project. These options have been developed under the able direction of Representative Ralph Becker and a group of Capitol Hill and Avenues residents that have met for a number of years to discuss the traffic issues that affect our area. Let me briefly review these options:

1. Placing of traffic lights at the 300 No. and 500 No. intersections with Main Street and Columbus Street, respectively. Modeling suggests that this action could decrease traffic along Victory Road and Columbus Street by approximately 15%. Traffic will then most likely flow from Beck Street to 300 West and or stay on I-15 to 400 South.
2. Closing of Columbus Street from 500 No. to 300 No. and build-out of green space along most of the present streetscape. Some parking will be made available for the DUP Museum and access will be maintained for residents living on Columbus and the side streets. There would be no traffic on Columbus Street as a "round-about" would connect 500 No. and Victory Road. However, traffic along 500 No. to East Capitol could increase significantly. Traffic along 300 W. could also see a significant increase.

We are working very hard together to find appropriate solutions that will both allow access to our downtown and preserve the quality of life for our neighborhoods. It is critically important that you make your voice heard. If you have feelings or questions about these two options, please feel free to give me a call at 532-4844 or e-mail me at

Eric.Jergensen@slcgov.com. Although final plans are not yet available, decisions may be made within the next 60 – 90 days. Therefore, your comments will help define how those plans are made.

This Old House

Model Steam Laundry Building—244 West 300 North

By Nelson Knight

This month's building reminds us of the mixed use nature of Capitol Hill's neighborhoods, especially on the blocks west of 200 West. This area was part of Salt Lake City's original Plat 'A', and consists of large ten-acre blocks separated by 132 foot wide streets. This neighborhood has always been an area of diverse uses, including houses, multi-family dwellings, commercial buildings, and small-and large scale industrial uses. In the 1870 and 1880s, early farms that characterized this neighborhood were subdivided and sold to developers. The proximity of the area to the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad line quickly attracted industrial uses, such as the Morrison-Merrill Lumber Company and Salt Lake Hardware buildings on 400 West, just north of North Temple.



Another company attracted to the area was the Model Steam Laundry Company. Originally located on Orpheum Avenue in downtown Salt

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Lake City, the Model Laundry moved its expanding business to a newly constructed building at 244 West 300 North. This architecturally modest, but sizable building boasts a strong architectural pedigree. Built in 1912 and expanded in 1915, the building was designed by Frederic Albert Hale, notable architect of such buildings as the Alta Club at 100 E. South Temple; the Keith-Brown Mansion, at 529 E. South Temple; the David Keith Building at 242-256 S. Main Street (Home of Sam Weller's Bookstore) and at least one other laundry building, the American Linen Supply Company once located at 33 W. 600 South between Main and State Streets. The Contractors for the building were John and Henry Schraven, builders of the original Salt Lake City Library (which, until recently, housed the Hansen Planetarium), several public schools, and the W.P. Fuller Warehouse at 400 South and 400 West.

Hale and the Schravens' building was a two story brick structure, with decorative brick pilasters and cornices on the front. The

open floor plan was lit by large windows on all sides of the building.. Historic photos show a tall water tower and an even taller stack at the back of the building.

According to Architectural Historian Korral Broschinsky's 2001 research concerning the history of the building, The Model Laundry's steam powered operation was divided into zones. Historic interior photographs show large washing machines and wringers on the main floor, with drying and pressing equipment on the second floor. A 1915 addition was constructed to provide, according to the 1915 Polk city directory, "a special department for hotel and rooming house work, which cannot be excelled." The 1915 directory also noted that all washing was done in sterilized and triple filtered water. Manager of the laundry was Ernest J. Wignall, an Avenues resident who had worked in the laundry business for 57 years at the time of his death in 1964.

Despite several decades of success, the Model Steam Laundry Company went out of business in the 1930s. The building sat vacant for a few years, until it was sold to



the Salt Lake Knitting Works. The Knitting Works made several modifications to the building to accommodate knitting, sewing and finishing machines, and stockrooms. The Knitting Works specialized in ladies coats and suits, but produced other types of women's apparel that was sold at its store at 42 South Main Street.

The Knitting Works sold the property to Zions Securities Corporation in 1960. The buildings were used by the LDS Church as maintenance shops in the 1960s and 1970s. In the 1980s, Bud Bailey construction acquired the building and rehabilitated the structure for their offices. Several other businesses also used the building. The building currently houses Colvin Engineering and several smaller businesses.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Food, Clothing, and other Donations

- **The LDS 19th Ward Relief Society**, located at 225 W. 500 N., sponsors a **clothing exchange** on the second Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. **Everything is free!** Come and look, or bring something along to pass on to someone else. All are welcome!
- **Crossroads Urban Center**, 347 S. 400 E., helps feed the homeless in our neighborhood. This month they have a special need for **peanut butter and any canned beans**. Their **Thrift Store**, 1385 W. Indiana (850 S.), needs dishes, silverware, pots and pans, and small groups for sorting. Please call Linda Hilton at 364-7765 for more information.
- **The Road Home** is in need of volunteers at its community shelter, 210 S. Rio Grande St. Donations of personal hygiene items, socks, underwear, diapers, and any other items are needed. Call 359-4142 or go to www.theroadhome.org.

Literacy, Reading, and Children

- **Literacy Volunteers of America-Wasatch Front** is seeking volunteers to teach English to adult refugees and immigrants. Training is provided. Call Barbara or Denise at 328-5608.
- **Become a foster parent** and strengthen a family! Right here in our Capitol Hill neighborhood are children in need of safe, stable, loving homes while their families heal. You can be married or single, with or without children, renter or homeowner. Visit www.utahfostercare.org or call 994-5205. Volunteer opportunities are also available.
- **The Children's Museum of Utah** needs energetic, fun-loving seniors, and others to volunteer for work in the galleries, at the front desk, and behind the scenes. Call 328-3383.
- **Washington School** needs volunteers to read to a child one hour a week. Call Ann Pendell, 578-8140, Tuesdays or Thursdays, for details.

Service Activities

- **Primary Children's Medical Center** needs volunteers for its information desks, gift shop, and other areas. Call 588-2446 for more information.
- **Capitol Hill Kiwanis Club** continues its service to our community. Join us each Thursday at 7:00 a.m. for breakfast and a speaker at the Inn at Temple Square. For more information, call Moyle Anderson at 364-7294.
- Help the **Neighborhood Watch** for two hours or more monthly. To help, or for more information, please call Joan Legge, 355-8396.
- **LifeCare** (1025 S. 700 W.) needs volunteers to help homebound seniors and persons with disabilities by delivering food boxes and/or helping shovel snow. For more information, call 978-2452.
- **TreeUtah** doesn't have any projects planned at this time. Visit www.treeutah.org or call 364-2122 if you do not have internet access.
- **Utah Food Bank** always welcomes volunteers to help sort food at their warehouse at 1025 S. 700 W. Please call Christine Thomas at 908-8660.



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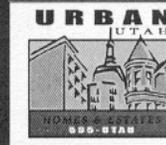
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LDS Hospital

The new IHC Hospital at 5300 S. State Street in Murray will open in 2007. The LDS Hospital will become a community hospital like Cottonwood and S.L. Regional. If you have questions or want a handout with information discussed at the Greater Avenues Neighborhood Meeting, call 408-1841.

Estimated Results:
 Bed total is expected to drop from 541 to roughly 300. Number of employees will drop from 4,453 to roughly 3,000. Helicopter flights will drop from 700 per year to less than 100. Ambulance trips will drop by half from 4,500 currently. Services will move from north wing to the south with no future plans for the north wing.

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FEATURED NEIGHBORS

Peter Von Sivers

Three scenes from Peter Von Sivers' eventful life:

He and a friend are sleeping in a tent in the northern African desert one night in 1962. They've traveled from Peter's home in Germany through Spain to Gibraltar, then to Morocco and beyond in "a beat-up VW, seeing the country from the ground up, so to speak." People in these rarely visited locales have been excited to see Europeans and were "very hospitable in the traditional Islamic sense," sharing food and lodging. This night, however, they wake up "completely petrified," Peter says, because they sense some force is trying to tear their tent down. They creep outside and discover a very persistent donkey nibbling on the canvas.



Five years later, while Peter is a young assistant professor in Munich, a friend who is going to a dance with a girl named Judith wants to borrow a tie Peter bought in London. The tie, Peter relates, was "wide, lurid, velvet, and multi-colored" with purple, orange, and yellow diagonal stripes. Judith asks where the tie came from; the friend responds that she should meet the acquaintance who loaned it to him. Peter and Judith meet, and are married a year later while relocating to the United States where Peter will teach at UCLA. (By the way, he still has the tie.)

Fast forward to 1986 when Peter and Judith are traveling in another van – this time in southern Estonia to take a secret look at Peter's ancestors' estate. In the late 1600s one of his multiple-great-grandfathers emigrated from Germany to serve as the admiral of Peter the Great's Baltic fleet, and in return, received lands in southern Estonia. (Peter's family returned to Germany at the time of the Russian Revolution.) The 1986 government, still firmly Communist, won't grant a visa for travel in the south of the country, so some Estonian naturalist friends take the Von Siverses surreptitiously to take a few pictures of the ancestral lands.

Middle Eastern Scholar; Community Council Chair

The long-ago Morocco trip stimulated Peter's interest in the Middle East, and study of its history and Islamic culture became his life's work. After teaching at UCLA and at Northwestern University in Chicago, he came to the University of Utah in 1975. He teaches Islamic Middle Eastern history (an area he acknowledges as "absolutely mystifying to most people") and is a professor in both the Middle East and History Departments.

"Understanding the Islamic Middle East is obviously not easy, particularly in the present volatile situation," Peter states. "I consider one of my main functions to be helping people to understand Middle Eastern affairs." The Mideast Center at the University is one of only fifteen such federally-funded centers in the nation for the study of Arabic, Persian, Turkish and Hebrew.

Peter and Judith moved into the Capitol Hill neighborhood in 1984 "when we bought a wonderful 115-year-old Victorian Eclectic home." They became involved in our Neighborhood Council shortly after. "We felt attracted to Capitol Hill because of its character as one of the oldest neighborhoods in Salt Lake. We became involved in the Community Council because, in the second half of the '80s, we thought this was a very fragile neighborhood, needing the involvement of its residents. In many ways it still is fragile. We have the advantage of a great diversity of groups living here, but there is also a tendency for them not readily to relate to each other, so civic-minded people need to become engaged, to strengthen the neighborhood." Peter became chair of our community Council five months ago, after long service as an officer and trustee.

Peter devotes a great deal of time to scholarly writing – he has written two books and approximately thirty articles and chapters. He and two colleagues are currently completing a 900-page world history text. And in what little spare time remains, "I would love to go skiing," he laughs, noting that he has enjoyed the sport ever since he learned to ski as a four-year-old in southern Germany.

FREE COMMUNITY EVENTS

Temple Square* - 7:30 p.m.—March

- 20 - Orchestra at Temple Square Spring Concert*
- 23 - Young Women Open House**
- 24 - Primary Open House**
- 25 - Relief Society Open House**
- 27 - General Young Women Meeting (Conference Center)
- 30 - Young Women Open House**
- 31 - Primary Open House**

*Certain programs require tickets. For info call 240-0080.

Madeleine Choir School—March

- 10 - Founder's Day Mass at the Cathedral of the Madeleine, 12:00 p.m.
- 21 - Founder's Day Concert, 8:00 p.m., for guaranteed seating passes, call 994-4663.

Madeleine Choir School—April

- 9 - Choral Meditation , 3:00 p.m.

**Open Houses are at various locations

Exterior of Model Steam Laundry Company on Orpheum Avenue near State Street, Shipley Commercial Photographers, 8 August 1911, photo #12357. (see this month's "This Old House", pp 1-2)



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