

THE Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council BULLETIN



Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council Meeting

When: **20 April 2005, 6:30 p.m.**

Where: **Cafeteria, new East Wing of State Capitol**

If you need transportation, please contact me (Peter von Sivers, 364-3310) and I will help you. I will also pass by Washington Elementary School (corner of 200 West and 400 North) at 5:50 PM to pick up anyone who needs a lift.

- 6:30 *Welcome by Peter von Sivers, Chair Minutes of March*
- 6:35 *Police Report*
- 6:50 *Presentation by UTA on Bus Routing and Scheduling*
- 7:15 *VCBO Architects Soliciting Proposals from the Capitol Hill Residents on the Future of the Children's Museum Building*
- 7:45 *Presentation by CareSource on Medicaid Delivery*
- 8:00 *Open Forum for Community Matters*
- 8:15 *Adjourn*

NEXT MEETING
MAY 18, 2005, 6:30 p.m.

Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council Members

Chair	Peter Von Sivers	364-3310
Vice-Chair	Georg Stutzenberger	510-1603
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	Gene Simmons	364-3830
Warm Springs	Minta Brandon	355-1363
Washington	Bonnie Mangold	363-4634
West High	Erlinda Davis	531-1964

Mobile Watch	Joan Legge	355-8396
Bulletin	Margaret Berchtold	364-2604
Web Site	Cassandra Van Buren	capitolhill@aros.net

Comment: The Capitol Hill Neighborhood by Gene Simmons, Trustee for the Temple Area

Excuse me!! Is that my neighborhood you're talking about? Recently I attended the funeral of a friend whose family had lived in the Capitol Hill area for several years. As his son spoke, the memories he had of that time included living in an old rundown house in an area which his description may have led the audience to believe to be very indigent. That's not what I remember.

On one point the young man was right. Most of the houses and buildings around us are old. In fact, many are historical. Others are worn and dilapidated through age or by use. But the homes that are well-cared-for exhibit uniqueness and a view of the past not seen in other cities. We are surrounded by dwellings that were constructed from a specific idea or plan the original owner wanted. They were not chosen from a few options provided by a builder. This variety of architecture has its own aura and mystique, and unlike the reaction of the young man who found joy in leaving, prompts interest for visitors to experience the history and ambience of Capitol Hill. The individuality of the many different styles and colors of homes built on the side of a hill gives Capitol Hill its own diversified identity.

Besides the restoration of homes in the area, it has been interesting and pleasing to see the construction of new homes, built in a manner that doesn't detract from the nature of the community. North Main, Almond, and Center Streets are examples of the care that has been taken to preserve the beauty and character of our neighborhoods.

My family has lived on Capitol Hill in the Marmalade section for many years. We have seen many changes. Most of them have been improvements. There have been many people who have pursued ways to maintain and improve the neighborhoods to make this a nice place to live. By the way – that old rundown house I mentioned? It is still standing. It is still well kept with a nice yard, and fits in nicely with the other buildings around it.



This Old House
Lois & Robert Widdison House
462-464 N. Pugsley Street
By Nelson Knight

One Capitol Hill neighborhood that is enjoying a recent renaissance is the Pugsley Street between Ouray Avenue and 600 North. Recent investment by Neighborhood Housing Services and the City have helped to revitalize older houses and construct new homes on several vacant lots. In 2002, the Capitol Hill National Register Historic District was extended across 300 West into this neighborhood, enabling owners to claim Utah State historic preservation tax credits for rehabilitation work on their buildings. Owners are also eligible for a property tax rebate from the City Redevelopment Agency for improvements to their homes that raise their assessed value. The combination of these incentives has resulted in a lively and revitalized neighborhood, full of new residents enthusiastic about improving their homes and streets. However, some people never left, and have remained stalwarts on Pugsley Street. The owners and residents of the Robert and Lois Widdison House, located at 462-464 N. Pugsley, are examples of these stalwarts.

Research by preservation consultant Korral Broschinsky sheds light on the history of this house. In accordance with the name of the street, this house was built on land owned by the Pugsley family. Philip Pugsley, the family patriarch, had

(Continued on page 2)

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his house, tannery, and flour mill nearby. He built many houses for his large family in the surrounding neighborhood. Ezra Thompson, Pugsley's son-in-law, bought this lot in 1891. Ezra Thompson lived in the Marsh Auto building at 600 North and 300 West (See the February 2005 issue). This house appears to have been built around 1894 for Ezra's sister, Lois Savona Thompson Widdison, and her husband Robert. Lois and Robert moved in with their large family of three sons and eight daughters.

The Widdison house is a 1-1/2 story, brick house. A noteworthy feature of the house is the multi-colored brick, which is laid in diagonal patterns, forming a sort of zig-zag effect on the walls of the building. Intricate woodwork on the porch and in the gables is original to the house. The woodwork, asymmetrical massing, and polychromed brick are all characteristic of the Queen Anne style. As noted in

Utah's Historic Architecture, 1847-1940, the Queen Anne style was first popularized in England by architect Richard Norman Shaw. Two buildings constructed by the British government at the 1876 Philadelphia Exposition brought the style to the United States. It became the most popular style of the late nineteenth century, and the style that most people commonly associate with "Victorian" houses. Many Queen Anne buildings in Utah date from the building boom of the 1880s and 1890s, right when the Widdison house was built. Most houses were not architect-designed, but were based on popular pattern-books, similar to the home plan magazines that are easily found today.

Lois Widdison passed away in 1901, but her husband Robert lived in the house with members of his family until he passed away in 1921, on his 77th birthday. Robert converted the house into a duplex around 1920, and the house became a rental. However the house re-

mained in the Widdison family, and many of the occupants were Widdison family members, including Don Carlos Clayton Jr.



(Grandson of Lois and Robert), and Lucy Widdison Holmes (Daughter of Lois and Robert). The tenants of the other unit in the house were mostly long term, and included Oscar Dethloff, a german immigrant who made his living as a painter and decorator, Oscar's wife Amy Alvina Fitt Dethloff, Amy's brother George Fitt, and George's wife Muzzetta Fitt. George and Muzzetta later moved around the corner to 319 W. Ouray Avenue. Aafke Rommer Van der Plas and her husband Herman Van der Plas were also longtime tenants. The house remained in the Widdison family until 1983. The current owners purchased the property in 1990 and have maintained it in a way that would satisfy the long line of prior residents.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Food, Clothing, and other Donations

- **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.
- **Crossroads Urban Center**, 347 S. 400 E., helps feed the homeless in our neighborhood. This month they have a special need for **small jars of peanut butter**. 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 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.



Literacy, Reading, and Children

- **English Skills Learning Center** seeks volunteers to teach English to adult refugees and immigrants. Training is provided. Call Barbara or Denise at 328-5608.
- **Washington School** needs volunteers to read to a child one hour a week. Call Shauna Levitt at 578-8140 for details or stop by the school.
- **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.
- **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.

Service Activities

- **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.
- **LifeCare** (1025 S. 700 W.) needs volunteers to help homebound seniors and persons with disabilities by delivering food boxes. For more information, call 978-2452.
- **Primary Children's Medical Center** needs volunteers for its information desks, gift shop, and other areas. Call 588-2446 for more information.
- Help the **Neighborhood Watch** for two hours or more monthly. To help, or for more information, please call Joan Legge, 355-8396.
- **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.
- **TreeUtah** for information about current projects, visit www.tre Utah.org or call 364-2122 to learn more.



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APPTS. AS EARLY

AS 7:00 A.M.

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Capitol Hill Community Musical Showcase

If you are a musician and want to participate in the annual community showcase on Wednesday, May 4, 7:30 p.m., in the LDS Assembly Hall on Temple Square please submit your audition request. The showcase is an annual tradition with outstanding and even thrilling instrumental and voice performances. Auditions will be held April 19-21. Please contact Kay Prier at 363-3651.

FEATURED NEIGHBORS

Pamela Kipper

Poet

Pamela Kipper, this month's featured Capitol Hill neighbor, finds inner strength through creative activity – writing poetry – and that private resource enables her to deal better with external hardships. She has recently returned from Orlando, Florida where she was asked to present one of her poems at the conference of the International Society of Poets.



That led to acquaintance with the International Society of Poets (at www.poetry.com), and she was eventually named by that organization as one of the Best Poets of 2004. Her poem, "Brighten Your Corner," was also published. Noble Books in London has asked to use her poem, "Looking for a Reason," in an upcoming anthology.

Active publication of her poetry has come about fairly recently, but its roots go back to much earlier in life. Pamela's growing-up years in Logan had some rough edges, including the divorce of her parents during her early teens. She remembers as a young girl climbing into the potato bin and making up poems "to cover up the war that was going on around me and to try to make sense of the world. It was a means of survival for me."

After graduating from Bonneville High School in Ogden, she earned degrees from two business schools and a degree in journalism from Utah State University. She spent five years as a reporter for the *Cache Citizen* in Logan, and after the newspaper was sold and her job phased out, she worked as an office manager and bookkeeper, and now is employed by Distribution Services of the LDS Church. She published a newsletter, "Good News and Times," for ten years.

Her spark for poetry was rekindled a few months ago when she responded to a pop-up notice on her computer which offered a chance at a digital camera for those who would submit a short poem. She sent in one entitled "A Mother's Nature." It was accepted and published.

Pamela continues to find quiet satisfaction and

peace in this creative endeavor that brings joy to others as well. She wrote about her recent award, "Ah, the trophy. Not so much a tribute to my poetic ability. But truly a symbol of the love, support, and generosity within my neighborhood and friendships for even the insignificant such as I, which made the whole trip possible. And a symbol of victory of overcoming doubts and fears within my mind so I could share glimpses of my heart with others; yes, even strangers."

A Loftier View

With confidence I raise my head to reach the higher view I dread.
 I lift my eyes to see anew the scary essence known as "you."
 With pride I share my views and then I run back into my hole again.

While I'm up "there" what do you see of the compilation known as "me?"
 Do you note the hurts and pain That lie entrapped within my brain?
 Or, can you look within my eyes and sense the love wherein it lies?
 If we could linger a little longer would our selves be ever stronger?
 Would we both be able to see that you're just you and I'm just me?
 Would we know that we're just fine – both created by a Father Divine?
 by Pamela Kipper

FREE COMMUNITY EVENTS — MAY

Salt Lake City Life

For information regarding recreation, sports, cultural events and tourism web sites see:
<http://www.slcgov.com/citylife/>.

The Salt Lake Gallery Association hosts a monthly Gallery Stroll on the third Friday of each month from 6-9 pm. For more information see
<http://www.ourcommunityconnection.com/gallerystroll>

Temple Square Events*

For information on events on Temple Square and surrounding buildings, please see the LDS web site:
<http://www.lds.org>

*Certain programs require tickets; please call 240-0080.

