

THE Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council BULLETIN



Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council Meeting

When: 15 June 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 May
- 6:35 Police Report
- 6:45 Reports by our community
representatives
- 7:00 Report by Gwen Springmeyer, Liaison
with the Mayor's Office
- 7:10 Discussion of the Tunnel Project
- 7:30 The Development Project 300 West at
500/600 North
- 8:00 Adjourn

NEXT MEETING
JULY 20, 2005, 6:30 p.m.

Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council Members

Chair	Peter Von Sivers	364-3310
Vice-Chair	Georg Stutzenberger	510-1603
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	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
Web Site	Cassandra Van Buren	capitolhill@aros.net

Bulletin Staff

Layout Editor & Mailing List	Margaret Berchtold	364-2604
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Service & Community Events	Tim Lineback	363-1027
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Comment: Swedetown – a Brief History (part 2) by Mary Solt, Trustee for the Swedetown area

(Ed. note: This month's Comment concludes Mary Solt's account of Swedetown, the northernmost part of our Community Council area.)

After the Indian Grove boys were asked not to gather on the ward house steps each night, they decided to build the "Grizzly Inn" on the opposite corner. This was a simple building (four posts with planks nailed to them as benches), completed in a few hours. Neighbors were sometimes roused from sleep by the boys' enthusiastic discussions, especially during the World Series of 1916. As winter approached, the Indian Grove members decided to build a more substantial structure nearby. The Indian Grove, as the building was called, was built of railroad ties planted upright, with rail car doors nailed to them making the walls and roof, and the roof covered with six inches of sod. A bench was built around all four walls. The cozy interior included many pictures of baseball players and others, a stove and carpet. The structure was completed in December, 1916, and was the scene of many evenings of discussion, music, and friendship. The club lasted for a number of years, probably into the 1930s.

Many beautiful homes were built in Swedetown, constructed mainly of stucco. People took pride in their homes and it was quite a friendly and homey area. Everyone pretty much knew everyone else and was always willing to help one another with projects such as home construction and gardening.

A brick-making business was established. In later years a public school was established. It was a one-room schoolhouse built of stone and was constructed in the Hot Springs area.. A grocery store was opened, and the Bamberger Train Line went through the area on its way to Ogden.

In the spring of 1891 the people were promised that an LDS meetinghouse would be erected. The meeting house on Chicago Street later burned down, but was replaced shortly afterwards by a substantial chapel built on the corner of 14th North between 8th and 9th West. The building is still standing, but in 1970 the LDS 23rd Ward, which had served Swedetown, was discontinued and ward members were transferred to the 22nd Ward in the Capitol Hill neighborhood.

In later years, industry began to move into Swedetown, the railroad expanded, and more commercial businesses moved there. With this growth many homeowners would sell their property and move from Swedetown. At one time there were over 200 homes in the area. Today there are fewer than 40 homes.

Swedetown is still a close-knit neighborhood, people helping one another. There is a city park where, during the summer, many outings are held and the children play basketball and ride their bikes. Commercial growth has pretty much taken over the area and Swedetown has lost much of the flair it once had as a beautiful little community.



This Old House Wasatch Plunge—840 N 300 West By Nelson Knight

This month's "This Old House" isn't a house at all, but it's a well-known landmark to most Capitol Hill inhabitants. Long time residents may remember this building's original use as a swimming pool, but people new to Capitol Hill will recognize this building as the current home of the Children's Museum of Utah. The Wasatch Springs Plunge building at 840 N. 300 West was built in 1921 by Salt Lake City at a cost of \$177,450.00. The architectural firm of Cannon and Fetzer designed the building. With its white stucco walls, red tile roof, terra-cotta ornamentation, and wrought iron balconies, the Wasatch Plunge is one of the better examples in Utah of the Mission and Spanish Colonial Revival architectural styles popular between 1910 and 1935.

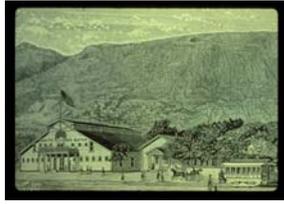
The warm springs on the site were evidently popular among the indigenous people of Utah before the Mormon pioneers' arrival in 1847, because early Mormon journalists note their use by the Ute tribe in the winter of 1847-48. The current building is the third of its kind to sit on the site. In 1850, the City constructed an adobe building over the springs at about the present intersection of 300 West and Reed Avenue. A later bathhouse stood at the south end of Warm Springs Park. This c.1865 structure stood on the banks of a small lake fed by the springs, and was leased to private operators. Problems with the leaseholders and a seedy reputation led the city to take full control of the

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

springs in 1916.

The present structure opened in 1921. Patrons paid 25 cents for admission, and were given a suit, towel,



locker, and use of the Olympic-sized main pool. A separate, smaller pool and individual hot baths were available for private use. There were separate locker rooms for the private pools. Both rooms had large signs at the entrance to the pool that stated, "DO NOT STAND IN DOORWAY WITHOUT SUIT ON."

The building also had a cafe, barber-shop, beauty parlor, and five private hotel rooms for travelers. A 1929 issue of the Salt Lake City Municipal Record enthusiastically notes the installation of automatic showers as a water-saving measure. Bathers would step onto a platform, which turned the shower water on and off.

Natural spring water fed the pools until

1949, when the pools were chlorinated at the behest of the state health department. The natural sulphur in the spring water reacted with the chlorine to cloud the pools. Warm water from the springs was still used in

the facility's private baths, however. In June 1970, the city commission closed the building after chunks of concrete fell from the roof. The Plunge was re-modeled and reopened, but only operated until 1976, when the city again closed the swimming pool. After several proposals to re-use or demolish the building, the former bathhouse was converted to the Children's Museum of Utah in 1983. The former locker rooms, the barber and cafe have been converted to exhibit space, and the hotel rooms are now offices for museum staff. The private pools and the cavernous room housing the main pool are still intact and are used for storage.

The Children's Museum has been a great caretaker for the building, but they have outgrown the space. The museum will soon be moving to a new facility in the Gateway. The City recently hired VCBO Architects to conduct a study of the Wasatch Plunge and examine the feasibility of converting the building back to a community center and public swimming pool. This facility has been needed for the Capitol Hill neighborhood since the Deseret Gym's closure. The results of this study will be published this summer, and the City will soon start making decisions on the future of the building after the Children's Museum leaves. Hopefully, this neighborhood landmark will continue to be a Capitol Hill fixture for years to come. Questions or comments regarding the feasibility study may be direct to Steve England, Architect in the Salt Lake City Engineering Division, at 535-6144 or Stephen.England@slc.gov.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

- **Crossroads Urban Center**, (347 S. 400 E) helps feed the homeless in our neighborhood. Their **Thrift Store**, 1385 W. Indiana (850 S.), needs diapers size 4 & 5. Call 364-7765 for information. To donate food, call 359-8837.
- **The Road Home** (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.
- **The Children's Museum of Utah** (840 N 300 W) Call 328-3383 for opportunities or www.childmuseum.org
- **TreeUtah** for information about current projects, visit www.tre Utah.org or call 364-2122 to learn more.
- 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. For more information, call Taylor Beckstead 978-2452 ext. 229 .
- **Utah Food Bank** (1025 S. 700 W) always welcomes volunteers to help sort food. Please call Christine Thomas at 908-8660.
- **Become a foster parent:** You can be married or single, with or without children, renter or homeowner. Involves 32 hours of training. Visit www.utahfostercare.org .
- **Primary Children's Medical Center** needs volunteers for its information desks, gift shop, and other areas. Call 588-2446 for more information.
- **English Skills Learning Center** seeks volunteers to teach English to adult refugees and immigrants. Training is provided. Call Barbara or Denise at 328-5608.



Development of Property on 300 West and 500-600 North

As members of the Community know, the Redevelopment Agency of Salt Lake City has been looking for a developer for the half-block property on the east side and frontal properties on the west side of 300 West, between 500 and 600 North. We finally have an interested corporation! Howa Contractors is currently in the concept stage for a mixed-residential-business construction project. The plan is to build townhouses for residents, offices and studios for professionals (lawyers, architects), small stores for retail and restaurants, a grocery store, and a branch library. Howa is very interested in hearing from us for ideas and suggestions and wants



to have us participate in all stages of the planning process. A representative of Howa will give a presentation at our next Community meeting on June 15. Please come and let us know what you think. Our contact person at Howa Contractors is Dru Damico, Director of Development, 328-1514.

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APPTS. AS EARLY
AS 7:00 A.M.

The Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council Bulletin is published monthly by the Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council c/o 70 West Zane Avenue, Salt Lake City, UT 84103
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If you're interested in the development of the property on 300 West and 500-600 North, come to neighborhood council meeting. (pp 1 & 2.)



Don't miss the fun! Come to our neighborhood breakfast on July 4th (see this page.)

FEATURED NEIGHBOR

Chu-hyeon Kim

Chu-hyeon Kim, with his wife O-im and their five children (soon to be six), has lived in the Capitol Hill neighborhood since beginning study at the University of Utah for a masters degree in social work. He is in the second year of a three-year program, and hopes to be able to earn a Ph.D. after that. A combination of influences has led to his devotion to education and his excitement at studying in the United States.



The second of his family's four sons, Kim grew up in the countryside about five hours from Seoul, South Korea. His father was an elementary school teacher and farmer, and his mother also cultivated rice. "My father was a wonderful man," Kim recalls, "very kind. He showed my brothers and me a wonderful example, that the most important thing is not money, but people – personality and learning, reading." His mother was more strict, and gave her sons rigorous encouragement in their schooling. When he was still small, she told Kim that if he always studied hard he would someday get to go to the United States to further his education.

Nonetheless, Kim dreamed of military service. When he was thirteen he became ill; his tongue was coated white and he was

Korean Educator and Student

too dizzy to attend school for two weeks. When he returned, he discovered that he could no longer see the blackboard. An infection had seriously weakened his eyesight, a condition which ended his hopes of army service and which still presents a challenge today.

Despite that discouraging setback, Kim shifted educational gears and eventually earned a degree in education. He taught English grammar and math at the junior-high and elementary levels for several years, then opened his own institution for grades one through six. There were financial hardships in meeting the expenses of teachers' salaries and other overhead – "sometimes we had heartbreak," he remarks – but his school continued in successful operation from 1994 to 2001.

Kim met his wife, O-im, at a church meeting in their homeland. Their oldest son, Eun-ho, attends the Extended Learning Program at West High, and their next two sons and daughter attend Washington School. "We really like the neighborhood," Kim states. "When we came to the United States, I made two resolutions – that I will study hard and pray hard!"

FREE COMMUNITY EVENTS

Temple Square Events*

Mormon Miracle Pageant: June 16-18, 21-25
 Gina Bachauer International Young Artists Piano Competition:
 June 21-22 (Tuesday & Wednesday): Preliminary Round 10 AM-9 PM
 June 23-24 (Thursday & Friday): Semifinal Round 9 AM to 9 PM

Temple Square Events (continued)*

Concert in the Park: Every Tuesday & Friday Nights, 8 PM
 Temple Square Performances:
 June:
 11: Piano Duo Lenora Ford Brown & Gaye England
 17: Pianist & Bachauer Jurist Mi Kyung Kim
 18: Pianist & Bachauer Jurist Ilya Itin
 July:
 2: Utah National Guard 23rd Army Band

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



Community Breakfast on July 4

Free breakfast for the people of the Capitol Hill Community, 8-10 a.m.! Come you all to the Warm Springs Park near the Children's Museum, enjoy scrambled eggs with bacon, pancakes, pastries, and fruits. Have your children come with their bicycles or scooters for a parade. Meet friends and neighbors. A morning of celebration and fun!
 Organized by Stacie Grover in conjunction with the Capitol Hill Community Council.

