

# THE Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council BULLETIN

February 2008 • Issue # 82

## Capitol Hill Neighborhood Meetings

When: Wednesday, 20 February 2008  
 Location: State Capitol Senate Building,  
 Beehive Room

6:00 *Mobile Watch Meeting*

## Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council Meeting

6:30 *Welcome by Chair, Polly Hart*  
 6:35 *Police Report, Roger Williams*  
 6:45 *Mobile Watch, Robert King*  
 6:55 *Reports by Elected Officials*  
 7:15 *Joyce Valdez, Mayor's Office*  
 7:25 *Mixed Use Development re-zone, SW  
 corner 500 N / 300 W (Metaview)*  
 7:45 *Private Club conversion at The Hideout,  
 751 N 300 W (Rob McCarthy)*  
 8:10 *Reed Ave. / 300 W lot line adjustment  
 (RDA, Gerald Burt)*  
 8:30 *Adjourn*

NEXT MEETING  
 March 19, 2008 - 6:30 p.m.

Abandoned Shopping Cart Hotline 446-7984  
 Graffiti Busters 972-7885  
 Salt Lake City Police Crisis Intervention Team  
 Detective Roger Williams 799-3314  
 roger.williams@slcgov.com www.slcpcd.com

## Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council Members

Chair	Polly Hart	355-7203
Vice-Chair	Georg Stutzenberger	510-1603
Vice-Chair	Robert King	359-9992
Secretary/Treasurer	Roseann Greenwood	
Historian	Shirley McLaughlan	328-4182

## Neighborhood Trustees

Capitol	Carol Wood	355-6475
DeSoto/Cortez	Lorille Miller	363-8191
Ensign Downs	Lynn Rasmussen	231-9984
Kimball	Victoria Collard	595-8575
St. Marks	Nephi Kemmethmueller	359-3936
Swedetown	William Salas	539-0938
Temple	Gene Simmons	364-3830
Warm Springs	Minta Brandon	355-1363
Washington	...election pending...	
West High	Erlinda Davis	531-1964
Mobile Watch	Robert King	359-9992
Web Site	Nick Burns	<a href="mailto:nick@vanburns.com">nick@vanburns.com</a>

## The Bulletin

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Featured Neighbor	Stephen Sorenson	<a href="mailto:sorensonstephen@yahoo.com">sorensonstephen@yahoo.com</a>
Mailing List	Lola Timmins	<a href="mailto:lolatimmins@comcast.net">lolatimmins@comcast.net</a>

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

[Editors note: This is a reprint of a comment that originally appeared in the Bulletin in April 2005.]

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

The original owner of the Fritsch house, which formerly stood on the southeast corner of Hillside Avenue and North Main Street, was a noted outdoorsman who met an untimely but intriguing end on one of his expeditions. The property upon which the Fritsch house once stood is now the site of the Panorama Heights condominiums, constructed in 1961. At the time, this block held the same real estate cachet that Ensign Downs and Capitol Park now have. Those who could afford it constructed large homes on the hill to take advantage of the views, and perhaps to show the city what their money and taste could build. The Fritsch family built a large house on this lot in 1891 that fit right in with the surrounding mansions. The family patriarch, Francis Fritsch, arrived in Salt Lake City in 1889 already a wealthy man. He made a comfortable living in the pharmaceutical and banking businesses in Wapakoneta, Ohio after immigrating to the United States from Germany. His wife, Katinka Herman, and his three

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older children moved with him to Utah in order to find a healthier climate for his only son, James. Francis and Katinka also had two daughters, Helena and Hulda. James and his father established the Fritsch Investment Company and the Fritsch Loan & Trust. They spent \$11,000 on their home, and moved in upon its completion in 1892. Soon after, the first of a string of tragedies struck the family. Katinka died in 1895 on a trip to Los Angeles. The rest of the family remained in the house, though for only a few more years, until 1899. Helena married a local boy, William Henry Jenner, and Hulda married Alma Mueller.

James remained unmarried. The climate in Utah must have been invigorating for him, because he soon spent days at a time outdoors, hiking to Brigham City or Park City on a lark. As noted in the September 18, 1916 issue of the Salt Lake Tribune, "it was not infrequent for Mr. Fritsch to don his outfit and go out for a hike that kept him out for three or four days at a time. Frequently he would report, upon his

return home, that he had camped or slept in snow from ten to eighteen feet in depth for a night or two." James scaled every peak within 100 miles of Salt Lake City, and climbed Mt. Timpanogos eight times. Later in life, he turned his sights toward other mountains. On September 16, 1916, James and a party of seven others set out from Paradise Camp for the summit of Mt. Rainier. Something went wrong, and James fell over 100 feet into a crevasse. His companions were able to



following morning in the Tribune. A telegram announcing his death the following day at 3 o'clock came as a shock to his friends. His father and sister returned from Tacoma with his body, and he was buried in Mt. Olivet cemetery.

Tragedy continued to follow the Fritsch family. Francis died in 1920, at the ripe age of 84, but still despondent over the death of his son. Newspapers again turned their attention to the family in 1930, when an article reported that Helena and her husband William had been found with self-inflicted gunshot wounds in a park at the mouth of Emigration Canyon. Williams wound was fatal, but Helena lingered, despite a shot in the chest and two shots to the head. A note was found in William's pocket explaining that they had made the decision to end their lives. Helena gave no reason to the police and her doctors, but remained coherent for three days, until she passed away due to infection. After a double funeral, they were buried next to their brother and parents in Mt. Olivet cemetery.



hoist him out, and carried him back to the base camp, taking shelter from a storm in a nearby outcropping and sharing clothing with James to keep him warm. Word of the accident made it to the Deseret News, whose reporter notified the Fritsch family. Francis and Helena immediately departed on a train to Tacoma. The next day, James was able to telegraph his brother-in-law, William Henry Jenner, that he had returned to base camp. Although his injuries were serious, he was expected to recover. His progress was noted in an article the

## VOLUNTEER SERVICE & DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

- **LDS 19th Ward Clothing Exchange** Second Saturday of each month. 9:00 am to Noon, 225 W 500 North.
- **People Helping People** needs women volunteers for its Successful Employment Program. Become a positive role model to a low-income woman by showing her that if you can do it, so can she. Many

of our mentors improve their own ability to earn raises and promotions through our program too! Call 801-583-5300 or visit [www.phputah.org](http://www.phputah.org) for more information.

- **Washington Elementary** wants you! Come volunteer your time to make a difference in a child's life! All you have to do is read with them! The Star Reading

Program will be used and lesson plans are already made for you. You just need to meet with your student twice a week for one hour! Commitment: 12 weeks (1 semester); Initial 2 hour training; 2 hrs tutoring per week. For more information contact Americorps Member: Joy Laing 720-939-4727 or Volunteer Coordinator Jane Willie 578-8140 ext. 1112.

**PLEASE RE-ELECT POLLY HART AS CHAIR**

"Polly has the needed experience, the right type of relationship with the new mayor, the right combination of skills, including the ability to clearly articulate an issue, the ability to run an efficient meeting." Bonnie Mangold, past Washington Neighborhood Trustee

"I have appreciated Polly's thoughtful, enthusiastic approach to issues that affect our Capitol Hill neighborhood. She has been a real asset to our community!" Eric Jergensen, City Council Representative

"Polly has been an excellent representative of our neighborhood council, especially in dealing with the City's Planning Office. Thanks to her hard and patient work, together with an active group of friends from the Avenues and other community councils, Planning is now being completely reorganized, with the goal of making it responsive once again to neighborhood interests." Peter Von Sivers, former Chair, Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council

**A SMALL SAMPLING OF POLLY'S ENDORSERS**

- Ralph Becker, Salt Lake City Mayor
- Eric Jergensen, Salt Lake City Council Representative
- Peter Von Sivers, past chair
- Nephi Kemmethmueller, trustee
- Lorille Miller, trustee
- Willie Salas, trustee
- Stephen Sorenson, Bulletin staff & Amazing Human
- Bonnie Mangold, past trustee
- Christine Hobby, past secretary



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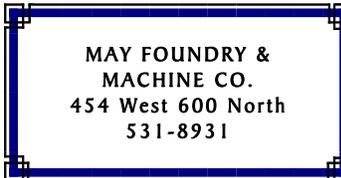
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### FEATURED NEIGHBOR

*Darryl W. Thomas*

*Roller Coaster and Skydiving Aficionado*

[Editors note: This is a reprint of a featured neighbor that originally appeared in the Bulletin some time ago.]

**NAME:** Darryl William Thomas.

**ADDRESS:** Capitol Hill, lifelong resident (raised in family home on North State Street, now lives in Ensign Downs neighborhood.)

**FAMILY:** Wife Susan, daughters Rachel and Sarah, son-in-law Aaron and adorable grandson.

**EDUCATION:** Ed.D. in educational curriculum instruction with emphasis in mathematics.

**POSITIONS HELD:**

- Algebra, geometry, and science teacher at Hillside Junior High (3 years).
- AP calculus teacher, cheer-leading advisor, East High (4 years).
- Math supervisor, Granite School District (4 years).
- Principal, Magna Elementary School (8 years).
- Principal, Wasatch Junior High (5 years).
- Director of Research, Assessment and Evaluation, Granite School District (12 years).

**HOBBIES:** “One great big hobby” – teaching college algebra at Salt Lake Community College in his spare time for the past 11 years (“I do that to feel like I’m still a teacher, to have some students of my own.”)



**ADDITIONAL HOBBY:** Seeking out and visiting the highest, fastest, best roller coasters and other extreme rides in the country. Really. (This started when their daughters were young and Darryl would take the family to major amusement parks and ride the most challenging rides with Susan and their girls. This became a mild obsession that has led the Thomases to perhaps fifteen major parks over the years, and has made Darryl an expert on North American

coasters. His favorite park? Cedar Point in Sandusky, Ohio, on the shores of Lake Erie, with about sixteen coasters, “the roller coaster capital of the world. They have a couple of coasters over 300 feet tall, and on a clear day you can see across the lake to Canada.” His favorite ride is the “Magnum” at Cedar Point, a steel coaster he admires for its height and speed. His second favorite ride? The “Goliath” at Magic Mountain in California, over 200 feet high. Asked about Disneyland, Darryl remarks, quite charitably, that the famous California destination “tends to be sort of a family park – magnificent rides that aren’t that exciting.”

**LATEST ODD HOBBY:** In June Darryl fulfilled a long-time ambition by sky-diving from 13,000 feet (twice the height of the Wasatch Range.) In a tandem jump, he free-fell for 43 seconds at 130 m.p.h. (“a full football field every one and a half seconds,” he notes.) He enjoyed himself immensely and will probably do it again.

Why would a distinguished educator do these things? He smiles and says something about how long-distance running releases healthy endorphins into runners’ systems, only “I get my cardiovascular exercise by jumping out of planes and riding roller coasters.”

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