

# THE Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council BULLETIN

## Capitol Hill & Avenues Mobile Watch Meeting

When: 20 September 2006, 6:00 p.m.  
Where: State Capitol Cafeteria

## Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council Meeting

When: 20 September 2006, 6:30 p.m.  
Where: State Capitol Cafeteria

### Preliminary Agenda:

- 6:30 *Welcome by Peter von Sivers, Chair Minutes*
- 6:35 *Police Report*
- 6:40 *Reports by our Representatives in the Utah Legislature and City Council*
- 7:00 *Report by Gwen Springmeyer, Liaison with the Mayor's Office*
- 7:10 *Candidates for Office, Election November 2006*
- 7:30 *Condominium Project, 213-215 W 500 N, Justin Marty*
- 7:50 *New Ideas, West Capitol Development project, Jeremy Jones*
- 8:30 *Adjourn*

**NEXT MEETING**  
OCTOBER 18, 2006 - 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
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Web Site	Nick Burns	<a href="mailto:capitolhill@aros.net">capitolhill@aros.net</a>

### Bulletin Staff

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## Tour of Utah—Problem and Opportunity By Eric Jergensen, Salt Lake City Council

Most of us were affected – positively and negatively – by the recent Salt Lake City stage of the Tour of Utah that came through our neighborhood on a beautiful Friday night in mid-August causing incredible traffic and circulation problems. I appreciated the many who called to express their concerns and to provide suggestions for similar events in the future.

The main question asked was – “Salt Lake City hosts big events all the time, so how in the world could something like this have happened?” Chief complaints about the Tour of Utah were, 1) “We didn’t have any idea what was happening!” and, 2) “We weren’t allowed to get to our homes!”

When special events like the Tour of Utah, the Parade or the Marathon are planned, City and Public Safety officials spend hours with organizers before giving approvals for the event in order to assure that the public will be fully aware of the event and that the public will not be cut off from access to their homes, offices or to necessary services.

There have been two meetings attended by City officials and race organizers to identify what went wrong and to identify corrections. Race organizers agreed that they did not provide ample notification to neighbors about the race route as they should have done. Police officials had planned on allowing residents access to Ensign Downs and other areas of Capitol Hill when bike racers were not at intersections, but, unexpectedly, the “pack” didn’t stay together and so there were always racers at those critical intersections. These and other significant problems are being studied and both the City and race organizers have agreed that a resolution will be in place prior to the event being approved for next year. We will make sure that any future resolution includes notification of all residents in the Capitol Hill Community of race dates and routes. That notification will also include downtown businesses and offices.

Some will remember the very first Salt Lake City Marathon from April of last year. Frankly, it turned out to be a first time logistical nightmare. It was unfortunate, but, those problems were resolved and a very successful Marathon was held in June of this year. It is always unfortunate when unexpected problems arise with first time events. The Tour organizers, Jason and Scott Preston, attended our Capitol Hill Town Meeting on August 24<sup>th</sup> to apologize for any inconvenience and to promise a much better notification effort next year.

Those who attended the race – many of whom, like Diane and me, were “locked in” – really had a terrific time. The race, the crowd participation and the chance to be with neighbors reminded us very much of our experience during the Olympics. Others in the crowd, even though frustrated by the problems, expressed the same enthusiasm about the race. It would be a shame not to have this exciting event in our neighborhood in years to come.

The Tour of Utah needs to include the Capitol of the State of Utah – but, as a City we need to assure that this year’s problems are fully resolved. We’ll work together as a neighborhood and as City officials to make sure that happens.

### This Old Warehouse Morrison-Merrill Lumber Company 205 North 400 West by Nelson Knight

Although not on Capitol Hill, the recent opening of a Lowe’s warehouse store on 13<sup>th</sup> South and 3<sup>rd</sup> West has no doubt provided many a Capitol Hill homeowner with a new place to stock up on home improvement supplies. Those not versed in modern marketing strategies may be puzzled by the store’s close location to a Home Depot. Those well-versed in Capitol Hill history may see the co-location parallels of the subject of this month’s article, The Morrison Merrill Lumber Company Building,

*(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1)

and its nearby neighbor to the south, the Salt Lake Hardware building.

Salt Lake Hardware and Morrison & Merrill were the Lowe's and Home Depot of the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Both companies supplied construction materials to a large network of branch stores throughout the mountain west. The gargantuan 1908 Salt Lake Hardware warehouse, with its six acres of floor space, will be the subject of another article. The comparatively diminutive Morrison Merrill building, constructed in 1909, housed the offices and warehouse space for its namesake company, which was founded by 1890 by Seth W. Morrison and Samuel Merrill. The company's first home was also on this block. Success and expansion brought additional buildings and expansion of the lumberyard. Eventually, the large compound encompassed many acres in this part of the neighborhood, and Morrison-Merrill became a large employer for Capitol Hill residents.

In 1906, Seth Morrison sold his interest to Samuel Merrill. Shortly thereafter, Samuel retired to Spokane Washington, and ceded control of the company to his 30-year-old son, George E. Merrill. Under George's leadership, the company expanded its product



lines to include roofing materials, plaster, cement, paint, and corrugated iron. Lumber was housed in a series of shed on the block. Fires were apparently a regular hazard in these sheds – the collection of photographer Harry Shipler, housed at the Utah State Historical Society, included images of several separate fires in the lumberyard. On



September 23, 1906, Shipler also photographed George's wife, Lilian Garland Chapman, and the family dog (name unknown) atop a pile of shingles in the Morrison-Merrill yard.

According to research by architectural historian Korral Broschinsky, the main warehouse was built 1909-1910 at a cost of \$50,000.00. The offices consolidated the company's offices at this site. The building was designed by architect William H. Lepper, who was also working on the nearby Salt Lake Hardware building at the same time. The Deseret News described the building as "perfectly plain in appearance...without any excess of ornament," though it observed that the "handsome" structure transformed the neighborhood from "an old, run-down residence section to an up-to-date business corner, giving the impression of prosperity to the entire street."

Additional expansion brought construction



of more buildings, some of which survive today, including a brick garage (now carriage stables), lumber sheds (now Highland Equipment) and the planing mill (now Spring Air Mattress).

During World War II, the Morrison-Merrill Company and its subsidiary firms were operating 100 lumber yards with main branches in Pocatello and Reno. The network of firms eventually combined to form the Tri-State Lumber Company. When George Merrill retired in 1947, Tri-State had 37 outlets in Utah, Idaho, and Wyoming. Eventually the company was bought out by the Boise Cascade Company, which maintained ownership of the building until 1989.

In 1996, the building was purchased by the Olafson Group. With the help of Ron Rowley and using federal historic tax credits, Jaye and Eric Olafson renovated the building as offices for Tomax Technologies. They also nominated the building to the National Register of Historic Places. Today, the building houses Utah Legal Services and a variety of non-profit organizations.

## VOLUNTEER SERVICE & DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

Search the internet for opportunities to serve (No computer? Visit the Salt Lake Library):

- **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Utah**, [www.bbbsu.org](http://www.bbbsu.org) Being a Big Brother or Big Sister is about sharing simple, magical moments with a child.
- **Crossroads Urban Center**, 364-7765 or [www.crossroads-u-c.org](http://www.crossroads-u-c.org).
- **IHC Hospice**, [www.ihc.com](http://www.ihc.com) They provide care for the terminally ill and their families. You'll help provide companionship, help finish projects, give respite care and much more.
- **Kiwanis Club (Capitol Hill)** Join us at the State Capitol Cafeteria, Thursday mornings at 7:00 a.m. Call 328-1325 for more information.
- **Operation Kids** [www.operationkids.org](http://www.operationkids.org) You'll serve Utah's children in various ways.
- **People Helping People Garden Tour** is considering the Capitol Hill Neighborhood. They're looking for 12 beautiful gardens now, before the snow sets in. Nominate your neighbor's yard (or your own)! For more information, contact Kim at 355-5538 or [kim@phputah.org](mailto:kim@phputah.org). The event is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, June 9, 2007.
- **Primary Children's Medical Center**, call 588-2446 or [intermountainhealthcare.org/xp/public/primary/](http://intermountainhealthcare.org/xp/public/primary/).
- **Salt Lake County Aging Services—** Volunteer! Apply online on their website: [www.slcoagingservices.org](http://www.slcoagingservices.org).
- **Utah Food Bank**, 1025 S. 700 W., call 908-8660, [www.csc-ut.org/foodbank.htm](http://www.csc-ut.org/foodbank.htm) . Donate or volunteer!
- **Utah Foster Care**, 994-5205 or [www.utahfostercare.org](http://www.utahfostercare.org).
- **Volunteer Utah** is Utah's resource for finding volunteer opportunities in your community. Their website ([www.volunteerutah.com](http://www.volunteerutah.com)) features information on volunteering with a wide variety of organizations.

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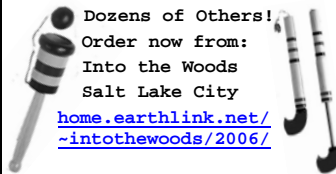
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If you're interested in **Mobile Watch**, attend the Capitol Hill & Avenues Mobile Watch meeting at 6:00 p.m. prior to the Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council on September 20! If you have questions call Robert King at 359-9992.

### FEATURED NEIGHBOR

*Pete Ashdown*

*Xmission Founder & Senate Candidate*

The span in time and technology is really quite remarkable between Pete Ashdown's Utah roots and his life today. In 1847 Pete's great-great-grandfather, Peregrine Sessions, moved 300 head of cattle to a camp five miles north of the hot springs and founded the community later known as Bountiful. Fast forward to the present — Pete has established the state's largest independent Internet service provider, at the forefront of modern information delivery, with 60 employees and 30,000 customers.



convergence of other communications on the Internet.

His broad vision of the possibilities for information sharing has also been a factor in his decision to run this year for the U.S. Senate. Pete reflects, "That's a lot of what has brought me to the arena. People in Washington are really stumbling around and missing the benefits that expanding information technology can bring to our society. It has a great potential for making citizens' voices better heard in government."

Pete was born and raised in Bountiful, the fourth of five children, graduated from Woods Cross High School, and attended Salt Lake Community College, where his father teaches. He transferred to the University of Utah, studied film and computer science, and went to work for Evans and Sutherland as a computer operator. Both his office and the University provided access to the Internet, an innovation Pete found fascinating. "I started to realize the personal value in it," he states, "for individual communication and access to information. I wanted to be able to use it at home."

Thinking others may want to do the same, he saw a business opportunity and founded "Xmission" in 1993. Initially, "I thought the business would be a computer in a closet, with maybe a small check each month." Xmission now provides Internet services throughout Utah and a number of other states, is a leading private partner in Utah's municipal fiber-optics network, and has gained wide recognition as one of the most reliable and diversified providers anywhere. Under Pete's leadership the company continues to expand into video delivery, telephone use, and a widening

Pete and his wife, Robin, were looking for a new home in 1996 and wanted something close to downtown Salt Lake City. When they visited a grand old home on 200 West, with "beautiful rock work, a big yard, five fireplaces, high ceilings — it just knocked us off our feet," Pete recalls. They moved in, eventually introduced their three children to the place — Madeleine (now age twelve), Henry (age six), and Greta (age ten months) — and love living in the Capitol Hill community. Pete feels that the neighborhood has further improved in the last ten years, and he works actively to protect it, now serving on the City's Historic Landmarks Committee, enjoying (obviously) strong political involvement, and rendering other service.

Through Xmission, Pete and Robin also support a broad range of charitable, community, artistic, and other worthy causes (including this *Bulletin*), and continue to look to the future for new possibilities of expanding society's capacity to share information of all kinds quickly and accurately. Not at all bad for a computer-in-a-closet business!

### FREE COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES



For information on downtown events, including Downtown Farmers Market and, see [www.downtownslc.com](http://www.downtownslc.com) for all the details.

**Alternative Transportation Day at the Downtown Farmers Market:** Join us Saturday, September 16, 8 am to 1 pm, Pioneer Park, 300 S 300 West. See hybrid, natural gas and bio-diesel vehicles and maybe even a solar-powered trike. A course will be set up on the grass for participants to "test-drive" electric bicycles and scooters.