

Salt Lake City Council District One Community News Update

March 2004

Photo by Busath Photography



Throughout the history of our local community, there have been numerous examples of individuals who have put forth efforts to make it better, most of the time without recognition, because they care and want to improve the area where they live. In a recent effort to scan and archive 45 years of history for the elementary school where my daughter attends, it has been

amazing how the nature of our community's challenges have not really changed much over the years, while the names and faces have changed. However, fundamentally, the success of our community has come from the efforts of many to make it better.

I appreciate the support of Mayor Anderson along with the Rose Park Community Council in honoring former Council Member, Florence Bittner for her life of service in our community through the naming of the reconstructed playground at Riverside Park. Florence, as well as others who preceded me, Ron Whitehead, Stuart Reid, and Lee Martinez have each given freely of their time and served our community with the desire to make it better.

I hope you will take the time to become involved in our community in areas where you have interest. Your involvement is critical to the continued success of our neighborhoods. Take advantage of your community councils, serve on city boards, and volunteer in the schools. There are many other worthwhile causes in our community that are eager for volunteers.

We frequently look for ways to get information out to you in the quickest and most cost efficient means as possible. One method that has worked well is the District One email list. If you have access to email, please take time to register your email address on the District One website at <http://www.slcgov.com/council/district1.htm>. We will send you periodic information on City issues that you might find of interest.

It was a pleasure and an honor to serve as the City Council Chair for 2003, which had many challenges for our City. However, it is a greater honor to represent our area; your input and involvement are always welcome as we work together for a better community for many years to come.

JOIN US!



DISTRICT ONE TOWN MEETING

Council Member Carlton Christensen invites you to join him at a District One Town Meeting. Mark your calendars for Tuesday, March 30 from 6:45 to 8:00 p.m. at Backman Elementary, 601 North 1500 West.

This year's town meeting will have a sports theme. Jimmy Shea, winner of the 2002 Winter Olympic Gold Medal for the Men's Skeleton event, is scheduled to speak. Jimmy, who has overcome many challenges, including a severe learning disability, found self-confidence through hard work and by participating in sports. He loves talking to school children about the importance of perseverance, setting goals, and making good decisions. He also enjoys sharing the joy of the Olympic Spirit and the opportunity to participate in peaceful competition. A limited number of autographed pictures of Jimmy will be available for those youth attending the meeting.

Other issues scheduled on the agenda include:

- An update on the District One Olympic Legacy Project.
- Information on the new Sports Complex approved by voters last November including opportunities for public input.
- A discussion on the process to identify a location and apply for funding for a skate park in District One.
- A discussion on finding a suitable location for an off-leash dog park in District One.
- Questions and answers — Opportunity for community input on issues that are of importance to you.

For more information about the District One Town Meeting, call the City Council Office at 535-7600.

Council Member Carlton Christensen Welcomes Your Comments

Write: Salt Lake City Council Office
451 S. State Street, Room 304
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

Call: 535-7600; or leave comments on the
24-hour hotline at 535-7654
Fax: 535-7651

Email: carlton.christensen@slcgov.com



Playground Named for Florence Bittner

From time to time we recognize people in our community whose contributions have a significant and long-lasting impact. Former City Council Member Florence Bittner has been one of those people.

Florence Bittner served our community in a variety of ways.

Florence was a community activist, a grass-roots organizer and a strong advocate of the west side. In her early years she worked within the schools and neighborhood for improvements for a growing community. In later years, she helped organize the neighborhood councils in Salt Lake City and later served as the director of the office of the Salt Lake Association of Community Councils.

Florence was active nationally in crime prevention policy development and participated in the national crime prevention committee that developed the idea of creating the McGruff character to deliver the crime prevention message to children. She served as the Redevelopment Agency Chairperson during the time when the Delta Center, the Broadway Center and other key developments took root. She represented District One on the City Council from 1986 to 1989.

Florence and her husband raised their family in their home down the street from Riverside Park located at 1400 West and Leadville Avenue, where a playground is currently being rebuilt through Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. This project will include installing ADA (American with Disabilities) approved equipment to make it accessible to children with disabilities. When the playground is completed in the spring of 2004, it will be given the name of "The Florence Bittner Playground." A plaque paid for with private funds will be installed at the playground with the new name in honor of Ms. Bittner's service to our community. Because her daughter had disabilities, by naming the ADA playground in Florence's honor represents her caring nature for our youth.



1400 West and Leadville Avenue
"The Florence Bittner Playground"

DISTRICT ONE OLYMPIC LEGACY PROJECT

After the 2002 Winter Olympic Games, the Olympic Organizing Committee repaid Salt Lake City \$6.2 million for the sales tax that was used to help build Olympic facilities. A portion of this money, \$700,000, was allocated for Olympic Legacy Projects to be located throughout the City equally by each of the seven council districts.

In August 2002, when the funding for District Projects was initially proposed, a letter was sent inviting each of the four Community Council Chairs in District One to attend meetings along with an additional representative from each community to begin the process of identifying an appropriate project for Council District One. Three meetings were held which included community representatives and staff from the City Parks Division. The proposal outlined below came forward from community members because of the commonality and accessibility of the Jordan River Trailway for all the District One Neighborhoods. The project was later reviewed by each of the community councils for input and refinement.

The Olympic legacy project includes the following features placed at eight locations along the Jordan River Trailway between North Temple and Redwood Road:

- A bench with an Olympic message cast into the leg.
- A light pole with an Olympic message cast into the skirt.
- A concrete pad in-set into the pathway with a Salt Lake City 2002 snow flake and venue stick figures to represent various event venues. A message will be included to provide information on the various Olympic events, locations, medal winners, etc.

Bids for the District One Olympic Legacy Project were opened on February 4, 2004. Construction of the project is projected to be completed by early fall of 2004. For more information on this project, contact the City Council Office at 535-7600.

SALT LAKE CITY WATER BILL ASSISTANCE

Residents of Salt Lake City who are experiencing difficulty in paying their water bill may qualify for the Salt Lake City Water Assist Program. The purpose of this program, which is administered by the American Red Cross, is to provide limited financial assistance and counseling to help recipients develop a practical plan for continuing to meet their own needs. These funds are available to Salt Lake City residential customers. The eligibility requirements include a low-income level, as well as one of the following conditions: experiencing a medical emergency, being age 60 or older or having a disability, please call 323-7000 to set up an appointment with a caseworker.