

Summit Neighborhood Association

Summit News

October 1996



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SNA Joins CARD Call for Better Mall

At its September meeting, the Board of the SNA voted to join the Coalition for Arts and Revitalization of DownCity (CARD). Summit joins those around the city urging the Mayor and City Council to hold out for a better deal from the developer of the proposed Providence Place Mall.

Chief among the coalition's concerns were changes to the proposal that add a cinema complex and full-service restaurants in the Mall. Coalition members feel that with so much public subsidy invested in the retail com-

plex, it should complement our downtown, rather than compete with it.

The Mall offers short-term high-paying construction jobs and long-term low-paying retail jobs. More importantly, it offers a retail magnet with parking to draw people into the city. What happens to those shoppers once they get here is the source of the controversy.

The Coalition wants them to leave the Mall and stroll through

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Jewish Home Update

As many of you have read in the Providence Journal, Dr. Nolan, Director of the RI Dept. Of Health, rejected the latest formal request by Hillside Health Associates (HHA) to reconsider her decision denying their application for a certificate of need (CON). Without approval for the CON, HHA cannot undertake facility renovations to the former Jewish Home for the Aged. Unwilling to call it quits, however, HHA has appealed to the next level, the R. I. Dept. of Administration.

A notice has been published of a public hearing set for October 16th, 1996, at 1:30pm at 1 Capital Hill in Providence, Conference Room C. "This meeting

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Lippitt Park Playground To Be Rebuilt

The City Parks Department will disassemble and remove the aging play equipment in Lippitt Park (corner of Hope Street and Blackstone Boulevard) in mid-November. In the spring, new equipment will be installed in its place. The play area will remain

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Photography In Season for History Project

The time between fall and winter provides a brief window of opportunity that History Project volunteers have been waiting for. After the leaves fall, our houses are revealed for only a few weeks before they are covered in snow. During that time, volunteers will be moving from house to house, cameras and clipboards in hand, taking snapshots of every build-

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Neighbors Await Miriam Master Plan

The Miriam Hospital has not yet submitted its five-year institutional master plan, as required by the City. The document will detail the hospital's plans to build or expand its facilities over the next half decade, and must be in keeping with the Comprehensive Plan, which lays out long-term growth patterns for all of Providence.

Until it offers its plan, and the

city accepts it, The Miriam is denied any new building permits. With so many vacant properties on North Main Street owned or controlled by The Miriam, as well as fourteen houses in the heart of our neighborhood, area residents wonder what the hospital intends to do with them. The master plan, when it appears, should provide some answers.

Lot "Cleansed" of Old Building

A house on Hope Street was recently demolished on the lot between Les Petits Fours and Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel. A representative of the Providence Preservation Society toured the house before the demolition, and judged it beyond reclamation.

The owner of Eden Park Cleaners owns the lot, and plans to build a new store there. His business will occupy the entire building. Eden Park currently operates out of a rented storefront across the street, next to Fleet Bank.

CARD

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downtown for a bite to eat or to catch a movie at a separate cinema complex. The Coalition opposes a Mall that traps patrons inside, offering them every creature comfort and no reason to leave, except by car on I95.

The public subsidy that has helped make the Mall proposal possible has also deprived the City and State from seeing any tax revenues from it until the distant future. Downtown businesses, on the other hand, are an important part of the City's tax base. DownCity is more than a nice place to visit, it's an enterprise in which we all have a stake.

The SNA joined two other East Side neighborhood associations, the Providence Preservation Society and arts and neighborhood organizations from across the city in a swirl of activity surrounding the eleventh hour dealings between the City and the developer. At this writing events are still playing out, but we hope the coalition has demonstrated the public's resolve that downtown not be left behind in a rush to build the Mall.

History Project

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ing in the neighborhood.

These photographs will eventually join the historic research and architectural descriptions at which project workers toil the rest of the year. These documents, together with a "statement of significance," form our nomination of Summit Neighborhood to the National Register of

Historic Places. The nomination is the primary goal of the project.

So if you notice people methodically working your street, pausing, snapping a picture, jotting down notes, give them a wave and a smile.

Why Become a National Register District?

The National Register of Historic Places lists sites, buildings and districts around the country that have historic significance. Listing on the National Register brings benefits to home owners in the form of tax credits for home improvements and protection from federal projects that might otherwise threaten a listed site or building. Less tangible benefits are increased neighborhood pride and possibly higher property values.

Listing with the National Register does not in any way limit what a home owner may do with his or her home. The National Register has nothing to do with zoning. It is strictly an incentive-based program. National Register nominations are subject to approval.

A Worthy Cause

Students from the Groden Center on Mount Hope Avenue have been operating the greenhouses at the North Burial Ground since last spring and the facility will remain open year 'round. Currently, they have a large selection of mums, ornamental kale and other fall plants, among others. Their prices are very reasonable, and the sales make possible this employment opportunity for handicapped young people.

Jewish Home

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will be to initiate the Administrative Review and discuss procedural matters." Sandra Murphy Crowe is listed as the Acting Administrator of Adjudication.

On another front the City has failed to respond within the allotted time to the appeal filed July 2nd against the Zoning Board decision by Hillside Avenue neighbors. As a result, the attorney for the neighbors filed a default motion. (You will recall that last June the Zoning Board approved a variance for increased residency and parking, requested by HHA, despite overwhelming neighborhood opposition.)

If the shoe were on the other foot, the rules would dictate that the appeal prevailed. Instead the City (and Hillside Health Associates) has scheduled a hearing on the default motion for October 18th. The time and place were not confirmed at this writing, although presumably it will take place a Superior Court.

The proposed project of Mr. Giordano, CEO of HHA, and DEPCO debtor, has been a thorn in neighbors' sides for the past year and a half. With an excess of nursing home beds available state-wide, the project appears to benefit only Mr. Giordano and his legal team.

Though these two hearings will have taken place by the time you read this, we hope that neighbors who attend them demonstrate that there is strong public interest in the future of the Jewish Home and demand for accountability from those who decide its fate. Questions may be directed to Connie at 272-7123.

Spring Trees Are Winter Work

Want to make a permanent visible improvement to your block? Organize a tree planting! The Mary Elizabeth Sharpe Street Tree Endowment awards grants to purchase and plant trees where they are needed throughout the City. Last spring, the endowment provided 213 new trees in 13 of the City's 25 neighborhoods, including two separate plantings in Summit.

Tree grants are competitive. Applications are made by groups of neighbors who agree to help plant them (with direction and assistance of the City Parks

Department) and most importantly to care for them until they are well established. The trees are planted between the sidewalk and the street only, not on private property. An average planting adds about 12 trees along one or two streets.

If you are interested in increasing the shade on your block, and your neighbors are too, contact the Street Tree Coordinator, Leslie Urgo, at 785-9450 (MWF only) for a grant application. The application deadline for spring planting in 1997 is December 1st, 1996.

Leaf Recycling

As the fall foliage piles up in your yard, remember that leaves and other "yard waste" are recyclable, but only if you follow a few simple rules:

- Put leaves, small sticks, twigs and other yard waste into special paper leaf bags.
- Place leaf bags on the curb on your regular trash day.

Don't mix yard waste with household trash, and don't use plastic bags or cardboard boxes. A separate truck collects the paper leaf bags. The bags are available at Benny's, Bread & Circus, Eastside Marketplace, Edwards and Stop & Shop. The recycling program runs through December 6th.

Lippitt Park

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aimed at older children, a complement to the tot lot at Summit Park, at the corner of Summit Avenue and Ninth Street.

The equipment at Lippitt is constructed of now weather-worn, splintering wood, in places damaged or vandalized, with peeling paint and a worn play surface. Still, children visit every day, making the repairs all the more welcome. Several SNA board members identified the

play area as the public space most in need of repair in our neighborhood. The park was already on the Parks Department's schedule for repairs when we called about it this summer.

Get the Scoop

We are a neighborhood of dog lovers, as your shoe may remind you after a brisk fall stroll. Cleaning up after your dog is the neighborly thing to do...and it's the law.

SNA Learns of Main Street Program

The National Trust for Historic Preservation held a day-long seminar on October 9th at the Odeum Theater in East Greenwich to discuss its Main Street revitalization program which is now active in 42 states.

A representative of SNA was on hand to hear Governor Almond and others speak of opportunities aimed not only at downtown areas, but also at smaller commercial districts like Hope Street.

The Main Street program takes a four-point approach:

- 1) Design - renovating existing buildings and constructing compatible new ones.
- 2) Organization - building collaboration among a broad range of public- and private-sector groups
- 3) Promotion - marketing the district's assets to residents, visitors, investors and others through special events, retail promotion and activities that improve the way the district is perceived.
- 4) Economic restructuring - strengthening the district's existing economic base while finding

The Business Scene

Hope Street Attic, a furniture and household goods consignment shop, has moved into the space at 742 Hope Street, next to Lad & Lassie.

Cumberland Farms has acquired a **Hospital Trust ATM** machine.

Flying Shuttles Weaving Studio, which has been occupying space in the Fourth Baptist Church for a couple of years, is now at 778 Hope Street, in the space formerly occupied by Little Rascals.

Eddie's Service Station at 783 Hope Street is being sold December 1st. With gas pumps out, the new **Hope Street Auto Center** will be a repair facility for foreign and domestic cars.

The space formerly occupied by Adam & Steve's at 808 Hope Street will open in October as **Uncle Sig's** toy store. The

youngsters can hardly wait!

The tailor and dry cleaning shop at 832 Hope Street is under new ownership and is now called **Marysia's Custom Tailoring & Dry Cleaning**.

Applause, an "East Side Bistro" has moved into the storefront long occupied by the restaurant La France at 960 Hope Street.

The **Alliance for the Mentally III** is in the small building at 1255 North Main Street, between Eighth and Ninth Streets.

Two sports medicine facilities are opening on North Main Street; one at 1282 (formerly Doyle Sports) and the other at the building that until recently housed Murray's at 1287.

The old Colonial Motors building on North Main Street has been torn down to be replaced by a **Pep Boys** auto service store.

ways to expand its economy and introduce compatible new uses.

The day before the seminar, it was announced that Broad Street has been targeted for the program, making Providence one of only six cities nationwide selected in a new national com-

prehensive strategy to revive housing and commercial districts in urban America.

SNA's invitation to this event on behalf of Hope Street businesses indicates both the vitality and opportunity the district offers.

Join The Summit Neighborhood Association

Complete this form and mail it to *Summit Neighborhood Association, Box 41092, Providence, RI 02940*.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Enclosed is \$10.00 for an Individual Family Membership (Make checks payable to *Summit Neighborhood Association*).

I am concerned and would like to help with SNA activities. I am particularly interested in working on the following:
