

Summit News

January 1997



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Jewish Home Update

There has been little news on the Jewish Home over the past several months. Appeals of two separate decisions, one on the part of neighbors, one on the part of the developer, are still pending. There was a rumor that Hillside Health Associates (HHA) can legally go forward with renovations of the home as long as they do not expand it, and that in

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History Project Gets Boost From Local Businesses

An important goal of the Summit Neighborhood History Project is to create a permanent photographic record of every house in the proposed Historic District. With about 1200 homes in the area, the film and processing costs are significant. The Project is an all-volunteer effort sponsored by the SNA with technical support from the Providence Preservation Society, and hosted by the kind folks at the Rochambeau Library.

Fortunately two Providence businesses have stepped forward to help keep the work on track. Last fall **The Camera Werks** at 764 Hope Street made a generous donation of film to the project, and **Colorlab**, of 1 Silver Spring Street has offered to process all film from the project at a deep discount. The SNA will pay the balance of the processing costs for the first batch of donated film.

These two community-minded

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New Community Police Officers

The Mount Hope Community Police unit has two new officers. Officers George Pereira and David DePina transferred to our neighborhood in mid-November. They replace Officer Debbie Silva, who transferred to another post, and Officer Joe Almeida who is on leave. Officer Pereira's last assignment was patrolling the East Side, while Officer DePina patrolled various neighborhoods throughout the city.

Our new community police officers introduced themselves at the SNA's December board meeting. They expressed the opinion that Summit is a very quiet community when it comes to crime. It's not the first time we've heard from police that "not much happens north of Rochambeau." Still,

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Crime in Summit

A study of the Police Reports published in the Providence Journal for December shows that items being stolen in housebreaks are just about what you would expect: computers, camcorders, jewelry, TVs, VCRs, cameras, stereos, cash, CD players and CDs, bicycles and cordless phones.

Reports do not always specify

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Neighbors Still Await Miriam Master Plan

The wheels of progress sometimes move slowly, but it seems none move more slowly than those at Lifespan, parent company of The Miriam, which has not yet developed institutional master plans for any of the institutions it runs in Providence. Each master plan describes how the institution intends to build or expand its facilities over a five-

year period. The current master plan is two years past due. Because of The Miriam's size and location, its plans for growth are of vital importance to Summit area residents. Master plans are required by city ordinance, but the only penalty for failing to produce a plan is that the city will not issue new building permits until a plan is filed and accepted.

Jewish Home

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fact they may do just that. But it is not clear that the Health Department will allow the venture to go forward in any form, and in any case, there is no evidence that the developer is planning to move ahead before the legal issues are resolved.

A decision is expected this month from the Department of Administration on an appeal of a Health Department decision to deny HHA a Certificate of Need to operate the home. If that appeal goes against the developer, he may choose to bring his case to court.

On the matter of an appeal by neighbors of a zoning board decision to grant HHA a variance that allows increased residency at the home, no hearing date has yet been set. When briefs are finally filed, there will be one of three possible outcomes: the decision may be affirmed or overturned, or the entire matter may be remanded to the zoning board. In the latter case, both sides must testify and the zoning board will decide once again.

The SNA will report developments as we learn of them.

Lippitt Park Playground Missing!

It looks like a crime scene, taped off as it is, but the playground at Lippitt Park was dismantled and removed by the City Parks Department to make way for new equipment which will be installed in the spring.

Correction

In the October issue of Summit News on page 2, under "Neighbors Await Miriam Master Plan", the number of houses owned by Miriam is incorrect. Miriam currently owns ten houses in the Summit Area: four on Fourth Street, three on Fifth Street, two on Eighth and one on Highland Avenue. Two houses that Miriam previously owned on Eighth Street were donated to Sunrise House more than two years ago.

Let It Snow...

Just a seasonal reminder that we are each responsible for clearing the sidewalk in front of our property when it snows. For some of your neighbors, it's the only way they can get around.

History Project

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businesses together have jump-started the photography phase of the history project. And as the contact sheets roll in, volunteers are preparing to write architectural descriptions of each house pictured. Combined with the historical research that has been ongoing since the project began, our nomination to the National Register of Historic Places is beginning to take shape.

Yet there is still much more to be done, and new volunteers are welcome at any time. There are still opportunities to work on any aspect of the project: historic research, photography and architectural description. We also invite other local businesses to help out by donating film or cash (for film or processing). To volunteer or to help the project in other ways, contact John Bazik at 331-1644.

History Project Recruiting at Annual Meeting

The History Project will once again have a booth at the SNA's annual meeting (see the announcement on page 4). Meet with project volunteers and look over some of the work they have done over the past year. At last year's annual meeting the project received a lot of attention, and several new recruits.

Summit News is the official newsletter of the Summit Neighborhood Association. It is published four times a year and distributed for free to households in the Greater Summit Area.

Community Police

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none of us want any crime where we live. Several board members asked about a seeming rash of house breaks in the last several months, and the officers acknowledged that there had been some house and auto break-ins recently. Their advice for the neighborhood is just common sense:

- Keep your valuables out of sight – thieves are most likely to break into homes or cars when they can see something worth stealing through a window or door.
- Make your house look occupied when it’s not – leave lights on timers or photocells, avoid obvious patterns that make it easy to predict when you are not home.
- Take special care when you go away – call the police and let them know when you will be out of town, have your mail and newspapers stopped, and ask neighbors to look after your house.
- Pay attention – make it a point to notice what is happening on your street and across your

The Business Scene

Tikva Traditions at 727 Hope Street has closed but across Rochambeau **Rhoda’s Judaica** has opened at 77 Burlington Street.

The new **Pep Boys** auto parts and service outlet on North Main Street seems almost ready to open.

Rhode Island Computer is coming soon to 1283 North Main Street, next to Print Source.

Eden Park Cleaners will eventually vacate its present location (at 810 Hope Street) and move across the street to the building being erected next to Mt. Sinai Funeral Home.

Crime

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how entry to the house or apartment was made, but in one recent housebreak a rock was thrown through a sliding glass door. Thieves often pry open an apartment door after gaining entrance to the building through an unlocked outer door. Entrance to a garage is often gained by smashing a window. House doors have occasionally been kicked-in in recent incidents.

The number of Summit-area crimes reported in the paper seems to be lower than the actual number. In recent conversations among neighbors, first- and second-hand accounts of housebreaks indicate that there is more “activity” than ProJo subscribers might think.

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 **1997** 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:

Summit Neighborhood Association

Annual Meeting

6pm – 7:45pm

Monday, January 27, 1997

Rochambeau Library

708 Hope Street

Agenda

5:45..... Refreshments
6:00..... Welcome and Summary of Activities
6:10..... Election of Officers and Board for 1997
6:15..... History Project
6:30..... Councilman Jackson
6:35..... Representative Fox
6:40..... Representative Cicilline
6:45..... Senator Perry
6:50..... Questions & Answers
7:20..... Community Police Officers
7:45..... Adjourn

Free and open to all

Memberships and SNA T-shirts available at the door

Members please bring \$10 dues for 1997

In the event of a major snowstorm the meeting will be rescheduled