

Summit Neighborhood Association

Summit News

May 1997



SNA Board Members

President

John Bazik 331-1644

Vice President

Liz Cameron 274-1086

Corresponding Secretary

Judy Brown 861-8980

Recording Secretary

Maryanne Flanagan 421-7269

Treasurer

Louise Grund 274-2665

Members of the Board

Marjorie Beach 351-2686

Don Beauchemin 831-5767

Herman Brewster 331-6930

Connie Chesebrough 272-7123

David Ciciline 331-6929

Monique Doherty 274-6061

Grant Dulgarian 751-6264

Gordon Fox 272-0113

Greg Gerritt 331-0529

Claude Goldman 351-9715

Kevin Jackson 273-5478

Ralph Kinder 751-5719

Helen McCarthy 273-2069

Laurys Murphy 331-1691

Beth Newbury 539-2423

Brian Newbury 539-2423

Rhoda Perry 751-7165

Bonnie Robison 521-0568

Susan Sklar 831-3211

Saul Spitz 751-8654

Greg Stiener 272-6144

Sterling Vernon 831-1041

Jewish Home Update

Hillside Health Associates (HHA), prospective owner of the former Jewish Home for the Aged at 99 Hillside Avenue, has requested oral arguments before the administrative adjudicator who is hearing their appeal of a Health Department ruling that went against them. The developer's request for a certificate of

Continued on Page 3

City Bond Issue Touches Neighborhood

Last November, Providence residents approved a 50 million dollar city bond issue on the promise that that money would be spent in the city's neighborhoods. It appears that promise will be kept. Over the next year, the city's 15 wards will each receive 2.3 million dollars. How each ward's portion is spent will be determined largely by its councilperson.

In Ward 3, comprising the Mount Hope and Summit Neighborhoods, Councilman Jackson has asked neighborhood groups to meet with him to discuss how to put that money to the most productive use. In a series of meet-

ings over the next few months, committees from each neighborhood association will meet with the councilman to identify projects or programs worth funding and discuss when and how the funds can be deployed.

Encouraged by Councilman Jackson's open process, the SNA will hold a public meeting on May 19th, at 7pm at St. Raymond's Church, 1240 North Main Street, right next door to Major Video. At this meeting we will talk about the bond issue, how the money has been allocated city-wide, how it may be spent and some ways we think it

Continued on Page 2

Summit CDBG Underway

The Summit Neighborhood Association has received funding under the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program to improve traffic conditions in the area surrounding Miriam Hospital. The first phase of this project will involve a traffic, air quality and land use study of the area. Some or all of the recommendations in that study, which will become part of the city's comprehensive plan, will then be carried out using block grant money. The SNA appreciates the efforts of Councilman Jackson and City Planning Department Director John Palmieri for helping us get and spend these funds.

History Project Splits In Two

A number of new volunteers have signed up for the Summit Neighborhood History Project since the beginning of the year. An orientation was held for them in March to bring them up to speed on the process of researching and cataloging houses in the

Continued on Page 3

In This Issue...

Bond Issue.....	1
Jewish Home	1
CDBG	1
History Project	1
Street Trees	2
Lippitt Park.....	2
Exchange Students	2
Phone Numbers	2
Tax Exemptions	3
Membership Form	3
Yard Sale	4
Bond Issue Public Meeting	4

Street Tree Deadline Approaches

The deadline for the next round of Neighborhood Planting Tree Grants is June 1st. To qualify for a grant, groups of neighbors band together to plant 5-20 street trees in close proximity. The program is competitive, and applications for 10 to 20 trees are favored over smaller requests.

Since 1989, The Mary Elizabeth Sharpe Street Tree Endow-

ment has made it possible for almost 300 neighborhood groups to plant more than 3000 street trees throughout the city. Groups from Summit have been successful in the past, including two plantings last year.

For applications or more information, contact Street Tree Coordinator Leslie Urgo at 785-9450, MWF.

Lippitt Park Playground Construction Scheduled

According to a source in the City Parks Department, the contractor who will purchase and install the playground equipment has just been hired - construction will begin possibly in early May and will be completed in 4 to 6 weeks.

Bond Issue

Continued from Page 1

should be spent. We will then open the floor to other suggestions and discussion. Councilman Jackson will be present to hear your thoughts and answer your questions.

It's clear that the bond issue is a once-in-a-lifetime investment in our neighborhood. The amount of that investment is sufficient, if well spent, to leave a lasting impact on our quality of life. Poor uses for the money include projects the city would otherwise fund, such as street and sidewalk repair; projects for which other funding is or will be available, such as block grant projects or street trees; and projects with little or superficial long term benefit.

It is important to remember that this is not "found money." These are future tax dollars. We will be paying off these bonds through our taxes for many years to come. Here is a unique opportunity to ensure that our tax dollars are wisely, even innovatively, spent. What will today's investment mean for the neighborhood in five years? Ten years? Twenty years? Will Summit be a better place to live, or just a better-looking place

to live?

So what kind of projects are we thinking of? Some ideas that have been discussed include capital improvements to North Main Street, Lippitt Park and other locations, creating an endowment or revolving fund, founding a charter school and donating to existing institutions such as the King Elementary and Bishop Middle Schools. Some of these are modest enough that an endowment could provide funding for them indefinitely, and this is a strategy strongly favored by many SNA members.

Residents of Summit Neighborhood work at banks and at colleges, they work in the arts, medicine and real estate. They are clerks and store owners, civil servants and journalists. The breadth of knowledge and experience present in our community is amazing. We know there are many creative ways to improve our neighborhood, and many neighbors with the creativity, knowledge and experience to come up with them. If you have an idea for how the bond issue money can improve our neighborhood, bring it to the public meeting, or call Councilman Jackson or any SNA board member to discuss it.

Host An Exchange Student

Applications are sought for families to host Japanese high school students attending Moses Brown School as part of its student exchange program. Families are needed to host students for a minimum of three months beginning in September. For more information, call Tim Bickford during the day at 831-7350 x503, or 421-2529.

Call For Action

Your elected officials are interested in your opinions on all issues. When the snow isn't plowed, they get many calls, but on other matters of importance, they get surprisingly few.

- Councilwoman Williams... 331-9009
- Councilman Jackson..... 273-5478
- Representative Fox..... 272-0113
- Representative Ciciline .. 331-6929
- Senator Perry..... 751-7165

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.

Jewish Home

Continued from Page 1
need (CON) from the Health Department was denied last year. Without a CON, the home cannot operate. However, if the current appeal is unsuccessful, HHA may take their appeal to Superior Court.

In other Home news, an appeal filed by neighbors of a zoning board decision that favored HHA is likely to be resolved by June. The lawyer for the neighbors has filed a brief and the city must now respond by June 1st. Neighbors are then permitted a rebuttal, and a decision should follow soon after.

HHA seeks to purchase the vacant nursing home and renovate and expand it. It is the expansion that requires both health department and zoning board approval and, without both, they cannot proceed. Neighbors of the Home, which is the largest facility of its kind in the city, cite many problems they endured before it closed three years ago, and they are wary of HHA's plan to make it even larger.

Tax Exemptions

If you are a property owner and at least 62 years of age, are you aware of the tax exemption available to you on your real estate tax? The City of Providence prints this information on the back of the property tax bill, on the lower half which you tear off and send in with your check.

On the current bill (which you just received) this is the pertinent information:

“65 years of age prior to December 31, 1995, or 62 years

of age prior to December 31, 1995 and receiving Social Security Retirement Benefits. Ownership and residency of property for three years prior to December 31, 1995. Maximum of three (3) residential dwelling units in property.”

The deadline for filing for the exemption is March 15th prior to the annual billing in July, but it is possible to file for the exemption at any time during the year.

History Project

Continued from Page 1
neighborhood.

Meanwhile, tenured project members have been learning how to write architectural descriptions with help from Providence Preservation Society (PPS) Assistant Director Kent Millard, Josh Safdie of the Public Archaeology Lab in Pawtucket, and Robert O. Jones, Architectural Historian with the R. I. Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission..

To make sure each group focuses on the task at hand, they are holding separate meetings each month. As the newcomers

become more familiar with the project over the next few months, it is expected that the two groups will merge.

The Summit Neighborhood History Project is a joint project of the SNA and the PPS to nominate Summit Neighborhood to the National Register of Historic Places. Historic district status, if achieved, will provide many benefits to residents, including a state tax credit for historically sensitive exterior renovations. Listing on the National Register imposes no restrictions on homeowners.

For more information, contact the SNA.

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

Yard Sale

9am - 3pm

Saturday, May 10, 1997

Church of the Redeemer

655 Hope Street

Dropoff Dates: 6pm to 8pm, Thursday and Friday, May 8th & 9th

Bring household goods, working appliances, furniture, clothing, toys, books, records, etc., to the front door of the church. It is helpful if you can estimate the price of each item, and already-tagged items are especially welcome. The Yard Sale is the Summit Neighborhood Association's annual fundraiser, and provides most of the association's budget for newsletters, the festival and other events and activities. For more information or to volunteer, call Liz at 274-1086.

Summit Neighborhood Association

Public Meeting

To Discuss Appropriate Uses of the City Bond Issue

with

Councilman Kevin Jackson

7pm - 9pm

Monday, May 19, 1997

St. Raymond's Church

1240 North Main Street