

Summit Neighborhood Association

Summit News

May 1999



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Home Buyers Eye Summit

Whether it is downtown redevelopment, the NBC show "Providence", low interest rates, the continuing economic boom, or some combination of those, the East Side has become a seller's market for real estate.

A March 14th article in the Providence Journal's Real Estate section showcased Summit as its "Neighborhood of the Week." With color pictures and interviews with residents, Journal readers learned what we all know: that Summit is an attractive, friendly, affordable neigh-

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Collyer Field Cleanup a Big Success

Over 30 neighborhood residents gathered along the Moshassuck River at Collyer Field on Saturday, April 10, to conduct a clean up. Organized by Friends of the Moshassuck and Save The Bay with the assistance of Keep Providence Beautiful and Bonanza Bus Lines, the cleanup participants removed several tons of trash from the ball field, river banks, and surrounding areas.

Friends of the Moshassuck and Save The Bay are working on a

project to restore the Moshassuck River, and have been working in the community to build support for river restoration. The large number of participants demonstrates real commitment to neighborhood concerns. The retrieval of tires, bed springs, cement blocks, auto parts, bicycle parts, and over 60 bags of trash also means that a community resource, Collyer Field, is now a much nicer place to play.

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History Project Says Thank You

Over the past 4 years, the Rochambeau Branch of the Providence Public Library has been the happy home of the Summit Neighborhood History Project. With the cooperation of Librarian Jackie Cooper and her staff, the project was able to use the library as a meeting place for training sessions and for volunteers doing research. Shelf space, a scarce commodity, was created for the 25 volume set of Providence House Directories and Fire Insurance Maps that were the primary resource materials used by the researchers.

Having all the research materials available right in our neighborhood, and in the pleasant surroundings of the library, was essential for attracting volunteers. More than 30 area residents joined the project and by the end of the year completed most of the

research and all of the photography.

The Project's volunteers, your neighbors, gave of their talent and time to tackle a herculean task: to research the histories of and photograph all 1,100 properties in Summit. They made time in the evenings or weekends to pour over old maps and yellowed directories to identify the date, builder and original owner of each house, street by street from Rochambeau to Hillside, North

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Miriam Researchers Keep Neighbors TRIM

A research project at Miriam Hospital dubbed "TRIM" is helping local residents lose weight. The project, sponsored by the National Institutes of Health, currently involves about 90 participants in studies designed to evaluate different approaches to weight loss.

One approach helps people develop an exercise program designed to burn 1000 calories per week. The other requires twice as much exercise. Participants in the one and a half year

project gain access to a nutritionist, a counselor trained in exercise science and a behavioral psychologist.

One neighbor who volunteered for the study says, "I am making a serious time commitment and a choice to change my life-style, permanently...I feel fortunate that such a high quality program is right in my backyard."

For more information about the project, contact the Lifespan Office of Research Administration at Miriam, 444-6246.

Street Tree Deadline Nears

Is your street treeless, or nearly so? Do you envy the beauty and shade your neighbors around the corner enjoy? You can do something about it. The Providence Neighborhood Planting Program (PNPP) combines private and city funds to provide trees for streets that need them.

Neighbors join together to apply for 5 to 20 trees along one or more nearby streets. The process is competitive and grants are awarded twice a year, for spring and fall plantings. The PNPP distributes as many as 400 trees each year to groups throughout the city. The city brings the trees to the street and helps plant them. Neighbors agree to help with the planting, and to water and care for the trees year 'round.

The most recent round of grants brought trees to our neighborhood along Fosdyke, Woodbine and Rochambeau. The deadline for applications for fall planting is June 1st. For a grant application, or to find out more about the program, call the Street Tree Coordinator at 351-5802 (fax: 351-0118).

Cleanup

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Friends of the Moshassuck will continue to work in the Collyer Field area cleaning and planting trees in an effort to restore native vegetation to the area near the river. Friends of the Moshassuck and Save The Bay will also continue to advocate for the elimination of pollution from the Moshassuck River. However, today they want to thank the community volunteers for their fine effort in cleaning up the neighborhood. With the people of the neighborhood leading the restoration of the area near the river, the politicians are sure to follow, with the result that we will see cleaner rivers and restored habitat.

Home Buyers

Continued from Page 1

borhood with wonderful local businesses, and easy access to all that the city offers. The article went into some of the history of the area, and mentioned some neighborhood concerns, like the quality of Providence schools and the expansion of Miriam Hospital over the years.

"...[T]he entire East Side real estate market is hot right now" the article went on to say. Indeed, few houses are available in our neighborhood, and those that are appear to be going fast. This writer was approached one Saturday afternoon by a woman with out-of-state license plates. "Are you, or any of your neighbors, planning to sell your house?" she asked. The answer was no. She went on to explain, "my daughter is trying to buy a house in this neighborhood, but as fast as they come on the market, they disappear."

The Journal article is available on the web at <http://www.projo.com/report/classfd/home/0314hood.htm>.

Institutions Sell Houses

Miriam Hospital and the Jewish Home have each recently sold several houses. The sales represent a welcome return to residential use for these buildings, and the SNA applauds them both.

Shop Locally

Support Your
Neighborhood Businesses

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

Thank You

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Main to Lorimer.

The challenge of photographing so many houses was met with enthusiasm by volunteers, and by donors who helped defray the cost of film and processing. In particular, Pat Zacks of Camera Werks, and Sterling Vernon, a former SNA board member, donated all of the film used in the project. Ousis Juodvalkis, former owner of Colorlab, agreed to do all the project's film processing at half price (SNA picked up the rest).

The History Project is a cooperative effort of the Summit Neighborhood Association and the Providence Preservation Society (PPS). The Project's goal is to nominate Summit Neighborhood to the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register is a government list of properties that are worth being preserved. Listing in the National Register carries with it a number of benefits to residents, including some protections against unwanted development and a state tax credit for exterior improvements.

Business Scene

Comings and Goings

Bits & PC's at 735 Hope Street has closed. **Green River Silver Company** will open there soon.

Ray's Antique Gallery (formerly Oriental Rug Gallery) at 736-38 Hope Street will close May 1st.

Reubens NY Deli is moving into the former East Side Market and Deli at 776 Hope Street.

We reported in January that **Jerry's Sunoco** at 1101 Hope Street had closed, but we recently learned that he will be back in the fall.

The **Medical Atrium** and Capitol Imaging at 951 North Main Street (the corner of North Main and Rochambeau) has closed its doors.

Jazz Masters, a New York style jazz club, is now open at 1066 North Main Street, opposite the former **Beau James**

(which is not going to become a Shell Station, as previously reported.)

Fire Damages Stores

A fire broke out around 11pm Sunday night, March 14th, in the business block on the northwest corner of Hope and Burlington. The electrical fire was reported to have started in **East Side Diner** and spread to the adjoining businesses. The owner apparently intends to rebuild, but whether the present tenants will be back there seems to be a question.

Frank Paul Beauty Salon is doing business at 80 Burlington Street and **Mikki's Tailoring and Cleaning Shop** is now located at 6 Braman Street, above **Electric Beach Tanning**.

The other businesses in the damaged block are **East Side Resale** and **Flying Shuttles**.

The Project moves this year into a new phase. The raw materials produced by our volunteers will be gathered and formed into the shape of a nomination by preservationists: students, interns or paid professionals. As we take

this moment to look back, we wish to thank the folks at the Rochambeau Library, our many volunteers and the other individuals and businesses that helped us get this far.

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 **1999** 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:

I can leaflet _____

**Summit Neighborhood Association
Eighth Annual**

Yard Sale

9am - 3pm

Saturday, May 15, 1999

Church of the Redeemer

655 Hope Street

Donations Needed

Household goods
Furniture

Working Appliances
Toys

Clothing
Books & Records

Volunteers Needed

Pickup
Setup

Day of Sale
Trucks/Vans

Sorting
Cleanup

Bring items to the front door of the church. It is helpful if you can estimate the price of each item. Already-tagged items especially welcome.

Dropoff Dates:

Thursday and Friday, May 13th & 14th

6pm to 8pm

The Yard Sale is the Summit Neighborhood Association's annual fundraiser. It provides most of the association's budget for newsletters, events and activities.

For more information or to volunteer, call Liz at 274-1086.

Rain Date - Saturday, May 22nd