



# Summit News

May 2000

## Lead Bill Targets Homeowners

A bill will soon be introduced in the State Senate that affects all homeowners. The purpose is to make all housing built before 1978 lead-safe or lead-free. Sponsored by Senator Izzo of Cranston, it closely resembles one he introduced last year.

Lead poisoning is a serious problem in Rhode Island, and the goal of Senator Izzo's bill is laudable. But the financial burden it imposes on homeowners worries Summit neighbors. Under the bill's provisions, if you sell your home, you must have the building inspected for lead. If it fails the inspection, you must make it lead-safe or lead-free. The proposed law would make landlords liable for the health effects of lead in their buildings. To qualify for insurance, landlords must do an inspection for each new tenant.

Making a building lead-free can cost as much as \$15,000 per floor or rental unit. Making it lead-safe costs less, but is still expensive. The State makes money available to low-income homeowners for lead abatement. But low-to-middle income homeowners, like most residents of Summit, will face these costs on their own.

Lead poisoning is a terrible and entirely preventable condition. Unfortunately, lead paint is present in the vast majority of buildings in cities like Providence and lead abatement costs are high. Is it fair to make homeowners pay for the mistakes of a

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## SNA Pursues Traffic Study

Intent on finding the best uses for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and what remains of our neighborhood's share of the \$50 million bond issue, the SNA is asking the city to have a traffic study done in Summit.



Hope Street is one focus of the proposed study

The goal of the study is to identify ways to slow traffic, reduce "cut-through" traffic between Hope Street and North Main Street, address parking issues, and look for ways to make Hope Street more attractive and pedestrian-friendly.

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## Student Assignment Plan Roils Neighbors

A new student assignment plan adopted by the Providence School Board in December threatened to make Summit a "no neighborhood school" area. Under the plan, most children in Summit would have been excluded from the large block of seats at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School that are reserved for "neighborhood" kids.

The plan drew a 1-mile radius circle around each school, declaring that circle to be the school's "neighborhood." Summit was one of only a few areas

that was outside of any circle, and so was designated a "no neighborhood zone."

MLK parents mobilized support. At meetings with school board members, community forums and school board meetings, parents spoke out with emotion. They objected to the "no neighborhood" areas, to the arbitrary notion of circular

neighborhoods, and to the uncertainty that the plan introduced to East Siders whose plans and home-buying decisions depend in part on access

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*Summit was one of only a few areas that was outside of any circle...*

## Traffic Study

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Summit neighbors are inspired by the traffic calming techniques applied in the Elmwood neighborhood, and proposed for



Miriam Hospital is a major traffic generator

the Fox Point area. Speed humps, neck-downs and traffic circles keep traffic moving, but at a slower speed. The Fox Point

study, copies of which are available at the Fox Point Branch of the Providence Public Library, is a sweeping document filled with pictures of city streets around the globe, and an ambitious plan for slowing traffic on Wickenden, Brook, Hope, Gano, and Governor Streets. The SNA would like to see a similar plan for our neighborhood.

Councilman Jackson and the Department of Planning and Development have promised to fund the study. Neighborhood volunteers are specifying the study's scope and goals and will work with the city to monitor progress from bidding through the final product.

## Lead Bill

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greedy industry and complicit government? More than a decade before Summit was transformed from farmland to suburb, the French and Austrian governments banned lead paint for use in interior spaces. The hazards of lead were well-known when our homes were built. Seventy years later, homeowners are being asked to shoulder the burden alone. Let Senator Perry know how you feel at 751-7165, or via email at [senperry@rilin.state.ri.us](mailto:senperry@rilin.state.ri.us).

**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.

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### Web Site

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PO Box 41092  
Providence, RI 02940

## Neighbors Seek To Quiet Restaurant

Neighbors of J. Elliots at 959 Hope Street, have brought the restaurant's owner before the Providence Board of Licenses to stop him from playing loud music outside the building. Jeff Kohn, J. Elliot's owner, and a Summit resident, was ordered by the board to stop playing music outside his restaurant until the board issues its decision. Neighbors complained that the music would wake them as early as 6am and continue throughout the day.

## Bus Route Update

Following up on a report in the January newsletter, the Camp Street bus line has been extended to Shaws Plaza, but for now will bypass Miriam Hospital. An SNA-sponsored meeting brought together neighbors concerned about RIPTA plans to run the bus down Summit Avenue to the hospital. A smaller group representing both opponents and supporters of RIPTA's plan was chosen to meet with RIPTA and city officials to discuss the future of the route.

## SNA Website

The Summit Neighborhood Association now has its own web site at

<http://sna.providence.ri.us/>

Current and older newsletters are available on the site as well as more frequent updates on neighborhood issues and a collection of useful information and local links.

You can also now contact the association via email at

[sna@sna.providence.ri.us](mailto:sna@sna.providence.ri.us)

See you online!

### Student Assignment Plan

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to the King School.

The plan is popular in other parts of the city, which have not enjoyed a neighborhood-based school assignment process that East Siders take for granted. The haphazard way that students were enrolled in years past scattered children all over the city, sometimes placing siblings in different schools and ensuring that few schools were truly "neighborhood schools." The plan is also needed to ensure that the city receives millions in federal funding available to school districts that offer "choice" - the opportunity for parents to select schools outside their neighborhood.

In the end, the school board adopted a compromise in which all city children may choose to be "in the neighborhood" of either of the two schools closest to their homes. The two closest schools to Summit are the King School on Camp Street, and Windmill Street School at 110 Paul Street, just off of Charles Street, on the other side of I-95. The board also adopted a resolution to evaluate how well the plan meets its goals over the coming year.

Though the amended plan puts Summit kids back in the King School neighborhood, parents

### Business Scene

Welcome to our new hardware store! Rocky's Ace Hardware has taken over all the space north of Brooks in Blackstone Plaza on East Avenue, just across the Pawtucket border.

A beauty parlor will open soon in the space at 837 Hope Street

vacated by Antonio's Coiffure, next to Scott Michaels and Les Petit Fours.

Hillside Florist at 612 Pawtucket Avenue, corner of Hillside Avenue, is now also operating Hillside Gift Shop next door at 608 Pawtucket Avenue.

### Dates To Remember

- April 29 - Keep Providence Beautiful cleanup, 1pm, Lippitt Park.
- May 6 - Friends of the Moshassuck Tree Planting, 9am, Collyer Field.
- May 20 - SNA Yard Sale, 9am-3pm, Church of the Redeemer.
- June 1 - Application Deadline for Street Tree program.

fear that King will be oversubscribed because so many more children can now choose to go there. If too many children choose a school, a lottery is held to determine who gets in and who goes elsewhere. Superintendent Diana Lam assured neighbors that the numbers would work out and that even East Siders would have little to complain about. Worried parents hope she is right.

### Street Tree Deadline

June 1st is the deadline for completed applications for the Providence Neighborhood Planting Program (PNPP). The Program 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.

For more information or an application, call Leslie Urgo, 351-5802 (MWF).

### FOTM Tree Planting

Friends of the Moshassuck is sponsoring a tree planting on May 6th at Collyer Field. Volunteers are needed. For information call 331-0529.

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### 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 **2000**  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  
Ninth Annual

# Yard Sale

9am - 3pm

Saturday, May 20, 2000  
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 are especially welcome.

## Dropoff Dates:

Thursday and Friday, May 18th & 19th  
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 27th**