



Summit News

January 2001

Traffic Study Gains Momentum

The City of Providence Department of Planning and Development (DPD) and the Summit Neighborhood Association have agreed to move forward on a traffic study of the neighborhood. Modeled on the studies done for West Broadway and Fox Point, the Summit study will focus on applying traffic calming techniques to reduce speeding, improve pedestrian and bicycle safety, and beautify the area.

A traffic study has been mentioned in these pages before. It has long been a goal of the SNA to have one done, and we have gone to bid twice. Those earlier efforts stalled due to miscommunication over the scope of the project and funding. The recent successful projects by the West Broadway Neighborhood Association and the Fox Point Citizens Association have helped show the way. Following their lead and with help from the DPD, the SNA has established the scope and focus of the study, and will choose the winning bid and monitor the work.

The study will focus on three main areas of concern to the neighborhood:

Cut-through traffic. Many Summit neighbors are concerned with automobile and truck traffic along east-west residential streets such as Fourth Street and Tenth Street, which are used by vehicles travelling between Hope Street and North Main Street. The study will address ways to slow this traffic and channel it to more appropriate

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The Moshassuck River, Page 2.

URI Researcher to Map "Urban Forest"

James Lucht, an environmental planner with the University of Rhode Island's Cooperative Extension program, has embarked on a green spaces mapping project. His goal is to draw together computer mapping data for the City of Providence from a variety of sources, and augment it with data that he will collect. The goal is to measure the extent of Providence's "urban forest," and estimate the economic benefits it provides.

Mr. Lucht will speak at the Association's annual meeting in February (see page 4 for the annual meeting announcement). He will be looking for vol-

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Miriam Master Plan is Born Again

The Department of Planning and Development (DPD) has told Miriam Hospital, and other institutions across the City, that their institutional master plan, required by a 1994 city ordinance, need not be completely updated every five years.

A careful reading of the ordinance reveals that the five year renewal refers only to the "plan of implementation," and is only required if the plan changes. In fact, institutions must submit an amended plan any time they make a change that differs from the last plan approved by the City.

When Miriam failed to submit a new master plan on schedule

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Moshassuck River Restoration Continues

Over the last two years Friends of the Moshassuck (FOTM) has continued its program of ecological restoration at Collyer Field along the Moshassuck River. Native tree species are being planted, and there is a program to suppress the noxious invasive weed, Japanese Knotweed. As this process continues, it is important to keep residents informed to ensure that the restoration work reflects the needs of the community.

FOTM has, therefore, formed partnerships with the National Park Service, Groundwork Providence, the cities of Providence and Pawtucket, and neighborhood volunteer groups along the river so that we can be in touch. In conjunction with our partners we will hold two meetings in the neighborhood between now and the spring to discuss the river's place in the community and how to enhance it. These meetings are not yet scheduled, but you are encouraged to contact FOTM for more information at 331-0529.

In addition to the meetings, FOTM is planning a spring clean up and a tree planting. To volunteer, or to find out more, call Greg at the number above.

Ordinance Limits Truck Parking

Last summer a new ordinance was passed that restricts parking of commercial trucks in residential-zoned areas of the city. The new ordinance covers commercial vehicles over 20 feet in length and 6500 lbs. While such vehicles may 'stand' while loading or off-loading, they may not be parked either on or off-street in any front yard, unless previously approved. Violators will be subject to penalties of \$50 or more. Residents with complaints may contact the police.

Too Many Parked Cars?

What can you do if there is a parking problem on your street? If cars park illegally, call the police. If the police don't respond, call Councilman Jackson. If you and your neighbors would like to limit legal parking, call Traffic Engineering. Have your neighbors sign a letter or petition (include names and addresses) requesting parking signs on your street. A change from all-day to 2-hour parking can have a dramatic effect.

If you live near Miriam Hospital and you see hospital employees parking on your street, call Joe Piechocki (444-2004). Miriam provides free parking to their employees, and forbids them to park on the street. Employees who violate this rule risk losing their jobs.

Urban Forest

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unteers to help with data collection in the Summit area. The SNA supports Professor Lucht's project; the data and report promise to be valuable resources for a variety of environmental and land-use issues.

Miriam

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last year, the SNA sought to stop the hospital from receiving building permits and a State-issued Certificate of Need (CON) for renovations to one of their main buildings. It was in the midst of this dispute that the DPD announced their interpretation of the law.

In a meeting between representatives of Miriam and the SNA Board in December, the SNA determined that if the current master plan, submitted in 1999 by the hospital, represents the hospital's current plans and is acceptable to the City, then that removes our objection to the renovation work.

The DPD's reading of the ordinance came as a surprise to neighbors who have followed this issue, to representatives of the institutions that must prepare the plans (Brown University submitted a new master plan at the beginning of last year), and to our local government representatives. Still, the important thing is that we have a current, valid master plan, to which the hospital must conform in all future growth.

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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Traffic Study

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ate thoroughfares such as Rochambeau Avenue.

Miriam. Miriam Hospital operates in the heart of this residential neighborhood, generating traffic and parking problems. The study will address ways to reduce the traffic and parking impact of the hospital on the neighborhood.

Hope Street. Our thriving commercial district on Hope Street is an invaluable neighborhood asset, but neighbors often voice concern for their safety along this busy stretch. The study will address ways to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety on Hope Street, to beautify the streetscape, and at the same time preserve or improve traffic flow and parking which are essential to these businesses.

Providence voters last year passed a 50 million dollar bond issue for "capital improvement and redevelopment." The Third Ward's share of the last \$50M bond issue, passed in 1996, has not yet been completely spent, but most of it went to repaving streets and sidewalks. We hope that this study will provide a roadmap for more ambitious projects on which money from both bond issues can be spent, projects that will make a real difference to the neighborhood.

Business Scene

At 239 Rochambeau Avenue (east of Hope), the dental practice of the late Dr. Joseph Jay Fishbein is now known as **East Side Dental, Inc.**, and the dentists are Charles M. Riotto, DMD and Raj V. Dalala, DMD.

Next door at 247 Rochambeau, **Rick Harkins**, who lives in the neighborhood, is getting ready to open an office of Edward Jones Investment.

Tartufo, a "European Cafe," is renovating the space at 758 Hope Street, formerly India Cafe. **India Cafe** is now located at 1060 Hope Street, the former Bumblebee's.

Mikki's Tailors is back on Hope Street at 769, on the first floor, behind Podrat Coin. She is also selling pet clothing.

The Canine Cafe at 780 Hope has closed.

Nina and Peter Tegu have opened **Studio Hop** at 810 Hope Street in the old Gallery Cafe space next to Fleet Bank. Peter Tegu is a woodworker and finish carpenter, and the shop has

examples of his work. The Tegus are offering an eclectic mix of art work by local artists as well as other American and British artists.

Another neighborhood resident, Bart Krug, has opened his second **Petals & Stems** flower shop at 815 Hope Street. He has owned his other shop at 279 Thayer Street for four years, and is very active in the Thayer Street Business Association.

The intersection of Hope and Fourth Streets has taken on a whole new look with the transformation of Al's Service Station at 820 Hope Street into the **Seven Stars Bakery**. Lynn Rammrath, the owner, is also a neighborhood resident. Opening her own bakery is the culmination of a dream Lynn has had for 10 years, ever since her first college job working in a bakery. She describes the business as an "artisan bakery", meaning all baking is done in the traditional, hand-crafted way with natural ingredients.

Yard Sale Needs Contributions

The success of the Summit Neighborhood Association's annual Yard Sale in May depends upon contributions from neighbors. Please consider donating old furniture, appliances, clothing, books, CDs and other household items gathering dust in your attic or destined for the trash. A tentative date has been set for Saturday, May 12th. Look for the announcement and further information in our May newsletter.

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 **2001** 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 _____

History Project Enters Home Stretch

The Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission has applied for a grant for the Summit Neighborhood History Project. The funds will be used to hire a consultant to pull together the research and photography which was done by volunteers, to fill in any information that is missing, and to complete our application to the National Register of Historic Places. But there is some question about what parts of the neighborhood will be eligible.

Historic districts often represent what preservationists call "high-style." These are the houses of the wealthy, designed by well-known architects and built with no expense spared. Summit was and is middle-class, and exemplifies a vernacular, "low-style" of building. While no one disputes the historic significance of Summit, there are some concerns about making it a historic district. Simply put, middle-class neighborhoods are more likely to be altered with vinyl siding, or replacement windows, or other "improvements" that destroy the historic character of the neighborhood.

The integrity of the homes in Summit is very good. It looks remarkably like it did in the mid-1930's. But there are enough architectural compromises to give some officials the jitters. The National Register places no restrictions on homeowners, so it is understandable that they want to designate districts that are likely to keep their historic character. As the application process goes forward, it is unclear how many and which streets will ultimately be included, but the SNA will do what it can to make sure that as much of our neighborhood as possible will be considered.

Summit Neighborhood Association

Annual Meeting

7 pm – 9 pm

Monday, February 5, 2001

Hillside Health Center
99 Hillside Avenue

Agenda

- 6:30 Refreshments
- 7:00 Welcome and Summary of Activities
- 7:10 Election of Officers and Board for 2001
- 7:15 Greg Gerritt, Friends of the Moshassuck
- 7:25 James Lucht, URI Cooperative Extension
- 7:40 Councilman Kevin Jackson
- 7:45 Councilwoman Rita Williams
- 7:50 Representative Gordon Fox
- 7:55 Representative David Cicilline
- 8:00 Senator Rhoda Perry
- 8:05 Questions & Answers
- 8:40 Community Police Officers
- 9:00 Adjourn

Free and open to all

Memberships and SNA T-shirts available at the door

Members please bring \$10 dues for 2001

Free parking