



# Summit News

May 2001

## Community Police Unit To Be Abolished

On March 21st, the Mayor and the Providence Police Department hosted a "Neighborhood Summit" to announce changes to the Patrol and Community Police Units that will result in the reassignment of most Community Police Officers, city-wide.

At the meeting, representatives of the SNA and other neighborhood groups learned of the plan, which will reassign community police officers to the Patrol Bureau. The City is divided into 29 geographical areas, called car-posts. Under the new plan, patrol officers will be permanently assigned to their car-posts, will be required to spend a half hour walking the neighborhood during each tour and will be expected to work with the communities to which they are assigned. The car-post that encompasses Summit includes most of the East Side.

The Department cites problems with the current community policing program, saying that patrol officers neglect community relations, leaving that to community police officers, and community police staffing deprives the Patrol Bureau of needed officers, leaving them shorthanded.

Patrolman George Pereira, of the Mount Hope Community Police Unit is among only 3 com-

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## Tree Planting Scheduled for Collyer Field

On May 19th at 9 am, Friends of the Moshassuck will conduct its third tree planting at Collyer Field along the banks of the Moshassuck River, next to the Bonanza Bus Station, as part of our long term efforts to restore the health of the ecosystem in this corner of the neighborhood. The Collyer Field area, home to abundant wildlife and an interesting forest, has also been overrun by an invasive alien plant, Japanese Knotweed, and we are directing efforts to eradicate the invasive alien as well as restore a nearly natural New England forest to the area. In the past we have planted birch, gum, ash, and maple trees, and this year expect to plant maple, ash, and mulberry trees.

We are also working with a landscape architect provided by

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Maximum recycling, page 2.

## History Project Receives Funding

The Providence Preservation Society (PPS) has been awarded a grant to complete the nomination of Summit Neighborhood to the National Register of Historic Places. The six thousand dollar grant will allow PPS to hire a consultant to complete the work begun by neighborhood volunteers. The funding comes from the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission (RIHP&HC) through the Certified Local Government (CLG) grant program.

Since 1995, PPS and SNA have been working toward the goal of getting Summit listed on the National Register. PPS provided research materials, guidance and expertise, SNA helped with organization, funding and pub-

licity, some local businesses donated film and developing, and the volunteers did the leg work. It has been a real community effort!

Historic district status carries with it government incentives to preserve the historic character of the area. Rhode Island recently raised from 10% to 20% the tax credit that is available to homeowners who make "historically sensitive" exterior improvements. Historically sensitive improvements include replacing your roof or painting. But don't expect a credit for putting up vinyl siding or replacement windows. To preservationists, "improvements" like those destroy the character of old

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## Recycle This Newsletter!

Every household in Providence should have received a new green bin with a lid and a booklet inside describing the expanded recycling program. If you did not receive a bin, call the Department of Public Works at 467-7950, and one will be delivered to you.

If your green bin is missing its lid, if you did not receive a booklet, or if your blue bin is broken or missing, stop by the Rochambeau Library, at 708 Hope Street. Sarah Weed, the new head librarian, has kindly offered to help with the blue bin exchange, and she has some extra green lids and booklets, too. Just sign in and pick up what you are missing. The library is at 708 Hope Street and is open 9am to 8pm Monday through Thursday, 12 noon to 5:30pm Friday and 9am to 5:30pm on Saturday. They are closed Memorial Day.

The Maximum Recycling Program adds to the list of things you can recycle. Along with cans, bottles and newspapers, you can now recycle mail, computer paper, paperback books, cardboard boxes of all kinds, plastic bottles and jugs, drink cartons and, yes, the Summit News.

Recycling questions? Call the **Recycling Hotline** at 942-1430 extension 775. Leave a message and they will call you back. Some neighborhoods have a "Recycling Captain," a volunteer who has offered to answer questions and give presentations to groups. Summit has two: **Alison Wald** (abwald@home.com, 831-0672) and **Brian Patrick Mulligan** (bripm@aol.com, 751-7643).

### Traffic Study Update

The Summit Neighborhood Traffic Study went to bid in March. An SNA Board subcommittee is considering the five excellent proposals that were submitted. After the contract is awarded in early May, there will be a public meeting to gather information about traffic and parking problems in the three study areas: the east-west thru streets (e.g. Fourth Street), the Miriam Hospital area and the Hope Street commercial district. We invite neighbors and business owners to help define the study and shape the result at this and future meetings.

There will not be another newsletter until the fall, but we will get the word out any way we can. Call 331-1644 or email [sna@sna.providence.ri.us](mailto:sna@sna.providence.ri.us) if you would like to be notified of the time and place of public traffic study meetings. The latest information will always be posted on the SNA website:

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

### Street Tree Deadline

The next deadline for completed applications to the Providence Neighborhood Planting Program is **June 1st**. Call 351-5802 for more info.

### Police

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community police officers across the City who will remain at their posts. His involvement with the Mount Hope Learning Center and support from the community and Councilman Jackson led to his exemption.

We at the SNA are disappointed that the City is turning its back on community policing. Our car-post, the East Side, is not a neighborhood, but a collection of neighborhoods. We are skeptical that a patrol officer in a car can have the kind of community presence community policing promises. We note that union rules require that officers may choose their posts, and we wonder how these same officers will be "permanently" assigned.

## Tree Planting

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Groundwork Providence who is helping us further our Knotweed eradication program.

The tree planting usually takes only a couple of hours, and our tradition is to follow tree plantings with pizza for all. We encourage everyone to volunteer and would love to have new activists join us. For more information, or to get involved, call Friends of the Moshassuck at 331-0529 or email us at [geritt@mindspring.com](mailto:geritt@mindspring.com).

**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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Summit Neighborhood Assoc.

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Providence, RI 02940

### History Project

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houses, so they are not covered.

There is also a bill working its way through Congress, the Historic Homeowner Assistance Act, which would provide a 20% federal tax credit for improvements to owner-occupied residences in National Register districts. PPS is working with other organizations to get this bill passed into law.

Will your house be included in the historic district? We don't know yet. Houses built after 1951 are not eligible (they must be at least 50 years old to be historic). Houses which have had their exteriors altered or remodelled are probably not eligible. And whole streets will not be included if most of the houses are not eligible.

In many cases these are judgment calls that will be made by those who prepare the nomination and those who judge it. But a strong sense that we are a community committed to preserving our historic character will help us gain the confidence of those decision makers. When you make plans for improvements, consider your house in a historic context. If you are unsure if your exterior improvements will compromise your home's character, give PPS a call at 831-7440.

### Business Scene

Some Hope Street businesses have been getting excellent press lately. We know that you don't have to venture beyond our own neighborhood to sample some of the best Providence has to offer, but now, it seems, the word is getting out.

In March, the Providence Journal Food section featured the new Seven Stars Bakery. The March issue of Rhode Island Monthly called Trent. Bistro one of Rhode Island's best restaurants to BYOB. The April 1st Sunday Journal had a great article on Studio Hop, the new gallery/gift shop at 810 Hope Street. And now, just as we go to press, there is a great review of Tartufo Caffè at 758 Hope Street.

Here are the latest changes since our January newsletter:

Stevens Oriental Rugs at 736 Hope plans to close soon.

There are two changes in the four-store block at 780 Hope. Artiques antiques store has closed, and Randy Mickley has

moved his Goodie Basket up from Wickenden Street, featuring gift baskets for all occasions, chocolates, and body care products by Caswell-Massey.

Sarah Good Boutique will open April 20th in the former Canine Cafe space next to Goodie Basket.

Lad & Lassie aims to close by July 1st, by which time they hope to have sold the huge inventory which has filled their extensive storage areas. "The more customers we have, the sooner we close."

Mr. Pita, to be run by "a family member of East Side Pocket" is coming soon to 768 Hope, and will offer several Middle Eastern specials. East Side Pocket is on Thayer Street.

The former Reuben's New York Deli is under new ownership and has become Kay's New York Style Deli at 776 Hope Street.

Frog & Toad, an eclectic gift shop, has opened at 795 Hope, in the former bike shop space.

### Urban Forest Project Goes Online

The Providence Urban Forest Analysis Project has its own web site, <http://www.uri.edu/ce/wq/pforest/>. Researcher Jim Lucht promises to keep the site updated as the project progresses. Later this spring, volunteers will canvas our neighborhood, cataloging tree cover and land use. The data they gather will be combined with existing databases and extrapolated across the city, giving an exceptionally detailed portrait of the City's urban forest canopy.

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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 **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 \_\_\_\_\_

Summit Neighborhood Association  
Tenth Annual



# Yard Sale

9am - 3pm  
Saturday, May 12, 2001  
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 10th & 11th  
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 Carol at 351-7741.

**Rain Date - Saturday, May 19th**