



# Summit News

October 2001

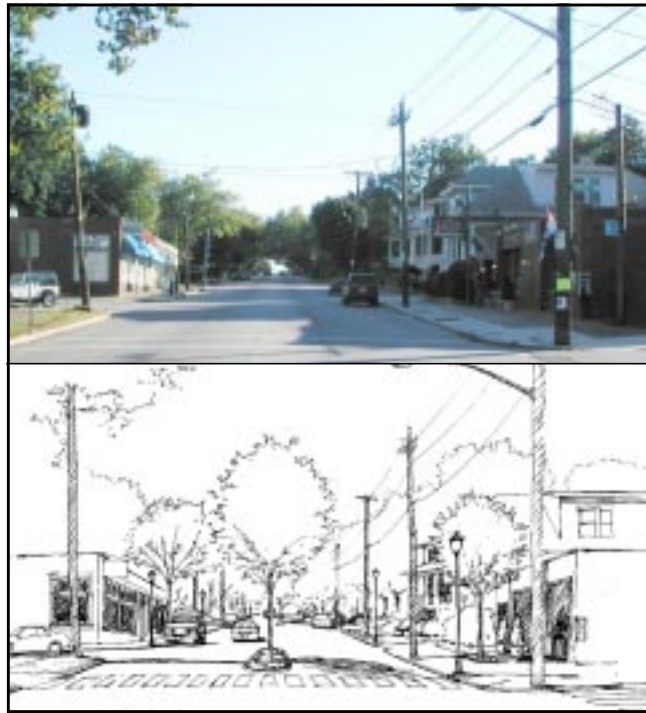
## North Main Paving Project to Expand

A Summit Neighborhood Association board subcommittee has met twice in the past 2 months with representatives of the RI Department of Transportation (DOT) to discuss state plans to repave North Main Street next spring. We learned that DOT will be improving the sidewalks where needed along the street and adding wheelchair curbscuts. Another DOT study is simultaneously underway to reset the timing of the traffic lights along this corridor.

The SNA has asked DOT to conduct a study to determine whether the intersection with Smithfield Avenue needs reconfiguring. Currently traffic there is one-way westbound on Smithfield Ave. The eastbound traffic gets routed behind Brooks Drugstore. SNA also asked DOT to consider improving existing plantings in median strips on North Main, installing plantings where none exist, as well as putting plantings along sidewalks at the curb. This would resemble the attractive grass strips at curbside that are found throughout our neighborhood, but low maintenance, hardy plantings for North Main were specifically requested instead of grass. Councilman Kevin Jackson has been involved and supportive of this project. DOT representatives have been very receptive to SNA input and suggestions. Business owners along North Main Street are invited to call SNA to comment now, before the plans are finalized.

## Draft Traffic Plan to Debut at Public Meeting

A draft traffic plan for Summit Neighborhood will be presented at a public meeting on Tuesday, October 9th, from 7pm to 9pm at Hillside Health Center, 99 Hillside Avenue.



Hope Street looking south from Ninth Street, as it is and as it might be.

also are working with the engineers to design streetscape improvements for the Hope Street business district.

At the October meeting, Summit neighbors will get their first peek at the results, and a chance to comment before the final plan is approved and submitted to the City.

The Summit Neighborhood Traffic Study is a project of the SNA,

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## PPS Hires Consultant for History Project

The Providence Preservation Society has hired a professional consultant, Kathryn Cavanaugh, to complete the nomination of Summit Neighborhood to the National Register of Historic Places. Ms. Cavanaugh is the former Preservation Planner for

the City of Providence and a resident of the neighborhood.

The nomination includes a considerable amount of field work and background research. Ms. Cavanaugh will be working closely with PPS and the SNA on

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## Bring Trees to Your Street

December 1st is the next deadline for the Providence Neighborhood Planting Program (PNPP). Under the program, groups of neighbors band together to plant 5 to 20 trees in a particular area. The program provides the trees and assistance in planting and maintaining them. Neighbors agree to care for the trees throughout the year.

For an application or more information, call the Street Tree Coordinator, 351-5802, or visit the PNPP's website at [www.pnpp.org](http://www.pnpp.org) and download your application!

## Update on Library Extension

Ann Beha Architects of Boston has been chosen as the architect for the Rochambeau branch addition. This firm is designing the Mary Baker Eddy Library for the First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston. They also have done extensive renovation and/or new construction work on the Nantucket Atheneum; the Hawthorne-Longfellow Library at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine; and the Patten Free Library in Bath, Maine. For more examples of their work, visit their web site at: [www.annbeha.com](http://www.annbeha.com).

Toward the end of this year, the architect will hold a public meeting. It is anticipated that groundbreaking for the Rochambeau addition will take place next summer.

The Providence Public Library has a multi-million dollar building and renovation program in the works. Rochambeau and South Providence branches are getting additions and this work is at the top of the priority list. All other branches as well as the main branch are slated for renovations.

## Buy Nothing Day Coat Exchange

Buy Nothing Day is a 24-hour moratorium on consumer spending scheduled each year on the day after Thanksgiving, traditionally the busiest shopping day of the year. The idea is to protest the consumerism that is threatening our communities and overwhelming our ecosystems by taking a break from the shopping frenzy. Buy Nothing Day was the brainchild of Adbusters Media Foundation ([adbusters.org/campaigns/bnd/](http://adbusters.org/campaigns/bnd/)).

On this day each year, Providence volunteers hold a coat exchange on the State House lawn, collecting and distributing hundreds of coats. If you can donate a coat, bring it to the event. If you need a coat or coats for your family, come by and pick up what you need. If you would like to help, or for more information, contact Greg Gerritt at 331-0529.

The SNA this year joins the Sierra Club, the Coalition for Consumer Justice, the Urban League, and dozens of other community-minded organizations in co-sponsoring the Fifth Annual Buy Nothing Day Coat Exchange, Friday November 23rd 11am-3pm on the State House Lawn (across from the Mall).

### Traffic Plan

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funded by the City, and with the support of Councilman Jackson and the Providence Department of Planning and Development. For more information, contact the SNA or visit our Traffic Study web page at: [sna.providence.ri.us/projects/traffic\\_study/](http://sna.providence.ri.us/projects/traffic_study/)

### History Project

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this project and will be seeking the assistance of volunteers through the Fall to aid in her research and documentation. Anyone interested in volunteering their time can contact Mary Kate Harrington, Programs Associate at PPS (831-7440) or the SNA (see this page).

**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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## Urban Forest Analysis Focuses on Summit

One hundred years ago, Providence had over 50,000 trees. Due to natural attrition and neglect, today they number only about 20,000. A project begun this year aims to measure the extent of the urban canopy in our city and to estimate the economic benefits it provides.

The Summit Neighborhood Urban Forest Mapping Project sent volunteers out over the summer to collect field data on buildings, impervious surfaces and trees, specifically including numbers, species, health, location, height, diameter, canopy spread, ground cover, and more.

Two of the sites in Summit provided interesting sample data. Gregg's Restaurant lot was studied and found to contain 36 trees. The largest measured 91.5 inches in circumference. Another site studied was the block bounded by Top, Tenth and Eleventh Streets and Highland Avenue. It contains 20 residences and 65 trees; the largest tree measured 100 inches around.

The data collected by volunteers will be combined with the City's existing street tree inventory, as well as previous studies, local knowledge, geographic information systems (GIS) data, and data from overhead images

## Business Scene

We bid adieu to two long-time businesses on Hope Street. **Kenneth Cote Salon** which has been at 800 Hope Street for 24 years has closed and will operate just their salon in East Greenwich.

**Les Petits Fours** which has been a fixture on Hope Street, for nearly 35 years, first at 959 at the corner of North Avenue, and for the past few years at 833, has closed its doors. Gonna miss those yummy pastries!

**Scott Michael Caterers**, next to Petit Fours, at 835 Hope Street, has closed. **Not Just Spices**, the Indian store at the corner of Fifth Street, is in the process of buying this building at 833-837 and will sell Indian snacks and desserts. **Chez Noir** hair salon remains at the north end of the block.

Susan Hand (of the Plaza Grille) and her brother Vincent are renovating the former J. Elliot's at 959 Hope Street. It will reopen as **Park Place Grille** and **j by day** New York Style Deli.

**Festival Ballet of Rhode Island** is completely renovating the former Mount Sinai Memo-

rial Chapel space at 825 Hope Street, which old-timers in the neighborhood will remember was once a First National grocery store.

A sign in the window at **Mr. Pita** at 768 Hope announced that he is no longer open to the public but is now "specializing in wholesale and catering."

A **Re/Max Real Estate Agency** has moved into 736 Hope, formerly **Stevens Oriental Rug Gallery**.

The building housing **Lad & Lassie** is back on the market, and the shoe store will stay there until it is sold.

**Dulux Paint** at 600 Pawtucket Avenue, just north of Hillside Avenue, has closed.

At 605 Pawtucket Avenue, **Perlow's Auto Sales Annex** and **A. Adams Auto Parts** have set up shop. It is also a U-Haul outlet.

Donn Dibiasio is closing down **D & B Antenna & Electronics** at 1284 North Main Street.

**Anahata Yoga School** has moved into the house at 191 Nashua Street, off North Main Street, behind Pep Boys. This was once the site of a Castro Convertible store.

of the City. Project leader Jim Lucht will then extrapolate the data across the entire City to yield a detailed portrait of the

City's urban forest.

To find more about the tree survey, visit the website at: [www.provplan.org/pforest/](http://www.provplan.org/pforest/).

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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 **2002**  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 \_\_\_\_\_

## Please Don't Trample the Flowers

The management at Hillside Health Center (HHC) asks that neighbors please refrain from trampling the planted areas on the grounds of the nursing home. There are no cross streets between Hillside and Chace Avenues, and HHC is a tempting cut-through. Please show them the same respect you would show any of your other neighbors.

HHC has proven itself to be a good neighbor in the years since the home reopened. Area residents report that the home has been responsible and responsive, and has dealt with issues such as early morning deliveries that disturbed folks living nearby. HHC has also generously provided meeting space to the SNA.

## Neighborhood Recycling Contest

Groundwork Providence is injecting a little healthy competition into the City's recycling program. Over the next two months, neighborhoods will compete to see which has the highest recycling participation rate.

From September 19th through November 15th, neighborhoods throughout the City will be surveyed three times. Randomly chosen streets will be inspected to determine the ratio of houses using recycling bins to those with only trashcans. Standings will be announced in the middle of the contest, and the winners will be announced on America

Recycles Day - November 15th. Separate awards will be given out for each trash collection day, and Summit will be competing for the Monday prize against our other East Side neighbors. A grand prize will also be awarded for the highest recycling participation city-wide.

Let's show them Summit cares! Put out your green and blue recycle bins each week. If you are missing a bin, you can pick one up at the Rochambeau Library. For more information about the contest, contact Groundwork Providence at 351-6440.

It is not always easy having a large institution in a dense residential neighborhood. HHC has

made an effort to cooperate with nearby residents, let's show them the same cooperative spirit.

# Public Meeting

*to present and discuss a draft*

## Summit Neighborhood Traffic Plan



**Tuesday, October 9th, 2001**

**7pm - 9pm**

**Hillside Health Center**

**99 Hillside Avenue**