



Summit News

January 2002

History Project Gets Nod From State

The Rhode Island Historic Preservation and Heritage Commission (RIHP&HC) has endorsed pursuing National Register nominations for two districts within the Summit Neighborhood History Project survey area.

The "Summit Avenue Historic District" includes 158 properties and is bounded by Rochambeau Avenue, Camp Street, Memorial Road, Creston Way and Summit Avenue. The "Elmgrove Gardens Historic District" includes 142 properties and is bounded by Rochambeau Avenue, Morris Avenue, Woodbury Street and Cole Avenue.

The Providence Preservation Society (PPS) last year hired a consultant, Kathryn Cavanaugh, to prepare a National Register nomination for the survey area. Ms. Cavanaugh identified the two districts, and will prepare a nomination for at least one of them under a grant awarded to PPS. Mary Kate Harrington, Programs Associate at PPS, will join Ms. Cavanaugh at the SNA's Annual Meeting on Monday, February 4th to describe the current state of the project, and to answer questions. See page 4 for more information about the meeting.

The History Project survey area includes over 1100 homes in a region bounded by North Main Street, Rochambeau and Lorimer Avenues, and the Pawtucket city line. Though we think of it all as our neighborhood, historically it grew up as several distinct dis-

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Rochambeau Monument Shorn!

The City will replant this triangle, at Summit and Brewster, in the Spring.

RIDOT Agrees to North Main Extras

The SNA Board was pleased to learn last winter that the RI Department of Transportation (RIDOT) was planning to repave North Main Street. A subcommittee was formed to follow up and schedule an exploratory meeting. Since then the subcommittee has continued to meet periodically with RIDOT representatives. Previous improvements made along North Main Street, thanks to Councilman Jackson, provided a foundation for RIDOT to meet many of our requests to enhance their original plans.

The North Main Street repaving project will extend from the intersection at Olney Street and University Heights all the way to

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Summit Traffic Study Completed

The "Summit Neighborhood Traffic Calming Study" has been completed and delivered to the City and the Association. In it, the consultants from BETA Group, Inc. and Gates Leighton and Associates identify traffic problems in the neighborhood and recommend a variety of solutions to combat them. The traffic calming plan offers a roadmap for spending on capital improvements in our corner of the City.

The final plan recommends physical changes to problem roadways that are designed to slow traffic and improve pedestrian access. The plan favors curb extensions and median

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North Main Street

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the Pawtucket line. We discovered there was also a RIDOT project planned for upgrading and re-synchronizing the North Main Street traffic signals. Ensuing meetings have yielded the following understandings.

First, the repaving and re-signaling projects will be combined so the street will be torn up only once, instead of twice. Consolidating the projects means the

work will have to be postponed until next fall, instead of the spring as originally planned.

Second, a requested traffic engineering analysis of the existing one-way intersection at North Main and Smithfield Avenue (where Brooks Drugs, Blockbuster Video and the Hess station are located) led to the recommendation that it be changed to a two-way intersection with new traffic signaling.

Third, the turning lanes at Tenth Street, in both directions, will be shortened, as they were determined to be longer than necessary. This reduction will allow the existing concrete dividing strip to be widened and planted with hardy trees, shrubs and florals. All wide, paved median strips along the street will also

have the concrete removed and receive plantings, like the attractive strip at the University Heights Shopping Center.

Curb corners along the entire street will be made wheelchair-accessible as part of project requirements. More trees will also be planted on sidewalks at curbside along the entire street where they are now lacking; dead or damaged ones will be replaced or pruned. Business owners may rest assured, however, that no trees will be planted that would interfere with vehicle or pedestrian traffic.



Smithfield Avenue will become 2-way at North Main

History Project

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tracts. It is the preservationist's job to identify the most well-preserved of these for historic status. We expect the survey area to yield more National Register nominations in the future.

The History Project was a volunteer effort, sponsored by PPS and the SNA, to enlist residents in the historic research of their own

neighborhood. The multi-year effort produced the raw materials that will be used to prepare these and future National Register nominations.



Proposed Historic Districts

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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islands rather than speed bumps or humps. Curb extensions, sometimes called "bump outs" or "neck downs," slow traffic by narrowing the travel lane and shortening the distance pedestrians must cross. Curb extensions are recommended for Rochambeau, Summit and Hillside Avenues, Tenth Street and parts of Hope Street.

Median islands are recommended for Hope Street from Fifth Street to Hillside Avenue. The islands will slow traffic by narrowing the travel lane, and provide a "safe haven" for crossing pedestrians. Trees planted in the medians will also lend Hope Street a more stately appearance and visually join Lippitt Park to the west side of Hope.

In the plan, small traffic circles are the proposed cure for Lorimer Avenue and a larger traffic circle would replace the 5-way intersection at Lorimer Avenue and Eighth Street.

The SNA Traffic Study subcommittee has recommended that a bit more than a third of the plan be implemented right away this year. We chose to concentrate on the most cost-effective improvements, the areas most in need, and those for which alternate funding sources,

Business Scene

Mr. Pita at 768 Hope Street was sold by the original owner, who also owns East Side Pocket on Thayer Street, and is once again open to the public.

Trent. Bistro at 748 Hope is now open only for dinner Wednesday through Saturday nights.

Head to Toes, which has long occupied the storefront next to Maximillian's, at 1070 Hope Street, has closed.

In October we reported that **Dulux Paint** had moved out of 600 Pawtucket Avenue. We didn't realize they had moved into Shaw's Plaza, just south of the market.

Hillside Florist is now occupying just the space at 608 Pawtucket Avenue, while a **Subway** sandwich shop is in the 612 Pawtucket Avenue location at the corner of Hillside Avenue.

Providence Homestead Exemption Explained

Some residents have been puzzling over the Declaration of Homestead forms recently sent to Providence homeowners. Here's a quick explanation. Providence's new property tax homestead exemption applies only to owner-occupied residences. The exemption effectively lowers your property tax rate to \$29.52 per \$1000 assessed value on your home, 13% lower than the standard rate of \$34.07 per \$1000. To get the exemption, you must declare in writing that you qualify - that your home was owner-occupied at the end of last year. The Declaration of Homestead (that form that came in the mail) must be filed with the City Assessor's office by March 1st.

which may take more time, are not available. Unspent City bond issue funds are available now for this work, and Councilman Jackson has indicated his support in moving forward.

The Traffic Study will be made available on the SNA website, and we will place copies at the Rochambeau Library.

Yard Sale in May

The success of our annual Yard Sale depends on contributions from neighbors. Please consider donating old furniture, appliances, clothing, books, CDs and other items gathering dust in your attic or destined for the trash. Look for an announcement 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 **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 _____

Summit Neighborhood Association

Annual Meeting

Monday, February 4th, 2002

7pm - 9pm

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 2002
- 7:15 Mary Kate Harrington, Providence Preservation Society
Kathryn Cavanaugh
- 7:35 Russell Krapf, Providence Fire Department
- 7:45 Councilman Kevin Jackson
- 7:50 Councilwoman Rita Williams
- 7:55 Representative Gordon Fox
- 8:00 Senator Rhoda Perry
- 8:05 Questions & Answers
- 8:40 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 2002

Free parking