



# Summit News

May 2002

## Miriam to Rebuild and Expand

Dr. Kathleen Hittner, president and CEO of The Miriam Hospital, presented her planned 23-million dollar project at the SNA board meeting in March. The proposal calls for the demolition of two existing structures and the construction, in their place, of one larger building. The new building could eventually rise to over four stories on Miriam's main campus if Dr. Hittner realizes her vision.

Dr. Hittner, who took over the top job at Miriam two years ago, explained that the hospital needs to modernize its facilities to attract both patients and doctors. She said that although the hospital has an excellent reputation and has recently won awards for nursing excellence, its cramped patient and operating rooms present challenges for the future.

The plan calls for the Sol Koffler building (located at the corner of Summit Avenue and Seventh Street) and the building next to it on Seventh Street (currently containing the intensive care unit) to be razed to make way for the new facility. Both of the existing buildings are two stories. A new two-story building would replace them, but Dr. Hittner envisions adding two additional stories on top within a decade.

Research labs and clinics, currently housed in the two buildings slated to be demolished under the plan, would be moved to other buildings on the main campus, or to the Coro building

*Continued on Page 2*

## SNA Sponsors Concord Street Cleanup

On Saturday April 27 from 9AM to noon the Summit Neighborhood Association will sponsor and lead a clean up of the area around the Smithfield Avenue overpass of Concord St. The vacant lots below the overpass accumulate a great deal of trash. The City of Providence, in conjunction with Groundwork Providence, sponsor April Clean Ups and provide trash bags, gloves, and in this case a dumpster. We hope everyone will come out on the 27th and join this effort to improve our neighborhood.



The Smithfield Avenue overpass at Concord Street.

## Library Celebration May 5th

On Sunday, May 5th, from 1 to 5pm, the Providence Public Library (PPL) and the Friends of Rochambeau will host "Celebrate Rochambeau," a rain-or-shine community gathering on the library grounds at 708 Hope Street. The Library will announce and publicly unveil plans and an expected construction timeline for the long-awaited transformation of the Rochambeau Branch. The renovation plans, including an addition that

will almost double the size of the current library, will be on display and architects will be available to answer questions.

The festive celebration will include family activities and entertainment. Children will have a chance to be photographed with Harry Potter and Mr. Potato Head, and there will be special guests, refreshments and more. The event will also mark the start of a neighborhood

*Continued on Page 3*

## Traffic Study Update

Median islands, traffic circles and curb extensions may appear in Summit as early as this fall. More than a third of the improvements envisioned by the "Summit Neighborhood Traffic Calming Study" are in the pipeline for implementation at the City's Department of Planning and Development.

Councilman Kevin Jackson has approved funding for the second phase of the project, which involves hiring an engi-

neering firm to draw up detailed design documents of the improvements described in the study. When the design documents are completed, the City will then hire a construction firm to implement them.

The Traffic Study is available on our website, and two copies have been placed at the Rochambeau Library at 708 Hope Street. For more details, see our traffic study web site under "Projects" at [sna.providence.ri.us](http://sna.providence.ri.us).

## Miriam

*Continued from Page 1* downtown. The new building would contain operating rooms and the intensive care unit. Two additional floors to be added later would contain patient beds.

When asked by the board if her plan represents an increase in overall capacity, Dr. Hittner explained that by modernizing, she hopes to recapture the surgery and inpatient care that Miriam has lost to other hospitals over the years. She does not anticipate further patient growth.

While we applaud Dr. Hittner's effort to reach out to us at an early stage of this project, we are concerned that the hospital is once again looking to expand within our residential neighborhood. Since it moved to Summit 50 years ago, Miriam has expanded again and again, most recently in the eighties when the City of Providence sold the Summit Avenue Elementary School to the hospital for office space, which later tore it down to make way for the

## Fain Outpatient Clinic.

Though the current proposal is contained on the main campus, a four-story building is to replace two-story structures. And the proposed building will approach five stories considering the maintenance level sandwiched between the second and third floors. The zoning height restriction on Miriam is a towering 75 feet.

For over a decade we have



Miriam plans to demolish these two buildings.

urged Miriam to focus its growth on North Main Street, where it now owns the sprawling Sears building, the former Arena site (now a parking lot) between 2nd and 3rd Streets, the daycare center between 3rd and 4th Streets and the former RISE building behind it.

If the new two-story structure

## Street Tree Deadline

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

**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.

Editor: John Bazik

### SNA Board

#### President

John Bazik 331-1644

#### Vice President

Connie Chesebrough 272-7123

#### Corresponding Secretary

Judy Brown 861-8980

#### Recording Secretary

Maryanne Flanagan 421-7269

#### Treasurer

Louise Zuckerman 274-2665

#### Members of the Board

Marilyn Baade 454-3571

Don Beauchemin 831-5767

Carol Cancro 351-7741

Grant Dulgarian 751-6264

Gordon Fox 272-0113

Greg Gerritt 331-0529

Claude Goldman 351-9715

Dan Goldman 621-9092

Rick Harkins 751-4599

Walter Hourahan

Kevin Jackson 273-5478

Jennifer Long 861-4295

Helen McCarthy 273-2069

Rhoda Perry 751-7165

Bonnie Robison 521-0568

Marjorie Smit 273-0087

Saul Spitz 751-8654

Michelle Tuck 331-0599

### Web Site

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

### Email

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

### Address

Summit Neighborhood Assoc.

PO Box 41092

Providence, RI 02940

is raised to four stories, will Summit neighbors feel the effects? Will we see an increase in traffic and parking congestion? Will Miriam's investment catalyze another cycle of growth in our neighborhood? We don't know. But we are encouraged by the dialog that has been opened by Miriam's new leader, and hopeful that she will listen to and act on our concerns.

### North Main Repaving Update

Plans for repaving North Main Street remain in place but have been postponed in order to coordinate two projects into one. This will eliminate having the street dug up twice. The SNA subcommittee monitoring this project has been advised by the R.I. Dept. of Transportation (RIDOT) that the project had to be pushed back until next fall. Besides the repaving, from Branch Ave. to the Pawtucket line, the project will include new synchronization of traffic lighting, upgrading the intersection at Smithfield Avenue (where Brooks Drugs is located) from one-way to two-way, shortening turning lanes at Tenth Street, planting more sidewalk trees along the length of the project, and installing plantings in widened, center strips.

### Library

*Continued from Page 1* fundraising campaign to raise \$1 million for the Rochambeau Building Fund.

For more information about "Celebrate Rochambeau" or the Rochambeau Branch fundraising campaign, contact Jennifer Foster, Associate Director of Development at PPL at 455-8125, or Dawn Larsson, Development Associate at 455-8050.

### Business Scene

Green River Silver Company is opening a second location in Wickford.

Mr. Ralph's Laundromat has moved to 1070 Hope Street next to Maximillian's, and offers the same services but is no longer self-serve. There is parking in the rear of the building. The CVS

store is expanding into the laundromat's former location.

Atomic Comics has moved into the space vacated by the Goodie Basket at 780 Hope, next to Blooming Blossoms.

Paradise Boutique has opened up at 738 Hope, formerly part of Oriental Rug Gallery.

### FOTM Clean Up Collyer Field

For the 5th year in a row Friends of the Moshassuck will hold an Earth Day clean up at Collyer Field as part of our restoration efforts. The Clean Up will be held on Saturday April 20 from 9 AM to Noon.

Due to the drought Friends of the Moshassuck will not be planting trees this spring, though we shall continue to maintain the trees we have already planted and we shall continue our efforts at suppressing the invasive alien Japanese Knotweed that threatens to overwhelm the site. We continue to experiment with various community friendly ways to suppress the knotweed and our efforts to restore a native New England forest on the site. We welcome volunteers. To join or get involved contact Greg Gerritt at 331-0529, or just show up at the cleanup.

### The Free Garden Farm

Free Garden Farm is a project on two sites. The first is on Nashua Street behind Benny's Automotive store. This space will be devoted to growing organic flowers, vegetables, and herbs. The food will be distributed for free to those who need it, and will also be used to help raise awareness about the corporate control of the food supply. It is also hoped that it will be a tool for empowering neighborhood folks to grow their own food.

The second site is a community garden located on a vacant lot at the corner of Cemetery and Concord Streets. This space is available to anyone who wants a plot for growing things. If you are interested in volunteering to help set up the gardens, would like to have a space in the community garden, or can donate tools, seeds, or money to these efforts call Mary or Tara at 270-5223.

### 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  
Eleventh Annual**

# **Yard Sale**

**9am - 3pm**

**Saturday, May 11, 2002**

**Church of the Redeemer**

**655 Hope Street**

**Donations  
Needed**

Household  
goods, Working  
Appliances, Cloth-  
ing, Furniture, Toys,  
Books & Records

**Dropoff Dates:  
Thursday and  
Friday,  
May 9th & 10th  
6pm to 8pm**

**Volunteers Needed**

Pickup	Day of Sale	Sorting
Setup	Trucks/Vans	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.

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 Bonnie at 521-0568.

**Rain Date - Saturday, May 18th**