



Summit News

May 2003

Neighbors Organize Against Miriam Plan

Frustration and anger with Miriam Hospital was the dominant theme at SNA's annual meeting in February. The event, which features public officials in a question-and-answer format, became a forum for neighbors exasperated with the hospital's latest plans to build in our neighborhood.

Invigorated by that outpouring of emotion, and encouraged by growing support in the neighborhood, SNA is sponsoring the "Stop Lifespan" campaign, which seeks to convince neighbors, elected officials and hospital leadership that Summit Neighborhood has suffered enough from institutional growth. The hospital must stop this project and reconsider its plans.

Miriam Hospital intends to build a huge, industrial-style building on their main campus in the heart of our one- and two-story residential neighborhood. Rising to six stories, it would become the tallest building on the site. Though the hospital plans to use four floors of the new building, a building-elevation diagram presented by the hospital shows two floors of "mechanical space" that account for the additional height.

How can the hospital do this? Institutional floating zones, which were created for hospitals and colleges throughout the City, allow building use, height and density more appropriate to commercial and industrial zones. I-zones were designed to limit growth, protect neighborhoods and encourage hospitals,



Lifespan plans to build a six-story building along Seventh Street.

Traffic Calming Update

A greener and more pedestrian-friendly Summit is in the offing. A significant part of the Summit Neighborhood Traffic Calming Plan (available at http://sna.providence.ri.us/projects/traffic_study/) will be constructed this year. The firm of Fuss & O'Neill and landscape architect Sara Bradford are producing the final design.

Working with the City, Councilman Jackson and SNA, the consultants are designing traffic calming features for Rochambeau, Summit and Lorimer Avenues, Hope Street north of Fifth, Tenth Street and Hillside Avenue. The predominant features are curb extensions, which narrow roads to slow traffic, ease pedestrian crossing and add landscaping. Also under consideration are traffic circles and median islands. Construction is planned to begin this Summer.

in particular, to direct their growth in commercial zones. Yet Miriam is disposing of its North Main Street properties and focusing its expansion on its Summit Avenue campus. Providence's institutional zone is broken and should be fixed before any more damage is done to the

city's neighborhoods.

SNA organizers have embarked on a letter-writing and email campaign and petition drive. They have met with Mayor Cicilline, Representative Fox, Senator Perry, Councilman Jackson and Thom Deller, Director of Provi-

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SNA Position on Construction at Miriam Hospital

The following statement was adopted unanimously by the SNA Board on March 11, 2003:

1. Lifespan should declare a voluntary one-year moratorium on new construction at the Miriam site on Summit Avenue and all adjoining properties.

2. Lifespan should adopt the same "do-no-harm" principle in regard to construction and other institutional initiatives in the Summit neighborhood that Lifespan doctors apply to their medical practices. This means no additional construction within the neighborhood and no expansion of operations or capacity that further detract from the residential character of the neighborhood.

3. Lifespan should develop its neglected properties on North Main Street, the former Sears store and an empty lot across the street, which have become public nuisances under its ownership.

4. Lifespan should engage in an ongoing and public dialogue on development plans with Miriam's neighbors and their elected officials to chart the future of its Summit Avenue and North Main Street properties.

5. The City of Providence must develop and apply "neighborhoods first" planning policies and zoning legislation in our neighborhood, starting with the complete reform of the current "Institutional Zone" ordinance and continuing with measures to restore the residential character of the streets around Miriam Hospital.

How You Can Help

1. Express your opposition to further hospital expansion within the residential areas of Summit. Write to:

Alan M. Gilstein, Chairman of the Board of Trustees
Miriam Hospital
164 Summit Avenue
Providence, RI 02906

2. Sign our petition opposing expansion. Canvassers are going door to door now, but you can also add your name to the petition online at our website: sna.providence.ri.us.

3. Join our e-mail campaign to oppose expansion and support a

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1952



1962



1972



1981



1997

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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Trees for Your Street

June 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 PNPP's website at www.pnpp.org and download your application!

Help

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moratorium. You can contact our E-Mail Coordinator, Jo Lee, at jolee@sna.providence.ri.us

4. Display an SNA "Moratorium NOW!" sign on your lawn. Call Jonathan Howard at 331-2272 (evenings only, please), or e-mail him at

signs@sna.providence.ri.us.

5. Support a moratorium on construction. Let City Councilman Kevin Jackson know you support this proposal. Contact him at either 273-5478 (leave a brief message) or:

ward3@providenceri.com

6. Join the Summit Neighborhood Association. Every member makes our voice more powerful in defense of our neighborhood.

Business Scene

The former Lad 'n Lassie storefront has yielded to three new businesses. **Ye Ol' Book Shoppe** at 742 Hope specializes in hardcover books and offers a rare-book appraisal service, but owner Lauretta Girouard also carries new books and paperbacks and plans to be our "neighborhood bookstore."

Next door at 744 Hope, Oak Hill resident Claudia Curl has opened **Claudia Curl**, offering cuts and color in "street style."

At 746 Hope, **Cat's Pajamas** has sleepwear, kids pajamas and lingerie. Owner and Summit resident Erica Craig formerly owned Venus in Furs on Angell Street.

On the next block, **Ivy Tavern** is moving in next to Kaplan's Bakery, replacing Tartuffe Caffè at 758 Hope.

Atomic Comics and Sarah Good Boutique are both gone at 780-782 Hope, and **East Side Kitchen Showroom** is moving into the latter.

Opia has opened at 959 Hope, where Park Place Grille was. Executive chef and Mount Hope resident David Spirito offers new American cuisine for lunch, dinner, and Sunday brunch. Opia, he says, means a "sense of ecstasy."

1056 Hope is now occupied by **Salon de Fatima**, billed as a "retreat for the whole body and day spa."

Curves, a gym for women, is now open in the former Herbalicious space at 1080 Hope.

Down in Shaw's Plaza, a number of new businesses have opened in the past few months: **Majestic Nails, UCom Pagers & Phones, Avon, Only a Dollar, Golden Niem Chow & Hom's II Asian Restaurant** and **P-C-X**, which sells young men's clothing.

Also in Shaw's Plaza, the building under construction just south of Chili's Restaurant will be leased by Miriam Hospital.

Miriam

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dence's Department of Planning and Development. Most recently, they testified in support of Councilman Hassett's proposed building moratorium.

The moratorium would prohibit institutionally zoned non-profits from acquiring building

permits for a period of months in order to give the city an opportunity to review the zoning code and make appropriate changes. SNA believes that a moratorium would provide a much-needed cooling off period, and give the new administration time to establish new rules that will better serve our city and its neighborhoods.

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 **2003** 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 Twelfth Annual

Yard Sale

Saturday, May 10th, 2003

9am - 3pm

Church of the Redeemer

655 Hope Street

Donations Needed

Toys Working Appliances Furniture
Clothing Household Goods Books&CDs

Volunteers Needed

Pickup Day of Sale Sorting
Trucks/Vans Setup Cleanup

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

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.

Joining us this year...

Friends of Rochambeau 14th Annual Spring Book Sale

Children's books (\$.50), Fiction and Nonfiction (\$1 hardcover, \$.50 paperback),
Specials and Friend of Rochambeau Rarities individually priced.

Book donations can be brought to the Sale

Rain Date - Saturday, May 17th