



Summit News

What's happening in your neighborhood

January, 2010

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Upcoming Events

SNA Annual Meeting, February 22nd

Board Meetings

Monday, February 15th
Monday, March 15th
Monday, April 19th

Board meetings will take place at Summit Commons (The former Hillside Nursing facility) at 99 Hillside Ave. Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m.

Help Fight Hunger at the SNA Annual Meeting

Many of our neighbors are feeling pinched by these tough economic times. In the spirit of being a good neighbor and giving what you can, we are asking that people bring a non perishable food item to the SNA annual meeting on February 22nd (see back page for more information on the meeting).

Donated food items will be donated to the Camp Street Ministries Food Pantry. The Food Pantry is located at 190 ½ Camp Street.

Funding Approved for Lippitt Park Fountain



"Gurgling water in Lippitt Park for first time in 27 years!"

In December of 2009, the Champlin Foundation announced their commitment to partially fund the renovation of the Fountain in Lippitt Park. The budget for the project totals \$180,900 with contributions from the City and the Summit Neighborhood Association (SNA), as well as Champlin. The SNA has been working for the restoration for over 2 years. Before that time, other individual efforts called the City's attention to the project. The substantial engineering and construction costs delayed the City's commitment. The present schedule is for the work to be completed by the summer/fall of this year. The fountain has not worked since 1982.

The total amount allocated by Champlin is \$58,900. The Champlin Foundations were initially instituted in the early 1930s for projects located in Rhode Island. Champlin grants are mostly for capital needs for non-profit entities, consisting of equipment, construction, renovations, and the purchase of real property. The application for funding came from the City's Parks and Recreation Department which will administer the budget, engineering and construction.

Although it's not unusual for Champlin to work with a municipal entity, the Foundation usually makes grants to non-profit organizations, which have more limited funding options. There were several compelling reasons for the grant, which competed against numerous requests. First, the substantial financial

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Fountain (Cont. from P. 1)

support from the City indicated the City commitment, not only to renovate but to maintain the Fountain. The City has allocated \$112,000 for engineering and construction. Second, the support of the Summit Neighborhood Association indicated community support and desire for the foundation to be restored. The Summit Neighborhood Association committed \$10,000 in the fall of 2009. Finally, the historic nature of the fountain and its central place in the neighborhood and City made a compelling argument for Champlin funding.

The fountain was constructed in Lippitt Park in 1940 in honor of Henry Bowen Anthony who was a United States Senator from Rhode Island from 1859-1884. Lippitt Park is a 5.5 acre passive recreation park, maintained by the City, at the intersection of Blackstone Boulevard and Hope Street. Lippitt Park and the linear park along Blackstone Boulevard are enjoyed by people from all over the state. Because of the park use and the proximity to the City of Pawtucket, this project was viewed as one having substantial and positive impact for a historically significant parkscape with regional attraction.

The fountain is an elegant, historic granite structure designed in the Moderne style by the Providence firm of Jackson, Robertson & Adams who also designed the Providence County Courthouse. Unfortunately, the fountain was not designed as a recirculation fountain. That is to say, the water would flow from the Providence water main through the fountain and then into the sewerage system. The fountain was turned off in 1982, since it did not meet engineering and health codes. The newly renovated fountain will circulate water through a pumping and filtration system. Lighting will be included in the project which will highlight the historic design elements of the structure.

When completed, the Anthony Fountain will join two other fountains owned and operated in Providence Parks: the Bajnotti fountain in Burnside Park and the DePasquale Plaza fountain on Atwells Avenue.

Summit Crime Statistics

SNA, as it periodically does, checked in recently with Lt. Schiavulli, Commander of the Community Policing District 8, for current crime statistics. Sub-district 8-3 largely captures the area north of Rochambeau. For the 30-day period ending mid-January, there were no violent crimes, but there was one break-in and one motor vehicle theft. However, there were 12 larcenies, five of which were from motor vehicles.

Larcenies from motor vehicles in 2009 (66 incidents) were significantly higher than 2008, rising 69% for the full year. This problem clearly seems to be increasing. The Lt. advises that cars are hit if there is something of value that is visible (purses, change, GPS, etc.). If you see suspicious activity, call 272-1111 and a cruiser will be dispatched.

For the full year 2009, there were 180 property crimes in district 8-3 which was an 8% increase over 2008 because of the larcenies from motor vehicles. There were 76 other larcenies (thefts from backyards, garages, etc.) which was a 10% increase. However, there were 19 break-ins which is a 47% decline compared to 2008 and there were 19 motor vehicle thefts (a 13% decline). Violent crime included three robberies and two assaults with firearms; these generally took place along North Main Street; this was a 37% decline from last year.

Business Scene

The big news on Hope Street is the closing of two restaurants: **Gourmet House** at 787 Hope closed last October "for one month" with the promise of new ownership. However, the interior is undergoing major structural changes, so it would appear that a re-opening is some months away.

Restaurant Oak at 959 Hope closed in mid-January. According to the posted notices, it is under new ownership and will be renovated during January and February with a target re-opening date of early March. The new owners are Nemo and Jenny Brolin doing business as the corporate name of Cook & Brown Public House, Ltd. There is update information on their Facebook page, "Cook & Brown".

Sammy's Pizzeria opened at 771 Hope in the old Dunkin' Donuts space just as the November 2009 newsletter went to press.

Down on North Main Street, **MAIN STREET MARTIAL ARTS** has opened at 1282, next to Java Speed Scooters. **AARON'S Furniture, Electronics, Appliances and Computers** has moved from 657 North Main Street (opposite Charlesgate) to 1139 Main Street, Pawtucket, right at the city line.

Blockbuster's (NYSE BBI) will close on February 1st: the store on Smithfield Avenue at North Main and the store off Pitman St. next to the Eastside Marketplace. This is part of Blockbuster's 2009 announcement that they would close 960 stores (about 20%) and focus on opening 10,000 kiosks and their TiVo relationship.

Take our New Survey:

There are three ways to respond:

1. Go to our website
SummitNeighbors.org
2. Bring to the Annual Meeting
3. Mail to: SNA 2010 Survey,
P.O. Box 41092 Providence,
RI 02940

What do you think should be the priority of the Summit Neighborhood Association to help preserve and improve the quality of life in our neighborhood?

(Please indicate 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, or low)

Crime watch program

Miriam Hospital

Graffiti

Traffic and Parking

Streets: paving and cleaning

Sidewalks

Parks, trees, and rivers

Hope Street businesses

North Main Street

Public Schools

Residential Character—zoning

Events & ways for neighbors to meet

Other: _____

Other Comments:

North Main Street

The redevelopment of North Main Street continues to be a perplexing problem as the North Main St. committee attempts to reverse 40 years of a downhill slide.

It appears that making the NMS and Smithfield Avenue intersection two ways is stymied by one power pole that needs to be moved, at a cost of \$80,000 which no one has in their budget. Some positive signs include: The Anderson Little building has come down, and there are rumors this means there will be more parking for a new tenant in the Sears building, but at this point it is a completely unsubstantiated rumor. The Miriam Hospital Childcare building at the corner of N. Main and 4th St. is being completely renovated. It is believed this will be used for offices by Miriam Hospital. In October the potential buyers of the Tar Beach site at 9th St and N. Main met with the community to describe their plan. The reaction was that their design is appropriate for the site, and the buyers have since gone on to present preliminary plans to the City.

The North Main Street committee is working with our consultant to focus on six sites: Ethan Allen, Sears, the Down Under Bowling Alley, the old Regal Reptile site, Gold's Gym, and Matilda St. The consultant is preparing a booklet which will cover these 6 sites, with location, lot size, and a financial analysis.

Anyone interested in working with the committee on the redevelopment of N. Main St is welcome to join the committee and attend our approximately monthly meetings. For more information, contact Jim Kelley at 453-1396.

2009 SNA Board of Directors

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Roger Giraud
Claude Goldman
Irma Gross
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Non-voting Board Members:

Connie Chesebrough
Liz Cameron
Sheila Perlow

Fountain Project:

Jesse Polhemus

Please come to the
Summit Neighborhood Association
Annual Meeting

February 22, 2010

7:00 PM

At Summit Commons 99 Hillside Avenue

Agenda

Introduction of Elected Officials and Recognition of 2009 Board

Review of 2009 SNA Activities

Introduction of Candidates and Election of 2010 Board and Officers

There will be speakers and the opportunity for discussion about:

- * Henry Bowen Anthony Fountain
- * North Main Street
- * Upcoming Events
- * Neighborhood Crime
- * Other Topics

Light Refreshments will be served

YES! I want to belong to the Summit Neighborhood Association

I enclose my 2010 membership contribution of ___\$15 ___\$25 ___\$50 Other \$____

Name (print)_____ email_____

Name 2 _____ email_____

Address_____

Daytime Phone_____ Evening Phone_____

I can help Deliver Newsletters Make phone calls canvas my street other

Please enclose a check made out to: Summit Neighborhood Association. Mail to:
SNA, PO Box 41092, Providence, RI, 02940

