

SNA Annual Meeting Feb. 25

The SNA Annual Meeting this year will include something new, a round-table discussion by some of Summit and Providence's influential residents on topics important to the Summit neighborhood and the city as a whole.

Participants in this discussion have been selected for their accomplishments in community-based projects, insight, knowledge and imagination. They have in common a commitment to improving the city of Providence and a connection to the neighborhood. A spirited discussion of Providence's present and future is expected.

Included are:

- Sierra Barter, of the PVD Lady Project, which connects, inspires and showcases amazing women doing awesome things in Providence;
- Alec Beckett, creative partner of NAIL Communications, a Providence-based ad firm making big waves nationally;
- Kath Connolly, director of partnerships at The Learning Community and founding member of New Urban Arts and Farm Fresh RI;
- Jon Howard, a former SNA president and founder of consultancy firm Cause & Effect Inc.;
- Coryndon Luxmoore, Summit spokesperson and vice president at Buildium, a property-management software company;
- Jef Nickerson, founder of Greater City Providence, an organization that promotes the growth and development of the metropolitan region in as urban a pattern as possible;
- Jesse Polhemus, a writer and instructional designer and SNA vice president who led the effort to restore the Henry Bowen Anthony Fountain;
- Asher Schofield, owner of Frog & Toad gift shop and Hope Street Merchants Association president.

Others have been invited, so check the SNA web site for updates.

Also on the agenda will be election of new board members and reports by local elected and administrative officials.

The meeting is at 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 25 at Summit Commons, 99 Hillside Ave. A slate of candidates for the board will be presented, and nominations from the floor are encouraged.



Summit News

FEBRUARY 2013

www.SummitNeighbors.org



Yard Sale Returns to Redeemer, Defies Threatening Rain Clouds

One of the SNA's biggest events, the annual yard sale, was held Sept. 29 at the Church of the Redeemer on Hope Street, gathered in one location as in years past. It drew enough sellers to fill about 30 tables and enough buyers to walk away with lots of treasures.

Participants paid \$15 for spots for their own tables or \$20 to use SNA-provided tables on which to display their no-longer-needed wares. Then they kept all the profits from the 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. sale. Business was brisk despite the gloomy skies that withheld any rain.

Some members of the church, led by Father Patrick Campbell, mingled with their neighbors and even offered freshly baked cookies. Musical entertainment was provided by House Concerts Rhode Island.

Not only was buying and selling accomplished, but an expanded feeling of community, a sense of neighborliness, was perhaps the greatest treasure exchanged.

Plans are underway for next year's sale.



Street, Utility Construction Update

The Narragansett Bay Commission, which has been upgrading the water and wastewater infrastructure in the Summit neighborhood for what seems like forever, has asked SNA to provide this look at what has been accomplished and what is coming next.

Virtually all main line piping, drainage manholes and water mains have been installed on: Hope Street from Glendale to Chace; Exeter, 5th between Hope and Bayard; 7th between Hope and Brewster; Overhill; Ogden; Methyl; 8th between Hope and Brewster; 9th, 10th & 11th between Hope and Top; Chace between Hope and Chace Drive; North; H a r t s h o r n ; Blackstone; Magellan; Slater; Rochambeau.

Ten catch basins still need to be connected and ten manholes need to be reconstructed, with work to be completed this winter as weather allows.

In the spring, paving and res-

toration crews will complete sidewalks, reset curbing and perform final paving.

The contractor worked nightly on North Main so storm drains and drinking-water pipes are approximately 75 percent complete, catch basins are 50 percent complete, drainage manholes are 80 percent complete and the river head-wall is complete on: North Main from Colonial to Hillside; Cemetery; Frost; Nashua; Concord; Matilda; White.

Although there will be no work on

North Main during the winter, it will continue on side streets if weather allows. In the spring, sidewalks will be completed, curbing reset and final paving done.

National Grid has almost completed the gas-main relay and is installing service and tie-in connections between new and old mains on: Colonial, Dexterdale, Edgehill and Stenton from North Main to Summit; 2nd and 3rd from North Main to Highland; 4th from North Main to Bayard; Summit from 4th to Exeter; Lauriston and Burlington from Brewster to Bayard.

Between January and April, contract advertising, bidding and contractor selection for installing new NBC storm drains, catch basins, and manholes will be done, with construction to start in July and be completed in early 2015.

National Grid has totally completed the gas-main relay and is installing service and tie-in connections on: 5th and 6th between Brewster and North Main; 7th between Summit and North Main; 8th between Highland and North Main; 10th between Highland and North Main; Chace between Highland and North Main; Greaton; Summit between 6th and 7th.

In April, the contractor will start installing new storm drains, catch basins and manholes, with completion scheduled for early 2015.



Utility work is continuing on side streets through the winter as allowed by the weather.

Tot Lot/Garden Plans Advance

Fund-raising efforts are being developed to provide the community's share of planned improvements to the Summit Avenue "Tot Lot" park.

At its November meeting, the SNA board reviewed the results of two public meetings regarding renovations to existing equipment and landscaping plus the introduction of community gardens.

Neighborhood Funding

During the second meeting, held at Summit Commons Oct. 27, city Parks & Recreation Director Bob McMahon presented a total cost estimate of \$60,000, of which the community would be asked to raise about 25 percent, or \$15,000.

McMahon also provided more details on how the community gardens would function and how the renovations would be done.

Neighborhood Participation

According to the city plan, after the major changes are completed by contractors, the new facilities would be installed by members of the neighborhood supervised by the Parks Department. This would include setting up the new play structures, building the fence and beds for the garden, plus other "sweat equity" enhancements. McMahon cited several examples in which this process was followed in other city parks with great success.

Although most attendees at both meetings were in favor of the proposed renovations, a small but vocal minority was opposed to the community gardens, citing possible danger to the children using the park and asking for more research into using Lippitt Park as a site. McMahon agreed to consider additional polling of the neighborhood, but expressed his desire to keep the process moving.

Fund Sources Under Review

As a result, the SNA board began exploring ways to raise the needed funds, including working with Miriam Hospital's community investment grant program targeting environmental improvement projects. Also under consideration is the use of legislative-grant money, perhaps including \$2,500 still available from an application by retired Sen. Rhoda Perry.

An appreciation ...

... to Asher and Erin Schofield of Frog and Toad on Hope Street for organizing a shipment of relief supplies to victims of Superstorm Sandy in New York, as well as the many neighbors who made contributions ...

... to Peter, Denise and Don of The Sandwich Hut on North Main St. who have helped support Ocean Tides on Highland Ave. and hired many of the students ...

.... to Seven Stars for hosting the Fall Bake-Off (see next page)

... to Greg Gerritt who each year has inspired people to donate warm clothing to the needy at "Buy Nothing Day" on the State House lawn on Black Friday every year.

Thank you Summit neighbors.

—Howie Gladstone

Summit Business Profiles

By Howie Gladstone, SNA contributing writer

Olive Del Mondo



The first of a new kind of store has appeared in the Summit neighborhood – one offering tasting of its olive oils and vinegars that are for sale.

This business and its concept, new to many merchants, is owned and operated by Jennifer and Salvatore Fuccillo. It opened several months ago as the young couple looked for a supportive community with easy walkability and found one here.

Upon entering the shop at 815 Hope St., the customer is presented with an amazing variety of choices of both olive oil and vinegar, arrayed in special vessels lining the walls and in the center. But the Fuccillos will expertly guide the novice consumer through the process of tasting small samples, demonstrating how education plays such an important role in broadening the culinary experience.



After the customer's special need has been discovered, the particular oil or vinegar is bottled on the spot to be taken home. In addition, special gift packages and baskets are offered for all occasions, as are gift cards and recipes.

And, in keeping with the "buy local" concept of product selection, be sure to check out the "Made in New England" display.

Get in touch at info@olivedelmondo.com or call (401)383-5733.

Stock Culinary Goods



A specialty shop sure to please the culinary enthusiast has arrived in the Summit neighborhood

Stock Culinary Goods, at 756 Hope St., is owned and operated by Jan Faust Dane, who lives only a stone's throw away. Dane, a former reporter for ABC-TV news in New York, is also the author of a series of "eat.shop" guides to local dining and retail in national and international cities as well as eat.shop New England. In Rhode Island, she was "food forager" at the prestigious Ocean House in Watch Hill.

Dane says she is looking to create an environment that is welcoming to all and is thrilled to have opened a store here.

The shop highlights local products, such as copper pots and pans made in Rhode Island as well as ceramic ware made by a RISD graduate who lives in Maine.

"I emphasize things made in Rhode Island, or at least in America, except stuff that you would expect to be from foreign countries, like this paella pan from Spain," Dane said.



She encourages people to stop in and socialize, to share challenges or triumphs in cooking, to seek solutions from the broad selection of special products or just relax. Culinary classes and tips are planned, perhaps later this year.

Call (401)521-0101 or go to StockPvd.com

Bake-Off Features Pumpkin Treats & Storm Debris

The SNA Fall Bake-Off happened the night before Halloween despite what has become an annual tradition – stormy weather.

In the teeth of the onslaught of Hurricane Sandy, about 60 people gathered at Seven Stars bakery on Hope Street to sample 17 dishes whose primary ingredient this year was pumpkin. Last year's apple-themed event was punctuated by rain that turned to snow.

Adding to this year's festivities were wine and beer tasting put on by Swan Liquors plus olive-oil and vinegar sampling from Olive del Mondo, both Hope Street stores. Children in Halloween costumes enhanced the fun.

A panel of three local culinary celebrities – Nemo Bolin from Cooke

and Browne, Denise Kammerer of The Sandwich Hut and Lynn Williams of Seven Stars – judged the entries brought in by Summit neighbors. Everyone present got to sample the offerings and to vote on a people's choice. The balloting included picking a favorite costume.

The judged winners were: First Prize, a gift certificate to Seven Stars, for Pump-



kin Smoothies by Anisa Raof and sons Ethan and Dylan Itkin; Second Prize, a gift certificate to Olive del Mondo, for Pumpkin Hummus by Leslie Tang; and Third Prize, a gift certificate to Frog and Toad, for Pumpkin Butter by Kim Ahern and Jenna Lafayette.

The people's choice award, a gift certificate to Swan Liquors, was for Pumpkin Cheesecake Squares by Sandy Kohring.

The best costume was voted to be the Two Musketeers, worn by Ethan and Dylan Itkin.

SNA President Dean Weinberg presented the awards and thanked member Sarah Arrigo, who arranged the event.

Then it was out into the rain to clean up hurricane debris.

Dear Neighbors,

As the New Year begins, we'd like to reflect on the past year and ask for your help and support. Our current Board of Directors is sixteen people strong, including seven first-year members, and our new energy has been reflected in numerous projects and events, with many more in the works:

- **We held our annual Summit Yard Sale, home to 25 sellers this year, and added food trucks and a live music stage.**
- **The 3rd Annual Summit Music Festival in Lippitt Park was also a great success. This event is quickly becoming a neighborhood favorite. New additions included a kids' stage, beer and wine garden, face painters, live science projects and more.**
- **Another fun event was the 2nd annual Summit Fall Bake-Off. This year's ingredient was pumpkin, and the event (featuring a beer and wine tasting, olive oil tasting, and multiple prizes) attracted more than 60 people, even with a storm battering the East Coast.**
- **SNA continued to strengthen our biennial Candidates Forum with a general-election debate designed to encourage the candidates to speak to the issues that are most important to our residents.**
- **We continued the North Main Street Revitalization project, advocating for the best results from two massive municipal projects. 2012 marked the emergence of the North Main Street Merchants Association, which we helped develop as part of our long-term action plan.**
- **We're happy to offer our snow-shoveling program to neighbors in need for a second year. Volunteer shovelers are matched up with residents who are physically unable to shovel on their own and financially unable to pay someone else.**
- **We're continuing to work in Lippitt Park, pushing for recycling and increased trash collection and partnering to provide 10 new benches, due in the spring. We hope to continue our DIY Workshops, which have included programs on composting and urban beekeeping.**
- **In addition to the items above, our newsletter is delivered to your door several times each year, and we host an email listserv which is home to continuous Summit discussion. If you aren't already subscribed, please join the conversation at www.SummitNeighbors.org.**

The hard work of our volunteers and directors makes these projects a success. We'd like to ask you to help support us in 2013 by becoming a new member, renewing your membership or helping in any other way. Fill in and send the form below or go to www.SummitNeighbors.org and click on "Become an SNA Member" to join online. We're a 501c3 organization, and your membership contribution is tax deductible. If you've already sent in your 2013 dues, thank you!

Your donation helps fund our work, and we can't function without it, but participating in any of our projects or suggesting a new project is equally important. Another voice or set of hands goes a long way toward making Summit even better. The best way to participate is to join us at a meeting, held at 7 p.m. on the third Monday of every month at Summit Commons, 99 Hillside Ave. Come to get involved, or just to listen.

We truly appreciate your support. It's neighbors working together that makes this a great neighborhood. Thank you!

Sincerely,

The Summit Neighborhood Association Board of Directors

Join SNA or renew your Membership!

I enclose my 2013 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

My biggest neighborhood concerns are:

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