

New on North Main: “What Should Be Built”

There is a new building on North Main Street in Summit – the first such construction in years – and it has been described as “what should be being built along this corridor.”

It is a mixed-use development with the ground floor dedicated to retail space and with three two-story townhouses above. The project is a collaboration of Jordan Durham, of D+P Real Estate, and Peter Gill Case, of Truth Box Inc., and occupies the space formerly known as “Tar Beach” for the parking lot there.

Durham said the \$750,000 development is planned for a Sept. 1 opening, but the ground floor will be “designed around what the tenant will need.” He added that the commercial space is envisioned as a restaurant with a central kitchen and some outdoor seating.



He said the construction is on “pure speculation” of what is beneficial to the neighborhood and there are no tenants signed up yet, although “a couple of people” have expressed interest.

The developers met at a meeting of the North Main Street Merchants Association, an outgrowth of the Summit Neighborhood Association, in 2006, Durham said, and began discussing the needs of the community, where they both are residents. He said the current design is the third they have formulated as Rhode Island’s economic situation fluctuated.

The building is engineered to be “super-green,” Durham explained, with new double-studded walls that should provide R40 insulation. He said it is “probably the most energy-efficient building in the state of Rhode Island” with a CEE Tier Three rating. With solar panels on the roof, Durham said, the building “could probably get net zero” in energy

continued on p.3



Summit News

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www.SummitNeighbors.org

Meet Local, City & State Candidates

The candidates for Rhode Island public office are coming to Summit to plead their cases in person and the entire neighborhood is invited.

The SNA is sponsoring two separate forums so there will be ample time for residents to get answers to their questions

The first will be on Tuesday, July 22, and feature the people running for mayor plus those running for state representative. The second will be on Wednesday, July 30, and focus on the race for governor. Both will start promptly at 7 p.m. and go until 9 p.m. They will be held in the main dining room of Summit Commons, 99 Hillside Ave.

The format will allow for a short opening statement from each candidate, followed by a selection of questions submitted by the community. Each candidate will have a chance to rebut statements made by other candidates before another topic is presented. A short closing statement will then be allowed from each candidate.

Questions for the candidates should be submitted in advance to SNAProv@gmail.com.

Light refreshments will be available starting about 6:30 p.m. both nights. Candidates or their supporters are not allowed into the residential areas of Summit Commons.

Not all declared candidates listed by the Secretary of State’s office will appear on the primary or general election ballots.

The declared candidates for mayor are: Democrats Reinaldo L. Catone, Jorge O. Elorza, Dominique Gregoire, Brett P. Smiley, Michael A. Solomon and Christopher F. Young; Republican Daniel S.

Harrop III; and independents Lorne Adrain, Vincent A. Cianci Jr. and Jeffrey E. Lemire.

The declared candidates for state representative from District 4 are: Democrats Aaron Regunberg, Miriam Ross and Heather Tow-Yick; and independent Ethan C. Gyles.

The declared candidates for state senator from District 3 are Democrats Gayle L. Goldin and Christopher Wall.

The declared candidates for governor are: Democrats Gina Raimondo, Angel Taveras, H. Claiborne “Clay” Pell and Todd Giroux; Republicans Kenneth J. Block and Allan W. Fung; Moderate Party James Spooner; Compassionate Party Anna H. Winograd-Vranker; and independents Thomas Davis, Kate L. Fletcher, Leon M. Kayarian and Christopher D. Reynolds.

Summit Music Festival Sat., Aug. 23, 1-6 pm

The Summit Music Festival will be from 1 p.m. until 6 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 23 in Lippitt Park, at the intersection of Hope Street and Blackstone Boulevard.

The annual free event, which has drawn hundreds of people in past years, features nationally and locally prominent bands, plus lots of other activities for families and people of all ages.

This year’s lineup is unannounced as of this writing, but will be available on the SNA website soon. Last year’s roster consisted of nationally known The Stooges Brass Band and Marco Benevento Trio, as well as local

continued on p. 3

Photo & Art Exhibit at Miriam July 29

Miriam Hospital is asking all residents of Summit and Mount Hope to come see the results of the SNA neighborhood photo contest as well as the hospital's extensive collection of Judaic art. The occasion will be a "gallery night" starting at 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 29. Refreshments will be available at that time in the Hurvitz conference room at Miriam.

All the photos from the "Streets of Summit" competition, which is to be judged July 16, will be displayed in the first-floor alcove near the gift shop.

In addition, participants will be able to examine the art, including "The Seven Festivals" by artist David Sharir, in the hospital's Heritage Hall dedicated to Miriam's Jewish roots and culture. There will various experts on hand to discuss the display, including Carl Smith, who was instrumental in re-installing the body of work donated to the hospital.

Community Garden Plan for Summit Avenue Tot Lot Is Moving Ahead

The plan to put community gardens into a refurbished "tot lot" on Summit Avenue is moving forward despite hitting an unexpected snag.

Bob McMahon, the superintendent of the city Parks Department, told SNA that the city Planning Department has objected to the use of funds from a city grant because the money would not be going to a low-income neighborhood.

Although both SNA and Miriam Hospital have allocated funds for the project, city participation is necessary for the renewal of the playground and the building of the gardens.

McMahon said, however, that he is firmly committed to the project and is seeking ways to make it happen. He pointed out that his department has no capital-improvement money in the city budget and must accumulate funds through income-producing facilities in parks. He predicted that there would be enough accrued by next summer for

completion of the tot lot gardens.

In the interim, he suggested a phased development in which some aspects of the total plan could be implemented with the money on hand. He said he and the architect of the park-improvement plan would revisit the tot lot in July to determine which features could move quickly to the construction phase.

Community volunteers would be needed, McMahon said, to alleviate labor costs, but with contractors putting in steel posts, 8 to 10 people could put up the garden fencing on a Sunday morning. He reiterated that a local group would be needed to oversee the garden operation and SNA has taken steps to form such a governing body.

McMahon said community gardens have worked well in other city parks and the tot lot improvement project "ranks high because it's a high-use park backed by a strong community group."

Hummingbird Palace in Summit's Lippitt Park

A new piece of sculpture in Lippitt Park is just asking for birds to perch on it.

It is "The Hummingbird Palace, Providence," by artist Esther Solondz, and was officially opened June 27 at a wine-and-strawberries celebration attended by dozens of people.

A plaque posted as part of the exhibit reads, in part, that it is "to evolve over time. Flowering vines will grow through the structure while simultaneously attracting hummingbirds." It asks observers to "Please post images of hummingbirds you see! www.thehummingbird-palace.com"

The piece's mission statement says it "is a public sculpture that whose primary purpose is to engage viewers in Lippitt Park. It has the mission of attracting hummingbirds and raising awareness of hummingbirds and their habitats." Its web site says it "begins with an ethe-



real structure made primarily of thin welded steel rod, translucent threadline, epoxy putty, clear silicon rubber and urethane. Its appearance is that of a sugar structure covered with web-like drips. The size of the structure is 15 feet high. It is enclosed in a boundary fence that is connected with the piece by sili-

con threadline for visual and safety purposes."

At the opening, Solondz said "a couple of people helped finance" the project and "the city allowed me to do it." She added that the plantings include honeysuckle and morning glory, which attract hummingbirds, "but they just have to get here."

Initially the flowers will be watered by a mobile tank rolled into the park, she said, but "after that nature takes over." The artist is also seeking volunteers, especially students and seniors, to help with the maintenance of the

plants and feeders as a community project.

Ultimately, the piece is designed to address "the issues of fragile systems and how they might interact with one another." One viewer said, "it really sparkles, it's truly gossamer-like."

It's Yard Sale Time Again!

Coming in the fall will be a seasonal pillar of the community – the annual SNA yard sale.

Scheduled for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 13 for the yard of the Church of the Redeemer at 655 Hope St., the event will again allow people with surplus items to bring them to a central location to offer them for sale. If the sale is rained out (the weather will have to be really awful for that), it will be held the following Saturday, Sept. 20.

Last year there were about 30 tables filled with no-longer-needed treasures and enough buyers looking for items they didn't know they needed to make many mutually satisfactory deals.

Sellers pay \$15 for spots for their own tables or \$20 for spots with SNA-provided tables. Each participant is responsible for his/her own items and is able to keep all the sale profits.

Not only is the yard sale an opportunity to exchange goods and cash, it is also a community event that promotes neighborliness and goodwill. One year some members of the church, led by Father Patrick Campbell, mingled with the crowd, offering freshly baked cookies. Some buyers and sellers reconnect with participants from previous years.

Registration for reserving a table can be made by using the form below or online. Go to the SNA web site, <http://www.sna.providence.ri.us> and click on "Upcoming Events." Read down to the yard sale item and click on "RESERVE YOUR SPOT NOW."

Please remember to indicate on either form if you want to reserve an SNA table and be sure to provide an email address so we can get back to you. A representative will let you know whether one is available.

Whichever form you use, mail a \$15 check to the Summit Neighborhood Association, P O Box 41092, Providence, RI 02940 by Sept. 8. If you are renting an SNA table, the additional \$5 will be collected at the yard sale.

I want a space at the 2014 SNA yard sale

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please enclose check for \$15

Do you want a table? Yes ___ No ___

Music *(continued from p. 1)*

favorites the Extraordinary Rendition Band, Roz Raskin and the Rice Cakes, Sugar Honey Iced Tea, and local singer-songwriter Emeline Easton.

Just as last year, there will be a beer and wine garden for adults and various activities for children. The previous year featured a body-painting artist as well as the Avenue Concept, a nonprofit organization that fosters public art opportunities. It set up an art wall for anyone to use, an attraction so popular that the paint ran out.

Sponsors for this year's event are the City of Providence, HealthSource RI, the Summit Neighborhood Association, the Hope Street Merchants Association, Empire Loans/Empire Guitar, Kreatelier, The Rhode Guide Real Estate Co., Mortgage Network, Aaron Simon Wealth Management, Seven Stars, Daniele Inc., The Camera Werks and the Hope Street Farmers Market.

Craft and food vendors are also being lined up and a wide menu of offerings is expected. Vendors interested in taking part should contact organizers by email to SNAProv@gmail.com.

Building *(continued from p. 1)*

use. The insulation also works to deaden traffic noise from North Main Street, Durham pointed out, as he closed an open window and the interior of the building fell quiet.

The design/development partners' web site for the project – 1261northmain.com – says, "From large historic mill renovations to cutting-edge new construction, our team has been successfully involved with a broad range of building types," such as the construction of a building using former shipping containers.

"Across all our work, is a commitment to sustainability, community revitalization, green building principles, and high quality design and construction," the site says, and Durham adds that in their vision of what North Main Street should be like, "we feel very good" about their project.

Jef Nickerson, co-founder, editor and publisher of Greater City Providence, who called the new structure "what should be built," urges more and "bigger versions of it" on North Main Street.



Two-Way Traffic Coming Soon to Smithfield Avenue

On June 18, crews began digging up the lane splitter on Smithfield Avenue as it leads to North Main Street in preparation for making the road carry traffic both ways. Next to come are traffic signals and adjustments to surrounding streets.

Biggest & Best Block Party

It was the biggest and best block party ever on Hope Street.

An estimated 5,000 people ate and drank, shopped and applauded their way from Rochambeau Avenue to Fifth Street the afternoon of Saturday, May 31, as the street's merchants association brought more than 40 additional vendors, multiple bands and even a fashion show to the core of the Summit neighborhood.

Big Nazo performers joined the families strolling the street or playing in the kids' zone supplied by the YMCA and the Providence Children's Museum or climbing on a city Fire Department

truck. Adults sampled local brews at a beer garden that supported Festival Ballet Providence. The fashion show featured clothes and accessories supplied by the local merchants and worn by neighborhood parents and children.

Music from bands including Ravi Shavi, Atlantic Thrills, Jay Berndt (Music), Huge Face, Uke Springsteen, Joe's Backyard Band, the Clasiical High School Jazz Band and the Extraordinary Rendition Band continued well into late afternoon.

But most of all, it was an opportunity for everyone to party on a beautiful day in the neighborhood.



Jerry's to Re-Open Soon

Jerry's Citgo service station, a stalwart in Summit at 1101 Hope St. for decades that was seriously damaged by fire, is moving toward reopening.

"If everything goes according to plan," said Alan Edoward, the station manager, the business should lift the repair-bay doors on July 20 with full fuel and automotive service.

The insurance came through, Edoward said, so despite some delays in the reconstruction, they are putting it back to the way it was since Jerry Bennett, who founded the station in 1947, last updated it in 1952.

On Jan. 31, a Friday, the blaze that gutted the building started when a work light fell while a fuel pump was being repaired. The Providence Journal reported at the time that station employees tried to fight the fire, but it quickly got out of control. It was extinguished by firefighters and no one was injured.



Big Nazo performers added to the fun, interacting with SNA volunteers and passersby at the block party.

Join SNA or renew your Membership!

I enclose my 2014 membership contribution of \$15 \$25 \$50 Other \$

Name (print) email

Name 2 email

Address

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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