

Grand opening at Summit Avenue Park

By Ethan Gyles
SNA board member

The second phase of upgrades at Summit Avenue Park have been completed, and a ribbon cutting to mark the occasion took place on Wednesday, October 25.

Mild autumn rains held off long enough for remarks by Mayor Jorge Elorza and community leaders in commemorating the occasion. The mayor then wielded ceremonial scissors, snipped the bright orange ribbon, and officially opened the enhanced space to the public.

The second phase of park upgrades included concrete walks, a small wooden play bridge, climbable boulders, log seats, a "little lending library," and a shade tree with a surrounding bench. Fresh grass, a play house, a new sandbox, jungle-gym repairs, and a lot of painting have also been completed. The first phase of the upgrades included the construction of the new community garden. The Summit neighborhood will benefit from this vibrant multi-use park

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Cookoff features cranberries and Halloween fun

Precipitation again marked the SNA fall cookoff, but at least it wasn't snow or a hurricane.

This year about 35 adults and children attended the event on Wednesday evening, Oct. 25, at Seven Stars bakery on Hope Street, bringing five dishes whose unifying ingredient was cranberries.

A panel of three judges selected first, second and third prizes, then there was a people's choice picked by general tasting.

First Prize, a \$20 gift certificate to Hope Street merchant Stock, went to Jocivell Adames for cranberry cheesecake with jam.

Second Prize, a \$20 certificate to Rhody Craft, went to Charlie Seelig for apple-cranberry pie.

Third Prize, a \$15 certificate to Olive del Mondo, went to Laura Ramey for cranberry salsa.

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The reopening ribbon flies after being cut by Mayor Jorge Elorza. Cheering him on are from left: Monica Anderson, Miriam Hospital; Amy Martinez, Friends of Summit Avenue Park; Nancy Buron, Summit Neighborhood Community Gardens; Ethan Gyles, SNA; Wendy Nilsson, Parks Department; Nirva LaFortune, Ward Three councilwoman; Meghan Gardner, city landscape architect; Helene Miller, Partnership for PVD Parks; Arthur Sampson, Miriam Hospital.

Cozy fright night at Lippitt Park

By Emily Spitzman
SNA board member

At nightfall on Friday, Oct. 20, more than 325 people cozied up for “Fright Night lite”, a family movie night of nine shorts that got the audience in a snugly mood.

The event was a collaboration among the Providence Children’s Film Festival, Celebrate Providence and the Summit Neighborhood Association.

The Providence Children’s Film Festival organized the festive selection of films, many of which had both adults and children giggling – and goose-bumping at times. To top it off, the movie night included bottomless freshly popped popcorn.

Many audience members praised the Cricket Cinema’s multisensory, all-around enjoyable experience. The youngest members of the audience were buzzing with excitement and ideas for making their own movies after watching “the Scared is scared” by Bianca Giaever, available for free here: <https://vimeo.com/58659769>. Giaever made a movie from a six-year-old’s narrated story. A child’s words guided the viewers on a journey about how to overcome fears at any age.



Most organizers agreed that Lippitt Park was an ideal venue for an outdoor movie night, and are already talking about bringing more such nights to the neighborhood.

The best Summit Yard Sale ever?

About 500 shoppers picked up maps Sunday, Sept. 24, from SNA in what one participant called “the best yard sale I ever had.”

“I’m almost wiped out,” said one seller on Colonial Road about noon, midway between the 10 a.m.-to-2 p.m. limits. She added that she would definitely “do it again.”

She was talking about SNA’s annual neighborhood-wide yard sale. Sellers paid a fee to get on the organization’s list and map, then put out their treasures on their own front lawns, although one operated out of a garage that faced the street. There were 19 locations plus several who chose to bring their goods to the parking lot of Citizens Bank on Hope Street where SNA had a booth to hand out the maps. Sellers could also stop by to get balloons sup-



plied by the Hope Street toy store Henry Bear’s Park.

Buyers with maps in hand then proceeded around the neighborhood to find the promised bargains. Some stores on Hope Street also put out merchandise in sidewalk sales.

But besides the exchange of household treasures, the exchange of neighbor-to-neighbor pleasantries was a major goal of the yard-sale system. It aimed to promote face-to-face meetings of people in Summit, and according to Anne Holland, the member of the SNA board of directors who organized this year’s event, even people from outside the neighborhood, including Congressman David Cicilline and City Councilor Nirva LaFortune, seized the opportunity.

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for many years to come.

SNA sincerely thanks the numerous neighborhood volunteers who stepped up and volunteered their time and energy over the past several years to help bring this project from idea to reality. In no particular order, Read Porter, Jessica Porter, Kerry Kohring, Doug Itkin, Linda Gifford, Annie Voss-Altman, Sarah Hesson, Greg Gerritt, Melissa Dubose, Dean Weinberg, Nancy Buron, John Buron, Annalise Daly, Amy Martinez, and Martha Frankel. We’d also like to thank Mayor Elorza, City Councilor Nirva LaFortune, Parks Superintendent Wendy Nilsson, City Landscape Architect Meghan Gardner, Partnership for Providence Parks’ Helene Miller, and former Parks Director Bob McMahon.

Last, very special thanks go to The Miriam Hospital for their exceptionally generous donation to the project.

Caroling set for Dec. 17

The annual Caroling For A Cause, sponsored by SNA in cooperation with The Miriam Hospital, features a band of singers tramping through the neighborhood giving voice to the festive season and soliciting contributions of peanut butter or cash from residents to benefit the St. Raymond’s food pantry.

Everyone, including families with children, is invited to gather at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17, at the hospital for hot chocolate and cookies. At 4:30, the group will proceed along Sixth Street to Bayard, then to Fifth, then to Summit and on to Fourth, where it will end the evening in the parking lot of Seven Stars bakery on Hope Street about 6:30.

Songbooks will be provided, but participants should bring flashlights to read the words. There will also be singing leaders, so no one should worry about not being able to carry a tune.

Cranberries & costumes at the annual SNA Cookoff *(cont. from p. 1)*

The People's Choice, a \$25 certificate to Seven Stars, went to Sandy Kohring for cranberry brownies.

Recipes are posted on the SNA web site. Because this was a pre-Halloween, event some of the children came in costume, including one combination of several superheros. The venue was decorated by balloons provided by Hope Street merchant Henry Bear's Park and flowers provided by Sherry Waldman, owner of Main Street Martial Arts studio on North Main Street.

The judges were SNA past president Dean Weinberg, Jan Dane, owner of Stock, and Gailia Rutan, a former cookoff winner. The organizers were SNA members Emily Spitzman and Sandy Kohring.



The cookoff offered fun and a few calories for Summit neighbors of all ages.

Judging the entries were (l-r) Jan Dane, Gailia Rutan and Dean Weinberg.



New sunset plaque for H. B. Anthony Fountain in Lippitt Park

By Ethan Gyles, SNA Board member

On a bright, chilly October morning, the Henry Bowen Anthony Fountain, the centerpiece of Lippitt Park for 77 years, got a new "west" plaque. The bronze plaque, one of four with unique art deco-style designs inlaid in granite at the four points of the compass around the fountain, is thought to have been missing since the 1980s.

The Summit Neighborhood Association commissioned the design and fabrication of a replacement plaque. The original design was lost to time, but local artist Maret Bondorew created a new one that keeps with the themes of the surviving three. The "north" plaque evokes the dark, starry night; the "east" includes a sunrise and industrial gears suggesting the start of the working day; the "south" conveys warm midday sunshine.

Bondorew drew inspiration from the sunset and the relaxing end of a working day for the new "west" plaque.



Healy Plaques of Manville used Bondorew's design to cast the bronze and provide it to SNA, after which Providence Parks Department staff members provided installation labor, materials and expertise.

With time, the bright, new bronze will match the dark, greenish patina of the other plaques.

Sincere thanks go to Maret Bondorew, Healy Plaques, the City of Providence Parks Department, and State Senator Gayle Goldin for the provision of a state senate grant for neighborhood beautification.

The fountain was built in 1940 in honor of Henry Bowen Anthony, a mid-19th century U.S. senator and governor of Rhode Island, but had been deactivated in 1982. With the support of the City of Providence and The Champlin Foundations, the Summit Neighborhood Association spearheaded the restoration of the fountain in 2011, with a modern re-circulation system.

Marcel Marceau and memories of Summit

By Mike Fink, SNA member

I was an English major in college, but went on to Harvard's Graduate School of Education for a then-new A.M.T. degree in something like ESL – methods in teaching a new language to immigrants.

The most important course was labeled "Language through Pictures" and the professor was renowned pantomime artist, Marcel Marceau! He would perform a word, a sentence, an idea, an emotion, a scene. The book we used, with its stick-figure illustrations, was created by David Weinstein, who had used the method to teach Hebrew to war orphans from diverse European nations.

I rose to the challenge and starred in a television series of instructional shows – as a waiter in a French café – through acting out verbs by serving glasses of wine or cups of coffee. The "French through Pictures" episodes were shown at the former Summit Avenue School between Fourth and Fifth Streets, and a 6th grader watched me in a class taught by Miss McCarthy, who had been my teacher as well, some years earlier.

That grammar school girl grew up and married me, and we lived around the

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Some of the folks who have volunteered to help out at the Festival Ballet

Marceau and memories *(cont. from p. 3)*

corner from that former brick elementary structure.

My time in Cambridge at Harvard has brought me many other happy returns. I came to Rhode Island School of Design, where I had taken schoolboy classes on weekends as a then-young instructor, and used the method of using images and actions to help design disciples from all over the earth with words to create captions for their sketches, photographs and scripts for movies.

I have come to believe that every mentor and elective or required course have contributed to my destiny.

I walk around the block – the same block here in Summit that knew me as a boy and a youth – to post a letter, pay a bill or admire a sidewalk garden or free bookcase, and I can evoke the phantom image of the great French mime dressed in the white outfit.

I can relive the lectures by the poet/critic I.A. Richards who asked us, strangely, to reduce our vocabulary, to re-invent the big words by emphasizing the simplest one-syllable terms that explain a story directly, immediately, and visually.

I grew up among these blocks along Summit, went away, came back and relive the lessons I have learned and re-learned. I enjoy the chance to thank the spirits of my inspiring tutors, Marcel Marceau above all – dance your punctuation, walk without words, look and wonder!

Get involved at Festival Ballet

By Dylan Giles
Festival Ballet Providence

Festival Ballet Providence (FBP), the state's only professional ballet company, opened its doors to the community Oct. 11, hosting a volunteer informational session.

The meeting presented various opportunities for the community to get involved behind the scenes at the non-profit located in Summit at 825 Hope St. The facility is home to a 95-seat Black Box Theatre, which was recently upgraded to feature LED fixtures, increasing energy efficiency and visual effect. At the meeting, development director Marissa Parmenter outlined options including ushering, merchandise sales, backstage assisting and administrative office work. There were 14 people who

volunteered.

"We are thrilled to be in such a thriving and vibrant community and it's important for us to engage with our neighbors and invite them into our space," Parmenter said. "Volunteering with FBP is a fun way to get involved with us and see what goes on behind the scenes in a performing arts organization!"

FBP announced a new system to offer complimentary tickets (limited to programs at The Vets) for every 10 volunteer hours worked, with a maximum of 4 tickets per volunteer per season. Interested neighbors can contact Marissa Parmenter (mparmenter@festivalballetprovidence.org) or 401-432-6064 for more information. Or stop into the Hope Street facility to sign up.

Yes, I'm joining Summit Neighborhood Association today!

Enclosed is my member contribution of: \$15 \$25 \$35 \$50 Other: \$_____

Name: (please print clearly) _____

Street Address: (required) _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Phone: (_____) _____ - _____ (day) (_____) _____ - _____ (evening)

Email: _____ Yes, I can distribute newsletters

Family Membership - list information about other adults in your household who wish to be members:

Name: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Email: _____

Please enclose a check made out to: **Summit Neighborhood Association**

MAIL TO: **SNA, P.O. Box 41092, Providence, RI 02940**

TODAY'S DATE ___ / ___ / ____