

## A passionate supporter of SNA



Long-time SNA board member Sheila Perlow speaks at the rededication of the Henry Bowen Anthony Fountain in Lippitt Park in 2011. She pointed out that she and the fountain were the same age.

Sheila Beth Perlow, who died July 26 at age 75, was a passionate supporter of the Summit Neighborhood Association and served on its board of directors for almost a decade.

She grew up in a house on Lafayette Street in Pawtucket that her family had owned for years, moved away for a while and then came back in the 1990s. She acknowledged that technically she didn't live in Providence's East Side, but "I could see Summit from my kitchen window."

"She loved it over there," said her daughter, Jill Stewart, adding that Sheila "loved to care for people," and did so for 30 years in her admitting job in the emergency room at the Miriam Hospital.

Sheila "was genuine all day long, good or bad," said her daughter.

Dean Weinberg, president of SNA, wrote:

"The passing of Sheila Perlow is a profound loss for SNA and for the neighborhood in general. I'm not even sure how long she'd been involved in the neighborhood association, but it's been years. She has been a key component of brokering the peace between our residents and our institutional neighbor, the Miriam Hospital. She did this quietly and naturally.

"From my experience with Sheila, that's the only thing she did quietly. Those that knew her will agree that she had a fun and outgoing personality. She nev-

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# Summit News

SUMMER 2016

[www.SummitNeighbors.org](http://www.SummitNeighbors.org)

## SNA Yard Sale: This Year It's Everywhere!

The annual SNA yard sale is taking a different tack this year, and the Hope Street merchants are on board.

Yard sale sellers will be setting up their tables on Sunday, Sept. 25, in front of their own homes instead of at the church. Buyers will be provided a map by SNA at the Citizens Bank parking lot on Hope Street that will locate all the sellers.

There will also be some limited space in the parking lot for sellers who don't want to be at their own homes, but they will have to provide their own tables.

The yard sales begin at 9 a.m. with the distribution of the maps, which will end at 1 p.m. Individual sellers at their own locations may continue as long as they want, but those in the parking lot will have to clean up by 1 p.m.

### **Sidewalk sales, too**

Meanwhile, the Hope Street merchants will open around noon (some earlier) with Summit Super Sunday sidewalk sales. Some merchants will even set up tables with offerings from their own basements or attics. The sidewalk sale will continue into the afternoon and food trucks have been invited.

There is a \$10 fee for sellers to be included on the SNA map or in the parking lot. Use the coupon below to mail in the necessary information and check or go to the SNA web site to register at this link <http://www.summitneighbors.org/summit-2016-yard-sale/>

The shift in procedure will encourage residents and guests to explore the neighborhood and get to know each other on a more intimate, face-to-face basis. It's a great opportunity to exchange ideas as well as merchandise.

### **Register for the Summit Neighborhood Association Annual Yard Sale**

*Please print clearly*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

I am selling from Citizens Bank parking lot my home

Address (if selling from home) \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this form and your check for \$10 to  
SNA, P O Box 41092, Providence RI 02940. Thank You!

## Community Garden outlines are in place



Landscape architect Megan Gardner and project leader Greg Gerritt lay out one side of the garden perimeter.

A crew of neighborhood volunteers and city workers have laid out the exact boundaries of the community gardens to be built in the Summit Avenue “tot lot” park.

Working from the park’s total-renovation design approved by residents a few years ago, Megan Gardner, the landscape architect hired by the city, directed Greg Gerritt, the volunteer project leader, and Joseph Wojtanowski, a Parks Department employee, in measuring angles and distances, then hammering stakes into the ground and attaching high-visibility tape to mark the area designated for the gardening beds, walkways and storage spots. Other parks workers and volunteers assisted. A water line for the project had been installed by city contractors a few weeks earlier.

The next step is the erection of a fence separating the gardens from the playground. The coordinating committee has several bids on materials and will quickly make a choice so construction can begin on a volunteer work day to be announced soon. After the fence is built, the 30 garden beds will be put together and filled with soil. There is a new gate in the wire fence on the Summit Avenue side of the park to allow service vehicles access.

Progress on construction is taking longer than anticipated, so planting is now predicted for 2017.



SNA President Dean Weinberg sends this message to the neighborhood:

After six years of Summit Music Festival, we’re taking 2016 off. It’s been so fun producing this event in our amazing community, working up to last summer’s appearance of the Dirty Dozen Brass Band playing for free in our very own Lippitt Park. (In case you missed it, here are some pix: <http://bit.ly/29yEF9H>)

As you can imagine, it’s a lot of work to get an event like this together. We hope to be able to return next year, so if you’re interested in helping, please email [SNAProv@gmail.com](mailto:SNAProv@gmail.com). Happy summer!

## Perlow *(continued from p. 1)*

er held her tongue, in a good way. She spoke her mind and let you know what she thought. And she was funny while she did that. I always appreciated not just her perspective on a topic, but the often-hysterical quips she would slide in there for your enjoyment.

“I also appreciated that she would often call me after a meeting, either to agree with the outcome or to express her concern. I’ll miss her raspy voice expressing to me her opinion on something, dropping F-bombs left and right, not mad or excited, but just talking it out. I loved that. She was so honest and easy to communicate with.

“Sheila was incredibly dedicated to the Summit Neighborhood Association. Even though she lived just over the Pawtucket line, she was always, always, always the first to volunteer to help out. She took the fun jobs and the not-so-fun jobs, it didn’t matter to her. She was of-service. The organization has suffered a huge loss with her passing.

“Our sincere condolences go out to her family, including her partner Dan MacLellan, another long-time dedicated SNA board member,” Weinberg wrote.

Last year, Sheila suggested that SNA annually recognize someone in the neighborhood who quietly and behind the scenes contributed to boosting the quality of life in Summit. In honor of her commitment to the organization, the neighborhood and the people in it, the SNA board of directors is moving to authorize the Sheila B. Perlow Community Service Award to be awarded annually based on nominations from the neighborhood.

## Concerns about panhandlers

Summit residents have expressed alarm recently over the increasing number of panhandlers in the neighborhood since the city has decided to not enforce a prohibitive ordinance.

SNA is working with Gayle Gifford, president of Cause & Effect Inc., on offering a forum at which experts will explain the causes and propose solutions.

The date would be mid September and the location would probably be Summit Commons. Check the SNA website for further information.

## Friends gather at North Burial Ground

About 75 people turned out June 12, at the North Burial Ground to explore the cemetery and celebrate the adjacent park's recreational potential.

Sponsored by the newly formed Friends of the North Burial Ground and Randall Park, events included a tree planting, an overview of the historical relevance of the cemetery, nature walks amid the varied flora and fauna as well as a discussion of the impact of the Blackstone Canal. In addition, live music was provided by Otis Read, Al Tringali and Mike Dee, and attendees participated in a march led by Met High School student re-enactors of the 14th Rhode Island Regiment of Heavy Artillery (more than two dozen soldiers from the regiment are interred at the cemetery).



Participants gather inside the fence on the North Main Street side.

Expertise was provided by Dr. Fran Leazes and other members of the North Burial Ground Project at Rhode Island College ([www.ric.edu/northburial-ground](http://www.ric.edu/northburial-ground)), local naturalist Greg Gerritt and Ranger Chuck Arning from the National Park Service. A new picnic table was built for the occasion by the Groden Center, the organization that runs the burial ground greenhouse as part of vocational training for autistic adults. The picnic table sits in Randall Park, just inside the pedestrian gate at Rochambeau Avenue and North Main Street. Future events are being planned for the cemetery and park.

For more information, or to join the Friends, go to [www.facebook.com/northburialground](http://www.facebook.com/northburialground) or email [northburialground@gmail.com](mailto:northburialground@gmail.com).

## Mayor Elorza's fiscal plan: Getting our house in order

Providence Mayor Jorge Elorza brought his campaign for long-range fiscal planning to Summit in mid May.

Speaking to about 20 members and guests at the regular monthly meeting of SNA's board of directors at Summit Commons, 99 Hillside Ave., he said, "I am truly committed to getting our house in order."

Elorza said the city is facing a long-term challenge of a structural deficit where expenses are growing faster than revenue because of unsustainable past commitments. He cited compounding cost-of-living-adjustments made by previous administrations that did not make the required payments to retirement funds for decades. "Current employees are not the problem," the mayor said.

The city has hired outside consultants, he said, to provide an extensive list of options to resolve the problem, but bankruptcy is not one of them. "Technically, you have to be insolvent, so we may not qualify" under state and federal law, Elorza explained, and "Providence has a lot to work with."

Responding to a question about selling the city water supply system, Elorza

said privatizing it was not an option but "regionalizing" it on the model of the Narragansett Bay Commission was, but would have to be a "very complicated" process.

The mayor said the "basket of recommendations" offered by the consultants include: long-term planning; creating a capital budget and investing in infrastructure; making taxes and fees more competitive; and addressing unsustainable legacy costs.

He said the city needed to rebalance its relationship with its nonprofits by seeking payments in lieu of taxes at parity with a standard rate of valuation. He also said "we need a grand bargain with union leaders and retirees" for a one-time lump-sum payment to make sure pensions are there when needed.

The mayor said more details are contained in his current budget proposal which may be examined online at [openbudget.providenceri.gov](http://openbudget.providenceri.gov).

Elorza declared that "we have a tremendous crisis but also a remarkable opportunity" to solve the city's financial problems, but "once we face this challenge, I truly, truly believe Providence will be among the next great cities."

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## Mayor visits Farmers' Market



Providence Mayor Jorge Elorza on a July Saturday toured the farmers market in Lippitt Park where he greeted members of the band as well as discussed city issues with constituents. The market is open on Saturday mornings and Wednesday late afternoons.

# New life for Summit Commons Annex

The Summit Commons annex building, which has stood unoccupied for years, is undergoing a complete makeover.

The renovation is a partnership between Eastside residents Jordan Durham and Peter Gill Case, the same team that constructed the residential/commercial building on the "tar beach" property fronting North Main Street as well as many other innovative projects.

They are converting the 35-unit assisted-living annex wing into 22 residential apartments along with a bike storage room and fitness center as well as a resident lounge and function room.

The work will include new windows, interior finishes, mechanical and electrical systems, plus significant energy-efficiency upgrades that incorporate insulation and high-efficiency heat pump systems.

The nursing home at 99 Hillside Ave. will remain and the connector between the two buildings will be removed.

The partners closed on the purchase of the property at the end of July and expect to start construction in September.

## Park fountain repairs

The city has hired a contractor to reseal the basin of the Lippitt Park fountain, which has been shut off because of leaks. The repair process requires several days of specific weather conditions, so the timing of the work is still fluid.



Martin Luther King Elementary School is the beneficiary of a fundraiser that was held at Flatbread Pizza, 161 Cushing St., June 7 sponsored by SNA and the Mentor Tutor Internship Program at URI. Proceeds from the sale of every pizza are helping provide enrichment at the East Side school. SNA activists, from left, Shanna Pearson, Emily Spitzman and son Emmett Waugh staff the information table at Flatbread Pizza.

Patrons of Summit area postal carrier Lois J. Overton Wortham got together on the shared driveway between Amy Cohen and Anne Holland's houses on a June Saturday to celebrate her retirement. Lois is calling it quits after 15 years.

Thanks to contributions from 67 neighbors they were about to gift Lois funds for her long-delayed dream of art classes at RISD.



At least 50 neighbors gathered June 25 for a block party on Larch Street organized by John Harkey.

A little outside SNA's usual area, but we were invited because we're all neighbors.



## 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 \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_