

Annual Meeting moves to May 20

The Summit Neighborhood Association's annual meeting, which for years has been in January or February, has been shifted to May 20.

The board of directors, at its regular November meeting, decided to move the date out of the cold and snowy New England winter to make the annual event more easily accessible. The board also considered the safety of the volunteers who in the past frequently had to brave unplowed streets and sidewalks or icy porch steps to hand-deliver newsletters to every house in the neighborhood to announce the get-together.

As of now, the location of the meeting has not been decided, but the directors hope that the spring meeting will be another way to shake off the winter blahs and start a new season. Go to the SNA web site for an announcement of the site.

Also, since the annual meeting will no longer need to be heralded in the winter, the newsletter hereafter will be produced and delivered in the spring, summer and fall. The spring edition will have the location and time, at which a new board will be elected. The current directors apologize for extending their own terms of office for a few months.

5th Summit Music Festival draws 800+



More than 800 people, plus six hot bands, played in the park Saturday, Aug. 23, at the fifth annual Summit Music Festival.

The personal project of Summit Neighborhood Association President Dean
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Summit News

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www.SummitNeighbors.org

Caroling for a cause

On a clear, cold, star-blessed Saturday night, about 30 Summit neighbors went caroling for a cause.

After meeting at event partner Miriam Hospital for refreshments at 5 p.m., Dec. 13, and singing some nonsectarian holiday tunes including the Dreidel Song, the group went a-wassailing among the streets so clean.



Led in traditional carols, and a few modern selections, by voice and performance coach Ellen Santaniello, the singers wound their way along Sixth, Bayard, Fifth, Summit and Fourth, finishing just short of Hope Street as a star of wonder, star of night example of the Geminid meteor shower silently streaked overhead.

Along the way, doorbells of illuminated houses were rung by the teenagers among the carolers, and residents, alerted by leaflets the previous weekend, came out to listen and donate cash or peanut butter to benefit the St. Raymond's Church food pantry. The collected jars were piled in the back of an appropriately decorated accompanying vehicle provided by another event partner, Zipcar.

As the temperature plunged, some of the youngest carolers had to drop out

and head home, but the rest kept making spirits bright until about 6:45 when they finished walking, and singing, in a winter wonderland.

The carolers weren't able to build a snowman in a meadow, but they did collect \$120 plus about 140 jars of peanut butter, much of which was donated by employees of the hospital.

The next week, representatives of organizers Summit Neighborhood Association and Miriam, bearing the gifts, travelled not far to the food pantry, where they were gratefully received in the true spirit of the season.

Prior to announcing the caroling, the SNA directors extensively discussed the ramifications of the organization celebrating an event that has major significance for only one religion in a multicultural neighborhood, particularly in context of the partnership with Miriam, a Jewish institution.

As a result of the discussion, the religious aspects of the holiday were not emphasized and an invitation was made to people of all faiths to join together in a joyous procession to light up the night and offer helping hands to neighbors in need.

Food and arts add fun to Summit Music Festival

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Weinberg, who put in countless hours to put it together, the free musical extravaganza held in Lippitt Park also included a 40 foot-by-8 foot art wall, face painting and other activities for children, a beer and wine garden from Trinity Brewhouse for adults, plus a long string of craft vendors and a vast collection of food trucks and carts that supplemented the park's playground, fountain, hummingbird habitat and expanses of green open space.



The weekly Hope Street Farmers' Market in the morning contributed to the festive atmosphere, as many people stayed for the music that started at 1pm and went until just after 6pm.

After a welcome to the crowd by master of ceremonies Weinberg, Dr. Jones and the Shiners, a Providence-based folk-rock band led by Kate Jones, opened the show. The band represents a sort of folk supergroup for Providence, featuring members of The Sugar Honey Iced Tea, The Mighty Good Boys and Moga. Bassist Ollie Williams is also a member of Smith & Weeden, which played later in the day. Jones' distinctive vocals, backed by the plucking of her ukulele, mixed well with the guitar playing of Benny Tilchin, who is her off-stage sweetheart.

Next was the first of two appearances by 16-year-old singer-songwriter Emeline Easton, who was a sensation at last year's festival. Easton worked through a few tunes, including originals and a cover of Britney Spears' "Toxic." The audience response to Easton last year all but demanded she be asked back this year, and she delivered two sets worthy of that praise.

Following her was another Providence band with promise, Smith & Weeden. Members Jesse Emmanuel Smith, Seamus Weeden, Ollie Williams and Dylan Sevey ripped through a set featuring tracks from their newly released, self-titled album. They had the crowd on their feet with fists in the air as they performed their versions of gritty Americana bar rock. This is a band with promise, and had the audience praising the set throughout the rest of the day.

As the stage was reconfigured, East Side piano teacher Johnny Lingo led a variety of duets with three of his students, including Summit resident Amelia Gold.

Then from Tampa, Fla., came the Selwyn Birchwood Band. Selwyn Birchwood is a young electric blues guitarist who has been sweeping up awards all over the world in the last two years. The quartet of seasoned bluesmen proceeded to rain a powerful and electric set over Lippitt Park. They fit the gig into a tight schedule, playing the festival on their way to a show that night in Boston.

Easton did her second set and stayed on stage to help SNA members Weinberg,

Sheila Perlow and Anneliese Greenier with drawing names for a raffle of prizes from local artists and craftspeople.

The top-billed attraction for the day, Red Baraat, a unique blend of Indian percussion, brass and funk from Brooklyn, then took the stage and immediately brought listeners to their feet. And the crowd, nearly 1,000 strong by this point, remained on its feet for the 75-minute balance of the event. Having last performed in Providence when they headlined the FirstWorks Festival two years ago, Red Baraat has only gotten tighter and more energetic. They had the crowd bouncing and grooving until the end, and then some.

Earlier, HealthSourceRI, the official health-care insurance exchange for Rhode Island and the festival's biggest sponsor, made an appeal to the crowd to use the portal to get coverage under the Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare.

The other sponsors were Empire Guitars, Seven Stars Bakery, Mortgage Network, Sandwich Hut, The Rhode Guide Real Estate Co., Daniele Foods, KreateLier, Frog & Toad, The Camera Werks, Hope Street Merchants Association, Hope Street Farmers Market Association and the City of Providence.

But mainly, the order of business for the day was music and fun, as families and singles, young and old, ate, drank, clapped, danced and generally partied the afternoon away.

The bands were so hot, the city sent a fire truck early just in case, but it wasn't needed as the audience left the park in good spirits.



The 15 faces of squash



More than 50 people crowded into Seven Stars bakery on Hope Street Oct. 29 for the Summit Neighborhood Association's fourth annual cooking competition whose unifying ingredient was, appropriately, squash.

There were about 15 different squash dishes and a panel of three experts to judge them. In addition, there was a people's choice determined by paper balloting by everyone who got to sample the offerings. Prizes were gift certificates to local businesses.

Rounding out the culinary nature of the evening were beer tastings presented by the Berkshire Brewing Co. brought in by Swan Liquors and olive-oil samplings from Olive del Mondo, both Hope Street merchants.

First prize, a \$25 certificate to Seven Stars, went to a squash/garlic dish made by Dan MacLellan. Second, \$25 to Olive del Mondo, was for farro by Meg Griffiths and third, \$20 to Kreatlier fabrics, for trifle by Lexi Dantzig.

The people's choice award was a tie between roasted butternut squash lasagna by Elise Meyer and butternut squash hash by Kim Ahern and Jenna Lafayette, so they each got certificates, one to Frog & Toad gifts and the other to Stock kitchenware.

The judges were Jan Faust Dane, of Stock, Peter Kammerer, of The Sandwich Hut, and Sandy Kohring, last year's first-place winner.

Next year's main ingredient is open to suggestion. Recipes for the winning dishes and pictures of the chefs are on the SNA web site at <http://www.sna.providence.ri.us/fourth-annual-sna-cook-off-competition-features-squash-as-main-ingredient/>.

Songs and stuff make for a successful SNA Yard Sale

The annual fall yard sale put on by the Summit Neighborhood Association seems to be catching on.

This year the event, held Saturday, Sept. 13, in the yard of the Church of the Redeemer on Hope Street, had 26 registered sellers, up from a mere 24 the previous year.

In addition, this year featured music by Rising, a performing songwriters' organization whose foundation is the mentoring of teen and young adult singer-songwriters. Led by Daniel Durand from the band PhenixAve, two young performers entertained with old standards and their own songs.

Adding to the mix was a tricycle cart from Ellie's Bakery downtown, selling gourmet ice cream sandwiches.

But the main attraction was the wide variety of no-longer-needed items from people's basements and attics that

turned into treasures for the throng of buyers who started arriving well before the 10 a.m. opening. Although the sky alternated between sunny and cloudy, there was no rain to dampen spirits and

transactions continued until the 2 p.m. closing. Offerings ranged from golf clubs and vinyl records to party clothes for kids and fancy coats for adults.

Welcoming neighbors

was the Rev. Patrick Campbell, rector of the church, and some of his congregation, who had a table display of some of their activities.

Spots in the yard were reserved through an application form in SNA's newsletter or on its web site for \$15 each or \$20 if a table was required.

Not only was the event a successful transfer of ownership of countless items, but it was an opportunity for residents of Summit to rub elbows and get to know each other better.



The long-abandoned Sears building on North Main Street is gone, to be replaced by a parking lot for a new fitness center that will be built on the Pawtucket side of the lot.

Special lighting for a special street

The Hope Street Merchants Association has launched a project to find a new way to light up our lives.

They are seeking to design, produce and install off-the-grid, solar-powered street-lights that will give a distinctive illumination and character to the shopping area.

Speaking at a kickoff party in November at Ristorante Pizzico, HSMA co-presidents Pernilla Frazier and Line Daems, owners of Kreatelier home interior services, said the new devices would enhance safety and ambiance to create a “village” feel for an area that is already a premier destination in the city.

Frazier said the fixtures they are seeking don’t exist yet, so the association is working with Johnson and Wales University engineering and information-technologies professor Jonathan Harris and some of his students to develop the concept. He said the students are tasked with “creating a sense of place and identity” and are expected to be finished in about 10 weeks. Their work will include developing an image and logo.

Harris, a principal at Transit Matters, 135 Power St., Providence, a company that designs and builds “urban amenities” that support “walkable communities,” stressed that the first-of-its-kind design would definitely not just slap a solar collector on top of an existing light standard but would seek to develop a system that would be a model for other innovators. Some of his previous local work includes the bus information kiosks downtown.

Daems pointed out that the local electrical utility, National Grid, owns the light-poles and wiring on the street, but is in negotiations to sell them to the City of Providence, which is looking for innovative ways to save on power costs. She said a National Grid consultant is working with the association on long-term support for the project.

But to help defray the initial costs, the merchants are seeking to raise funds with a “Bring Light to Hope” campaign of selling “keepsake candleholders” at their shops as well as soliciting donations of larger amounts from individuals as well as corporate and charitable entities such as Miriam Hospital.

Donations can be made out to the Hope Street Merchants Assn., care of Kreatelier, 804 Hope St., Providence, RI, 02906. For more information, visit info@hopestreet-prov.com.

Summit Ave. Tot Lot details being ironed out

The planning for refurbishment of the “tot lot” on Summit Avenue is undergoing adjustments during the winter months as some minor differences in equipment placement are ironed out.

Certain taller structures such as swing sets may interfere with parents’ ability to see their children in all sectors of the park, so accommodations are being made. Bob McMahon of the city Parks Department says the work is still on track for bidding in the spring, but the timetable is loose.

The community garden portion of the plan is to come after the playground part is finalized.



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