

New lighting planned for Hope 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 streetlights 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. Harris said the students are tasked with “creating a sense of place and identity” and are expected to be finished in about 10 weeks.

To pay for 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. They are collaborating with Miriam Hospital and the City of Providence in developing a first-of-a-kind light standard with an innovative solar-collector system.

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@hopstreetprov.com.

Yard Sale Set for Sept. 19

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Summit News

SUMMER 2015

www.SummitNeighbors.org

Summit Music Festival Set for August 15 at Lippitt Park

This year's Summit Music Festival is on track to rock your socks off.

Five acts new to the annual free event – The Dirty Dozen Brass Band, Garrin Benfield, And The Kids, Torn Shorts and Brother Henry – will join the returning Extraordinary Rendition Band from 1 p.m. until 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 15, in Lippitt Park at the intersection of Hope Street and Blackstone Boulevard.

The music starts just after the weekly farmers market closes. There will also be a beer and wine garden for adults, numerous activities for children, craft vendors and information booths plus food trucks galore. This year will also feature a raw bar presented by Matunuck Oyster Bar.

Also new this year is the focus of the event, which is to raise awareness – and money – for the Fresh for All Fund, a program to support local farmers and increase access to healthy, fresh foods for under-served communities. Miriam Hospital is partnering with the Summit Neighborhood Association in promoting this effort, which is part of a nationwide initiative to foster cost-saving, socially beneficial innovations in public health and fresh food access.

Besides Miriam, the other sponsors of the festival are: City of Providence; Summit Neighborhood Association; Cameron & Mittleman; Empire Guitar and Empire Charitable Foundation; Seven Stars: Mortgage Network; Stock Culinary; City Kitty; Rhode Guide Real Estate Professionals; Kreatelier: Hope Street Farmers Market; Frog & Toad; Motif Magazine; Sandwich Hut; and Chex Finer Foods.

The Dirty Dozen Brass Band, a New Orleans jazz group that has revolutionized the traditional jazz style by incorporating funk and bebop, is to be the headliner.

A youth music program in New Orleans in the 1970's was the origin of the ensemble, with the goal of providing young people with a positive outlet for their energies. As it developed a repertoire, the musicians freely incorporated bebop tunes and jazz standards, as well as lighthearted pieces such as The Flintstones theme song.

Singer/songwriter/guitarist Garrin Benfield, who splits his time between Brooklyn and San Francisco when he's not touring, has played countless gigs ranging from small coffeehouses to large outdoor festivals over the past decade.

Benfield's shows center on his quirky pop melodies but are stretched into improvisational explorations into new territory. Familiar songs are often twisted and contorted into gorgeous new creations.

And The Kids is a trio from Northampton, Mass., that formed after guitarist Hannah Mohan and drummer Rebecca Lasaponaro met Megan Miller in 2012, when all three were summer interns at the nearby Institute for the Musical Arts, which hosts rock camps for girls and women interested in music and the music business.

The Providence-based Torn Shorts Duo, consisting of Josh Grabert and Chris Ardoin, grew from a solo project in 2010 to a quartet, then to a duo. The group, which won the 2013 WBRU Rock

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Annual Meeting Report: How SNA Helps Strengthen Our Neighborhood

Almost 60 people attended the annual meeting of the Summit Neighborhood Association May 20 to get updates from its officers plus elected officials and public servants as well as enjoy a social evening with other residents.

Gathering at 7 p.m. in the main dining area of the Highlands on the East Side, 101 Highland Ave., the audience, sipping wine and beer and munching on pizza as well as Highlands-supplied desserts, was welcomed by SNA President Dean Weinberg, who then quickly introduced two speakers who had commitments elsewhere.

First, Wendy Nilsson, the recently named director of the Providence Parks Department, described her excitement of her new post and said she intended to work with the people of the neighborhoods, adding that she was already familiar with the efforts of SNA to develop community gardens in the Summit Avenue park and "tot lot" playground as part of its refurbishment.

Second, state Sen. Gayle Goldin spoke of her efforts in the General Assembly, in cooperation with Summit's Rep. Aaron Regunberg, who said he agreed with her, to raise the minimum wage so workers could contribute to an economic revitalization of the city, an objective she cited as vital to the quality of life of residents.

A Year of Accomplishments

Weinberg then turned to a review of SNA's accomplishments of the previous year, listing the huge music festival in Lippitt Park, the yard sale at the Church of the Redeemer, the bake-off competition at Seven Stars, the holiday caroling for charity, the snow-shoveling program to aid the handicapped and elderly and the group's cooperation with various efforts by the Hope Street Merchants Association.

HSMA co-president Pernilla Frazier elaborated on those efforts, stressing the block party scheduled for June 6, the project to bring solar-powered streetlights to the area, a volunteer cleanup of the winter's debris and new bicycles racks coming.

Regunberg returned to the floor, and in

response to a question, said he generally is cautious about the proposal for a new stadium, but is keeping an open mind and listening to his constituents.

Elections for Officers & Board

The main business event of the evening, the election of a new SNA board of directors, was conducted by Secretary Thomas Schmeling. The following officers were approved by a unanimous voice vote: Weinberg, president; Schmeling, secretary; Kerry Kohring, vice president; and Vishal Jain, treasurer. Re-elected as directors were Jim Barfoot, Grant Dulgarian, Anneliese Greenier, Daniel MacLellan, Michael McGlynn, Britt Page, Sheila Perlow and Sharon Lee Waldman. New directors approved were Erik Christiansen, Lee Clasper-Torch, Emily Spitzman, Mark Tracy and Karina Holyoak Wood. (See profiles below.)

Crime Prevention

Providence Police Capt. George Stamatakos concluded the presentation part of the meeting with an update on the string of burglaries and breakins around the neighborhood, explaining how a few known juveniles have been arrested but released by the courts numerous times. Answering questions from the audience, he urged residents to take common-sense precautions to deter crime, especially not having open doors or windows and never leaving anything in parked cars.

Some audience members stayed afterwards to chat with the speakers and to have a last glass of wine or a pastry delight.

Here are profiles of the new board members.



Erik Christiansen lives on Rochambeau Avenue and has been a Summit resident for four years. He is a history professor at Rhode Island College and is involved in local community-history projects, including one at the North Burial Ground. His special interest is in promoting walkability and safety in the neighborhood.



Lee Clasper-Torch lives on Fourth Street and has been a Summit resident for 25 years. He is an adjunct professor of the philosophy of religion at the Community College of Rhode Island and is men's engagement coordinator for the R.I. Coalition Against Domestic Violence. His special interest is in community building and neighborhood advocacy.



Emily Spitzman lives on Lauriston Street and has been a Summit resident for 6 1/2 years. She is an assistant professor at Johnson and Wales University with a special interest in education and language learning. She has previously served on the SNA Board of Directors.



Mark Tracy lives on Arlington Avenue with his wife and two children. He is on the boards of both Home and Hospice Care of Rhode Island and Brown University's Association of Class Leaders. He earned his B.A. at Brown and a Master's degree in Public Administration from Harvard. His "day job" is with Cargill, working with public pension funds, foundations and endowments. His wife, Molly, is a pediatric neurologist at Hasbro Children's Hospital.



Karina Holyoak Wood lives on Ogden Street and has been an East Sider for 18 years, moving to Summit last year. She is the public policy director for the American Lung Association in Rhode Island and is a parent advocate for improving the public schools. Her special interests include local politics and running.

New LA Fitness Building Nears Completion on North Main St.

Construction of the new LA Fitness center on North Main Street is almost complete with the building to be delivered to the owner in the last week of September.

That is the schedule as set out by Michael Cullity, project superintendent of C.E. Gleeson Constructors. He said the total contract is for about \$5.3 million with site work at about \$1.5 million. Cullity estimated that about two-thirds of that amount went back into the local economy through manpower and supplies as his company used subcontractors from Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts whenever possible. He also cited the expenditures at local restaurants and stores.

Peter Kammerer, president of the North Main Street Merchants Association and owner of the Sandwich Hut restaurant there, said he "is very happy to see the new construction" and that the new fitness center "is an important piece in the development of the street." Kammerer added that it "would bring hundreds of new people" to the area and that "stirs the pot," and "gets energy moving in the right direction."

Cullity, who is from Troy, Mich., praised the cooperation of the local building departments in getting the sometimes challenging project finished and said it has been a pleasure working with them. He noted that New England "has been a bit of a culture shock" for a Midwesterner, but he has been able to see a bit of the area, including Cape Cod and Hartford, calling it "very nice country."



A Giant Leap Forward for Summit Avenue Community Gardens

Community gardens in the "tot lot" on Summit Avenue have taken a giant leap forward with the formation of governance committee of residents.

Gathering June 22 in the Rochambeau Library under the leadership of Greg Gerritt, a prominent local naturalist and gardener, the group of about a dozen met with Wendy Nilsson, the new superintendent of the Department of Public Parks. The formation of a panel of local people to run the community gardens section of the renovated tot lot was a parks department requirement identified by her predecessor, Bob McMahon.

The committee identified several aspects that needed to be addressed, including how plots are to be set up, allocated and run as well as how to raise the funds needed above the amount the city will be able to provide. Two sub-committees were set up to move for-

ward on these issues.

Another meeting of the overall panel was to be convened July 14, with the goal of being ready to plant in the spring of 2016. The committee may choose to operate outside of the structure of the Summit Neighborhood Association, which has been instrumental in developing the garden plan.

At the July meeting, Megan Gardner, of landscape architects Gardner + Gerrish and the designer of the park's renovations, was to present updated cost estimates. Then the committee will be able to make firm plans for proceeding.

Beside Gerritt, the group members were Dean Weinberg, SNA president, Kerry Kohring, SNA vice president, Doug Best, Annalisse Daly, Linda Gifford DeGeus, Anneliese Greenier, Douglas Itkin, Brian Lalli, Hien Le, Lucy Ann LePreau, Jessica Porter, Read Porter and Eugene Sorokin.

Yard Sale Set for Sept. 19

A long-standing annual event for the neighborhood, the SNA yard sale, is set for Sept. 19 with a backup date of Sept. 26.

It is a prime opportunity for some to clear out unneeded stuff from attics and basements as well as make some money doing it. For others, it is a chance to find a perfect gift, a second-hand need for a growing child or an overlooked priceless antique.

The location is the yard of the Church of the Redeemer, 655 Hope St. This year the official opening is scheduled for 9 a.m., but setup will start an hour before. Last year there were 26 registered sellers offering a wide variety of items and enough buyers to leave with almost everything.

Once again, musicians from Rising, a performing songwriters' organization whose foundation is the mentoring of young adult singer-songwriters and led by Daniel Durand from the band PhoenixAve, has been asked to entertain.

Spots in the yard can be reserved for \$15 each or \$20 if a table is to be furnished by SNA. Below is the mail-in form but registration may also be done on the organization's web site at <http://www.sna.providence.ri.us/upcoming-events/>

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, Box 41092, Providence, RI 02940 by Sept. 12. If you are renting an SNA table, the additional \$5 will be collected at the yard sale.

I want a space at the 2015 SNA Yard Sale

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____
Email _____
Please enclose check for \$15
Do you want a table? Yes__ No__



Parking meters are NOT coming to Hope Street

Parking meters will not, repeat not, be coming soon, if ever, to the Hope Street commercial district.

That was the message relayed by Pernilla Frazier, co-president of the Hope Street Merchants Association, to the regular meeting of the Summit Neighborhood Association's board of directors.

She was reporting on a presentation by Providence Parking Administrator Leo Perrotta to the merchants group on the city's plans to expand the use of parking meters. Frazier said Perrotta told the business owners that there were no plans in the immediate future of six months to two years for parking meters on Hope Street and perhaps not at all. He said the Summit area is unique in the concentration of residential streets abutting the commercial area and the resulting problem of parking overflow is extremely complex. Perrotta also said a solution might have to involve some sort of residential permits, and the city is not prepared to undertake that at this time, Frazier reported.

Although the city says there is some evidence of stagnation of parking along the Hope Street business district, it is currently not worthy of being solved by the imposition of meters, Perrotta said. If a survey shows that 85 percent of available parking spaces in an area are taken, the city tries to intervene with management by metered parking, but that concentration has not been demonstrated on Hope Street.

In addition, there is still the question of how to define a parking spot as a right or a privilege, Frazier said, adding that the HSMA is planning to consult with an urban planner on the issue.

The SNA board, which has not formulated a position regarding parking meters, promised Frazier to work closely with the merchants as the situation develops.

Music Festival (continued)

Hunt, has since found a unique way of blending indie, blues, folk and rock n' roll into a genuine sound all their own.

Brother Henry was formed at You Rock! School of Music in 2014 and consists of Dylan and Ethan Itkin, of Providence, with Henry Lee and Jackson L'Heureux, of Cranston. They are all 13 years old and have written two original songs with an indie-rock sound. They also cover alternative and rock songs by Arcade Fire, Beck, Nirvana and others.

The Extraordinary Rendition Band is a street group of brass, reeds and percussion from Providence that plays in support of select causes and events in an attempt to draw community attention to them. They have been a frequent contributor to Summit events, such as the Music Festival and street fairs.

For more information, join us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/summit-musicfest

Take part in our Board Meetings

The SNA board of directors meets at 7 p.m. on the third Monday of every month in the cafeteria of Summit Commons, 99 Hillside Ave. The sessions are open and neighborhood residents are encouraged to attend. Minutes of all board meetings are posted on the SNA website at <http://www.sna.providence.ri.us> under "Meetings and Agendas." Contact us at Summit Neighborhood Association, PO Box 41092, Providence, RI 02940 or sna@sna.providence.ri.us. Phone 489-7078.

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 ___ / ___ / ____