



SUMMIT NEWS

A YEAR OF CHANGE: NEIGHBORHOOD REFLECTIONS SINCE LAST MARCH

SAVE THE DATE!
SNA VIRTUAL ANNUAL
MEETING MONDAY,
4/26 AT 7 PM.

DON'T MISS OUT ON YOUR
CHANCE TO BE INFORMED
ABOUT THE NEIGHBORHOOD
AND GET INVOLVED!

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Wave goodbye to Winter this month!



SUMMIT BUSINESSES INNOVATE IN COVID ERA

By Jackie Delamatre & Torin Mathieu

It has been a challenging few months for many in the Summit neighborhood and beyond. Yet, many local businesses have met the Covid era with inspiring creativity and generosity. From new products to fresh takes on dining to donations, Summit business owners have found ways to keep the lights on all while helping neighbors feel the love.

At Chez Pascal, owners Kristin and Matt Gennuso decided from the beginning not to open for indoor dining until it was safe for their staff and their customers. Instead, they have created a take-out menu that draws customers to their curb every night. They have also recently launched a creative twist on outdoor dining. Dubbed "Apres Ski" dining, their set-up includes Adirondack chairs made from old skis donated by neighbors complete with outdoor heaters, blankets, and warming seat pads.

Kristin said their customers had been up for outdoor eating through the mild start of winter, but it was beginning to get chilly. She and Matt knew they needed to find a solution that would keep people comfortable. They thought about how after skiing everyone wants to eat something warm, and "we just took the whole theme and ran with it." Instead of multiple courses in freezing weather, they focused on quick, simple, one-pot items. Matt researched foods and drinks found in the Alpine regions, and their menu now includes Tartiflette and Herb Spaetzle as well as a sampler of "very warming" Amari from Italy and Switzerland.

"People have just embraced it so much," Gennuso said. "The other night Jan," the owner of Stock, "and her husband came by all decked out in ski gear!"

Four blocks away at India Restaurant, owners have also been ramping up their take-out business -- all while donating 100 free meals a day to those in need.

But it's not only restaurants that are innovating and inspiring. Local Hope Street store, Frog and Toad, had a smash hit of a product at the beginning of the pandemic with its t-shirt emblazoned with the phrase "Knock It Off" -- in honor of Governor Raimondo's admonishment. Later, the store's owner, Asher Schofield, pledged to donate one mask to Providence's schoolchildren for every "PVD Love" mask sold.

At Kreatelier, Summit's local fabric concept store, they knew immediately how they could be helpful. Mask-making fell squarely in their wheelhouse. Owner Line Daems and her team of nine seamstresses made 25,000 fabric masks. For every ten masks sold, they donated one. A total of approximately 3,500 masks went to Amos House, Dorcas international, local schools, and the elderly. They even gave orange child-size masks to local trick-or-treaters on Halloween.

It's been a long few months here in Summit, but the local businesses have brought smiles to their neighbors' faces. We know they are there behind the masks!

BUSINESS OF CHANGES

By Sam Burgess

Plenty of things have changed in the last year, even the local businesses that service the Summit Neighborhood. As they try to navigate the balance between commerce and safety, restaurants have reduced capacity, shops have gone fully online, and businesses have set up no-contact deliveries. However, these changes aren't preventing new businesses from popping up, expanding, and flourishing!

Notable restaurant Avenue N of Rumford, RI opened its new branch on Hope Street in Providence last April. It has a diverse menu featuring items like Nashville hot chicken buns, Point Judith calamari, free-range organic chicken with local mushrooms, and incredible pizza specials! Check them out on Instagram @avenuenamericankitchen.

Another restaurant opening, Little Sister, is an all-day café & bakery that recently opened on Hope Street turning out Bolt coffee as well as breakfast and lunch dishes. They are inspired by tropical comfort foods from the owner's childhood growing up in Puerto Rico and the bounty of living in New England. This is reflected in house-made pastries like Cubano empanadas, coconut bread pudding, and shakshuka Verde. Check them out on Instagram @littlesisterpvd.

A new salon recently opened on Hope Street: Salon 951. The stylish space has a variety of services including root color, men's haircuts, and Brazilian Blowouts! Check out their website for more information at salon951ri.com.

We were sad to see Davis Dairy close in May of 2020 due to water damage from an upstairs fire. Davis Dairy had been a Hope Street mainstay for almost seventy-five years and was the last Jewish deli remaining in the neighborhood. On a positive note, we were excited to learn that a new Jewish kosher prepared foods and grocery will soon be arriving! Bubbies Market and Deli is scheduled to open March 1st, in time for Passover, at 727 Hope Street.

After fifteen years of serving the neighborhood, fabric and interior design center Kreatelier is expanding its space on Hope Street. It will take over the storefront that ACT II used to occupy next door. The expansion will allow Kreatelier to create a display space to showcase wall coverings, home fabrics, and other creative interior decor ideas. Kreatelier has seen a big boom of home improvement projects since everybody is at home and wants to brighten their spaces! Check them out on Instagram @kreatelier.

Even with so many changes in the way they operate, the momentum hasn't stopped for all the excellent neighborhood businesses. Keep calm and take-out with grace! Are there any other businesses that have opened or closed? Reach out on Instagram at @SNAProv.



Local businesses still flourishing on Hope St.

SUMMIT NEIGHBORS INTERACT

- *What's something that you appreciated about the Summit neighborhood during the Covid era?*

"We baked bread loaves for the first time (I know, so did everyone else) and we're more regular about exercising with a purpose. Also, we discovered the Mobile Market delivery/pick-up option of FarmFreshRI- amazing!" - Lizzi

- *What's something new you have experimented with since Covid started (for example, sewing, woodworking, cooking)?*

"Homebrewing beer has been a very fulfilling hobby during these times! I can drop off some of my brews to friends and we enjoy them over a video call." - Sam

- *Have there been any surprise silver linings for you in the Covid era?*

"Two silver linings we've noticed from the past twelve months are that, first, my siblings located around the country and I began meeting weekly on Zoom, and have become much closer because of it. Second, although I hadn't sewn much lately, I gave my sewing machine a prominent place on my kitchen table again, as my daughter and I made a hundred face masks. It gave me a chance to teach her more sewing skills, and we donated seventy-five masks to family, friends, and neighbors!" - Sherry

Want to share your answers to these questions? Stay tuned on our Instagram for more interactive questions and a chance to get featured in the next newsletter!

DID YOU KNOW?

By Erik Christiansen

One reason we love our neighborhood is how easy it is to walk to great restaurants, shops, and parks –even a hospital. But down the hill from that hospital, a parking lot covers the former site of the Rhode Island Auditorium. It's kind of wild to think that at one point we could have strolled over to hear Jimi Hendrix, James Brown, Crosby, Stills, and Nash, Bob Dylan, Cream, the Who (twice, first playing the Auditorium as the opener for Herman's Hermits!), Chicago, Sly and the Family Stone, and the Grateful Dead.

The venue opened as home to the Providence Reds ice hockey team in 1926, long before any of those performers were born. For a few years after World War II, the NBA's Providence Steamrollers called the Auditorium home as well, winning just six games (still the NBA record) in the 1947-48 season. The venue, which held 5,300 people, hosted many other sporting and cultural events over the decades until it was demolished in 1989.

If you happen to have an old photograph from a visit to the auditorium, please send it to SNA and we'll share it on our Summit History page on the SNA website and our Instagram! (@SNAProv)



Empty wall on Not Just Snacks on Hope St to become new mural.

AVENUE CONCEPT MURAL ANNOUNCEMENT

By Torin Mathieu

SNA is excited to announce a collaboration with the Avenue Concept! We will be bringing a mural to the south-facing wall of Not Just Snacks (abutting the parking lot for Eden Park Cleaners) on Hope Street within the next few months! We are excited for this creative collaboration to beautify our beloved Hope Street.

What do you want to see on the mural? Let us know on Facebook or Instagram!



Volunteers from two neighborhoods bag donated produce.

ORGANIZING VOLUNTEERS WITH THE MT HOPE COMMUNITY CENTER

By Sherry Waldman and Ethan Gyles

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit Providence in March 2020, Councilwoman Nirva LaFortune convened a call with local non-profit organizations including SNA, Mt. Hope Community Center (MHCC), Jewish Collaborative Services (JCS), and others to discuss how to prepare to help neighbors in need. SNA contributed by organizing a mutual aid list to match volunteers with need and administered it throughout the past year, as well as fundraised to offset the costs of food and goods purchased for folks who were experiencing financial hardship. Volunteer services included picking up medications and groceries for those who couldn't leave their homes, or who were especially vulnerable to health complications. Over one hundred and fifty volunteers signed on. We also worked with Rep. Rebecca Kislak to run a check-in phone bank to call our elderly neighbors and make sure they were okay, as well as provide information about available resources.

In addition to answering the dozens of individual requests for aid we received, tapping into the outpouring of community volunteers also helped SNA assist MHCC to deliver food bags to people who could not get out, as well as helped Higher Ground International's Rukiya Center deliver hot meals to those in need. Volunteers were eager to assist and, on Wednesdays and Fridays, up to ten volunteers came to the MHCC offices to pick up groceries and bring them to primarily elderly and disabled community members.

On Friday mornings, a few volunteers also help unload pallets from the RI Food Bank truck at the Camp Street Community Ministries (CSCM) across the street from MHCC, and then bag up the food for delivery. Each of the forty-three to sixty recipient households gets two to three bags of dried goods and fresh produce weekly. This has been a year-long effort of coordination between multiple community organizations and individuals - an impressive feat of endurance!

In addition, local business leaders Milena Pagan from Rebelle Artisan Bagels and Becca Brady from Hometown Poke & Cafe donated or offered at a heavy discount a bounty of baked goods and fresh produce to the MHCC's food pantry over the past few months. A big thanks to these businesses that continue to give more than delicious food to our neighborhood, and to all the community organizers and volunteers who jumped in to support their neighbors!

SNA is grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with Helen Dukes, Eugene Monteiro, and Marcus Mitchell at MHCC, Jackie Watson at CSCM, Henrietta White-Holder of the Rukiya Center, Erin Minor at JCS, Rep. Kislak, Councilwoman LaFortune, and to help our neighbors!

Contact Sherry at slwaldman1@gmail.com if you'd like to volunteer - the need goes on!



SUMMIT NEWSLETTER

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Ethan Gyles, SNA President

On behalf of current and past SNA leadership, and many, many Summit neighbors, I'd like to share our gratitude for the hard work and friendship of Monica Anderson, who served for many years as neighborhood liaison for The Miriam Hospital. Miriam is the largest institution in our neighborhood, and we appreciate the collaborative approach Monica worked to foster with all of us who live around their campus. In recent years with Monica as a liaison, Miriam/Lifespan has provided significant community grants and engaged in charitable activities serving the Summit and Mount Hope neighborhoods.

Monica has accepted a role at Orlando Health in sunny Florida, and we wish her the best. Thank you, Monica. We look forward to ongoing collaboration with Miriam and its staff, who continue to maintain the neighborhood hotline at 401-793-4040.

KEEP UP WITH YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD!

@SNAPROV



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JOIN THE SNA TODAY!

Your membership makes you a voting member of the Summit Neighborhood Association for the coming year. Your contribution makes possible this newsletter and the other projects we undertake to help improve the quality of life in our neighborhood.

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Membership Type: Individual Household

I enclose my annual membership contribution of __\$15 __\$25 __\$50 __\$100 Other \$____
Individual membership \$15 (or more). Family memberships \$25 (or more).

Please enclose a check payable to: **Summit Neighborhood Association**
Mail to: **SNA, PO Box 41092, Providence, RI, 02940**

Other adult household members:

Name (print) _____ Email _____

Name (print) _____ Email _____

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