



# SUMMIT NEWSLETTER

NEW CONSTRUCTION AND NEIGHBORHOOD STORIES

## JOIN THE SNA SNOW BRIGADE!

**VOLUNTEERS ASSIST ELDERLY AND DISABLED NEIGHBORS WHO HAVE DIFFICULTY CLEARING THEIR WALKS AND DRIVEWAYS, AND WHO CANNOT COMFORTABLY PAY FOR SERVICE.**

**PLEASE EMAIL [SNASNOW@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SNASNOW@GMAIL.COM) IF YOU CAN JOIN THE EFFORT AS A VOLUNTEER SHOVELER! SHOVELERS WORK IN TEAMS, TRADING OFF TWO-WEEK SHIFTS SO THAT NOBODY HAS TO COMMIT FOR THE ENTIRE WINTER.**

**LIKewise, IF YOU OR ONE OF YOUR SUMMIT NEIGHBORS MEET THIS DESCRIPTION AND WOULD LIKE ASSISTANCE, PLEASE EMAIL [SNASNOW@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SNASNOW@GMAIL.COM).**

*Rendering of new Miriam Hospital entrance.  
Photo from BrownHealth.org*



## CONSTRUCTION COMING TO MIRIAM HOSPITAL IN 2025

By Sam Burgess

Did you know that the Summit Neighborhood Association was established in 1985 when changes were being planned at Miriam Hospital without neighborhood input? Summit neighbors joined together to represent the neighborhood's interests in retaining its residential quality and beauty. Today, The Miriam Hospital, established in 1924, is planning additional changes to its facilities in the coming months and has been engaging the community in discussion sessions since April 2023.

The hospital plans to demolish its oldest structure, Building A, and replace it with a new facility to better serve the community's healthcare needs. This renovation aims to upgrade both the emergency department (ED) and inpatient units, to enhance patient care. If approved, construction is slated to begin in 2025.

The new ED will be relocated to the first floor of Building A, facilitating several critical improvements. Key benefits include:

1. **Shorter Wait Times:** The redesigned layout will streamline patient flow, enabling quicker access to care.
2. **Increased Privacy:** Current ED configurations often place four patients in curtained spaces; the new design will feature more private evaluation areas.
3. **Improved Coordination of Care:** Enhanced communication among healthcare providers will be possible with the new layout.
4. **Behavioral Health Spaces:** Specialized areas will be created to support mental health treatment in a healing environment.
5. **Enhanced Imaging Suite:** The renovation will reduce wait times for necessary scans and images.
6. **Geriatric Care Improvements:** Design elements will aim to achieve geriatric accreditation, positioning the hospital as one of the few in New England to do so.
7. **Isolation Rooms:** In response to the need to prevent transmissible illnesses, the new design includes isolation rooms with private bathrooms.

In addition to the ED enhancements, the inpatient units will undergo significant changes. The Miriam Hospital aims to adapt to better service the healthcare demands of the community. Please reach out to David Britland, CHFM, CHC, Miriam Hospital Director of Facilities Operations & Support Services at [DBritland@Lifespan.org](mailto:DBritland@Lifespan.org) with any questions, or for more information.



*Mahler Ryder working Bannister bronze.*

## **TWO ARTISTS, ONE GRAVE: EDWARD M. BANNISTER AND MAHLER B. RYDER**

By Ulli K Ryder, Ph.D.

In 1869, Edward M. Bannister (1828-1901) came to Providence from Boston with his wife, Christiana Carteaux Bannister. In Boston, they were active in the abolitionist movement and Edward had a reputation as a talented painter. Christiana's successful hair salons brought in much-needed funds. By 1870, Edward – because of Christiana's financial support – was able to devote himself to painting full-time. In 1876 he became the first person of African descent to win a major prize for painting when he won first place in the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition Paintings Category. He helped found the Providence Art Club in 1880 and was an Executive Committee member of the first exhibition at the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD).

One hundred years later, my father, Mahler B. Ryder (1937-1992), arrived in Providence from Columbus, Ohio to teach at RISD. In 1975, he went in search of Bannister's grave. Research at the Providence Public Library eventually brought him to North Burial Ground. There he found a large blank, granite stone. From old photos, he knew that there should be two bronze plaques providing information about the artist buried below.

In Edward Bannister, Mahler Ryder not only found an artistic ancestor, but one who also had a passion for justice. Ryder's artwork – from ink illustrations to collages and assemblages – always commented on our society and the lives of marginalized peoples. He consistently argued for additional faculty of color and women to be hired at RISD. He served as a mentor to students of color who saw few other role models that looked like them at RISD during his tenure.

His connection to Bannister and dismay at finding this important artist and activist without a proper grave marker drove Ryder to pull together a group of artists to make new bronze plaques. They were installed in 1976, with the Providence Journal covering the dedication and choirs from Olney Street and Congdon Street churches singing.

Unfortunately, history has repeated itself. In March 2024, the bronze plaques were stolen from Bannister's grave. The stone stands again denuded and blank, giving no hint of the importance of the man buried beneath it.

I am leading a committee to recreate the 1976 plaques. Both Edward Bannister and Mahler Ryder's legacies as Rhode Island Black artists need to be preserved. We invite you to be part of the process.

Ways to get involved:

1. Donate to the plaques fund
2. Spread the word about Edward and Mahler
3. Attend future events that will explore their legacies

Donations can be made to:

Rhode Island Historical Society

110 Benevolent Street

Providence, RI 02906

Attn: Business Office

Make checks payable to: Rhode Island Historical Society  
Memo line: Bannister Grave

Inquiries can be directed to:

Ulli K. Ryder, Ph.D.

[Bannistergraveproject@gmail.com](mailto:Bannistergraveproject@gmail.com)

*North Burial Ground site where the bronze plaques were stolen.*



---

## **YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD FOOD PANTRY SUPPORT**

By Sharon Lee Waldman

SNA continues to support the new Your Neighborhood Food Pantry at 533 Branch Avenue in Providence by helping to coordinate some of their volunteers, as well as raising funds for this coming holiday season. For more information or to donate non-perishable goods or financial support, contact them at [ynfp22@gmail.com](mailto:ynfp22@gmail.com) or visit [www.ynfp.org](http://www.ynfp.org)

# SUMMIT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION YEAR IN REVIEW

By Katy Gilchrist

We have had a busy year! All the volunteers, from the Board to association members have worked hard to improve the lovely area where we all live.

**Community Tree Planting:** The SNA was involved with planting over 75 trees during the last year. Additionally, the SNA applied for and was awarded neighborhood improvement grants from the City and State to enable tree watering and care for newly-planted trees in high-risk areas. Garden Time, which trains and employs formerly-incarcerated individuals, was hired to deliver tree watering and care services. Since 2021 we have helped plant over 200 trees!

**Rochambeau Library:** SNA donated money to help build an outdoor classroom behind the library which opened in August. SNA also coordinated with the library for a movie night showing "Iron-Jawed Angels" on October 22nd.

**Mount Hope Community Center and Your Neighborhood Food Pantry:** We help coordinate volunteers to unload food, stock shelves, and deliver bags of groceries for neighbors in need, as well as encourage donations and support to these vital community organizations.

**Lippitt Park:** Kept communications flowing between the Parks Department and the community about upcoming changes to Lippitt Park.

**SNA Yard Sale:** Planned and put on a 2-day yard sale in September. Over 30 families participated! We put up yard signs and promoted the sales via social media.

**Hope Street Block Party:** SNA's booth at the event introduced us to more neighbors, informed people about SNA's role in the community, and helped us to learn more about neighbors' ideas and concerns.

**Community Garden:** The community garden at Kerry Koehring Park is thriving, and we currently have a plot waiting list. In 2024, in addition to growing lots of fresh produce, the community garden dealt with invasive bamboo, added more external berry plants for all to enjoy, and renovated some garden beds.

**Newsletter distribution:** With the help of volunteers, SNA publishes, prints, and hand-delivers 3,000 free newsletters covering neighborhood issues three times a year.

**Annual Fall Cook-off:** SNA organized a free community fall cook-off held on October 24th at India Restaurant. Neighbors entered their best cranberry-themed dishes which attendees voted on to win prizes from local merchants, while kids previewed their Halloween costumes.

**Snow Brigade:** Teams are ready to help any neighbors who are not able physically or financially to plow out their homes. Luckily, 2023/24 was a mild winter!

---

## SNA TREE PLANTING OCTOBER 6TH, 2024



---

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

Did you know that the SNA Board hosts hybrid virtual and in-person meetings every month? Engage with your neighborhood representatives, learn more about volunteer opportunities, and contribute to the positive change you want to see in your community through the SNA!

Meetings are held at Miriam Hospital's Sopkin Auditorium at 7 pm every third Monday of the month. Upcoming meetings are as follows:

- November 18th, 2024
- December 16th, 2024
- January 20th, 2025
- February 17th, 2025
- March 17th, 2025
- April 21st, 2025

If you're interested in joining virtually on Zoom or have any questions about our meetings, email [SNAProv@gmail.com](mailto:SNAProv@gmail.com) for the meeting link. Hope to see you there!



KEEP UP WITH YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD!

@SNAPROV



WWW.SNA.PROVIDENCE.RI.US

SNA BOARD  
PRESIDENT  
SHARON LEE WALDMAN

VICE PRESIDENT  
OPEN POSITION

SECRETARY  
OPEN POSITION

TREASURER  
BRITT PAGE

NEWSLETTER SECRETARY  
SAM BURGESS

BOARD MEMBERS  
MICHAEL BRADLEE  
KATY GILCHRIST  
ANNELIESE GREENIER  
COREY JONES  
MORGAN SCHWARTZ



Neighbors competed for local prizes in the SNA Fall CookOff on October 24th, bringing their best cranberry dishes to India on Hope Street.



THANKS TO INDIA, STOCK CULINARY GOODS, OLIVE DEL MONDO, KRETELIER, RHODY CRAFT, RI SPICE & TEA MERCHANTS, AND HENRY BEAR'S PARK FOR SUPPORTING THE 12TH ANNUAL COOKOFF!

## JOIN THE SNA TODAY!

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

If you prefer, you may pay electronically at <https://www.sna.providence.ri.us>

Name (Please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

*\*We will not share your information with any other organization without your permission.*

**YES! Sign me up for the new SNA e-newsletters.**

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).

*Scan QR Code for membership info*

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

