

Summit Avenue Residential Preservation Association

Newsletter - Preservation Press

Fall 2010

What We Do — and How YOU Can Participate!

The Summit Avenue Residential Preservation Association (SARPA) is dedicated to the preservation of the historic, residential, and urban park character of Summit Avenue in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Commissioned in 1986 by Mayor George Latimer and the St. Paul City Council to preserve the residential quality of Summit Avenue for future generations. SARPA is the official representative of Summit Avenue residents' views to local, city, state, and national government. SARPA works with other neighborhood organizations, developers, institutions, nearby retail establishments, and individuals to maintain Summit Avenue's reputation as one of the finest residential streets in the State of Minnesota and in the United States.

Since its inception, SARPA has been involved in a number of issues and activities. Currently we:

- Plant and maintain the planters on the Ayd Mill Bridge and the flower beds at Monument Park. We have also contributed to the work at Lookout Park, and are considering contributing to the new plantings at Summit and Lexington.

- Conduct the bi-annual Summit Garden Stroll as an outreach and fundraising activity. The 2009 Garden Stroll was the most successful such event in our history, hosting over 1,100 people in our diverse and beautiful gardens. Our next Garden Stroll will be coming up in June, 2011, and we are already looking for gardens; let us know if you would like to participate!
- Represent Summit Avenue Residents on WSNAC, the West Summit Neighborhood Advisory Committee, which collaborates with the University of St. Thomas on issues in the area. Please see the



Lookout Park Eagle

article on WSNAC in this newsletter; we also need another Summit Avenue representative on the committee, so let us know if you would be interested in serving.

- Advise the City of Saint Paul on preservation and land use issues with Summit Avenue properties.
- Communicate to our constituents via our website, blog, Facebook page, and periodic newsletters like this.
- Hold educational and social events. We are excited to work with Historic Saint Paul on a lecture series this fall, co-sponsored by the University Club — please see the article later in the newsletter.

All of this work is done by a volunteer board, and the more you participate, the more we can do to make Summit Avenue better! Please become a member (household memberships are just \$30, and the form is on the back of this newsletter), volunteer for projects, and participate in events. SARPA represents YOU, and your voice is critical!

- Bethany Gladhill, SARPA President

Trying to reach SARPA? The easiest way is electronically:
SARPAWebmaster@comcast.net
www.SARPA.org
 or "Like" our Facebook page!

The Talking House 1645 Summit

I am the beautiful Georgian Revival home at 1645 Summit Avenue. I was built in 1922 and have led a quiet existence over the years. My exterior details have not changed, although I have had many incarnations.

Recently, the grandson of my builder, the famous Dr. Earl, visited and recalled his grandfather's place at the table during Sunday dinners, the summer porch which was converted into a den and the corner of the living room where he used to read his medical books. He noted that the staircase had not changed and our visitor was full of wonderful memories to share with his wife.

Another visitor was an alumnae of Macalester College who returned for Homecoming and stopped by with a friend to recall their days of residence at 1645 when it belonged to Macalester College. At that time, it was known as Wood Hall because Miss Wood's School for Children was in the lower level, offices were on the main floor and students resided on the two upper floors. My guest remembered that at one time 16 residents live there.

In the late 1960's, the College sold me to the Reverend and Mrs. Simpson who converted me to a home again. As Chaplain, Mr. Simpson invited students to visit on Friday evenings and, of course, I was filled with the sounds of their family and teenage children, too. When they took out the evidence of the offices and students, they considered the original style of the house and restored many of my details. There still remained the ubiquitous third floor suite done in red, white and blue which were found in many houses during those years.

In 1975, the C.T. Enestvedt family bought me and moved in the following Spring. The home next door was also sold and that meant two young families had moved onto the block that Spring. A visitor in 1645 was one of the Simpson children with a friend to visit and see what changes had been made. There were very few actually. There is something about my solid orderly style that seems to be comfortable for those who spend time here. Now the Enestvedt children and their children, the international students who have visited or lived here over the past twenty-five years, and friends and relatives continue to return and this house is never empty.

In 2005, I grew with the addition of a porch that my new family, the DeYoungs added so that they could look out over Summit Avenue. I look forward to growing with future families!

SARPA and Historic Saint Paul FREE Lecture Series

The Summit Avenue Residential Preservation Association and Historic Saint Paul are excited to co-sponsor a free lecture series on the history, architecture, and preservation of Summit Avenue, widely considered the nation's best-preserved example of the Victorian monumental residential boulevard.

This series is designed to be educational — discussing the history of Summit Avenue — but also inspirational, promoting ideas for future private (and public) development. It's also a great chance to meet and socialize with other Summit Avenue homeowners and area residents. The lectures are free, and you don't have to be a member to attend, but why not take this chance to join? (membership form on the back of the newsletter).

All three lectures will be held at the University Club of St. Paul (a co-sponsor of the series), located at 420 Summit Avenue. Lectures will begin at 7:00pm and run about an hour, with some time for socializing (cash bar) afterwards.

Topics are as follows:

Monday, September 27 – Awareness

The history of Summit Avenue and its role in Saint Paul
Presented by Ted Lentz

Monday, October 25 – Stewardship

Summit Avenue's architectural styles and the development of the historic districts

Monday, November 22 – Enhancement

Design guidelines, appropriate work and changes, and resources, as well as planning for the future

We hope to see you there!

The West Summit Neighborhood Advisory Committee

The West Summit Neighborhood Advisory Committee was established in 2004 to collaborate on issues of interest to the University of St. Thomas and the St. Paul residential neighborhoods that surround it.

An agreement approved in August 2004 by the St. Paul City Council on St. Thomas' proposal to redevelop two Summit Avenue blocks included a condition to establish an advisory council comprising four neighborhood organizations and the university. The group is advisory to the city.

Representatives from St. Thomas, the Merriam Park Community Council, the Macalester-Groveland Community Council, the Summit Avenue Residential Preservation Association and Neighbors United convened in September 2004 and formed the West Summit Neighborhood Advisory Committee (WSNAC).

Mission Statement

"As charged by the St. Paul City Council, the West Summit Neighborhood Advisory Committee will bring together neighbors, neighborhood organizations, the University of St. Thomas and city government to collaborate on issues of mutual interest, provide a forum for communications, and create a stronger and more vibrant community."

Statement of Purpose

"The West Summit Neighborhood Advisory Committee will seek to resolve concerns that affect the University of St. Thomas and the neighborhoods surrounding it, provide a channel for communication on campus master planning and development, and address traffic, parking, housing, student behavior and other related issues."

The university and WSNAC are launching a plan this year that Doug Hennes, WSNAC member and vice president for university and government relations, calls "more proactive." The initiative involves several campus offices and is supposed to encourage better student-neighbor relations.

For more information, please visit WSNAC's web page, at www.wsnac.net. SARPA is also seeking another representative to sit on WSNAC; please email us at SARPAWebmaster@comcast.net for more information!



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SARPA
P.O. Box 7371
Saint Paul, MN 55107

Simply send the form below and your check for \$30 to:

Join SARPA and be a part of preserving the historic, residential and urban park character of Summit Avenue. Each person who owns a homestead on Summit Avenue may be a voting member of SARPA. Any other person may request to be a member. Membership is \$30 per household.

JOIN SARPA

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