2020 HOUSE TOUR

Snow may still be in the air, but it’s never too early to think about the 2020 Summit Hill House Tour. One of the metro area’s favorite fall events, this year the House Tour will be held on Sunday, September 13.

The House Tour has been a Twin Cities tradition for nearly 40 years. Since 1972, people from around the area have gathered to stroll through one of St. Paul’s historic neighborhoods, see the rich variety of housing within the community, and take advantage of the shopping and dining options in Summit Hill.

No matter if you are a business that wants to be a part of this bi-annual event, a homeowner willing to share your residence with your neighbors, or people who want to spend a Sunday afternoon in fall touring this historic district, there’s a place in the Summit Hill House Tour for you.

Businesses. Want to get your name in front of thousands of Twin Cities residents? Join our Premiere Sponsor, RE/MAX Advantage Plus Simply Sold Real Estate, and become a sponsor for the tour. We offer a variety of sponsorship packages that appeal to businesses large and small.

Residents: Want to get a behind-the-scenes look at the House Tour? Become a volunteer! It’s a fun way to learn more about the neighborhood.

Homeowners: Have you ever thought of showcasing your home on the tour? It’s not too late! This event is designed to showcase the variety of homes that make Summit Hill so special. Why not showcase yours?

This year, General Admission tickets sell for $35. These tickets provide access to all of the homes and public spaces on the tour. VIP tickets for the 2020 House Tour go for $125, and include a pre-tour brunch, free parking, early entry to the homes on the tour, and a chance to walk through a truly unique Summit Hill home not available to general admission ticket holders.

Residents can visit the 2020 House Tour web page for more information.

If you’d like to volunteer or have your house included on the 2020 House Tour, please contact the Summit Hill Association office at 651-222-1222 or info@SummitHillAssociation.org.

Garage Sale to be Held May 1–2

Another sign of spring is the annual SHA garage sale. This year, the sale will be held from 9 am to mid-afternoon on May 1st and 2nd. We need at least 20 Summit Hill residents to participate. Anyone interested can sign up using the enclosed form or contacting the SHA website.

Looking to promote your business in Summit Hill?
Advertise in future editions of this newsletter!
Contact Monica at (651) 222-1222 for details.
**2020 SHA Board Members**

Peter Rhoades, President
Denise Aldrich, Vice President
Rachael Dettmann Spiegel, Secretary
Abhi Andley, Treasurer
Bridget Allan Ales, Chair
Katie Bergstrom
Jason Betchkal
Jeremy Dowd
Mary Gearen
Holly Geck
Mike King
Karrie Knutson
David Kratz
Mark Lindley
Sonja Mason
Rene Meyer-Grimsberg
Ann O’Callaghan
Hillary Parsons
James Slegers
Simon Taghioff

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**SHA Spring Plant Sale**

The SHA Spring Plant Sale is coming soon! We will again be offering high quality plants and gift cards from Gertens greenhouses. Sales dates on: Friday, May 1st, 4:00 to 7:00 PM and Saturday, May 2nd from 9:00 to 2:00 PM at the Linwood Recreation Center. Important information:

- Pre-orders are due by Friday, March 27th
- Hanging baskets, patio pots, and perennials and grasses will be available through pre-order only.
- Full flats of annuals can be pre-ordered.
- Individual annual packs will be available on the days of the sales at Linwood Recreation Center.

To place your orders and pay for your purchases online please go to https://www.summithillassociation.org. For more information contact Summit Hill Association by phone 651-222-1222 or by email at info@summithillassociation.org.

Proceeds from this sale will go to support the ongoing work of the Summit Hill Association.

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**OPENING THE DOOR TO HOME**

In town or around town, working to serve you best

Jane Austin McGrath
651-282-9625

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**MISCHIEF**

For Troublemakers of All Ages

818 Grand Avenue
Visit facebook.com/mischieftoy for upcoming events

mischieftoy.com
651-493-3307

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**halunenlaw**

YOUR COURAGE. OUR EXPERTISE. The heroics of whistleblowers and those treated unfairly in the workplace inspire us to be smarter, better, and more tenacious. LET’S TAKE A STAND.

Clayton D. Halunen
Managing Partner
Longtime Summit Hill resident

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Check out the SHA web site for current info: [www.summithillassociation.org](http://www.summithillassociation.org)
SHA President’s Message

Hello, friends and neighbors of Summit Hill! By the time this goes to print and this text is hitting your eyes, I will be a newly married man. My gal and I were excited to celebrate our wedding at the Summit Manor on February 22. We are blessed to be starting our family in such a warm neighborhood we feel so privileged to call home.

Some history about me: I purchased our little duplex in 2013, so I still feel like a “new” homeowner and am continuously learning what it means to be a landlord and caretaker. I originally joined the SHA Board at the behest of my neighbor, and I figured it would be beneficial to learn how the neighborhood operates. I selfishly thought I would figure out how to get a fence approved for my backyard; I’ve since learned that I need approval from the Historic Preservation Commission, not necessarily a zoning variance. (I still haven’t built my darn fence for our dog, Frida! Oh, well.)

Regardless of why I joined, I am incredibly grateful that I did. I’ve learned so much about our lovely, historic neighborhood and the amazing people that live in it. I’ve met some of the most interesting and interested people, and have learned so much about what goes into building a neighborhood, community and city.

The SHA Board held its annual retreat on February 1, where we did a deep dive into our goals for the year. Along with enjoying some amazing food, coffee and laughter, we did some real planning for 2020. I kicked off the meeting by asking Board members what brought them to and keeps them in Summit Hill. Responses focused on everything from the walkability of our neighborhood and the shops on Grand Avenue to the warm neighbors who come over to borrow hammers and cups of sugar and share meals, laughter and tears. Living in a neighborhood where we look out for and help each other is so vital to our quality of life.

The Summit Hill Association’s mission is to improve the quality of life in our community. We are a vital gathering place where people can organize and determine how we would like our neighborhood to evolve while maintaining what we cherish. We are an avenue for the community to join together and discuss how events could affect us as a community. We are an instrument through which we can work with the city on issues, while also keeping the city accountable. We have an incredibly talented and invested Board of Directors, and I am excited to serve with them.

Along with this quarterly newsletter, we also offer our “Sundays on Summit” e-newsletter that goes out most Sundays; please sign up on our website to receive it. My goal is to communicate thoroughly concerning events taking place at the SHA and in our community.

The more people who get involved and attend meetings, the more complete picture we have to direct our service to each other. We also have an open position on the Board that I would love to see filled.

If you are interested in becoming involved, please attend one of our monthly meetings or reach out to our amazing executive director, Monica Haas. Here’s to a wonderful 2020!
Progressive Supper Scheduled for 2020

By Rene Meyer

When we bought our house in 2003, we had enjoyed our old neighborhood’s gatherings — cocktail party open houses at Christmas and garden parties and we wondered what we would find in Summit Hill. Under the committed work of Ethelyn Rupp, we found the Progressive Supper. Twice a year, once we signed up, we were reminded of the upcoming event — and if we did not respond, we knew we could expect a phone call from the keeper of the lists, the then octogenarian Mrs. Rupp. "Hello, I just wanted to be sure you hadn’t forgotten to sign up and wanted to make sure you would join us. Don’t forget to send me the money or drop it by the office." It was a fundraiser, after all.

Organizing all the people into houses — going one house to the next — Appetizers, Main Dish, Dessert — (I think there might have been a cocktail hour at the beginning, too). You had to make sure you didn’t eat too much at any one house. You might also have to leave early from one house in order to be ready for your guests. If you had no time, you could request dessert- which you only had to bring it to one of the bigger final houses. If you were lucky you could actually walk from one house to the next (handy if you both planned to drink). Each house, except the dessert homes, you were greeted by 8-10 people (whatever the host agreed to have in their home) you might be lucky and see some people twice. Usually, there were only two dessert houses — so the more than 100 participants could divide up into two groups. At the end of the night you had people’s names, houses and food all settled in an experience that grounded you in your neighborhood. Inevitably, you’d run into people other places and the glue of the village solidified. Each year you’d meet new people and see some of the same people over and over. Some years my husband was traveling and we ended up managing with a neighbor or the Amity scholar who was staying with us that semester. As Ethelyn aged, the job became more difficult and Tamara Haas came to her aid. I have no idea how many other SHA board members helped them organize the many moving parts, but it always seemed magical how everything fell into place. Progressive suppers dwindled from the 150 people in its heyday to as few as 15 in the last few years. Ethelyn’s commitment was sorely missed.

With these memories in mind and the ongoing feeling of isolation people feel as they live their social lives electronically, we would like to reboot the Progressive Supper into something new — with the same underlying goal — give people a chance to socialize, interact, share food and create community.

If you are interested or if you are a block leader and can help facilitate spreading the word, email info@summithillassociation.org with “Progressive Supper” in the subject line.

How to contact the Summit Hill Association

Reach our Executive Director, Monica Haas at director@SummitHillAssociation.org

Email us at info@SummitHillAssociation.org

Call us during office hours at (651) 222-1222

Subscribe to our monthly electronic newsletter at SummitHillAssociation.org/newsletter

Find us on Facebook at Facebook.com/SummitHillAssociation

Check out the SHA web site for current info: www.summithillassociation.org
Introducing Your SHA Team

To the residents of Summit Hill, the SHA means many things to the people of Summit Hill. We are far more than the organization that organizes an annual plant sale or hosts the bi-annual House Tour. The SHA plays a critical role in informing and representing the residents and business owners of our neighborhood.

The Summit Hill Association District 16 Planning Council represents everyone who lives or owns a property or business within District 16. We are part of the city’s Saint Paul Planning Council system, created to serve as a liaison between the neighborhood and the various City departments and entities.

The SHA works every day to keep residents aware of issues impacting our neighborhood — and informing city officials and other stakeholders of the views and concerns of our neighbors. The 21-member Board of Directors is elected by Summit Hill residents, and work on five standing committees and a number of limited-lifetime committees. For newcomers to the Summit Hill area — as well as those people who only know one aspect of this non-profit association — we’d like to list the committees that make up the SHA.

Communications and Outreach: Sustains and improves communications in and around Summit Hill through our website, e-newsletter, Facebook page and more. Also, helps plan “After Hours” events and the Annual Meeting for Summit Hill residents, where we hold board elections and more!

Development: Helps SHA raise funds that it needs to continue our important community-building efforts through activities such as the biennial Summit Hill House Tour, book sales of “A Grand History,” our annual fundraising campaign, and other projects.

Environment & Beautification: Promotes recycling, reuse, and beautification projects in the neighborhood, including maintaining the upper gardens, the Sam Morgan Prairie and the Summit Hill Community Garden.

Pedestrian Safety & Traffic Calming: Encourages safe streets for pedestrians and plans the annual Pedestrian Safety Week, either as a committee member or a volunteer.

Zoning & Land Use: The ZLU Committee has a significant impact on residential and commercial development in Summit Hill by evaluating requests for licenses, permits and zoning variances. Recommendations from the committee are directed to the City of St. Paul departments such as the Historic Preservation Commission, departments of Planning and Economic Development and Safety and Inspections, the Board of Zoning Appeals and Planning Commission, and our City Council representative, where they are given serious consideration. This committee also handles occasional appeals of City decisions, and addresses neighborhood complaints and concerns regarding zoning and land use-related issues. Due to the nature of this committee, membership on the committee is limited to SHA directors however, meetings are open to the public.

The SHA also participates in a number of other critical initiatives with similar organizations. This includes weighing in on the Neighborhood Compensation Plan and Grand Old Day.

The most important task, however, remains its role as a conduit of information between neighbors and the city. Anyone with questions about issues they feel need to be addressed or aired should contact the SHA at information@summithillassociation.org.
Like to Read? Like to Share Thoughts?  
Make Time for the SHA Book Club

Few activities are as rewarding as discussing a good book with friends and neighbors. Add an emphasis on social justice and issues impacting the people of Saint Paul, and you’ve got the Summit Hill Association Book Club.

Created more than two years ago, the SHA Book Club welcomes Summit Hill residents to read and share their thoughts on thought-provoking books with an emphasis on issues of great interest to the wider Saint Paul community — issues including racial inequalities, poverty, social justice and city living. The club assigns a variety of books, spanning non-fiction and fiction as well as nationally known authors and local writers. Some of the best-sellers the club has read include:

- **Evicted**, Matthew Desmond’s penetrating look at the importance of stable housing and the debilitating impact of evictions on the people of Milwaukee;
- **White Fragility**, Robin DeAngelo’s best-selling book that focuses on why it is so difficult to talk about racism in America;
- **Voices of Rondo**, which collects stories from people who called St. Paul’s Rondo neighborhood home;
- **A Good Time for the Truth**, in which 16 Minnesota authors share their thoughts on what it is like to live as a person of color in our state;
- **The Hate U Give**, the nationwide best-selling novel that describes a tragic shooting and its effect on the lives of young people in the victim’s orbit;
- And **The Girl Who Fell from the Sky**, the best-selling young-person’s novel that details the experiences of a girl facing a very different life after a family tragedy.

The SHA Book Club provides pizza and beverages for readers. Anyone interested in taking part can learn more by visiting the SHA website or keeping tabs on the books and meetings scheduled on the Sunday on Summit eNews.

Winter’s Not Over Yet: Remember Our Snow Emergency Regulations

Daylight Savings Time may be here, and the days may be getting longer, but Minnesotans know that winter can give us an unpleasant surprise. In the event of a late-winter blizzard — and we can all remember 2019’s polar vortex! — Summit Hill residents should keep in mind the regulations that govern snow emergencies:

If a snow emergency is declared,

- Snow Emergencies begin with night plow routes at 9 p.m. the day of the declared Snow Emergency. Beginning at 9 p.m. the day a Snow Emergency has been declared, parking is not allowed on streets marked with signs that say “NIGHT PLOW ROUTE” or “NIGHT PLOW ROUTE THIS SIDE OF STREET.”
- All of downtown Saint Paul is no parking at night during a Snow Emergency even though it is not signed.
- Night Plow Routes are typically plowed from 9 p.m. to 8 a.m.
- Starting at 8 a.m. after a Snow Emergency has been declared, parking is allowed in areas on Night Plow Routes.
- Parking is allowed on Day Plow Routes, which are streets and sides of streets that do not have Night Plow Route signs. Snow Emergencies continue with Day Plow Routes the morning following the declared Snow Emergency. Day Plow Routes do not have signs.
- Parking is not allowed on Day Plow Routes (streets or sides of streets with NO Night Plow Route signs) until the street is plowed. These routes are typically plowed from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Up to 96 hours after a Snow Emergency has gone into effect, crews perform clean-up operations that include salting, anti-icing, and "push backs" (plowing snow where parked cars have since moved).

Residents whose vehicles were during a snow emergency should visit the city’s Ticketing, Towing and Storage Fees page to find impound lot location information.

Residents can report vehicles that are in violation of snow emergency parking restrictions by calling 651-266-9800 (option 2).

Check out the SHA web site for current info: [www.summithillassociation.org](http://www.summithillassociation.org)
Possible Changes to the Parking Code

Proposed date to present to Planning Commission: June 12, 2020: 8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Location: City Hall Conference Center, Room 40, 15 Kellogg Boulevard West.

The City of Saint Paul is currently exploring two options for significant changes to the city’s parking code. Tony Johnson, Senior City Planner, has been directed to develop two options for the City Council: (1) Eliminate all off-street parking minimums throughout the City, AND/OR (2) move to a system of site-specific parking assessments known as Traffic Demand Management (TDM) where the particular parking situation of a new development/re-zoned property can impact the requirements, e.g., a development in an area with sustained documented parking issues may have a higher requirement for off-street parking than one in an area with ample parking.

Mr. Johnson has attended two meetings with the SHA Zoning & Land Use Committee (ZLU) to present the plans at their current stage of development. Residents, business owners, and members of the SHA Board have been in attendance to ask questions and provide some initial feedback. During his presentation, Mr. Johnson referenced the San Francisco TDM as model for St. Paul City planners. Additional information about these proposals and the San Francisco TDM plan are available on the SHA zoning & land use webpage: SummitHillAssociation.org “Committees” Zoning & Land Use.

Mr. Johnson will be scheduling an online presentation of the proposed changes. Watch the SHA website or sign up for our eNL from our homepage to get details as soon as they become available.

Residential Multi-family Zoning Study by the City is Underway

Bill Dermody, City Planner, has notified the SHA that they are currently working on an RM (Residential Multi-Family) Zoning study, the first comprehensive review of regulations in the RM1, RM2, and RM3 Multi-Family zoning districts since 1975. Comments from District Councils are due by 4:30 pm on April 20, 2020. Accordingly, we have invited him to give a presentation to Summit Hill. Details on this presentation, and the proposed changes to the code, will be shared in the appropriate eNLs and on the ZLU webpage as soon as they become available.

A copy of his presentation to Planning Commission on February 7, 2020 is accessible from the SHA ZLU webpage.

RM Zoning Changes: Why an RM Zoning Study?

- Recent housing affordability pressure – desire to add units
- 2030 Comprehensive Plan specifically calls for it:
  - Strategy LUi-1. “Study the RM multi-family districts... to determine how they can accommodate more intense residential development.”
  - Neighborhood interest in the transit-supportive, pedestrian-oriented form of Traditional Neighborhood (T) districts in many locations
  - But not all of these locations are necessarily appropriate for the uses permitted in T districts

Know your neighbors?

SHA is looking to bring back the social gatherings like the Progressive Supper.

Would YOU like to participate? Kick off date April 25, 2020.

Email us at .... to express your interest in hosting a coffee and cake or house concert or attending! We’ll help you organize and invite people. Details will be online!

Have a photo you’d like to share?

We are seeking photos of the neighborhood for use in our printed newsletter and website. If you have an image you’d like us to use, please email it to us at info@SummitHillAssociation.org

Check out the SHA web site for current info: www.summithillassociation.org
Summit Hill Association
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Saint Paul, MN 55105
Telephone 651-222-1222
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Check our web site at
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