

Check us out online at [www.smithhillcdc.org](http://www.smithhillcdc.org)

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YouthRAP workers under the direction of local artist, Lydia Stein (first on right), recently completed the restoration of the mural located at 351 Smith St.

## It's Been a Busy Summer on Smith Hill!

This has been an exciting spring here at the *Smith Hill Community Development Corporation*. We are proud to announce the completion of the design and construction stages of two major projects.

First, our latest affordable housing renovation is finished and ready to be occupied. Realized in partnership with *Rhode Island Housing* and *Crossroads, RI*, this project features three two-bedroom units

of supportive transitional housing. Architects, *Ed Wojcik, Architect, Ltd.*, provided excellent vision to the building renovations which featured literally "raising the roof," as we added two dormers to the third floor, which substantially increased the living area of the third floor. Our construction contractors, *Vasco, Inc.*, also proved excellent partners in each step of this renovation.



SHCDC's Latest Affordable Housing Development.

The second major project we completed this spring was the launch of our website - [www.smithhillcdc.org](http://www.smithhillcdc.org). The site is designed to be an interactive, user-friendly neighborhood resource. Besides including information and pictures of all past

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## Local Teens Work to Improve Community



With the lazy days of summer in full swing many teens and youth are busy sleeping-in and enjoying a life of few responsibilities. Not so for a group of young adults living in Smith Hill.

The YouthRAP Teen Workers are dedicated high school students who have each committed their summer to work-

ing in and around the Smith Hill neighborhood.

Responsibilities are varied and the work allows them to interact with many Smith Hill neighbors. So far, the teens have assisted the soup kitchen run out of Saint Patrick's Church, restored the mural located at 351 Smith Street and engaged in clean-ups all over Smith Hill. When asked why she has used her summer to give back to the community, teen worker Bolanle Akinsulire said, "I felt as if I could put effort into making the community look better for kids and others."

As these six teens have proven, every little bit helps.

# Calendar of Events

## AUGUST

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Farmer's Market Friday's at Kennedy Plaza 11am—2pm @ Sidewalk along Burnside Park FREE, Every FRI	2 Waterfire @ downtown Providence 8:02 pm
3	4	5	6 Citizen's Bank 2008 Concert Series presents The Ignitors @ Garden city Center 6—8pm, FREE with donation of Peanut Butter or Tuna	TRIFF Presents Movies on the Block: <i>Rocky Point Movie</i> , corner of Westminster & Union St. Providence,	8 2008 Italian Arts and Music Festival in downtown Providence, Aug.8—11th times vary, FREE, Call 808-5614 for	9
10 Summer Stomp @ Providence Children's Museum, 1—3, FREE with cost of admission,	11	12	13 Citizen's Bank 2008 Concert Series presents The Driftwoods @ Garden city Center 6—8pm, FREE with donation of Peanut Butter or	14 RIFF Presents Movies on the Block: <i>Monty Python and the Holy Grail</i> , see above for info	15 Greek Festival @ Assumption Greek Orthodox Church Grounds, Aug. 15—17th, FREE, call 725-3127 for	16 Waterfire @ Waterplace Park 7:44 pm
17	18	19	20Citizen's Bank 2008 Concert Series presents Greg Abate All Star Jazz @ Garden city Center 6—8pm, FREE with donation of Peanut Butter or Tuna Fish for RI	21RIFF Presents Movies on the Block: <i>American Graffiti</i> , see above for info	22 Providence Roller Derby: Mai Tais & Thigh Highs @ Bank of America Skating Rink, 7pm	23 Savor Providence, 12—4pm @various downtown restaurants, Book of 10 tastes for \$37 call 521-1100 ext. 412 for in-
24	25	26	27	28 RIFF Presents Movies on the Block: <i>Monty Python and the Holy Grail</i> , see above for info	29	30 Waterfire @Waterplace Park 7:22 pm
31				***Save The Date: September 6, 2008— Smith Hill Family Fun Day @ Candace St Playground***		

If you would like your event advertised in the *Hilltop Herald* please contact the CDC at 521-0159

# The Paint Shoppe

Take a walk up and down Smith Street in the Historic Smith Hill and you will see many stores lining the street. One in particular stands out with a reputation of community involvement and awareness, The Paint Shoppe.

The Paint Shoppe, located at 275 Smith Street, has been in the neighborhood for forty years selling paints and all things involved with decoration.

Currently, there are seven full-time employees who

take customer service very seriously. The decorating services they provide include custom mixing, custom matching, contractor services, wallpaper, and of course Benjamin Moore paints.

The Paint Shoppe is committed to customer service and will work tirelessly to keep customers satisfied and returning. Their community involvement includes supplying paint and materials for neighborhood clean-ups and graffiti removal days.



The Paint Shoppe, 274 Smith Street.

The Paint Shoppe on Smith Street is part of a group of five family-owned Benjamin Moore dealers stores located around Rhode Island.

If you are in the market to redecorate a wall, room, or whole house remember to check out one of our neighborhood businesses: The Paint Shoppe!

[www.thepaintshoppes.com](http://www.thepaintshoppes.com)

# Capitol Hill Health Center



Zulema Gonzalez, Family Resource Counselor at the Capitol Hill Health Center.

Recent cuts in Rite Care have affected many of our neighborhood residents, children in particular. Cloe Charpentier, *Health Center Director* and Zulema Gonzalez, the *Family Resource Counselor* at Capitol Hill Health Center, would like all parents to know that there is a place to turn if you and your family have been cut from health care coverage. The Health Center, located at 40 Candace St, has continued to care

for its current patients who have been dropped from Rite Care and is currently taking new patients. There are special programs available that are designed to assure all children receive their regular office visits and proper immunizations. The Health Center also offers a sliding scale that can be as low as 20 dollars a visit for any patients without health care coverage.

Capitol Hill Health Center is part of Providence Community Health Centers (PCHC), the largest primary health-care provider network in Providence. Committed to treating city residents regardless of their ability to pay, PCHC annually cares for more than 35,000 patients offering a wide range of services, including most common medical problems as seen by pediatricians, internists, family practitioners, certified nurse midwives, and Ob/Gyn physicians.

In addition to its five health clinics, PCHC also operates a school-based program, a dental clinic and the state's only sexually transmitted disease clinic. It is also the largest provider of the WIC (Women, Infant and Children) nutrition program in Rhode Island, with 6,500 participants. Providence Community Health Centers' main office is located at 375 Allens Ave., Providence. To learn more, call (401) 444-0400, or see [www.providencechc.org](http://www.providencechc.org).

## The Smith Hill Branch Library

Smith Hill Branch Library, located at 31 Candace St., is a vibrant and important part of the community. Recently, the Smith Hill branch has partnered with the Providence After School Alliance's (PASA) Afterzone program to bring increased after school activities to middle-school youth. These are in addition to the many long-standing programs offered by the branch.

Currently, there is a budget crisis in the Providence Public Library that threatens all of the city's local branches. The Smith Hill Library Friend's Group is currently recruiting new members. There is power in numbers. Please see, [www.smithhillcdc.org/friends-group](http://www.smithhillcdc.org/friends-group) for details.

### Notes From The Library Reform Group

After months of negotiations, PPL and the Mayor's office have finally drafted an agreement for library services that would last for the next four years. The agreement was approved unanimously by the PPL Board of Trustees July 17<sup>th</sup> and must now be approved by the City Council in order to take effect.

On the plus side,

the agreement provides for a continuation of library services at the current level (keeping all nine branches open with the same level of services) until next June, with any deficit paid for by PPL.

On the minus side, the agreement states that the library system must become "financially sustainable" by June of next year, and "financially sustainable" seems to be defined primarily as moving to a system with fewer branches and consequent reduction in services. Although the agreement doesn't explicitly state that this is the only way to achieve sustainability, this is certainly the implication, and **PPL alone** is to make the determination (by December of this year) as to

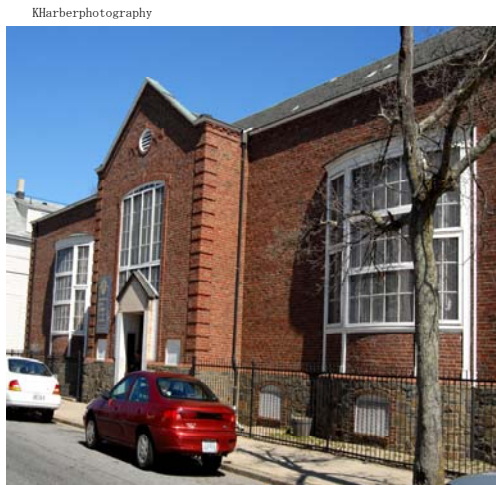
what this "sustainable" system will look like so that there will be time to plan the transition to this system by June of 2009.

There is nothing in the agreement that calls for a good-faith effort on the part of PPL to increase revenue in order to finance a "sustainable system."

We are also not completely clear that there is an escape clause, should PPL come up

with a "sustainable" library system that the City of Providence or the city's patrons feel is unacceptable

On Thursday July 24, *The Library Reform Group*, three *Friends of the Library* groups, *Save Our Branches*, and *Not about the Buildings* got their message before the public in a well-attended press conference.



Smith Hill Branch of the PPL

Now we are asking you to call or write the Mayor to tell him to GO BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD AND FIX THE FLAWED LIBRARY AGREEMENT. As it is written, the City must maintain the same level of library funding for all four years, even if PPL closes ALL the branches next year and keeps them closed through 2012.

For more information, please see : [www.libraryreformgroup.org](http://www.libraryreformgroup.org)

KHarberphotography



The Smith Hill Library

Friends Group

Needs You!

Budget Cuts Threaten

our Branch.

To find out how to get

involved

call 808-4028

## A Meditation on Immigration to Smith Hill

By Keith Morton

[Reprinted with permission from a speech to Temple Emanu-el delivered on April 27, 2004]



**Brooklyn Coffee and Tea House, formerly the  
Armenian Cultural Center**

When I walk through Smith Hill, I often begin with a visit to St. Patrick's Cemetery on Douglas Avenue, full of famine migrants who came from Ireland in the late 1840s and early 1850s, when Smith Hill was just opening up as a residential neighborhood. I might walk from there down Douglas Avenue to the Sons of Jacob synagogue, the only one of three synagogues built in the neighborhood that is still open. To get to the synagogue, I walk past what was the Armenian cultural center (now the Brooklyn Coffee and Tea House), and the Armenian Heritage Park, at the intersection of Douglas and Chalkstone Avenues. I often take a detour west, up Lydia Street, turn onto Candace and pause to look at the bathhouse. Lydia Street is so narrow as to be more an alley than a street, and it has on it a row of seven worker's cottages built in 1891 by the Dickhaut family. Seven houses on land that would hold two homes. Irish families once lived in these rows and Sharp complex down the hill toward downtown and the river, off Holden Street. At the end of Lydia, I turn left onto Candace, and turn left again onto Goddard Street.

In 1882, there was one house on Goddard Street. In 1895, ten. By 1910, the street was built up, with two houses on some "single" lots. The triple-deckers are hard on the streets, with tiny yards, and often no garages, and you can see outhouses in the older pictures

– they were built for people without cars or carriages, who walked or took a trolley to work. During the Depression of the 1930s, 20 percent of Smith Hill's dwellings are vacant. Absentee landlords show up following World War II in increasing numbers. By the early 1990s, six of the houses on the street were burned out or derelict. The Smith Hill Community Development Corporation has rebuilt ten of the houses on this street, 30 apartments worth, in the last decade, restoring the streetscape and winning an award for historic preservation.

I think of who lives and has lived in these houses; who owns and has owned these houses. Irish families give way to Jewish families. Jewish names are mingled with Armenian. The houses on Goddard Street in the late 1970s are sprinkled with the names of Laotian and Cambodian families. In the middle 1980s, the street becomes majority Cambodian and Laotian, with a sprinkling of African American families and some older Jewish residents, such as Martha Blattle, who had lived at number 82 for 76 years, until her death in 1995. And the names of some of the families on Goddard Street in 2000: Chum, Siv, Hsuy, Vendetti, Cadillo, Morookian, Audet, Levin, Pearlman, Nalabadian...

Keith Morton is currently an Associate Professor of Public and Community Service Studies at Providence College. He has worked in the areas of community development, community service and community theory for the past fifteen years, spending much of that time involved with Smith Hill initiatives. Mr. Morton serves on the boards of several local and national organizations dedicated to improving the quality of life for people in their communities, and is particularly interested in youth development. He also works regularly as a workshop leader and trainer for education and community-based organizations. His teaching and scholarship focus on the historic and present meanings of community and service in people's lives. [portions of this biography were taken from the Providence College web site]

# Smith Hill CDC News

## Neighborhood Council

The summer months have not slowed down the work of the Smith Hill Neighborhood Council. The Neighborhood Council is a group of dedicated Smith Hill residents who work together to bring positive events and activities to the Smith Hill neighborhood.

The major project we have been working on is the planning and

preparation of the Smith Hill Family Fun Day. This will be the second annual, hosted by the Smith Hill Community Development Corporation, which strives to bring people and services together. We were pleased with the turnout last year and are looking to add more and improve the Family Fun Day for this year.

If you are an organization or business who

serves people and families living in Smith Hill we encourage you to get involved. We are in need of sponsors as well as vendors and service providers.

Please help us with this family friendly event!

**\*\*Save the Date: September 6, 2008\*\***

Please call the CDC with questions or if you would like to get involved, 521-0159.

### Smith Hill Landmarks

(from back page)

Answer Key:

1. Aldi Supermarket, opening in Dec 08'
2. Kizirian Middle School & Rogers-Selim Recreation Center (located behind school)
3. Capitol Square at Smith Hill—J&L Barbershop & more retail coming soon!
4. Brooklyn Coffee and Tea House
5. Times<sup>2</sup> Academy
6. Smith Hill Community Development Corporation
7. Smith Hill Branch Library
8. Capital Diner / U.S. Post Office
9. RI State House
10. Holden Street Gallery/Krzystyna Harber Photography

Cont. Pg 1. [Busy Spring](#)

and current CDC building projects, it contains downloadable applications for affordable housing, a fully-integrated *Community Calendar* and an entire section devoted to *Smith Hill Neighborhood Resources*.

As computer use continues to grow and now touches most parts of our daily lives, this new website is an added tool which will help us reach more families and

increase distribution of information to residents and other area service providers. We hope you take some time to explore [www.smithhillcdc.org](http://www.smithhillcdc.org) and become a regular visitor.

We also invite everyone to comment on the site. You can add comments on our cover page blog or submit your ideas to [info@smithhillcdc.org](mailto:info@smithhillcdc.org).

### New Website

- **Community Calendar**
- **List of all CDC services**
- **Pictures of all our Properties**
- **Sales Information about Capitol Square at Smith Hill**

[www.smithhillcdc.org](http://www.smithhillcdc.org)

completing a number of community projects and for his fine over-site of our organization. To anyone that reads this please thank him when you see him and the staff and the board of directors for working tirelessly to help our neighborhood be the best in the state.

I invite all to get involved in this wonderful neighborhood and reach out to me with any questions or comments about the organization.

## Karriem's Corner

As the summer ends and the fall approaches, I would like to thank all of the partners that started an initiative to reach out to our Asian youth and young adults in the community. These partners are Karl Brown from the Rec. Center, Councilman Hassett, State Rep.

McCauley, Teny Gross – Non Violence Institute, LT. Correia PVD police Department and Providence College.

We at the Smith Hill CDC are still committed to developing Smith Hill as a great neighborhood to live, work, visit etc. We have just put on line 3 new housing units of quality safe and affordable living for people in our community.

We strive to be a good community partner and thank everyone for their help in our vision. I would like to single out in my corner Francis Smith, Executive Director SHCDC for his leadership in



**Karriem Kanston, Board President of the Smith Hill CDC**

# Activities for Kids

## Word Search

A F T E A C H E R J A  
 K M O D X F N H Z T U  
 S C H O O L R R F I G  
 S E E R T C O L O R U  
 L L C O E B C F S J S  
 B P V D P Q A A I G T  
 H P C W E Y G L E A F  
 U A N R A K E L L A K

Football      Trees  
 Acorn        Color  
 Fall         Rake  
 Teacher  
 School  
 August  
 Leaf  
 Apple



## YouthRAP Mural Restoration & Neighborhood Clean - Up

The restoration of the mural on the side of the *Capitol Diner* and *Post Office* building located at 351 Smith Street cleaned up the graffiti and general wear & tear that had faded much of the vibrant mural over the years. The YouthRAP workers were able to add many personal touches. If you look closely you can spot a few subtle changes in some of the faces that “suspiciously” resemble the restorers. YouthRAP workers are employed throughout the summer and work on various neighborhood projects. The picture on the left is of some younger YouthRAP participants working on the garden behind the Smith Hill Branch Library.

### Get Ready for Back to School



Image found at [www.dulemba.com](http://www.dulemba.com)

### UNSCRAMBLE

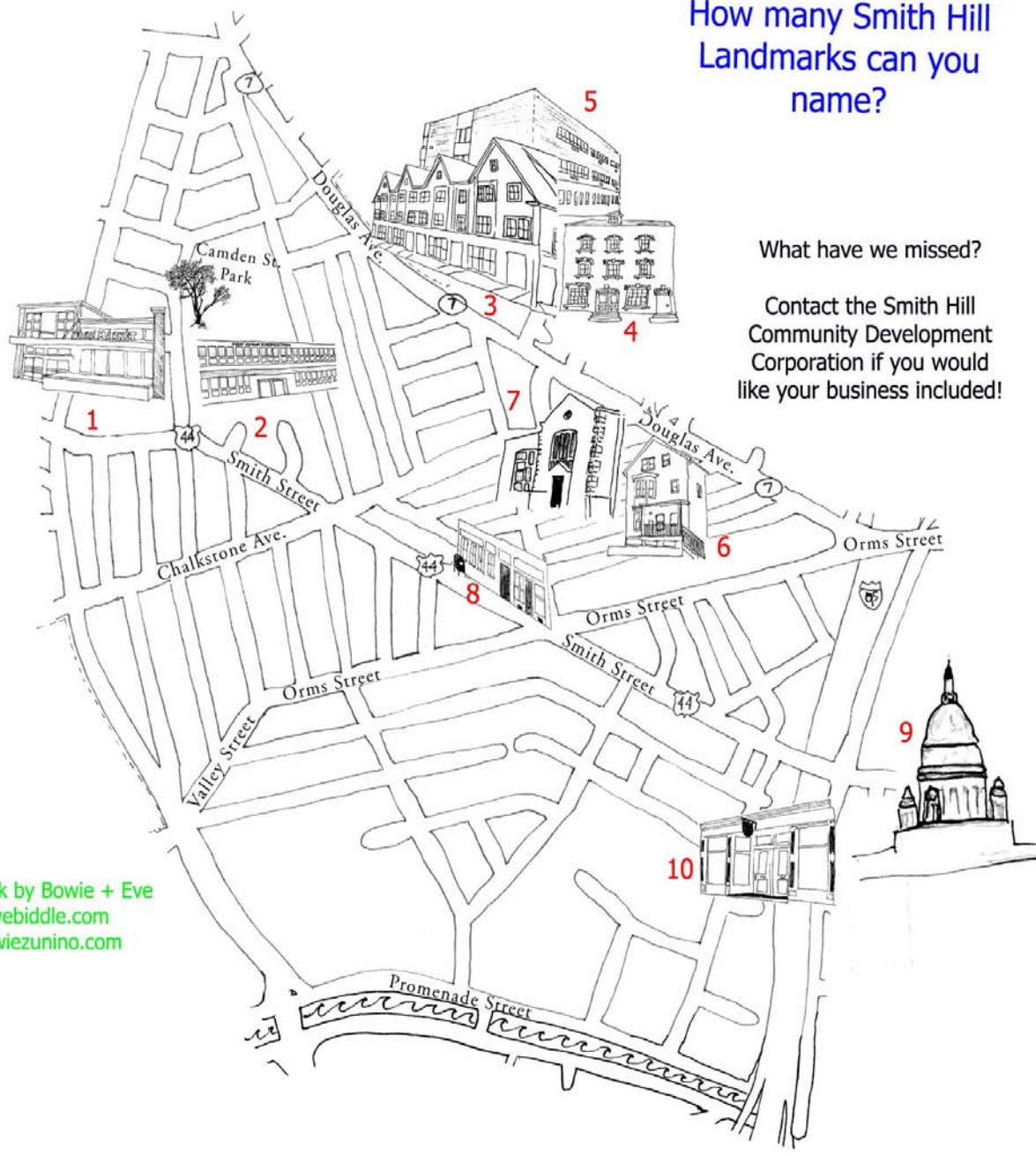
1. O S O L C H      -----
2. R T A H E C E    -----
3. L C S A S        -----
4. E R N L A        -----
5. L C I P A R N I P    -----

Answers: 1.School 2.Teacher 3.Class 4.Learn 5.Principal 6.Fall

How many Smith Hill Landmarks can you name?

What have we missed?

Contact the Smith Hill Community Development Corporation if you would like your business included!



Artwork by Bowie + Eve  
evebiddle.com  
bowiezunino.com

# Smith Hill Landmarks