



- March 2014
- ATTEND THIS MEETING**
- Guest Speaker Mayor Fulop
 - Annual Elections
 - JC Fridays
 - Community Cleanup
 - Pulaski Skyway
 - My Journey as RNA President
 - StageFest 2014
 - Jersey City Comedy Festival
 - Renew Your Membership
 - Upcoming
 - Keep up with the latest news and activities

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Next RNA Meeting:
 Tuesday, March 11th
 at 7:30 PM

Location:
 Harbor View Health Care Center
 178 Ogden Avenue
 1st Floor Cafeteria

Agenda:
 Annual Elections
 Guest:
 Steve Fulop

Membership Dues
 Membership dues and donations help sustain the RNA. Annual dues are \$10. Please contribute on our website, at an RNA meeting, or make checks payable to Riverview Neighborhood Association and mail to:
 RNA
 154 Ogden Ave., 3E
 Jersey City, NJ 07307



Greetings!

The March meeting serves as the Annual Meeting of the RNA. It is especially important this year that all members attend as we are voting on proposed amendments to our bylaws and certificate of incorporation, holding annual elections for the RNA Board of Directors. In addition, our guest will be Mayor Steven Fulop. **The meeting agenda will begin at 7:30PM but we ask that members arrive early (7PM) to sign in and vote in order to leave as much time as possible for Mayor Fulop.** Please join us this Tuesday, March 11th at the Harbor View Health Center, 178 Ogden Ave (corner of Franklin), 1st Floor Cafeteria at 7:30PM. Please bring a toiletry item for donation to St. Lucy's Shelter.

ATTENTION! WE NEED ALL MEMBERS TO ATTEND THIS MEETING!

At the March meeting we will hold annual elections, feature Mayor Fulop as a guest speaker (see below), and vote to amend our corporate documents. In January, the RNA Board of Directors proposed amendments to our bylaws and certificate of incorporation that will be voted on at the March meeting. We have to operate under the terms of the current (old) bylaws to adopt the new ones. The current (old) bylaws state: "These By-laws may be altered, amended, or repealed, and a new constitution adopted by a two-thirds majority vote of all of the members of the RNA." Moreover, to amend the Certificate of Incorporation: "a three-quarters (3/4) majority vote of the general membership at a regularly monthly scheduled meeting must approve."
If you are (or become) a member and live within our current boundaries, we need you to come out and VOTE.

At the January 2014 membership meeting, the board of directors proposed amendments to our bylaws and certificate of incorporation. Our corporate documents have not been updated since 1996 and need to be brought up to date and to allow for our continued growth and expansion.

- The proposed revision includes:**
- Expanding our boundaries to be more consistent with where those who participate live, acknowledge our larger role in the area, and to enable more residents to participate on our board and vote on issues of importance.
 - Requiring that a member have attended one meeting in previous 12 months in order to vote in elections or on issues put before the membership.
 - Allowing the board to set the process for running meetings/voting (not Roberts Rules)
 - Enabling participation in board meetings via conference call/video conference, etc.
 - Defining "cause" for removal of a member/board member
 - Defining who can make public statements on behalf of RNA
 - Making committees ad hoc rather than standing committees
 - Specifying that a director or officer cannot run nor hold elected or be an appointed public office while serving on the Board of RNA and defines conflict of interest related to same.
 - Establishes a Conflict of Interest procedure.

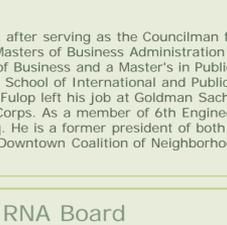
Please review the proposed changes to the bylaws, boundaries and certificate of incorporation and come out and vote on March 11th to make it happen.

Guest Speaker Mayor Fulop to Address Heights'-Specific Concerns



Don't miss this meeting!

RNA welcomes Mayor Steven Fulop as our guest speaker.



PLUS:

Annual Elections for RNA's Board of Directors & Vote on Amendments to our Bylaws/Certificate of Incorporation.*

The Mayor will speak about Heights'-specific issues & take questions.

All are welcome to attend!

* It is critical that all members of the association be present to vote on the amendments to our bylaws & certificate of incorporation as two-thirds of all members must participate. Documents are available for review at riverviewneighborhood.org. Please arrive early to vote.

When: Tuesday, March 11th @ 7:30PM
Where: 178 Ogden Ave (at Franklin) 1st FL Cafeteria
For more info: 201-876-1980

RIVERVIEWNEIGHBORHOOD@COMCAST.NET

RNA is pleased to announce that Mayor Steven Fulop will be our guest at the March meeting. Fresh off of his State of the City address, at this meeting Mayor Fulop will answer questions of specific-concern to RNA members, area residents, and business owners.

The RNA board has prepared several questions for the Mayor based on concerns raised throughout the year. In addition, because time is limited, attendees will be asked to submit their Heights'-specific questions for the Mayor in writing when they arrive. We will select as many questions, covering as many topics as possible, as time-permits for the Mayor to answer (you can ask your own question if selected).

Mayor Fulop took office on July 1st, 2013, after serving as the Councilman for Ward E since 2005. Mayor Fulop holds a Masters of Business Administration from New York University's Stern School of Business and a Master's in Public Administration from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs. After September 11, 2001, Mayor Fulop left his job at Goldman Sachs and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. As a member of 6th Engineer Support Battalion he was deployed in Iraq. He is a former president of both the Historic Paulus Hook Association and the Downtown Coalition of Neighborhood Associations.

Annual Elections for the RNA Board

Nominations for the RNA Board of Directors were opened at the February meeting and will remain open until the election is held at the March meeting. To hold office, individuals must reside within our current boundaries, be at least 18 years old and have paid their 2014 membership dues of \$10.

Nominees:

- President: Kern Weissman
- Vice President: Nicholas Buffum (to be officially nominated at the March meeting)
- Secretary: Jocelyn Patrick
- Treasurer: Roger Heitmann
- Director At-Large: Jenna Firshain

The success and longevity of RNA as a voice in the community is based on the participation of our members, neighbors and friends. Please run for office, volunteer and of course, vote!

JC Fridays - This Friday!

As part of JC Fridays, a city-wide celebration of the arts, **RNA will host an opening reception for Fragments at the Trolley Car Bar & Grill this Friday, March 7th from 7PM - 11PM.** Artists include Fran Brown, Beth Bentley, Christine Johanns, Jim Legge, Craig Mahoney, Jessica Siemens, Mary Stack, and Olga Weissman. The artist will receive 70% of the proceeds from any sales and 30% will benefit RNA's continued work in the neighborhood. For the complete JC Fridays schedule, visit jcfridays.com.

ModCup, a Jersey City Heights coffee roaster that just opened a retail location at 479 Palisade Ave, will remain open late so that residents and visitors to the Heights can enjoy a great cup of coffee while enjoying art and the neighborhood. Celebrate the artists, RNA and the Riverview Arts District on Friday night!

FRAGMENTS

- Fran Brown
- Beth Bentley
- Christine Johanns
- Jim Legge
- Craig Mahoney
- Jessica Siemens
- Mary Stack
- Olga Weissman

Opening Reception
Friday - March 7th

7:00 PM-11PM
TROLLEY CAR BAR & GRILL
 328 PALISADE AVE
 (AT FERRY)

AJC Fridays & Riverview Neighborhood Association Event in the Riverview Arts District

For more information visit: riverviewneighborhood.org

Community Cleanup, March 9th

Now that the snow is beginning to melt, it is a good time to pick up the litter that has been hiding under the snow banks. Please join us for a neighborhood cleanup this Sunday, March 9th at 10AM at the southwest corner of Palisade & Congress. We will then fan out to clean up the surrounding area. We will provide gloves, trash bags and grabbers. Please dress appropriately.

Pulaski Skyway/139 Closures/NJT Update

As many of you may know, the NJ DOT is closing down the northbound side of the Pulaski Skyway for two years starting on April 12, 2014, and closing some intersections of RT-139 in the Heights starting early May 2014. This construction project will last 3-5 years.

RNA was invited by Councilman Michael Yun to a meeting with NJ Transit representatives and Senator Brian Stack on Friday, February 28th to learn more about the impact to the Heights and get up to speed on the NJT/DOT planning and mitigation measures. There were also updates on other related NJT issues, such as the light rail elevator and the Patterson Plank Rd light rail intersection traffic study.

For more info on the Pulaski Skyway closing, you can watch this [NJ DOT video](#).

Here is what came out of the meeting:

- Councilman Yun and Senator Stack asked NJT representatives to work with NJ DOT to fund increased service on the 123 and 119 (and possibly the 87) bus lines during the Skyway closing. The reasoning is that NJ DOT has worked out with the Port Authority a 40% increase in peak time service for the PATH trains but as of yet has not committed to provide any increased bus service to NYC. Senator Stack and Councilman Yun are arranging for a follow-up meeting with NJT and NJ DOT. Councilman Yun is setting up a local committee to come up with proposals for traffic patterns and rules in the Heights during the roadway closings that can be presented to the NJ DOT at this meeting.

- As intersections of RT-139 are closed, detours will be setup for all traffic, including buses. We will have maps of the phase 2, 3, and 4 detours at the March 11th RNA meeting.

- According to Joyce Gallagher of NJT, "operation difficulties" on the 87 and 80 bus lines over the last week, which caused the buses not to show, were due to drivers calling out sick. These problems should be resolved in the short term. She did not say exactly how they were going to resolve this issue of driver attendance but assured us that it was being addressed.

John Scuttieri from NJT provided updates on the light rail issues:

- The light rail elevator will be completely overhauled to put in heavier duty mechanisms to better handle the pedestrian traffic. They will also make sure all security cameras are working properly and assured us that they will be monitored regularly. They will close one elevator at a time and if the one working elevator goes out, they will provide shuttle service down the hill. The project will start in mid April and will take 5-6 months to complete. They do not currently plan to close the elevators to non-light rail riders.

- The Patterson Plank Rd light rail study to figure out how to optimize traffic flow at this intersection will be completed by mid summer. They promised to share the results and recommendations report with the senate, councilman and the community. Implementation of the recommendations would be a separate project that would kick off after the study is completed (unless the consultant doing the study says that everything is optimal given the current system). We have asked repeatedly why this study needs to take eight months to complete but have only been told that it's a very complicated project. We will also reach out to the local state assemblyman to see if he can assist in moving this project along.

The Washington Park Association sent a comprehensive list of questions and information requests related to the closing of the Pulaski and RT-139 to the NJ DOT on 3/3. They will share this information upon receipt. (The request included electronic access to all the detour and traffic maps.)

We will continue to follow up on all these issues and provide additional information and updates as it becomes available.

My Journey as RNA President

This month RNA will hold its annual elections for the Board of Directors and for the first time in eight years, my name will not be on the ballot. I am not moving away nor was I forced out. I made the decision not to run again after careful consideration and with confidence that the new Board will continue the great work that RNA has done over the past 30 years to improve the neighborhood.

When I was originally asked to run for president, I was honored and a bit terrified. There was a legacy to live up to and many unresolved problems in the neighborhood. I had a full-time job to consider before I could even attend to this volunteer endeavor. It was trial under fire. I did not have time to learn the ropes before the city, at the behest of the Ward D Councilman at that time, proposed changes to the zoning code that would allow front yard parking in the RT residential zone. Rather than see much of our area paved over to make way for private parking at the public's expense (not to mention the trees that would have been lost), we took on a city-wide grassroots campaign to defeat this proposed change. The campaign was successful (twice - an amended zoning proposal was pitched the next summer) and through it I got to know all of the members of the City Council, the Mayor, municipal department heads, Claire Davis at City Planning, and many of the community leaders throughout the city that joined us in this effort.

For the first several years it was one fight after the other. Restoring New York City bus service along Palisade Avenue after Coach USA pulled out without any notice; fighting a Parks Master Plan that added a tennis court and the volleyball court to Riverview-Fisk Park that would have blocked the views of the skyline (and been unworkable regardless), and working to ensure that the 100 Steps were built.

These battles, though necessary, were exhausting. It was only after a few of them that the Board decided to take a more proactive approach to create positive change. Moved in the Park(s), a passion of current board member Kern Weissman, began as a single free movie night in Riverview-Fisk Park. It expanded to several Friday nights thereafter and, in concert with Washington Park Association of Hudson County, Inc. included Washington Park, Pershing Field and other parks throughout Hudson County.

Our Annual Flea Market expanded to include live music and arts. We were the inaugural sponsor of the Riverview Farmers Market and remain a sponsor as it enters its fourth year. We created the Annual Big Spring Cleanup to enable area residents to get rid of their electronic waste, paints, personal papers and gently used items (for donation to the Salvation Army) at an outpost in Riverview-Fisk Park; we ran volunteer cleanups throughout the Heights; and, we began to showcase the fabulous artists in who live here in our neighborhood by regularly participating in JC Fridays, a city-wide celebration of the arts, and creating Live at the Lumberyard, a live music event held at Palisade Lumber.

Last year, we, along with many other Heights organizations and interested residents, were successful in changing the zoning in our area to codify the Riverview Arts District and to add restaurants as a permitted use in the zoning code along Palisade Avenue.

The neighborhood pulled together during Hurricane Sandy, neighbors helping neighbors, as we dealt with the loss of electricity as well as our iconic gazebo. That is the community ideal that I hope we can achieve and I remind myself of whenever someone tells me they can litter because they pay taxes, when I see dog crap everywhere, or graffiti on every available surface. There is so much more work to do, but this is what I can tell you: If you choose to volunteer, it will not only make a difference to the neighborhood, it can have a profound impact on your life. Give it a try. The journey has been so much more than I ever could have imagined and so much more rewarding than I ever could have conceived.

A special thank you to Kern Weissman, Roger Heitmann, Jessica Howse, Jenna Firshain, Monya McCarty, Jason Burch, Joe Sadowsky, Doris Brown, and Joe Guevara for serving with me on the board; to Olga Weissman and all the volunteers, members and supporters that make our organization thrive. I thank you for allowing me to serve in this role for the past eight years and encourage you to become a member of this great organization.

-- Becky Hoffman

StageFest 2014 At The Loew's Jersey

The second annual StageFest 2014 will be held March 21-23. It will feature more than 20 companies, over the course of three (3) days of theatre, music and dance performances, at various stages within the magnificent and historic Landmark Loew's Jersey Theatre, in the heart of Journal Square in Jersey City, NJ.

After a successful inaugural year, drawing over 600 audience members to the festival, Loew's is thrilled to give patrons the opportunity to enjoy the excitement and vitality of live theatre once again.

Imagine arriving at the Loew's to see a play on the main stage, but discovering a performance going on in a magnificent niche at the top of the stairs. Then after the play, you take time to explore a display of historic costumes. After a quick snack from the cafe in the grand lobby, you enjoy a musical revue in the ornate salon upstairs. Before leaving, you watch an innovative dance piece performed in the grand lobby.

StageFest 2014 will pull you in and cut you off from the ordinary. It will immerse you in the thrill of theatre -- for a few hours, a day, or a whole weekend.

In addition to the performances, event Sponsor, Leading Lady Costumes -- www.leadingladycostumes.net -- will present a rare exhibit of historic costumes from stage and screen, throughout the building. Light food and drink will be available from vendors in the main lobby throughout the weekend.

Tickets are available below paper or the entire weekend.
<http://loewsstagefest.brownpapertickets.com>

The Loew's Theatre is located across the street from the Journal Square PATH station. Also, discounted parking is available at Square Ramp Garage, located directly behind Loew's at the foot of Magnolia Ave., off Tonnelie Ave. The Box office will validate parking receipt for discount). For more info & details: www.loewsjersey.org

Jersey City Comedy Festival, March 30-April 5

The Jersey City Comedy Festival will return on March 30th-April 5th, created by Heights resident Craig Mahoney, it is a week-long, citywide celebration of the art of comedy. The festival will play host to many different events in several different Jersey City venues, with over 100 different comedians, performers, and artists participating. Scheduled performances and venues to come soon but will include the Heights! For more information visit: jccomedyfestival.com.

Time to Join or Renew Your Membership in RNA

It is that time of year again: time to renew (or join) RNA! It only costs \$10 per person (not household). The money we raise helps to pay for our newsletter and other communications, insurance, and fund events like Live at the Lumberyard and the Big Spring Cleanup. Look for a membership letter in the mail shortly [pay online](#), or mail a check to Riverview Neighborhood Association at 154 Ogden Ave, 3E, Jersey City, NJ 07307.

Upcoming:

March 7th: JC Fridays. RNA hosts an opening reception for its new show, Fragments, from 7PM-11PM at the Trolley Car Bar & Grill at 328 Palisade Ave.

March 9th: Neighborhood litter clean up, 10AM at the southwest corner of Palisade & Congress.

March 21-23: StageFest at the Loew's Jersey. For tickets: <http://loewsstagefest.brownpapertickets.com>

March 30-April 5: Jersey City Comedy Festival. jccomedyfestival.com

March 29th: RNA Volunteer Open House. Details to follow.

Keep up with the latest news and activities

To keep up with neighborhood news, alerts and our updated events, please follow us on Facebook or Twitter or check our [website](#).