

RIVERVIEW *Neighborhood Association*

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November 2006

For a Better Life in the Heights

RNA IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY, ORGANIZATION or ELECTED OFFICIAL

In Memoriam

A long time friend and neighbor, Jack Rea passed away on Oct 27th. His obit in the *Jersey Journal* revealed, among other facts of his life, that Jack was one of the founding members of the Riverview Neighborhood Association (some twenty-three years ago) and one of its first Treasurers.

But to those of us who knew him, Jack Rea meant much more to our neighborhood. I have always thought of him as our neighborhood Jack-of-all-trades. If we needed a volunteer to do something... anything, Jack was the man.

Jack was our unofficial social director, coordinating the annual flea market, scheduling the holiday party for the senior residents of the Harbor View and helping with the refreshments for our monthly RNA meetings.

RNA has a longstanding reputation throughout our City as a fearless advocate for our small Heights community situated between Ogden and Palisade Avenues. However, Jack left the "fighting" to the other members. Jack helped nurture that special neighborhood feeling that we in RNA sometimes forget about: that a community is made up of people. He loved to talk about our neighborhood and its people, whether he was holding court at the cake table at our monthly meetings or selling cupcakes and coffee during the flea markets in front of the Park gazebo under the hot summer sun.

After a monthly meeting - whether it was a confrontation with a local politician or a developer or just a planning session for our next zoning project, Jack would say to me that we needed to lighten things up. He would say we have to be careful and not lose people who came to our meetings each month for a good time, to have a cup of coffee and spend a few hours with their neighbors.

Jack was a fixture on Ogden Avenue. With his wife Madeline and their daughter Valerie, he enjoyed exchanging the latest local news with the neighbors.

He was a friend in the true sense of the word because he cared about his neighbors. I think that came from his being raised in a large Italian family in Hoboken. He would do this by simply being himself. He was always smiling and telling jokes. Sometimes, he would simply give you a small gift or trinket as a token of his friendship. I would always see him in the morning outside his brick house sweeping the sidewalk or walking his dog. He was someone that always had a kind

word, never spoke ill of anyone nor deny a neighbor's request for a favor.

But Jack also took his responsibilities seriously. It was Jack who would make sure every year we obtained our City permits for the flea market. It was Jack who would deliver our monthly newsletter each and every month to the main post office on Montgomery Street.

And it was also Jack who would spend two months in advance gathering socks, handkerchiefs, toiletries or stuffed animals to make individual gift packages for the seniors' annual holiday party. He would get dressed up for those parties (sometimes as Santa and other times as a clown), sing and yes, even dance with the ladies. He always made sure that every resident had some food and drink and was enjoying themselves. He would go upstairs to the bed-ridden residents to give them each a personal holiday greeting and their gift.

I could go on endlessly with stories about my friend Jack. I'm also sure anyone who knew him could add their own memories. Suffice it to say, Jack Rea was one of a kind and Ogden Avenue and Jersey City will be less of a community without him. Good-bye dear friend.

RNA will miss you. — *Vito Brunetti*, former RNA President

Mountain Road Closure

Mountain Road (aka Hope Street; foot of Franklin St.) will be closed to vehicular traffic for three to five weeks starting in Mid-November for the installation of a new 12" water line to serve The Cliffs development at 100 Paterson Ave. According to the developer, water service will NOT be interrupted and the road will remain open to pedestrians. RNA has asked for signs to be posted in advance with more specific dates of closure, as well as advanced notice of any changes to pedestrian access or water service. Residents are advised to use Congress Street or Ravine Road as alternatives to Mountain Road during this closure.

Leaf Collection Schedule

Upcoming leaf collection dates in our area are November 23, Dec. 7th, 21st and 28th. Paper leaf bags should be used (not plastic) and are available free at City Hall (Mayor's Action Bureau), 280 Grove St., Mon-Friday 9AM-3PM or at 1 Journal Sq Plaza, Mon-Friday 9AM to 3PM. For further information, please call 201-432-4645 x620.

JOIN RNA TODAY!

FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

154 OGDEN AVENUE
JERSEY CITY, NJ 07307

RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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COMING EVENTS

RNA Meeting:

Tuesday, November 14, 2006 at 7:30 PM
Location: Harbor View Health Care Center
1st Floor Cafeteria
178 Ogden Avenue

Agenda:

- Police Report & NID
- Community Updates
- Plans for Holiday Party

Membership Dues

Membership dues and donations help sustain the RNA. Annual dues are \$10 for residents and \$15 for those outside RNA boundaries. Please contribute at an RNA meeting or make checks payable to **Riverview Neighborhood Association** and mail c/o RNA, 154 Ogden Ave., 3E, Jersey City, NJ 07307.



In Memory of Jack Rea