

January 2009

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Next RNA Meeting:

Tuesday, January 13th
 at 7:30 PM

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

Agenda:

- Guest:
 Hudson County Genealogical Society

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.

Greetings!

Please join us on Tuesday, January 13th at 7:30PM at the Harbor View Health Center (corner of Ogden & Franklin) for the first regular meeting of 2009.

Discover your Hudson County Roots

Bob Murgittroyd of the **Hudson County Genealogical Society** will be our **guest at the January 13th meeting**. He will talk about what his group is doing to preserve local history and Hudson County historical records. Anyone interested in genealogy or Hudson County's history is encouraged to attend. For more information about the society and its monthly programs please visit [Hudson County Genealogy Society](#).

Careful: Recent Assaults, Rabid Raccoon Locally

There have been several robberies on Mountain Road in recent weeks. We urge you to avoid walking alone on Mountain Road at night and to report any suspicious activity in the area to the police. The police indicate that the perpetrators are attacking near the sharp turn and generally choose a person walking alone. The police have added additional patrols in the area.

The city has issued a rabies advisory alert after a raccoon, struck by a vehicle in our area (Ravine and New York Avenues) on December 27th, tested positive for rabies. Residents are urged to take precautions and to call animal control (201-547-4888) or the police (201-547-5477) immediately if they see or come in contact with a sick or injured animal.

Signs of a rabid animal include: aggressive behavior, foaming at the mouth, overfriendly behavior, wobbly or sick appearance or nocturnal animals being out during daylight. Animal control advises to keep pets' rabies shots up to date and to use disposable rubber gloves to inspect pets for bite wounds or cuts. A veterinarian should treat any wounds.

Where is the Jersey City Budget!?

Did you know that Jersey City's fiscal year began on July 1 and the City has yet to submit a budget? Instead, at each City Council meeting, a temporary appropriation is passed. **While municipalities and state governments all over the country are rushing to revise their current budgets to address revenue shortfalls due to the downturn in the economy, Jersey City's Mayor and administration are silent.** We've seen the dire consequences of failing to pass a budget in Hoboken - **they had a 47% tax increase in the first quarter** with more to follow. As very few of the properties in our neighborhood are tax abated, **we are the ones who will shoulder the burden of tax shortfalls.** We ask that you contact the Mayor's office and speak out at council meetings until the city does its duty and passes a budget.

Journal Square Redevelopment Plan

The Planning Board will weigh in on the Journal Square Redevelopment Plan (the plan that translates the Mayor's "vision" into zoning) on Tuesday, January 13th at 5:30PM at the City Council Chambers, 280 Grove Street. The plan is available for public review on the City Planning website: [Journal Sq Redevelopment Plan](#) or by visiting the City Planning offices at 30 Montgomery Street, 14th Floor during business hours.

The plan covers 244 acres in the Journal Square area and includes buildings that are out of scale for the neighborhood. As envisioned, the area can include buildings up to 100 stories. This is just shy of the former World Trade Center's 110 stories, and over 32 stories taller than the recently approved "Harwood" project at the former Hotel on the Square site. Do we really need buildings this tall that will place much of the surrounding area in shadows, add significantly to our population, and overburden our already taxed roadways and schools?

It will also use create financing mechanisms that have many tax implications for those within the plan area and throughout Jersey City. We will provide more information about that at our monthly meeting and in the days to come.

Last chance to participate in Bus Survey

If you were unable to attend one of the bus survey meetings, you have one last chance to submit your feedback for inclusion in the survey. **You can email or mail your comments to David Donnelly, special assistant to Mayor Healy, on or before January 20, 2009.**

In order to ensure that your comments are included in the study, you must do the following: Write **JC TAC Bus Study** in the subject line. **Include the specific location(s)** where you get on and off the bus (e.g. corner of Franklin & Palisade) **and the route/route #** you take (e.g. NJT 123, van to Journal Square) **Include your name and address** and add any comments about current or future needs for bus transportation. **Email to donnellyd@jcnj.org or mail to David Donnelly, City Hall, 280 Grove Street, Jersey City, NJ 07302.**

The information collected will be reviewed by the study team and be included in recommendations concerning current bus service in Jersey City. The Jersey City Bus Study is sponsored by Jersey City, Hudson County, the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority and NJ Transit.

Community Updates

Variances Sought for 401 Ogden Avenue - The hearing before the planning board is scheduled for January 20, 2009 at 5:30PM at City Hall, 280 Grove Street. **The owner is seeking to subdivide the existing lot into three lots for the purpose of developing each vacant lot into a 2-family dwelling** and requires variances for side yard setbacks and required garage dimensions.

Christmas Tree Disposal - The City will pick up Christmas Trees on Thursday January 16, 22nd and 29th. Trees should have all decorations removed and be placed on the curb without any plastic wrap.

Drinking Water Violation - United Water recently violated a drinking water standard. On November 22nd, water samples showed a turbidity level of 1.73 turbidity units (cloudiness), when normal levels are 0.1-0.2 turbidity units. The water met all other standards for drinking water. It is not an emergency, as "turbidity has no health effects." United Water says it has corrected the problem. For more information go to [United Water](#) or call 800-575-4433.