

April 2009

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Next RNA Meeting:

Tuesday,
 April 14th
 at 7:30 PM

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

Agenda:

- Police & NID Concerns
- At-Large Candidates
- Community updates

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, April 14th at 7:30PM at the Harbor View Health Center (corner of Ogden & Franklin) at our monthly meeting. **The candidates for councilperson at large will be our guests** and representatives from the Police and the Mayor's Action Bureau will be present. All are welcome.

Get to Know the Candidates

It is election season in Jersey City and RNA is working hard to make sure you have an opportunity to meet the candidates and make informed choices. The rest is up to you - to come out and meet them and then VOTE!

RNA, in partnership with The Heights Coalition, sponsored a successful Mayoral Candidate Forum on April 2. **Next up - on Tuesday, April 14th at 7:30PM, RNA welcomes the candidates for At-Large Council seats to our regular monthly meeting at the Harborview Health Center (178 Ogden).** Invitations have been extended to all 13 certified candidates and the at-large candidates that account for 3 of 9 votes on the Council.

On April 16th, RNA again joins with The Heights Coalition, to host a Candidate Forum for the Ward C and D council spots. If you live between Franklin & the Union City border you vote for the Ward D representative, while those who live in Journal Square to the south side of Franklin Street vote for the Ward C representative.

The Candidate C&D Forum will be held on April 16th, at 7PM (sharp) at the Christa McAuliffe Elementary School (P.S. 28) located at 167 Hancock Street (between Bowers & South Street). All forums are free and open to the public.

There's Still Time to Register to Vote

You have until April 21st to register to vote in the May Municipal Election (to be held May 12th). You can get a voter registration form in Spanish or English at the next RNA meeting or at the Heights Coalition Forum, pick one up at 595 Newark Avenue, 3rd Floor from the [Superintendent of Elections](#).

And Don't Forget the School Board Election

The Jersey City Board of Education has three of its nine seats open and the **school board election takes place on Tuesday, April 21st** (you must have been registered to vote by March 31 to participate).

Thirteen candidates are running for the three-year term: Evans Burke, Sean Connors, Khaled Dardir, Eric J. Goldsmith, Mario Gonzalez, Charles W. Johnson, Abdul J. Malik, Azam A. Riaz, Moshe Rozenblit, Patricia Sebron and Tom Wilen.

As a result of the state beginning to return the Jersey City school district back to local control, **the public will vote on the portion of the school district budget to be raised from local taxes.**

Bar/restaurant proposed for 431 Palisade

Some of you may recall a presentation given at RNA by K.C. Matias who wishes to open a bar/restaurant at 431 Palisade (between Griffith & Hutton). The zoning on Palisade Ave does not permit bars or restaurants without a use variance and an application has now been filed and a public hearing on the application will be held in the next few months.

When Mr. Matias discussed his plans at the RNA meeting a few months ago, residents raised many concerns including that it had a VIP lounge, more bar seats than dining tables and would be open late (bars can stay open until 3:00AM). Mr. Matias indicated he wanted to create a family-friendly establishment and would make changes to the plans before submitting them to the Zoning Board. To date, however, that is not the case. While some members were open to the plan, others are concerned that if it does not succeed, the change of use to a bar/restaurant (if approved) remains in place and another establishment can come in without the same public scrutiny.

If you have questions or comments about this development application, please send them to [RNA](#).

New Flag for Riverview Park

Our thanks to Ward D Councilman Bill Gaughan who responded quickly to our complaints about the tattered U.S. flag flying in Riverview Park. Within a few days he had the worn out flag replaced with a new one. Thanks too to the neighbors who were upset about the sorry state of the flag and reached out to us.

Community Updates

100 Steps - The developer has submitted revised plans to City Planning and Engineering but the City has not yet approved them. We have been in contact with City Planning and Councilman Gaughan in an effort to eliminate the logjam. You can still send letters to the City asking for construction to move forward at: [Citizenspeak](#).

520-524 Palisade/Old Firehouse: A potential buyer will seek a use variance to use this building as office space to house up to 125 employees (according to the architect). An application has not yet been filed. The buyer indicates that many of their workers take the Light Rail to work, but the building will only have 10 parking spaces. Contact us with questions or concerns.

Proposal to rename P.S. 8: According to the Jersey City Independent, the Board of Education placed a paid legal advertisement indicating their intention to name PS 8 (96 Franklin St.) after Charles Trefurt. Trefurt worked closely with superintendent of schools Charles Epps, and was a teacher and principal for many years. To comment or nominate another name, send written comments by April 10th to: Dr. Charles T. Epps, Jr.; Superintendent of Schools; JC Public Schools; 346 Claremont Ave., Jersey City NJ 07305.

Transportation Master Plan (Jersey City Mobility 2050): There will be a public hearing and vote at the Planning Board meeting on **April 14th (5:30PM, City Hall Council Chambers, 280 Grove Street)**. The plan should be available for public inspection at the City Clerk's office and at City Planning and hopefully at [Jerseycitymobility2050.com](#).

Puppet Show: St. Paul of the Cross is presenting Jesus The Light of The World, a puppet show, on April 26th at 11:30AM at St. Paul of the Cross, 156 Hancock St. For more information contact Valerie Rae at 201-772-2850.