

RIVERVIEW *Neighborhood Association*

154 Ogden Avenue, Jersey City, NJ 07307 201-876-1980

riverviewneighborhood@comcast.net

www.riverviewneighborhood.org



RNA

May 2010

For a Better Life in the Heights

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

Maintain Riverview Park

Where Jersey City government services fail, we hope to let nature succeed. Join us this month when RNA welcomes our friends from Washington Park Association, Mory Thomas and Nick Caballero and their permaculture consultant, *Big Old Trees*, to enlighten us about sustainable planting methods that could let nature do much of the work in Riverview Park, and in parks throughout the County.

Swales, rain gardens and plant guilds are just a few of the concepts that can be employed to water, beautify and provide nutrients to sustain plant life in the Park.

WPA has been working hard to educate Heights residents, Jersey City and County government on these practices and will share their insights with us on Tuesday, May 11th at 7:30 PM.

And it Needs Maintenance!

Years of neglect and improper tree maintenance by the City has taken a dramatic toll on the Park's trees. RNA invited Director of Public Works Rodney Hadley to walk through the Park and take in the damage first hand. An arborist evaluated the trees and it was determined that **10 trees have died and need to be removed while fifty trees are in need of professional trimming.** The City is seeking a price for the work and RNA is endeavoring to make sure that the City has a plan to replant a tree for each one taken and elicit a promise that a certified arborist will undertake the trimming work.

The sidewalks on the east side of the Park are also in disrepair. Mr. Hadley is seeking estimates to do spot repairs until a complete renovation can be done. While Riverview Park was a Year 1 Park in the Parks Master Plan (now several years old), no funding has been obtained or set aside by the City for Riverview and we cannot wait to care for the trees or make the sidewalks safe.

Join Us at Everything Jersey City Festival

The 3rd Annual Everything Jersey City Festival will be held on Saturday, May 22nd, along Central Avenue in Jersey City Heights and RNA will be there. **We are seeking volunteers to staff our table and donate homemade baked goods.** The proceeds will be used to support RNA's activities.

Live music, children's activities, food and hundreds of vendors will enliven Central Avenue. Headlining the event will be a rock band The Benjamins as well as Paddy and the

Pale Boys, Swingadelic, Christine Santelli, and others. For more information please visit www.jcheights.com.

Jersey City Announces Property Reval

By law, Jersey City should have conducted a property revaluation every 10 years. However, the last one was done in 1988. Since then, dozens of tax abatements have been awarded to development projects **that are not subject to revaluation**, many lasting for 30 years. **The goal of a revaluation** is to bring properties up to market value so that their assessment will be more in line with market rates. After most revaluations, the tax rate is adjusted downward to reflect the higher valuations. However, many property owners will pay more in taxes while some will pay less.

According to a letter sent to all taxpayers on April 26th from Mayor Healy, currently the average assessment ratio is at 26.75% of market value whereas after the revaluation it should be closer to 100%.

Councilman Steven Fulop (Ward E) is scheduled to be our guest at our June meeting to discuss the revaluation. We will provide as much information to residents about the 18-month long process of conducting a revaluation.

Community Updates

Paterson Plank Road Cleaned: RNA wishes to thank Councilman Bill Gaughan, Director of Public Works Rodney Hadley, the County and everyone else who worked to clean up Paterson Plank Road in April. We appreciate the renewed effort to keep it clean.

Open Space Grant Application for Janet Moore Park: The City has submitted a grant application to replace the playground equipment in Janet Moore Park with more modern ADA accessible equipment.

Galaxy Recycling: The Hudson Regional Health Commission has issued a Notice of Violation to Galaxy Recycling (New York Avenue below Ogden Avenue) for excessive noise. They were also told not to idle their trucks for more than 3 minutes. Councilwoman Nydia Lopez has been asked to follow up to see if late night hours can be curtailed.

Planting in Riverview Park: RNA will be seeking volunteers in the next week or two to help place plants within the metal circles on the south side of the Park. Stay tuned for more information.

EVERYTHING JERSEY CITY FESTIVAL
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COMING EVENTS

Next RNA Meeting:

Tuesday, May 11th at 7:30 p. m.
Location: Harbor View Health Care Center
1st Floor Cafeteria
178 Ogden Avenue

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.



Riverview Park Photo by Cindy Zuanich