

# RIVERVIEW *Neighborhood Association*

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[www.riverviewneighborhood.org](http://www.riverviewneighborhood.org)



**RNA**

*For a Better Life in the Heights*

June 2010

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

## **Tree Work Starting in Riverview Park**

As reported last month, 10 trees have died in Riverview-Fiske Park and need to be cut down and 50 trees need professional trimming. According to Rodney Hadley, Director of Public Works, the work is to begin on or about June 7th (with setup possible on June 4th) and continue for about two weeks. The dead trees will be removed by City workers generally on Wednesday's, while the trimming will be done by a certified arborist over the next two weeks.

The City has agreed to plant one Maple tree for each Maple removed, but RNA is working to see if it is possible to have other types of trees planted that may be better suited to the park (as described at our last meeting by permaculture expert Jan Graff of Big Old Trees Foundation). Planting will happen in the Fall. In addition, we have asked the City to mulch the trees and make the mulch available for use in Riverview Park, Washington Park, and other parks where it can be put to good use.

RNA is still awaiting news on a repair plan for the eastern walkways and is seeking volunteers who are interested in planting and strategizing about ways to improve Riverview Park.

## **Tax Assessor to Discuss Reval**

Jersey City Assessor, Eduardo C. Toloza will be our guest at this month's RNA meeting on Tuesday, June 8th at 7:30PM at the Harbor View Health Center, 178 Ogden Avenue. Toloza will discuss the property tax revaluation requested by Mayor Healy and ordered by the Hudson County Board of Taxation on April 30th. Data collection will begin in November of this year and continue through April 2012. The new values will be applied in 2013.

Currently the ratio of assessed value to true value for Jersey City is 26.75%; after the reval the true value should be closer to 100%. The tax assessor will outline the process to be used for the revaluation, your rights in the process and answer your questions. The City has posted information about the property tax revaluation on its website [www.cityofjerseycity.com](http://www.cityofjerseycity.com).

Mayor Healy was invited to this meeting but is unable to attend. RNA has requested a public meeting with Mayor Healy at his earliest convenience in order for him to discuss his reasons for requesting a reval, the state of the City and to take questions from residents.

## **100 Steps (Backwards)**

The developer of The Cliffs project has still not lived up to his agreement to build (and pay for) the reconstruction of the 100 Steps at the base of Franklin Street/Mountain Road (Ogden to Paterson Plank Road). Even though the financing of the Steps is the responsibility of the developer, Ward D Councilman Bill Gaughan was working to obtain a grant to pay for the Steps. He recently informed us that the grant is "frozen," even though it was never approved, due to the poor economic climate. RNA believes that the developer is solely responsible for the cost of the Steps as they were a condition for granting the variances required to build the project. We call upon the City to enforce the agreement and require the developer to pay for and build the Steps without further delay.

## **Everything Jersey City Festival**

RNA, along with hundreds of other vendors, participated in The 3rd Annual Everything Jersey City Festival on May 22nd along Central Avenue. Thanks to all of our volunteers who provided baked goods and manned the booth. We raised several hundred dollars for the association as well as awareness for our organization.

## **Community Updates**

**RNA Plantings in Riverview Park:** RNA donated a cherry tree, more than a dozen perennials, and the labor to plant them inside the metal ring on the south east side of the park. Thanks to board member Roger Heitmann for planning and organizing this endeavor.

**Washington Park Planting & Educational Event:** The Washington Park Association is conducting its 2nd Annual planting event on June 19th from 9AM to 1PM (rain date June 26). They will be planting around the "Wave" art piece at the corner of Central Avenue & Paterson Plank. They will be offering a sustainable gardening demonstration, a Rain Barrel demo by experts from Rutgers and a Japanese composting demo by Shig.

**TAX ASSESSOR**  
JUNE 8TH

**FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS**

154 OGDEN AVENUE  
JERSEY CITY, NJ 07307

**RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

NON PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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JERSEY CITY, NJ  
07302  
PERMIT NO. 153  
CAR-RT. PRESORT

## COMING EVENTS

### Next RNA Meeting:

Tuesday, June 8th 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 Tree Photo by Cindy Zuanich