

RNA

FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS



# RIVERVIEW

# Neighborhood Association

May, 1998

232 Ogden Avenue - Jersey City, N.J. 07307 - (201) 798-0493

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



## RNA's 14TH ANNUAL FLEA MARKET

It is less than a month away from one of RNA's annual springtime events. This year, we will hold our outdoor Flea Market on Saturday, June 6th between the hours of 9AM and 4PM. This is a time when we as a community come together and enjoy ourselves in Riverview-Fisk Park. In addition to marvelous bargains and sales, there will be local entertainment, activities for the children, and a few surprises as well. There will also be several food vendors to whet your appetites.

To make this event as successful as past years, RNA asks our neighbors, members and friends to help in the following ways:

**RNA TABLE:** RNA will sell your donated items to help finance our community activities. Please look around your home or apartment for various items that you are not using or not in need of anymore. All items, including clothing, should be in fairly good condition. Please bring these items to the RNA Table, located north of the park pavilion, the morning of the flea market.

**CAKE AND COFFEE TABLE:** All kinds of homemade and store bought goods will be accepted for our cake sale. These baked products should be brought to the coffee table the morning of the flea market on disposable pans or plates.

**PLANT TABLE:** RNA sets up a plant table where we sell various plants and flowers to help support our Park fund. We need donations of plants and flowers from your local gardens and also empty pots and containers for the plant sale.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** If people would like to help at any of these tables, please fill out the form below and return to **Maria Tuzzo at 170 Ogen Avenue:**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

DONATION OR BAKED GOOD : \_\_\_\_\_

VOLUNTEER ON DAY of EVENT: \_\_\_\_\_



## MAY GUEST SPEAKERS

RNA has invited two of the City's directors to the May 12th meeting to discuss their departments' upcoming projects in our local community. **Joan Earls, Director of the Department of Recreation and Cultural Affairs** will talk about the summer sports program scheduled for Riverview-Fisk Park. RNA will request additional activities for our younger people and a separate summer program for Janet Moore Park at Cuneo and Ogden .

**Kevin Sluka, Director of Public Works** will discuss the following topics: the maintenance and renovation of our two local Parks: Riverview-Fisk and Janet Moore, the Palisade Avenue Treescape Program and the repair of the fencing and guardrails on New York Avenue.

Both officials will be available for questions and comments.



## RENOVATION OF MOUNTAIN RD.

RNA's persistent lobbying of several City administations to reopen Mountain Road has finally paid off. On April 13, 1998, construction started to completely renovate the road. Mountain Road is the one of two cobblestone roadways which wind down the Palisade cliffs. (The other road is Holland Street located north of the Park.) The 1,200 foot long Mountain Road is located between Ogden and Franklin on the west and Paterson Plank Road and Hope Street on the east.

About four years ago, Councilman Bill Gaughan was instrumental in securing \$615,000.00 from a NJDOT State Aid program. On March 11, 1998, the Jersey City Council awarded the contract for this project to Green Construction, Inc. of South River, New Jersey.

The road has been closed for almost fifteen years during which time it has turned into an area of criminal activity, including a recent murder and a separate assault, drug dealing, illegal dumping, car abandonment and dog fighting. The new road will be a one way street for westbound travel only and serve as an entrance to our community from Hoboken, downtown Jersey City and the future light rail station to be located at Second Street.

The project will be completed in aproximately 7 months. For more information about this project, contact John Mucha, of the Jersey City Division of Engineering at 547-4412 or Green Construction at (732) 238-9370.



**THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL RNA FLEA MARKET**  
**VENDOR CONTRACT**

**SPONSOR:** RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

**DATE:** SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 1998  
(RAINDATE: JUNE 13, 1998)

**LOCATION:** RIVERVIEW - FISK PARK  
Ogden & Palisade Avenues, between Griffith & Bowers Streets,  
JERSEY CITY HEIGHTS

**TIME:** 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM (Dealers may arrive anytime after 7:00 AM.)

**RATE:** \$15.00 PER SPACE when paid in advance.  
\$20.00 PER SPACE if paid on day of event.  
(MEMBERS: \$10.00 and \$15.00 per space accordingly.)

- RULES:**
- 1) Vendors must supply their own tables and chairs.
  - 2) Position of spaces on day of event will be on a first come, first serve basis.
  - 3) Food can only be sold by authorized food vendors. No vendor will sell anything obscene or illegal. (See registration form below.)
  - 4) **Vendors must clean-up their spaces at the end of the day. Vendors cannot leave unsold or leftover items in the Park.**
  - 5) Vendors will be allowed to unload and load their vehicles at the site, but **auto access to Ogden Avenue will cease at 9:00 AM.**
  - 6) These rules will be strictly enforced by RNA on the day of the event.
  - 7) Reservations must be postmarked no later than June 1, 1997.

**ADVERTISING:** RNA will advertise in the Jersey Journal, the Jersey City Reporter and by posters and flyers.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CALL: MARIA TUZZO (201) 659-2245.**

RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION  
FOURTEENTH ANNUAL FLEA MARKET  
REGISTRATION FORM

DATE: SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 1998  
TIME: 9 AM TO 4 PM  
PLACE: RIVERVIEW - FISK PARK  
(RAINDATE: JUNE 13, 1998)

PLEASE RESERVE: \_\_\_\_\_ SPACES AT \$10.00 or 15.00 per SPACE. (circle one)

**TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$** \_\_\_\_\_.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_

By participating as a seller in the RNA Flea Market, I agree not to sell any food items, pornographic or obscene material or drug paraphernalia. If I violate this agreement, I will forfeit my right to participate and leave the flea market.

Signature : \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION.  
Cut out this application and send to **MARIA TUZZO: 170 Ogden Avenue Jersey City, NJ 07307**



## RNA IS LOOKING FOR LOCAL TALENT

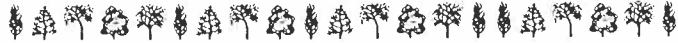
For the past several years, RNA has organized local entertainment for its annual flea markets. This year, we are again asking our members, neighbors and friends to volunteer their talent and perform for the community at our June 6th event. We are looking for singers, dancers, comedians, magicians, clowns, actors and poets. There will be a live sound system and a tape cassette for the performers.

We would even be willing to organize a contest for silly pet tricks if enough people are interested.

We are also looking for this same local talent to perform during our summer music concerts in the Park organized by the City.

The point is to spend some time together as a community. Once we enjoy each other's company, then we can get to know each other. Talk to each other. Work together and help each other. That's what a community is supposed to be about. Living together and helping each other.

Remember, RNA and the June 6th Flea Market are community activities - they're only as successful as people make them. Please join us by volunteering your time and talent to this event. And remember, it is also a great way to enjoy the day in your Park!



## PARK UPDATES:

### *Calling all Gardeners!*

It's time to start turning the soil. RNA's community garden in Riverview-Fisk Park is open for business again this year. As usual we are assigning free plots of land to anyone interested in growing vegetables and flowers. Youngsters as well as adults are eligible to use the Park land for their gardening pleasure. There are several rules: no pets, you are responsible for cultivating and maintaining your plot for the entire season and lock up the garden when you are finished for the day.

Space is limited, so its first come, first serve! If interested, please see Allison Fontana the park attendant to sign up. Starting May 9th, she will be available on Saturdays from noon to one to help new gardeners get started.



## PARK RANGER

**Joe Casey** will be the City Park Ranger assigned to Riverview-Fisk Park starting this spring and working through the summer and fall. He will educate residents about the municipal ordinances for dog walking, alcohol drinking, loud music and littering in the Park. If his warnings go unheeded, he has the authority to issue summons for these violations. If he witnesses any criminal activity, he has the ability to radio the police to respond quickly.

Mr. Casey will work five days a week with a rotating schedule for weekends. He will divide his time between Sgt. Anthony Park on Palisade Avenue and our Park.

If you see him in the Park, introduce yourself to him. Get to know him. Make him feel welcome! He's here to help improve the quality of our life.

## 💡💡💡PARK LIGHTING💡💡💡

Due to the recent efforts of **Councilman Gaughan** and **Freeholder Fitzgibbons** and the coordination of **Richard Dwyer** of PSEG, the lights in Riverview-Fisk Park have finally been repaired. RNA has been trying to get the Park's overhead lighting fixed for the last year by asking numerous city officials and workers - but without any success. This lighting is imperative for crime prevention and to insure the safety of our residents who use the Park. If there is a nonfunctioning light in the Park or on any of our streets, call Pete Magin, PSEG street light manager at 330-6572.



## MEETING

### MINUTES: APRIL 14, 1998

**COMMUNITY POLICING:** RNA welcomed back **Captain Meyers** at the April meeting. He looked great after his recent bout with Hodgkins Disease. "Lost 30 lbs., the hard way!" We've missed him and with the warm weather, there's a lot of work to do. He discussed enforcing the juvenile curfew (10:30 PM for youngsters under 17 years of age), focusing on the commuter vans on Palisade Avenue for motor vehicle violations and the status of the bicycle and walking patrols in our community.

A resident brought up the problem of speeding on Ogden Avenue through the Park to Congress Street. The intersection at Ogden and Bowers is of particular concern because speeding vehicles put the children in the Park playground at great risk. Traffic Engineering has denied our previous requests for a stop sign at this intersection because their studies did not justify it. Councilman Bill Gaughan said he would contact Traffic Engineering about putting a stop sign at the S.W. corner of Ogden and Bowers and replacing the stops signs at Ogden and Griffith and Ogden and Franklin. [Note: Traffic boxes have recently been placed at the corners of Griffith and Ogden and Bowers and Ogden.]

There was a request made for 454 Palisade Avenue to be cleared of squatters and a complete boarding up to prevent access to the building.

A complaint was made about the parking of cars on the sidewalks in front of the body shop and the garages across the street on Griffith between Palisade and Ogden. The garage tenants also cause noise problems late at night.

**COUNCILMAN BILL GAUGHAN** is the representative of Ward D, which includes our RNA community of Ogden and Palisade from Franklin to Congress Streets. The main topics he discussed at the meeting included the waterfront abatements, the light rail project and our neighborhood's part in the City's project to update its Master Zoning Plan.

He said he supported waterfront tax abatements as a tool to attract development. The Lefrak abatement issue will be re-introduced in a few weeks and he felt that if the abatement was voted down again, it would send the wrong message to developers. Lefrak has proposed an office building on Washington Blvd. This property has been vacant for 10 years and the City is collecting only \$163,000 a year in property taxes. Conventional taxation of the completed development would total \$2.2 million. However, the City would only receive about \$8-900,000. or 40% because it must share the tax with the County and the Board of Education. With the PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) abatement it would receive 100% of the payment or \$1.1 million.

In addition this project would create 1500 construction jobs and 50 permanent service jobs, stimulate local businesses with sales from office workers and attract other development projects. Lefrak has also committed \$375,000. to be divided among the six wards for neighborhood parks and recreation projects. Lefrak is asking for a 30-year abatement.

The next topic was the renovation of Mountain Road. The project was finally started during the second week of April with the road being fenced off and ground being broken. Renovation should be completed in approximately 7 months.

The Light Rail project should not create a traffic problem at the eastern end of Mountain Road where cars will enter from Paterson Plank Road. The Engineering Division confirmed that there will not be any overpass constructed at this point - only a grade crossing similar to the one that is presently there for the Conrail trains. In addition, the light rail trains will be shorter than the present Conrail freight trains that back up traffic for long periods of time. The light rail project should also improve the drainage and sewerage at the bottom of the Palisade which has always been prone to flooding.

The last time the City upgraded its Master Plan was in 1963. The City Council has approved \$500,000. over the next five years to redesign a new plan for the City's zoning. Input is needed from the City's communities for this project in order to protect their individual priorities and address their local concerns.

Mr. Gaughan also gave RNA a list of the present status of the abandoned housing in our community. He said that the City has taken in approximately \$3 million in revenue from auctioning these properties, which are then renovated by the new owners.

A resident asked about the tax burden he felt was being imposed by the Mayor's Charter School plans. Gaughan explained that the \$8 1/2 to 9 million to build the charter school-community center will come from municipal bonding. However, the charter school and other after-school programs would pay rent for the use of the facility which would then be used to repay the bond. There is a critical shortage of classroom space in Jersey City. A middle school is being planned for the Heights reservoir but will not be available for several years.

A resident asked about the lack of public access to the waterfront through these proposed large developments. There was a discussion about the obligation of these waterfront projects to provide public access to the riverfront walkway Pwhich is mandated by the State.

Palisade Avenue will be repaved this summer. Gaughan also discussed the initiation of a redevelopment plan for Palisade Avenue in which certain businesses would be given the incentive to relocate to more appropriate industrial sites. The project would be developed by the Jersey City Redevelopment Agency.

A request was made to remove the southern sidewalk on Woods Place between Palisade and Avenue. This was originally promised when Christ Hospital renovated the PSEG generating station into their Primary Care Center and put a new sidewalk on the northern side of the street.

The fire station project at the corner of Congress and Ogden is temporarily stalled because of the need to clean-up the site of the gasoline and other toxic materials in the ground.

**HUDSON COUNTY FREEHOLDER MAURICE FITZGIBBONS:** He introduced himself by saying that he lives in Hoboken, works in Journal Square and believes that Jersey City is the premier city in the State of New Jersey. His county district encompasses both Hoboken and Jersey City. He is dedicated to renovating Journal Square. He has been working with the Mayor to restore the Loews Theatre and possibly turning the Stanley Theatre into a Children's Museum. He believes that the improvements in Journal Square will ultimately affect our neighborhood. He mentioned that Hoboken and the Jersey City Heights have much in common. He would like to see the 100 Steps rebuilt on Mountain Road. He also reminded us to remember allocating space for parking as we continue to develop.

Mr. Fitzgibbons then introduced **Borivoj Jasek**, the County Engineer to discuss the renovation of the Ogden Avenue bridge at the intersection of Ogden and Bowers. This overpass, crossing over Holland Street, was built in 1905. The work should begin in July of 1998 with the bridge closed for about 5 months. There was a discussion about installing a concrete parapet on the east side of the upper roadway but keeping the west side wrought iron railing. A resident asked if the City's Park renovation funds could be used to repair the east side railing in an architecturally consistent way. RNA would like the County and the City to look into this proposal.

A cul-de-sac will be created for Ogden residents blocked off on the north side of the bridge to get access to their homes.

Mr. Fitzgibbons was asked to look in to having Hoboken repair New York Avenue from the railroad tracks to Harrison Street.

There was also a general discussion about the City and the County jointly cleaning up the cliffside between the Park and Paterson Plank Road. The City could also clean privately owned property and then bill the owners.

There was a request for either Gaughan or Fitzgibbons to contact PSEG to fix the lights in Riverview-Fisk Park and along New York Avenue.

Allison Ferrari Fontana, Secretary

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Recycle this Newsletter -  
Pass it on to a friend!





# LETTERS to the EDITOR

[The following is a letter written by Timothy Sheridan, Director of Constituent Services in response to a section of the Meeting Minutes printed in the March, 1998 RNA Newsletter describing a membership discussion about RNA's dissatisfaction with the NID and Constituent Services. It appears Mr. Sheridan took offense at the comment of one member who speculated that maybe the lack of city services in our area could be attributed to the fact that RNA was being punished for making too many demands on these two agencies.]

I was very surprised to see my name mentioned in your newsletter, specially in the way it was connected. It seems that Allison Ferreri-Fontana [chose] to write information that could not be further from the truth and [chose] not to mention that the lights that Public Service took responsibility for, did so after I made numerous calls insisting the problem be resolved. Furthermore, the lights were installed with bullet-proof glass so they will not shatter again. The matter on the property at 454 Palisade Avenue was resolved by Maureen Corcoran and myself for Laura [Petersen] of the NID. That property is in lien at this time and the current lien holder could actually start foreclosure proceedings as of December 5, 1998 unless the owner chooses to sell by that time.

On March 2, 1998 Miss Fontana called me about another issue having do do with the survey of the park property and the garden boundaries. I informed her that the property in question was indeed returned to the city as requested by my office. The only thing I have every made reference to as far as the election, was that there was an election coming up for RNA. Miss Fontana at that time insinuated to me that she might be running for the Chairperson position.

My staff and I as well as the Mayor have always tried to help RNA. In fact, I even brought the Mayor to the roof of a neighbor's building to see first hand what was happening in your neighborhood and personally affecting [Vito Brunetti's] house and property. I never once complained about the amount of service requested from the residents of [this] neighborhood.

While Miss Fontana talks about a "person" who thinks the neighborhood is being punished for demanding too much service from the city, is an inaccurate statement. If he or she (the person) thinks that the neighborhood is being punished, please have them contact me so that we can remedy whatever problem they perceive.

I think that my staff and I have always tried to do everything possible to help the RNA and all of the constituents in your neighborhood.

It seems that all this paragraph was meant to do was incite more rumors and unrest amongst your RNA.

You may publish this letter in your next newsletter if you would like, however, I do expect a reaction at the least.

[Editor's Note: RNA welcomes Mr. Sheridan's comments and invites him to one of our meetings to discuss this matter. RNA looks forward to the opportunity

to ask him why we as a community must constantly struggle and become frustrated in our attempts to get the City to respond in an effective and efficient manner to our chronic problems of code enforcement, abandoned housing, sanitation, crime, etc.]



## NID MONTHLY REPORTS

**NORTH SIX:** Ronald Clemente is the NID manager for this District which includes Ogden and Palisade Avenues from Cuneo Place to Griffith Street. He provided the following report for this month:

- a) **402 Palisade:** Warned about loud music.
  - b) **Southern Ogden Construction:** Warned about litter and debris in front of construction site at corner of Ogden and Cuneo.
  - c) **250 Ogden:** Warned about recycling and garbage pick-up and litter in front yard.
  - d) **227 Ogden:** Warned about garbage collection: when and what to put out and who to call for special collection.
  - e) **Griffith Street Body Shop:** Warned about cars parked on sidewalk.
  - f) **Mountain Road:** Attended pre-construction meeting for renovation project.
  - g) **Clean-up:** of Mountain Road between Griffith and Franklin with NID kids from North 6 and 7.
  - h) **Dog Walk Patrol:** Shift change (7 -10 AM) to warn pet owners to clean up after their animals, keep them on the leash. Handed out plastic baggies.
  - i) **Street Lights:** Check for non-working lights.
  - j) **372 Palisade Avenue:** Pre-warning letter about electrical box on sidewalk.
  - k) **233 Ogden:** Boarded up fire building.
  - l) **Supermarket Carts:** Collected carts on Ogden Avenue.
  - m) **Pit Bull Alert:** Notified NTF Officer on bike patrol about arrogant owner of pit bull walking his animal without leash on Palisade and Griffith.
- Mr. Clemente can be contacted through his voice mail at 547-4974, extension 8015.

**NORTH SEVEN:** Laura Petersen is the NID manager for this District which includes Ogden and Palisade Avenues from Griffith Street to Congress Street. She can be contacted by voice mail at 547-4974, extension 8021. Ms. Petersen did not provide a report of her activities this month.

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## 24th ANNUAL JERSEY CITY CULTURAL ARTS FESTIVAL

This year's event will take place on Sunday, June 14, 12 Noon to 6 PM at the Historic C.R.R.N.J. Terminal and Plaza in Liberty State Park. There will be music, dance, arts and crafts and diverse ethnic food selections presented at the festival. To participate in this event, there is a \$20.00 application fee for Jersey City residents, and \$35.00 for non-residents, food vendors will be charged \$60.00 and additional tables are \$10.00. For more information, call **Joey George**, the program supervisor at (201) 547-5522.


**Pin Bulletin board Pin**


**IN MEMORY OF**

RNA sadly notes the passing of **Alfred Bogdan** in the last week of April. Alfred, a resident of Palisade Avenue, was one of our original members. As the husband of the late Gert Bogdan, he always helped in the organizing of our annual fleamarkets. He would be one of the first people to arrive at the Park on those Saturday mornings to deliver his wife with all her baked goods, signs and supplies for the flea market. He was another of the Old Guard of our neighborhood whose wisdom and history gave RNA its distinctive character. We shall miss him. Thank you Alfred for being a part of our community.

**MAY**

May is a wonderful month,  
 Lily of the valleys in bloom,  
 Mother's Day, Memorial Day,  
 And best of all, my birthday - May 11  
**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY TO ALL!**  
 Madeline Rea

**From Valerie's Kitchen:**

**FRESH SPINACH SOUP**

**INGREDIENTS:**

- 3 cups blanched spinach
- 1/2 cup shallots, scallions or onions
- 1 clove garlic
- 6 Tbsp. butter
- 6 cups chicken broth
- salt and pepper
- dash of nutmeg
- plain croutons
- grated Jarlsberg cheese

- 1) Roughly slice spinach. Slice onions and chop garlic.
- 2) Melt 2 Tbsp of butter in 4-quart saucepan.
- 3) Saute onions over low heat until soft and yellow, add garlic and cook for another moment.
- 4) Add 4 Tbsp. butter. When melted, add spinach.
- 5) Turn up heat and saute spinach for 5 minutes or until all the butter is absorbed.
- 6) Add broth, then bring to a boil and simmer.
- 7) Cook for 15 minutes. Just before serving, season with salt, pepper and nutmeg.
- 6) Garnish with croutons and grated cheese.

**CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR NEWSLETTER**

Tell us what you think about the quality of life in your neighborhood? Have your voice heard! Deliver all articles and comments in the mailbox, on the gate, at 232 Ogden Ave. Mark the envelope, "RNA NEWSLETTER." Deadline is **Friday, May 22, 1998.**




**POLICEBEAT**




Residents should contact their **Neighborhood Task Force Police Officers Scott Schnee and Lorenzo Tosado, David Murawinski or Mark Conroy and Keith Armstrong** if they have a problem, a safety concern or knowledge of criminal activity at **547-5350** (the North District station's frontdesk) or **547-5719** (community service number). When leaving a message, include your name, telephone number, street address, the nature of the problem and the date and time of the message.

In addition, anyone with information about illegal drug use and/or drug dealing, should contact the JCPD **Narcotics Unit at 547-5391**. All calls will be strictly confidential.

A **Community Service Survey** form is reprinted below. The purpose of the form is to alert the police to particular chronic problems in our neighborhood. Please fill the form out and mail it to the North District at 282 Central Avenue. (You can remain anonymous.)

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**JERSEY CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**NORTH DISTRICT**  
 282 Central Avenue, Jersey City, 07307  
 547-5350: Front Desk  
 547-5719: Neighborhood Task Force

**Community Service Survey**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Block Association: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Complaint & Observations for the period of \_\_\_\_\_

List the Locations for the following Problems:

Disorderly Groups: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Public Nuisances: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Narcotics Activity: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Unsafe/Unhealthy Sites: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Suspicious Activity: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Heavy Trucking: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Auto Thefts: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Burglaries: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Prostitution: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gambling: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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**COME TO OUR NEXT MEETING on**  
**MAY 12th at 7:15 PM**  
**at the HARBOR VIEW HEALTH CARE**  
**CENTER.**