

RNA*For a Better Life in the Heights*

September 2004

**RIVERVIEW****Neighborhood Association**

469 Palisade Avenue, Jersey City, NJ 07307(201) 386-9481

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

‘Tile Project’ Completed!

This summer the “Tile Project” was completed on the north lookout in Riverview-Fisk Park. The mosaic tiling of the lookout was initiated by “Studio Heights”, founded by local artists Beverly Brown Ruggia and Sandy Martiny. Three years ago the lookout walls were badly in need of repair and safety had become an issue due to parts of the safety railing being in disrepair. The rusted-out pipe railing has been removed and replaced with a new tubular steel fence. Decayed concrete was removed and recoated. It is now covered with beautiful hand painted mosaic tiles by children from the neighborhood.

Beverly and Sandy, working with other local artist, the Department of Public Works, councilman Bill Gaughan and RNA began a three year effort to involve local children in the project. Hundreds of blank clay tiles were produced. Distributing fliers in the neighborhood to announce special tile painting sessions and using annual park events, the blank tiles were hand painted and then later fired and glazed.

Inspired by the park’s environment the results are stunning. Birds, trees, landscapes and skylines are the dominate themes used by the children. Portraits of family pets and messages to family and friends are also in the mosaic. The vibrant colors and images of the tiles come to life when set in the earth tone mosaic of broken tiles. The final step of installing and grouting the tiles was done by volunteers of all ages from the neighborhood.

Studio Heights and all the others that donated materials, time and money have once again shown that a community’s dedicated effort can bring permanent results for everyone. The “Tile Project” was a creative and innovative way to repair the physically neglected lookout. The opportunities that it provided for the children to use the park in their own way, with their own results, will be what endures. When taking photographs for this newsletter a group of curious children came by. One of their comments: “You know mister I helped do this. Its beautiful.”



Community Updates

Cliff-Side Project: All property owners from Griffith Street to Franklin Street, between Ogden Avenue and the Palisade Cliff should attend all RNA meetings to stay up to date with the changing events and what they need to do to protect their property rights.

234-236 Ogden Ave: The June ruling by the Superior Court that upheld the Jersey City Zoning Board’s decision that a rooftop recreation area is not permitted has been appealed by the owner. No date has been set for a hearing by the New Jersey Appellate Court.

Loew’s Theatre in Journal Square: On September 28, the Loew’s Jersey will celebrate its 75th Anniversary – that is 18 more birthdays than the landmark Theatre would have had if Friends of the Loew’s had not stopped the plans of a developer and the Jersey City Redevelopment Agency to tear the Loew’s down in April of 1987. After eight years of fighting, and faced with growing public support for the Loew’s, the City Council finally voted to buy the Loew’s in 1993 for the bargain price of just \$325,000.

When the City Administration realized it could not provide much of the support it had pledged to reopen the Theatre, and it seemed that the Loew’s would remain shuttered and decaying, FOL undertook an unprecedented program of volunteer restoration work that, to date, has accomplished well over \$2,000,000 worth of repairs. By 2001 FOL began limited operations of the Loew’s as an arts center.

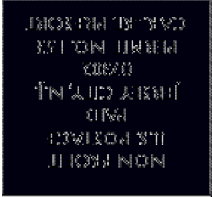
FOL always argued that the Loew’s was not just an irreplaceable landmark, but a resource to anchor the revitalization of Journal Square. On nights when the Loew’s is open, hundreds of people from throughout the region stream through the Square on their way to the Loew’s, and area restaurants are crowded with theatre-goers. Friends of the Loew’s will celebrate the Theatre’s 75th Anniversary and pay tribute to the spirit of local activism that not only saved the Loew’s, but saved the Court House, caused the creation of Liberty State Park and ensures the survival of our neighborhoods on Tuesday, September 28 with a special screening of the 1939 classic movie, “Mr. Smith Goes To Washington” starring Jimmy Stewart, at 7:45 PM. The Opening Day 1929 admission price will be charged. For more info, call (201) 798-6055 or visit www.loewsjersey.org.

RNA Fall Fundraiser

The September 14th RNA meeting is the deadline to complete your order of flower bulbs. RNA is selling bulbs for fall planting in your flower bed or to be donated for planting along Holland Street. For more information call Cindy at (201) 420-5174. Orders will be taken at the September 14th RNA meeting.

When you are on the internet visit: WWW.savethenalisades.org

COME TO THE NEXT RNA MEETING
 SEPTEMBER 14TH AT 7:30 PM
 MAINTAINING RIVERVIEW-FISK PARK
 WHAT DOES THE COMMUNITY NEED TO DO?
 WHAT DOES THE CITY NEED TO DO?



RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
 9 PALISADE AVENUE
 ROSELAND, NJ 07068

COMING EVENTS

RNA MEETING:

Tuesday, Sept. 14th, at 7:30 pm
 Location: Harbor View Health Care Ctr.
 178 Ogden Avenue

AGENDA:

- 1) Police Report.
- 2) Update on Cliff-Side project.
- 3) Riverview-Fisk Park.
 What needs to be done to
 better maintain our park?



“North Lookout/Observation Deck in Riverview-Fisk Park”
 The sweeping vista of the Manhattan skyline has always been an attraction to Riverview-Fisk Park. Now with the completion of the “Tile Project” the refurbished vantage point is a reason in itself to come back for another look.