

November 2012

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Next RNA Meeting:
Tuesday, November 13th
at **7:30 PM**

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

Agenda:
Police & Mayor's Action Bureau,
Post-Sandy plans, Guest **David Goodwin** - Presentation on 111 First Street.

Membership Dues
Membership dues and donations help sustain the RNA. Annual dues are \$10. 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 this Tuesday, November 13th at 7:30PM for our monthly meeting at 178 Ogden Ave, 1st Floor Cafeteria. In keeping with our 2012 theme of taking small steps that make a big difference, please bring a non-perishable food item for donation to St. Lucy's Shelter.

The Best and Worst of Sandy

Whether you call it the Frankenstorm, Hurricane Sandy, Superstorm Sandy or something unprintable, this amazing weather event caused significant damage and hardship while demonstrating the importance of community at the same time.

We lost a landmark in Riverview-Fisk Park--the 'pavillion' or 'gazebo' as it was known depending on how long you've lived here. It was destroyed by the strong winds that accompanied the storm. Word spread of its demise via social media and an outpouring of emotion followed. Our loss, and the loss of trees throughout the park and local area, while dramatic, pales in comparison to the loss of homes and businesses in whole communities, and the havoc the storm caused on the lives of those who are still without power or have no home to return to. While we work to help those hurt more than ourselves, plans are also underway to rebuild the gazebo and replace the fallen trees. Fundraising will commence shortly and we welcome input and assistance in this effort.



With the exception of a few areas in the Heights, most of the area was without power for four or more days. This hardship was made tenable by the generosity of several local businesses as well as residents who opened their doors to provide shelter, a hot shower or a place to charge a phone.

On behalf of our entire membership and the greater Heights community, RNA would like to thank and express our sincere gratitude in particular to:

- **Estaban "Steve" Castro, the owner of The Trolley Car Bar & Grill at 328 Palisade Ave** who opened his doors early each afternoon and became the de facto community center for the neighborhood. He allowed residents to charge dozens of phones, laptops and mobile devices at a time using every available outlet, provided a warm and friendly place to meet and get warm, and offered hot food and cold drinks throughout. Many friendships were born here and being without power was made easier through his generosity.
- **Elsie Miolan and family, the owners of Miolan Deli at 589 Palisade (next to the Congress St. fire station).** From the outset, a charging station was set up (free!), hot coffee and other essentials provided, and a television was on to find out what was happening in the rest of the area. There's nothing like an espresso for \$1 to get you through a difficult day.
- **Bhavin Patel of Palisade Fine Wine and Liquor (corner of Hutton and Palisade)** set up a seating area in his store that became a gathering place to meet and warm up or charge a mobile device as well as to purchase hard-to-come-by ice and other refreshments.
- PSE&G and electric companies from around the country who worked (and continue working) to re-establish power, as well as the JCPD, JCFD and other first responders who worked tirelessly in our area.
- The many Heights residents who have taken it upon themselves to collect supplies, monies and volunteer their time and skills to help others in this difficult time.

While it will take longer to repair the physical damage caused by Sandy and the Nor'easter, the bonds of community were made stronger.

Historical Presentation of Artist Community- November 13

Heights resident, RNA member, and **urban historian David Goodwin will be our guest at the November 13th RNA meeting.** He will be giving his successful Jersey City Studio Tour presentation, **"Enter the Artists: The Early Years of 111 First Street."**

In the late 1980s, a community of artists began gathering in a former tobacco factory and warehouse at 111 1st Street and provided a spark to ignite the arts and culture scene in Jersey City. Unfortunately, the artists of 111 1st Street were forced from the building in 2005 after a long, bitter struggle involving the building's ownership as well as the City. This discussion introduces the tangled story of 111 1st Street as a studio building and a cultural community and presents a history of the building and its residents from the 1980s through the 1990s, when the arts emerged as a pivotal force in a renaissance Jersey City.

As we work to recognize the Riverview Arts District as a thriving arts community and economic driver, David will help us learn from the experiences of this building. Q & A to follow.



Call for Artists!

RNA is again putting together several neighborhood events for JC Fridays on December 7th. **There are two separate calls for artists--one for the Trolley Car Bar & Grill and another for 500 Palisade--each sponsored by RNA as Discover the Riverview Arts District events.** A portion of the proceeds from each show will go toward rebuilding the gazebo in Riverview Park. Please note the deadlines and share with others who may be interested.

- **"Sparkle & Shine" at the Trolley Car Bar & Grill, 328 Palisade Ave.** Entry deadline November 21st for show that will run from Dec. 1- Jan. 31st (Opening Reception Dec. 7th). In the spirit of the festive time of year, we are looking for art representing all things that sparkle, glow, shine, and glitter! It's an exploration of lights and how they reflect on surfaces, how they glitter and glow, and how they distort and become their own aura. It can be abstract or representational. We are looking for work that is bright and colorful, as the setting of the work is a bar which is relatively dark. **For entry details: <http://bitly.com/SLqX53>**
- "The Art of Giving" Small works show sponsored by Peace by Piece Studio and RNA at 500 Palisade Ave. Opening on Dec. 7th. Contact Meghan McKee at riverviewartsdistrict@gmail.com for details.

100 Steps and Ravine Road

We will provide an update at our meeting on Tuesday, November 13th. Briefly, the 100 Steps were rebid and the city received four bids. They are reviewing the bids and are required to award the contract if the bids are within a normal range. The contract for the renovation of Ravine Road (New York Ave) was awarded. A pre-construction meeting is being scheduled (RNA representative will be able to attend).

Big Dig & Halloween Dog Parade Fun

While it was only two weeks ago, with the storms these two events feel like they took place ages ago. On Oct. 27th, RNA took part in the Big Dig, a city-wide event to plant 30,000 flower bulbs across all five Jersey City wards. Our volunteers, including local girl scouts, planted 500 bulbs in Riverview Pak and 200 in Janet Moore Park and Ogden's End Community Garden. Thanks to everyone who participated.

On Sunday, October 28th, at the last Farmers Market of the season (boo hoo), the annual Halloween Dog Parade was held. The costumes were fantastic! Thanks to all who came out in the pre-storm weather to participate.



Mark your Calendars

- * **November 13th** - RNA meeting at 7:30PM at the Harbor View, 178 Ogden Ave (at Franklin). Community updates, post-Sandy plans, and David Goodwin's presentation.
- * **November 17th**- 8AM-10AM, RNA's clean-up committee hosts a post-Sandy park cleanup in Riverview-Fisk Park (Palisade bet. Griffith & Bowers) Gloves and garbage bags provided. Dress appropriately. Weather permitting.
- * **December 7th** - JC Fridays - several arts events here in the Heights as well as arts events throughout the entire city. Visit jcfridays.com or our website/facebook for details.
- * **December 9th** - Farms in the Heights and RNA Holiday Crafts Fair (details to follow) at the Elks Club - Hutton and Cambridge Streets.
- * **December 11th** - RNA's Annual Holiday Party at 7PM at the Harbor View. Light dinner, refreshments, and volunteer awards. Details to follow.

Volunteer with RNA

As many of you know, RNA is run solely by volunteers and we need everyone's help to keep our group strong. Some simple ways you can contribute:

- Forward this newsletter to a friend/neighbor.
- Share/Like an RNA post on Facebook.
- Support the 100 steps effort by going to the [Citizenspeak](http://Citizenspeak.com) site.
- Help set up before the monthly meeting.
- Attend an RNA event.

Big or small, everyone's contribution adds to our mission of making our neighborhood great. If you have a particular skill or just want to become more involved, email riverviewneighborhood@comcast.net.

Not on Facebook?

Want to keep up with RNA but are not on **Facebook**? Follow us on **Twitter**, **Google+** or on our **website**. Don't miss out.