

February 2013

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Next RNA Meeting:

Tuesday, February 12th
at 7:30 PM

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

Agenda:
2013 Brainstorming Session! Neighborhood
Updates

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, February 12th at our regular monthly meeting at the Harbor View Health Center, 178 Ogden Ave (corner of Franklin), 1st Floor Cafeteria at 7:30PM. **Please bring a non-perishable food item or unopened toiletry item to donate to St. Lucy's Shelter to the meeting.**

Time to Plan for the New Gazebo

On October 29th, 2012--as Superstorm Sandy roared through the metropolitan area and wrecked havoc--the most iconic symbol in our area and a public gathering place, the Riverview-Fisk Park Gazebo, was destroyed. While we are all saddened by its demise, we now have the opportunity to replace it and bring it up to current building codes (including making it handicapped accessible).



Riverview Park, 1908

On Tuesday, February 12th, at our monthly meeting, we will facilitate a visioning session with the help of local resident, architect, and artist Lee Levine to get your input on what the goals for the new gazebo should be and any features it should incorporate. Because time is of the essence due to FEMA funding issues, this will be the only public visioning session. We welcome written comments if you cannot make the meeting (to be received no later than 2/13/13) at riverviewneighborhood@comcast.net. We will then incorporate the ideas generated in the meeting into design goals for the **Riverview-Fisk Park Gazebo Restoration Design Challenge Competition**, which will begin on Friday, March 1st. The Design Challenge will be open to all and we welcome participation from regional architects, landscape architects, engineers, professional designers, and design schools. The submissions will be due no later than April 1st and will be reviewed by a Challenge Committee and the Division of Architecture for the City of Jersey City. More information on the challenge will follow later this month.

Please join us on Tuesday (Feb. 12th) at 7:30PM at the Harbor View Health Center, 178 Ogden Ave (at Franklin), 1st floor cafeteria for RNA's monthly meeting, including the gazebo visioning session.

Riverview Arts District Zoning Amendments Pass First Hurdle

On February 5th, the Jersey City Planning Board recommended two amendments to the zoning in our area for passage by the City Council: the Riverview Arts District R1 Overlay Zone and changes to zoning along Palisade Ave (R2) that will add restaurants (not drive-thru) as a permitted use.

The City Council will hold a public hearing on these two amendments at its February 27th meeting (6PM, City Hall, Council Chambers at 280 Grove Street). We encourage you to come to the meeting to show your support for these amendments. The map and the amendments are posted on our [website](#).

If passed, the proposed Riverview Arts District (RAD) would include a large portion of the eastern Heights ([see Map](#)) and allow artists to have studios or work/live units within the District.

- An "artist" is defined as "a person regularly engaged in the fine arts as a career and not as a hobby. This does not mean that the art the artist creates generates the artist's main source of income, nor does it require that the creation of art occupies the greatest portion of the artist's day...as used herein, the "fine arts" shall include, but not be limited to, painting, sculpture, choreography, and the composition of music."
- Within the RAD, artists can have an "artist studio workspace" to make their art or sell it as an accessory use to the studio; they can also have a work/live artist studio defined as "a single, enclosed, private space of 900 sq. ft or more, where at least one-half of the total space is devoted to work space for the creation, display and sale of art, and the remainder is used for living purposes..."

The changes to the zoning along Palisade Avenue will allow restaurants (not drive-thrus) as a permitted use between South St and Cuneo Pl (approximate - yellow area along Palisade Ave on [Map](#)). This means that someone wishing to open a restaurant on the ground floor in this area can do so without obtaining a variance (health code, etc still applies).

This is an exciting development for our neighborhood. While not without risk, it provides the foundation for attracting additional artists to our area and for the revitalization of Palisade Ave.

Call for Art! Deadline February 21st

As part of JC Fridays, RNA will be sponsoring an art show, **The Art of Luck**, at the **Trolley Car Bar and Grill** with an opening reception on March 1st. Please submit JPEG entries or website link to: riverviewartsdistrict@gmail.com



Feeling Lucky? Need a little luck? Down on your luck? Here's the show for you! Whether it's lady luck, a lucky charm, or luck of the draw, a wonderful collection of art representing all sorts of luck will be displayed until the end of the month. Come and get lucky.

The artist will receive 60% of the sales price with the remaining 40% going to support the activities of the Riverview Neighborhood Association. PLEASE PRICE ACCORDINGLY!

Once accepted, artists must drop off work on Feb 27th between 3 and 7PM. If you are not available to drop off this date, we can make arrangements for early drop off. All work must hang on the wall, but any medium will be allowed. **The size of the work can not exceed 2 ft x 2 ft.** We have a few spaces that will hold up to 4ft x 3ft. **This is total size including frame.** If you want your larger works to be shown, please let us know the sizes when submitting, as we have limited space! *We reserve the right to not accept any work that is not ready to hang or is not what the image you sent represents.*

Be sure to include your name, title, medium, dimensions, and price, as well as any other pertinent information with your submission. **Entry deadline is February 21st.** Acceptance emails will go out on Saturday, February 23rd.

Local Business Profile: Miolan Deli & Grocery



As part of RNA's effort to promote the businesses and unique individuals who live in our area, we will be featuring profiles each month. by Rafal Rogoza

In September, near the corner of Palisade Avenue and Hobson Street, the Miolan Deli & Grocery officially opened for business. Owner Gilberto Puig has stocked the shop with plenty of ready-to-eat goods, groceries, and encourages residents to stop by to try what he says is the best coffee in town.

Puig, a West New York resident and 34-year-old married father of four, says he bought the deli after noticing it was for sale during a drive to his sister's New York Avenue home. At the time the property was a mismanaged grocery store, Puig said, adding that when he first walked inside he "saw the conditions and it was a mess."

However, for Puig, an experienced businessman who recently sold an exporting company, the idea to undertake another business endeavor was too tempting to turn down.

"It was an opportunity I couldn't pass by," he said. "I saw some potential here."

Now, five months after Puig began renovations, what was a sloppy shop has become a clean and lively deli. It's stocked with the common variety of items typically sold at a convenience store with some additional touches by Puig, such as empanadas, fresh sandwiches, and cake. The deli also sports a flat panel television tuned to the latest news and an ATM machine.

The deli is still a work in progress, Puig admits, and he hopes to get input from residents in the community about the type of items they are interested in buying.

"I'm more interested to know what the people want," said Puig, who is looking into providing more options for residents who are seeking organic produce and culturally specific foods such as Indian and Italian.

The Miolan Deli & Grocery, 589 Palisade Avenue, is open 9AM to 10PM Monday through Saturday, 9AM to 8PM on Sundays.

Annual Nominations for the RNA Board

Each February, nominations are opened for the executive board of the association. To be eligible for the board, you need to be 18 or older, reside within our borders, and be a paid member. Being on the board is a great way to feel more connected to where you live. If you wish to be nominated, you can let us know or nominate yourself. The positions are President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Sergeant-at-Arms. All qualified members are encouraged to participate. Nominations will be opened at the Feb. 12th meeting and remain open until the March meeting when the election will take place.

First RNA Networking Night a Big Hit

Over fifty people came out to the Trolley Car Bar and Grill on a cold January evening for RNA's first Networking Night. RNA board member Jenna Firshein encouraged attendees to have a conversation with a new person every seven minutes. Even people who had met before had an opportunity to learn something new about each other, and professional contacts were made. We thank the Trolley Car Bar for hosting and to everyone who participated and joined RNA that evening. We will do it again soon.



RNA's Networking Night at Trolley Car Bar & Grill, January 2013.

RNA Honored by Arthouse Productions at the Snow Ball

RNA, along with several other Jersey City neighborhood and park associations (including the Washington Park Association of Hudson County, Inc.) were honored by [Arthouse Productions](#) at its seventh annual Snow Ball on January 26th. A large contingent of RNA members and Heights residents came out to honor the work that the neighborhood associations have done to promote the arts in Jersey City, to support the work of Arthouse Productions and to have a great time. JC Fridays, a city-wide art event in which RNA participates, is organized by Art House Productions. RNA is grateful for the honor.

Submit Questions for Candidate Forums

RNA and other non-partisan Heights organizations will be hosting two candidate forums this Spring--one for the Mayoral candidates and one for the Council candidates. (The election is May 14th.) **Please let us know what questions you would like us to ask and issues that you believe are of greatest concern to Heights residents. Please submit your questions to riverviewneighborhood@comcast.net no later than March 1st.**

Become a Member of RNA!

It is time to become or renew your membership in RNA. Membership fees (just \$10!) and donations are critical to our success. We are 100% volunteer run and operated, surviving solely on the hard work of our volunteers and your generous donations. **Please look for a membership letter in your mail and send back your membership dues as soon as possible. Dues and donations can also be made via [PayPal](#).** Thank you for your support.

Becky Hoffman
Riverview Neighborhood Association