

March 2013

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Next RNA Meeting:
Tuesday, March 12th
at 7:30 PM

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

Agenda:
Annual Elections
Guest: **Architetur historian
John Gomez**

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, March 12th for our monthly meeting at the Harbor View Health Center, 178 Ogden Ave (corner of Franklin), 1st Floor Cafeteria at 7:30PM. Donations of non-perishable food items or unopened toiletry items for St. Lucy's Shelter will be accepted.

Legendary Locals of Jersey City

Architectural historian John Gomez will be our guest at the March 12th meeting and will give a sneak-peek slide presentation of his upcoming book *Legendary Locals of Jersey City* from Arcadia Publishing. History-making people from the past and present will be featured in images and text, including pivotal Heights legends like architect Theodore Conrad, artist and sculptor Ward Mount, preservationist Steve Latham, short story writer Laryssa Wirstiuk, photographer E. Jan Kounitz and the numerous community leaders and organizations who have made the area an enriching place to live over the years. Follow the book as it progresses toward publication later this year via Twitter @JerseyCityBook.

Annual Elections for the RNA Board

Nominations for executive board of the Riverview Neighborhood Association were opened at the February meeting and **the election will be held this Tuesday, March 12th**. There is still time to nominate a board member (or oneself) before the vote takes place. To be eligible for the board and to vote, you need only be 18 or older, reside within our borders, and be a paid member. Please come out on Tuesday and participate in the elections.

The current nominees are:
President: Becky Hoffman
Vice President: Kern Weissman
Secretary: Jenna Firshein
Treasurer: Roger Heitmann
Sgt at Arms: Jessica Howse

Riverview Arts District Zoning Amendments Adopted

The community turned out in full force at the City Council meeting on February 27th to support two amendments to the municipal code that should positively impact our neighborhood. **The council voted unanimously to adopt both amendments.** Read all about it in the **Jersey City Independent**. The first **amendment** created an Artist Overlay Zone - the Riverview Arts District (RAD) covering a large portion of the eastern Heights (see **Map**) and allows 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 **Category One and Two restaurants** (No drive-thrus) as a permitted use between South St and Cuneo Pl (approximate - see **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 apply).

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. RNA, Washington Park Association of Hudson County, Inc., the Distillery Gallery & Artspace, Central Avenue Special Improvement District, the Hope Center, Farms in the Heights, and the Riverview Community Garden (among others) worked together on this major change for our area. **Special thanks to Jersey City Senior Planner Claire Davis and local artist and architect Lee Levine who were champions of these amendments and to the dozens of residents who came to or spoke at the Council meeting.**

JC Heights Mayoral Forum Set for March 21

A coalition of Jersey City Heights organizations invite you to attend a Mayoral Forum on March 21, 2013, from 7 to 9PM at the Christa McAuliffe Middle School, located at 167 Hancock Avenue, Jersey City.

Non-partisan organizers include the Riverview Neighborhood Association, Inc., Washington Park Association of Hudson County, Inc., P.S.8 Neighborhood Block Association, Heights Hope Neighborhood Association, Heights Community Relations Council, Pershing Field Garden Friends, Nelson Avenue Block Association, Farms in the Heights, Riverview Community Garden, AARP Chapter 5102, and local news organization *The Jersey City Independent*.

Candidates that are certified by the clerk's office and RSVP to the organizers that are certified by March 15 are eligible to participate. They will address issues that Heights residents have raised related to transportation, quality of life, parks and open space, budget and taxes, zoning, planning, economic development, and education. After the question and answer period, each candidate will be given the opportunity to make a brief closing statement.

The Forum will be moderated and will consist of a question and answer format; it is not a debate. The goal of this forum is two-fold for candidates to gain a better understanding of Heights residents' concerns and for Heights residents to better familiarize themselves with each candidate and his or her platform.

For more information about the Jersey City Heights Mayoral Forum, or if you are a candidate certified by the Clerk's Office and wish to participate, contact Becky Hoffman at 201-876-1980 or email her at riverviewneighborhood@comcast.net. **A Heights Council Candidate Forum is scheduled for April 18th, so save the date. Additional information will be announced shortly.**

Construction Notice for New York Ave

RNA recently received word that **New York Ave (Ravine Road) will close for construction/renovation on or about March 15th**. Ravine connects the Heights to Hoboken (by the Galaxy recycling plant). The renovation will widen the road at the curve, remove the "dip," and improve sidewalks, lighting and landscaping. **The road will be closed for approximately 9 months.** Detour signs will be posted.

Local Business Profile: Palisade Drugs



By Rafal Rogoza

Vipul "Paul" Patel says he doesn't have what it takes to be a doctor but the humble pharmacist does have the acumen of a successful businessman.

In 2004, after completing his studies in India and working countless hours as a pharmacist in Jersey City and Newark, Patel opened Palisade Pharmacy, a spacious drug store located at 338 Palisade Avenue near Ferry Street.

Patel says that his pharmacy is known for hematological and oncological medicines but its six aisles, walled shelves, and counter are also stocked with medical supplies, eye care products, beauty supplies, Hallmark cards, and much more. If you need to wire some money, get some cash from an ATM machine, or send a fax, the pharmacy's staff is there to help.

"Once you come to this store you will never want to go anywhere else," said Patel, adding that the pharmacy is a favorite among a number of doctors who recommend it to their cancer patients because the store carries Genetech manufactured products that are hard to find anywhere else.

The 42-year-old said he previously owned a grocery store but noted that the pharmacy is a much more rewarding business as he gets to help people that are in need.

"From day one I never changed my major," said Patel, referring to his college years studying biology and chemistry in pursuit of a medical career. "I liked taking care of people."

Patel also noted the professionalism of his seven employees who he says are attentive and punctual, adding "before you know it, your prescription is ready."

Palisade Drugs 338 Palisade Ave. Store hours are 9AM to 7PM Monday through Friday and 10AM to 5PM on Saturdays. For more information, call 201-222-9399.

RNA Game Night and Clean-up Day

RNA's social committee, Taste of the Heights, will hold its second game night at the Corkscrew Bar & Grill (Congress & Webster) on Friday, March 15th at 7:30PM. Bring your favorite game or play life size Jenga and other games.

RNA's Clean Up committee has scheduled a series of volunteer community cleanups. **The first one is scheduled on Sunday, March 24th from 9AM - Noon** on Mountain Road (base of Franklin Street). Gloves and garbage bags will be provided. Meet at the corner of Ogden & Grovelin at 9AM. The full schedule will be available at the regular monthly meeting and will be posted shortly to our Facebook page and website.

STAGEFest Comes to the Loew's

The Friends of the Loew's have a great weekend planned March 22-24. STAGEfest 2013 will be a three day festival of live drama, musicals, revues & dance by artists from throughout the region. The inaugural production of STAGEfest will feature over 20 hours of performances, presented on the stage and in the Grand Lobbies, Elegant Salons, Ornate Foyers, and even Intimate Lounges of the Landmark Loew's Jersey at Journal Square. In addition, a rare exhibit of historic costumes from stage and screen will be on display throughout the Theatre, presented by sponsor Leading Lady Costumes www.leadingladycostumes.net.

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE:
Friday, March 22 6-11PM
Saturday, March 23 Noon-11PM
Sunday, March 24 Noon-6PM

For information about tickets and the performances, please visit www.loewsjersey.org/stagefest

Become a Member of RNA!

Look for our membership renewal letter in your snail mail or email. Please show your support by becoming a member or making a donation.

Becky Hoffman
Riverview Neighborhood Association