

## July 2013

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**Next RNA Meeting:**  
Tuesday, July 9th  
at 7:30 PM

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

**Agenda:**  
Gazebo discussion/consensus recommendation

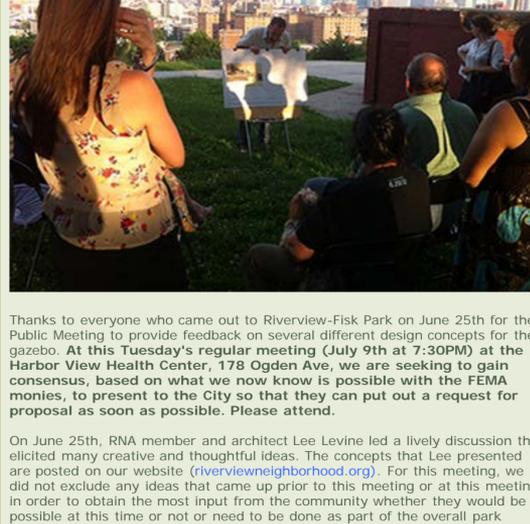
**Membership Dues**  
Membership dues and donations help sustain the RNA. Annual dues are \$10. Please contribute at an RNA meeting or make checks payable to:  
Riverview Neighborhood Association and mail c/o RNA, 154 Ogden Ave., 3E, Jersey City, NJ 07307.



## Greetings!

Please join us this Tuesday, July 9th at our regular monthly meeting at the Harbor View Health Center, 178 Ogden Ave (corner of Franklin), 1st Floor Cafeteria at 7:30PM. Donations of toiletry items for St. Lucy's Shelter will be accepted at this meeting.

## Monthly Meeting - Gazebo Discussion/Recommendations



Thanks to everyone who came out to Riverview-Fisk Park on June 25th for the Public Meeting to provide feedback on several different design concepts for the gazebo. At this Tuesday's regular meeting (July 9th at 7:30PM) at the Harbor View Health Center, 178 Ogden Ave, we are seeking to gain consensus, based on what we now know is possible with the FEMA monies, to present to the City so that they can put out a request for proposal as soon as possible. Please attend.

On June 25th, RNA member and architect Lee Levine led a lively discussion that elicited many creative and thoughtful ideas. The concepts that Lee presented are posted on our website ([riverviewneighborhood.org](http://riverviewneighborhood.org)). For this meeting, we did not exclude any ideas that came up prior to this meeting or at this meeting in order to obtain the most input from the community whether they would be possible at this time or not or need to be done as part of the overall park renovation when that gets off the ground. Lee, for example, included a concept for an amphitheater as that had been raised as an area of interest early this Spring and others discussed the desire to move the gazebo to the center of the park or move it several feet east/lower on the slope.

As we understand it from discussions with the city after our public meeting, within the confines of the FEMA monies, the Gazebo needs to be rebuilt and be made ADA compliant (e.g. handicap accessible). The foundation needs to be in the same general area but the footprint can change somewhat (shape, size can be modified, can cantilever, etc). The ADA ramps can be made multipurpose (landscaped, benches) within budget constraints. The look/feel of the gazebo is certainly an area where we have a lot of room for input. Please come out on Tuesday to weigh in so that the RNA membership can make an official recommendation to the City.

## Summary of the input from the Public Meeting about the Gazebo on June 25th

Functionality was very important to the group. The consensus at the end of the meeting was it needs to be a structure with:

- a good view point of the city
- Iconic - classic architecture with modern twist - using the Highline as an example of the intersection of modern (Iron/Design) and nature (wood/weaving through buildings/Plants). "We have the opportunity to upgrade."

Use for stage/gatherings. The community would like the placement/design to allow for more seating for an audience (so as not in the street - possibly move the base to the east).

Many people were receptive to some type of amphitheater design/functionality.

Attendees split on whether this "theater" should face the city or face the park. Either way it would have to provide a view of the city. Changing the direction of the gazebo was also suggested to move it to North/South instead of East/West. This would give more seating and change the focus. (no consensus on this point)

Performance space would need to be covered as well with electric and lighting.

Some people were concerned with crime in and around the gazebo or performance space. However a member made a profound statement that "The more we put the space to use the more it will displace any bad activity that may happen."

Any type of ramp idea was receptive as well. Consensus reached about placing benches and landscaping on the ramps to allow more functionality.

Concern for neighborhood organizations specifically Farms in the Heights & RNA is that the new structure include storage.

The collective was opposed to moving the gazebo to the middle of the park as in other parks in Jersey City.

Lighting, landscaping, and benches were discussed as important for this area and the park as a whole. All ideas were noted and will be included in discussions about the overall park renovation and for gazebo design/functionality.

## Live at the Lumberyard This Friday!



We've all had such a great time at the two Live at the Lumberyard events we've held for JC Fridays that we just couldn't wait until September to do it again! Thanks to the generosity of Palisade Lumber and Gerald Lucas and Nick Ciavatta, Riverview Neighborhood Association is proud to present a great lineup of live music outdoors at Palisade Lumber (428-428 Palisade Ave) this Friday, July 12th from 7PM-10PM featuring:

**7PM: GMJ Groove** [Video: GMJGroove](#)  
GMJ Groove is a Jersey City based trio consisting of saxophone, bass, guitar, electric violin and percussion. GMJ Groove plays an eclectic mix of Funk, Jazz, Reggae and R&B with occasional forays into Blues, Middle Eastern and Latin musical styles.

**8PM: America's Sweetheart** [Video: America's Sweetheart](#)  
America's Sweetheart is your girl-rock summer fun band. Anastasia, Val & Joe; Bass, Guitar & Drums bring shoop shoops and sha la las to your block party, your beach party and the party in your mind. Come sing and shake with America's Sweetheart.

**9PM: Sea of Otters** [Audio: Sea of Otters](#)  
Sea of Otters is a Jersey City band that plays funky Alt Rock (whatever that means) with a twist of Jazz and Blues, or anything like that. The tight rhythms and three part harmony add many layers to this diverse and driven group of friendly folks, and Pat's got "a beard like a billy goat..."

It's free and family-friendly. Bring a chair if you'd like to sit - or stay on your feet and dance.

## Movies in the Park(s) Return

What started several years ago as one movie in Riverview-Fisk Park sponsored by RNA, Movies in the Park(s) has now expanded to twelve movies throughout Hudson County in July and August in conjunction with Hudson County Washington Park Association of Hudson County, Inc., Pershing Field Garden Friends and Riverview Neighborhood Association.

**Riverview Park will be the host of one movie, Wallace & Gromit, The Curse of the Were-Rabbit, on Friday, August 2nd at 8PM (rain date 8/4)**, with additional Heights movies scheduled for Washington Park: **Finding Nemo** on July 19th and **The Lorax** on August 9th) and Pershing Field: **Irongiant**, August 16th. All movies are free to the public due to the generous sponsorship for the Heights movies of Hudson County, RNA, WPA, Lizzmonade, Jersey City Independent, Bayonne Community Bank, and Baines Family Dental. Free popcorn and Lizzmonade at each movie. Bring a blanket or a lawn chair. All movies are family-friendly. For the complete schedule of Jersey City and Hudson County movies, please visit [wpanj.org](http://wpanj.org).

## Clean-up at Palisade and Ferry, July 14th

Spend an hour or two making our neighborhood a little bit better! The Clean-up Committee's next community clean-up is schedule for **Sunday, July 14th at 10AM-12PM**. Meet at the corner of Palisade and Ferry to pick up litter in the area. Bags and gloves will be available.

TO RSVP and share the event on Facebook, go to [the Facebook event](#).

**Also, at our monthly meeting on July 9th, we will be exploring additional methods to help clean up our neighborhood including ones that do not involve picking up garbage! We are kicking off a mural project along Palisade Ave (on the security gates) and are seeking volunteer area monitors - and other ideas as well! Be a part of the solution.**

## Taste of the Heights - Summer BBQ & Potluck

Please join us on July 28th at 4pm for RNA's Taste of the Heights Family BBQ and Potluck hosted by Jaron and Kris. Spend a lazy Sunday with neighbors eating great food and meeting your neighbors. Want to grill something? Bring it over, we have a grill!

For more details and to RSVP, please email [Tasteoftheheights@gmail.com](mailto:Tasteoftheheights@gmail.com)

## Local Business: Garden of Mustard Seeds

By *Rafal Rogoza*

In June of 2012, at the intersection of Franklin Street and Palisade Avenue, Yesenia Ronquillo opened the doors to the Garden of Mustard Seeds, a daycare that owner and director Ronquillo has nurtured into a faith-based learning center for young sprouts.

Adorned with children's art on its painted green walls, Garden of Mustard Seeds is a colorful two-classroom facility furnished with the essentials necessary for a productive educational environment. Separated into infant and toddler rooms, the daycare is fitted with tables, desks, computers, and even an aquarium. The infant room also includes several cribs and a play area that is stocked with plenty of children's books.

Besides the great facility, Ronquillo says guitarists are frequently invited to play and lead sing-alongs, both in English and in Spanish. Other activities include instructive games, arts and crafts, physical exercise, and a number of trips during the summer to zoos and area parks.

Tuition and fees vary according to parental needs for care. The daycare is open from 7AM to 6:30PM Monday through Friday. Before care from 7-8:30AM and after care from 3:30-6:30PM are available.

Garden of Mustard Seeds is located at 368-370 Palisade Avenue. For more information call 201-222-0005.



Garden of Mustard Seeds is located at 368-370 Palisade Avenue.



From left: Friends Sofi, 4, and Pau, 5, at Garden of Mustard Seeds daycare.

## Neighborhood History: I'm Not Shakespeare

By *Roger Heitmann*

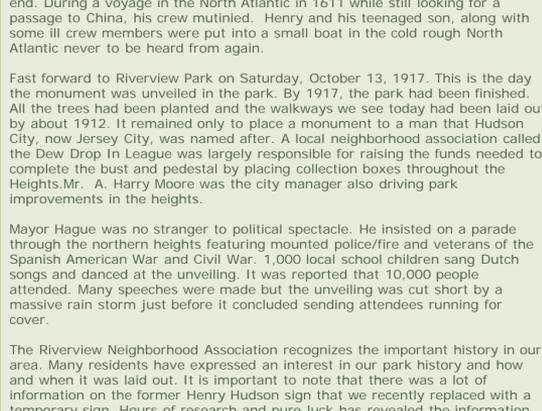


Photo: Creative Commons license.

It is easy to understand why many have thought the monument in Riverview Park supporting a very distinguished bust sporting an Elizabethan collar was none other than William Shakespeare. After all, the bronze sign that provided the true identity of the man went missing in the 1980s after the City covered graffiti on the granite pedestal with white paint and paint the bronze head with bronze paint. There were no funds to restore the monument properly and this was a quick fix to cover what had become an eyesore.

We "old timers" have always known it is none other than Henry Hudson, an English born sea captain and famous explorer. He had sailed for the English to find a route to China. Later, he was employed by the Dutch East India Company. He explored the river which eventually was named for him. His ship, The Half Moon, is believed to have anchored off what is now called Newport (formerly Pavonia). There is a sign there attesting to this. Henry met a tragic end. During a voyage in the North Atlantic in 1611 while still looking for a passage to China, his crew mutinied. Henry and his teenage son, along with some ill crew members were put into a small boat in the cold rough North Atlantic never to be heard from again.

Fast forward to Riverview Park on Saturday, October 13, 1917. This is the day the monument was unveiled in the park. By 1917, the park had been finished. All the trees had been planted and the walkways we see today had been laid out by about 1912. It remained only to place a monument to a man that Hudson City, now Jersey City, was named after. A local neighborhood organization called the Dew Drop In League was largely responsible for raising the funds needed to complete the bust and pedestal by placing collection boxes throughout the Heights. Mr. A. Harry Moore was the city manager also driving park improvements in the heights.

Mayor Hague was no stranger to political spectacle. He insisted on a parade through the northern heights featuring mounted police/fire and veterans of the Spanish American War and Civil War. 1,000 local school children sang Dutch songs and danced at the unveiling. It was reported that 10,000 people attended. Many speeches were made but the unveiling was cut short by a massive rain storm just before it concluded sending attendees running for cover.

The Riverview Neighborhood Association recognizes the important history in our area. Many residents have expressed an interest in our park history and how and when it was laid out. It is important to note that there was a lot of information on the former Henry Hudson sign that has recently replaced with a temporary sign. Hours of research and pure luck has revealed the information that was contained on the original lost sign. Here is what we now know:

The bust was modeled by the famous New York sculptor Anton Scaaf. He had also done bronze sculptures for the Vicksburg, Mississippi battlefield and a bronze work in Lincoln Park, Jersey City.

Mr. Scaaf closely followed the portrait of Henry Hudson by Count Pulaski. The memorial was designed by William Donald Mitchell of the John Williams Inc. bronze foundry in New York.

Today the RNA is in early stages of planning to raise funds to restore the monument by removing the paint and returning it to its original bronze patina, if possible. This is an expensive task and requires great skill. We have obtained an estimate from a highly recognized firm that has done work in the city parks and throughout the country. The Henry Hudson bust is estimated to cost \$8,000 to restore to its former glory.

The current state of this monument is poor. The city has no funds that we know of to restore it. We can apply for a historic trust county grant of matching funds to restore it but there is no guarantee we will receive approval. If we do, we will still need to raise at least \$4,000 to match the county grant.

If the residents demonstrate support for this plan, we will begin the fundraising as soon as we can. We have other fundraising ideas we are exploring for this project but it will still involve your support.

In addition, there is another monument in the park known as the Soldiers and Sailor's Monument at the corner of Bowers Street and Palisade Avenue that also needs restoration. This monument was unveiled on Memorial Day in 1922 and honors those from the Hudson City Section of Jersey City that fell in World War 1. This monument requires cleaning of the granite and cleaning of the sign so it is again readable. The estimate for this work is approximately \$3,000 if done at the same time as the Hudson bust.

I am also researching more local history including the fascinating story of Colonel Aaron Ogden, a true Revolutionary War hero rumored to have lived on the block. Can you guess what house he may have lived in until his death in 1839?

## Community Updates

**100 Steps** construction continues: The steel structure should be brought in over the next two weeks!

**NY Ave/Ravine Road:** Road remains closed throughout the summer/fall. The contractor has been on site the last two weeks preparing the area at the "dip". A temporary water line had to be installed to provide water to Galaxy and the main can be replaced once a survey is complete with the correct elevations for the pipes. PSEG is expected at the site late next week to install new utility poles but there is additional work to be done before to prepare the area. AJM will be on site for this work and to complete the work by Ravine Rd (top). A revised timeline has been requested from the contractor.

**Power of Art Show:** This wonderful collection of art will remain on exhibit at the Trolley Car Bar & Grill (328 Ogden) until the end of July. All of the art is for sale (except the 4 pieces so already marked with red dots) with 70% of the proceeds going to the artist and 30% going to support the activities of the RNA. Check it out. Email: [riverviewneighborhood@comcast.net](mailto:riverviewneighborhood@comcast.net) to make a purchase.

**Loews Jersey Summer Projects**  
The Landmark Loews Theatre uses the summer to make major renovations that can't be done during the year. They are seeking volunteers to assist them. For more information visit the [Loews website](#):

## Support the Riverview Farmers Market

The Riverview Farmers Market is open every Sunday from 9AM-2PM in Riverview-Fisk Park. This is a tremendous addition to our neighborhood and a great opportunity for you to buy fresh vegetables and locally made items or take in a yoga class by Yoga in the Heights. Make the Riverview Farmers Market part of your weekend routine! If you can volunteer at the RNA booth, please email [riverviewneighborhood@comcast.net](mailto:riverviewneighborhood@comcast.net).

## Keep up with the latest news and activities

To keep up with neighborhood news, alerts and our updated events, please follow us on Facebook or Twitter or check our [website](#).