

Old Business

- Tree lighting in Angel Ramos Park in December was a great success with a very good turnout. It was followed by a party in Barrow Mansion (this was the VVPA monthly meeting).
- Would like to make this an annual event.

Treasurer's Report

- As of 12/31/09, the current balance in the bank was \$7,911.26.

Correspondence

- Received a thank you letter from Helen Manogue of the Hudson River Waterfront Conservancy for the VVPA's donation of \$400 to the organization.
- Received a letter from Mayor Healy's office regarding the 2010 Census. More information below.

Maren Welsh, assistant manager of recruitment for JC and Bayonne, 2010 Census

- Between now and the end of March, the JC and Bayonne bureau of the US Census will be **hiring up to 1000 people** to work on the Census.
- Applicants must pass a basic skills test and a basic background check to be hired.
- Availability (**evenings and weekend work**) and where the applicant lives is very important to the hiring process. Ideally, candidates who will work in a certain neighborhood live in that particular neighborhood.
- The duration of the work will be **6 to 8 weeks**. Most workers also hold a full-time job.
- The pay starts at **\$13/hour and ranges up to \$20-25/hour** depending on the role. Jobs range from canvas workers (door-to-door interviewers) to bigger leadership roles.
- If interested, please contact the 2010 Census ASAP as the application process has already begun: **1-866-861-2010**. If applying for a job, it is recommended you do a practice skills test which can be found at the 2010 Census website: [.2010census.gov](http://2010census.gov)

Jennifer Morrill, Public Information Officer, Office of Mayor Healy

- Asking **ALL residents of Jersey City**, including **homeowners, renters, US citizens, non-US citizens**, to file with the US Census bureau. This provides essential information to the US government which in turn affects congressional representation and federal relief and financial aid funds.
- **ALL QUESTIONNAIRES ARE ABSOLUTELY CONFIDENTIAL**. The Census Bureau is an agency separate from other government agencies. They will not pass along information provided by residents to other agencies.
- Residents should expect to receive **2010 Census forms in the mail mid-March**. Please fill out and send in. **One form per household must be completed**. (You do NOT need to fill out a form for each family member. However, if is more than one family living in a building, each separate household must fill out the form.)
- If the form is not returned, Census workers will try to reach you in person visiting your house. They will continue to attempt this until they reach you.

- There are also designated sites where forms can be obtained, filled out and returned immediately. These are called “Be Counted” sites. More information on this may be obtained through the Mayor’s office.
- Omar Perez (201-547-5201) in Mayor Healy’s office can answer any questions about the process. Also, email @jcnj.org with questions.

Upcoming Events

- The Snow Ball is this Saturday, January 23rd. This champagne event benefits Art House Productions. For more info, go to arthouseproductions.org
- Made with Love is hosting a Soup Swap this Sunday, January 24th. For more info, please go to madewithloveorganics.com
- This Friday, January 22nd from 2 to 8pm is the Creative Grove Artists’ Market at Grove St. Plaza. Ute Blauser, the founder, as also started a new blog to link the entire arts/entertainment/culture scene across JC. Go to offoffjc.blogspot.com and check it out!

Haiti Relief Updates

- Mayor’s office receiving many calls regarding how to help Haiti.
- Go to jerseycitynj.gov for information about blood drives and area businesses supporting the relief effort. Also text 9099 for more info.

Membership Open Forum

- One member suggested initiating a badminton tournament open to all. Suggested cost of entry would be \$10 and the winner of the tournament could choose a JC park to receive proceeds of the event. Both Jennifer and Linda from the Mayor’s office offered their assistance in investigating the feasibility of this.

Next Month’s Anticipated Speakers

- Ward E Councilman Steven Fulop
- Landmarks Preservation Society