



Regent Square Civic Association Newsletter

October 1993, Volume 13, Number 4

VOTE!
Election Day
Tuesday November 2
October 8th, last day
to register
VOTE!

Edgewood Paints Yellow - Residents See Red - Traffic Changes On Braddock And Greendale

To the complete surprise of Regent Square business owners, Edgewood Borough began a 60-day trial of some traffic changes on Braddock and Greendale. Effective September 28:

- Three parking spaces are closed on Braddock in front of the bakery and bank near Hutchinson, to make room for a left turn lane on Braddock
- All parking spaces are closed on Hutchinson between the convenience store and Alley C, to make room for a left turn lane on Hutchinson
- Three parking spaces are closed on Braddock below Sanders, also to make room for a left turn lane on Braddock
- At all three intersections, the center lane will be left turn only, and the right lane will be for through traffic and right turns
- A police officer will monitor traffic at Braddock and Hutchinson from 4-7 pm daily
- No traffic may enter Greendale off Braddock from 4-7 pm daily
- The speed limit on Greendale is reduced from 25 to 15 mph

The purpose of the trial, according to Borough Manager Pete Messina, is to try to alleviate pressure on Greendale Avenue, by closing it off during rush hour and making traffic flow more smoothly on Braddock. Council agreed to the trial after repeated requests and petitions from Greendale Avenue residents.

Business owners on Braddock have expressed several concerns. There is fear that reduced parking will inconvenience customers and hurt business, especially businesses that rely on convenience trade. The Borough has taken no
(continued on next page)

Run Around The Square - 11th Annual Run Around The Square Brings Out Runners', Neighbors' Enthusiasm

Over 1,200 runners--and uncounted spectators, walkers, and volunteers--braved the August heat to enjoy this year's Run Around the Square. The number of racers roughly equaled last year's record turnout. The winners and times in minutes were:

Overall	Regent Square Residents
Derek Seiling 26:24	Doug Hopwood 30:34
Becky Pudzik 31:46	Michele Megarry 36:58
Most Enthusiastic Spectator - George Pearth - whose strolling accordion music enlivened the festivities around Lancaster and Sanders.	

Every year imaginative race coordinators Carol Cusick, Mary Smith, and Diane Totten add something new to the race. This year Regent Square Tavern won the first-ever Waterstop Sponsor's Award & Plaque for their Elvis Waterstop. And La Prima Espresso provided complimentary capuccino to all runners at the finish line. The coordinators extend their thanks to all the volunteers, runners, and spectators for contributing to the success of the race.

Thanks also to Dunning McNair's (the race headquarters); major sponsors Giant Eagle, Edgewood Towne Centre, Variety '96 FM, Forbes Metro Hospital, and Citiparks; and over 50 other sponsors.

Runners, spectators and anybody out for a good time - mark your calendar for next years race - August 27th!

Storefront News - Rothschild Honored

This month the Rothschild Architects of Regent Square received a Citation Award in the annual Design Awards competition held by the Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. The awards jury, comprised of four
(continued on next page)

Edgewood Paints Yellow

(continued from prior page)

action to allow additional parking spaces to make up for those lost by this reconfiguration. There is some doubt that reconfiguration of the three intersections will make much difference on Braddock Avenue or Greendale.

There is fear that the right turn lanes will be a hazard to children crossing the street or waiting for buses. No lane/flow signs have been placed to alert motorists to the zig-zag lane configuration. No large "new traffic pattern" signs or warnings have been placed to alert any long-time residents of the new patterns, creating an additional hazard. The traffic signals have not been reconfigured to provide turn-only lane flow.

All changes are for a 60-day trial period ending November 26. During the 60-day period the Greendale intersection will be monitored by videocamera, and police will monitor the impact on Braddock. At the end Borough Council will choose to amend, erase, or enact the measures. If conditions worsen substantially some or all of the measures can be rescinded before the 60-day period ends.

Mr. Messina stated that the Borough Council discussed the measures in open meetings which were reported in local papers including the Progress and the Edgewood Newsletter. No special attempt was made to contact the business owners or the Borough of Swissvale even though these changes significantly impact both business and the surrounding communities.

Business owners invite you to make your opinion known by signing the polling sheets in their stores. Residents may want to attend the Borough of Edgewood meetings to make their opinions known.

Bloctoberfest

About 50 people braved the rain to enjoy the Family Fall Fun Festival in the Regent Square School gym on October 2nd. Kids enjoyed a treasure hunt and face painting. Billy Zickgraf won the pizza eating contest unopposed. The Independent Order of Foresters, an international family oriented fraternal organization, provided free photo ID's for 24 children. Hamburgers, hot dogs, sauerkraut, and snacks were served to all. Thanks to Principal Francene Juran for making the school available to the Civic Association, and Lamanti's Pizza for sponsoring the contest.

Regent Square Civic Association Newsletter

Storefront News (continued from prior page)

prominent New York City architects, gave awards to only seven of the nearly 70 projects submitted.

Rothschild Architects was honored for its work on the USConnect Building in Pittsburgh. The jury noted the "creative use of interior materials," and the creative use of light in shaping the interior space. The entries will be exhibited at the Wood Street Galleries downtown through October 23.

Down the block from Rothschild's, the Antique Gun Parts has now laid definitive claim to the strongest storefront in the Square. A stone decor has replaced the large front display window which was shattered when a car accidentally parked in the window.

Across the street, Lamanti's Pizza now boasts a fine green awning. Look for breakfast and seated dinner service there in the next few months.

Finally speaking of crossing the street, Foodland has hired a person to direct traffic in front of their store. The store hopes to improve safety and access for both pedestrians and vehicles.

Regent Square School - Seeks Community Participation

These are exciting times for the Pittsburgh Public Schools and Regent Square School is part of the excitement. The School Board has recently enacted fundamental changes in classroom instruction, school operation, and school-community relations:

- Students will be evaluated based on what they know, not on how hours of instruction they have had ("outcomes-based education").
- The central administrative staff has been reduced, and principals will have more discretion in managing their schools ("site-based management").
- Parents, teachers, and community members will be more directly involved in decisions affecting each school, via advisory parent-school-community councils.

Regent Square School has adopted the Heartwood series and taken the theme of heroes and heroism as the unifying focus of its curriculum. The School is looking for community representatives to serve on its parent/school/community council. If you are interested contact Francene Juran, the principal, at 247-7970.

Bumper Crop - What To Do With All Those Tomatoes!

The hot and humid weather this summer has given many local backyard gardeners bumper crops of tomatoes. But what to do with them? Two local residents have some creative ideas that bring some variety to the table.

Julia Sawyer, a resident of the Pittsburgh area of the Square, perused the "The New Basics Cookbook" by Julee Rosso and Sheila Lukins she offers an recipe for a rich tomato soup. With the cool breezes of October, this may hit the spot.

Cream of Tomato Soup - (serves 8)

4 Tbsp. (½ stick) unsalted butter
2 onions thinly sliced
1 carrot peeled and shopped
6 cloves of garlic
8-10 large fresh basil leaves
a pinch of sugar
8-10 medium fresh (or fresh frozen) tomatoes peeled
or 2 cans (35 oz. each) plum tomatoes with juice
Salt & pepper to taste
4 cups stock (Knorr Vegetarian vegetable cubes plus water)
½ tsp. allspice or nutmeg
2 cups heavy cream (or 1 cup heavy cream & 1 cup whole milk or half-and-half)

- 1.) Melt butter in large soup pot, add onions, carrot and garlic. Cook until vegetables have wilted (about 10 minutes)
- 2.) Add tomatoes with juice, basil, sugar. Cook for about 5 minutes. Add stock and allspice or nutmeg. Bring to a boil, reduce heat and simmer for 30-50 minutes.
- 3.) Purée the soup. (If you don't have a blender of food processor you may pour the soup through a strainer and use a large spoon to mash the vegetables into a purée. Blend this back into the soup.) Return soup to pot. Add cream and correct the seasonings (i.e. salt/pepper to taste). Heat until hot but not boiling. Serve hot.

The soup is quite rich and full flavored. Julia says "Don't be afraid of the nutmeg - it adds a wonderful flavor". She goes on to comment that although she is not a strict vegetarian she enjoys vegetarian cuisine and "The New Basics" cookbook adapts very well to vegetarian styles.

Julia's neighbor across the way, Sara Campbell, also was pondering what she could do with her harvest. One day's picking yielded her over 40 tomatoes! Sara turned to "The Old Fashioned Cookbook" by Jan Canton to find "Mrs. Gaul's Tomato Preserves". The recipe not only uses a large quantity of tomatoes but produces a wonderful preserve that is delicious to spread on bread and enjoy. It tastes more of lemon, cinnamon and spices than anything else.

continued on next page)

Waverly Church - Offers After School Program

The Waverly After School Program (ASP) is located at the Waverly Presbyterian Church on the corner of Forbes and South Braddock Avenues. The program provides care for children attending not only the Regent Square Elementary School but other public and private schools in the surrounding community. The program hours are from school dismissal until 6 P.M. five days a week.

The program follows the Regent Square School calendar, remaining open for fully day care on days when the school is closed, excepting national holidays and the winter/spring vacation breaks. (Note that vacation care may be added if the need arises.)

The Waverly ASP program is a non-religious and non-denominational program. The focus of the program is on nurturing children in a healthy and secure setting. The program offers independent playtime, a snack and quiet study time. Group activities such as games, cooking and art projects are also offered. And with Frick Park Playground adjacent to the church, outdoor exercise, organized games and occasional picnics are incorporated into the curriculum.

The program is fully certified and licensed by the State of Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, Child Care Division. Children attending the program are met at the Regent Square School by a program teacher and walk-escorted to the facility, or they are bussed from their respective schools.

Enrollment is limited to 30 children. This allows flexibility in providing quality programming to meet the diverse needs of all children who attend.

Further information about the program or application for enrollment can be obtained by calling the Waverly Presbyterian Church at 242-0643

Editors Definition

gift shop - a place where they sell things that you wouldn't have as a gift.

Bumper Crop (continued from prior page)

Cooking a batch makes your house smell wonderful!

Grandma Gaul's Tomato Preserves (Yield 10-12 ½ pint jars)

5 pounds fully ripe tomatoes, peeled, cored and seeded
4-5 pounds of sugar
2 lemons, thinly sliced and seeded
1/8 tsp. salt
3 sticks cinnamon, broken
1 Tbsp. whole cloves.
10-12 ½ pint jars
Paraffin for sealing jars

- 1.) Chop tomatoes coarsely and mix together with lemon, sugar and salt in a very large kettle. Mix well.
- 2.) Tie spices in cheesecloth bag and add to mixture.
- 3.) Bring mixture to a boil, stirring constantly.
- 4.) Reduce heat very low and cook stirring as needed until mixture thickens and threads (about 1.5-2 hours) Note that you can test by dropping some of the mixture onto a cool plate - if it forms a jelly-like consistency then it is done.)
- 5.) Remove from heat, stir and skim for 5 minutes.
- 6.) Pour mixture into sterilized jars, seal with 1/8 " layer of melted paraffin
- 7.) When paraffin cools, add second layer of paraffin (about 1/8") to finish sealing

Sara commented that she wanted to "try something different" and was very surprised with the results. She recommends it as a good recipe and the local taste tests have left her pantry bare! She hopes to make one last batch before the winter.

So, there you have it! Two different and very good things to try in your kitchen. Both are sure to please.

Edgewood Borough Versus Billboard Industry

Edgewood Borough has been sued by billboard company J.B. Stevens after denying the company's application to place five billboards in Edgewood along the Parkway. The firm wants to build two structures:

- One 14'x 48' sign on next to the Uni-Mart on Edgewood Avenue, looming 110' over Edgewood Avenue, Railroad and Laurel Street to be visible to eastbound Parkway traffic.
- Two double-faced signs--that's four altogether--each 20'x 60' all on one pole, looming over the Brinton Avenue bridge and visible to Parkway traffic in both directions.

Regent Square Civic Association Newsletter

Borough council held three hearings on the matter before denying the application unanimously. Bob Gelman testified as an expert real estate appraiser about the effect the billboards would have on property values. Traffic engineer Mark Magalotti testified as to the poor highway configuration, number of accidents, and outdated roadway curves in the area where the billboards are proposed. Borough Manager Pete Messina testified that the billboards would be by far the highest structures in the borough. Many residents spoke against the billboards.

A Decade Of Dunnings

Dunning McNair's Ale House celebrated its 10th anniversary last August 28th with live music, celebrity bartenders, 1983 price specials and complimentary cake. A bagpiper invoked the Scottish heritage of the original Dunning McNair. Dan and Matt Kambic added a neighborhood touch with their folk guitar music. Hamburger prices were rolled back to 1983 amounts (that's \$2.75). Dallas Frey, George Fuller, Bob Fuchs, Joel Johnston, Bob Kennedy, and Mark McKenna were among the celebrity bartenders.

Owners George Smith and Gerry Totten thank the neighborhood for ten years of support. Dunning McNair's has contributed much to Regent Square and we wish George and Gerry many more years of success.

Stew With Mulligan

Kathleen Mulligan, Regent Square's own candidate for Common Pleas Court judge, is inviting the neighborhood to a Mulligan Stew fundraiser in support of her candidacy. A \$15 donation will get you delicious Mulligan Stew, plus a chance to meet the only candidate rated highly qualified by the Allegheny County Bar Association. She won primary endorsements from both parties last spring.

The fundraiser will be held 6:30-8:30 pm Friday October 14th at the Swissvale American Legion, 7400 Park Avenue near Washington and Palmer Streets. Tickets are available from campaign treasurer Christine Miller, 244-1814, or at the door.

Newsletter - Input/Output

The Regent Square Civic Association Newsletter is edited by Jon Danzak. Special thanks to Ed Wells for editorial assistance and Joe George, Jr. for logistics support! If you have a comment or would like to see something included in the newsletter, please call Jon at 241-2345 or write to him at 629 South Braddock Avenue, Pittsburgh PA 15221. Comments are always welcome.