



Regent Square Civic Association Newsletter

December 1995, Volume 15, Number 5



Major Construction At Forbes & Braddock Playground In Frick Park - New Playground Construction Targeted For Summer

If all goes as planned there will be major changes in store for the Forbes & Braddock playground area of Frick Park. Over the past several years the City of Pittsburgh has been actively working on playground areas in the parks system to assure that they meet all of the safety standards to prevent injury to playground users. This coming spring the Frick Park Forbes & Braddock play area has been targeted for major renovation.

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Holiday Decoration Contest - Call, Register And Win On December 18th Judging!

The Regent Square Civic Association will sponsor a holiday decoration contest. The contest will offer a \$25 first prize and a \$15 second prize for the best decorated homes.

To enter the contest, call Nevin Rhodes at 243-3922 between 9am-5pm. Indicate that you want to enter the holiday decoration contest and provide your name, address and phone. Then, be sure to light up your holiday decorations for judging on December 18th from 7pm-9pm.

On the evening of December 18th from 7pm-9pm the Civic Association board members will drive by the houses registered and select the winning homes.

With holiday spending and entertaining - an extra \$25 or \$15 could come in handy. So if you've decorated your house, give Nevin a call at 243-3922 and register to see if you can win the first or second prize.

Editors Definition:

Dentistry - the practice of drilling, filling and billing.

Holiday On The Square - Events Finalized

The Regent Square Business Association has finalized the schedule of events for this holiday season. Starting on December 9th through December 15th there will be festive events nearly every day in the business district of The Square:

Saturday - December 9th - Santa Claus Party for Kids at Dunning's Grill from 11am-1:30pm

Monday - December 11th - Bagpipes by James Harland at Bakery On The Square from 6pm-7pm

Tuesday - December 12th - Strolling Musician Professor Frank J. Migoosh at Clipp's and Lemanti's

Wednesday - December 13th - Five Guys Named "Moe" at Mike's Cleaners from 6pm-7pm

Thursday - December 14th - The Edgewood Symphony Ensemble at Concept Art Gallery from 6pm-7pm and
Brownie Troop 299 singers at Hepatica from 6pm-7pm

Friday - December 15th - Edgewood Presbyterian Youth Club and Church School Carolers at Stonebraker's Jewelers from 5:30pm-6:30pm and
Party for Kids with Buffo The Clown at 1108 S. Braddock Storefront from 6:30pm-7:30pm

A special thanks to all the Regent Square merchants for donations and hand-outs for the Friday children's party! Also thanks to Steve Zelenko for the use of the sound system at Art Concept Gallery and to Kathy Cauley for the use of the storeroom at 1108 S. Braddock for the children's party!

So come down to the business district from in The Square. Check out the many events happening from December 9th through the 15th and be sure to stop by for with your child for the kid's party on the 15th!

Major Construction At Forbes & Braddock Playground In Frick Park - (cont.)

Back in October the City held two meetings with residents to collect input and provide preliminary planning information. Some residents of Regent Square participated in these public meetings as well as Councilman O'Connor. The first meeting was used to collect information about the current playground, the use of the Park and general feelings of residents about redesign effort. The second meeting was used to present the working plans for the redesigned playground and take further input.

Some very extensive construction and improvements will be done at the play area. As you are looking at the playground from South Braddock Avenue a diagonal blue path will wide across the park from the Forbes/Braddock intersection area to the back left area of the park. This area will be set-up as a play area for 2-5 year olds with a special foam safety surface. The 'blue path' will act as an play stream and the play area will be a 'pond' with fish and other aquatic animals on large springs for children to ride. Near this area a smaller swing-set will also be located. The placement of the young child area in this section of the park helps keep it away from any busy traffic hazards that the Forbes and Braddock Avenues could present to a small running child.

At the opposite back right area of the park will be a play and swing area for the 5-plus age group. This will include larger swing sets and a multi-function play unit. This area will also have a safety surface of wood chips that will provide a soft cushion should any of the older children fall while at play. The play unit will be constructed with some wood for natural effects as well as some plastic. The result should be a unit which blends in well with the park but also is accented as an inviting play area.

In addition to the make-believe blue stream path to the little children's play area, another path will also proceed from the left corner of the Park (on South Braddock near the ball field) in a rough path around the entire area. Benches will be conveniently located around this path and possibly some gaming tables. Additional landscaping with some low rocks with historic or informational plaques will also be added.

In consideration of persons with special needs the redesign will take into account access for children with physical impairments. A drinking fountain should be

installed which will also allow easy access for any person with physical difficulties.

Because of the ever present traffic and general safety concerns some attention will be given to some gradual sloping and/or planting near the edges of the play area to assure that children do not have an easy path to any busy street. In addition there is some consideration to in-sidewalk lighting for additional safety.

These major improvements are likely to begin as soon as possible in the spring construction season (i.e. March of 1996). This will mean that the work on the playground should be completed by the late June timeframe just in time for the peak mid-summer season in the Park. It's likely that about \$300,000 will be spent on these major improvements.

There may be some casualties on the way. The beloved fire engine will need to be removed in the interest of safety. Currently the whirl-about is under evaluation for safety reasons. It may also need to be removed in favor of safer equipment.

In spite of the retirement of the fire engine and possible demise of the whirl-about the public meeting in which redesign was presented was greeted with very favorable results. The increased emphasis on child safety will be a major plus for the park as well as the improved access for persons with physical difficulties. The redesign focused on assuring that the majority of the play area remained an open space which fit in naturally with the park. It will remain an easy area for people to congregate and feel safe in.

If all goes as planned, it will be a great year for kids and adults at the Forbes & Braddock play area this summer!

Editors Definition:

Virus - a latin word used by doctors translated to mean "Your guess is as good as mine."

RSCA Treasurer - Runs For Swissvale Council

The treasurer of the RSCA, Aldo Pomposini, recently ran for council in Swissvale. Aldo put up quite a fight for the Republican ticket. Unfortunately the seat was lost to the Democrats. But there is some consolation in all of this - of all Republican candidates Aldo captured the most votes! So some congratulations are in order for a hard fought campaign.

Editors Definition:

Critic - a person who is at their best when you're at your worse

Civic Association Membership - Thanks To All!

Over \$1,125 was collected during the Civic Association membership drive. While most of this was in the form of \$5 contributions for each household, several persons offered more generous contribution. One resident even contributed \$100!

Thanks to everybody who contributed! This generosity will help the Civic Association sponsor events - such as the Holiday Events in The Square - as well as provide regular newsletter publication throughout 1996.

If you're interested in being active in the Civic Association or just being a contributing member, the Joe George a call at 243-7954 between 9am and 5pm. The Civic Association depends on the community for participation and support.

And once again, thanks to all who offered a contribution to support the Civic Association events and newsletter! Your support is greatly appreciated!

Trouble Afoot - Tips For Winterizing Your Feet

As the cold weather sets in people will be wearing heavier clothing everywhere including their feet. These next few months can sell trouble in terms of dry, scaling and cracking skin on the heels and other parts of the feet. What may begin to appear as cracks can turn in into more serious problems if they become infected.

To keep the on your feet soft and able to withstand winter weather it's best to apply a moisturizer to the feet and heels before going to bed. The lotion should be applied to the top and bottom of the feet avoiding the area between the toes. The best lotions are those which are not heavily perfumed and have a low alcohol content. Some recommended lotions are Eucerin, Lubriderm, Curel and Vaseline Intensive Care.

Making sure that you have clean and dry socks will also help keep your feet healthy. Socks which are wet and worn for only an hour in the cold can greatly increase your chance for frostbite.

If you've been out in the cold and your feet have become wet and cold it's best to gently warm them back up. Do not immerse your feet in hot water! Rather warm them gently by using a warm blanket or warm compress. If your toes have any blue/black discoloration you should immediately see a specialist!

Patients with diabetes should take particular care in warming their feet. Frequently diabetics have some feeling loss in their toes. Diabetics should particu-

larly avoid using any heating pads or hot water to warm their feet as they can more easily over-warm and cause injury.

Slippery sidewalks in this cold season will increase your chance of a fall that can cause an injury to your foot or ankle. If you do have an injury, RICE it! (R)est your injured area, (I)ce the area in a 20 minute on / 40 minute off cycle, (C)ompress the area with a light wrap and (E)levate the area to reduce swelling and pain. And, of course, seek appropriate medical treatment.

Prevention is the best way to keep your feet healthy during the cold season. Keep the feet clean, dry and warm. Wear shoes that fit well and give you support. Use lotion on dry areas. And if you have questions about foot care you should see a Podiatrist. Some painful problems are often easier to fix than you may think.

Contributed by Coleen A. Boyle, D.P.M of the Western Pennsylvania Foot And Ankle Center at 1201 South Braddock Avenue. You may phone her at 371-9330 if you need additional information.

Turn Giant Eagle Receipts Into Computers - For Regent Square School

The Regent Square School is collecting Giant Eagle receipts. These can be used by the school in order to get computer equipment. You can drop in any receipts that you collect in the box at Mike's Cleaners in the business district of The Square. Mike's is opened from 7am-8am Monday thru Friday, 7am-6pm on Saturday and 10am-3pm on Sunday. So if you're doing lots of holiday shopping at the Giant Eagle, try to save up some receipts for the school computer program!

Parkway Intersection Cleaned - 11 Volunteers Make Clean Sweep

Once again Barbara Peterson marshaled the forces to get out to the Parkway Intersection at South Braddock Avenue for a cleanup. Eleven volunteers rose at 8 AM on Sunday morning November 5th to bag and collect litter at the intersection.

The volunteers included Robin Connors, Jon Danzak, Pat Fallon, Patty Fallon, Terry Gossard, Josi Hatalla, Dennis McCann, Barb Peterson, Ping Pirrung, Andy Takacs and Kathryn Takacs. The intersection was considerably cleaner than the last time and it was cleared of all litter in about 2 hours. Thirty-five bags of trash were collected along with a few other odd parts of cars, tires and other road debris.
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Parkway Intersection Cleaned (continued)

Fortunately the weather was also cold but crisp and pleasant. Penn DOT provided gloves and orange vests and Barb thoughtfully provided some drink and breakfast rolls.

More volunteers are always welcome. If you'd like to help out in the next cleaning please give Barb a call at 371-2506. Sunday February 18th at 8 AM marks the time for the next event which will happen rain, snow or shine.

Regent Square School - New Council Members Sought

The Regent Square School's mission statement is "to educate students in a safe, stable, and supportive environment. Regent Square School will challenge each student to develop skills and talents. We want all students to learn how to learn from each other, and how to address their work back to their homes and community".

To foster this mission the school has a council which offers a formal problem solving vehicle and encourage communications. The council includes 4 permanent, 10 elected and 6 selected members.

Elections for council seats are open in January 1996. If you are interested in working with the Regent Square School on the Council or if you know of somebody who would be interested in working closely with the school, please call either Francene Juran - school principal at 821-8469 (5pm-8pm) or Mr. Bill Werner of the Regent Square Civic Association at 241-8126.

Over the past few years the School has welcomed active community participation. Education gives us all the opportunity to shape the future. If you feel that you'd like to contribute to this future - please give either Fran or Bill a call to discuss how you could be a vital part of the Regent Square School.

Traffic Changes And Comments - RSCA To Recommend Changes

Several comments regarding traffic safety in the business district intersection of Sanders and South Braddock have been made to the Civic Association. At peak traffic hours the people making turns to/from South Braddock off of Sanders often create hazardous or traffic stopping situations.

Recently the gas station at the Braddock/Sanders has made changes to signage to help provide a better view of the intersection and improve safety. The Civic Association is going to recommend that a "No

Left Turn" with hours of 7am-8pm on weekdays and 10am-5pm on weekends be posted at the intersection of Sanders and South Braddock. This would prevent dangerous cross-traffic turns at rush hours.

At the Braddock/Hutchison intersection the Civic Association is going to recommend that the traffic signal adjustment could be changed to allow the pedestrian phase before the car phase. This simple timing adjustment would help assure pedestrians had less competition with cars for access to the intersection.

Finally the mountainous 'bumps' at the "Welcome To Edgewood" sign on the Parkway offramp are hazardous - especially for an driver unfamiliar with the road. The Civic Association is going to recommend that the appropriate steps be taken to make this road surface safer.

If you have other comments on traffic safety which you'd like to ask the Civic Association to address, please contact Joe George at 243-7954 from 9am-5pm.

Blue Chip Stocks - What Are They?

In the game of poker, the blue chips are the most valuable chips on the table. In the world of investing, these are considered the 'most valuable' on the market.

Typically these stocks are those of companies which have long histories of earnings growth, steady dividends, strong finances and established brands. Companies that have achieved 'blue chip' status are household names: AT&T, Coca-Cola, Disney etc..

But does this mean that you should limit your portfolio to blue chip stocks exclusively? Probably not. For one things, because of their strength and status they are relatively expensive. Furthermore, if you're in a position to take more of a risk with your money and get potential better earnings, you may want to invest some of it in a small-company growth stocks.

Although you may not own all blue-chips, some may be important to helping hedge your portfolio to weather the ups and downs of the market.

As with any investing, it should be professionally tailored to meet your short and long term financial goals.

Contributed by Luella Mattes - Certified Financial Planner - 1201 South Braddock Avenue. You may reach her at 243-1143.

Newsletter - Input/Output - The Regent Square Civic Association Newsletter is edited by Jon Danzak. Special thanks to Ed Wells & Cecilia Walkney 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.