



# Regent Square Civic Association Newsletter

February 2003, Volume 23 Number 1

Meets the first Monday of the month at Wilkins School Community Center, 7PM. All Regent Square residents are welcome to attend.

Did you renew your RSCA membership for 2003?



Just fill out the box on Page 3, mail it in, and you'll be updated for the new year!

## WHO COUNTS? YOU COUNT!

### *Most Supportive Streets Tallied*

*(Alina Keebler, new Board Member, has been working with RSCA membership drive and committee participation. She writes in to report her findings on RSCA demographics and membership.)*

To the households and merchants who sent in their 2003 membership dues, we say: "Thank you, thank you, thank you!" And, to the streets with the highest number of contributing households, we say: "Wow!!! We truly appreciate your support: LaClair (1st place), Macon (2nd), Milton (3rd), and East End and South Braddock (tied for 4th)!"

Is yours among these top five participating streets? Do you want to help it get there but you haven't sent in your 2003 dues? Then, fill out the form on Page 3 of this Newsletter and be counted! And, at the same time, feel good that you will be helping RSCA initiatives throughout the upcoming year.

Alina Keebler - Membership Committee

## HOLIDAY LIGHTING WINNERS

### *Some Great Decorating In The Square*

The judging committee had a really fun evening driving through Regent Square picking out the winners of the annual Holiday Lighting Contest.

Ron Waetzman on South Trenton won the first prize of \$75 for his spectacularly decorated house. Lisa and Patrick McGee on Biddle came in second with a \$40 prize for their unique and non-traditional 'falling snowflakes' effect on their house. And, also back on South Trenton, Rick Hawkinberry & Evan Aiello came in third for a \$40 prize with their elegant adornment of an expansive and stately house. Finally, Stephen & Jan Ference on East End came won a \$25 prize for their tastefully decorated home that really stood out.

In keeping with the holiday spirit, the prizes were all donated to the charity of the winner's choice, spreading the joy from Regent Square far and wide. Thanks to all who participated!

## ANNUAL MEETING WELL

### ATTENDED

#### *Braddock Avenue Study Gives RSCA Ambitious 2003 Agenda*

Most of the fifty-or-so people packed into the overheated classroom at Wilkins School Community Center on December 6, 2002 were not there to elect members of RSCA's Board of Directors, or to sign up as committee volunteers, or even to raid the buffet laid out by RSCA Board members. The main event at the Association's 2002 Members Meeting was Ed Patton of Vollmer Associates, LLP.

Mr. Patton presented a summary of Vollmer Associates' recommendations for the improvement of Regent Square's Braddock Avenue business district. *(Continued on page 4.)*

**SAVE THE DATES** - mark your calendars for upcoming Regent Square events:

- **Feb.3, Mar. 3 & Apr. 7** Monthly RSCA Board Meetings
- **April 13** Annual RSCA Easter Egg Hunt
- **May 17** Annual RSCA Yard Sale

If you'd like to be on the committee for any event, please call the Civic Association at 412-243-0702.

## MEETING MINUTES

### *December & January RSCA Meeting Quick Recap*

**December 2nd Meeting:** Election of Board Members for 2003, presentation by Vollmer Associates on the Braddock Avenue Corridor Study; Open House for community member, business owners and local politicians. Volunteer acknowledgement and committee sign-up

**January 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting:** Nomination & Election of Board Officers for 2003. Committee Chair appointments and reporting, including detailed discussion of Braddock Avenue Study and Richmond Sanders Lot progress. Six month planning discussion including Yard Sale and Run Around the Square activities.

# NEW COP, OLD COP

## *New Police Assigned To Pittsburgh Section*

The new year brings a new assignment of the Community Oriented Police (COP) to the Pittsburgh section of Regent Square. However, the change will bring back a familiar figure. Officer Michael Blake will return to Regent Square this year.

Officer Blake is no stranger to residents. He's participated in many community meetings and special events. He mentions that he had asked to be reassigned back to Regent Square because he enjoyed the high level of citizen participation and 'community' feeling of the area.

Officer Blake will partner with Officer George A. Phillips. Officer Phillips is one of the most decorated officers in the Eastern US! His career spans over 24 years in law enforcement. He's an intense and personable fellow who rolls with the punches. But he also knows how to punch. Officer Phillips has several martial arts degrees and has also taught the subject. He's also been wounded in the line of duty three times, but it's not yet stopped him.

Officer Phillips, like Officer Blake, is a City of Pittsburgh resident. His wife works in Point Breeze. In spite of their busy schedule, both Officer Phillips and his wife make sure to spend quality time with their children.

It's nice to have Officer Blake back; and with Officer Phillips also on patrol – bad guys beware! It's definitely not safe for crime in Regent Square!

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# FLEA MARKET DONATIONS

## *April Event Looking For Goods – Except Clothes!*

Winter has been long and hard this year! Hopefully, you've spent the extra time cleaning out your closets, and you're remembering to bring your discards to flea markets like the upcoming one at the Edgewood Presbyterian Church.

This year the church will be holding its annual Flea Market in April. They will take anything except large furniture and clothes. Smaller donations may be left at the church (School Street door).

However if you need help with larger items, or additional information, you may call Joy Goethert at 412-731-1640.

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# RUN AROUND THE SQUARE

## *Sponsorship Drive Is On Now*

Due to the generosity of the many donors and sponsors in the Regent Square business district, the 20th Run Around the Square was a huge success! The Committee was able to make substantial donations to their two beneficiaries, the Regent Square Civic Association and the Frick Environmental Center.

Believe it or not, it's time to start organizing for this August's upcoming race. The 2003 Sponsorship Drive is currently full

speed ahead! If you have not received a 2003 Sponsorship application and would like to be on the application or on the very popular Run Around the Square T-shirt, please contact Michele Megarry 412-241-0913 [michelemegarry@prodigy.net](mailto:michelemegarry@prodigy.net) or Kirk Warner 412-241-2169 [kirkwarnerfamily@aol.com](mailto:kirkwarnerfamily@aol.com)

Traditionally many Regent Square businesses have supported this event. And many Regent Square residents support their local businesses. The Run Around The Square is a great community event! Consider joining and supporting it as a sponsor or volunteer!

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# NEWSLETTER HELP NEEDED

## *A Few More Zone Distributors Still Sought*

Thanks to the first volunteers to be *Zone Distributors*: Diane Charles (covering Milton and LaClair), Jon Danzak (Reg. Sq. merchants), Lisa Dennis (East End Avenue), Trevor Lloyd (Richmond and Trevanion), John A. Staudacher (S. Braddock) and Gary Tuckfelt (Macon and Lancaster).

Being a *Zone Distributor* involves sorting and delivering 100-150 newsletters to the 5-8 Block Captains on each street who then deliver it on to residents. This should take ½ - 1 hour each month that there is a newsletter. (A worthwhile investment in keeping Regent Square a well-informed and tight-knit community, wouldn't you say?)

***Zone Distributors are still needed for Mifflin, Savannah , Trenton and W. Hutchinson.*** If you can help, have any suggestions, or would like to join a Newsletter Committee to develop a better plan, please contact Alina (412-731-5117 or [keebler@telerama.com](mailto:keebler@telerama.com)) as soon as possible. We can't do it without you!

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# YARD SALE

## *Planning Starting For Spring Event*

Even though people are still shoveling the winter snow off our walks, it's not too early to start planning for the annual Regent Square Yard Sale. This year's event will take place on Saturday May 17<sup>th</sup>. Start going through those closets and that room no one gets to enter and pull those items that no longer fit into your life and prepare them for a new life with someone else.

The Yard Sale committee will be meeting in February to review and assign tasks that need to be done for another successful sale. The Committee will incorporate the many good ideas that we received after last year's event. If you are interested in helping please contact Julie A. Crawford, committee chair, at 412-731-6260 or email [julia.crawford@worldnet.att.net](mailto:julia.crawford@worldnet.att.net)

## MOVING CLOSER

### *Local Resident Relocates Job Closer To Home*

Regent Square resident Kristin Delisi, CRNP recently joined Family Health Council's East Liberty medical office to provide comprehensive women's health care.

Ms. Delisi received her BSN from Penn State University in 1995. Shortly after graduation, Kristin moved to Pittsburgh's Regent Square neighborhood to work as a nurse while attending Graduate School at the University of Pittsburgh where she specialized in women's health and received her MSN and CRNP degrees. Employed with Family Health Council since 1999, Kristin has most recently worked in the Alle-Kiski medical office.

Kristin married Dan Pearson this past August, and the couple recently purchased a home in Regent Square. Kristin enjoys traveling in her free time and watching Penn State and Pittsburgh Steeler football.

Her employer, Family Health Council, provides services include gynecology, pregnancy care, birth control, STD screening and treatment, and breast and cervical cancer screening with flexible hours at their 211 N. Whitfield Street location. For more information on Family Health Council services or to schedule an appointment, please call the East Liberty office at 412-661-2900.

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## TOY DRIVE

### *Second Annual Drive Successful!*

The second annual toy drive was another big success. Over 150 donations, including toys, games, puzzles, and books were collected. The toys will benefit children and families at Hosanna House in Wilksburg. (Hosanna House is a community center that provides childcare, after school programs, job training, mentoring, and health services.) A big thank you goes to Mary Lou Larimer, formerly of Macon Avenue, who donated several large bags full of stuffed animals and dolls once again this year. Thanks to all Regent Square residents who donated to this worthy cause. The RSCA, Hosanna House, and the families and children who benefit truly appreciate your generosity!

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## POT LUCK

### *Monday Supper Week Of Valentine's Day*

A Valentine Pot Luck Supper is being planned by the Edgewood Cot Club on Monday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM at the Edgewood Presbyterian Church. Entertainment will be provided by Verna Crichlow and her daughter, Georgina. Long time residents, they are well known in Western Pennsylvania for their Caribbean music and steel band. Bring a spouse and/or friends to this fun event! Members are asked to bring a hot dish, salad or dessert to serve 8 people. Please RSVP (**very important!**) to Joy Goethert 412-731-1640. by February 3<sup>rd</sup> if you plan to attend or for questions.

## 2003 RSCA Membership Form

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Information is not shared.)*

Suggestions, issues and/or committees of interest:

Membership Dues (check one):

\_\_\_ \$5 - Individual

\_\_\_ \$10 - Family

\_\_\_ \$15 - Business

\_\_\_\_\_ - Donation

Dues are not tax deductible

Checks payable to: R.S.C.A.

Mail to: RSCA Treasurer

1120 Macon Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15218-1253

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## BOOKS IN MAY

### *Donations Being Sought*

The Wilkins School Community Center will be holding its annual book sale in May. Please save your books for donation. They will be appreciated! If you need more information, you may contact the Center by email at [wscppgh@yahoo.com](mailto:wscppgh@yahoo.com) or call them at 412-244-8458.

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## FITNESS WITHOUT FEAR

### *New Daytime Class Offered*

Beginning Tuesday, January 28, 2003, the Wilkins School Community Center will offer a 4-week, a low impact exercise class from 9-10AM. The fee is \$22.00. Join a mature, experienced instructor for an enjoyable and effective fitness class. See the 2003 Wilkins School Community Center Winter Program Schedule for more details. (This program has been mailed to members and is available at the Center.)

The Center would like to offer more daytime classes. They need your suggestions for things would like to take to offer new or enhanced programs. You can contact the Center by email at [wscppgh@yahoo.com](mailto:wscppgh@yahoo.com) or call the Center at 412-244-8458.

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## CONCERT FOR KIDS

*Sunday Series Debuts February 9<sup>th</sup>*

The Center for Creative Play will begin a Sunday Afternoon Concert Series on February 9th with the Boilermakers Jazz Band performing two shows at 3:00PM and 4:30PM and the launching of Kids VIP (Very Important Play) a weekend evening drop off service. For more information on these programs, call 412-371-1668 or visit the web site [www.center4creativeplay.org](http://www.center4creativeplay.org).

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## BUSINESS TALK

### *Weekly Get-Togethers For Local Business Owners*

Joanne Spence (Fitness Yoga) and Dr. Amy Andrews (Edgewood Family Chiropractic) have started a series of regular meetings for local business owners. If you own a business in Regent Square and would like to participate, give Joanne or Amy a call at 412-853-4626 or 412-371-6145.

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## ANNUAL MEETING (Continued from page 1.)

The report was the product of a study commissioned by RSCA and federally funded via the Allegheny County Department of Economic Development. These recommendations attempt to identify and address traffic issues, pedestrian safety, the visual identity of the business district, and long-term planning.

The Vollmer report is available on their website at [www.vollmergis.com/regentsquare](http://www.vollmergis.com/regentsquare). Vollmer's suggestions for "traffic calming" and pedestrian safety include timing changes to the traffic signal at Braddock and Hutchinson, the construction of speed tables and "bulbed out" curbs at crosswalks down South Braddock from Overton Street to Allenby, and the somewhat controversial changes in off-street parking in the 1300 block of Braddock. Vollmer has also proposed a visual "makeover" for the business district to create a uniform look. Long-term suggestions include an overlay zoning district along Braddock that could be enforced uniformly by all municipalities, and the public acquisition of space for a parking lot or parking structure.

Residents' questions focused on the costs of implementing these recommendations both cost and inconvenience, and also on how any project that comes out of the Vollmer study would be paid for and managed. Mr. Patton pointed out that his firm's recommendations, which hopefully represent a community consensus, are an initial step down a long road.

The next step starts with the formation of a group to work closely with local, county and state officials on the creation of a plan that can be funded and built. A new organization separate from the RSCA, involving representatives of the community and the affected municipalities, might ultimately be created to manage implementation of such a plan.

Distinguished visitors State Senator Jay Costa, Jr., State Representative Dan Frankel, Swissvale Mayor Mark Foerster, Edgewood Mayor Jean Davin and Pittsburgh City Councilman Bob O'Connor, a few of the people this new working group will need to connect with, appeared supportive of the efforts of the Regent Square community and the Vollmer firm. Everyone generally agreed that the next step must involve conversation and coordination among business owners,

residents, and local officials across all municipalities.

The RSCA Steering Committee that supervised the Vollmer Study, chaired by RSCA Board member Arch Pelley, is in the process of retooling to act as just such a coordinating body, and several interested residents have signed up to participate. The next meeting of this group is scheduled for Monday, January 27 at 7 pm. Please contact Mr. Pelley for further information at 412-242-7274 or [a-pelley@peapc.com](mailto:a-pelley@peapc.com).

Also at the meeting, Regent Square residents paid RSCA membership dues, voted for members of the Board of Directors, looked over and signed up for committee offerings, and enjoyed a pre-holiday buffet laid out by Newsletter Editor Jon Danzak and other RSCA Board members. RSCA Secretary Julie Crawford and new Board member Alina Keebler collected membership dues and counted votes.

Turning the Study into something concrete (or at least asphalt) is just one part of RSCA's agenda for 2003. The Association will be administering another grant obtained with Rep. Frankel's assistance and through the efforts of RSCA member Colleen Derda for the reseeded of the Richmond-Sanders play area. The Association will be sponsoring an Easter-Egg Hunt the week before Easter, a neighborhood Yard Sale in mid-May, a Halloween Parade, Holiday Toy Drive and Holiday Lighting Contest. RSCA Committee chairs will be contacting residents who have signed up for committee work, and the Board is always looking for additional volunteers. It promises to be an interesting year.

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## CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

### *Thanks To Community Members For Newsletter Articles*

Thanks goes to for contributing writers from the community or those who provided information for the Newsletter. This includes Julie Crawford (Meeting minutes & yard sale), Joy Goethert (Flea market info), Mary Louise Turano (Wilkins School information), Alina Keebler (2003 Membership articles), Dawn Jackman (Center for Creative Play), Kathy Dryburgh (Cot Club info), David Pollack (Membership meeting), Jennifer Ray (Moving closer), Katie Scherer (Toy drive), and Bill & Judy Werner for a final proofreading.

The Civic Association Newsletter is your community newsletter. Consider submitting an article about the community for publication. Also feel welcome to attend the regular Civic Association meetings at 7PM in the Wilkins School Community Center the first Monday of each Monday.

**Newsletter Input/Output** - The Regent Square Civic Association Newsletter is compiled and edited by Jon J. Danzak ([danzak@sgi.net](mailto:danzak@sgi.net)). If you have a comment, please call Jon at 412-243-0702 or write to him at 629 South Braddock Avenue, Pittsburgh PA 15221-3415. ©2002 RSCA – Newsletter and logo are copyright of the Regent Square Civic Association. All rights are reserved.