



Regent Square Civic Association Newsletter

May 2003, Volume 23 Number 4

Web: www.regent-square.org

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 4, mail it in, and you'll be updated for 2003!

YARD SALE THIS MONTH

Register Early For May 17th Event

The annual Regent Square yard sale is only a few short days away. This year's sale will be from 9 AM – 2 PM, Saturday, May 17– the weekend after Mother's Day.

The banner is now flying over Braddock Avenue, thanks to the Swissvale Fire Department. An information booth will be set up in front of the Regent Square Theatre on the day of the sale. Residents who are not participating in the sale can obtain a map and information on the RSCA and other neighborhood events a booth from 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM. The theater will be showing cartoons (Bugs & friends) free of charge from 9 AM until 1 PM the day of the sale. *(Continued on page 3.)*

BUSY EASTER BUNNY

Nearly 100 Children Enjoy Egg Hunt

April 12th was a picture-perfect day in Regent Square. The weather was cool, yet warm enough to have a spring feel. The grass had taken on the deep green that is only seen at this time of year. And, the RSCA Easter Bunny had been busy – seeding the field adjacent to the Regent Square School with over 400 candy filled eggs.

Thanks to the efforts of Kelly O'Brien, who coordinated materials, and Betty O'Brien, who stuffed the plastic eggs with generous amounts of candy, all was ready for the day of the event.

On the day of the event, Jon Danzak, Carry Marty, an anonymous volunteer, and Betty O'Brien came early to hide the eggs. Alina Keebler and Barbara Charles also came to set up an RSCA information booth as well as take new membership contributions.

Right on schedule, at 10AM, children magically appeared. The field was fairly crowded for about an hour or so with neighbors all enjoying watching kids hunt as well as just have a nice discussion with others. Betty O'Brien sat on a bench and made sure each child received a small bag filled with easter straw to collect the 3-4 eggs of their choice. Alina and

Barb staffed the information booth, and Jon roamed around replenishing eggs when needed.

As the event wound down, a few lucky children who came late were more than happy to help 'clean up' leftover eggs (there weren't many!). And, Alina and Barb tallied up the new memberships and had a drawing for a gift basket. The new members who won the gift basket were Pat and June Beghley of LaClair Street.

Thanks to all who helped with the event, and all who participated in this fun spring event sponsored by your membership contribution to the Civic Association.

ALL AROUND THE SQUARE

Reports on Some Recent RSCA Activities

Community Mural Project - After a favorable vote at the April Civic Association meeting, the Revitalization Committee submitted an application to The Sprout Fund's Public Art program. The program pairs artists with communities to create a neighborhood mural. 8 neighborhoods will be chosen from the applicants, then community meetings will be held between residents and the artist to develop the mural design.

Several representatives from the Regent Square Civic Association scouted blank wall locations, and with the enthusiastic endorsement of its owners, the site chosen was the wall on the Hutchinson side of the Braddock Avenue Express market. *(Continued on page 4.)*

MEETING MINUTES

April RSCA Meeting Quick Recap

Monday, 7-APR-2003 - Presentation by resident Faro Hejazi on the physical boundaries of Regent Square, approval to submit an application to the Sprout Fund for possible mural in the Business District, new web site in progress, newsletter guidelines being formulated, membership committee working with local businesses, landscaping begins at Richmond/Sanders lot, welcome booklet near completion.

BOOK SALE & HERB FESTIVAL

Come Shop and Support the Wilkins School Community Center's Spring Improvement Efforts

The Wilkins School Community Center is planning many improvements over the next few months such as planting new garden areas, litter removal and refurbishing the Center playground. Two fund-raising events have been planned for May to benefit this effort.

Used Book Sale & Flea Market - Saturday and Sunday, 17 & 18-MAY-2003 — Wilkins School Community Center's Annual Used Book Sale and Flea Market will be held on Saturday, May 17th from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. There are a variety of items available at the flea market, and at the book sale there are some wonderful cookbooks and novels among the selections. Donations of books or flea market items are welcome before the sale and can be dropped off at the Center just inside the doorway at any time. We thank you in advance for your generosity. If you wish to sell your goods at the Flea Market, tables can be rented for a nominal fee.

Ink in this event on your calendar and hope for great weather — plan to attend and buy some treasures. While the Flea Market is only on Saturday, May 17th, the book sale continues on Sunday, May 18th, from 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. with unbelievable pricing. On Sunday you can purchase an entire bag of books for only one dollar. This year the funds from the sale will be used for playground renovations. For information call (412) 244-8458, email wscppgh@yahoo.com, or visit our web page for updates at www.wscppgh.org.

Herb Festival – Saturday, 31-MAY-2003 — A new and different event is planned for Saturday, May 31st. WSCC's first Herb Sale and Festival will feature fresh herbs suitable for planting, herb-related crafts, soaps, and cards, and a plant swap. For a donation of \$3.00, you can bring your extra plants and trade them in for different ones. Proceeds from the plant swap will be used for playground renovations, and participants will have the opportunity to donate excess plants to benefit the Center's gardens, or other community public gardens.

Featured Herb Festival vendors are: Kirkpatrick's Perennials, offering native plants and shade garden plants; Extraordinary Gardens of the North Side, selling herbs, plants, bird houses, container gardens, window-box herb gardens and garden ornamentation; Marci Mason, offering watercolors suitable for framing and beautiful note cards; Lori Sally, who participates in the Holiday Gift Mart, selling garden lanterns and unusual hanging plant fixtures; and The Pittsburgh Tealer, offering herbal teas, fancy coffees and accessories. Vendor applications are still being accepted. If you are interested in being a vendor at this event or would like more information, please email the center at wscppgh@yahoo.com, or call (412) 244-8458. As always, for information on classes at Wilkins School Community Center, or WSCC membership, visit their website at www.wscppgh.org.

Plan For More Perennials On South Braddock

Francis Simuel is again managing the effort to green the popular "word" in flowers at the vacant lot adjacent to McBrooms Distributor on South Braddock. Francis writes to update the community.:

Thank you for your generous financial support in 2002. Your contributions to the Regent Square Flower Garden at the corner of South Braddock and Sanders Avenues made it possible for us to purchase the flowers and other materials that the volunteer planters so diligently formed into a lovely garden.

To achieve our goal of expanding the creative potential of the garden by introducing several varieties of perennials in 2003, we will need to gain the financial support of as many new contributors as possible, and we will need to add at least six new volunteers to the planting crew. Let's make sure that long before planting begins on May 28th, the necessary funds and gardeners are accounted for!

If you want to join the planting crew, please call 412-247-5141 to get information about our first meeting on May 9th. To make a contribution to this year's garden, please make your check payable to "Francis Simuel, Garden Supervisor" and address Francis at 1125 Lancaster Avenue, Pittsburgh PA, 15218-1012.

Also, remember to write your favorite five-letter word in the memo section of your check. A list of these words will be compiled and sent to the Civic Association on May 21st. One will be selected for spelling out in the garden.

Good luck! Let's all work together to maintain the high level of excellence in our gardening effort!

Sincerely,

Francis Simuel

Garden Supervisor

LIFE WITH BABY

Local Mom Starting Baby Playgroup

New mom Elizabeth Carter is looking to connect with other Regent Square parents and commiserate with each other on the full-time job of life with baby. She writes to ask you to join her.

Three years ago when I moved to Regent Square, settling into a new home, finding a job, and more importantly, finding a fulfilling career, were at the top of my to-do list. After accomplishing these goals, I was blessed with a baby boy in September of 2002. My son, now six months old, has helped me to start a brand new to-do list. The first item on the list is to connect with other new moms and dads and parents of infants living in Regent Square. *(Continued on page 4.)*

GROWING GREENER

GIVE IT A TRI!

Resident brings Kids Triathlon to Frick Park

Swim, bike, run...it's what kids do best. Why not give them a t-shirt for their efforts? Regent Square resident, Deb Weaver of 1309 Richmond Street, is working on that! She's applied for a permit to host the first annual Frick Park Kids Triathlon on Sunday, 7-Sep-2003.

The early morning triathlon will consist of two age groups. Ages 7-9 will swim 50 yards, bike 1.5 miles and run 1K (.6 miles). Ages 10-12 will swim 100 yards, bike 2 miles and run 2K. The Irish Center bordering lower Frick Park has graciously opened up their pool for the event. Entry forms will be available by mid-June with proceeds going to the rebuilding of the Frick Environmental Center.

Deb will have a warm-up by directing the Pittsburgh Triathlon & Adventure Race in downtown Pittsburgh on July 13th. She's encouraging Regent Square residents to participate in the relay (team) portion. She comments, "If you've ever considered doing a triathlon you should find a few single-sport enthusiasts and give the downtown event a try!"

Deb, her husband Bill and son Lain moved to Regent Square in August of 2000 from Carlsbad, CA. "By chance we moved to this neighborhood, not knowing how desirable Regent Square is and the extent of Frick Park's beauty right out our front door," she said. Deb has been participating in triathlons for 10 years. She's often seen pushing Lain in the baby jogger along the Frick Park trails.

For volunteer and general information about either event, contact Deb Weaver at 412-371-0965 or via email at weaver.bdl@verizon.net.

A WALK IN THE PARK

Spring Activities to Complement Watershed Restoration

As the City of Pittsburgh and the Army Corps of Engineers plan to begin work on the aquatic ecosystem restoration of Nine Mile Run this summer, the Nine Mile Run Watershed Association (NMRWA) is sponsoring several educational events for folks to come and learn more about watershed natural history, the aquatic ecosystem restoration, and how the path to cleaner water is right in our own backyards.

Stream Walks—2nd Monday of each month, 9am-1pm & Saturday June 14th, 1pm-4pm – Meet in lower parking lot of NMRWA office at 1400 S. Braddock Avenue. Hike through Nine Mile Run to the Monongahela River. Waterproof boots are a must – knee high is best.

Bike and Hike Creek Tour—Saturday, May 10th 1-4 pm – Meet in the rear of the parking lot off Penn Avenue in downtown Wilkinsburg between Wood and Center Streets. Bike from the upper watershed community of Wilkinsburg along the path of underground stream channels to and through Frick Park. Then hike along the 200 million ton slag heap to the Monongahela River. Please pre-register with Western PA Field Institute by calling 412-255-0564 or send an email to signup@wpfi.org

Lower Watershed Walks—Monday, June 2nd 1-3:30 pm & Tuesday, June 3rd 6-8:30 pm – Meet in lower Frick Park parking lot off Hutchinson Avenue. Walk beside the main stem of Nine Mile Run through lower Frick Park. Wear comfortable shoes. Is organizing opportunities for citizens to help improve the watershed.

In June, NMRWA is also holding two stewardship events in Frick Park for citizens to participate in the remarkable recovery of this historically abused watershed:

Non-Native Invasive Plant Workshop—Saturday, June 7th, 9am-2:30pm. After spending the morning learning some basic information about non-native invasive plants and their threats to biodiversity, citizens will spend the afternoon working alongside professionals to remove non-native invasive plants from the Nine Mile Run stream corridor. Space is limited.

Litter Clean-Up—Saturday, June 21st, 8am-12noon. Help remove litter from Nine Mile Run in conjunction with the PA Department of Environmental Protection's River Sweep program.

All of NMRWA's events are free, and families are welcome. For more information or to pre-register for our stewardship events call 412-371-8779 or email NMRWA@hotmail.com.

YARD SALE *Continued from page 1*

Thanks also goes to the Regent Square Theatre staff and in particular Sarah Becker, theater manager. Sarah is providing the space and table and chairs for this year's information booth in front of the theater.

Although the deadline to get included on the yard sale map is May 1st, there is still time to register for the event. Anyone registering after the May 1st deadline will still receive the information packet with balloons and helpful yard sale information. Also, the committee is still looking for volunteers to sit at the information booth for one-hour shifts.

For those households who have not yet paid their \$5.00 registration (\$10.00 for merchants) please send your registration contribution to: RSCA Treasurer **Attn: Yard Sale**
1120 Macon Avenue
Pittsburgh PA 15218-1253

If you need to register, have questions, or would like to volunteer to help the Yard Sale Committee the day of the event, please feel free to contact the committee at the Yard Sale Hotline: phone 412-871-3754 or email keebler@telerama.com. Leave your name, address, telephone number, and e-mail if available. You will receive a confirmation call or email.

Get ready, get registered, clean out your attics, basements, garages or just come to browse and enjoy one of the nicest neighborhood yard sales in the Pittsburgh area, right here in Regent Square!

BABY PLAYGROU**P** *From page 2*

I have seen you out there with your strollers and front carriers braving the cold of winter and enjoying the sun and flowers of spring. Let us continue a Regent Square tradition started about two years ago, and begin a baby playgroup. If your nights consist of feedings and lullabies, while your days entail laundry and infant “stim,” this is the group for you! If you are interested in joining this playgroup, please contact me, Elizabeth Carter, at carterelizabeth@lycos.com or 412-371-2845.

RSCA NEWS

Continued From Page 1

Possible themes include: children as stewards of the environment, Regent Square-old and new, and something that ties together the park, athletics, family and recreation. Keep your eyes open for more information in upcoming newsletters!

Richmond/Sanders Lot Project Update – A selection of perennials (all native to Western PA) will be planted at the corner of Richmond and Sanders streets on Saturday, May 10th. If you are interested in helping that morning, please call 412-241-5225.

In the meantime, work is continuing to re-establish the field area. The existing weeds have been treated with herbicide. Once they brown out, the soil will be amended with phosphate and lime, and then roto-tilled and machine raked. Lawn seed will be added and covered with straw mulch. **The newly seeded area will not be available for use until at least early June** (after the third mowing).

Any questions about the project can be directed to David Pollack, RSCA president, at 412-247-4103 or Colleen Derda, beautification committee member, at 412-241-5225.

Contributing Members – Corrections & Additions – A special thanks goes out to the following 2003 RSCA Contributing Members who were incorrectly listed in the April Newsletter (noted with “*” below) or whose dues were received after its submission deadline. We appreciate your understanding and your support for RSCA initiatives.

June & Pat Beighley	Arch Pelley
Anthony & Geraldine Derubeis	Shimon Lobelsohn & Joanne Penick *
Earls Family	Phyllis Scherrer
Matt Feuer	Loretta Hurley & Alan Schlossberg
Caroline & Charles Fry	Ilona Segedy
Ann Grekila	Drs. Emanuel Baum &
Kenneth Batista & Martha Hall	Cheryl Siniakin.LMT *
Jane Dirks & Stephen Hirtle	Ann M. Skowron
Anne Kelton*	Carol & Robert Thomas
Alan Kubrin *	Marylouise Turano Travers
Christian Latterman	Donald & Janet Wennersten
Michele Megarry *	Tim O'Toole & Loree Zoric
Maureen & Mike Newell	

2003 RSCA Membership Form

Name(s): _____

Business Name (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

(Contact 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

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Thanks To Community Members For Newsletter Articles

Thanks goes to contributing writers from the community or those who provided information for the Newsletter. This includes: Julie Crawford (Meeting Minutes & Yard Sale), MaryLouise Turano (WSCC information), Alina Keebler (Membership), Jon Danzak (Egg Hunt), Terri Rosen (Mural Project), Colleen Derda (Richmond-Sanders Lot), Francis Simuel (Flower Planting), Elizabeth Carter (Baby Playgroup), Marijke Hecht (Nine Mile Run) & Deb Weaver (Kids' Triathlon). Sophie Madej edited this edition & Seth Madej did 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 Month.

Newsletter Input/Output – The Regent Square Civic Association Newsletter is compiled and edited by Jon J. Danzak (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.
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