



Regent Square Civic Association Newsletter

July 2003, Volume 23 Number 6

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



MURAL TAKING FLIGHT

Artist Selected, Work to Begin Soon

The Regent Square mural project is really starting to take off – in more ways than one! At the June RSCA Board meeting, community residents reviewed artists' proposals for the project and voted enthusiastically to go with the design submitted by Kristin Williams. *(Continued on page 4.)*

NEWSLETTER NEEDS HELP!

Volunteer Sought to Coordinate Delivery

The Zones are established... the Distributors are waiting... the Block Captains are ready... and Regent Square homes anxiously anticipate their monthly RSCA Newsletters.... But one person is still missing from this pyramid of well-organized, dependable neighborhood volunteers who deliver the RSCA Newsletter each month: the person at the top. To make sure that the Newsletter delivery continues to run smoothly, please consider volunteering to become the new Newsletter Distribution Coordinator – a job that takes only about an hour a month. A computer and Internet access are most helpful, but pen and paper will do. Help Regent Square residents to stay informed. Join this virtual pyramid of people who work together every month to break down the task of delivering nearly 2,000 copies of the Newsletter door-to-door. Their generous commitment of time and effort saves the Association hundreds of dollars in postage, freeing up the funds to produce the Newsletter more frequently. To discuss all that is involved with being the Distribution Coordinator, please contact Alina Keebler at 412-731-5117, or keebler@telerama.com, at your earliest convenience.

RUN AROUND UPDATE

Applications Available, Volunteers Needed!

A sure sign of summer is the Run Around the Square applications everywhere! Thanks to Joe Cooper-Silvas of *The Think Tank* for donating his time and services to create another sharp looking application. A note of appreciation goes to Bob Krohmaly of *Krohmaly's Printing* in Swissvale for the quick and quality printing of thousands of applications.

Mailing is now complete for the race applications. Thanks goes to Virginia Linn for organizing the "Bulk Mailing Party" this past June. Stuffing over 6,000 applications into envelopes along with Virginia were committee members and volunteers Barb Peterson, Mike Pascal, Deb Caterino, Deb Weaver, Kathryn Griffin, Michele Megarry, and Australian visitor Nina Wright. Thanks also goes to Debbie Brust and her crew from "The Brookline Breeze." These volunteers "crossed the river" and did a combined mailing with the "Run" volunteers for both Citiparks races, saving the City and volunteers time, effort and expense.

Race applications are available for printing at the Regent Square Civic Association web site (www.regent-square.org) and the Regent Square site operated by resident Fred Leff (www.regentsquare.com). An application will also be printed in the August RSCA Newsletter.

Volunteers are making calls this month looking for additional persons who may want to help out with the run. There is a tremendous amount of work to do on the day of the race, and every little bit helps. If you've not been contacted about helping, or would like to join in the fun this year, please email Michele Megarry at michelemegarry@prodigy.net or Karen Mathias at Kmathias@adelphia.net.

IN THE GREEN

Park Area at Richmond and Sanders Officially Open!

Join your neighbors on **Saturday, 12-JUL-2003** when the Regent Square Civic Association will host a gathering to reopen the Richmond/Sanders field *and* kick-off the community mural project (*see article, this page*). The joint event will be held at the field, at the corner of Richmond and Sanders streets, starting at **10AM**. Following a brief thank you to the various officials and staff involved in both projects, the final design for the mural, which was determined in large part through community input, will be available for viewing. The newly reseeded field will then officially open for impromptu kids' games and neighborhood socializing. Refreshments will be provided by local businesses and the Regent Square Civic Association. Come join in the fun!

40 YEARS IN THE SQUARE

Regent Square's Dr. Norbert Gannon Retires

In 1957, a young man from Erie graduated from the University of Pittsburgh Dental School, with an honorary Omicron Kappa Upsilon (National Dental Honor Society) award with his D.D.S. degree. After serving two years at Whiting Field Naval training station, he returned to Pittsburgh. In 1959, this young, recently discharged Lt. Commander was searching for a place to open a dental office. There was an empty office at the corner of South Braddock and Hutchinson, where Dr. Mowry had a medical practice for many years. This was the perfect spot for Norbert O. Gannon D.D.S. to begin his civilian career.

In 1960, Norbert and Joan Gannon announced the birth of their daughter, Mary Lee; and in 1962, their son Norbert Jr. Because Dr. Gannon practiced in the Square and was an assistant professor at the University of Pittsburgh Dental School, he moved his family to their present home on Milton Avenue.

It was a pleasure for him to walk home for lunch, past friendly shops. The Derby (now Dunning's) was on the corner on the Swissvale side, along with Miller's Real Estate, Mike's Shoe Shop on the Edgewood side (owned by the grandfather of the owner of Mike's Cleaners), and Verost Auto Body Shop (later to become Mologne's, now part of McBroom's). Klinger's Barber Shop was also located at that corner.

Dr. Gannon's young patients loved having a good check-up and going to Isaly's (now Champion Financial), with a coupon for a skyscraper ice cream cone. On this Edgewood side, their parents could pick up a prescription at Sidehammer's Pharmacy (now Braddock Avenue Express); shop for fresh fruit at Greco's Market (now Sweetie Sweetie); or buy a gift at the Gift Shop with a Post Office (now Great American Federal). Shopping was not limited here. One could pick up meat for dinner at Brown's, Hellner's (als o now Great American Federal), or Coudriet's (now Wolk Furs); have shoes repaired at Mike's Shoe Repair, pick up tools at Hammer's Hardware (now Clips); and have a beauty appointment at Cicero's (now Cardamone's). And, there was gas for the car at Fisher's (now the Jeffco building). Very much like today, a nice selection of businesses have been in the Square, and even grown in number, since those earlier years.

Dr. Gannon became active in the Dental Society of Western Pennsylvania and soon rose to be president. During his time, as his children grew, he became active in community affairs. He was a Boy Scout dental badge coordinator and sold Christmas trees at Koenig Field. Mary Lee's Girl Scout troop and Norbert's Cub Scout troop met in their home, under the supervision of their mother Joan.

In 1965, Dr. Gannon moved his office across the street to the space where the Paint Store had been. At the time, the Wilkesburg Savings and Loan was located next door, down the street from the Red and White Market.

In 1974, Dr. Gannon moved his office to 1028 South Braddock Avenue. This office had been occupied by Dr. Shogren, D.D.S. for many years. During the coming years he became honored as a fellow of The American College of Dentistry, The International College of Dentistry, The Academy of General Dentistry, and The

Pierre Fauchard Academy (an international dental honor society). In 1989, Governor Robert Casey appointed Dr. Gannon to the Pennsylvania State Board of Dentistry in Harrisburg, and he was reappointed in 1995 by Governor Tom Ridge. He served as chairman from 1997 to 2002. He also serves on the Northeast Regional Board of Dental Examiners, an organization that provides licensing examinations for 20 jurisdictions. He is a life member of the American Association of Dental Examiners.

Although, as of this year, Dr. Gannon no longer practices dentistry on South Braddock Avenue, he and his wife, Joan, can be seen strolling through this lovely neighborhood, which they call home. Joan, who has always been active in neighborhood affairs, can often be seen at the polls as an election supervisor.

Dr. Gannon would like to express his deepest gratitude to his patients and friends for their loyalty. He will miss seeing them, for they became a part of his family. But he and Joan will enjoy calling Regent Square their home, and its residents their neighbors, for many years to come.

FRICK PARK STREAM WALKS

Popular Guided Walks Continue Through Summer

Marijke Hecht, Executive Director of the Nine Mile Run Watershed Association, will be conducting walks of the lower watershed and stream in Frick Park during the summer. The four-mile watershed walks will be held on two Tuesdays, **July 1** and **August 5**, from **6:00-8:30PM**. Interested walkers should meet in the lower Frick Park parking lot off of Hutchinson Avenue and wear light hiking shoes. The stream walks, which are more challenging and take walkers through the waters of Nine Mile Run, will be held on two Mondays, **June 9** and **August 4** from **9:00AM-1:00PM**, and on Saturday, **June 14** from **1-5PM**. Walkers should meet at the lower parking lot of the Center for Creative Play at 1400 South Braddock Avenue. Waterproof footwear is strongly advised for this walk—knee high boots are best. For more information, or if you would like to arrange a special walk for your group, contact Marijke at 412-371-8779 or email her at NMR@hotmail.com

SOME THOUGHTS ON COFFEE

By Emily J. Campbell

Coffee...
Aromatic brew
That eternal rite in
The initiation of adulthood
Obtainable only by
Sneaky sips from Mom's cup,
Hummingbird style
Coffee...
That nectar of gods
Addictive drug
Translucent black
I sip a cup.
I hate the stuff.

(Regent Square resident Emily, age 13, attends Frick International Academy and says she does not like poetry.)

KINDNESS COUNTS

Thanks To a Stranger

On Sunday, June 15 at 2:30PM, Carole Stanier was working in her yard at the Charleston/Milton intersection when she fell down a steep embankment backwards and hit her head on a tree. A young man driving past in a red truck saw this, immediately stopped in the middle of the street, jumped out of his truck, and bounded over to Carole to offer assistance. Fortunately she was okay, however, he left before Carole could properly thank him. She wanted to say, "Thank you so very much! Your fast action really helped, but it was your caring and compassion that was truly impressive."

SHOW OFF YOUR PICTURES

RSCA Web Offers a Way to Share with Neighbors

The new RSCA web site offers an ideal way to share things like pictures with the Regent Square community. If you participate in an event in Regent Square, take some pictures with a digital camera, and would like to share them with the community, consider sending them to the RSCA. The Civic Association is always looking for items of interest to feature both in the Newsletter as well as the Web. The combination of Newsletter and Web offer a unique way to communicate to the community, as well as provide pictures of our friendly community. Pictures, as well as articles, may be emailed to Jon Danzak at danzak@sgi.net.

SUMMER STUDIES

July Vacation Bible School at Mifflin

Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church invites the public to participate in Vacation Bible School **July 21-25**, from **9:00AM-Noon**. Children age 3 through 6th grade may participate. The church is located at 905 Mifflin Avenue. For registration and information, call the church office at 412-731-2511.

WHAT A KICKER!

Soccer Group for Kids Ages 3-5

A youth soccer group open to all Regent Square kids ages 3-5 was formed in June. The group meets every Wednesday from 6:30-7:30PM at the Regent Square School field. For more information, contact Steve Levine at slevine@tovasysystems.com, 412-242-4760, or Declan Gilbert at dgilbert@worldnet.att.net, 412-242-0249.

TRAILS REVEALED

Unique CD Documents Frick Park Trails

George Due, a resident of Regent Square for 30 years, has recently completed a CD-ROM called "The Trails of Frick Park." The CD-ROM, documenting 21 different trails, is equivalent to 450 pages of printed material and retails for \$16.95. It is made for the Windows operating system and is self-contained with no additional software required. The work features full color photo tours, maps, terrain, texture, and width for each trail in its entirety. Over ten miles of trails are covered. These trails vary from several miles long to the shortest of only 50 yards long. Some are flat, some very steep, requiring stairs; some transverse open fields, some deep woods; some follow streams, some run along the edges of rock cliffs. On some trails the view is limited to no further than the trees surrounding the trail, while other trails offer views of the Monongahela River and valley.

Wildlife along the trails is abundant, ranging from the very numerous squirrels and chipmunks to the occasional sightings of deer or the rare flocks of turkeys. Birds of many types are seen, from songbirds to woodpeckers to mallard ducks to hawks.

More information can be found at www.frickparktrails.com, including photos showing the CD-ROM structure. The CD-ROM can be purchased through the web site, or locally at the Braddock Avenue Express. A second CD-ROM is expected to be released this summer showing the wildflowers of Frick Park. This CD-ROM will cover over 200 flowers found in the park throughout the year, some very common, and some quite rare.

IN FULL BLOOM

A Peaceful Message in Flowers

Spring has passed, summer is here, and McBroom's flower garden is in full bloom. By now, it's hard to miss this year's "word" as you drive down Braddock Avenue past McBroom's Beer Distributors, at the corner of Sanders Street: "PEACE." Garden Supervisor Francis Simuel has been working on the planting, with the help of 2-6 community volunteers on any given day, for a total of about 80 man-hours so far. At the time of this writing, accent flowers of hibiscus and begonia were still to be added, as well as petunias, which will go in the newly installed flower boxes on the fence. Francis would like to thank the community for their continued support of the garden effort, which is not only financial. This year's message was again suggested by write-in votes from contributors to the planting fund. "PEACE" was the clear favorite with 16 out of 67 votes. The nearest seconds were "smile," "faith," and dream."

*The RSCA Newsletter will soon
be getting a new look!
Watch for our redesigned format this summer.*

COMMUNITY MURAL

Continued from page 1

Kristin is an ornithological artist, meaning she creates extremely detailed scientific illustrations of birds for identification purposes. Her work can be seen in the portrait identification labels at the National Aviary here in Pittsburgh, as well as in published portrait anthologies. Not surprisingly, Kristin's mural design features birds, but in slightly different way than her usual work. The composition is an aerial (or bird's-eye) view of Regent Square and Frick Park, with larger-than-life-size birds flying over the terrain. The birds depicted are a diverse group, and all can be found at least part of the year in Regent Square. Some are flashy and brightly colored; others are more subtle; some nest here all year round; some come here to breed and then leave, and some are just passing through on their way to somewhere else.

The birds to be featured have been selected by Kristin for scientific accuracy, and will be painted with her meticulous attention to detail, but their meaning in the composition is different from her previous work. In this case, the birds are a metaphor for the varied people and personalities that make up the Regent Square community. The different municipalities that make up our community will also be represented – Kristin has mapped a section of the landscape that includes Pittsburgh, Swissvale, Edgewood, and Wilkinsburg, and will accurately depict the different paved surfaces of the streets, as well as the individual rooflines of all the houses in view. This requires a lot of research, and resident Faro Hejazi has been the key volunteer helping Kristin document these details for her design. Some residents may have seen Kristin, Faro, or other volunteers on their blocks, sketching the roof gables and positions of trees.

Painting of the mural is scheduled to begin this month, with a community kick-off event on Saturday, **12-JUL-2003**, at the newly reseeded field at Richmond and Sanders streets (*see article, page 1*). Then, expect to see Kristin hard at work, on the Hutchinson Street side of Braddock Avenue Express, for most of August. Near the end of August or beginning of September, Regent Square will join the other communities participating in the Sprout Public Art Program's Community Murals Project 2003 in simultaneous, city-wide mural dedication ceremonies. For information on getting involved with this event, or the Community Murals Project, contact Sprout Fund Facilitator Brian Maloney at bp.maloney@verizon.net More information about the Sprout Fund and its Public Art Program can be found on their website at www.sproutfund.org, or by calling (412) 325-0646.

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: Emily J. Campbell (Some Thoughts on Coffee), Jon Danzak (Web Site), Joan Gannon (40 Years in the Square), Michelle Megarry (Run Around the Square), Marijke Hecht (Stream Walks), Francis Simuel (Flower Garden), and Carole Stanier (Thanks to a Stranger).

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.

Newsletter Input/Output – This issue of the Regent Square Civic Association Newsletter was compiled and edited by Sophie Madej. If you have a comment, please contact Jon Danzak at danzak@sgi.net, 412-243-0702, 629 South Braddock Avenue, Pittsburgh PA 15221-3415.

Do you know of an event or item of interest occurring in Regent Square in the upcoming months? Consider submitting an article about it to the Newsletter! The ideal article length is around 250 words. Articles can be sent to Jon Danzak at the contact information above.

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