

REGENT SQUARE

CIVIC ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

The voice of the Regent Square Civic Association, serving
Regent Square's diverse residential and business community.

October 2003,
Volume 23 Number 10

Join us next month for:

- Membership Drive Planning
- Upcoming Election Planning
- Halloween Event Finalization

Meeting Minutes

September RSCA Meeting Quick Recap
Monday, 8-Sep-2003 - 7:00PM

- Membership categories and plans moved to finalization
- Upcoming events discussed
- Discussion of upcoming Board Elections

South Braddock Reconstruction

Request Submitted To Planning Commission For Consideration

RSCA's Braddock Avenue Revitalization Committee has submitted a proposal to allocate State and Federal transportation funding for the reconstruction of Braddock Avenue. In August, the Committee took advantage of an opportunity to present a written proposal to the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC), a nonprofit corporation that acts as facilitator in working out allocations of government transportation funding over a twelve year planning horizon. Although Braddock Avenue is not a State road, the Committee pointed out in its proposal that Braddock Avenue has become a key link in regional transportation, which has

Submission of the proposal to SPC does not mean that a road construction project will begin soon -or at all. Federal and State highway projects are planned over a twelve-year period. If Braddock Avenue reconstruction appears on the list at all, it would likely be for the last 4 years of the plan. (*Continued on page 4.*)

Know Any Good Board Members?

Then turn them in!

[Alina Keebler, Membership Chair, writes to explain upcoming RSCA board election.]

According to the By-Laws of the Regent Square Civic Association, four of its 12 board positions are up for re-election every fall. If you or one of your Regent Square neighbors and friends would like to join the Board in its efforts to make our community even better than it is, please consider submitting a nomination. You may nominate yourself or a friend to be placed on the November RSCA Ballot by filling out and submitting the accompanying RSCA Board of Directors Nomination Form on page 3 of this Newsletter.

Once elected, board member responsibilities will include attending the monthly Board meetings (held on the first Monday of each month - if it's a holiday, the second Monday) and assisting in promoting the RSCA and its mission. Please feel free to call me at 412-731-5117 for further details. We hope to hear from you and look forward to working together for Regent Square!

Alina Keebler, Membership Chair ■

Annual Halloween Parade

Scheduled For October 28th – Dress-Up Fun For Kids

The annual Children's Halloween Parade will be held on Saturday 28-Oct-2002 from 2PM-4PM in the Wilkins School Community Center at the corner of Milton & Charleston. The parade is designed for children 12 and under, although older children may participate as well. There will be refreshments and treats available. A costume judging for all children will start shortly after 3PM. Each winner will receive their very own pumpkin that they can decorate for the season. If you'd like to help organize or staff the event, volunteers are welcome! Please call Joan Reefer at 412-243-3411 or email her at sjreefer1@msn.com.

If you miss the event on the 28th, there is a 'dress up' concert by the Edgewood Symphony the following weekend. See "Events Listing" on page 2 for details! ■

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25th Cajun Birthday Bash

WYEP's Kate Borger to Host October 11th Party

This year the Wilkins School Community Center (www.wsccpgh.org) is celebrating its 25th year of service to the community and you can be a part of our celebration! On Saturday October 11th at 8PM, stop by the Wilkins School Community Center and join in Benefit Concert & Silent Auction featuring the Pittsburgh Cajun Aces. The all-volunteer Board of Directors is thrilled to be celebrating this milestone and is going all out for the event by planning a Birthday Bash with Cajun music. Kate Borger from WYEP is going to be the host for the event. The Pittsburgh Cajun Aces, a local band, has agreed to donate their time and provide the entertainment for the fundraiser. Come early, at 7:30, and take a Cajun Dance lesson. Milton Street resident Patty Doody will be teaching those daring enough to try a few new steps. The Center takes pride in being a meeting place for year-round classes, community events and civic organizations.

Along with great music and good food, you can bid on terrific treasures in the silent and Chinese auctions. Help to preserve the Wilkins School Community Center! Donate your time for the fundraiser and gather family and friends to enjoy the music and make your best bid. Merchants located in Regent Square and the surrounding area have been very generous. They have donated many great items to boost the fundraising for this event. Proceeds will be used for playground improvements. Tickets are \$12.00 prior to the date of the event and \$15.00 at the door. Children under 5 receive free admission. Food and beverages are included with the ticket purchase! To order tickets or for additional information call 412-244-8458 or send email to wsccpgh@yahoo.com. ■

Holiday Gift Shoppe

At the Wilkins School Community Center

WSCC Holiday Gift Shop Hours		
Date	Day	Time
30-Oct	Thursday	7PM-9PM
31-Oct	Friday	12PM-3PM
1-Nov	Saturday	9AM-4PM
2-Nov	Sunday	12PM-4PM
3-Nov	Monday	3PM-9PM
4-Nov	Tuesday	8AM-9PM
5-Nov	Wednesday	3PM-9PM

The Wilkins School Community Center's (WSCC) 24th Annual Holiday Gift Shoppe opens with its gala event on Thursday, 30-Oct-2003 from 7-9PM. Come to the Community Center and shop for hand-made holiday gift items, baked goods and artwork. The event is free and open to the public. For additional information call: (412) 244-8458 or e-mail: wsccpgh@yahoo.com. Visit their web page at www.wsccpgh.org. ■

Events Calendar

4-Oct-2003

Food Drive

Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church, 905 Mifflin Avenue

Nonperishable food donations collected at from 9AM-12PM for Wilkinsburg Community Ministries Food Bank. Continues on first Saturday each month thereafter.

Info: call 412-731-2511 between 9AM-1PM for more information.

6-Oct-2003 7 PM

RSCA Meeting

Monthly Meeting At The Wilkins School Community Center

Please feel free to attend and participate!

Info: 412-243-0702 or e-mail president@regent-square.org to request the addition of an agenda item. Also see pg. 1 board article.

11-Oct-2003 9AM-3PM

Rummage Sale

Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church
Donations (except clothing) being accepted.

Info: see 4-Oct **Food Drive**, above.

11-Oct-2003 8PM

WSCC Birthday Bash

At Wilkins School Community Center

WSCC celebrates 25 years!

Info: See article this page for details

19-Oct-2003 2PM

Edgewood Symphony

Community College of Allegheny

County Boyce Campus - Sunday concert.

Info: 412-473-8880 on the web at: trfn.clpgh.org/edgewoodso

25-Oct-2003 2PM

Halloween Parade

Wilkins School Community Center

Dress up party for kids ages

Info: See article on page 1.

1-Nov-2003 2:30PM

Edgewood Symphony

Edgewood Club

Halloween costume concert, anyone in costume admitted ½ off!

Info: see 19-Oct, above.

3-Nov-2003 7PM

RSCA Meeting

Monthly Meeting At The Wilkins School Community Center

New board to be elected! Members encouraged to attend! **Info:** (see 6-Oct. above)

A New View

From California Transplant

[Ed and Sally Kiester moved to Regent Square earlier this year. They offer this fresh perspective on our neighborhood by comparing it to their longtime former home of Palo Alto, California.]

Shaded brick streets, distinctive architecture, an exuberant neighborhood spirit – what a find we have made in Regent Square. For us, it came about by accident. Knowing we were moving here from California, a friend suggested renting near her while we looked for a place to buy. We need look no further. Three summer months of Regent Square has convinced us we are where we want to be.

We lived 30 years in California and loved it – mostly. But California is car and carbon-monoxide territory. You have to crank up the engine just to go to the mailbox. Those who grumble about Parkway or South Braddock Avenue traffic should expose themselves to the Nimitz Freeway or to drive across the Stanford campus at quitting time. Being able to walk to the cinema, to the convenience store for a suddenly-needed quart of milk, to the ATM, to the pub in the evening or for a latte in the morning – these are novel experiences. So is hopping on a bus to be whisked downtown or to the Carnegie Library without the horrendous hassle of parking. We like both the unity and the diversity of the place – the ‘20s-style houses with their wide porches and carefully tended gardens, the faces in

different hues but all smiling, and, yes, the garage sales.

All this is old hat to you long-timers, but it’s new to us. We’re here for a while – get used to us! ■

Artist Accolade

Thanks To Mural ‘Artist In Residence’

Over the month of August, mural artist Kristen Williams has become a familiar figure to many who passed the intersection of Hutchinson and South Braddock. She battled rain, nightfall and toward September an invasion of bees that encroached on her work schedule. In a very true sense, Kristen is a ‘starving artist’ who is very dedicated to her work. In addition to her long hours, she frequently made out-of-pocket purchases for supplies that were immediately needed to keep work moving along.

While several generous Regent Square community members as well as passers-by stopped and gave her an ‘on the spot’ contribution or comment, many other Regent Square residents have been touched by her dedication and indicated that they would like to show their appreciation for the mural in some way.

If you particularly like the mural, or have a comment about it, please write to the artist care of the address below. The Regent Square Civic Association will collect and forward any correspondence or donations to Kristen. And, if you would like to make

a financial contribution to assist her or express your appreciation, it will also be forwarded to her and would most certainly be appreciated. (Note, please make any check out to “Kristen Williams”. Note that it is not tax deductible.) You may send any comment or donation to Kristen care of:

Mr. William Werner, Treasurer
1120 Macon Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15218-1253

Attn: Mural

A unique individual with a very different point of view has enriched Regent Square in an unusual way that we will all enjoy for many years to come. Thank you, Kristen! ■

Day of Caring

Wilkins School Participates

Wilkins School Community Center is participating in the United Way Day of Caring. The Center has been matched with volunteers from GNC who will assist with various landscaping and painting tasks. The Center would like to thank the volunteers for all their effort. In addition, they wish to thank United Way and PPG for supplying the Center with paint for its project. If you are interested in volunteering at the Wilkins School Community Center contact them at 412-244-8458, e-mail wscppgh@yahoo.com or visit www.wscppgh.org.

Through the efforts of dedicated volunteers, WSCC is celebrating its 25th year of programming and service to the community. Every individual’s time or contribution can make a difference and ensure the community center will be a vital part of Regent

(Cut on line above, fold if necessary and mail to address at bottom of this form.)

RSCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS – NOMINATION FORM – 2004-2006 TERM

Would you or someone you know who lives in Regent Square be interested in:

- * undertaking programs and initiating activities that serve the Regent Square community and enhance its values and assets?
- * encouraging and supporting endeavors which seek to improve the quality of life in Regent Square?
- * promoting responsible participatory citizenship among Regent Square residents and businesses?
- * maintaining liaisons, disseminating information and implementing public policies beneficial to the welfare of Regent Square?

* from the by-laws of the RSCA

If the answer is YES to any of the above, then nominate him/her as a candidate to the 2004-2006 term openings in the RSCA Board by completing this form:

Nominees’ Name: _____ Nominee’s Home Phone: _____
 Nominee’s Address: _____ Nominee’s Evening/Weekend Phone: _____
 _____ Nominee’s E-mail Address: _____
 Nominee’s Municipality: ___ Edgewood ___ Pittsburgh ___ Swissvale ___ Wilkinsburg
 Nominee’s Relevant Experience and/or Interests: _____

Nominee is (check all that apply): ___ Yourself ___ A friend or neighbor ___ An RSCA member ___ A Regent Sq. businessowner

Your Name: _____ Your Evening/Weekend Phone: _____

Please send this form **no later than October 8th** to: RSCA Membership Committee, 1007 Macon Avenue, Pittsburgh 15218-1253

South Braddock

(Continued from page 1.)

Transportation funds also will not cover construction of streetscape amenities and other aesthetic features suggested by the Vollmer study. The Committee's agenda for the coming year includes the exploration of other funding sources for roadway construction and other features of a Braddock Avenue revitalization project.

Over the summer, the Committee also acted as a community contact point for the mural project now gracing the Hutchinson Avenue side of the Braddock Ave. Express. The Committee worked with Sprout Fund, a local nonprofit, and community members, to select an artist (the indefatigable Kristen Williams), secure Edgewood Borough approvals, and plan a dedication event for the mural.

The Braddock Avenue Revitalization Committee currently consists of representatives of the RSCA Board, the Boroughs of Edgewood and Swissvale, and two local businesses, and meets on the third, fourth or fifth Tuesday of each month. The Committee would like to include more community residents, landowners and business owners. Please contact David Pollack (412-247-4103 or dpollack@geflaw.com) for more information. ■

Temple Tour

Local Resident Plans Tour of Famous Local Hindu Landmark

Have you ever been driving east on Route 322 and noticed the tall white Hindu temple on the right? It's also visible in the hills to the left when driving on the Parkway (I-376) from the I-76 a bit before the Penn Hills exit. Have you wondered what it was like inside? Now it's your chance to see!

Kate Burke, a long time resident of Regent Square will be leading a tour for up to eight residents of Regent Square to the Sri Venkatesha Temple on Sunday October 19th.

The group will meet in the parking lot at the Center for Creative play at 2PM and car pool out to the Temple which is a short

Save The Dates!

Monday, 3-Nov-2003, 7PM
Election of new Board Members at the monthly RSCA meeting – all contributing members of the RSCA are welcome to come and vote!

Saturday, 8-Nov-2003, 10AM-12PM
Edgewood Presbyterian Church Holiday Bazaar – bigger and better than last year - holiday crafts and jewelry, fresh Georgia Pecans and other nuts, BreadWorks Breads, Marcia's Special Candies, homemade baked goods and foods, chili for lunch – hot or mild, and lots of other goodies!

drive (~8-10 miles) away. The tour should last no longer than two hours.

While there is no charge to attend, the Temple always accepts donations and offers hospitality to all including Indian dishes and snacks.

The Temple is famous world-wide. Many Indians who come to the United States visit the Pittsburgh region specifically to see this Temple because it is one of the few such places of worship built outside of India.

Come on the tour and expand your knowledge of this unique place! You may call Kate at 412-243-4938 for more information. ■

REGENT SQUARE ART

Reaches New Heights

The University of Pittsburgh's Cathedral of Learning has recently been graced by the work of two local Regent Square firms. The 35th and 36th floors of the 42 floor regional icon were redesigned and joined together as part of a renovation effort that make them the new home for Pitt's Honors College.

The honor of designing this new space went to local architecture firm Rothschild Doyno Architects of Regent Square of South Braddock Avenue in the business district of Regent Square. Forty two interior leaded windows, including two new stained glass for the reception area, were provided by local stained glass artist

Glenn Greene of South Braddock and Guthrie.

The first few floors of the 42 floor gothic skyscraper are crafted in the magnificent style of a medieval cathedral and flanked with authentic styled classrooms of different immigrant nationalities to the Pittsburgh region. But nearly all of the upper floors beyond the third are typically very ordinary office spaces. The renovations that Rothschild Doyno designed bring the magnificent spirit seen at the lower floors and exterior to lofty heights that mirror the aspirations of the Honors College and capitalize on the existing gothic styles.

The rather ordinary 35th and 36th floors that previously afforded no view have joined by a spacious stairway and transformed into an elegant stone, iron and wooden appointed space. The area is bordered with magnificent carved stone and lead-glass windows that provide a commanding view of the region.

Perhaps the most amazing thing about the work is that it looks as if it has always been there and completely blends in with the style and feel of the exterior and lower areas of the famed "Cathedral of Learning". The stained glass interior panels culminate at the reception windows that relates to the four leaf flower petal design (quatrefoil) with glass selected to reflect the four seasons of our region.

Congratulations to our local Regent Square businesses on this (soon to be) award-winning addition to a local Pittsburgh land mark. ■



To contact the RSCA Newsletter:

Jon J. Danzak - Chief Editor
629 South Braddock Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15221-3415
Email: newsletter@regent-square.org

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To Submit a Listing for the Events Calendar:

Send the date, time, location, and event sponsor, along with a 30 word description to the Editor (*see contact info at left*).

Submissions are due on the 1st of the prior month (i.e. submissions for the November Newsletter are due 1-Oct-2003). All submissions may be edited for length.