

REGENT SQUARE

CIVIC ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

December 2003,
Volume 23 Number 11

Remember In December...

The RSCA Holiday Toy Drive is in full swing! The collection box will be at the Wilkins School and Community Center, (corner of Charleston and S. Braddock) until **Tuesday, 16-Dec-2003**. Drop your new, unwrapped donations there before the 16th! Call the Civic Association at 412-243-0702 or email Toy Drive Chair, Cari Marty at carimarty@homail.com for info.

The RSCA annual *Holiday Open House* is Monday, December 8th, at 7 PM at the Wilkins School Community Center. Come meet the newly elected and returning RSCA board members. Enjoy refreshments and pick up the RSCA's holiday gift to you: a **free copy of the new *Welcome Booklet***.

The Wilkins School Community Center winter registration is coming up in mid December. For info call 412-244-8458, check www.wscppgh.org or send e-mail to wscppgh@yahoo.com.

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WWW.REGENT-SQUARE.ORG

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

Holiday Decorating Contest

Simple, Quirky, Traditional or Complex--Every Entry Has a Chance To Win

The annual Regent Square Holiday Home Decorating Contest will be happening this year on Sunday December 21st. Judging will be from 6PM-9PM. In keeping with the holiday spirit, the awards will be donated to the charity of the winners' choices! Note that the Civic Association does not count as a charity.

Entries are opened to anyone living within the boundaries of Regent Square as defined by the Civic Association. The first, second and third prizes will be \$75, \$40, and \$40 respectively and there is a \$25 prize for "most creative" use of lights.

Houses need not be extensively decorated to win! Sometimes a very simple or traditional decorating style is picked as a winner! It's worth entering for a chance to donate to your favorite charity.

It's easy to enter the contest. Simply call 412-241-8343 anytime. State that you want to enter your house in the contest and leave your name, address, phone number and charity. You may also e-mail Carolyn Cusick at CTRC@aol.com to enter. Entry may be up to 12 PM on the December 21st. Judging will be by past winners of the Home Decorating Contest. **If you are a past winner and want to participate as a judge please call or email Carolyn Cusick as soon as possible!** Winners will be notified within 2 days and checks to their favorite charity will be issued the following week.

Get your wreaths hung, your lights sparkling, and your holiday trim creatively displayed--and register for this fun event to win for charity! ■

Party Wrapup

RSCA October Party Great Fun For All

The annual Children's Halloween party on 25-Oct-2003 sponsored by the Regent Square Civic Association was well attended and the party was a smashing success! The weather cooperated! Over 40 children accompanied by parents and grandparents attended the 2 hour event.

The kids had fun! At the craft table children designed their own dinosaurs. Olga from Mike the Balloon Guy made balloon hats, swords, and animals for the children to play with. A special guest appearance from McGruff, the Crime Dog, was a welcome treat for all ages. The refreshments included snacks provided by the Giant Eagle at Edgewood Towne Center, "Smiley Face" cookies provided by Ean'N Park, various juice drinks for the children and bottled water for the adults.

Costume judging occurred around 3 PM with winners of each category receiving a pumpkin and the other contestants receiving an honorable mention award. The grand finale was a parade of all contestants who received treat bags handed out by Officer McGruff.

The party couldn't have taken place without the tireless help of volunteers; who also appeared in costume. A special "Thank You" to Maureen States of Neighborhood Realty Services for providing the funding for the balloon creations made by Olga from *Mike-The-Balloon-Guy*. A big thanks goes to RSCA board member Julie Crawford for staffing the craft table and Betty O'Brien for registering the guests. Also, thanks to Neighborhood Realty Services staff Mary Anne Kirby, Lisa Turner, and Nancy Richards for their creative decoration of the room and their continual assistance throughout the party in stocking the snacks and drinks and helping to make the party a festive event.

Due to the overwhelming support of the residents, this party should be even bigger and better next Halloween season. See you then! ■

Holiday House Tour

Edgewood Library Benefit Tour On December 7th

A Holiday House Tour will be held to benefit the C.C. Mellor Memorial Library on Sunday 7-Dec-2003 from noon until 4 PM. Six beautifully renovated Edgewood homes will be on the tour.

One featured house on Washington Street is one of the oldest houses in Edgewood. A child's drawing on a wall was uncovered when a century of wallpaper was removed. The drawing is signed by one of the daughter's of the original owner!

Another home is a classic Pittsburgh brick Victorian which has undergone some interesting transformations. After it was "modernized" and stripped of all its original charm (and woodwork) in the 1960's and 70's it was purchased by a young couple who gutted it, replaced the wiring, then sold it. However the current owners have created an elegant, open layout with custom cabinetry and new cherry floors by a local cabinetmaker.

A circa 1920's "city house" was totally gutted and restored with a master suite on the third floor. It also features a break through kitchen between the remodeled kitchen and former dining room that has been remodeled into a living room.

Tickets are available from the library (phone 412-731-0909) and at Typhoon and Le Mix, both on East Swissvale Avenue in Edgewood. ■

Open House

Drew Designs In Regent Square Ready For Holidays

The holidays are near and Drew Designs, Ltd., located at 1039 S. Braddock Ave., would like to invite everyone to stop by and take a look at their decorative accessories and holiday décor items. Their professional resources offer many alternatives for finding that special gift or something to spruce up your home for the big dinner you're hosting. Some items these include: silk greenery and florals, decorative boxes, baskets, silver items, picture frames, and other unique accessories that aren't available at the mall. They also have a line of beautiful holiday textiles with mantle scarves, tree skirts, stockings and pillows that will be appearing in their window. If an item is not stocked, they will order it for you. An ordered item can take a few weeks to arrive - so stop by soon to get your holiday order in on time!

While the holidays are foremost in many people's minds, it should be noted that Drew Designs, Ltd. is a full service interior design firm. They enjoy working with home and business owners proving professional decorating assistance. Besides their inventory of accessories, they also have furniture, flooring, lighting, wall coverings, and any custom fabric items may need for that special touch.

Be sure to stop in before the holidays arrive! Their office hours are typically 10AM -5PM, Monday – Friday. Evenings and weekends by appointment, with a special Holiday Open House Saturday December 6th from noon-5PM. You may call them for more information at 412-244-1369. ■

Contributors:

This edition was edited by Jon J. Danzak with help from Sophie Madej. Thanks goes to contributing writers from the community or those who provided information for the newsletter. This includes:

- Carolyn Cusick (holiday lighting)
- Greer Mulholland (house tour)
- Joan Reefer (Halloween party)
- Mary Louise (WSSC party)
- Nancy Drew (open house)
- Joy Goethert (meals & flea market)
- Joanne Spence (Fitness Yoga)
- Judy Werner (proofreading)

Articles may be submitted for publication via post or e-mail. Please visit the web site www.regent-square.org and see "Newsletter submission guidelines" under the "Newsletter" menu item for complete submission guidelines, or contact the editor to receive a hard-copy or email of the guidelines. Please see the last page for complete contact information regarding the Newsletter editor, e-mail or post office address.

Events Calendar

6-Dec-2003 9AM-12PM

Food Drive

Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church
Nonperishable food donations collected for Wilkinsburg Community Ministries Food Bank. Collection on first Saturday each month thereafter. Drop off at church.

Info: Call 412-731-2511

6-Dec-2003 9AM-12PM

Open House

Drew Designs, Ltd.

Info: See article opposite this listing.

7-Dec-2003 noon-4PM

Holiday House Tour

Edgewood Library Benefit Tour
To benefit C.C. Mellor Memorial Library.

Info: See article opposite this listing.

8-Dec-2003 7:00PM

RSCA Meeting

Monthly Meeting At The Wilkins School Community Center

Come and meet new board members!

Info: 412-243-0702 or e-mail president@regent-square.org to request the addition of an agenda item.

13-Dec-2003 7:30PM

Holiday Concert

Edgewood Symphony at First Presbyterian Church in Edgewood

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

16-Dec-2003

Toy Drive Ends

Wilkins School Community Center

Last day to donate toys for kids in need!

Info: Call 412-243-0702 or email carimarty@hotmail.com

21-Dec-2003

Holiday Lighting Contest

Judging On This Evening

Judging from 6-9PM! Leave lights on!

Info: See article on page 1.

5-Jan-2004

RSCA Meeting

Monthly Meeting At The Wilkins School Community Center

First meeting of new year. Have you become a member? (See last page for membership form.)

Info: 412-243-0702 or e-mail president@regent-square.org

25TH BIRTHDAY BASH WSCC A HUGE SUCCESS – THANK YOU

A Good Time Was Had by All

The place to be for family fun on Saturday, October 11 was the Wilkins School Community Center. On that night, the Pittsburgh Cajun Aces, a local band, performed before a large crowd to celebrate WSCC's 25 years of serving the community, and to fundraise for improvements to the playground. Local radio personality Kate Borger, host of the Roots and Rhythm Mix on WYEP, emceed the evening. Auction participants vied for treasures that included paintings, theater tickets, museum admissions, gift baskets, class certificates, merchant certificates, a savings bond, pottery, an autographed Pirates baseball, Penguins game tickets and much, much more. Net fundraising proceeds from ticket sales and the auction were approximately \$2,600.

In "The Wilkins Room," a retrospective was on display of photos and news articles of events and classes held at the Center over the years, and Cajun videos were playing for those interested in learning more about Cajun culture. In another classroom, those who came early took advantage of free Cajun dance lessons with Patty Doody and Chuck Ettensohn. In the kitchen, lots of wonderful Cajun food awaited, thanks to the efforts of Marge Mimless and Rose Pascal. Breadworks donated French bread. Sweetie Sweetie donated two delicious birthday cakes for the event. McBroom's Beer Distributor donated beer, wine-tasting instructor Chris Forbes provided wonderful wine.

The hallways were lined with auction items donated by Barbara Litt, Carnegie Museum of Art, City Theatre, Clips Hair and Beauty Salon, CMU Theatre, Concept Art Gallery, Dave Gerenyi Sunoco, Diane Wilson, Debbie DeFazio, Donna McClure, Drew's De-

sign, LTD, Dunning's Grill, Eat'n Park, Elizabeth Donahue, Fantastic Sam's, Gateway Clipper Cruise Line, Great American Federal, Heinz History Center, Hepatica, John Napolitano, Katerbean, Kay Wetzel, Krispy Kreme, Marci Mason, Mario's Pizza, Maryellen Mayhall, Marylouise Travers, Murphy's Taproom, The National Aviary, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Pittsburgh Chamber Music, The Pittsburgh Pirates, The Pittsburgh Penguins, Pittsburgh Public Theater, Pittsburgh Zoo, Rae O'Hair, Stonebraker Jewelers, Sylvia Madden, The Square Café, and University of Pittsburgh Reperatory Theatre. Please patronize these businesses and thank the donors for their generosity.

In the auditorium, the band played into the night for hundreds of listeners and enthusiastic dancers. Some enjoyed the music seated at tables, while others danced the night away. Candlelight centerpieces made for an intimate atmosphere. Before the night ended, many attendees were asking the committee members for more events like this one.

WSCC Board President Kay Wetzel was pleased by the great turnout to support the center. The Board Members wish to thank everyone who helped make the evening a success. WSCC welcomes any suggestions or comments from the attendees, especially what peaked your interest—the band, the auction items, the chance to meet Kate Borger, or just the opportunity to come out for a community event and support the community center. Please call WSCC at 412-244-8458 with your comments, or e-mail wscppgh@yahoo.com.

An event like this requires a lot of work and contributions by many people. WSCC would also like to thank Waverly Presbyterian Church, Easy Method Driver's Training, Joan Reefer, Alina Keebler, Julie Crawford, Carole & Don Stanier, Bruce Travers, Bill Fisher, Kelly O'Brien, Dave Pollock, Terri Rosen, Sam & Gay Haver, McCrae Holliday, Jody Wetzel and Dick Blackwell. Special thanks to Kate Borger and WYEP, and the members of the Pittsburgh Cajun Aces. The Wilkins School Community Center could not have done it without all of you! ■

Evening Options

Square Café Now Open Friday and Saturday Nights

Regent Square has a new Friday and Saturday nightspot. By popular demand, the Square Café has now started evening hours on those nights from 5-9PM (last seating at 8:45PM).

While moderation is the watchword in pricing, with typical dinners in the \$12-\$17 range, excellence is the standard for the evening dishes. In particular, Chef Chuck Kerber has several signature dishes on the evening menu including: "Pecan Crusted Tilapia With Garlic Aioli", "Honey Dijon Salmon", "Herb Grilled Chicken" and a "Champagne Shrimp" appetizer.

As always, the café strives to be a 'kid friendly' environment, making it easy for parents to enjoy a night out without having to worry about forsaking their parental duties.

For more information, call 412-244-8002 or check their web at square-cafe.com ■

Still Growing Strong

Yoga Studio Celebrates One Year in Business

With the economy as it is, FitnessYoga owner Joanne Spence feels relieved to have passed the one-year mark of her yoga studio. "There is a lot of excitement as we move into year two, knowing we have a stable and loyal student base who are committed to their health and wellbeing," says Spence. FitnessYoga has seen nearly a thousand students pass through its doors, representing over 1000 hours of class time taught by 10 different instructors. Many students seem to enjoy the numerous choices and types of classes offered. "I'm thrilled at the number of people who have never tried a yoga class before who are stopping by. They may begin class nervous, but most usually finish happy and refreshed. They feel good knowing that they are doing something positive for their health; mind and body," says Spence. She also added, "The comment I hear the most is that our yoga classes are not what people expect them to be. New students are usually pleasantly surprised at how yoga can address their particular situation." If you haven't yet visited the studio, make sure you drop in and check it out. There's nothing to lose, your first class is free!

Call 412-287-4591 for a class schedule or visit their website at www.fitnessyoga.net. FitnessYoga is located on the middle floor of The Center for Creative Play at 1400 South Braddock Ave. ■

Become a 2004 Member of the RSCA!

Support the efforts of the RSCA through you membership dues and/or a donation of your choice.

Residents(adults per household) @ \$5 each

Name _____
Name _____
Name _____

1 Business @ \$15 ea.

Business Name _____
Business Owner _____
Alternate Rep. _____
Website _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Evening Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Note:

- The membership year runs Jan. 1st - Dec. 31st - dues received after Oct. 1st will be attributed to the following year.
- Contact information is not shared with other organizations
- Membership dues are not tax-deductible

Please return this form with your check (payable to RSCA) to: RSCA, c/o Treasurer, 1120 Macon Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15218-1253

Please contact me to discuss the following activities, committees or issues:

Winter Cleanup

Donations for Flea Market being accepted

Anytime is cleaning time—including now—but don't throw *anything* away! Bring your discards to the Edgewood Presbyterian Church. The church will be holding its annual Flea Market next April, so please keep them in mind while cleaning out your closets and attics. You can drop your donations at the church (School Street door), or give Joy Goethert a call at 412-731-1640 to arrange for pick up of bigger items. No clothes or large furniture, please. Thanks for your help! ■

Dinner is Served

Volunteers Needed to Deliver Meals This Winter

Edgewood Home Delivered Meals is a cooperative project of the Edgewood Civic Association and the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood.

Any Edgewood or Swissvale resident who is unable to shop for or prepare meals during

a period of recuperation or for a longer term is eligible to receive this service. Volunteers pick up the meals at the Swissvale Senior Center Mondays through Fridays and deliver them to residents in need.

Winter is a difficult time for Edgewood Home Delivered Meals, as many of their volunteers become snow bunnies and run off to Florida, leaving them short handed. If you can spare two hours once or twice a month, please call Joy Goethert at 412-731-1640 to volunteer. ■

Taking Flight

Artist Mural At Hutchinson Still Popular Attraction

While the warm summer breezes have left Regent Square to be replaced by the cold chill of Fall and Winter, people are still recalling Regent Square in the summer as they pass by the popular mural at the corner of Hutchinson and South Braddock.

Anyone who stands at that corner and

observes for a period of time will invariably see a few pedestrians stop and study the mural; often pointing out their own house or a particular Regent Square landmark. Even drivers in cars stopped at the intersection can be seen looking at the mural from a distance.

While many residents have contributed with their kind words as well as financially, the Regent Square Civic Association is still collecting and forward any correspondence or donations to Kristen. If you would like to make 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

Your generosity with comments or financial help will surely be appreciated by Kristen. ■



To contact the RSCA Newsletter:

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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 January Newsletter are due December 1st). All submissions may be edited for length.