

# REGENT SQUARE

## CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

February-March 2004,  
Volume 24 Number 2

Join us next month for:

- Upcoming event reports
- Committee Reports

## Meeting Minutes

*February RSCA Meeting Quick Recap*  
Monday, 2-Feb-2004 - 7:00PM

- Intro of new board members
- Quick business meeting
- Discussion and citizen input regarding South Braddock Avenue safety

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

## South Braddock Avenue Safety

### *RSCA Facilitates Citizen-Government Cooperation To Address Issues*

Two recent vehicle-pedestrian accidents on South Braddock Avenue at or near posted crosswalk areas have caused significant citizen concern in the Regent Square community. These have also brought a sense of urgency to the safety and improvement recommendations made by the Civic Association for the South Braddock Avenue corridor.

The first accident occurred one morning in late September of 2003 when an East End Avenue resident was attempting to return from walking her dogs at Frick Park and cross South Braddock at Guthrie. An oncoming car traveling south on South Braddock struck the pedestrian and veered off into a corner front yard. While the pedestrian was not killed, she has sustained serious injuries that will necessitate lengthy rehabilitation. The young woman will likely never recover complete mobility.

*Continued on page 4.*

## Almost Easter Time

### *RSCA Sponsoring Annual Egg Hunt At Richmond-Sanders Lot*

The annual Regent Square Easter Egg hunt is being held again this year from 11AM-Noon on April 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Richmond Sanders lot! In the event of inclement weather on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Hunt will be moved to April 10<sup>th</sup>, same time and place.

Children under 12 are invited to hunt for candy-filled eggs... and it's a great excuse to get out and meet neighbors in the Square and enjoy spring weather! Small containers with straw are provided. Be sure to bring a camera to take pictures of the children having fun!

The Beautification Committee, headed by Colleen Derda, was able to successfully obtain money to have the Richmond-Sanders lot reseeded this past year. Because of this, the Richmond-Sanders lot should be in great condition for the Egg Hunt this year.

If you're interested in helping stuff candy eggs to get ready for the event, or showing up early to hide eggs or staff the event, please send email to the Egg Hunt Chair Kelly O'Brien at [Newsletter@Regent-Square.org](mailto:Newsletter@Regent-Square.org) or call 412-243-0702. It's a really fun event for the young kids, and a great way to take some time and enjoy a nice spring day with other Regent Square neighbors and friends. ■

## Annual Neighborhood Yard Sale

### *Save the Date: Saturday May 15<sup>th</sup>*

Yards may still be ice and snow covered, but it's not too early to start planning to participate in this year's annual Yard Sale. The date has been set for Saturday May 15<sup>th</sup>. Once again, with a paid registration participants will receive a packet including balloons, streamers, a sale poster, maps, and tips for successful selling. RSCA members will receive a discount on the registration fee. *If you are not a member become one today – see the membership registration form in this issue of the newsletter.*

The RSCA will advertise the event through ads, posters, and a great banner across South Braddock Avenue. The Civic Association will again join forces with the Wilkins School Community Center for their annual Flea Market.

Look for more detailed information, including registration forms, in the RSCA April newsletter and on the RSCA web site – [www.regent-square.org](http://www.regent-square.org). If you have suggestions, comments or would like to volunteer, please contact Julie Crawford, Yard Sale chair, at [julia.crawford@worldnet.att.net](mailto:julia.crawford@worldnet.att.net) or 412-731-6260. ■

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# What Will the Spring Real Estate Market Bring?

**Take your P.I.C. – Price, Inspections, and Condition.**

*Local Realtor Fred Leff offers his Spring forecast...*

Lately while walking the neighborhood with my Australian Shepherd, the question I am asked most often is, "How will the real estate market be in the Spring?" Of course, I don't have the exact answer, but I do have some ideas.

**P**rices: I believe that if mortgage rates continue to hover just above 5% with one or no points, we will see home prices rise even higher. Most of us are unhappy about this because in the recent past it has increased our assessments. However, there is a good side and those that are happy about the big increases, most notably sellers! Our neighbors who are selling are reaping the greatest benefit of the increase. Prices of all homes in the area have been soaring higher than any time in the Square's history. My belief is that prices will continue to rise because of the features that we all love and enjoy: Frick Park, close access to the Parkway, the upkeep of the homes, and the proximity to shopping. Unfortunately, that means that the assessments will rise as well. Sorry to those staying, and cheers to those selling!

**I**nspections: Since the Square is made up of four different municipalities, each home has unique positives and negatives depending on the location and what is specifically required when selling a home. The inspections are becoming stricter. When I speak to many of the owners who have resided here for 30 years or more, they are amazed and sometimes overwhelmed by the requirements of the governing bodies' codes and inspection requirements. Wilkinsburg, Swissvale, and Edgewood all require on-site inspections prior to closing. Pittsburgh at the current time does not. The Boroughs' inspectors range from Borough Firemen, outsourced inspection agents, and on-staff Borough Inspectors. In the 20 years that I've spent in the industry, inspections have changed drastically. They have gone from a cursory walkthrough, to a detailed half-hour or more inspection, including the concrete in front of the house, the steps leading up to the house, handrails on stairs with three or more risers, electrical box and wiring, peeling paint, smoke detectors, and more! If you are thinking of selling, my best advice is to hire an agent who is aware of the special requirements of the specific area in which you live, and let him or her handle the details. The liabilities that sellers face in terms of disclosures and the myriad other details has changed forever the way that real estate is being transferred. The term "caveat emptor" (buyer beware) seems to have changed to "seller take care!"  
*Continued on page 8.*

## Contributors:

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

- Ann Gaul (Proofreading)
- Joy Goethert (Flea Market)
- Alina Keebler (Membership/Recruits)
- Ann Kelton (Hockey)
- Fred Leff (Spring Market)
- Seth Madej (Local Author)
- Hallie Pritts (Stream Cleaning)
- MaryLouise Turano (WSCC)

Articles may be submitted for publication via post or e-mail.. Please visit the web site [www.regent-square.org](http://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 back page for complete contact information regarding the Newsletter editor, e-mail or post office address.

# Events Calendar

1-Mar-2004 7:00PM

## RSCA Meeting

*At Wilkins School Community Center,  
between South Braddock and Milton  
at Charleston*

Regular meeting, upcoming events discussed.

**Info:** [president@regent-square.org](mailto:president@regent-square.org) or 412-242-7274 to request the addition of an agenda item.

6-Mar-2004 9AM-Noon

## Food Donations

*Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church -  
905 Mifflin Avenue,  
corner of Mifflin and Whitney*

Nonperishable food donations collected for Wilkinsburg Community Ministries Food Bank. Collection on first Saturday of every month; drop off items at church.

**Info:** 412-731-2511 or on the web at <http://mifflinave.org>

26-27 Mar-2004 10AM-5PM

## Grand Opening

*Savvy On The Square*

1124 South Braddock Avenue

**Info:** See article on page 7.

3-Apr-2004 11AM-Noon

## Egg Hunt

*At Richmond-Sanders Lot*

Children under 12 hunt for candy-filled plastic eggs.

**Info:** See article on page 1.

5-Apr-2004 7:00PM

## RSCA Meeting

*At Wilkins School Community Center,  
between South Braddock and Milton  
at Charleston*

Regular meeting.

**Info:** [president@regent-square.org](mailto:president@regent-square.org) or 412-242-7274 to request the addition of an agenda item.

## To Submit a Listing to the 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-2004). All submissions may be edited for length.

# Used Book Sale & Flea Market Approaches

## *Donations and Volunteers Needed*

Wilkins School Community Center requests assistance with the donation of used books and flea market items for their Annual Used Book Sale and Flea Market, to be held on Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. The Flea Market is Saturday only, but the book sale continues on Sunday May 16<sup>th</sup>, from 12:00 – 3:00 p.m. with unbelievable pricing. On Sunday, attendees can purchase an entire bag of books for only one dollar! This year, the proceeds will be earmarked for playground renovations.

Donations of books or flea market items before the sale are appreciated and can be dropped off at the Center just inside the doorway at any time. Please leave your name and address with the items if you would like a tax credit form mailed to you. WSCC thanks you in advance for your generosity. Volunteers are also needed, both prior to the event to assist with sorting the books into categories and on the event dates to help with sales. 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. This year the funds from the sale will be used for playground renovations. For information call 412-244-8458, email [wscppgh@yahoo.com](mailto:wscppgh@yahoo.com), or visit our web page for updates at [www.wscppgh.org](http://www.wscppgh.org). ■

# New Book Features Local Writer

## *Pittsburgh Love Stories an anthology of regional authors*

“Available Properties,” a story by writer and Trenton Avenue resident Seth Madej, appears in *Pittsburgh Love Stories*, a new book published by the local literary magazine *The New Yinzer*. *Pittsburgh Love Stories* features 20 Pittsburgh authors expressing their love for the city through all genres of writing.

According to Seth, the book serves as a portfolio for the local literary scene. “It’s exciting to see my work next to that of such great writers,” he said, “like ‘the godfather behind creative nonfiction’ Lee Gutkind, the eight-time novelist Stewart O’Nan, and the award-winning poet Jan Beatty.”

Seth feels particularly happy that, at a time filled with budget crises and store closings, *Pittsburgh Love Stories* reminds us of the wonderful things about living in Pittsburgh. “It can be very easy to forget why this is such a great town, but this book gives us 20 reasons to remember. It makes the reader proud to be a part of our city.”

Seth co-edited *Pittsburgh Love Stories* along with his colleagues at *The New Yinzer*, an online magazine founded in 2002 by local writers Jennifer Meccariello and David C. Madden. Seth came aboard in 2003 as the editor of the magazine’s “Also” section. “*Pittsburgh Love Stories* is the largest project TNY has undertaken, but it was a labor of love,” he says. “During the whole process, the other editors and I were giddy, because we knew this book would be worth every minute we put into it. And it is.”

More information about *Pittsburgh Love Stories* is available at [www.newyinzer.com](http://www.newyinzer.com). ■

# Hockey Team Needs Players

## *All City Residents Grades 6-8 are Eligible*

Have you always wanted to play ice hockey? Taylor Allderdice Hockey is recruiting players at all levels for the Fall 2004 season. All City residents in grades 6-8 can play on the Freshman team, no matter what school they go to. (Ninth graders must attend Allderdice.) The Freshman team is developmental, so everyone gets to play.

There are also openings for older or more experience players on the Junior Varsity and Varsity teams. If you’re interested, you can join in for an open practice on Monday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. at Ice Castle. Regular practices begin in September, and the season starts in November. For more information, contact Mark Sirocca at 412-241-4823 or Ann Kelton at 412-244-5722. ■

# Become a 2004 RSCA Member Today!

## *The RSCA Needs Your Support*

Whether you are a Regent Square resident or a business owner, you are sure to agree that Regent Square is a good place to live, work, and do business. The Regent Square Civic Association (RSCA) is working hard to keep it that way – actually, to make it even better. To continue this effort, you’re invited to join the RSCA as Members for 2004.

For only \$5 per adult in a household, or \$15 per business, you can help to support RSCA activities such as the Easter Egg Hunt, Neighborhood Yard Sale, Richmond-Sanders lot beautification, Halloween Parade, Holiday Lighting Contest, Holiday Toy Drive, Parkway Litter Clean-up, and of course, this Newsletter. More importantly, your membership will strengthen the RSCA’s efforts to implement the traffic safety, roadway improvements and street-face projects suggested by the RSCA’s South Braddock Avenue Business Corridor Study that has recommendations to improve traffic and pedestrian safety.

Be on the lookout for newly established membership benefits such as discounts in the Neighborhood Yard Sale and at participating merchants. In addition, Business Members will be listed in the RSCA website and be hotlinked to their own website or e-mail address. Furthermore, all 2004 members will receive a copy of the RSCA Welcome Booklet – a directory of Regent Square businesses – and their own RSCA Membership Card.

Join the RSCA now! Complete the 2004 Membership form in this newsletter and send it in by the end of the month. Then, sit back and feel good about being a part of this great neighborhood and this hard-working organization.

While you can become a member at any time, but the RSCA is really counting on you to **become a member today**.

For questions regarding Membership issues, please call Alina Keebler at 412-731-5117 or send email to [membership@regent-square.org](mailto:membership@regent-square.org). ■

# South Braddock Avenue Safety

*Continued from page 1.*

The second accident occurred one evening in late January one block further south at the intersection of Biddle and South Braddock. A dog walker returning from Frick Park was standing in the crosswalk waiting for opposing traffic to stop. A southbound car struck the pedestrian and her dog. The dog was killed instantly and the young woman, Dr. Evelyn H. Wei, died later at the hospital. (Please see "A Lasting Memory" on page 5 for memorial information.)

In response to citizen calls, RSCA President Arch Pelley moderated a discussion at the regular RSCA February meeting on 2-Feb-2004 to collect preliminary citizen input. Over 50 residents attended the meeting to voice their concern. To facilitate direct citizen input about these vital safety issues to all relevant governing bodies, the RSCA moved quickly to organize a Town Meeting that would focus solely on the traffic issues of the South Braddock Corridor and allow residents to voice concerns about recent events directly to local, county and state officials.

Over the next two weeks RSCA Vice-President Terri Rosen organized the Town Meeting that was held on 19-Feb-2004 at 7PM at the Center for Creative Play. Government officials were present from the four municipalities of Regent Square, along with Port Authority Transit, County and State officials.

The February 19<sup>th</sup> meeting had over 250 residents participating in an active and well moderated discussion.

Introductions were made and all of the representatives from governments and agencies pledged to work cross functionally to resolve the issues that contributed to the recent tragedies.

Government officials and citizens then listened attentively while traffic consultant Edward Patton from Vollmer Associates provided an overview of recommendations that were made for Braddock Avenue improvements in the recent study done for the RSCA.

These included recommendations for changes at pedestrian crossings called "bulb outs." This type of intersection narrows the road a bit by pushing out the sidewalk area a few feet into the street creating a safe place where pedestrians and motorists can

both have each other in view. The "bulb" also causes a slight change in the look of the street, helping alert motorists to the crosswalk area. While these were initially recommended for the Regent Square business district, they could also be appropriate at the heavily used pedestrian intersections along South Braddock Avenue at Guthrie and Biddle streets.

Another device that would calm traffic is a "speed table" placed at pedestrian crossings. The crosswalk area is designed to be elevated higher than the surrounding road with a long ramp graded on either side of the crosswalk. The length and angle of the ramp determines the maximum speed that a vehicle can cross over the area without the driver feeling a very strong sense of discomfort. This is very different than a speed bump, which causes an immediate, and often unsafe, slowing of traffic.

The speed table allows traffic to pass at the speed for which it was designed while also creating an awareness of the pedestrian area.

After this review of the Study, residents then had a chance to provide input and voice concerns.

Many residents would like to see some type of device that would stop traffic to allow pedestrians to safely cross. There were suggestions of either a "stop" sign or a pedestrian-activated light.

Others noted that there are visibility and lighting problems around the crosswalks. The slight curve in South Braddock can make it difficult for drivers to negotiate the road, be observant of parked cars, and look ahead to the upcoming corner.

One person noted that the Regent Square School is nearby and the crosswalk at Henrietta is not very well marked, nor well observed. The crossing guard at Forbes and South Braddock noted that cars frequently disregard signals and engage in hazardous behaviors at that busy intersection.

Several residents pointed out that markings along the road are numerous and confusing. One resident noted that drivers are trained to look straight ahead and often don't see things not directly in their line-of-sight.

Speeding was cited as an issue that con-

tributed to unsafe conditions along the corridor. It was noted that people frequently exceed the posted 25-mile per hour limit.

Residents also stated that there was often an overflow of traffic and unsafe conditions onto adjacent neighborhood streets. Often cars using these "short cuts" would not completely stop at "stop" signs or would even violate the "One Way" signs.

Several residents conducted their own research or shared their personal experiences with traffic controls in other areas with the group. One resident mentioned that crosswalks often create a false sense of security for pedestrians and actually can contribute to accidents if pedestrians do not continue to exercise caution when using the crosswalks.

The City of Pittsburgh has already taken some immediate enforcement action that has resulted in a significant number of tickets being issued. Other municipalities also pledged to work together to add additional enforcement activities. This includes more frequent use of active speed monitoring signs that provide a live display of passing car speeds. These help to alert motorists to the presence of an enforcement zone, as well as noticing their current speed.

Another relatively immediate action that is being planned is placing permanent visible markers in the road at crosswalks.

There was also discussion about how residents could, by their own action, take steps to help calm traffic and enhance neighborhood safety. (See "Travel With Care" on page 5 of this issue.)

The use of a "Stop" sign on South Braddock or a pedestrian activated light was a very popular item with residents. However, the very high volume of traffic on South Braddock Avenue (30-40,000 cars/day) each taking a 3-5 second stop could create a very large traffic jam that would spill over into side streets and create an even more hazardous situation in the community making this a concern on the part of many officials and some residents.

The implementation of a traffic light would likely be a better solution, but also more costly as the typical price range for

this type of control is \$80-100,000 and multiple lights would be needed for adequate coverage, especially during the busy Spring through Fall time at Frick Park.

Through the comments and well-moderated interactions, all parties had a chance to share different points of view.

It was clear during the meeting that the problems facing the South Braddock corridor have developed over a long period of time and will not be easy to solve.

However, some immediate action is being taken to provide additional enforcement and visibility to pedestrians in this heavily used residential corridor.

The Vollmer study represents a very comprehensive plan that would address the safety and traffic flow issues in the Braddock Avenue corridor. However, this plan will take focus, commitment, and financial resources to implement over a multi-year period of time to create this sustainable change for the South Braddock corridor.

Government officials across the board pledged to work with the RSCA over the coming months.

The Civic Association committed to keep focus on the area via the South Braddock Avenue committee chaired by Vice-President Terri Rosen. Terri mentioned that the RSCA has been meeting with individual municipalities to discuss the recommendations of the Vollmer study for South Braddock safety improvements over the past year. This has laid some groundwork for the next steps that would have multiple municipalities and government groups meet together to chart a path forward.

The Civic Association extends thanks to all residents of Regent Square who have taken time to participate by providing feedback or organizational support with this important issue. Thanks is also extended to all officials from government and agencies who took time to visit Regent Square.

With active citizen, government, and agency participation, everyone can move forward together to continue to keep and enhance Regent Square as a safe and secure neighborhood for everyone to enjoy.

Join the RSCA to get e-mail updates about this issue (*membership form on page 6*) and/or join the Braddock Avenue Committee (email to [Vice-President@regnet-square.org](mailto:Vice-President@regnet-square.org)).

The RSCA is committed follow up this crucial issue. ■

## A Lasting Memory

### *University Memorial Fund Established For Accident Victim*

The presence of over 300 people at the memorial service for Regent Square resident Dr. Evelyn H. Wei at Heinz Memorial Chapel was a tribute to her spirit and the many lives that she touched in her short life. Dr. Wei was the young victim of the tragic accident in January at the corner of South Braddock and Biddle streets.

Dr. Katherine Detre, a colleague in the Department of Epidemiology, spoke at the memorial service of Evelyn's creativity. She said that Evelyn was always thinking "out of the box". She had done study on teenagers having children and focusing on teenage fathers. After all, everyone always looked at the young women; but nobody had ever thought of the other side of the equation. Evelyn's creative mind did.

Evelyn always felt that professional travel and the exchange of ideas permitted by travel was a broadening experience. Funds for this type of travel are often difficult to come by in the University setting. In that spirit, a memorial fund has been set up at the University of Pittsburgh in the Department of Epidemiology, where Evelyn worked, to permit others to enjoy the professional travel and intellectual experiences of which Evelyn was so fond.

Contributions to the fund can be made to "University of Pittsburgh-Evelyn H. Wei Memorial Fund" and addressed to: Graduate School of Public Health, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, 15261, Attn: Evelyn H. Wei Memorial Fund. If you have specific questions regarding this fund or making a contribution, you may contact the Development Officer for the School, Karen Crenshaw, at 412-624-5639 or via e-mail at [crenshaw@pitt.edu](mailto:crenshaw@pitt.edu) ■

## Travel With Care

### *Residents' Individual Actions Can Improve Neighborhood Safety*

Discussions at the recent South Braddock Avenue Safety Town Meeting on 19-Feb-2004 made one very important message especially meaningful in light of the recent traffic accidents in Regent Square: Each and every driver and pedestrian in Regent Square can help make traffic better by observing simple traffic rules:

- **Go slow** – Following the posted speed limit forces other cars that are behind to do the same. While it's tempting to rush back home, or out to an event, taking time getting to and from the house will help increase neighborhood safety.
- **Full Stops** – Make full and complete stops at Stop signs, take a bit of time to be sure that no pedestrians or opposing vehicles are in the right of way.
- **Stop, Look, Listen** – Observe the three rules that children are taught to obey at every pedestrian crossing. Don't assume that drivers will always see a pedestrian.
- **Allow space** – Don't park too close to corners, obscuring views for pedestrians and turning cars; observe the "Stop Here on Red" to allow smooth traffic flow; and don't crowd fellow drivers on the road.
- **Drive and park in the right direction** – Don't drive or park the wrong way on the street or through the alley where you live; both are illegal and create hazardous conditions.
- **Stay off the street** – The street is for vehicles, not joggers or walkers. If sidewalks are particularly bad in an area, report them to the local municipal authorities.
- **Yield** – Always think of the "right of way" as "to be yielded". The "Pennsylvania Manual for Drivers" has a statement on "right of way" that says: "The law does not allow anyone the right-of-way. It only states who must yield. When a driver is required to yield the right-of-way but fails to do so, other drivers are required to stop or yield as necessary for safety. ....Never insist on having the right-of-way..."

Slowing down, stopping, observing all the rules – even the inconvenient ones – and yielding will help pedestrians and drivers all enjoy a safer Regent Square. ■

# RSCA Updates

## ***New Board Members And A Reorganized Committee Structure***

The RSCA Board is full of new members with great ideas for moving forward. The 2004 Board Members are: Arch Pelley (*President*), Terri L. Rosen (*Vice-President*), Julia Crawford (*Secretary*), Bill Werner (*Treasurer*), Ann Gaul, Glennen Greer, Alina Keebler, Kelly O'Brien, Joan Reefer, Nevin Rodes (*emeritus*), Kathleen Schneider, Joanne Spence, Carol Stanier.

One of their first orders of business was to hold two half-day strategy sessions where they got to meet, got to know each other, and looked at the best way to organize for the busy year ahead.

To solve the problem of committee reports taking up meeting time, the Board reorganized into six major committees of Executive, Communications, Events, Liaisons, Membership, and Neighborhood Improvements. (*See table to right.*) Each committee is chaired by a Board member.

As always, there is no shortage of things to do in Regent Square. If you have an idea for an event, project, or see a particular neighborhood issue that you would like to address, contact the RSCA committee chair or board member and ask how you can become involved. Board member and committee chairs are easy to contact by e-mail via the "Board Members" page off of the RSCA main web page at [www.regent-square.org](http://www.regent-square.org). You may also leave a message for the Civic Association at 412-241-0702. ■

RSCA Committees & Chairs	
Executive	Arch Pelley
Communications	Ann Gaul
Events	Joan Reefer
Liaisons	Bill Werner
Membership	Alina Keebler
Neighborhood Improvements	Terri L. Rosen

## WSCC Latest Six-Week Class Offerings Begin

### ***Something for Everyone***

Interested in taking a six-week class on a new, interesting and fun topic or activity? Maybe a one or two night mini-class fits better into your schedule? WSCC has the solution! New class sessions at the Center will begin the first week of March. Many wonderful classes are offered, such as Wine Tasting, Aerobics, Ballroom Dancing, Tango, Tap Dancing, Watercolor Painting, T'ai Chi Ch'uan, Karate, Yoga, and much more.

For more information, or if you would like to be added to the mailing list and receive the WSCC program of class offerings five times throughout the year, contact the Center at 412-244-8458 or [wscpcph@yahoo.com](mailto:wscpcph@yahoo.com), or visit their web site at [www.wscpcph.org](http://www.wscpcph.org). The Wilkins School Community Center is located at the intersection of South Braddock and Charleston Streets. Consider becoming a member of the Wilkins School Community Center – members receive a reduced

## Recruiting Recruiters!

### ***We Want You***

The RSCA Membership Recruitment Committee is looking for a few good volunteers who believe in the purpose of the Regent Square Civic Association and are able to donate an hour of their time here and there. All you have to do is staff the RSCA table at a neighborhood event, such as the upcoming Easter Egg Hunt or the Neighborhood Yard Sale, and pass out RSCA literature. Help the Civic Association to increase membership numbers and, as a result, have more clout when seeking funds from foundations or requesting help from government officials. To volunteer, contact Alina at 412-731-5117 or [membership@regent-square.org](mailto:membership@regent-square.org) ■

## Become a 2004 Member of the RSCA!

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Residents (adults per household) @ \$5 each

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Business @ \$15 ea.

Business Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Business Owner \_\_\_\_\_  
 Alternate Rep. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Business Web site \_\_\_\_\_

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

Municipality, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

### Notes:

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

Please send in 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: \_\_\_\_\_

# Stream Cleaning Creative Thanks

## ***Nine Mile Run Watershed Association Hosts Bevy Of Spring Events***

The Nine Mile Run Watershed Association (NMRWA) is hosting many Spring events to celebrate the season. The NMRWA was formed to involve citizens in the restoration and protection of the Nine Mile Run watershed through education, advocacy, and stewardship programs.

The most visible aspect of Nine Mile Run itself is the stream in Frick Park that is being restored in this effort and will, within a few years, be able to support an abundance of aquatic life.

Upcoming events being offered include:

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### **Restoration Tour**

Saturday April 17<sup>th</sup> 10-11:30 AM

Meeting place – *to be announced*

Come along on this exciting trail walk through the Nine Mile Run stream restoration area. A great follow up to February's winter walk, or a great way to introduce yourself to the NMR restoration. Don't forget to wear sturdy shoes or boots.

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### **Tree Planting**

Saturday April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9 AM to noon

Join the NMRWA for this follow up to the Fall 2003 tree planting. Participants will do some maintenance on existing trees, check up on new transplants, and get their hands dirty planting more street trees along Penn Avenue in Wilkinsburg's business district.

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### **Litter Cleanup**

Saturday May 1<sup>st</sup>, Time – *to be announced*

Come out and help the Watershed Association do their part to clean up Nine Mile Run. Everyone will be getting down and dirty picking up trash from the stream and its banks. (*Check the Nine Mile Run web site for updates.*)

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The Heinz Endowments have just awarded the group with a new multi-year grant allowing it to continue to serve the community.

To learn more about this exciting group and how it is helping increase knowledge, awareness and stewardship of the growing water resources in Frick Park, check their web site at [www.ninemilerun.org](http://www.ninemilerun.org) or call them at 412-371-8779. ■

## ***Center For Creative Play Helps Community Once Again***

A heartfelt thanks goes to the Center for Creative Play (CCP) and its staff for allowing the use of the wonderful facilities of their center for the RSCA Town Meeting on February 19<sup>th</sup>. The Center has consistently extended its hospitality to the RSCA and the community at large by supporting events such as this with its facilities and personnel.

If you stop by the Center, please thank them! Please call them at 412-371-1668 or check their web site at [www.center4creativeplay.org](http://www.center4creativeplay.org) more information about their programs and services for families and children. ■

# Savvy On The Square

## ***New Consignment Shop Opens With Celebration Scheduled March 26-27<sup>th</sup>***

There is a new face doing business in Regent Square at 1124 South Braddock. The new face, Lisa Bold, sells "gently used things" and "new to you things" that can be a bonanza for folks who need some regular clothes but are also watching their budget. While Regent Square has the shop "Ambiance" that features upscale previously owned womens clothing, "Savvy On The Square" features more practical daily wear for women and young children.

Lisa is excited about this new venture. She's always enjoyed shopping around for bargains and decided to turn her passion into a business. When the space became available, she decided to set up business in her home neighborhood of Regent Square where she grew up. A quick look through the store will also turn up a few surprises:

- Handicrafts – works by artist Annette Biccio are featured; these make attractive decorating accents and occasional pieces.
- Steel furniture – local resident Andy Mimm has fashioned small and durable tables as well as ornaments that are appropriate for a garden or a special place in the home.
- Custom jewelry – designed by Laura Docherty, offers some unique touches with a slightly upscale flair.

Virtually nothing in the shop costs more than \$50, and most items are in the \$20 range, with many children's items priced much lower. The shop also donates items that don't sell to the local women's shelter. Items that are left there on consignment may ultimately benefit a very worthy cause! (This also means that a consignment items may qualify as a tax deduction.)

Lisa is scheduling a grand opening for Friday and Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>. Check the "Coupon Clipper" for discount coupons for the Grand Opening.

If you need more information about specific shop hours, give the shop a call at 412-608-9472. Be sure to stop by and say "Hi" during the regular shop hours of Tuesday through Saturday from 10 AM-5 PM. It's hard to leave without buying something! ■

# Wireless Spa & Coffee

## ***Clipps & Katerbean Boast Wireless "Hot Spots"***

Two local businesses offer an additional convenience for their computer-oriented patrons. Both Katerbean and Clipps Salon and Day Spa offer wireless "hot spots" affiliated with internet service provider Telerama. A wireless "hot spot" lets a computer, typically a laptop unit equipped with a special networking card, connect to the Internet via a special radio signal. The data travels over radio waves up to 150-200 feet away and connects to the wired network via a receiver at that point.

To use the service, the individual must have a computer with a wireless networking card as well as be a subscriber to Telerama – the Internet provider that offers access to the network at these points. However, because Telerama offers this service throughout the City, many mobile computers will pay the monthly subscription fee so that they can easily travel around the area, do business, and connect quickly to the network.

Next time you slip into Katerbean for coffee, or enjoy Clipps' services, take along your laptop and wireless card. If you're a Telerama subscriber, you can also get caught up on your e-mail, on-line shopping, and web surfing! ■

# Herb Fest—Think Spring!

## Planning Underway for June Event

Wilkins School Community Center will be holding the Second Annual Herb Fest on June 5, 2004. Visitors can purchase plants from vendors or shop for garden or herb-related gifts. In addition, there will be a plant swap, and participants will have the opportunity to donate their excess plants to benefit the Center. The proceeds from the plant swap benefit the WSCC playground renovation fund. Children's activities will be available. Refreshments will also be available. Join us for this fun, new, and different event – stay tuned for more information as the climate warms!

If you would like to volunteer to help with the plant swap, refreshment table, or children's activity table, or if you are interested in being a vendor at this event, contact WSCC at 412-244-8458 or [wscppgh@yahoo.com](mailto:wscppgh@yahoo.com) for more information. For class information and membership to the community center visit WSCC's website at [www.wscppgh.org](http://www.wscppgh.org). ■

## Critter Problems

### Residents Report Raccoon Raids

Residents who live near the Frick Park border of Regent Square have reported some rattling around the alley near their trash cans. It's not kids up to mischief, or someone being noisy taking out the trash, but raccoons raiding the area for food. Some have even safely crossed South Braddock Avenue in search of a midnight snack.

While many may view raccoons as the cute "masked bandits" of the wild that are seen on nature films washing their food before they eat it, the actual tale of this creature is that they are wild animals that can be dangerous to humans.

Raccoons have accounted for the largest percentage of animal rabies cases reported to Center for Disease Control (CDC) since 1990. In 1998, 44% of all rabies cases among animals in the United States occurred among raccoons. From 1990 to 1998, 35,264 cases of raccoon rabies were reported in the United States. Of those, 35,033 (99.3%) occurred in eastern states.

Rabies is an acute infectious disease of the central nervous system, which affects all warm-blooded animals, including humans. It is caused by a virus. The virus is often present in the host's saliva, and human infection is usually transmitted by the bite or lick of a rabid animal, such as a bat, wolf, dog, cat, or other mammal; it is sometimes transmitted by the respiratory route. The incubation period in humans is from one to three months, being shorter following bites near the brain. Once a person displays signs of rabies, the disease can not be treated.

All Regent Square Municipalities require that refuse be stored in a secure container to discourage animals from raiding the trash and spreading disease. Edible materials should not be discarded in plastic bags, but placed in more secure containers to prevent wild animals from foraging in the trash.

Animals in Frick Park are in the wild and can fend for themselves. They really don't need any "assistance" from humans to survive – in fact it's often counter-productive to do so, causing them to over populate and then starve when humans no longer feed them. Or they become too 'friendly' with humans and then can bite them or leave droppings that spread disease.

Residents should take care with trash and with nature to keep the neighborhood safe as well as enjoy nature at a safe distance. ■



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## Spring *Continued from page 1.*

**C**ondition: This winter has been brutal, and some of the homes in our neighborhood will require some Spring cleaning to ready them for a sale. Many of the home owners I meet don't have perfect homes. Who does? Homes in the Square are older, and some are in need of new roofs, new furnaces, new windows, updated kitchens, and a great deal more. Not all home owners want to take on the expense of replacing roofs and windows before they sell. It is for this reason that I am very careful not to suggest that a home owner repair or replace all worn or obsolete parts of the structure. Things such as wall-paper, paneling, and carpeting are all items influenced by personal preference, and some buyers would prefer to redo these things themselves. If you're going to be selling, speak to your real estate professional and don't assume what buyers would want. A good agent, hired to represent your best interests, will guide you in the right direction.

Hopefully, the Spring will be as pleasant and comfortable as the Winter has been blustery and cold, and home sales in our area will continue to bring friendly new neighbors that appreciate our area as much as we do. If you are thinking of selling your home, I'd be glad to stop by. See you in the park....

*Fred Leff and his Aussie, Dunderbeck* ■

## Help Needed For April Flea Market

### Church Looking For Items And Assistance

Ready for an early Spring flea market? First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood will be holding their popular flea market on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Clean out your attics and bring your unwanted treasures in good condition down to the Church School Street door. Furniture and clothes aren't being collected for this sale. If you need help with a large item, or can't bring items to the Church, you may call Joy Goethert at 412-731-1640 for assistance.

If anyone is interest in helping with sorting or set up the week before the sale, the committee would love to have more help. Call Joy or the Church office at 412-241-4613. Also you may access the church web site at [www.fpcedgewood.org](http://www.fpcedgewood.org) for more information about their many programs, services and events. ■