

REGENT SQUARE

CIVIC ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

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

May 2004
Volume 24 Number 4

Still not a member?

The 2004 membership year has started! Become a member of the RSCA - see page 3 for a membership form. Your membership enables community-based projects in the coming year.

Join us next month for:

- Yard Sale final planning
 - Committee reports
- All at the RSCA Board Meeting, 7:00 PM Monday 3-May-2004 at the Wilkins School Community Center, located at the corner of Milton and Charleston Avenues.

Meeting Minutes

RSCA Meeting Quick Recap
Monday, 5-Apr-2004 - 7:00PM

- Election of new Treasurer
- Report on Egg Hunt
- Communications Committee shared new ideas
- Braddock Avenue Committee expanding

It's Yard Sale Time

Still not too late to sign up!

For those of you who have realized that May 15th is a good day to clean out your closets, fear not, you can still register for the 5th Annual Regent Square Yard sale. While you may not get on the official map, you will get the packet with all signs, balloons, streamers and yard sale tips to help make your day a success. Please call 412-731-6260 or e-mail keebler@telarama.com and to sign up. Remember your registration fee of \$7 (\$5 for RSCA members) is used for events and projects in the Square. Thanks and happy selling. ■

A Perfect Day

April 3rd Easter Egg Hunt Enjoyed By All

The early April weather was certainly a surprise, one day cold, the next day sunny. But, as if by magic, the morning of April 3rd was picture-perfect for the annual children's Easter Egg Hunt.

Board member Kelly O'Brien coordinated the event and did the pre-hunt candy shopping. Her mother, Betty O'Brien, volunteered to carefully pack every one of 400 plastic eggs a week or so before the hunt with 3-4 pieces of delicious candy. Betty had all of the eggs carefully counted and boxed for pickup on the morning of the 3rd. No eggs were missing because her faithful dog, Dan, guarded the cache!

On the day of the hunt, Jon Danzak met with Kelly to deliver the eggs as well as pickup a large blow-up chick from Augie & Felicia Turano who loaned it to the RSCA for the event. They were met at the Richmond/Sanders lot by Ann Gaul, RSCA Communications Chair. Julia and Nathaniel Pantalone and their mom, Susan Miller, stopped by to help. They joined with Ann, Kelly and Jon to hide eggs and stuff bags with straw. The Griffin's across the street allowed the RSCA to snake a power cord over to inflate the chick.

By the end of the hour, about 70 kids collected nearly 300 eggs in small bags stuffed with Easter straw. Everyone enjoyed the unexpected bit of pleasant afternoon weather. The left-over eggs were donated to the Greater Pittsburgh Women's Shelter to spread the fun from Regent Square to the kids over there.

Check the RSCA web site, www.regent-square.org, and click on "pictures" to view snapshots of this year's fun spring event. ■

Trees & Sidewalks

Spring Is A Good Time For Attention

As the days last longer, weather warms up, and spring returns to Regent Square, more and more people will be out enjoying neighborhood walks or runs on the sidewalks. The diverse architecture makes a stroll through this older neighborhood a treat.

Often a stroll up a Regent Square street is interrupted by a large pothole, crack, or bump in the sidewalk. Sometimes the walker or jogger is greeted with a tree branch that pokes them squarely in the face.

Spring is a great time to inspect your property and do some minor repairs and pruning that can make it safer for all of your neighbors to enjoy. While sidewalk replacement may be needed, it's not often practical or economical to do a full-scale replacement. However several concrete patching compounds are available that can offer some temporary repair for major sidewalk irregularities. (Continued on page 4.)

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WWW.REGENT-SQUARE.ORG

Family Fun At Waverly

May 7th & 8th Set For Return Of Waverly Opera House Production

Did you live in Pittsburgh during the winter? Did you miss the warmth of Waverly Presbyterian Church's Mardi Gras and now feel low? Longing for something to look forward to? Do not despair! What you need is a good dose of laughter to replace the lack of sunlight, to renew your energy, and we have just the thing!

Waverly Presbyterian, the little church with a big heart, located on the corner of Forbes and Braddock Avenue, has a long tradition of Opera House performances. What is an Opera House? Usually it's a melodrama acted out by various brave souls who attend Waverly. Last year, our youth performed a Western Drama. This year it is the grown ups' turn (that in itself should bring you in!) and they have been hard at work learning their lines and practicing their songs....Yes, there will be singing! Our play is called "The Great Ice Cream Scheme, OR, Robin Baskins to the Rescue!" and audience participation is expected!

Stop in on Friday May 7th at 8 pm or Saturday May 8th at 8 pm for another one of our famous (or infamous) Waverly Opera House productions. Tickets will be an affordable \$5.00 per person and are available by calling the church office at 412-242-0643 or by stopping one of your neighbors who attend Waverly who are selling tickets. You can also purchase tickets at the door the evening of the performance, but come early! Our seats fill quickly! You won't want to miss this great family outing! See you there! ■

Gardening Event Set For June

Wilkins School Community Center Featuring Herb Sale & Plant Swap

The Wilkins School Community Center (WSCC) is planning an herb sale and festival for June 5th. In addition to fresh herbs suitable for planting, herb-related crafts, soaps, and cards will be available for sale. Refreshments will also be sold.

For a small donation, the Center will be conducting a plant swap, as well. People also will have the opportunity to donate excess plants to benefit the Center's gardens or other community public gardens.

If you would like to be a featured vendor, contact the WSCC about participating in this event by e-mailing the center at wscppgh@yahoo.com, or calling 412-244-8458. Presently, they are securing vendors who offer herbs, native plants, and shade garden plants, birdhouses, container gardens, window-box herb gardens and garden ornamentation, in addition to tea vendors and those who offer garden paintings.

Vendor applications are still being accepted. Proceeds from the plant swap will be used for playground renovations. The event will be different and fun for the whole community. For class information and membership to the community center visit our website at www.wscppgh.org. ■

Contributors:

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

- Deborah DeFazio (WSCC Info)
- Barbara Peterson (Parkway Cleanup)
- Ann Gaul (Newsletter Contributors)
- Gary Ritchie (PC Pickup)
- Alina Keebler (Yardsale, News Dist.)
- Ellen Rubin (Playing around)

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 e-mail of the guidelines. Please see the last page for complete contact information regarding the Newsletter editor, e-mail or post office address.

Events Calendar

1-May-2004

Yard Sale Signup Deadline

Map inclusion deadline

See article p. 1 for details.

Info: keebler@telarama.net or 412-731-6260

3-May-2004 7:00PM

RSCA Meeting

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

Info: 412-242-7274 or president@regent-square.org to request the addition to agenda.

7 & 8-May-2004 9:00PM

Waverly Opera House

At Waverly Presbyterian Church, corner of Forbes & South Braddock Avenues

Info: See article page 2.

8-May-2004 8AM-3PM

Rummage & Bake Sale

Mifflin Avenue United Methodist, 905 Mifflin Avenue, proceeds go to church improvements

Info: 412-731-2511 www.mifflinave.org

15-May-2004

Regent Square Yard Sale

All throughout Regent Square

Info: See article page 1.

15-May-2004 5PM-7:30PM

Roast Beef Dinner

Mifflin Avenue United Methodist, 905 Mifflin Ave., proceeds go to church general fund, \$8 per person, \$4 for children 10 and under.

Info: 412-731-2511 www.mifflinave.org

15 & 16-May-2004 9AM-2PM

Flea Market & Book Sale

At Wilkins School Community Center, corner of Charleston & South Braddock

Info: See article page 3.

22-May-2004 6:30PM

Newsletter Meeting

At Katerbean in the Business District.

Info: See article page 3.

25-May-2004 7:30PM

Edgewood Symphony

At Edgewood Presbyterian Church

Info: See article page 4.

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 June Newsletter are due 1-May-2004). All submissions may be edited for length.

Used Book Sale and Flea Market

May 15th and 16th at Wilkins School Community Center

The annual Used Book Sale and Flea Market returns to the Wilkins School Community Center the weekend of May 15th, timed to coincide with the Regent Square Yard Sale for a day full of bargains. The Flea Market and Book Sale will operate on Saturday May 15th from 9AM-2PM. The following day, Sunday, the Book Sale only will continue from 12PM-3PM with books on sale for only \$1 per bag! The proceeds from the sale of the donated books and goods are earmarked for Wilkins School Community Center playground renovations.

If you wish to rent a table to sell your flea market items, you may do so by contacting the Center. The cost is \$5.00 per table.

The Center is also still seeking donations of used books and household treasures. You may bring your book donations and goods to the Center and leave them in the Blue room on the first floor.

Volunteers are also needed on the day of the sale to help set up as well as sell the goods. Please contact the Center at 412-244-8458, visit their web page for updates at www.wsccpgh.org or e-mail the Center wsccpgh@yahoo.com.

There are a variety of items available at the flea market that just might catch your eye. At the book sale, there are some wonderful cookbooks and novels that should prove to be riveting reading. Ink in this event in on your calendar and hope for great weather. Plan to attend and buy some treasures. ■

In Search of Community News and Newsletter Contributors

RSCA Communication Committee Chair Ann Gaul writes to announce new Newsletter meetings.

Over the years, the RSCA has received many compliments on its community-oriented Newsletter. Residents and businesses tell us that they really enjoy being kept up-to-date about neighborhood and RSCA happenings. The RSCA is grateful to the dedicated group of writers and editors who have kept the newsletter running smoothly all of these years.

To keep the newsletter going strong, we're looking for new Newsletter Committee members. We're thinking about branching out a bit to showcase the many great things the people of Regent Square are involved in and excited about. Would you be interested in writing about different Regent Square topics? Or perhaps you want to come up with the ideas, but leave the writing to writers. This doesn't have to be a time-intensive project. Maybe you have time to write an article once a year or maybe once every couple of months . . . it's up to you.

Some of the ideas the Newsletter Committee has put forth so far include:

- The history of Regent Square
- Our neighborhood's architecture that is

famous for its character and diversity

- Interviews with government reps from our four municipalities
- Your vision of what Regent Square could be in the years to come
- A teenager's perspective of life in the Square (or on an issue or topic that affects our community)
- Know a great band?
- Involved in local sports?
- Won an award?
- Written a poem?

The opportunities are many (but the writers, few). We're hoping that you'll join our team to help us come up with topics and, possibly, write about them.

The Newsletter Committee meets the last Tuesday of every month at 6:30pm at Katerbean on South Braddock Avenue where we'll brainstorm ideas and plan the next month's issue.

Send me an e-mail to ann Gaul@hotmail.com or call me at 412-243-2012 if you plan to come to the May 25th gathering. (If you're interested in participating but can't make it that day, please let us know.) Come take part in your community newsletter! ■

Free PC Pickup

Resident Recycles Your Old PC

Personal computer sales are expected to soar in 2004. What will you do with your old personal computer? If it's not too dated, you might re-purpose its use within your home or family by giving it to a friend or loved one. Unfortunately, many will send theirs out to the curb, an act that puts our environment at risk.

Every year more than 3.2 million tons of computer waste is dumped in landfills where, over time, toxins used to make computer components will leak into our ground water. These components often contain, among other things, lead, mercury, cadmium, and other toxic material.

For a limited time you can have your old personal computer picked up for free and removed responsibly. Your PC will either be disassembled used for parts to create systems for donation to charity, or responsibly recycled. For more information call Gary Ritchie at 412-371-9152; or email gary@garyritchie.com. ■

Playing Around

Popular Neighborhood Play Group Offers Kids and Parents Alternatives

The Regent Square Young Children's Playgroup has been meeting since the fall of 2000 after gathering participants through an article the Civic Association Newsletter.

The original children are now approaching the age of four and have been joined by a new wave of younger siblings. The children and their mothers (with an occasional father) have been meeting in each other's homes every Friday morning.

The playgroup has been a wonderful way to meet other Regent Square families and members find that the playgroup is a place where they can relax, play, and establish supportive relationships.

If you'd like more information about this playgroup or a more recently established Regent Square playgroup for children age 2 and under, please contact Ellen Rubin at ionrubin@pitt.edu or 412-241-0960. ■

Trees & Sidewalks

continued from page 1

The repair takes only minutes, but can often enhance sidewalk safety for several years, especially if the area to be repaired has been cleaned and properly prepared. Some municipalities, like the City of Pittsburgh, offer a program to replace areas of the sidewalk that have been damaged by trees adjacent to the sidewalk and curb area. Call your local municipality to check and see if they can help with this type of repair.

Tree pruning is easy, quick, and very much appreciated by everyone who walks by your property. Remember that after a rain, tree branches may sag. A good test for deciding how far to prune a tree adjacent to a sidewalk is to fully extend your hand below the tree branches. If your hand can touch the branch or leaves, it should probably be pruned a bit higher so that it doesn't sag during a rain and deliver a wet pile of leaves in a passer-by's face. Don't forget to make sure that people can easily park and get in/out of their car without being hit by tree branches.

Take some time to do some inspection and cleanup this spring. Everyone who walks by will be glad that you did! ■

Classes Still Available

Mini-Courses Still Open At Wilkins School Community Center

It's not too late. There is still time to register at Wilkins School Community Center for mini-courses that last one or two evenings. The Center offers many interesting classes to choose from during each six-week session, such as Bridge or photographing wildflowers with a digital camera and much more. Check out the flyer that you may have received in the mail recently or contact the Center at 412-244-8458, visit their web page for updates at www.wsccpgh.org or e-mail the Center at wsccpgh@yahoo.com. They're looking forward to seeing you for a class or two. ■

Distribution Coordinator Needed

Volunteer Needed To Manage Newsletter Distribution

Do you like receiving the RSCA Newsletter? From all that we hear, you do! Could you spare an hour or so a month to help its distribution run smoothly? We hope that you will.

The RSCA is looking for someone to become the "new and improved" Newsletter Distribution Coordinator. While all you really need is pen, paper and a phone, it would be best to also have a computer, printer and Internet access. To discuss all that is involved, please contact Alina Keebler at 412-731-5117, or via e-mail at keebler@telerama.com. Help Regent Square residents to stay informed. ■

Musical Note

Tour De France To Visit Edgewood Presbyterian Church

The Edgewood Symphony Orchestra will perform in concert 7:30PM on Saturday May 22nd at Edgewood Presbyterian Church. The concert will be conducted by Betsy Heath-Charles and feature a "Tour de France" including works by Lalo, Massenet, St. Saens, Ravel and Delibes. For more information about the ESO, contact them at via phone at 412-473-8880, or email eso@pittsburgh.com. The ESO web page is located at trfn.clpgh.org/edgewoodso. ■

2004 RSCA Membership Form

Name(s): _____

or Business Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

(Contact information is not shared.)

Suggestions, issues and/or committees of interest: _____

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

_____ Business @ \$15 ea.

Dues are not tax deductible

Checks payable to: R.S.C.A.

Mail to: RSCA Treasurer

7604 Charleston Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15218-1265

Cleanup Thanks

Volunteer Intersection Cleanup

Thanks to Pat & Patrick Fallon, Allen Baum, Jon Danzak, Barb Peterson, Steve Revilak and Kurt Summersgill for the spring cleanup of the Parkway (I-376) intersection at South Braddock. Quite a few bags of debris were collected.

The remaining dates for scheduled cleanups are June 27th & September 19th at 8AM and November 21st at 9AM.

Most folks join in for an hour or so of "fun" and new volunteers are always appreciated! Join the cleanup team today by contacting Barb Peterson via e-mail at babs@libcom.com, or contact the Civic Association at 412-243-0702 for more information. ■



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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RSCA Business Mailing Address:

Regent Square Civic Association
7604 Charleston Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15218-1265

web: www.regent-square.org

email addresses:

[President](#), [Vice-president](#), [Secretary](#), [Membership](#),
[Communications](#) & [Newsletter](#) all @regent-square.org