

REGENT SQUARE

CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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

August 2004, Volume 24 Number 7

Join us next month for:

- Regent Square School Discussion
- Regular committee updates

All at the RSCA Board Meeting, 7:00 PM Monday, 2-Aug-2004 at the Wilkins School Community Center located at the corner of Milton and Charleston Avenues.

Meeting Minutes

June RSCA Meeting Quick Recap
Monday, 12-Jun 2004 - Discussion about rezoning, Regent Square School, membership, Run Around the Square.

Run Around The Square

August 28th Race Date Drawing Near! (See map on page 4 & dates on page 5.)

It won't be long before thousands of runners, walkers, strollers and dogs take off through the streets of Regent Square for the 22nd running of the Run Around the Square! Here are a few items you may want to know before the great extravaganza takes place!

The popular public radio program, The Saturday Light Brigade (SLB), a Saturday morning Pittsburgh tradition for nearly 30 years, will bring its unique blend of acoustic music and family fun to Regent Square to broadcast live the morning of the race, from 6:00AM until noon. SLB will begin its

broadcast at the finish line for the 1.5 Mile Fun Run/Walk at the corner of Overton and Milton Streets. Then, SLB will move its show to Fern Hollow, the finish line for the 5K Run/Walk, and continue to broadcast and interview participants. You can listen to SLB's broadcast on 88.3 FM (WRCT).

The Run Around the Square is proud of its 200-plus volunteers who make this race happen! This race is one of the few races that is completely community managed. Thanks to all those volunteers who are participating in the Volunteer

Regent Square School Closing

Pittsburgh School Board President to Address RSCA August 2nd Meeting

The Pittsburgh Board of Education has decided to close Regent Square Elementary School as part of its overall redistricting. Students in the Regent Square feeder pattern (Swisshelm Park, Park Place, 14th Ward Regent Square, and small segments of Shadyside) will be assigned to the new Homewood Elementary School this fall.

Middle school students will continue to be assigned to Reizenstein Middle School and most high school students will be assigned to Allerdice Senior High School. No decision has been made as to the disposition of the closed Regent Square School at this time.

Bill Isler, Regent Square's elected representative to Pittsburgh's Board of Education and School Board President, will speak at the RSCA's August 2nd Board meeting between 7 and 8PM to address this issue. He will also speak about the elementary, middle and high schools that children in the Pittsburgh portion of Regent Square, Park Place and Swisshelm Park will attend for the 2004-2005 school year, as well as subsequent years. Please let your neighbors and friends in these neighborhoods know about this meeting as this is a topic of interest to many residents of Regent Square. ■

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WWW.REGENT-SQUARE.ORG

Zoning Updates

Pittsburgh Area of Regent Square Slated for Remapping

As part of the new 1999 zoning code, the City of Pittsburgh Department of City Planning will be remapping the City based on the new zoning districts contained within this ordinance. This applies to the City portions of Regent Square. It is the intention for this new zoning to match existing land uses. Each neighborhood in the city is scheduled to be remapped, with some areas of the City already remapped. This remapping will give recommendations for future use and density for each property within the City, and will affect any future expansion or development. Existing uses will be allowed to remain as they are, sometimes referred to as being "grandfathered in." (Continued on page 3.)

Frick Park Restoration Stops

Nine Mile Run Stream Restoration Halted By Federal Funding Cuts

Federal funding for the Nine Mile Run (NMR) restoration was cut this year from an expected \$1.6 million to only \$330,000. The contractor, Meadville Land Services, must pull all their workers and equipment out of the work site in a matter of weeks. Although they are doing their best to leave the site as stable as possible by seeding the area with native plants, they are still a long way from finishing the restoration. The Army Corps of Engineers, who are supervising the implementation of the project, are expecting that funding will be cut next year as well, seriously jeopardizing the completion of the restoration of Nine Mile Run.

Nine Mile Run Funding Summary	
Money (Millions)	Description
\$7.7	Total cost of Nine Mile Run stream restoration
\$5.0	Portion expected from Federal government
\$2.7	Portion already provided by City of Pittsburgh
\$3.4	Remaining money needed to complete restoration

If the restoration is left incomplete, the stream will continue to suffer from serious stream bank erosion and degraded habitat for fish and other wildlife and will remain inhospitable for human recreation. Even if the restoration proceeds, but at a much slower rate due to continued funding shortfalls, the stream and park may in fact be in worse condition—sediment will enter the stream during multiple summers of construction, invasive species will colonize the banks in between construction seasons, and park access will be limited.

There will also be some significant additional costs of remobilizing construction crews each summer, reducing the amount of money available for direct restoration work.

Citizen input now can tell the federal government that the community expects the already-promised full funding for the stream restoration reinstated in the next fiscal year.

Senator Specter and Congressman Doyle were early supporters of the initiative. Phone, fax, write, or email them asking for their help in securing federal funding to ensure that this important restoration in Frick Park is completed. In this election year, also consider writing to both presidential candidates.

The Nine Mile Run Watershed Association can help if you need information contacting the appropriate government officials. You may reach them at 412-371-8779 or via their web site a www.ninemilerun.org. ■

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

- Glennen Greer - Film
- Marijke Hecht – Nine Mile Run
- Scott Ivy – Edwin Harder
- Alina Keebler/Bill Werner-School
- Michele Megarry – Run Around
- Dee Ann Mendel - Safety
- Arch Pelley - Rezoning
- Barb Peterson – Litter
- Lisa Price - Dogs
- Terri Rosen – Braddock Avenue
- Mary Louise Travers – WSCC items

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

2-Aug-2004 7:00PM

RSCA Meeting

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

Regular meeting.

Info: 412-243-0702 or president@regent-square.org to request an agenda item.

7-Aug-2004

Food Donations

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

Nonperishable food donations collected for Wilkesburg Comm. Ministries Food Bank.

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

14-Aug-2004 10AM-11:30AM

Restoration Tour

Tour Nine Mile Run, the new stream area in Frick Park. Dress for hiking and water.

Info: 412-371-8779 or on the web at

www.ninemilerun.org

22-Aug-2004 10AM

Run-Packet Stuffing

Dunning's Grill

Make race packets-Run Around The Square

Info: Michele Megarry at 412-241-0913 or

mmegarry@verizon.net

26-28Aug-2004

Registration/Pickup/Run

Registration and setup for August 28th Run Around the Square

See table on page 5.

Info: 412-371-8779 or on the web at

www.ninemilerun.org

27-Aug-2004 9AM-1PM

Pollinator Workshop

Jane Holmes Residence, 441 Swissvale Avenue

Learn how to attract beautiful pollinators and care for an attractive pollinator garden.

Info: 412-371-8779 or on the web at

www.ninemilerun.org

28-Aug-2004 10AM

Committee Meeting

Dunning's Grill

Run Around The Square committee wrapup.

Info: Michele Megarry at 412-241-0913 or

mmegarry@verizon.net

4-Sep-2004

Food Donations

Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church – (See 7-Aug-2004 for information)

13-Sep-2004 7:00PM

RSCA Meeting

(See 2-Aug-2004 for information)

Zoning *(Continued from page 1.)*

As part of this rezoning there will be a community meeting at which the Planning Department will give its recommendations based on a survey of existing land uses. This meeting will present an opportunity for the City residents of Regent Square, defined as the area south of Forbes Avenue, to give comment prior to these recommendations going to the City Planning Commission. The City has asked the RSCA to sponsor this meeting, which is planned for mid-September. In addition to the City residents getting a notice from City Planning, the RSCA will notify residents of the time and place when this is set, both in the next newsletter and on the web site. If you have any questions about this process see the City's Map Pittsburgh web site: www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/cp/html/mapping.html ■

Girl Power

Scouts' Hard Work & Efforts Appreciated

The Wilkins School Community Center would like to thank Girl Scouts Kristine Filiak, Rebecca Eldridge, Kelsey Kennedy, and Nicole Jozwiak, along with their very helpful mom, Judith Kennedy, friend, Ruth Ann Adams, and supportive troop leader Colleen Filiak. They worked long hours in the hot summer to renovate and beautify

the meeting room at the center. The scouts are required to do a Silver Star Award Project as cadets before they can be considered Senior Girl Scouts. For their project, these 14-year-old girls decided to clean the rug in the meeting room, refinish a wood table, sand and paint the walls, and purchase fabric to make cushions for a bench, covers for director's chairs and a valence for the windows. They even purchased pictures for the walls. The Community Center had given them a budget of approximately \$200.

The girls stated that the project was a lot of hard work, but they learned a lot. They laughed about the hard work not really being shown on their favorite television show "Trading Places." This experience in real-life was quite different than the television view!

The Center is very grateful to the girls for their hard work and dedication to getting the job done. There was a great photo and article by Peggy Conrad that appeared in the *Woodland Hills Progress* on 23-Jun-2004 that detailed the transformation.

The room looks great, girls! The WSCC wishes you much success as Senior Girl Scouts, entering 9th grade at Woodland Hills High School in September and cannot thank you enough for your assisting the preservation of the Center as a vital part of our community.

If you would like to undertake a project, become a member or wish to volunteer at

the center, please contact the WSCC at 412-244-8458; via email at wscpcph@yahoocom or visit the web page for classes offered at www.wscpcph.org. ■

Safety Alert

Keep A Lookout Milton/Trevanion

There have been several petty thefts to homes/cars in our community. One resident on Trevanion had two wicker chairs taken from her front porch. A few doors away, a double stroller taken. Over on Milton, a jogging stroller stolen. Other neighbors report break-ins on Macon.

Don't hesitate to dial 911 and report any suspicious activity or strangers. Police can only target an area for enforcement if they are made aware of the problems. If you go on vacation, have someone take care of your property. If you run out, even for a few minutes, close and lock the doors and ground-level windows. It only takes a minute for someone to drop in and make off with something valuable. And secure any valuable things left outside such as expensive furniture, lawnmowers, grills and bikes.

By and large Regent Square is one of the safest neighborhoods in the area. Keeping a lookout for you and your neighbors will help keep it that way. ■

Local Notable

In Memoriam - Dr. Edwin L. Harder

Few people would know that Dr. Edwin L. Harder was the holder of 66 patents. This Regent Square Resident left us on 24-May-2004 at the age of 99.

A longtime Westinghouse employee, he did some pioneering work in the field of computer development. Many computers were built originally for electric-power applications. Dr. Harder worked with these systems. At Westinghouse, he was responsible for the development of **Anacom**, (analog computer) in 1948, which had the capacity to model a complete power system. It continued to be used until 1991! Several of his patents helped to keep Westinghouse solvent during the Depression years.

He was written up in the book "*Sparks of Genius: Portraits of Electrical Engineering Excellence*," by Frederik Nebeker, New York: IEEE Press, 1994, p. 159-199.

His neighbors knew him from his daily walks. Few people would know from his manner that he had made so many contributions to science, many of which allow us to have reliable electric power at our command.

An avid reader of the Newsletter, he put pen to paper and gave the community an amusing look at the squirrels near his house. He had them trained to fetch treats and do tricks. All of his neighbors, including his furry friends, will miss him. Should you wish to express your sympathy, the family suggests that he would be honored to be remembered by a contribution to a charity of your choice. ■

Playground Plans

WSCC Pursues Updating Play Area

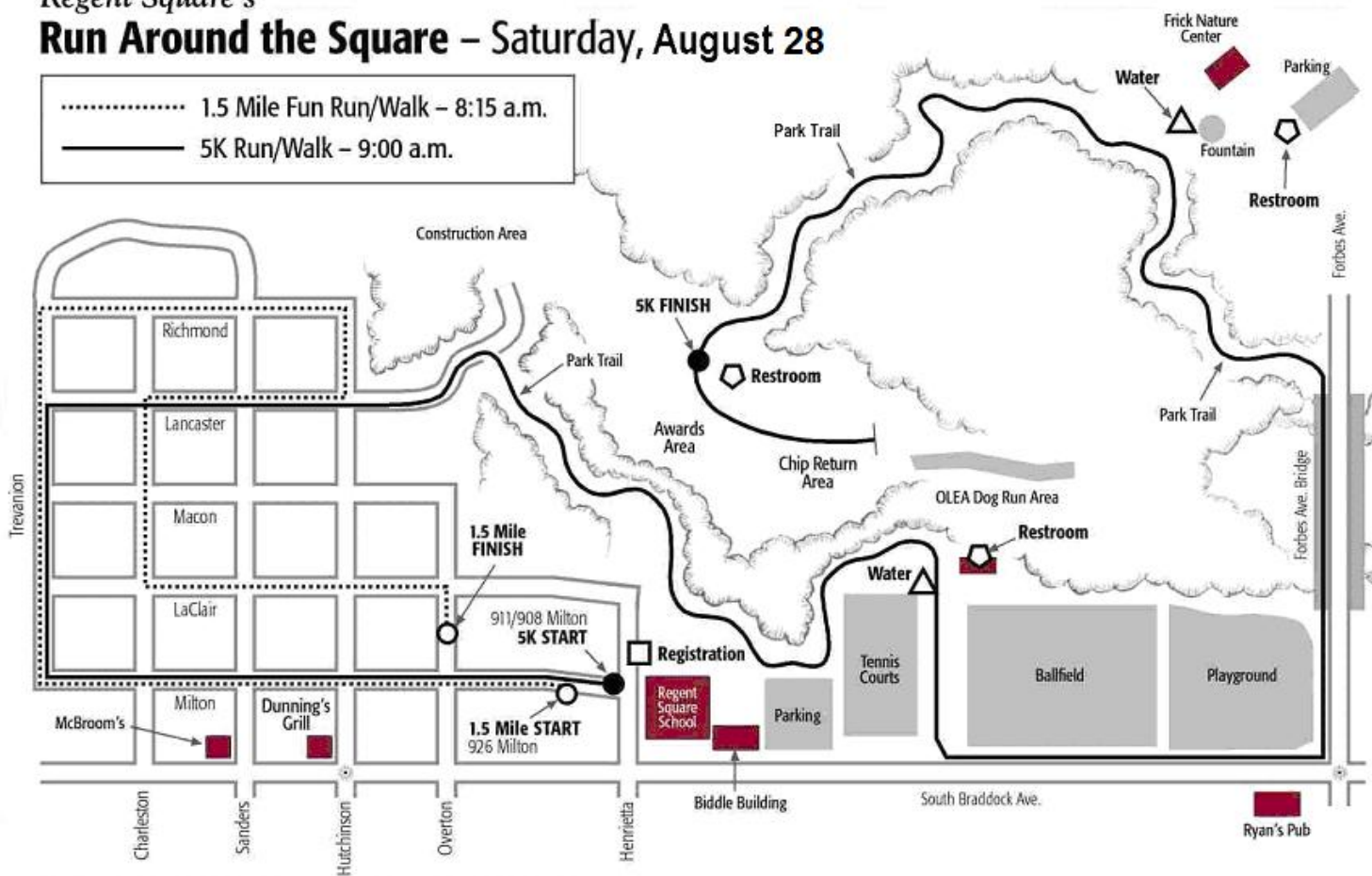
The Wilkins School Community Center (WSCC) is seeking ideas and suggestions from people in the community and parents of children who might use the playground and/or the Center on how the Community Center Playground Area might best be used. Presently, the WSCC has raised \$6,000 of the approximately \$50,000 needed to renovate the playground area.

If you know of a company that donates money for community improvements or your business matches funds for such projects, please let the WSCC know. Many companies allow employees time off to volunteer on projects, and we certainly have a need if you can give us some time.

If you are aware of grant money that might *(Continued on page 4.)*

Regent Square's Run Around the Square – Saturday, August 28

..... 1.5 Mile Fun Run/Walk – 8:15 a.m.
 ——— 5K Run/Walk – 9:00 a.m.



Play *(Continued from page 3.)*

be secured let us know. The WSCC is also looking for companies that could donate items such as surface materials like ground tires or mulch that would otherwise be an added expense. Handicapped children as well as neighborhood children use the playground. Currently, the Center is hoping to pursue a grant from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

If you have experience in grant writing or wish to donate your time to assist the committee working on the project, please contact the center; your help is needed. To donate money to help the Center reach its goal please send a check to WSCC, 7604 Charleston Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15218 and note that it's for the Playground Fund.

The Community Center can be contacted at 412-44-8458, email: wscpcph@yahoo.com or by visiting their web page at www.wscpcph.org. WSCC would also like to thank our members and friends who have supported the playground project through attending our community events, which thus far have allowed the WSCC to raise the initial funds. ■

Calling Film Fans

Help Needed For Upcoming Festival

The RSCA has entered into a partnership with the Pittsburgh Filmmakers for this year's November Film Festival. The newly formed committee, chaired by Glennen Greer, met recently with Gary Kaboly & Rich Engel of Filmmakers. The brainstorming session discussed ways that the RSCA could volunteer during the annual Film Festival held at the Regent Square Theatre. In addition to finding introducers for each film, items on the initial agenda included film discussions to be held at local eateries and volunteers to help rip tickets and to give surveys of the films.

The Film committee is looking for volunteers to help with the planning of the event. If you are interested, contact Glennen at glennen@hotmail.com. Sometime in the Fall, the call for event volunteers will be announced along with the exact dates of the Festival. Look for further information in upcoming newsletters. ■

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

Run Around

(Continued from page 1.)

It is important that all volunteers pick up their Direction Packets on the packet pickup dates (see table below). The race committee needs to know you've received your assignment by Friday evening. If you're not able to volunteer race day, please contact the race at mmmegarry@verizon.net or 412-241-0913 as soon as possible.

The race wouldn't happen without the great help from these volunteers. A thousand "thank yous" go out to our wonderful volunteers!

The 5k runners should pickup their race packet before the race and are reminded that they have to pick up their Champion Timing Chip the morning of the race. Do not tie the chip through your shoelaces, it takes too long to remove at the finish line.

Don't forget, failure to return the chip results in a \$35.00 fine

Regent Square residents get ready for the Most Enthusiastic Spectator Competition! There will be a Mystery Runner running both the 1.5 Mile course and the 5K course looking for the neighbor or group of neighbors who are the most enthusiastic, energetic, pumped up or just plain crazy with cheering as the runners go by. The winners are to be announced at the Awards Ceremony in Fern Hollow after the 5K is finished.

If you were wondering if the race would even be held in Fern Hollow this year due to the construction, the answer is yes.

The race committee met with the director of CitiParks, the director of Frick Park Maintenance, and the contractor on site. The contractor assured us that we would be able to use the area that we did last year. The road leading up to the Tranquil Trail finish line area will be gone, but a new one on the far side of the field will allow us to get our emergency and timing vehicles through. Hopefully, the yellow construction machinery will be gone by the beginning of August as promised.

Keep training and get ready to enjoy one of Pittsburgh's premiere running events. ■

Run Around The Square Registration & Packet Pickup			
<i>Note: After 21-Aug-2004 a late fee is applied</i>			
Registration & Pre-race Events	Last date to register using this method	Location	Notes
On-Line, fully automated	24-Aug-2004 Tuesday	www.runhigh.com	Must be 18 or older; may not register others or dogs on-line.
	Access www.runhigh.com . Click on "Main Menu", "Regional Race Calendar," and then "Runners High Race Calendar." Scroll down to "August 28-Run Around the Square" and click on "register." This will take you to the "Local Sport" page where you select waiver approval, select category and fees, and payment. A \$1.49 fee applies.		
On-Line, print & mail	Must be received by: 24-Aug-2004 Tuesday	www.regent-square.org www.regentsquare.com	
Volunteer Meeting	22-Aug-2004 Sunday	Dunning's Grill	10:00AM packet stuffing
Late Registration & Packet Pickup	26-Aug-2004 Thursday 27-Aug-2004 Friday	Dunning's Grill	6PM-8PM
Late Registration	28-Aug-2004 Saturday	Regent Square School	7AM-8:55AM

Be Wary of Loose Dogs

How To Recognize And Prevent Canine Catastrophes

With warmer weather come more of our neighbors—and our dogs—outside. But a good dog is also a dog under your control. What should you do if an out-of-control dog approaches you and your dog? You may have seconds to react, so knowing ahead of time what to do can make a huge difference.

First, see what your dog sees: • Do the dogs have their tails up (we haven't agreed who's the boss)? Tucked (I'm scared)? High and stiff (tense and not covering scent glands)? • Is the approach very slow and stiff (neither is submitting)? Very fast (testing how well you'll guard your personal space)? • Is either dog growling deeply?

It's always a good idea to turn around and walk the other direction. But if you saw any of the signals above, you may be about to prevent a fight: • In a low voice, deeper than the growls, say, "Leave it!" or "Out of here!" while clapping your hands. The goal: break the attention. Do your best to relax; the dogs will react to your level of tension or anxiety. • Toss a big handful of treats past the dogs (and give a bunch to yours as you lead it away). Your goal: distract them. Maybe the aggressor will decide the treats are better than a fight, giving you and your dog time to leave. • Move in the opposite direction from the other dog. Pull the leash down and back, not up. Your goal: add distance between the dogs; move away from the aggressor's perceived territory. • Praise and treat your dog for any attention in your direction away from the other dog. Your goal: reinforce you're the most rewarding and interesting thing out there.

And if a fight ensues anyway, break it up safely and remove your dog as soon as possible: • Call your dog loudly, intensely, and seriously—no high-pitched or hysterical voices. Your goal: bring your dog back to you. • Put something physically between the dogs other than you. Anything will do—a garbage can lid, a bag, a jacket. Your goal: distract and separate. • As a last resort, grab the aggressor's hind leg or the base of the tail, either part as close to the body as possible. When you have a good grip, lift and back up.

Finally, assess the damage. When it has relaxed again, check your dog all over.. If you find anything unusual, consult your veterinarian. If you get bitten, see your doctor. And report the aggressive dog to the police. ■

South Braddock Avenue Update

Continued Focus By RSCA – Progress To Report

Terri Rosen, RSCA Vice-President and South Braddock Avenue Committee Chair writes to report on some visible changes and additional long term work. She may be contacted at vice-president@regent-square.org

The Braddock Avenue Improvement Committee has some very visible, and some not so visible changes to report!

Last month, we reported that the RSCA had applied for a Department of Community and Economic Development grant and we should hear something soon. This grant would allow us to take one or two of the critical steps needed to move toward implementing the Vollmer recommendations.

A big thank you to Doug Shields and the City of Pittsburgh who followed through on their promise to purchase and install center-line “flags” to mark the crosswalks along the city portion of Braddock Avenue. Their presence has definitely slowed traffic.

I've seen pedestrians crossing between the crosswalks on several occasions. This is a dangerous situation, defeating the purpose of the crosswalks. Pennsylvania law states:

“When traffic-control signals are not in place or not in operation, the driver of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian crossing within any marked crosswalk or within any unmarked crosswalk at an intersection.”

No pedestrian shall suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of a vehicle which is so close as to constitute a hazard.

Every pedestrian crossing a roadway at any point other than within a crosswalk at an intersection or any marked crosswalk shall yield the right of way to all vehicles upon the roadway.”

A lot of work has gone into marking the crosswalks to make them safer. Please do your part and use the crosswalks! No traffic or roadway changes substitute for pedestrians using caution.

Look for a less visible but equally important change with respect to the timing of the light at Braddock and Hutchinson. The Vollmer recommendations were to put the

“Walk” cycle between the Braddock and Hutchinson green signals, allowing increased green signal time for both South Braddock and Hutchinson, without decreasing the length of the Walk signal. This makes it easier for both pedestrians and vehicles. The borough of Edgewood will be making this change soon.

Get involved! So far we have had no volunteers for a subcommittee to develop priorities related to which intersections get emphasis, nor have we had any responses about the trees. The RSCA is a group of volunteers; we need your help!

Ending on a positive note, thanks to word-of-mouth we heard from a professor at CMU who thought this might be a good project for some of his students. We'll be pursuing that offer for help.

Thanks for everyone's patience as the Braddock Avenue Committee keeps focused on this long-term project to improve our community. Have a happy, safe August! ■

Walking Tour

Frederick G. Scheibler, Jr. Houses

Article author and Regent Square resident Henry “Saint” Tucker is a sales associate for Neighborhood Reality Services, which has their offices on South Braddock Avenue in the Square. He and his wife are restoring their own house, one of the three Frederick Scheibler houses located at the corner of Milton and Trevanion Avenues on this tour.

The Square is full of architectural treasures, not the least of which are the works of Frederick G. Scheibler, Jr., who was perhaps the most important original architect from Pittsburgh, certainly in the progressive movement. Like most of the Arts and Crafts “greats” of MacIntosh, Voysey, Adolph Loos, and Frank Lloyd Wright, Scheibler was a progressive individualist of the early 20th century. Scheibler himself never actually lived around here, but many of his clients did, and others either worked or invested here. Some of the finest ex-

amples of his works can be found within walking distance and make an excellent walking tour.

You can begin at the present Wilkins School, an appropriate place, since the present structure stands on the site of an original school building that was one of Scheibler's early commissions from the Swissvale School District, a big parochial client of his. The original school, built in 1907, was destroyed by fire and replaced by the current structure.

Just a short half-block from Wilkins School on Trevanion Avenue at the corner of Milton are three white stucco houses which are good examples of Scheibler's “artistic house.” The largest, at 7510, was built in 1915, and is one of the “crown jewels” of this period. The triangular roof lines are of particular interest, as well as the exterior stone patterns underneath. The leaded and art glass windows are similar to those in many houses you will encounter, and on the side, there is a circular rose motif window on the stairway landing.

The middle house, 7508, is a small cottage that was built by the clients of 7510 in 1922 for a family member. The five long leaded windows in the front let in plenty of natural light and their design shows some hints of a possible Frank Lloyd Wright influence. The triple iris window in the side is actually not original to this house, but is authentic to Scheibler: it was rescued from a dumpster at another Scheibler apartment complex, restored, and brought here by the current owner. This house is undergoing a complete restoration.

Next month, the tour continues with Park Place. ■

Cleanup Thanks

Volunteer Intersection Cleanup

Thanks to Donna Bour, Rose Pascal, Barb Peterson, Steve Revilak, Terri Supowitz and Judy Werner for the summer cleanup of the Parkway (I-376) intersection at South Braddock.

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

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:

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