

# REGENT SQUARE

CIVIC ASSOCIATION  
NEWSLETTER

November 2004, Volume 27 Number 9

## Join us next month at

The RSCA Board Meeting, 7:00 PM  
Monday, 1-Nov-2004 at the Wilkins  
School Community Center located at  
the corner of Milton and Charleston  
Avenues. Cast your Board vote.

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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.

## Grants Awarded

### **State Representative and Senator Support RSCA**

In April 2004, the Regent Square Civic Association, upon the encouragement of State Representative Dan Frankel and State Senator Jay Costa, applied for Community and Economic Development Grants to help pay for our many initiatives not covered by yearly membership dues. The RSCA is proud to announce that it has been notified it will be awarded both these grants in the amounts of \$10,000.00 and \$7,500.00 respectively.

The grants are planned to be used to continue and broaden our mission and pay for such things as costly neighborhood improvements, including safety and South Braddock Avenue issues, beautification efforts, and ongoing community activities such as the Egg Hunt and Halloween Party. The grants will also go toward helping to offset the cost of the monthly publication of this newsletter — a big part of the RSCA's budget. The Board will be looking at the specifics of these grants as part of the 2005 budget, since the funds will not likely be released until early next year.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Annual RSCA Holiday Open House

### **Join Us December 6 at 7:00PM for Holiday Cheer ... and More**

The Regent Square Civic Association cordially invites you to its annual Holiday Open House on Monday, 6-December at 7PM at the Wilkins School Community Center.

Neighborhood resident and WQED producer Rick Sebak will be our special guest this year! He will talk about putting together his soon-to-be-released Pittsburgh History Series video titled "It's The Neighborhoods!" Rick will show clips from the show (Regent Square will be featured) and conduct a short quiz show (which usually means prizes!).

Also meet the newly elected members of the RSCA Board and mix and mingle with returning Board members, as well as your neighbors in the Regent Square community.

Come hear Rick, maybe take home a copy of his new video, share in some refreshments, tell us what you'd like to see the RSCA tackle in the coming year, find out how you can get involved, and start off your holiday season with good cheer. See you on December 6th! ■

## RSCA's New Phone Number

### **Call 412-371-2010 to Get Involved, Get on the Agenda, Share News**

The Regent Square Civic Association exists to serve RSCA members and the residents of Regent Square. In an effort to remain accessible, the Regent Square Civic Association has a new phone number and will be listed in both the yellow and white pages.

To get involved in the Regent Square Civic Association, ask a question, get on the monthly agenda, etc., you can now contact the RSCA in the way that works best for you:

By phone: 412-371-2010

By mail: 7604 Charleston Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15218-1265

By e-mail: president@regent-square.org

In the next few months, the RSCA's website — [www.regent-square.org](http://www.regent-square.org) — will have a new face to show the world. Redesigned and including many resources and much information, including a yearly RSCA calendar, the new site will be a great place to visit regularly to stay on top of what's happening in our neighborhood. ■

# Frick Park Restoration Reinstated!

## **Work Resumed in Lower Frick Park**

Interim funding, secured thanks to the efforts of Congressman Mike Doyle and his staff, has restarted the Frick Park Restoration's engines until fiscal year 2005 funding arrives.

In July, Meadville Land Service workers were forced to discontinue restoration efforts when federal funds were reduced due to funding cuts to the Army Corps of Engineers. At that time, work had been started to create stream channels and a wetland area near the Falls Ravine Shelter. Although workers had to stop short of the new stream course for Falls Ravine and planting native wetland plants, they were able to plant native grasses to help slow erosion.

The Nine Mile Run stream restoration project has already started to attract new life to the area. The end result will be an improved stream habitat for fish and other wildlife from Frick Park to Duck Hollow.

You're invited to attend a restoration tour hosted by the Nine Mile Run Watershed Association. The next tour will start at the Falls Ravine shelter on Saturday, 20-November from 10 to 11:30AM. For more information, call 412-371-8779. ■

# Grand Opening Celebration

## **United Studios of Self Defense**

A Grand Opening celebration and martial arts demonstration has been planned for 6-November from 11AM to 2PM at Regent Square's new United Studios of Self Defense at 1115 S. Braddock Avenue and is open to the public. This will be a great opportunity to check out the beautiful new *dojo* that opened on 7-September. Chief Instructor Steve Nakamura (Sensei Steve) will lead students of all ages in demonstrations of Shaolin Kempo Karate and Jiu Jitsu self defense techniques.

Students, their families, and visitors that day will also have a special opportunity to meet Grandmaster Steve DeMasco, 10<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt and U.S. Ambassador to the Shaolin temple in China. "We are so fortunate to train directly with a world-renowned martial artist such as our Grandmaster, and are excited to have him share in our Grand Opening," says Sensei Steve.

Having been opened only three weeks as of this writing, Steve and his wife/co-instructor Sensei Lisa are already conducting classes every day for students of all age groups. "Our business neighbors have truly welcomed us with open arms and the location is so convenient for our students. The small town atmosphere of the Square works well as people are always walking by, looking in the windows or poking their heads in the open doors."

Questions? Please call Steve or Lisa Nakamura at 412-242-USSD (8773) or send an email to [ussdpghpa@aol.com](mailto:ussdpghpa@aol.com). ■

**Contributions:** This edition was edited by Carrie Webber with help from Ann H. Gaul. Thanks goes to contributing writers from the community or those who provided information for the newsletter. This includes:

- RSCA Open House – Alina Keebler
- Frick Park – Pam Lieberman
- Grand Opening – Steve Nakamura
- Mary Louise Travers – WSCC items
- Joy Goethert – Nuts for Sale
- RSCA Vote – Julie Crawford
- Renting / Buying – Emily Keebler
- First Commonwealth – Rick Reese
- Hip to Be Square – Michele Megarry

Articles may be submitted for publication via post or email. 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 last page for complete contact information regarding the Newsletter editor, email or post office address.

# Events Calendar

1-Nov-2004 7PM

## RSCA Meeting

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

Regular meeting.

**Info:** To request an agenda item. Call 412-243-0702 or [president@regent-square.org](mailto:president@regent-square.org)

2-Nov-2004

## Election Day **VOTE!**

National, State, and RSCA Elections

2-Nov-2004

## Election Day Bake Sale / Soup Sale

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

Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church is having a bake sale/soup sale. All proceeds go to Wilkinsburg Community Ministries.

**Info:** 412-731-2511 or [www.mifflinave.org](http://www.mifflinave.org)

12-Nov-2004

## Nut Sale

*First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood*  
Georgia Pecans and other nuts will be sold.

**Info:** To order call: Joy 412-731-1640,  
Judy 412-241-4613

20-Nov-2004

## Nine Mile Run Restoration Tour

*Falls Ravine Shelter, 10AM*

Attend a restoration tour hosted by the Nine Mile Run Watershed Association

**Info:** 412-371-8779

6-Dec-2004

## RSCA Annual Holiday Open House

*Wilkins School Community Center 7PM*

See clips of Rick Sebak's new video  
"It's The Neighborhoods!"

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## RSCA : Vote!

### ***It's Time for Board Member Elections***

The upcoming November elections — of all kinds — are important to our community. All current 2004 RSCA members are asked that after voting in the presidential election, you take time to vote for this year's slate of RSCA board candidates.

Four of the nominees will be elected for a three year term and will join returning board members Julie Crawford (Wlk), Ann Gaul (Pgh.), Alina Keebler (Pgh), Joan Reefer (Pgh), Terri Rosen (Swsvl), Kathleen Schneider (Edgwd), Joanne Spence (Wlk) and Carole Stanier (Swsvl).

Please read the brief candidate bios in this newsletter, fill out the enclosed ballot, and submit your vote by the **November 28<sup>th</sup> deadline.** ■

## Grants Awarded

*Continued from page 1*

Much thanks goes to Representative Frankel and Senator Costa for their support and interest in our great neighborhood. Anyone familiar with either of these representatives should express their thanks when they see them.

And please don't forget: continued membership support in the form of dues and volunteerism is still greatly needed. Contact the RSCA to get involved — and renew your membership or become a member for 2005 today! Only together do we make our neighborhood the great place it is to live, play, and work. ■

## Looking for a Few Willing Hands

### ***The More the Merrier: Help Continue Community Events***

The RSCA is pleased to announce that community members have stepped forward to run the Christmas Toy Drive and the Holiday Decoration Contest. Thank you!

The RSCA relies on community volunteers to implement and help with the many Regent Square initiatives and activities that you enjoy. Persons are needed to organize and chair each event. The RSCA will provide the Chair with an itemized list of what needs to be done for the event; a liaison with the RSCA board; an event budget; and anything else needed to make the activity happen.

The activities that really need your help (whether as volunteer chair or helper) are:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regent Square Yard Sale               | <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Easter Egg Hunt |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter — distribution coordinator | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter — writers       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter — newsletter layout        | <input type="checkbox"/> RSCA web site              |

### ***Time Commitments Can Be Minimal, but Your Help Is Critical!***

Sign up now to help with a RSCA event or activity! Call Joan Reefer, Special Events Liaison. at 412-243-3411. ■

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## Renting but Thinking About Buying?

### ***Get Help with Home-Buying Process***

Have you ever thought about buying a home, but were scared away by the lengthy process, confusing paperwork, or concerns that you couldn't afford it? Neighborhood Housing Services would like to help you.

Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) is a non-profit organization serving the Pittsburgh area through education and services for homebuyers and homeowners. NHS aims to promote strong and vital neighborhoods and enhance lives by increasing opportunities for, eliminating barriers to, and preserving homeownership. This is accomplished through three

main avenues: specialized loan products, credit and financial counseling, and Homebuyers' Education Workshops.

Each NHS Homebuyers' Workshop covers the whole process of buying a home, including topics such as Budgeting, Shopping for a Home, and Choosing a Mortgage Product. Buying a home can be a scary and confusing endeavor, but with the education provided in this workshop participants can enter the process with confidence. The next NHS Homebuyers' Workshop in your area will be held in Braddock, PA on Saturday November 13, 2004. To sign up, please call Roxanne at 412-281-9774.

For more information about our services and a list of upcoming Homebuyers' Education Workshops, call 412-281-9773 or check out our website: [www.nhswpa.org](http://www.nhswpa.org)

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## Welcome to First Commonwealth Bank

### ***Great American Federal Becomes First Commonwealth Bank***

During the weekend of October 23, Great American Federal's Regent Square office was becoming First Commonwealth Bank.

First Commonwealth operates in 17 counties in western and central Pennsylvania. It currently has 107 retail-banking branches and 105 ATM machines for its clients' convenience. It offers clients "Totally Free Checking," as well as additional interest bearing checking products available to both consumer and commercial clients. First Commonwealth also offers its retail clients free Internet banking, as well as free bill payment service.

First Commonwealth was recently named the number one Small Business Administration's lender in 2004 with the highest dollar amount loaned in the Pittsburgh area. This is just another way First Commonwealth Bank demonstrates its commitment to the communities it serves.

First Commonwealth is a \$6.3 billion corporation headquartered in Indiana, PA, offering their clients insurance, trust, financial management, and investment services through the various affiliates of the corporation.

Rose Torok, Community Financial Center Manager at Regent Square, invites everyone from the area to stop in and chat with her about the new products and services available with First Commonwealth Bank. You may also call 800-711-2265 or visit [www.fcbanking.com](http://www.fcbanking.com) for more information. ■

## It's Hip to Be a "Square"

### **Team of Runners Represent the Square**

Over 20 Regent Square residents answered the call to help another community organization this past fall. A team of runners was organized to represent the Regent Square community at the Race for Pace, a 5K race for Pace School in Wilkins Township on Saturday, 9-October-2004.

The goal was to help raise awareness of the great things this school does for children with exceptional needs and to have some fun while doing it. The Square team entered the "Best Costume" category. Every runner on the team donned a colorful "square" with the Regent Square logo and a map of the neighborhood with their street highlighted. Every street in Regent Square was represented and the "Squares" made quite a spectacular sight! Alas, they did not win in that category, but a good time was had by all! The team did place in other categories: Megan Lenaghan (LaClair St.) was second in her age group (9 years old) and Mindy Clairmont (Richmond Ave.) was the first Female Masters winner!

The following "Squares" are to be congratulated and thanked: Steve and Laurie Moyer, Kirk Warner, Mike and Rose Pascal, Barb Danko, Karen Mathias, Judy Werner, Megan Lenaghan, Julie Crawford, Patrice McCarthy, Maureen States and four of her staff from Neighborhood Reality, Susan Megarry, Michele Megarry, Gary Accord, and Ruth McGill.

Anyone interested in joining next year's team (costume designs are already being discussed!) may email Michele Megarry at [mmegarry@verizon.net](mailto:mmegarry@verizon.net). Be there and "Be a Square!" ■

## Community Gift Shop at WSCC

### **Shop, Shop, Shop!**

The Wilkins School Community Center will hold its Community Holiday Gift Shop filled with hand-made crafts, artwork, and baked goods for sale. The gift shop will remain open on a limited basis Monday and Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings. Come and bring your holiday shopping list and help support the Center. If you would like detailed hours or to become a member, please contact us at 412-244-8458; email: [wscppgh@yahoo.com](mailto:wscppgh@yahoo.com); or visit our website at [www.wscppgh.org](http://www.wscppgh.org). ■

## Register Now for WSCC Classes

### **Mini-Courses Starting**

Wilkins School Community Center is offering its late Fall program. Consider taking a mini-course and learn to make a new craft or discover a hidden talent. To register or obtain a complete course listing, visit our website: [www.wscppgh.org](http://www.wscppgh.org), email us: [wscppgh@yahoo.com](mailto:wscppgh@yahoo.com), or phone the center at 412-244-8458. Classes often fill quickly, so register early and send in your course fee to assure that you won't be shut out. If you would like to become a member, wish to teach a course, or would like to volunteer, please contact the WSCC. ■

***Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.***

~ Margaret Mead

## Happy Birthday

### **Regent Square Business Celebrates Two Years**

Congratulations to FitnessYoga on its 2nd Anniversary! FitnessYoga teaches a beginner-friendly, eclectic style of hatha yoga at all levels. A good yoga program helps you manage pain, heal common ailments, and promote your overall well-being.

FitnessYoga is located at The Center for Creative Play in Regent Square, 1400 S. Braddock Avenue. Call 412-287-4591 or visit [www.fitnessyoga.net](http://www.fitnessyoga.net) for more information. ■

## Nuts for Sale

### **Benefiting Presbyterian Women Mission Projects**

Freshly picked Georgia Pecans and other nuts will be sold by the Presbyterian Women of the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood. You'll find Pecan Halves for \$7.50/lb.; Pecan Pieces for \$6.75/lb., Mixed Nuts for \$7.00/lb., and Chocolate Covered Almonds for \$6.75/lb. All proceeds go to Presbyterian Women Mission projects. Contact Joy Goethert at 412-731-1640 or call Judy at the church office, 412-241-4613 for orders. Nuts will be available for pickup after November 12. ■

## Needed: New Board Members, Volunteers

Are you new to the neighborhood and looking for a way to contribute to the community? Have you lived in Regent Square for years and enjoyed the events and classes offered at the Wilkins School Community Center? Do you appreciate the volunteer-maintained gardens as you pass by on your walk or run? Would you like to continue to have a neighborhood play area for you and your kids to enjoy? The Wilkins School Community Center Board of Directors is looking for new Board Members and Volunteers for upcoming events and building projects. You too can contribute to keeping WSCC as a neighborhood treasure. ■



### To contact the RSCA Newsletter:

Regent Square Civic Association  
7604 Charleston Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15218-1265  
412-371-2010 Email: [newsletter@regent-square.org](mailto:newsletter@regent-square.org)

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**RSCA Board Candidates  
(2005-2007)**

**John Broyles**

John has lived in Regent Square with his wife, Lauren, for two years. In late September, they moved into their first home on Trevanion Ave. in the Pittsburgh section of Regent Square. John is a nurse practitioner at Children's Hospital. Traffic safety concerns brought John the RSCA, but he was drawn to Regent Square because of its neighborhood cohesion, access to the park, and vibrant business community, all of which he hopes to help maintain through service on the Board. John is accustomed to working collaboratively with others, gathering information, making well thought out decisions and continually re-evaluating plans of care.

**Glennen Greer**

Glennen grew up in Regent Square, and when she and her husband

decided to buy a house, they knew they wanted to live in Regent Square. Swissvale residents of Regent Square, they have lived here for a year and a half. "It was an honor to serve on the Regent Square Civic Association board this past year," says Glennen, who filled a Board vacancy in 2004. "I was able to chair the Three River's Film Festival Volunteer Committee and be involved with other projects." She also volunteers with the Wilkin's School Community Center. Glennen for Pfizer as a sales representative. "I would like to continue to help the community by serving on the board for a full term."

**Kelly O'Brien**

A Swissvale resident of Regent Square, Kelly has been on the RSCA board for three years. Kelly started and continues to help organize the children's Easter Egg Hunt, held each Spring. Kelly also participates by

helping out with the yearly RSCA Halloween Party, as well as the Run Around the Square. She says she "gets much satisfaction in working with others to improve our neighborhood."

**Arch Pelley**

Arch, who lives in the Pittsburgh section of Regent Square, has been a Board member of the RSCA since 2001, is currently Board President, and served as vice president in 2003. He has been active in the Braddock Avenue Committee and managed the Vollmer Study for the RSCA. An architect and urban planner professionally, Arch states that his interests are "creating a safe, well-designed environment for Regent Square and maintaining the historic character of the neighborhood." His other interests include encouraging the four municipalities to work together to make Regent Square look and function as a cohesive community despite the political boundaries.

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# Board of Directors 2005-2007 Term · Election Ballot

## Regent Square Civic Association (RSCA)

Only member of the Regent Square community who are 18 years old and over and have paid their 2004 RSCA Membership Dues as of October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004 may vote in this election.

Please note that you have three opportunities to vote: Complete this ballot and

- Mail it in by the November 27<sup>th</sup> deadline as instructed on the back of this sheet; or
- Turn in your ballot on October 29<sup>th</sup> at the Wilkins School Community Center Holiday Market 7-9 PM (need to check with Carole if this is opening night) or
- Turn in your ballot at the November 1, 2004, RSCA Board Meeting, 7-9 PM

The RSCA will accept unsigned ballots submitted in person, but please note that your name must be checked off against the 2004 Membership Roster for your ballot to be accepted. Ballots received after November 27<sup>th</sup> cannot be counted.

The RSCA Board of Directors consists of 12 members. RSCA Bylaws permit one-third of the Directors to be elected each year for a three-year term. Provided that votes are cast by a least 10% of the Members, the four individuals receiving the most votes will be elected to the Board for a three year term beginning January 1, 2005.

### ELECTION BALLOT – ANNUAL ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

I, \_\_\_\_\_, being a member in good standing of the Regent Square Civic Association hereby vote for  
(Print first and last name)

the following named persons to serve as Directors for a three-year period from January 1, 2004 to December 31, 2007.

I am signaling my selection by checking up to 4 of the following candidates.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arch Pelley, Pittsburgh  | <input type="checkbox"/> Glennen Greer, Swissvale |
| <input type="checkbox"/> John Broyles, Pittsburgh | <input type="checkbox"/> Kelly O'Brien, Swissvale |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Write in: _____          |   |

(Name, City/Borough of Residence, Phone Number)

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RSCA Member's Signature

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**Submit your ballot by November 27<sup>th</sup>!**

**To send in this ballot without a separate envelope:**

- **fold on the dashed lines,**
- **tape shut, and**
- **add postage and mail.**

**Thank you for your involvement!**

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**From:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**To: Regent Square Civic Association – Ballot  
7604 Charleston Ave.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15218-1265**

**ATTN: Board Ballot**

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We hope to see you at the  
Regent Square Civic Association  
**Holiday Open House**

**Monday, December 6, 2004 · 7:00 PM**  
at the Wilkins School Community Center  
Charleston Street, between S. Braddock and Milton

Come meet Rick Sebak and  
your 2005 RSCA Board Members!

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