

REGENT SQUARE

CIVIC ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

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

Letter from 2005 RSCA President

by Arch Pelley

As I write this on a cold snowy day in January, I am still looking at the year stretched out before me with New Year's resolutions still fresh in my mind. Whether you are one who makes New Year's resolutions or scorns the idea, I hope you will make a resolution or commitment to continue to be involved, or become involved, in Regent Square. Last year our Civic Association accomplished a lot of tasks for an all-volunteer organization. During this upcoming year we have exciting things planned and for the first time we have received important funding from the state to help us achieve many of our goals for 2005.

Already this neighborhood has a tremendous amount going for it. This includes the businesses, the physical fabric of the community, the diversity of residents and the unique assets we have in things such as Frick Park and the Regent Square Theater. We are the neighborhood that is copied for *New Urbanist* developments. We are the neighborhood many other neighborhoods want to be. These strengths are something to celebrate and protect.

As the voice for the community, the Regent Square Civic Association wants to assist our neighborhood in becoming the best it can be. During the last several years we have had tremendous results in bringing everyone together and we have a great year ahead of us to do even more. Through our events during the last few years, such as the mural dedication, the Braddock Avenue Safety meeting, and the meeting to discuss the closing of the Regent Square Elementary, our many elected politicians and organizations have heard our issues and have begun to respond to help this neighborhood in new ways. I believe it is largely a response to the tremendous turnouts we have had at these events, and the number of volunteers to help with all of our activities, which helped us secure the funding from the state to enable us do more. Now we are in a fantastic position to build on this visibility.

This visibility is also seen in the improved links to the other organizations and businesses within Regent Square. The fall Pittsburgh Filmmakers Film Festival has become a neighborhood event and our community-building events have received generous financial support from our businesses. From Neighborhood Realty Services and Sweetie Sweetie Bakery at the north end of our business district down to the Center for Creative Play at the lower end, these businesses have sponsored and given to these events from supplying food and hosting our town meeting to sponsoring the Halloween party and food drives.

(Continued on page 2.)

Rick Sebak at March RSCA Meeting

Special presentation on new video featuring Regent Square

Just as promised, Regent Square's own Rick Sebak will give us, his neighbors and friends, the inside scoop on the making of the new WQED video "It's the Neighborhoods..." Rick will also show clips from the show (in which Regent Square is featured) and conduct a short quiz show (which usually means prizes!).

So come hear Rick on Monday, March 7th at 7 p.m. at the Wilkins School Community Center, maybe even take home a copy of his new video... ■

February/March 2005, Volume 25
Number 2

Meeting Minutes

January's RSCA Meeting Quick Recap
Monday, 3-Jan-2005

- Election of 2005 Officers
- Scheduled presentation by Rick Sebak.
- Board Meeting schedule for the year
- Elimination of 63B bus route
- Congratulations to Board Member & Communications Committee Chair Ann Gaul & her husband Stuart on the birth of Elizabeth Renata Gaul, January 3rd.

Join us next month at

The RSCA Board Meeting, 7:00 PM
Monday, 7-Mar-2005 at the Wilkins
School Community Center located at
the corner of Milton and Charleston
Avenues.

Pgh. Residents Mtg.

Dept. of City Planning will gather
community feedback for its effort to
rezone Pittsburgh neighborhoods. The
meeting will be held on March 2nd at 7
pm at Waverly Church (Forbes & Brad-
dock)

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Election of Officers

2005 Officers elected at January meeting

The first RSCA Board meeting of 2005 included the election of the Board officers for the coming year. Re-elected as President is Arch Pelley (Pittsburgh). Joining Arch is returning Treasurer Kathleen Schneider (Edgewood), new Board Secretary Joan Reefer (Pittsburgh) and Julie Crawford (Wilksburg), who assumes the role of Vice-President. The officers and Board invite you to their monthly meeting to continue the organization's commitment to community improvement. ■

RSCA Holiday Toy Drive

The Most Successful Toy Drive to Date!

A huge thank you to all Regent Square residents who donated to the 4th annual Regent Square Toy Drive – and a special thanks to our newest partner drop-off location, Neighborhood Realty Services, who collected *at least* half of the 90 toys that were donated this year. Regent Square residents' generous contributions were given to Hosanna House in Wilksburg, a multi-purpose community center which impacts over 27,000 children, youths and adults each year with quality health and human services. The families who are served by Hosanna House attended a party on December 21 where they received the donations. The staff of Hosanna House and the families who received the donations were extremely grateful and appreciative of the generosity of the Regent Square residents, and one mother in particular commented that it couldn't have come at a better time because she was having a hard time making ends meet in December and was worried she wouldn't have any presents to give to her children. ■

Food Donation Bags at Your Door

Neighborhood Realty Services helps Community Food Bank

The staff at Neighborhood Realty Services hit the concrete and delivered over 7,000 bags to area residents requesting food donations for the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. The staff also provided pick-up service enabling all to become involved in this worthwhile cause.

Through the generosity of all the wonderful folks who supported the drive and contributed, the food drive was a major success. There were over 4,700 pounds of food collected and over \$100 in cash donations contributed. These donations provided support to some folks who are less fortunate and who are very thankful and appreciative of your efforts. As many of the residents stated, they were very happy to be in a position to give to those who need. In addition to being a great success, the food drive was a very fulfilling experience for all involved. The staff of Neighborhood Realty Services would like to thank everyone for being so receptive and supportive. They will be back next year with fresh bags for all to fill. ■

Contributions: This edition was edited by Julie Crawford and Alina Keebler with help from Carrie Webber. Thanks go to contributing writers from the community or those who provided information for the newsletter. This includes:

- Lighting Contest – Carrie Webber
- Toy Drive – Cari Marty
- Food Bank Drive – Maureen States
- WSCC – Marylouise Turano
- Yard Sale, Board Elections, Bird Mural Poster – Julie Crawford
- President's Letter – Arch Pelley
- Easter Egg Hunt – Terri Rosen
- MMO – Tonya Campbell
- RSCA Membership – Alina Keebler

Articles may be submitted for publication via post or e-mail. Please visit the www.regent-square.org and see "Newsletter Submission Guidelines" under the "Newsletter" menu item for complete submission guidelines, or contact the Newsletter Committee 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

5-Mar-2005 9AM–12PM

Food Donations

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

Non-perishable food donations collected for Wilksburg Food Pantry. Collection on first Saturday of every month.

Drop off items at church.

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

7-Mar-2005 7PM

RSCA Community Event

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

Brief meeting plus presentation by Reg. Sq.'s own Rick Sebak on his new WQED video, *It's the Neighborhoods....*

Info: To request an agenda item. Call 412-242-7274 or president@regent-square.org

10-Mar-2005 7:30PM

Edgewood Symphony Concert

*CCAC Boyce Campus, between South Brad-
dock and Milton at Charleston*

Orchestra performance featuring Pittsburgh Symphony's Peter Sullivan on trombone & Walter Morales as Guest Conductor; tickets: \$10/adult & \$5/student.

Info: 412-473-8880

4-Apr-2005 7PM

RSCA Community Event

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

Regular meeting; open to community

Info: To request an agenda item. Call 412-242-7274 or president@regent-square.org

Easter Egg Hunt

Regent Square might look like a winter wonderland right now but before you know it, the crocuses and daffodils will be up and it will be time for the RSCA's annual Regent Square Easter Egg Hunt! The hunt will be held from 11 am to 12:00 pm on March 19, 2005 at the Richmond-Sanders lot in Frick Park.

Children under 12 are invited to hunt for candy-filled eggs and take their treasures home in the small, straw-filled containers provided. So come on out, and don't forget your camera!

If you're interested in helping before or during the event, please email vice-president@regent-square.org or call 412-371-2010.

Letter from 2005 RSCA President

(Continued from page 1.)

Communication is critical. This newsletter that you are reading now is greatly responsible for helping to build the community and an incredibly valuable asset for Regent Square. It is through the newsletter, our monthly meetings, the website and ongoing e-mails that we will continue to ask for your opinions and invite the residents and businesses to join in the planning and implementing of the 2005 strategy and activities for improving the neighborhood. So I invite everyone to join in and "stay tuned."

So, as we go forward in 2005, I hope everyone can make three very simple resolutions or commitments to help build a better neighborhood:

- **Become a member of the RSCA.** Not only does this show a commitment and help financially, it demonstrates to the politicians and other sources of funding how active we are and how much the residents and businesses care about Regent Square.
- **Volunteer to help if you can, and attend events.** I know we have said this before but everyone has talents and skills that can help the community, whether it is for a single event such as the Parkway cleanup or an ongoing commitment of delivering the newsletter. It helps share the load and increases our capacity to do more things. Attending the events allows us to meet each other and form a community.
- **Say hello to your neighbors and support the Regent Square businesses.** This little effort helps make Regent Square the place all of us want to live, improves the safety in the community, and helps have a viable business district we all enjoy.

Finally I want to thank everyone who volunteered and made 2004 so successful, making Regent Square a great place to live. During 2005, I hope to meet each of you and again invite everyone to attend our monthly meetings. This allows us to hear your concerns and issues and helps the organization stay in touch with all of the members.

Arch Pelley

rpresident@regent-square.org 412-371-2010 ■

Neighborhood Yard Sale Returns

Start Putting Your Unwanted Treasures Aside for the Sale!

The RSCA is proud to help the residents keep those New Year's resolutions of getting organized and meeting more of their Regent Square neighbors. To help those promises along, the RSCA announces that this year's 2006-Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, May 14th. Watch this newsletter and website (www.regent-square.org) in the months ahead to see how you can participate both as a volunteer and seller. Lisa Price will join Board Member Julie Crawford as co-chair and they will begin the planning process in the upcoming weeks. ■

Bird Mural Posters

Copies Still Available

For anyone who missed the Holiday sale of the posters of the Bird Mural by Kristen Williams, there is still an opportunity to order the few remaining high quality prints. Send your \$38 dollars (\$33 if you are a RSCA Member) per poster to the RSCA. Please add an additional \$5 dollars for shipping outside of the Regent Square area. Remember that the RSCA is sharing the profits from the poster sale with the artist. ■

Mother's Morning Out

Valuable Resource to Parents in Regent Square

Two Regent Square moms are operating a Mother's Morning Out. This is a great way for busy moms to get a break while introducing their toddler to new friends. Available to kids age 18 months to 2 ½ years, a nurturing environment is provided for free play, story time and general toddler activities. MMO is held Tuesday and Thursday 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Shadyside Presbyterian Church. To register, please call Tonya Campbell at 412-242-0632 or Ralphie Jacobs at 412-242-9499. ■

HVAC Help Needed

The WSCC is in dire need of some advise on its heating system. If you have HVAC experience and would like to volunteer your services to our local community center, please contact Debbie DeFazio at 412-244-8458 or wscdbh@yahoo.com

Holiday Lighting

Contest Winners Donate to Charity

On December 23rd, the judges of the annual RSCA Holiday Lighting Contest braved the heavy snow and icy roads to view the dazzling lights of the Square. Marjorie Gribbons, at 1317 Lancaster Ave. was awarded 1st place. The house was festively stunningly decorated lights and lawn ornaments that wrapped around the corner lot. Second place went to Michael LaDonne who took full advantage of the height of his home by adding an abundance of lights which created an impressive display at 1120 Macon Ave. An elegant scene was created at 923 S. Trenton which collected 3rd place. Evan Aeillo and Rick Hawkinberry placed garland, wreaths and white lights throughout the exterior of their home which was stunning against the seasonal white blanket of snow. The most creative award was given to the Watt-Morse family at 1201 Macon Ave. for their whimsical rooftop Santa and reindeer display. The charities that benefited from the winners include: St Anselm School Fund, Children's Hospital Free Care Fund, Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. ■

Become a 2005 RSCA Member — Join or Renew Today!

Individual and Business Memberships Ensure Continuation of Community-Oriented Activities and Initiatives

Become a new RSCA member or renew your RSCA Membership for 2005 so that you can take advantage of members-only perks and vote in next year's election. Please complete the form below and send it with your check (payable to the RSCA) to: Regent Square Civic Association, Attn: Membership, 7604 Charleston Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15218-1265

Individual(s) at \$10 each (18 years & older)

Name _____

Name _____

Name _____

Address, Municipality, Zip: _____

Evening Phone: _____

Contact information is not shared with other organizations.

Regent Square Business at \$25 each

Business Name _____

Businessperson _____

Alternate Rep. _____

Website _____

E-mail Address: _____

Yearly membership year runs Jan. 1st-Dec. 31st. Membership dues are not tax-deductible as a charitable contribution.

For further information, call the RSCA Membership Chair at 412-371-2010 or e-mail membership@regent-square.org.

Support the RSCA in 2005

Residents and Business-owners all benefit from the work of the RSCA

During this past year, and among many other activities, the RSCA has been busy with new and returning initiatives such as organizing the traffic safety meetings, lobbying for the new pedestrian crossing signals on S. Braddock Avenue, putting on the Easter Egg Hunt and Halloween Party for area children, publicizing the 2005 Neighborhood Yard Sale, printing and distributing this Newsletter, and recruiting volunteers for other neighborhood improvement and community building activities.

As you can imagine, this all takes time and money. While we have received two grants from our local elected representatives, these funds are earmarked for specific projects (more on these grants in future issues of this newsletter).

Therefore, to make sure that we continue to be financially responsible, we have been forced to raise our dues to \$10 per adult in each household and \$25 per business – which we hope is not a hardship for anyone.

By becoming a new member or renewing your membership from last year, you can help the RSCA to keep Regent Square a good place to live, work and do business. At the same time, you will also benefit from membership discounts for RSCA initiatives, such as registration for the Neighborhood Yard Sale or the sale of the Bird Mural Poster.

So, join now! Complete the 2005 Membership form at the top of this page.

Then, sit back and feel good about being a part of this great neighborhood and this hard-working organization.

Business Decals

New initiatives for local businesses

Besides its usual business member benefits, the RSCA has a series of new ways to identify and support our local businesses. Among them are:

- a Business Liaison RSCA Board member to focus on the concerns of the business community;
- a bookmark, *Eat and Drink in Regent Square*, describing local eateries and their hours of operation; and
- discounts at select local eateries during the 3 Rivers Film Festival.

Yet the latest initiative is the **green and white Business Members decal** soon to be displayed on the storefronts and doors of 2005 Business Members.

Other initiatives are still in the making.

So, if you are a resident, don't forget to patronize RSCA Business Members every chance you get.

And, if you are a Regent Square business-owner, complete the Membership form in this newsletter and join the RSCA today!



To contact the RSCA Newsletter:

Newsletter Committee

Regent Square Civic Association

7604 Charleston Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15218-1265

412-371-2010 e-mail: newsletter@regent-square.org

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