

# REGENT SQUARE

CIVIC ASSOCIATION  
NEWSLETTER

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

Nov/Dec 2005, Volume 25 Number 9

## Join us next month at

The RSCA Board Meeting, 7:00 PM  
Monday, 5-December-2005 at the  
Wilkins School Community Center  
located at the corner of Milton and  
Charleston Avenues.

## Holiday Open House

Monday, 5-December-2005  
7-9PM at 7604 Charleston Ave.  
You're invited to join the RSCA board  
and your neighbors at this annual  
Holiday Event. Food and beverages  
will be served.

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## RSCA By-Laws to Be Revised

### **Community Review and Response Requested**

A committee has been working on revising the RSCA by-laws to better reflect the current organization and give a clearer understanding of policies and procedures that the Board would like to see in place. The present by-laws date back to the beginning of the organization and are very brief and more generic in format and content. Unfortunately, over the last several years the Board has discovered that the existing by-laws do not give clear guidance on critical issues.

The By-laws Committee was formed from present and past Board members to address these concerns and revise the current by-laws. The Board intends to have a copy of the revised by-laws to the membership before the December 2005 meeting for ratification at that meeting, since this is when membership attendance is at its highest and most representative

*(Continued on p.3.)*

## Fifth Annual Regent Square Toy Drive

### **26-November through 13-December**

It's time to start thinking about the fifth annual RSCA Holiday Toy Drive in the Regent Square community! Community residents are asked for donations of **new, unwrapped toys** for distribution to a local agency serving children in need in our area. This year, the Toy Drive will run from 26-November through 13-December and will have two drop-off locations: Our very successful partner in 2004, Neighborhood Realty, at 1028 S. Braddock

## RSCA Holiday Open House

### **You're Invited — 5-December at 7PM**

The Regent Square Civic Association cordially invites you to attend its annual *Holiday Open House* on Monday, 5-December at 7PM at the Wilkins School Community Center, 7604 Charleston Ave. Come and meet the newly elected and returning RSCA Board members and share in some refreshments with neighbors and friends.

This year's special presentation will be on the results of the *Braddock Avenue Design Charette* held on 5-November. On that day, local business-owners and non-profits join efforts with other community members and design professionals in developing a new vision for the Braddock Avenue corridor. See and hear how they hope it will look, how it can be accomplished and how, together, our business district can be even better than it already is. ■

## Annual Holiday Decorating Contest

### **Decorate for the Holidays and Win a Contribution to Your Favorite Charity**

The annual RSCA Holiday Home Decorating Contest is quickly approaching and it's not too soon to start planning your display! Take advantage of the mild weather days in November to begin your decorating and add the finishing touches in December. New this year is an Honorable Mention for the most decorated block, so encourage your neighbors to participate.

Last year's winning houses were elegant, fun, and lavish. Everyone living within the boundaries of Regent Square, as defined by the Civic Association, is eligible to win. First, second, and Third Prizes are \$75, \$40, and \$40 respectively, with an additional \$25 prize for "most creative" use of lights. And of course, an Honorable Mention for the most

*(Continued on p.2.)*

# Your Vote Counts!

## **RSCA Board Elections**

The upcoming RSCA Board election is important to our community. All current 2005 RSCA members are asked to take time to vote for this year's slate of RSCA board candidates. Please read the brief candidate bios in the October newsletter at [www.regentsquare-RSCA.org/newsletter.htm](http://www.regentsquare-RSCA.org/newsletter.htm), fill out the ballot, and submit your vote by mail or e-mail before the 28-November deadline. ■

## **Lighting Contest** *(Continued from p1.)*

decorated block. In observation of the holiday spirit, awards will be donated to the charity of the winners' choice. Houses will be judged on the evening of 18-December. To participate as a judge, please call or e-mail Carrie Webber by 15-December at 412-371-2895 or [clwebber8@verizon.net](mailto:clwebber8@verizon.net). ■

## **What Is Regent Square to You?**

### **Regent Square Business Network Looking For Residents' Input**

What is the Regent Square "brand"? What sets our neighborhood apart from all others? Now's your chance to let us know what you think. Please forward your responses to the survey found in the October RSCA newsletter ([www.regentsquare-RSCA.org](http://www.regentsquare-RSCA.org)) to the RSCA today and let your ideas become part of the new Regent Square brand!

Business-owners and residents alike are invited to come to a design charette (i.e., community brainstorming session) on Saturday, 5-November at The Map Room on S. Braddock Ave., 9AM-4PM. Call 412-371-2010 to pre-register. ■

## **Three Rivers Film Festival**

### **Check Out the 2005 Three Rivers Film Festival November 4 - 18**

The 24th Annual Three Rivers Film Festival, presented by Pittsburgh Filmmakers, features over 45 films. Check out opening and closing night events, visiting filmmakers, live bands, and more. Films are screened at the **Harris Theater** at 809 Liberty Ave., Downtown; **Melwood Screening Room** at 477 Melwood Ave., N. Oakland; and **Regent Square Theater** at 1035 S. Braddock Ave. For info visit: [www.3rff.com](http://www.3rff.com) or [www.pghfilmmakers.org](http://www.pghfilmmakers.org) ■

## **WSCC Holiday Gift Shop**

### **Monday through Thursday 5-9PM and Saturday 9AM-5PM**

The Holiday Gift Shop at the Wilkins School Community Center is open! Your neighbors are coming and getting into the spirit of the community and the season. It is a relaxed and fun event with many new and different crafts to buy. Come and share the experience. For information go to [www.wscpcgh.org](http://www.wscpcgh.org) or call 412-241-8126. ■

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

- Arch Pelley – By-Laws
- Cari Marty – Toy Drive
- Alina Keebler – Open House
- Carrie Webber – Lighting Contest
- Cathy Brennan – Branding
- Michele Megarry – Race Director
- Ann Kelton – Tree Planting Report
- Darrell Rapp – Rent-a-Rower
- Hallie Pritts – Gateway Project
- Joy Goethert – Home Delivered Meals

Articles may be submitted for publication via post or email. Please visit the web site [www.regentsquare-RSCA.org](http://www.regentsquare-RSCA.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.

# **Nov/Dec Events Calendar**

## **29-October-2005 | 10AM Daffodil Bulb Planting**

Volunteers welcome  
*Biddle Building parking lot, 800 S. Braddock Ave. Bring work gloves and trowels if available.*  
**Info:** 412-244-5722 or [akelton@verizon.net](mailto:akelton@verizon.net)

## **5-November-2005 | 9AM-12PM Food Drive**

Non-perishable food donations collected for the Wilkinsburg Food Pantry. Drop off items at church.  
*Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church  
905 Mifflin Ave., corner of Mifflin & Whitney*  
**Info:** 412-731-2511 or [www.mifflinave.org](http://www.mifflinave.org)

## **7-November-2005 | 7PM RSCA Community Meeting**

Regular monthly meeting  
*Wilkins School Community Center, between South Braddock and Milton at Charleston.*  
**Info:** To request an agenda item, call 412-371-2010 or [president@regentsquare-RSCA.org](mailto:president@regentsquare-RSCA.org)

## **15-November-2005 | 5:30PM-6:30PM RSCA Business Network Meeting**

Business owners and non-profits working together for a better Regent Square business district  
**Info:** Locations vary; call 412-371-2010 or [membership@regentsquare-RSCA.org](mailto:membership@regentsquare-RSCA.org)

## **3-December-2005 | 9AM-12PM Food Drive**

Please see information above under 5-November

## **5-December-2005 | 7PM RSCA Holiday Open House**

*Wilkins School Community Center  
7604 Charleston Ave.*  
**Info:** Call 412-371-2010 or [info@regentsquare-RSCA.org](mailto:info@regentsquare-RSCA.org)

## **5-December-2005 January Newsletter Submissions Due**

E-mail articles and information to [newsletter@regentsquare-RSCA.org](mailto:newsletter@regentsquare-RSCA.org)

## **RSCA Unveils New Website & Address**

**[www.regentsquare-RSCA.org](http://www.regentsquare-RSCA.org)**

The RSCA has developed a new website for members and residents about all things Regent Square. Its purpose: to be "a resource for those who live, play, and work in Regent Square." Bookmark the new site — it's updated weekly so you'll always know what's happening in the Square! See enclosed insert for more info. ■

# Run Around the Square Needs YOU!

## ***Search for Race Leadership Goes On***

To date, no one has yet stepped forward to take the leadership role of the Run Around the Square. A two-leader role has been proposed. You would have guidance and some consultation to help steer you through the first year. (See October 2005 newsletter article titled "Letter from the Race Director" on the web at [www.regentsquare-RSCA.org](http://www.regentsquare-RSCA.org) for more details.)

Planning starts in January for a race of this magnitude and some willing resident needs to step forward soon. If you're interested in keeping a great community tradition alive, please contact Michele Megarry at 412-241-0913 or email at [mmegarry@verizon.net](mailto:mmegarry@verizon.net).

If we do not have a leader by January, unfortunately the race may have to be cancelled. Hopefully the 24th annual Run Around the Square will take place in August of 2006! ■

## By-Laws to Be Revised

*(Continued from p1.)*

of the Regent Square community.

A copy will be mailed to each 2005 RSCA resident and business member before the 5-December meeting. Only those who have paid dues by 1-October of this year (2005 members) will receive a copy and be able to vote on the revised by-laws. A 2/3 majority vote will be necessary to ratify these by-laws providing that a necessary 10% quorum of paying members is present at the meeting.

Please look for the by-laws in the mail or delivered to your house. And please review the by-laws and attend the December meeting to cast your vote.

These by-laws will be discussed at the next Board meeting on 7-November to answer questions and to have the necessary Board vote on the revised by-laws. Although this may seem procedural, it is important that RSCA membership is present at the 5-December RSCA community meeting at 7PM to vote on this important document. ■

## Regent Square Toy Drive

*(Continued from p1.)*

*(Continued on p3 and insert.)*

Avenue (across from the movie theatre), and our newest Toy Drive partner, United Studios of Self Defense, at 1115 S. Braddock Avenue. Many thanks to these local businesses for their help in contributing to this very worthy effort!

The success of the Toy Drive depends on the generosity of the local community. Last year more than 90 toys, games, and puzzles were collected — together with other community organizations, these donations helped make holiday dreams come true for hundreds of children. Let's go for at least 100 this year! See the enclosed flyer for a list of needed and appropriate toys.

Please remember that only new, unwrapped items can be accepted. Your support is greatly appreciated! If you have any questions, please contact Cari Marty at 412-243-2358 or [carimarty@hotmail.com](mailto:carimarty@hotmail.com).

## RSCA Community Tree Planting Day

### ***A Great Success!***

On Saturday, 8-October, two dozen enthusiastic volunteers planted 22 trees along S. Braddock Avenue. Liberty American Elms, Serviceberries, Kousa Dogwoods, Tree Lilacs, and Cherry Dogwoods are some of the species that were planted in this effort to make Regent Square safer and more beautiful.

Long-time and new residents, families, Edgewood Boy Scouts, Taylor-Allderdice hockey players, and RSCA Board Members, along with State Representative Dan Frankel, all worked together to plant, water and mulch the sizeable "saplings." Most of those present were surprised at what an immediate impact the trees made — the Elms alone were 10 or 12 feet high!

Many thanks to all the volunteers who worked so hard; to State Representative Frankel, who funded this project; and to Dick Wilford and the Pittsburgh Public Works crew who did a tremendous amount of prep work in Frick Park. Special thanks also to Dennis Meyer from the DPW who worked with us all day Saturday and took care of many details.

Plans are underway to plant the Swissvale, Edgewood, and Wilksburg sections of S. Braddock Avenue in the future.

### ***Pirates, Rolling Stones Aid Daffodil Planting in Frick Park...***

The RSCA will be planting 500 daffodil bulbs in beds around the Serviceberry trees at the Biddle Building lot on Saturday, 29-October at 10AM. Although we originally planned to plant our daffodils at the same time as the trees, time and especially poor soil quality prevented this from happening.

After the Rolling Stones concert, part of the field in PNC Park needed to be totally replaced. Dick Wilford, the resourceful Frick Park foreman, got the Pirates organization to donate a load of the used-but-still-rich soil mixture to our project. This mushroom manure, topsoil, and sand mixture will make planting a snap, and it will fertilize the bulbs, Serviceberry trees, and even the older trees at the site.

We don't expect Keith Richard or Jason Bey at our daffodil planting event, but it would be great if you could join us on Saturday, 29-October. And who knows, since Mick and the boys dropped in at Phipps while they were in here, maybe next Spring they'll come over and check out the greenest neighborhood in town — Regent Square! ■

# Rent-a-Rower

## **CMU Crew Team Takes on Homeowners' Tasks**

The Carnegie Mellon Rowing team is excited to serve the Pittsburgh community in their semi-annual fundraiser: Rent-a-Rower. Rowers are available for \$12 an hour (there is a four hour minimum) to do any task, however strenuous or odd it may be. Whether you're looking to do spring cleaning, move heavy things, yard work, or have your computer fixed, CMU rowers are ready. Dates and times are flexible — just suggest a date that works for you! If you live farther than a 15 minute walk from campus, we request you pick up your team at the University Center of CMU.

Support the CMU crew team and get help on your home projects.

Their motto: No task is too great or small — we can accomplish it all! ■

# “Squares” Race for Pace

## **Regent Square Residents Support Pace**

The residents of Regent Square, once again, have shown that their generosity and willingness to help goes beyond the “square” boundaries. Several community members came out to be on the running and walking “Regent Squares” team at the Race for Pace on Saturday, 8-October-2005.

The team was led in by “Captain” Kirk Warner, Michele Megarry, Gary Acord, Meghan Lanaghan, Steve, Laurie and Emma Moyer, Ray Budd, Debbie Caterino, and Susan Megarry. A special thank you to the ever community-oriented Neighborhood Realty team members, Maureen States, Kathy and Scott Cleenger, Lisa Turner, and Mary Anne Kirby, for getting a team of walkers together to support Pace School. Many residents and friends were kind enough to support the race even though they could not make it to the race that day. Thanks to Cari Marty, Joe and Patrice McCarthy, Donna Bour, Julie Crawford, and Ruth McGill for being there in spirit!

The 5K race supports Pace School, which is a private non-profit school dedicated to providing educational and therapeutic services that enable any child to thrive.

As always, the residents of Regent Square have big hearts and helped a great cause and in the process had some fun and good exercise! ■

# The Regent Square Gateway Project

## **Transforming the Braddock Trail Entrance to Frick Park**

Imagine a community space where clean water, businesses, and a public park co-exist.

The Regent Square Gateway Project will transform the Braddock Trail entrance to Frick Park and the Center for Creative Play parking lots into a model of sustainability and beauty. During heavy rains, the site becomes a riverbed of dirty water emptying directly into Nine Mile Run, a problem that erodes stream banks and floods the stream with pollutants.

The Nine Mile Run Watershed Association has hired a team of engineers, landscape architects, and artists to redesign the site using innovative stormwater management to clean and manage excess rain and snow melt.

Please contribute your ideas to the project at one of the upcoming family-friendly public workshop on Friday, 2-December, 6–8PM, presentation (dinner included) and Saturday, 3-December 8:30AM–1PM, interactive design event (breakfast and snacks included). Both events will be held at the Center for Creative Play at 1400 S. Braddock Avenue. For more information go to [www.ninemilerun.org](http://www.ninemilerun.org).

Please pre-register at [info@ninemilerun.org](mailto:info@ninemilerun.org). ■

# Help Needed

## **Home Delivered Meals**

Edgewood Home Delivered Meals is a cooperative project of the Edgewood Civic Association and the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood. Any Edgewood or Swissvale resident who is unable to shop for or prepare meals during a period of recuperation or for a longer term is eligible to receive this service.

Volunteers pick up the meals at the Swissvale Senior Center Monday through Friday and deliver them to shut-ins. If you or a member of your family needs this service, call 412-731-6125 and register with the director, Jodi Trovato.

Once again drivers and runners are needed to deliver meals; please call Joy Goethert at 412-731-1640, or Jodi at the center, if you can spare two hours once or twice a month. ■

# Bird Mural Prints

## **Great Holiday Gifts!**

Regent Square's landmark mural is available as a limited-edition artist-signed print. The full-color print measures 10"x19" and is suitable for framing. Proceeds benefit the artist and the RSCA. \$33/poster for RSCA members and \$38 for non-members (please add \$5 for orders to be mailed outside of Regent Square). Go to [www.regentsquare-RSCA.org](http://www.regentsquare-RSCA.org) for an order form. ■



## To contact the RSCA Newsletter:

Newsletter Committee

Regent Square Civic Association

7604 Charleston Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15218-1265

412-371-2010 E-mail: [newsletter@regentsquare-RSCA.org](mailto:newsletter@regentsquare-RSCA.org)

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# Toy Ideas for the RSCA Toy Drive

## ***Toys Needed 26-November through 13-December***

Please remember that only new, unwrapped items can be accepted. Your support is greatly appreciated! If you have any questions, please contact Cari Marty at 412-243-2358 or carimarty@hotmail.com.

Some suggestions for children in different age groups are:

***Infants/toddlers*** — Rattles and squeeze toys, musical toys or mobiles, unbreakable baby mirrors, crib toys, picture books, stacking and sorting toys, dolls, large cars and trucks, teething toys, sippy cups.

***Pre-schoolers*** — Building toys (large Legos®, blocks), cars and trucks, dolls and doll clothes, puzzles, puppets, books, crayons, markers, coloring books, bubbles, Play-Doh®, music-making toys, story and song tapes, stickers, Etch-a-Sketch®, new stuffed animals, simple board games.

***School age children*** — Craft sets, stickers, Nerf toys, playing cards, hand-held games, dolls and doll clothes, matchbox cars, books and comic books, jigsaw puzzles, action figures, collectibles (rock collections, magnets, sports collectibles), board games, activity books (connect dots, crosswords, word search), building kits (Legos®, Tinker Toys®, Lincoln Logs®).

***Teenagers*** — Wallets, calendars and posters, mirrors, grooming kits, address books and journals, walkmans, hair accessories, athletic equipment, music (contemporary CDs and cassettes), board games (Backgammon, Stratego, etc.), craft kits (cross-stitch, wood-working, paint by numbers).

***Gifts to Avoid*** — Used toys and used stuffed animals, toys stuffed with shredded foam, small pellets or beans, toys with detachable parts (like button eyes) that could be removed and swallowed or inhaled, electrical, spark-producing or friction-producing toys, fragile toys that can break into small pieces with sharp edges, toys made of glass or brittle plastic, toys with sharp edges or protrusions, toys or craft kits with toxic paints or glues, toys with parts that can pinch fingers or pull hair, toy guns and other violent toys.

## ***Two drop-off locations:***

- Neighborhood Realty, 1028 S. Braddock Avenue (across from the movie theatre)
- United Studios of Self Defense, at 1115 S. Braddock Avenue

The RSCA has new website address and new website — check it out!

[www.regentsquare-rsca.org](http://www.regentsquare-rsca.org)

## REGENT SQUARE

A resource for those who live, play and work in Regent Square



In its ongoing efforts to strengthen communications with its membership and the community, the RSCA has developed a new website — with a new address — to serve residents as an information resource about all things Regent Square. Log on to find:

- continually updated **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**
- information about **REGENT SQUARE BUSINESSES** and contacts
- **NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT** happenings, such as safety and beautification efforts
- places to eat, shop, play, do business — **THINGS TO DO** — in Regent Square
- **COMMUNITY RESOURCES** for local and state governments, including contact information
- current and past **RSCA NEWSLETTERS**
- RSCA-SPECIFIC information, such as **CONTACTS, MEMBERSHIP, MEETINGS, ACTIVITIES**

**Bookmark the new site and check it regularly. It's updated weekly, so you'll always know what's happening in the Square!**