

# REGENT SQUARE

CIVIC ASSOCIATION  
NEWSLETTER

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

January 2006, Volume 26 Number 1

Join us in February at the RSCA Board/Community Meeting, 7:00PM Monday, 6-February-2006 at the Wilkins School Community Center located at the corner of Milton and Charleston Avenues.

*Happy New Year!*  
*Wishing you and yours good health and much happiness throughout the new year.*

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## RSCA Election Results

### **Four New and Returning RSCA Board Members**

The RSCA and the Regent Square community welcome the involvement of its four newly elected board members, elected by the RSCA Membership in Fall 2005. The board members, who each will serve for three years, are Cathy Brennan of Edgewood, Carrie Webber of Swissvale, and returning board members Alina Keebler and Joan Reefer, both of Pittsburgh. Thank you to George Dué for his interest in running for the RSCA Board. George withdrew his nomination prior to the election; we wish him all the best. Remember that RSCA Board Meetings are held the first Monday of each month, unless otherwise noted, and community members are encouraged and welcome to attend. It takes our entire community to keep the many RSCA activities up and running! ■

## RSCA Holiday Open House

### **Focus on S. Braddock Ave.**

Though it started with a brief business meeting that included the announcement of newly elected RSCA Board members and approval of the RSCA's revised by-laws, the RSCA's annual Holiday Open House ended with much lively conversation among neighbors and friends and some great appetizers and desserts donated by current board members. In between, those in attendance heard a presentation on the conclusions reached at the 5-November2005 Braddock Avenue Design Charette. From the heads nodding in agreement all around the room, it seemed that the charette results were right on target.

If you were unable to attend, you can access the PowerPoint charette presentation through the RSCA website ([www.regentsquare-RSCA.org](http://www.regentsquare-RSCA.org)). Send us an e-mail to find out how you can get involved in making the proposed goals a reality ([info@regentsquare-RSCA.org](mailto:info@regentsquare-RSCA.org)). ■

## 2006 RSCA Membership Year Begins

### **Make Membership Part of Your New Year's Resolution**

The Regent Square Civic Association (RSCA) wants to thank all those residents and business owners who, through their Membership dues and volunteer hours, supported the organization's efforts in 2005. Without their help, there would not have been a Welcome Packet for new residents in the Square, holiday lights in Braddock Avenue storefront windows, newly planted trees and flowers along Braddock Avenue, or a "new and improved" RSCA website.

There definitely would not have been a community Easter Egg Hunt, Halloween Party, or now-famous Neighborhood Yard Sale; no flower garden at Frick Park's Richmond/Sanders corner, Parkway litter clean-up, Toy Drive, or Holiday Lighting Contest; and, of course, no Newsletter. The list could go on, but we do have all of these community activities because of membership support. Thank you one and all!

# Halloween Party 2005

## **Scary – and Sweet – Fun for Everyone!**

The RSCA held its annual Halloween Party for Regent Square children on Saturday, 29-October-2005. About 40 children and their parents came to the party and had a great time. Once they entered the spookily decorated party room, children were entertained by Mike the Balloon Guy, who created wondrous accessories for the wide variety of costumes worn by the children. Other attractions featured Ranger Rick who read stories during the party and the Neighborhood Realty folks who photographed each child and presented them with a souvenir Halloween photo. Children played “Pin the Broom on the Witch” and enjoyed making Halloween crafts.

A special thanks to our sponsors Giant Eagle and Eat ‘N Park both located in Edgewood Town Center and to Neighborhood Realty Services located on S. Braddock Avenue.

We’re looking forward to another great party next year and encourage the residents of Regent Square to bring their children and also to participate in planning and running the party. ■

## Family Fun Night

### **21-January-2006 at 7PM at the Wilkins School Community Center**

Mark your 2006 calendars for the Wilkins School Community Center Family Fun Nights. With the holidays over and winter setting in, this will be just the family event to prevent the winter blues! So, bring your children to the center at 7PM. on Saturday, 21-January-2006 to play bingo and other family games with prizes and refreshments. Family Fun Night Saturday, 25-February-2006 at 7:00PM will be a talent show. We’re giving plenty of lead-time get your acts together for the show. For more details call 412-244-8458, visit the WSCC website: [www.wscppgh.org](http://www.wscppgh.org), or send an e-mail to [wscppgh@yahoo.com](mailto:wscppgh@yahoo.com). ■

## Winter Term Begins

### **Wilkins School Community Center Classes Start**

Classes will begin the week of 9-January-2006. Many interesting classes are being offered, such as aerobics, painting, yoga, dance classes, French, and much more. For a complete class listing call 412-244-8458, visit the WSCC website: [www.wscppgh.org](http://www.wscppgh.org), or send an e-mail to [wscppgh@yahoo.com](mailto:wscppgh@yahoo.com). ■

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

- Alina Keebler – Welcome Packets
- Alina Keebler– 2006 Membership
- Joan Reefer – Halloween Party
- Marylouise Turano – WSCC
- Cathy Brennan – Charette Update
- Alina Keebler – Business Lights
- Maureen States – Food Drive
- Michelle Megarry – Run Around the Sq.

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.

# January Events Calendar

## **7-January-2006 | 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)

## **9-January-2006 | 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)

## **9-January-2006 | 7PM Feb/Mar Newsletter Submissions Due**

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

## New RSCA Website

### ***www.regentsquare-RSCA.org***

Don't forget to regularly check out the RSCA's new website. It's 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! ■

# 2006 RSCA Membership Year Begins

**(Continued on insert)**

As the new year starts, the RSCA asks the kind folks who have been loyal members — and those who have not yet participated — to help the RSCA to continue its community efforts and more by sending in your 2006 membership dues.

Your contribution will surely be put to good use in maintaining the neighborliness that Regent Square is known for. Besides receiving discounts at local businesses and being able to vote in the 2006 RSCA election, all 2006 members will receive the soon-to-be-printed 2006 RSCA Welcome Booklet — a directory of our local businesses and neighborhood amenities. If you include your e-mail address, you will, from time to time, receive news, notices, and reminders of neighborhood events. More importantly, as a dues paying member, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you are an active, involved part of the neighborhood!

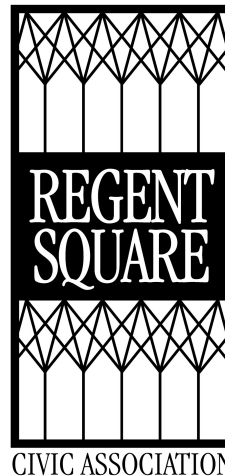
So, send in the membership form below (or on the RSCA website), along with your 2006 dues, and be counted. Then, sit back and feel good!

## **Businesses Are Invited to Join**

Most people don't know that there are 120 or so businesses (storefront- and home-based) and non-profits in the Regent Square area. The RSCA recognizes that these businesses and organizations are an integral part of the neighborhood and is eager to work with them to make sure that they continue to be successful. RSCA initiatives like the new Business Network Group, revised Welcome Booklet, and new

Welcome Packet — initiatives that directly promote Regent Square's businesses — are just a few of the ways that the RSCA supports the Square's businesses and non-profits. Those business and organizations that join in these efforts by becoming Business Members of the RSCA are listed in the RSCA website with a hotlink to their individual e-mail address or website and are recognized in a mid-year Newsletter issue. In addition, Business Members are highlighted in the Welcome Booklet and receive a "RSCA Business Member" window decal, further encouraging the community to support these businesses by taking advantage of their services.

The RSCA invites all Regent Square businesses and non-profits to become RSCA members for 2006. Not only will it provide direct benefits, but it will also give the RSCA the clout it needs to talk to the various governmental agencies about improvements for the Regent Square business community. Fill out and mail



## Become a 2006 Member of the RSCA!

Support the efforts of the RSCA through you membership dues and/or a donation of your choice. Please send in this form with your check (*payable to RSCA*) to: RSCA Treasurer, 7604 Charleston Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15218

<b>Residents (# adults per household) @ \$10 each; or</b>	<b>1 Business @ \$25 ea.</b>
Name _____	Business Name _____
Name _____	Business Owner _____
Name _____	Alternate Rep. _____
	Business Website _____
<b>Address:</b> _____	<b>State, Zip</b> _____
<b>Municipality</b> _____	<b>E-mail</b> _____
<b>Phone:</b> _____	

- Notes:**
- Contact information is not shared with other organizations
  - Membership year runs Jan. 1st - Dec. 31st - dues received after Oct. 1st will be attributed to the following year
  - Membership dues are not tax-deductible as a charitable contribution; however, may be deductible as an expense incurred in connection with a trade or business
  - For membership information, contact the RSCA Membership Chair at 412-371-2010 or [membership@regentsquare-RSCA.org](mailto:membership@regentsquare-RSCA.org)

Yes! Please contact me to discuss/I want to volunteer for: \_\_\_\_\_

# Regent Square Business District

## ***Braddock Avenue Design Charette Yields Energy and Great Ideas***

As a result of the group brainstorming session that took place on Saturday, 5-November, the Regent Square business district may soon be more attractive — and perhaps more “user-friendly” — to residents and visitors alike.

A group of 25, both business owners and residents, met for a full day that started with a presentation by Regent Square resident Georgia Petropoulos, executive director of the Oakland Business Improvement District. Volunteer facilitator Kent Edwards of Perkins Eastman Architects then sent the participants off to work in separate break-out groups to generate ideas around three major categories: branding and marketing; storefront design; and street-scape design.

The first group discussed ways to capture all of the wonderful uniqueness of our neighborhood in a distinctive “look” and tagline. They also developed a list of programs that could be initiated to attract visitors to the business district, thereby helping to maintain the vibrancy of our shopping attractions. Group number two focused on storefront design and generated ideas to pull together an all-encompassing “look” without limiting the creativity of the store proprietors. The third group took on the rather overwhelming task of street-scape design, including gateways, key intersections, and traffic and parking.

After the initial brainstorming sessions, the three breakout groups presented their ideas to the entire group. Assisted by additional volunteers from Perkins Eastman, the groups were able to show sketches of some of their ideas. Based on the other groups’ presentations, the breakout groups then reconvened to create a list of short- and long-term suggestions for the business district. Each person in attendance then voted for his/her three most preferred short- and long-term items. The results, listed on the RSCA website at [www.regentsquare-RSCA.org](http://www.regentsquare-RSCA.org), were presented at the Regent Square Civic Association’s Holiday Open House on 5-December. The list of exciting new projects is also be posted at the Meyer Properties storefront at 1109 S. Braddock Avenue.

The RSCA extends a special thanks to the following individuals who helped to make the design charette a success:

- Marjorie Landale of *Map Room* (location and lunches)
- Maureen States of *Neighborhood Realty Services* (location and supplies)
- Kathy Cauley of *Murphy’s Tap Room* and *Katerbean* (coffee)
- David Green of *Sweetie Sweetie Bakery* (coffecake and cookies)
- Kent Edwards of *Perkins Eastman Architects* (facilitator)
- Ken Kuligowski and Jack Williams of *Perkins Eastman Architects* (volunteers)
- Joe Cooper-Silvis of *The Think Tank* (flyer design)
- Cathy Brennan of *A Cappella Marketing* (newsletter articles and planning)
- Kitty Brunkhorst of *Microtime 2* (newsletter articles and clean-up)
- Warwick Powell of *Interlink Management* (clean-up)

The RSCA invites all residents and business owners to carefully review the ideas generated during the design charette. Please feel free to contact the RSCA with your thoughts and ideas. ■

# Businesses Light Up Holidays

## ***S. Braddock Businesses Shine Holiday Lights***

If you thought that the Braddock Avenue storefronts looked especially cheerful over the holidays, you were absolutely right. As a result of the Braddock Ave. Design Charette, and in an effort to begin instituting its recommendations, the RSCA donated a string of lights to each storefront — a “starter set” to be added to.

Kathy Cauley of Murphy’s Tap Room and Katerbean purchased the lights and, with the help of David Greene of Sweetie Sweetie, distributed the lights along with an introductory letter and suggestions for installation. They tell us that business owners were very pleased, something quite evident from the high degree of participation and the many additional strings that they purchased. Thank you, Kathy, David, and all the business owners for making our holidays brighter this year. ■

# Brown Bags Full!

## ***Second Annual Food Drive***

Neighborhood Realty Services would like to thank everyone for their generous donation to the second annual food drive. This year, donations were collected for the Society of St. Vincent DePaul, which operates food banks throughout Allegheny County. Even more households were reached through the efforts of our agents this year. Neighborhood Realty Services saw to it that more than 10,000 bags were delivered to area homes. Neighborhood Realty facilitates this effort in order to give back to those less fortunate in our community and to also enable each resident to be afforded the opportunity do the same. Neighborhood Realty “feels very rewarded by our efforts,” says Maureen States, “And we are sure each of you does as well when you fill your bag. Only by working together in our community have we made this food drive a success. Thank You again. We will be back next year with a new bag for you to fill.” ■

# 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Run Around the Square Is On!

## **Regent Square Resident to the Rescue**

Regent Square residents have come to the rescue of the Run Around the Square. The new director of this annual event in the Square will be Chris Convery of Richmond Street. Chris has a degree in Sports Management and has worked with professional and collegiate sports teams in coordination of ticketing, corporate sponsorship, and media relationships. Chris's skill sets more than qualify him to handle the planning and execution of the community's race. Chris and his wife Katie moved into Regent Square last summer, heard nothing but rave reviews about the Race, and wanted to keep the tradition alive.

In addition to Chris, two other residents have stepped up to the plate to be on the race committee: Liz Caplan and Natasha Tokowicz. Liz is a long-time resident of the Square and her knowledge of the neighborhood and its residents will compliment the committee. Natasha is a running enthusiast and just wanted to get more involved. Both of these race supporters are willing to bring their talents to the table and keep the race up and running.

If you have helped in the past with the Run Around the Square, please continue to give these generous people your time and commitment. ■

## Lower Frick Park Gate Open

### **Access from Hutchinson St.**

Starting in November 2005, the gate to Lower Frick Park (the Hutchinson Street entrance) was opened to vehicles. The Department of Public Works reported that the gate was opened to vehicle traffic per multiple requests for access to the park.

Unfortunately, though it is posted on the park entrance that the park is closed to vehicles after dusk, the DPW doesn't have the resources to close the gate each night. The DPW is interested in talking with a Regent Square resident, family, or group of residents who might be willing to be responsible for closing the gate each night. If you're interested, please contact the RSCA at [info@regentsquare-RSCA.org](mailto:info@regentsquare-RSCA.org) or 412-371-2010 and a plan will be worked out. ■

## Petition Drive

### **School Feeder Pattern Change**

A group of parents who live in the Pittsburgh section of Regent Square is working to get a petition signed by all Regent Square residents and parents. This petition asks the superintendent and school board to address one straightforward issue: *That the school district feeder pattern for children in the Regent Square area of Pittsburgh be changed to Collfax K-8 in Squirrel Hill.*

The group is canvassing all 350+ houses in the Pittsburgh section of Regent Square. The signed petitions will be forwarded on to Superintendent Roosevelt, our school board representative Bill Isler, and the other school board members.

All Pittsburgh residents (whether you have children or not) are asked to please sign and return the petition by Sunday, 8-January.

To get a copy of the petition to sign, call 412-371-2010 or send an e-mail to [regentsquareparents@hotmail.com](mailto:regentsquareparents@hotmail.com).

Thank you to the more than 170 people who have already signed the petition! ■

## A Welcoming Neighborhood

### **Welcome Packets to Be Delivered to New Homeowners**

Starting January 2006, when new homeowners move into Regent Square, they will receive the RSCA Welcome Packet: a compilation of information to help them get to know our neighborhood and to promote our local businesses and organizations.

Maureen States, owner of Neighborhood Realty Services and a member of the RSCA Business Networking Group, with the help of her staff and other RSCA volunteers, has updated the Welcome Booklet directory; gathered promotional materials from local businesses and non-profits; obtained bus, library, and voting information; and more — all packaged in a canvas bag provided by the RSCA and printed by Regent Square's own Trophy Town.

Volunteers will deliver the Welcome Packets to the doors of homebuyers as their names appear in the Saturday *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* real estate listings. Thank you to our volunteers — the RSCA appreciates your hard work and energy!

Anyone interested in helping should contact: [welcome@regentsquare-RSCA.org](mailto:welcome@regentsquare-RSCA.org) or leave a message at 412-371-2010. ■



### To contact the RSCA Newsletter:

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