

REGENT SQUARE

CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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

Feb/Mar 2006, Volume 26 Number 2

Join us in

March and April at

the RSCA Board /Community Meeting,
7:00PM Monday, 6-March-2006 and
3-April-2006 at the Wilkins School
Community Center located at the corner
of Milton and Charleston Avenues.

Big Plans Need Big Help

Letter to the Community from the 2006 RSCA Board President Arch Pelley

During the RSCA Board Retreat this year, the group was asked to make priorities of what we saw as important agenda items to concentrate on over the next year. The Board reached a quick and clear consensus that we would like to work on Braddock Avenue, both from the ongoing safety concerns to the aesthetic improvements proposed in the Business District Design Charette.

These are big challenges. The Board recognizes that to achieve these goals we also need to concentrate on two other major areas, 1) recruiting volunteers to help in these areas and 2) raising funds through activities or grant writing. Plus, these agenda items are also in addition to the need and strong desire to maintain our current activities, including the newsletter, website and community events.

In reflecting on the RSCA's needs, I have been remembering back to when my brother and I were kids poring over toy catalogs — we always looked longingly at the myriad building block sets displayed on the pages in front of me. The sets always came in at least three sizes. With the first set you could build a simple house, the second set may

(Continued on p3.)

Annual Easter Egg Hunt Planned

8-April 10-11AM

The annual Regent Square Easter Egg Hunt will be held Saturday 8-April from 10-11AM at the Richmond/Sanders Lot. (In the event of inclement weather the Hunt will be held the following Saturday, 16-April from 10-11AM.)

Children under 10 are invited to search the lot for candy- and prize-filled eggs. Small containers to hold your child's treasures will be provided (please leave larger baskets at home). In addition to finding eggs, there will be games and face painting! Come out and take this opportunity to meet neighbors in the Square. ■

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2006 RSCA Dues Are Due

Support the RSCA in 2006

A special thanks to the Regent Square residents and businesses who have become 2006 RSCA members first thing this year. The Civic Association truly appreciates your support. Your dues allow the RSCA to put on the various events and activities that make The Square a good place to live and work.

This year the RSCA is planning on applying for various grants that will help in continuing efforts to improve traffic and safety along Braddock Avenue and with initiatives such as the Tree Planting and Welcome Packet committees — to name a few of the many activities of this all-volunteer non-profit organization. The larger the membership, the more grant providers will listen to our appeals. So, the RSCA asks you to send your 2006 membership in and be counted. Look for the 2006 Membership form on p4 of this newsletter or print one from the RSCA website.

Not only will you feel good about your contribution to your community but you will also receive membership benefits from time to time. See the RSCA website www.regentsquare-RSCA.org for more details. Thank you in advance! ■

RSCA Officer Elections

New RSCA Officers for 2006

Arch Pelley, President
Carrie Webber, Vice-President

Joan Reefer, Secretary
Kathleen Schneider, Treasurer ■

2005 Holiday Lighting Results

Neighborhood Glowed with Holiday Cheer

Selecting winners for the Holiday Decorating contest was no easy feat this year! Of course, there were some standouts. The twig deer family created by John and Beth Newborg at 1122 Savannah Avenue was unique and elegant. A light dusting of snow made this incredibly serene display a clear choice for First Place. Last year's winners Marjorie Gribben and Michael LeDonne recreated their magnificent displays again this year. Ms. Gribben was awarded Second Place for her festive holiday display on her thoroughly decorated corner lot at 1317 Lancaster Avenue. Recreating his majestic scene at 1120 Milton Avenue, Michael LeDonne garnered the award for Most Creative Use of Lights. Third Place winners Debbie and Mike Brown provided a bright welcome into Regent Square with their extensively decorated house at 900 South Braddock Avenue. Finally, Honorable Mention for the Most Decorated Block goes to the 1300 block of Lancaster Avenue. The prize money was donated to the following charities: The Alzheimer's Foundation of America, The American Cancer Society, Angels Place, and Children's Hospital Free Care Fund. ■

Late Winter Term Begins at WSCC

Learn Something New, Support the Center

Classes will begin the week of February 27, 2006. The WSCC offers many interesting classes such as aerobics, painting, yoga, dance classes, French, and much more. Take a class and support the center in its endeavors. For a complete class listing call 412-244-8458, visit www.wscppgh.org, or send an e-mail to wscppgh@yahoo.com. The Community Center is a non-profit organization operated by a board of volunteers. If you are interested in joining or just wish to assist on occasion with volunteer activities, contact the WSCC. There is no doubt the experience will be mutually beneficial! ■

WSCC Used Book and Plant Sale

Mark Your Calendars

The Wilkins School Community Center will hold its annual Used Book and Plant Sale on 20-May-2006. **Reminder:** The Community Center will be collecting books for the Used Book Sale. Books can be dropped off at the Center or call to make arrangements. As always, if you would like to volunteer in some capacity, please contact WSCC at 412-244-8458; send an e-mail to wscppgh@yahoo.com, or visit www.wscppgh.org. ■

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

- Arch Pelley – Big Plans
- Molly Thayer – Egg Hunt
- Alina Keebler – 2006 Membership
- Carrie Webber – Holiday Lights
- Marylouise Turano – WSCC
- Carrie Webber – Yard Sale
- Joy Goethert – Don't Discard
- Lisa Nakamura – Women's Self Defense

Articles may be submitted for publication via post or e-mail. Please visit the web site 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 e-mail of the guidelines. Please see the last page for complete contact information regarding the Newsletter editor, e-mail or post office address.

Feb/Mar Events Calendar

4-February-2006 | 9AM-12PM Food Drive

Non-perishable food donations collected for the Wilkinsburg Food Pantry. Drop off items at church. Food collection first Saturday of every month.

*Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church
905 Mifflin Ave., corner of Mifflin & Whitney*

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

6-February-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

21-February-2006 | 5:30PM-6:30PM RSCA Business Network Meeting

Business owners and non-profits working together for a better Regent Square business district

*Meeting to be held at Drew Designs, Ltd.
1039 S. Braddock Ave.*

Info: Call 412-371-2010 or send an e-mail to info@regentsquare-RSCA.org

4-March-2006 | 9AM-12PM Food Drive

See information above under 4-February

6-March-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

6-March-2006 | 7PM April Newsletter Submissions Due

E-mail articles and information to newsletter@regentsquare-RSCA.org

Word® Help Needed

Know What's Happening First!

The RSCA Newsletter Committee is looking for two or three neighbors to help out with the layout of the newsletter. All that's needed is some experience with Microsoft Word® and a few hours a month. Articles and information will be provided to you electronically and printing will also be taken care of. Call 412-371-2010 or send an e-mail to newsletter@regentsquare-RSCA.org. Thank you! ■

Big Plans Need Big Help *(Continued from p1.)*

have let you build two houses, while the third and largest set let you to build a small town. Of course, like most kids, we wanted the largest set to be able to build the biggest town. It seems like things have not changed for me.

The analogy to the RSCA and our goals is pretty obvious. We have moved from an organization that was lucky to have the small set of building blocks five years ago, to becoming an organization that, through funding and volunteerism, has reached a middle status. However, for the RSCA to tackle the issues around Braddock Avenue, we need to become an organization with a larger set of building blocks. And the building blocks most needed are volunteers. The existing 12-member board is stretched pretty thin trying to keep up with what we do now. I know many of you reading this have also given time to the events and daily operations of the RSCA and we thank you — we need your help in any way you can contribute. And those out there who have thought about contributing time, that time is now.

Everyone's daily demands are different, so for some of you it may mean helping with a single discreet activity, while for others it may mean a small monthly job that can be scheduled at your pace or one that can be done from home. Whatever you choose, I hope you will step forward. We need you!

If you would be generous to give some time to making Regent Square a better place to live and work, please contact me at president@regentsquare-RSCA.org or come to our next meeting on the first Monday of the month at 7PM in the Wilkins School Community Center. I hope to see and hear from all of you! ■

Business Networking Group Update

Already Active in 2006

On 31-January-2006, a subcommittee of the Business Networking Group met to plan the implementation of the priorities set by the November 2005 Braddock Ave. Design Workshop. Watch for further details on the group's activities. ■

How Can You Help the RSCA ?

Give a Few Minutes or a Few Hours ...

Have a positive impact in your community by being active on one (or more) of the following RSCA-sponsored activities! Tasks range widely and can take as little as an hour a year. Contact the 2006 committee chair (in italics) for more info.

- Board of Directors, *Arch Pelley*
- Braddock Ave. Corridor Improvements, *Arch Pelley*
- Business Network Group/Liaison, *Cathy Brennan*
- Communications, *Ann Gaul*
- Community/Govt./WSCC Liaison, *Carole Stanier*
- Community Events, *Melissa McDonough*
- E-mail List and Updates, *Kitty Brunkhorst*
- Easter Egg Hunt, *Molly Thayer/Kelly O'Brien*
- Finance, *Kathleen Schneider*
- Flower Plantings, *Colleen Derda*
- Grant Writing, *Carole Stanier*
- Halloween Party, (*chairperson needed*)
- Holiday Toy Drive, *Cari Marty*
- Membership Recruitment, *Glennen Greer*
- Membership Support, *Alina Keebler*
- Neighborhood Improvements, *Arch Pelley*

Regent Square Yard Sale 2006

Save the Date, Saturday 20-May

Mark your calendars and clean out the basement, garage and attic! The 2006 Regent Square Yard Sale is schedule for 20-May-2006. Julie Crawford will be sorely missed as Chairperson of the Yard Sale, but she graciously offered guidance and support throughout this transition. The April newsletter and the RSCA website (www.regentsquare-RSCA.org) will contain more information about volunteering and participating in the sale. In the meantime, contact Carrie Webber at 412-371-2895 or cwebber8@verizon.net if you can spare a little time to help with the planning and execution of this community-wide event. ■

Neighborhood Safety

New RSCA Committee Formed

As a result of residents' request, a new committee was created at the January-06 RSCA Community Meeting to address safety issues in our neighborhood, such as break-ins and Frick Park gate access. If you are interested in participating on this committee, call 412-371-2010 or send an e-mail to info@regentsquare-RSCA.org. ■

- Neighborhood Safety, *John Broyles*
- Neighborhood Yard Sale, *Carrie Webber*
- Newsletter, *Ann Gaul*
- Newsletter Distribution, *Melita Osborne*
- Open House/Annual Meeting, *Alina Keebler/Glennen Greer*
- Parkway Interchange Litter Clean-up, *Barb Peterson*
- RSCA Website, *Bob McLaren*
- Run-Around-the-Square Race Liaison, *Melissa McDonough*
- Three Rivers Film Festival (Regent Square Theater), *Carole Stanier*
- Tree Planting, *Ann Kelton*
- Volunteer Recruitment, *Glennen Greer*
- Welcome Packet & Booklet, *Maureen States*

To get involved or find out more, call 412-371-2010 or send an e-mail to info@regentsquare-RSCA.org ■

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

_____ **Residents (# adults per household) @ \$10 each; or** _____ **1 Business @ \$25 ea.**

Name _____

Name _____

Name _____

Business Name _____

Business Owner _____

Alternate Rep. _____

Business Website _____

Address: _____

Municipality: _____

Phone: _____

State, Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

- 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

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

Workday Planned

WSCC Painting/Work Day 18-February

On Saturday, 18-February-2006 the Wilkins School Community Center has scheduled a painting/work day from 9:00 to Noon. If you're available, they could use your assistance. There is a list of tasks that the Center is hoping to complete. Not all of them are strenuous. The assistance is truly welcomed as the Center, run totally by a volunteer Board of Directors, provides many community events and operates solely by class registration fees, donations, and rental space. Any time you can devote will be appreciated. Through continued volunteerism it is possible to ensure the Community Center's existence in the community for years to come. Join them. Please contact 412-244-8458, send an e-mail to wscpgh@yahoo.com, or visit www.wscpgh.org. ■

Seminar: Women's Self-Defense

Saturday, 18-February, 1-4PM

- Focus on your strengths
- Build a confidence that comes from knowing that you are strong and can defend yourself
- Form an attitude that your body is worth defending
- Practice your skills in a safe, "hands on" environment

Lisa Nakamura is a 3rd Degree Black Belt, and has studied Kempo Karate, Shaolin Kung Fu, and Jiu Jitsu for 24 years. Sensei Lisa has conducted this seminar for organizations across the U.S. She and her husband, Steve, own United Studios of Self Defense in Regent Square, where they provide martial arts and self-defense training to women, children and men of all ages.

Registration is \$30.00. Call United Studios of Self Defense, 1115 S. Braddock Avenue, at 412-242-8773. ■

Discards Needed

Don't Throw It Away, Donate It!

Anytime is cleaning time, including now! Please, don't throw ANYTHING away. Bring your discards to the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood at 120 East Swissvale Avenue. The Church will be holding its annual FLEA MARKET in April, so please keep them in mind while cleaning out your closets and attics.

Call Joy Goethert at 412-731-1640 to have your bigger items picked up — or drop your smaller donations at the church (use the School St. door). No large furniture, tires, or clothes. ■

Pedal Pittsburgh

Sunday, 21-May-2006

Pedal Pittsburgh 2006 will be held on Sunday, 21-May. Pedal Pittsburgh, an event of the Community Design Center of Pittsburgh (CDCP), is the region's premier cycling event celebrating design, health, fitness, and urban lifestyles. A ride, not a race, Pedal Pittsburgh offers a variety of course options ranging from 15 to 60 miles to accommodate everyone from recreational riders to hard-core fitness enthusiasts. This fun, educational bicycle ride draws over 2,000 riders annually, and highlights the neighborhoods and design landmarks that make Pittsburgh unique.

For registration info, call the event hotline at 412-232-3545 or visit www.pedalpittsburgh.org to register online. ■

Square Wash Is Here!

1111 S. Braddock Avenue

Meyer Properties, a Regent Square business, has opened the Square Wash Laundromat. Check out the most bright and cheerful place to wash clothes in Pittsburgh. ■



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

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