

REGENT SQUARE

CIVIC ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

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

September 2006, Volume 26 Number 7

Join us in October at

The RSCA Board Meeting, 7:00 PM
Monday, October 2, 2006, at the
Wilkins School Community Center
located at the corner of Milton and
Charleston Avenues.

Nominations Sought for 2007-2009 Term

RSCA Board Elections

The RSCA is extending an open invitation to members to be considered for inclusion on the 2007 Board Ballot. There are four open board seats this year; each seat is for a three-year term. The current RSCA Board will vote on a slate of candidates at the Board meeting on Monday, September 11, 2006. Voting Ballots will be available in the October newsletter and online at www.regentsquare-RSCA.org

The RSCA Board is comprised of 12 community members who represent each of our four communities: Edgewood, Pittsburgh, Swissvale, and Wilkinsburg.

New skills and abilities, new energy and ideas, are valuable to our community. If you want to actively work to make a difference in our extraordinary community, consider joining the Board. As a Board member you must attend monthly board meetings, (currently on the first Monday of the month), participate on or chair a committee, and share the goal of promoting the RSCA and its mission.

You may submit your name or that of a neighbor via e-mail through the RSCA website or U.S. mail to the RSCA. Simply fill out the Board of Directors Nomination Form on pages 3-4 of this newsletter and return to Arch Pelley, current president and head of the Nominating Committee. All nominees will be contacted by a member of the nominating committee before the September Board meeting.

All nominations and associated information must be received by Saturday, September 9, 2006. ■

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Annual RSCA Halloween Party

Dress-Up Fun for Kids! Saturday, October 28, 2PM-4PM

The annual RSAC Children's Halloween Party will be held at the Wilkins School Community Center at the corner of Milton and Charleston. The party is designed for children 12 and under, although older children with good Halloween spirit may participate as well. There will be refreshments and treats available. A costume judging for all children will start shortly after 3PM. All winners will receive their very own pumpkin that they can decorate for the season.

The RSCA is actively looking for volunteers to help organize and staff the event. Please contact Maureen States at Neighborhood Realty Services, 412-241-4700, or send an e-mail to maureenstates@adelphia.net. ■

Volunteer!

In Search of Willing Hands for the RSCA Halloween Party

Get into the Halloween spirit! Help buy pumpkins, run games for the kids, welcome children, decorate for the party, pick up treats for the Goody Bags, stuff Goody Bags, contact Giant Eagle and Eat'n Park for food and Smiley cookie donations, help with crowd control at party, and/or help clean up, contact Maureen States at maureenstates@adelphia.net or 412-241-4700. ■

“Open House” at Mifflin Avenue UMC

In September

Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church, located at the corner of Mifflin Avenue and Whitney Street, welcomes everyone to join them during “Open House” on September 10th, 17th and 24th. September is “Open House” in churches throughout the United Methodist Church. Mifflin Avenue UMC is joining in the spirit of “Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors,” by inviting others to join them for:

- Sunday School (for all ages).....9:30AM-10:30AM
- Fellowship and Refreshments.....10:30AM-11AM
- Worship Service.....11:00AM
- Reception & Refreshments.....12:15PM

Childcare for infants to five-year-olds is available during Sunday School and the Worship Service. If you are looking for a church home, they ask you to plan to visit Mifflin Avenue UMC during “Open House” or on any Sunday. For information, please call 412-731-2511 or visit www.mifflinave.org ■

Classes Begin at WSCC

Week of September 11, 2006

The Wilkins School Community Center offers its early Fall program. Get back into the swing of things by taking a 6-week class or maybe a mini class that lasts an evening or two. There is plenty to choose from and if by chance you have not gotten a flyer of classes, please call the Center at 412-244-8458 or visit the website at www.wsccpgh.org. As always, they would like to hear your suggestions for classes that you would like to have offered at the center. In addition, volunteers are needed in any capacity that you wish to assist in. Please contact the Wilkins School Community Center. ■

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

- Arch Pelley – Board Nominations
- Carole Stanier – Film Festival
- Maureen States – Halloween Party
- Kate Froeschl – Pick Up After Dog
- Mary Kilgour – Open House
- Darrell Rapp – Tree Activities
- Mary Louise Turano – WSCC Classes
- Judy Werner – Holiday Gift Shop
- Alina Keebler – Home Safety

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

Events for September

August 26

Run Around the Square

Go to www.regentsquare.com for info.

September 2 | 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

September 9

RSCA Board Nominations Due

2007-2009 Board Term. See p1 for info.

Info: info@regentsquare-RSCA.org

September 11 | 7PM

RSCA Community Meeting

Regular 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

September 11

Newsletter Submissions Due

For October RSCA Newsletter.

Info: newsletter@regentsquare-RSCA.org

September 19 | 5:30-6:30 PM

RSCA Business Networking Group

General Mtg; all business owners are invited. *Location to be determined.*

Info: membership@regentsquare-RSCA.org or 412-371-2010

September 30 | 9:30AM-4PM

Wilkinsburg Tree Inventory

See p6 for details.

*Meet at the Second United Presbyterian Church,
300 Hay Street, Wilkinsburg*

Info: akelton@verizon.net or rappd99@aol.com

October 1

Last Day for 2006 RSCA Membership

Paid members for 2006 can vote in the RSCA Board Elections.

Send in your membership form and dues (p4).

Info: membership@regentsquare-RSCA.org or 412-371-2010

October 2 | 7PM

RSCA Community Meeting

Regular 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

RSCA Board Nomination Form

RSCA Board of Directors 2007-2009 Term

Would you or someone you know who lives in Regent Square be interested in:

- * encouraging and supporting endeavors which seek to improve the quality of life in Regent Square?
- * undertaking programs and initiating activities that serve the Regent Square community and enhance its values and assets?
- * encouraging and supporting endeavors which seek to improve the quality of life in Regent Square?
- * promoting responsible participatory citizenship among Regent Square residents and businesses?
- * maintaining liaisons, disseminating information, and implementing public policies beneficial to the welfare of Regent Square?
(* from the by-laws of the RSCA)

If the answer is YES to any of the above, then nominate him/her as a candidate to the RSCA Board for the 2007-2009 term by completing this form and mailing it in by Saturday, 9 September-2006:

Nominee's Name: _____

Nominee's Home Phone: _____

Nominee's Address: _____

Nominee's Evening/Weekend Phone: _____

Nominee's E-mail Address: _____

Nominee's Municipality: _____ Edgewood _____ Pittsburgh _____ Swissvale _____ Wilkinsburg

Nominee's relevant experience and/or interests:

Nominee is (check all that apply):

yourself

a friend or neighbor

an RSCA member

a Regent Square business owner

Two to three sentences describing why you or your nominee would make a great RSCA Board member and what you/he/she hope to gain by participating:

Submit your nomination(s) by September 9th!

To send in this form without a separate envelope:

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

Thank you for your involvement!

FROM: _____

**TO: Regent Square Civic Association
7604 Charleston Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15218-1265
ATTN: Board Nomination**

Board Ballots in October Newsletter

Look in the October Regent Square Civic Association newsletter for Board Ballots and be sure to vote! October 1st is the deadline for becoming 2006 RSCA members, so hurry up and send in your dues to be able to vote in this election.

Become a 2006 Member of the RSCA!

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

Resident(s) (# adults per household) @ \$10 each
Name _____
Name _____
Name _____

1 Business @ \$25 ea. **_____ Donation**
Business Name _____
Business Owner _____
Alternate Rep. _____
Business Website _____

Address _____
Municipality, State, Zip _____
E-mail _____
Phone _____

- Add me to the RSCA E-mail List
- Contact me to discuss or volunteer for: _____

- 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 info: 412-371-2010 or membership@regentsquare-RSCA.org

Keeping Safe and Sound

Tips on Keeping Your Home Safe from Intruders

We live in a great neighborhood! Unfortunately, we have to face the reality that there may be individuals who may take advantage of our feelings of safety and comfort. With this in mind, Pittsburgh Police Officers Matthew Mark and James Grill of the Burglary Division offer some home safety suggestions:

- First and foremost, know your neighbors and watch out for each other. Hold block parties. Attend community events.
- Call 911 if you see someone who doesn't belong acting suspiciously. If you feel uncertain when calling, preface it by saying "This is not an emergency, but I'm concerned about..." If it is an emergency, say so.
- Be cautious of those going door-to-door. Those who offer to cut your grass, rake your leaves, or shovel your walk may be casing your block.
- Report even minor thefts to the police. An increase in reports will lead to increased patrolling.
- Keep windows and doors visible from the street and from your neighbors' houses. Cut back shrubs and keep fences low.
- Keep doors and windows, especially first floor ones, locked when not at home or when you're not within sight of them. This includes garage windows.
- Don't leave purses, laptops, keys, or other valuables out where they are visible, whether in your house or your car. Use curtains or blinds on your entry door glass.
- Keep your home looking lived-in. Don't put your newspaper and mail service on hold when away; instead ask a neighbor to pick them up. Keep some blinds and curtains open.
- Set more than one item (TV, radio, lights) on timers so that there appears to be activity in various levels of your house at different times.
- If you have an alarm system, use it and set it to go off within 15 seconds of activation. Have the keypad installed right at your point of exit.
- If you don't have deadbolts on your entry doors, install one. Buy one with a 1" throw.
- Reinforce your entry doors and their jambs. Make sure that the strike plate screws go through the jamb into the studs. Look into 4" strike plates with 3" long screws for the jambs and reinforcing plates for the door itself.
- Install security lights in poorly lit areas. Locate them out of reach. Consider motion-sensors, on-at-dusk/off-at-dawn, and low-voltage outdoor lighting.
- Don't leave ladders, hammers, and screwdrivers outside.

Should you suspect that someone has gone into your house, do not go in. Instead, go to a neighbor's house and call the police immediately. Don't touch anything because there's a chance that fingerprints can be taken if your home has been broken into.

If you have any questions, feel free to call Officer Marks or Officer Grill at 412-323-7155. For more information, visit www.burglaryprevention.org. Keep safe! ■

Three Rivers Film Festival

Calling All Film Buffs, Cinema Enthusiasts, and Even Those Just Mildly Interested

November 3-16, 2006

Now in its 25th year, the Three Rivers Film Festival is one of the most eagerly awaited annual events in the city. 3RFF is sponsored by The Pittsburgh Filmmakers and one of its three city-wide venues is the Regent Square Theater in the heart of Regent Square.

This year's film schedule will feature more than 40 films from American independent, documentary, and international filmmakers. You can be a part of this exciting event!

Volunteer an evening of your time right here in the neighborhood. Find out some of the fun ways you can be part of maintaining this wonderful festival by contacting Carole Stanier at cstanier@verizon.net. Thanks!

See you at the movies! ■

Clean Up After Your Dog!

by Regent Square Resident Kate Froeschl

I was very disappointed to step in a large pile of dog feces in the middle of the sidewalk the same evening that I read the article "All Leashed Up" in the August 2006 issue of the RSCA Newsletter. My husband and I, along with my parents who were visiting from out of town, were making our way toward East End Avenue along the south side of Biddle Avenue.

It is very discouraging to me that dog owners are being praised but are still neglecting one of the basic responsibilities of dog companionship. The large population of dogs in our neighborhood makes this matter even more critical. I sincerely appreciate those people who make that small effort to clean up after their four-legged friends while out and about in the area.

There is still work to be done on the part of dog owners and friends alike to clean up after their canine companions. I know firsthand that this is not a pleasant task, but it is a key part of caring for a dog. Not only does it help to reduce the risk of spreading illness among dogs, but it also does wonders for the health and safety of the people who live, work, and play in Regent Square.

Please be a neighbor and clean up after your dog!

Ask those who look after your dog to take care of messes while the dog is in their charge. Help others to understand the importance of cleaning up after the dogs they care for.

Remember: Cleaning up after dogs is important – to keep our dogs healthy, to be courteous, and to avoid a potential fine of up to \$1,000! ■

Tree Activities in the Neighborhood

Tree Inventories Update and Upcoming Projects

Wilkinsburg Inventory

The counting and tabulating of street trees within the entire Nine Mile Run watershed is about to be completed, and we need your help to do it. On Saturday, September 30, the Nine Mile Run Watershed Association and the Wilkinsburg Citizens Advisory Committee on Shade Trees are partnering to conduct an inventory of street trees in Wilkinsburg. This event will complete the series of inventories in Edgewood, Pittsburgh, and Swissvale.

These completed inventories establish baselines for future planting and better management of one of our most valuable community resources — trees! This watershed-wide inventory will further show the importance of our green spaces and tree cover for stormwater management, air quality, property values, and quality of life.

No prior experience is necessary to help out. You'll learn how important trees are to our urban communities, how to identify trees from local experts, and then collect data that will contribute to the health and beauty of our neighborhood and the watershed.

We have had great times with the Edgewood Tree Blitz last fall and the Swissvale Tree Blitz in June — be a part of this next phase of the inventory. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. For more information or to register, please contact Jeff Bergman at 412-371-8779 or at jeff@ninemilerun.org.

Swissvale Inventory

On June 3, approximately 30 volunteers spent about five hours each contributing to the street tree inventory for the

Borough of Swissvale. These volunteers received a couple hours training for their task from several tree experts, as well as breakfast and lunch for their contribution!

The volunteers reported that there are 676 trees in the entire borough, with 271 of those trees being in the Swissvale portion of Regent Square. The largest tree was found on LaClair Ave — a Pin Oak with a diameter of 48.5 inches! Additional analysis of the data collected is proceeding to prioritize care and maintenance of the trees. Also, planting sites for new trees will be identified. And the one of the best parts is the borough is being very supportive of these efforts!

The inventory was led by volunteers with valuable support from the Nine Mile Run Watershed Association and the Borough of Swissvale. Businesses contributing to the event included McBroom's Beer Store and Hometown Tavern.

Upcoming Tree Activities

The RSCA Tree Committee is considering upcoming projects to care for and improve the trees in the neighborhood (e.g., planting, pruning, mulching). We welcome ideas and volunteers to help out on these projects. Please contact Ann Kelton (akelton@verizon.net) or Darrell Rapp (rappd99@aol.com, 412-247-7676). ■

Holiday Gift Shop

Planning Starts

Yearly Boutique Seeks Local Crafters and Cooks

The Wilkins School Community Center is already planning for the Holiday Gift Shop, which will run from November 3 to December 3, 2006. If you would like to assist with making this event a huge success, contact the Center. The gala opening night will be November 3 from 7-9PM. They would like to include as many local crafters as possible. If you are any kind of crafter or know of someone who would like to sell homemade crafts or food, please get in touch with Judy at 412-241-8126 or heyjudewern@aol.com. Please plan to attend our unique boutique.

Dates & Hours:

***Nov. 3–Dec. 3: Mon.–Thurs. 5PM–9PM,
Sat. 9AM–5PM***

Extra Days:

***Election Day, Nov. 7 & the Friday after
Thanksgiving Nov. 24, 9AM–5PM***

The advantages of this show include meeting other crafters, enjoying community spirit (they have lots of fun), making 70% or 80% of your price (you make 80% if you work six hours), being free to leave your items for the month (they set it up like a boutique and take care of it), and getting in the mood for the holidays. All details and forms are on the WSCC website at: www.wscpcgh.org.

Also, they are seeking a seamstress willing to make a couple crafty flags to put outside the center when the Holiday Gift Shop is open. They would love to hear from anyone interested and willing to help us out. Call or e-mail Judy at: 412-241-8126 or heyjudewern@aol.com. Participate, get involved, and enjoy the community spirit and fun. They hope to hear from you. ■



To contact the RSCA Newsletter:

Newsletter Committee
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7604 Charleston Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15218-1265
412-371-2010 E-mail: newsletter@regentsquare-RSCA.org
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