

REGENT SQUARE

CIVIC ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

October 2006, Volume 26 Number 8

Join us in October

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

Join us in November

The RSCA's Annual Open House,
7PM, Monday, November 6, 2006,
at the Map Room located on
South Braddock Avenue.

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WWW.REGENTSQUARE-RSCA.ORG

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

Dia De Los Muertos

A Little Bit of Mexico Comes to Regent Square

At the end of October, Regent Square residents and business owners will get to participate in various activities related to Mexico's Dia De Los Muertos (Day of the Dead). In spite of its name, Dia De Los Muertos is actually a very happy holiday during which families celebrate and honor the lives of deceased relatives. Holiday activities, usually held on November 1st & 2nd, include shrines, processions and foods that date back to ancient Aztec times.

David Green, owner of Sweetie Sweetie Bakery, is hoping that you will join in and help celebrate Regent Square's first annual Dia De Los Muertos festivities. He and members of the Wilkins School Community Center (WSCC) and the Center for Creative Play (CFCP) are planning activities that include:

- Family baking workshop where traditional sugar skulls will be made and decorated — Monday, October 16th at 7PM
- Procession starting at the Richmond/Sanders parklet and ending at the WSCC, where participants will leave family mementoes at a traditionally decorated shrine — Friday, October 27th at 7PM
- Mexican specials at various Regent Square businesses — Saturday, October 28th & Sunday, October 29th
- Special holiday decorations (made by children from the CFCP and other local schools) shown throughout the Regent Square business district.

For more information, see flyers that will be posted at Sweetie Sweetie Bakery and other local businesses, and check the WSCC and RSCA websites (www.wscppgh.org; www.regentsquare-RSCA.org). ■

The Dia De Los Muertos event is one of several initiatives decided on at the 2005 Braddock Avenue Charette. Among the goals of this brainstorming session, organized by the RSCA Business Networking Group and Braddock Avenue Committee, was to bring positive attention to Regent Square's business community and at the same time involve area residents. A special thanks to David Green for taking on this event. The RSCA hopes that area residents will join him in this celebration.

Annual RSCA Halloween Party

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

The annual RSCA 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. ■

Trick-or-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. ■

Events at WSCC

Beginning Monday, September 11, 2006

Class Fees from \$50 and under

Contact: Charlana Thorn 412-243-0207

Six Week Classes: Akido Kokikai, Karate, T'ai Chi Ch'uan, Beginner and Intermediate Yoga, Aerobics and Fitness, Introduction to Argentine Tango, French Conversation, Introduction to Irish Gaelic Language, Watercolor and Oil Painting, Ballet, Tap, and Jazz Dance Instruction

Children's Classes: Spanish for Children and Parents, Music Together, and Creative Movement

Mini Classes: Indian Cooking will be announced, Sugar Skull Baking for Dia De Los Muertos on October 16.

Wine Classes: White wines from Germany and Austria on Tuesday, October 3rd at 7:00PM and Chilean Wines on Tuesday, October 10th at 7:00PM.

Book Discussion Group - "The Secret Life of Bees" by Sue Monk Kidd meets the 1st Thursday of every month.

All Classes are held at the Wilkins School Community Center, 7604 Charleston Avenue, Swissvale, PA. For Registration and inquiries call 412-244 -8458. ■

RSCA's Annual Open House

Get to Know Our Business Owners

You're invited to the RSCA's Annual Open House on Monday, November 6th at 7PM in the Map Room restaurant. Come and get to know our local business owners who will be our special guests for the evening. Hear about what's being planned for our business district. Share in appetizers and refreshments provided by the Map Room. More details still to come via this newsletter, the RSCA website (www.regentsquare-RSCA.org) or the RSCA e-mail List (register through the

Contributions: This edition was edited by Alana Rykala and Jared Delaney. Thanks go to contributing writers from the community or those who provided information for the newsletter. This includes:

- Carrie Webber – Board Elections
- Mary Kilgour – Open House
- Maureen States – Halloween Party
- Pat Schuetz – Port-o-Let
- Mary Louise Turano – WSCC Classes
- Judy Werner – Holiday Gift Shop
- Alina Keebler – Dia De Los Muertos

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 October

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

October 7 | 9AM-12PM

Food Drive

Non-perishable food donations collected for the Wilkinsburg Food Pantry. Drop off items at church office entrance. Food Collection FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH.

*Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church
905 Mifflin Avenue*

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

October 21 | 9AM-3PM

Rummage Sale/Bake Sale

Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church

October 28 | 2PM-4PM

Annual Halloween Party

*Wilkins School Community Center
7604 Charleston Ave.*

Contact: Maureen States at maureen-states@adelphia.net

Events for November

November 3 | 7PM-9PM

Holiday Gift Shop Opens

See article on page 4.

November 6 | 8PM

RSCA's Annual Open House

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Regent Square Board Nominees

Election Ballot on p.4 of this Newsletter

John Barbera Jr. is an architect of Penner & Associates Architects and has several years of experience in historic preservation architecture. John is currently working on a model for urban infill. John has a passion for his community and economic development and he looks forward to using his experience to benefit the Regent Square community.

Liz Caplan has been a resident in Regent Square for over 15 years. She is committed to making our community better in the future. Liz has volunteered for the Run Around The Square and as a committee member has succeeded in obtaining the volunteers that make the Run a success every year.

As a realtor, she enjoys supporting the many community activities that improve our environment and the value of our homes. As she focuses on urban environments, Liz supports groups such as Sustainable Pittsburgh and Nine Mile Run. She also publishes a monthly newsletter that educates homeowners on how to be more energy conscious. Liz would like to put her skills to work as a board member for the Regent Square Civic Association.

Patricia DiRienzo is a six year resident of Regent Square and has served on the Run Around the Square committee and participated in the WSCC as a vendor. Pat works in Professional Development at the Allegheny Intermediate Unit and she looks forward to using her organization and leadership skills to assist the Regent Square community. Pat enjoys living in Regent Square and considers it a "great" neighborhood. She feels compelled to give something back to the community.

Melissa McDonough filled a vacancy on the board in 2005. She grew up in Edgewood and though she moved away for some time, she returned because the area had so many features that she enjoys such as Frick Park, convenience to town, the Regent Square Theater, bus routes, etc. She believes that Regent Square is just a great area. Melissa works at PNC and bought her house in April 2002. Melissa has worked at the Halloween Party, planted trees along South Braddock, helped with Yard Sale and volunteered for the Run Around the Square. She will co-chair the Yard Sale in 2007.

Kathleen D. Schneider is an attorney and certified public accountant and has had her own firm in Regent Square, the Law Offices of Kathleen D. Schneider, for approximately 18 years.

Kathleen has been an essential member of the RSCA Board for three years. She has served as Treasurer and has also served on the Finance and Bylaws Committees. Her duties have included handling receipts of income and disbursements for the organization, including providing accountability for the Community Development grants totaling \$17,500. She also re-wrote the organization's bylaws. Kathleen would be pleased to serve for another term on the RSCA Board.

Carole Stanier has been a Regent Square resident for six years, since retiring as principal of a Broward County, FL public school for the gifted/talented and returning home.

Carole serves on the Communications Committee, the Braddock Avenue Initiative, the Membership Committee, the Grants Writing Committee, the Three Rivers Film Festival Committee and acts as a Liaison to the community, the Wilkins School Community Center, and the new Charter School. She was recently asked to serve on the Board of the new charter school.

Serving on the board has allowed Carole the chance to make friends, build connections and identify opportunities that benefit all those of us who live and/or work in this wonderful neighborhood. With your help, she hopes to continue.

Alan Zemek is passionate about many of the features which make our neighborhood wonderful and unique. Alan has the time and strong interest to work on issues regarding our neighborhood, such as the cobblestone streets.

Alan is a family man and enjoys the activities that occur in the neighborhood, such as the Run Around the Square, Halloween Party and the Easter Egg Hunt. Alan would like to contribute his organizational skills to the Regent Square Civic Association by serving on the RSCA board. ■

Be Sure to VOTE!

Complete the ballot on p.4 and

- Mail it in by the November 27, 2006 deadline;
- E-mail your vote to president@regentsquare-RSCA.org (PDF available at www.regentsquare-RSCA.org); or
- Turn it in at the November 6, 2006, RSCA Meeting at 7PM

Board of Directors 2007-2009 Term · Election Ballot

Regent Square Civic Association (RSCA)

Only members of the Regent Square community who are 18 years old and over and have paid their 2006 RSCA Membership Dues as of October 1, 2006, may vote in this election.

Please note that you have three opportunities to vote: Complete this ballot and

- Mail it in by the November 27, 2006 deadline;
- E-mail your vote to president@regentsquare-RSCA.org (PDF available at www.regentsquare-RSCA.org); or
- Turn in your ballot at the November 6, 2006, RSCA Board Meeting at 7PM

The RSCA will accept unsigned ballots submitted in person, but please note that your name must be checked off against the 2006 Membership Roster for your ballot to be accepted. Ballots received after November 27, 2006 cannot be counted.

The RSCA Board of Directors consists of 12 members. RSCA Bylaws permit one-third of the Directors to be elected each year for a three-year term. Provided that votes are cast by a least 10% of the Members, the four individuals receiving the most votes will be elected to the Board for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2007. (You may duplicate this form for multiple voters.)

ELECTION BALLOT – ANNUAL ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

I, _____, being a member in good standing of the Regent Square Civic Association hereby vote for the following named persons to serve as Directors for a three-year period from January 1, 2007, to December 31, 2009. I am signaling my selection by checking up to four (4) of the following candidates.

John Barbera Jr.

Liz Caplan

Patricia DiRienzo

Melissa McDonough

Kathleen D. Schneider

Carole Stainer

Alan Zemek

Write in _____

RSCA Member's Signature

Attention Shoppers

Holiday Gift Shop Opens November 3rd

The Holiday Gift Shop is a month-long event to give local crafters an outlet for their talents. It is also a unique boutique for local residents to do some holiday shopping. Opening night is coming on Nov. 3rd from 7-9PM. There will be lots of new and interesting local, hand-made crafts. There is plenty of time to let them know about your area of expertise.

How can you get involved? They are looking for food vendors or craft vendors who might want to sell something for one day or part of a day, as well as for the whole month or part of the month. Flexible arrangements can be made. The crafter or cook will receive 80% of the profits. They are also looking for volunteers to set up, work, and clean up. Please contact Judy at heyjudewern@aol.com or 412-241-8126. She'll be glad to listen and arrange any ideas you might have.

If you're computer-literate, all specific information is on the events link at www.wsccpgh.org. If not, Judy will be glad to arrange delivery of guidelines. ■



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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Port-o-Let for All Seasons

Frick Park Restrooms Get Maintenance All Year Long

Anyone who strolls, jogs, bicycles, walks a dog, plays ball, or practices the bagpipe in Frick Park does so with much greater peace of mind for knowing that the public amenity near the tennis courts at Forbes and Braddock is in place and available for use. For several years we have seen this basic modern convenience appear with the spring flowers at the start of Little League practice, and vanish again in the fall with the autumn leaves. To those of us who use the park in every season of the year, this never made sense.

Now, thanks to the intervention of Doug Shields, our representative on Pittsburgh City Council, the portable toilet will remain in place and receive maintenance all year around.

As with any public facility, the nihilists among us will probably continue to target this toilet for destruction. Someone routinely covers its walls with grievous, ungrammatical prose, and about once a summer someone overturns it.

This year, Toilet Person struck on Wednesday night, August 23, leaving the unit on its side amid a horrible mess. A call to 911 early Thursday morning brought speedy attention, however, and the toilet was righted and back in service by Friday.

Obviously it's hard to catch anyone in the act of vandalizing a toilet, but if you see a problem you can call the police and they will rectify it. You can also call the number of the contractor, which is painted right on the front. ■