

# REGENT SQUARE

CIVIC ASSOCIATION  
NEWSLETTER

Nov/Dec 2006, Volume 27 Number 9

## Join us in December

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

## Join us in January

The RSCA Board Meeting, 7PM  
Monday, January 8, 2007, at the  
Wilkins School Community Center  
located at the corner of Milton and  
Charleston Avenues.

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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.

## Holiday Toy Drive

### *Sixth Annual Toy Drive for Regent Square Holiday*

It's time to start thinking about the sixth annual Holiday Toy Drive in the Regent Square community! Community residents are asked for donations of new, unwrapped toys for distribution to a local agency that serves children of need in our area. This year, the toy drive will run from November 24 through December 15, and we will have two drop-off locations: Neighborhood Realty, 1028 S. Braddock Avenue (across from the movie theatre) and United Studios of Self Defense, 1115 S. Braddock Avenue. We offer 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 we collected more than 160 toys and books — together with other community organizations, these donations helped make holiday dreams come true for hundreds of children. Some gift suggestions for children in different age groups are listed below.

**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:** Buildings 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.

*(Continued on p4.)*

## 2006 RSCA Open House

### *Regent Square Residents Meet and Mingle*

Meet and mingle they did — the more than 60 Regent Square residents and business owners who attended the 2006 RSCA Open House held on Monday, November 6 from 7 to 9 PM in the Map Room. After a brief business meeting and a recap of the RSCA Business Networking Group's initiatives, the Braddock Avenue Committee presented its recent selections for trash receptacles, benches, and tree guards for the Braddock Avenue corridor. All this was followed by much lively conversation between delicious bites of Map Room specialties and Sweetie Sweetie pastries. Special thanks to Marjorie Landale and David Green, respectively.

While our local business owners were the guests-of-honor at this event, everyone was pleased to get to meet Swissvale Mayor Danine Swartzweller and City of Pittsburgh Mayor Luke Ravenstahl and his wife Erin. The RSCA would like to thank them for taking time from their busy schedules to attend our Open House.

The Open House Planning Committee included Glennen Greer, Alina Keebler, and Alana Rykala. ■

# Princesses, Superheroes, and More Turn Out for Fun!

## **RSCA Annual Halloween Party**

The Regent Square Civic Association's annual Halloween party was a great success! It was held on Saturday, October 28, 2006. The turnout was fantastic, and the costumes of the children were creative and showed great imagination. Activities included face painting, pumpkin decorating and pin-the-broom-on-the-witch.

A Thank You needs to go to David Green, the owner of Sweetie Sweetie, for donating the cookies to the children and to Neighborhood Reality Services for Sponsoring Mike the Balloon Guy and providing the photos of those in attendance. Special thanks go to Kay Wetzels who made the arrangements for the space at the Wilkins School Community Center.

In addition, there was a great response of support from many individuals who worked to set up, host, run the activities, and clean up after the event. Thank you to the following helpful individuals: Brian Talbot, Julie Peoples, Roseanne Fowler, Nancy Richards, Mary Anne Kirby, Patty Hesch, Lazae LaSpina, Kathy Clevenger, Lisa Turner, Lynda Kregar, Douglas Stewart, and Mary Jo Breen.

Maureen States, Chairperson of the Halloween Party Committee, would like to thank everyone for their participation and help in making this year's Halloween party a great success! ■

## Events for December

**December 2 | 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*

**December 4 | 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*

**December 10 | 4PM**

### **Christmas Concert**

*Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church  
See article on page 4.*

**December 19 | 5:30-6:30PM**

### **RSCA Business Networking**

*RSCA Business Networking Group,  
Location TBA  
Info: Cathy Brennan, 412-242-7785,  
cathy@acappellamktg.com.*

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

- Cari Marty – Toy Drive
- Alina Keebler – Open House
- Maureen States – Halloween Party
- Elizabeth Daigl – Trash-a-Thon
- Mary Kilgour – Mandolin Concert
- Judy Werner – Holiday Gift Shop
- Alina Keebler – E-Mail News

Articles may be submitted for publication via post or e-mail. 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 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.



# Local School Kicks Off School Year with Trash-a-Thon

## *Pittsburgh Urban Christian School Students Pick Up Trash Along Penn Avenue*

On Friday, October 13, 2006, approximately 150 students, teachers, and parent volunteers from the Pittsburgh Urban Christian School (PUCS) collected trash in Wilkinsburg.

PUCS worked with the Nine Mile Run Watershed Association, PA Cleanways, and the Wilkinsburg Borough to organize this event, which served as a community service opportunity and as a fundraiser for the school's scholarship fund.

On the Trash-A-Thon day, PUCS students worked along Penn Avenue and a portion of the East Busway, collecting trash before it polluted the Nine Mile Run Watershed. The whole school (grades K-8) split into clean-up units comprised of students from each grade, teachers, and parent volunteers.

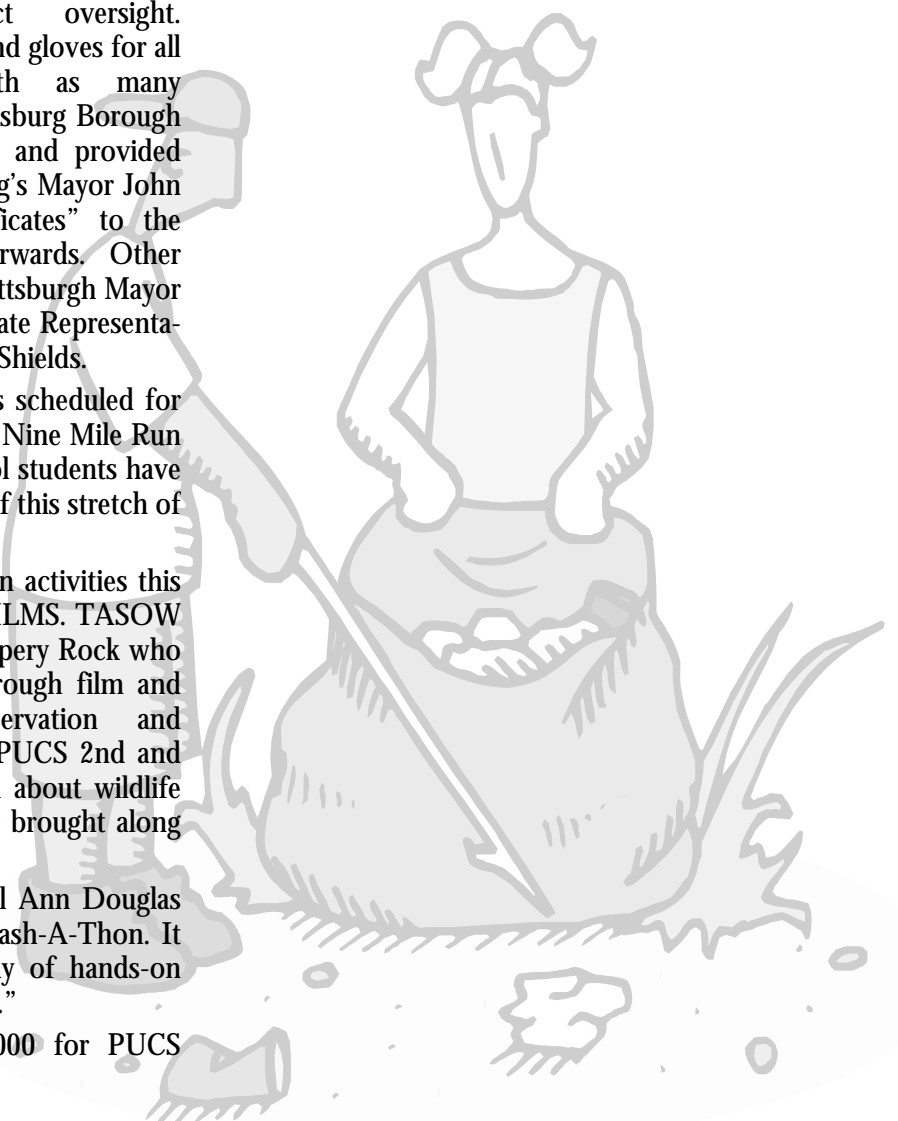
The Nine Mile Run Watershed Association provided encouragement and general project oversight. PA Cleanways donated orange safety vests and gloves for all the students participating, along with as many garbage bags as could be filled. The Wilkinsburg Borough was also supportive of the Trash-A-Thon and provided police supervision for the event. Wilkinsburg's Mayor John Thompson presented "Thank You Certificates" to the children at a celebration luncheon afterwards. Other government offices invited to attend were Pittsburgh Mayor Luke Ravenstahl, State Senator Jim Ferlo, State Representative Joe Preston and City Councilman Doug Shields.

Further cleanup along Franklin Avenue was scheduled for October 14 and was again sponsored by the Nine Mile Run Watershed Association. PUCS Middle School students have committed to help with continued cleaning of this stretch of Penn Avenue for the rest of the school year.

An interesting addition to the Trash-A-Thon activities this year was a seminar presented by TASOW FILMS. TASOW is a group of high school students from Slippery Rock who focus their energy on educating people through film and educational presentations about conservation and preserving wildlife. TASOW spoke to the PUCS 2nd and 3rd graders on October 5 to educate them about wildlife and how trash affects animal habitats. They brought along with them several reptiles!

Pittsburgh Urban Christian School Principal Ann Douglas stated, "We were very excited about the Trash-A-Thon. It gelled perfectly with our school philosophy of hands-on learning and service to the urban community."

Last year, the Trash-A-Thon raised \$13,000 for PUCS scholarships. ■



## Toy Drive

(Continued from p1.)

**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).

**What 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.

Please remember that only new, unwrapped items can be accepted. Thank you for your support! If you have any questions, please contact Cari Marty at 412.243.2358 or carimarty@hotmail.com. ■

## Get It in the Newsletter!

### *Something You Want to See?*

Do you have...a favorite thing about the Square? A pet peeve? Thoughts on how to keep a good thing going in the Square? Ideas to improve upon an initiative already in the works? A *thank you* to a neighbor or business? Share it in the RSCA Newsletter!

Submissions are accepted the first Monday of every month for the following month's issue.

*The RSCA Newsletter Committee reserves the right to accept, reject, or edit any newsletter submission.*



### 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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## Christmas Concert

### *Mandolin Magic in Regent Square*

Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church will present a Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 10, 2006, at 4PM. The concert will feature the world-renowned mandolin player, Charley Rappaport, and his Three Rivers Mandolin Consort, along with the Pittsburgh Mandolin Orchestra. Tickets will be available at the door. ■

## Still Some Shopping Days Left!

### *Holiday Gift Shop Open for Holiday Ideas*

The Holiday Gift Shop at the Wilkins Community Center in Regent Square at Charleston and Braddock opened on November 3 and will close after December 3.

Hours of operation are Monday-Thursday from 5PM-9PM. Go and enjoy unique gifts and delicious food. If you have any questions or would like more information you can call 412.241.8126, e-mail heyjudewern@aol.com or visit [www.wscppgh.org](http://www.wscppgh.org).

## Regent Square News Goes Virtual

### *E-mail List Keeps Residents and Business Owners in the Loop*

To find out about the latest events impacting our community, go online to ([www.regentsquare-RSCA.org/RSCAlist.htm](http://www.regentsquare-RSCA.org/RSCAlist.htm)) and take a few minutes to register to one of the RSCA's e-mail lists:

- the General List for residents and
- the Business List for our store- and home-based business owners.

You will then receive a confirming e-mail to which you will need to respond to be subscribed. You can unsubscribe at any time by going back to the link above. Please note that AOL e-mail addresses may not work due to their filtering software.

Also, do be assured that e-mail addresses are kept confidential and used only for sending information concerning Regent Square and the RSCA.

Special thanks to Regent Square resident Kitty Brunkhorst, who volunteers in this effort to keep you informed. ■