



RSCA
REGENT SQUARE CIVIC ASSOCIATION

October 2009, Volume 29 Number 4

Join us in December

RSCA Board Meeting, Monday, Nov. 7, 7 p.m. at the Wilkins School Community Center, 7604 Charleston Ave.

Check Out the RSCA Website for:

RSCA Board Members
Regent Square Business Listing
RSCA Board Minutes
Archived Email Blasts
Calendar of Events
Community Resources

WWW.REGENTSQUARE-RSCA.ORG

The voice of the Regent Square Civic Association (RSCA), a not-for-profit 501(c)4 volunteer-led community organization, serving Regent Square's diverse residential and business community.

Run Around the Square Results

27th Annual 5K Brings Runners, Dogs, & Celebrity Look-a-likes

About 2,000 participants turned out for the 27th annual Run Around the Square 5K and 1.5-mile Fun Run/Walk, bringing festive moods together on a glorious day. The event on Aug. 22 was one of the largest in the race's history, thanks to the ease of online registration that was introduced in 2008.

The 5K race drew 1,575 runners and the 1.5-mile event brought in 375 walkers and runners and 44 dogs. While most of the runners were from the Pittsburgh area, the race also attracted folks from as far away as Baltimore, Md.; Littleton, Colo.; Orem, Utah; Ypsilanti, Mich.; Ithaca, N.Y.; and even Brockville, Ontario.

As always, a variety of entertainers were posted throughout both race courses, playing steel drums, electric piano, violins, sax, trumpet, tuba, steel guitar and bagpipe as well as creating balloon creations for kids. New to the race this year was the Waverly Presbyterian singers, which regaled runners on the Frick playground near the church at Forbes and Braddock avenues.

First Commonwealth Bank took the prize for hosting the best water stop, with one of its members dressed as Steeler great Troy Polamalu. As always, the race included the popular beer and champagne stop and free-flowing beer and Hot dogs from McBroom Beer Distributor and D's Six Pax & Dogs at the finish line.

Proceeds of the race benefit the Regent Square Civic Association, Wilkins School Community Center and Frick Park Environmental Center.

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RSCA Board Member Elections

Our Community Needs More Members Like You

This year, the Regent Square Civic Association's board does have some specific needs. Most importantly, a treasurer is needed. While professional accounting or financial background is most desirable, it is not required. We are also looking for a local business owner to provide a link between the RSCA and the business networking group.

If you are interested in being on the ballot but have questions, please contact any existing board member. Additional information can be found on the RSCA website (see "Board Members Info"). Candidates must be a member of the RSCA, serve three-year terms, attend monthly meetings and must be active on at least one committee.

The deadline to submit nominations is Thursday, November 5, 2009. You may submit your nominations via e-mail, through the RSCA website or U.S. mail to the RSCA. Simply fill out the Nomination Form on page 3 of this newsletter (or online at www.regentsquare-rsca.org) and return to Carrie Webber, President of the RSCA. Voting Ballots, including candidate profiles, will be available in the November newsletter and online at www.regentsquare-RSCA.org. If you have questions, call Carrie Webber at 412-371-2895. ■

Environmental Charter School

Parent Community Organization

One year ago, The Environmental Charter School at Frick Park (ECS) opened its doors to some 260 students from Regent Square and adjacent neighborhoods. In that year, the school had one of the most successful beginnings in the history of charter schools in Pennsylvania. With an innovative environmental science-based curriculum, highly satisfactory first-year test scores, and enormous support from community businesses, foundations and other non-profit organizations, it's not very surprising that the media and leading educators are paying attention to what is happening in Regent Square. A key to the school's success is its student body. With a percentage of visible-minority students greater than that of the City of Pittsburgh as a whole, ECS is a far more genuinely diverse school than most in the region – its curriculum celebrates this cultural diversity by emphasizing the importance of both natural and urban environments. Our city is our environment and ECS strives to reflect this simple fact in its care for natural areas such as Frick Park and in its relations with the residential streets nearby.

A diverse student body is crucially important to the school's mission, but inevitably this means that ECS students arrive each morning from a variety of different neighborhoods, whether by bus or in the family car. This fact has created more traffic on the streets adjacent to the school during the short periods at the beginning and end of the school day than some of the residents of those streets are used to. Unfortunately, for ECS to have a diverse student body some students have to be brought to the school by car or bus – if the school drew its students solely from Regent Square, there would be fewer vehicles at 8:00 and 3:30, but the diversity which is central to ECS' mission would be impossible.

The entire ECS community – the Board of Trustees, teaching staff, and Parent Community Organization – have been very sensitive to the complaints of some nearby residents. A plan for traffic and parking has been developed for this coming school year, which includes the services of an off-duty police officer to direct traffic and enforce parking restrictions on the adjacent blocks of Henrietta, Milton and Laclair. Moreover, all parents will be informed of and asked to agree in writing to new school policies designed to avoid inconvenience to our neighbors.

If you believe in public education, local schools, and educational innovation, you will believe that ECS is an asset to Regent Square and the Pittsburgh region. The school has brought more traffic to its adjacent streets as an inevitable consequence of its commitment to a diverse student body. Like any large undertaking, there are unforeseen difficulties in the early stages, and ECS is both committed to resolving those problems and being a valuable part of Regent Square for many years to come. ■

Contributions - This edition was edited by Jared Delaney, article collection by Liz Caplan, and layout by Alana Rykala Delaney. Thanks go to community members who contributed articles or information for the newsletter.

The RSCA welcomes the submission of articles and calendar events to this Newsletter. Deadline for submission is the first Monday of each month for the next month's issue. Submission does not guarantee publication. The RSCA reserves the right to decline any submission or to edit it for style, length and/or content. For detailed submission guidelines, visit www.regentsquare-RSCA.org, or email newsletter@regentsquare-RSCA.org or call 371-2010 for a copy.

Events Calendar

Sunday Oct. 25 | 9:30-11:30AM

Parkway Interchange Cleanup

Help clean the Edgewood/Swissvale Exit of litter.

Location: Meet in the parking lot below Center for Creative Play.

Info: To register please contact Jared Delaney at 412-860-3522 or keepitclean.rs@gmail.com.

Monday Nov 9 | 6:00-8:00PM

RSCA Annual Meeting

This year's RSCA Annual Meeting has been combined with the Business Networking Group's Light Up Night celebration.

Location: The newly renovated D's Loft

Info: If you have questions, call Carrie Webber at 412-371-2895

Monday Dec. 7 | 7:00PM

RSCA Board Meeting

Regular monthly meeting of RSCA Board.

Location: Wilkins School Community Center, 7604 Charleston Ave.

Info: To request an agenda item, call 412-371-2010 or e-mail president@regentsquare-RSCA.org.

Yard Debris Dropoff

City of Pittsburgh Residents can drop off yard debris at no charge (leaves, grass, plants, tree trimmings, branches, shrubs, etc.) at the Drop-Off Centers at N. Dallas and Hamilton Ave. or Melancton Ave. near Second Ave. between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call 412-665-3609 or 412-422-6524 for Saturday hours.

Neighborhood Food Drive

The Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church and their Neighborhood Food Drive will be having some changes. Starting on November 1, 2009, they will collect food donations every Sunday, between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. and Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

RSCA Board Nomination Form

RSCA Board of Directors 2010-2012 Term

Would you like to support your local community and contribute to the improvement of our neighborhood? If so, nominate yourself for a position on the RSCA board.

Interested candidates should complete this form and mail it to the RSCA by Thursday, November 5, 2009:

Is the nominee a member of the RSCA? Yes No

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 is (check all that apply): yourself friend or neighbor Regent Square business owner

#of years in Regent Square: _____

Please write a short paragraph detailing the nominee's experience and/or interests, how the nominee would make a positive addition to the RSCA Board and what the nominee hopes to gain by participating on the board. This profile will be included in the newsletter. For additional information or questions, call Board President, Carrie Webber at 412-371-2895.

Submit your nomination(s) by November 5th! Remember that October 1st is the deadline for becoming 2009 RSCA members and be eligible to vote in this election.

Thank you for your involvement!
Regent Square Civic Association
7604 Charleston Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15218-1265
ATTN: Board Nomination

Parkway Clean-Up

Where the Litter Meets the Road

Regent Square residents are invited to participate in a cleanup of the parkway interchange off of the Edgewood/Swissvale Exit on Sunday, Oct. 25 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. This cleanup will be one of many Redd Up events held in the Pittsburgh area as part of a citywide fall cleanup. Those volunteering will be picking up litter in the grassy areas around the interchange so please dress appropriate to weather conditions and be prepared to get muddy. Gloves and orange vests will be provided. Meet in the parking lot below the former Center for Creative Play. Please register for the cleanup by contacting Jared Delaney by phone (412-860-3522) or e-mail (keepitclean.rs@gmail.com). ■

Wilkins School Community Center

Changes, Improvements & New Classes

The WSCC now has Wi-Fi. That is not all that is new at the center. There are many new classes and events this fall. Brush up Your Bridge on Monday evenings from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Regent Square residents Kathy Mulligan and Dan McKinley will coordinate this class, which is designed for people who already know the rules but may not have played in a while. Christine Manges will teach a beginner Colonial Rug Braiding class on Tuesday nights from 7:00-9:00 p.m. This is a uniquely American Craft that started out of necessity and has grown into an art form. With simple tools and wool clothing cast-offs, you can make a beautiful and useful object that will be an heirloom for your family. Learn printmaking with Francine Vandenberg in a two-session workshop. Cynthia Hill of Third Day Luxury Soaps returns to teach Soap Making From Scratch. Have you ever wanted to learn to waltz? Wayne Albright and Gaye Fifer have been waltzing together and teaching waltzing all over the country. They will offer a beginner workshop, and no partner is necessary which will be followed by an open waltz session for all levels of dancers. Wine tasting classes fill fast, act now. Remember to check out our Zumba, Yoga, and Hip Hop classes. Host your parties at our center. Small and big rooms and a kitchen are available for hourly rental. For more details, visit www.wscppgh.org or contact wscppgh@yahoo.com or 412-244-8458. ■

Three Rivers Film Fest

The Movies Are Released

The 2009 Three Rivers Film Festival, presented by the Pittsburgh Filmmakers, runs November 6-21. In its 28th year, the festival is one of the most eagerly anticipated events in cultural Pittsburgh, featuring independent American cinema, fascinating new documentaries, and critically acclaimed international films. The Festival will host visiting filmmakers, informal discussions, a symposium, live music, parties, and much more.

The Opening Night will feature the following much anticipated films:

Precious: Based on the novel *Push* by Sapphire

At the Harris Theater

Already getting Oscar buzz, *Precious* is a vibrant, raw and resoundingly hopeful film about the human capacity to grow and overcome. It recently won the coveted Audience Choice Award at Toronto, and has earned unanimous praise at every film festival screening this year, including Sundance, Cannes and New York. Set in Harlem in 1987, it is the story of Claireece “Precious” Jones, a 16-year-old girl born into a life of abuse. Though school is a place of chaos, a patient teacher helps her to begin a journey that will lead her from darkness, pain and powerlessness to self-determination. A courageous and uncompromising work, it features unforgettable performances by Mo’Nique, Sherri Shepherd, Mariah Carey, Lenny Kravitz and outstanding newcomer Gabourey Sidibe in the title role. Co-presented with the August Wilson Center. Print courtesy of Lionsgate Films. (Lee Daniels; USA; 2009; 109 min)

If It Ain’t Broke Break It

At Melwood Screening Room

It’s hard to say just who the star is in this feel-good comedy made in Pittsburgh. Is it the outstanding local actors: Adrienne Wehr, Patrick Jordan, Dave Petti? Is it the well-known celebs from stage, screen, and television: Steve Guttenberg; Rondell Sheridan; Cheetah Girl Sabrina Bryan; Bill Nunn; or Richard Kind? Is it the beautiful landmarks of Pittsburgh (which includes Hartwood Acres, Schenley Park, the gorgeous skyline and more)? In fact, it’s the affable Dr. Ravi – the writer, director and lead – who plays himself. This is the 3rd indie feature (*I’m a Schizophrenic* and *So Am I*, Dr. Ravi and Mr. Hyde) from this real physician. Part Ghandi, part Don Knotts, Ravi is as philosophical as he is goofy and the result is absolutely infectious. The premise in this farce-with-a-message is that when Ravi is told he has six months to live, he decides to improve the lives of six people in that time. But misunderstandings rule the day, plans go awry, and good intentions backfire. Print courtesy of Panorama Entertainment. (Ravi Godse; USA/Pittsburgh; 2009)

The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus

At Regent Square

The title suggests fable and adventure – and this audacious film delivers – but it’s also a glorious tribute to the late Heath Ledger. Director Terry Gilliam made the inspired decision to bring in Johnny Depp, Jude Law and Colin Farrell to amplify Ledger’s last, unfinished role. Set in present day London, this gorgeous morality tale tells the story of Dr. Parnassus (Christopher Plummer), a sideshow magician who pulls audience members onstage and sends them through a magic mirror into another world. But as a young man, Parnassus made a pact with the devil (Tom Waits, sporting a pencil-thin moustache), and began a centuries-long battle in which Parnassus is granted powers – immortality and the ability to guide the imaginations of others – but at great cost to himself and others. With a stellar cast and dazzling effects, this is the one everyone will be talking about. Print courtesy of Sony Pictures Classics. (Terry Gilliam; 2009; Canada/UK/France; 122 min)

And on the Closing Night:

Man With A Movie Camera with Alloy Orchestra – LIVE!

At Regent Square

The Film Festival welcomes back Boston’s Alloy Orchestra. For nearly 20 years they have performed their original scores for silent films around the world. Recently they acquired a gorgeous new print of this masterpiece from a Moscow film archive. Alloy wrote the score with the assistance of director Dziga Vertov’s own composer’s notes. A ground-breaking documentary – and banned at one time in the Soviet Union – it has since become one of the most celebrated and influential films of all time. Vertov took to the streets of Moscow, Kiev, and Odessa to fashion this exhilarating, day-in-the-life portrait of an industrialized society on the rise. The result is one of the most innovative films of the silent era, a kinetic ode to urbanization. Astonishingly filmed and edited, it remains fresh today – and is enhanced by Alloy’s exciting live score. (Dziga Vertov; USSR; 1929; 68 min)

The Pittsburgh Filmmakers are also hosting the VIP Opening Night pre-party on November 6, from 5:30-7:00, a pre-fest cocktail party at Concept Art Gallery, next to Regent Square Theater, with local actors from festival films. (For information about tickets, call Laura at 412-681-5449, ext. 206.) ■

2009 Drive for \$5K Kicks Off

Selling Raffle Tickets to a House Near You!

In an effort to raise additional operating funds for 2010, the RSCA Board has approved a fundraising effort called The Drive for \$5K. This year's goal is to raise \$5,000 or more by selling raffle tickets. The money raised will help support RSCA efforts on behalf of the Regent Square community. A portion of the proceeds has already been earmarked for streetscape improvements along the Braddock Avenue business corridor next spring. Tickets will be sold for \$10 each or 5 tickets for \$40. Tickets will be available for sale through your RSCA Board Members and at the 2009 Regent Square Light Up Night & Annual Meeting held on November 9 where the winning tickets will be drawn.

Working together with the Regent Square Business Networking Group, the RSCA Board is putting together a great list of prizes many of which will feature local Regent Square businesses. The Grand Prize for this year will be a \$500 gift certificate to the recently restored, and beautiful, Bedford Springs Resort & Spa located in Bedford, Pa. Keep your eyes out for posters in the neighborhood detailing the finalized list of prizes – all a great value for only \$10 per ticket.

Please help support the Regent Square community and local businesses by taking part in our Drive for \$5K fundraising campaign. ■

Did You Sell All Your Junk?

Yard Sale Follow-Up

The 10th annual RSCA Yard sale was a success judging from the over 250 maps and hot lists handed out on Saturday, May 16. There were 10 of the area businesses listed and close to 100 home addresses with many listing “hot” items to lure shoppers. The weather was good except for a brief period of rain but it did not seem to deter the shoppers. Enough money was collected from registration fees to pay the cost of balloons, copies, ads and supplies. A special thanks is sent to the Swissvale Fire Department for hanging the banner over South Braddock. Much appreciation for volunteering the hours spent by the yard sale team: Pat DiReinzo, Joan Reefer and Melissa McDonough. The 10th year brought a much-improved design of the map and hot list by Jared & Alana Delaney. Most of all, thank you to all the neighbors for putting up and taking down the 100 posters and 150 balloons and the participants for making The Square a great place to live. ■

Friends of the Pittsburgh Urban Forest

Arbor Aid! 2009

Friends of the Pittsburgh Urban Forest is excited to announce its annual fundraising event, Arbor Aid 2009. *Friends* is dedicated to enhancing the City's vitality by restoring and protecting trees along our streets, in our parks, and along our hill-sides and riverfronts through tree stewardship, planting, education and advocacy.

Arbor Aid 2009 will be held Friday October 30, 7:00-11:00 p.m. on the sixth floor of Guardian Storage Solutions, at 2839 Liberty Ave. *Friends* is excited to partner with this locally-owned business to use their 10th Pittsburgh location, a 100-year-old building completely renovated to its original beauty with high ceilings, exposed brick, refinished hardwood. Tickets: \$20 for Tree Tenders, \$25 all others ahead of time, \$30 day of the event, available at www.pittsburghforest.org/arboraid2009 or call 412-362-6360. ■

Light Up Night

Annual Meeting Team Up

This year's RSCA Annual Meeting has been combined with the Business Networking Group's Light Up Night celebration. The combined cocktail party and meeting will take place at the newly renovated D's Loft on November 9 from 6 to 8 p.m. Complimentary light food will be served. There will also be a cash bar.

In addition to the brief meetings, this event will also feature the live drawing for 2009 Drive For \$5K fundraiser. Tickets for the fundraiser as well as membership opportunities to join RSCA will be available during the event. ■

Cub Scouts

Join Today!

Cub Scout Pack 23, which meets at the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood, held its fall signup night on Thursday, September 10th. Cub Scouts is for boys in 1st-5th grades, or ages 6-11, and focuses on outdoor activities, service, and citizenship, as well as having fun. Cost to register is \$30, and includes a subscription to Boys' Life, the Scouting magazine. Please contact Melita Carter at 412-731-6097 if you have questions. ■

Food Drive

More Times to Donate Food

The Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church and their Neighborhood Food Drive will be having some changes. Starting on November 1, 2009, they will collect food donations every Sunday, between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. and Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Please support your local food collection by donating any non-perishables that you can. Every little bit helps someone in a major way. ■

Run Around the Square (Cont.)

Continued from Page 1.

This year the race committee decided to eliminate race-day registration because it experienced a shortage of help in 2008 when nearly 500 people showed up early on race day to sign up. The transition, for the most part, appeared to go smoothly.

Unclaimed trophies can be picked up at Wilkins School Community Center or by emailing runaroundthesquare@yahoo.com.

Thanks to all the sponsors that helped make the race happen. The Major Ironman sponsors included: Dunning's Grill, D's Six Pax & Dogs, Rita's Italian Ice, Del Monte Foods, NuGo and Elite Runners and Walkers. Providing Ironman Level sponsorship were Dino's McBroom Beer Distributor; The Map Room; Allegheny General Hospital; Gymkhana; Highmark Blue Cross, Blue Shield; DeFlavio's Pizzeria; First Commonwealth; Lloyd's Insurance & Investments; Giant Eagle, Edgewood Town center; East End Food Co-op; Eyes on Regent Square; Kefalos & Associates; Wilkinsburg-Penn Joint Water Authority; Citiparks; Whole Foods; Powell Chiropractic; West Penn Energy Solutions; Paul J. Gleason D.M.D.; Dollar Bank; Froggy; Schiller's Pharmacy; the Think Tank Group and Consumer Produce.

We also want to thank the 34 Marathon Level sponsors that provided the foundation for support.

And of course a big thanks goes out to the more than 200 volunteers who put in hours of their time to make this one of the best foot races in Western Pennsylvania. It is indeed

the second largest footrace in the city and appears to be growing every year.

This is the third year that Kathryn Griffin has taken the reins as the race director, and she has been instrumental in streamlining operations to improve planning and execution of the race. And of course, we want to thank Phil Costanza and Alex Shamaevsky and many other who thru Citiparks offered their support; all the folks at the Wilkins School Community Center, which offers its facilities for registration and storage; and Brenda Smith, executive director of the Nine Mile Run Watershed Association, for the use of its offices for envelope stuffing and nonprofit stamp for mailing. We would also like to thank all the staff that works so hard from Dick Wolford. His crew sets everything up in the hollow and around the square and then helps take it all down as fast as they can to return the square to normal.

A special thank you goes out to the dedicated race committee that is the backbone of the operation: Pat DiRienzo, Kip Kilpack, Kathryn Griffin, Donna Bour, Mike Pascal, Amy Griska, Brendan & Jackie Laffey, Nicole & Mitch Paterline, Chris Powell, Elizabeth Mullaugh, Neal Harrison, Brian Griffin, Virginia Linn, Todd Green, Cari Marti and Lauren Broyles.

If you'd like to be involved in the race next year, please e-mail runaroundthesquare@yahoo.com. ■

Race Winners

Tops in All Categories of R.A.T.S.

Top male finisher in 1.5:

Pat Sullivan, 29, at 8:54.

Top female finisher in 1.5:

Jordon Bon, 12, at 11:38.

Top finisher in 1.5 from Regent Square: Sean Beckford, 13, at 9:56.

Top overall male finisher in 5K:

Sean Kennedy, 25, of Forest Hills, at 16:13.

Top overall female finisher in 5K:

Abby Hewitt, 18, of Greensburg, at 18:31.

Top male finisher from Regent Square: Stephen Danko, 19, at 19:46.

Top female finisher from Regent Square: Patricia Nied, 35, at 20:42.

5K Masters, Top male:

Gregg Cavaliere, 41, of Lynchburg, Va., at 17:50.

5K Masters, Top female:

Helen Ehling, 43, of Wexford, at 23:05.

Top heavyweight male in 5K:

Conor Lamb, 25, of Pittsburgh, at 19:27.

Top heavyweight female in 5K:

Patricia Nied, of Pittsburgh, at 20:42. ■

Heal Your Heart

Local Resident Creates Guide

Heal Your Heart: Coping with the Loss of a Pet by Karen Litzinger, MA, LPC, is a newly available CD and booklet combination which helps to guide the pet owner through the process of grieving their lost pet. The CD includes Litzinger, a Licensed Professional Counselor with specialized bereavement training, reading comforting messages, pet-focused affirmations, and even a guided meditation along with comforting accompanying harp music. More information on the CD including reviews and excerpts as well as further resources for healing from pet loss can be found at www.HealFromPetLoss.com. ■



To contact the RSCA:

Regent Square Civic Association
7604 Charleston Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15218-1265
412-371-2010 Email: info@regentsquare-RSCA.org

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