

REGENT SQUARE

CIVIC ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

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

Civic Association Seeks New Members

Volunteers needed to keep panel operating

Want to get involved in your community? Want to have a say in projects and improvements for this vibrant neighborhood that is repeatedly rated as one of the best in the city? The Regent Square Civic Association is in need of as many as 11 new board members for the 2011-2013 term to continue its mission of serving the neighborhood.

According to the association's by-laws, the board consists of 9 to 15 members. With up to 11 open positions, the panel is in a critical situation and needs support from the community.

If you are interested in being on the ballot but have questions, please contact any existing board member. Additional information, including FAQ's can be found on the RSCA website (see "Board Members Info.") Candidates must be a member of the RSCA, serve three-year terms, attend one monthly meeting – held at 7 p.m. the first Monday of each month at the Wilkins Community Center, 7605 Charleston Ave. -- and must be active on at least one committee.

The deadline to submit nominations is Sept. 15, 2010. You may submit your nominations via e-mail, through the RSCA website or snail mail to the RSCA. Simply fill out the nomination form on page 4 of this newsletter (or online at www.regentsquare-rsca.org) and return it to the RSCA Nomination Committee at 7604 Charleston Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15218.

Voting ballots, including candidate profiles, will be available in the November newsletter and online at www.regentsquare-rsca.org. If you have questions, please contact the board at contact@regentsquare-rsca.org. ■

New Features Highlight Neighborhood Race

Run Around the Square still promises fun for all

Before you know it, our bucolic streets will be filled with music, balloons and hundreds of runners as we count down the days until the 28th annual Run Around the Square 5K and 1.5-mile Fun Run and Walk.

The event takes place Saturday, Aug. 28, and brings a few changes that will help the run operate more efficiently for the more than 1,500 participants, as well as for organizers. Two of the biggest changes involve timing. Chips this year will be disposable and available when you pick up your race packets. Also, a timing pad will be placed at the starting line to accurately record your time – from start to finish. That means even if you're at the back of the pack when the starting gun goes off, you'll have an accurate time.

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Number 2

Join us...

... at our next RSCA meeting at 7 p.m. July 12 at the Wilkins School Community Center, 7604 Charleston. They are typically held the first Monday of each month, except over holidays. Future meetings will be held on Aug. 2, Sept. 6, Oct. 4 and Nov. 8.

Check out the RSCA website for:

RSCA Board Members
Regent Square Business Listings
Calendar of Events
Community Resources

MORE UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION
FOR REGENT SQUARE RESIDENTS,
BUSINESS OWNERS & NON-PROFITS:

To receive Regent Square notices between issues of this Newsletter, you can register for the:

- RSCA General Email List &/or
- RSCA Business Email List

Visit www.regentsquare-RSCA.org and follow the "RSCA Mailing Lists" links and instructions.

Environmental Charter School Moves Forward

School hopes to acquire new campus for expansion

The administrators of the Environmental Charter School at Frick Park are pursuing an exciting venture to address the growing popularity of the Imagine School. They recently reached an agreement to purchase the former Park Place School, 309 S. Braddock, to expand the school to K-8. It's located about a half mile north of the current school on Henrietta at Milton.

Because of opposition from some residents, administrators of the 320-student school dropped an earlier proposal to expand the school at its current location at Henrietta and Milton. The Braddock site, which operates now as a 17-unit apartment complex, would serve as an extended campus if it receives the necessary conditional use permit from Pittsburgh City Council and the city planning commission.

The Environmental Charter School currently serves K-4 and plans to add a fifth grade next year.

Here's a statement from Principal Jon McCann about the latest developments:

Dear Regent Square Residents:

The Environmental Charter School would like to thank everyone that contributed to the community discourse surrounding the proposed expansion of our Regent Square facility. Your feedback was central in our decision to shift our focus from an onsite expansion to the reuse of an existing school building. We look forward to working with you in the future to ensure ECS school operations are managed in such a way as to minimize our environmental impact and add value to the wider neighborhood. Thank you again to the Regent Square Civic Association for facilitating our community conversation and for its continued efforts as a conduit for important local information.

Contributions: This edition was edited by Virginia Linn with layout by Rebecca Doshi. Thanks go to community members who contributed articles or information for the newsletter. This month, they include:

- Kathryn Griffin – Race
- Donna Bour – Charter School
- Virginia Linn – Stay Alert
- Carrie Webber – Newsletter
- Jose Mieres – Clay Courts
- Carrie Webber – Civic Association
- Kathleen Meyer – Spotlight
- Katharine Luckett – Gardens
- Lisa Brown – Nine Mile Run

The RSCA welcomes the submission of articles and calendar events to this Newsletter. Deadline for submission of the next quarterly newsletter is Aug. 1. 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

Frick Park Lawn Bowling Club

Saturday, July 24, 2010 to Thursday, July 29, 2010 - Frick Park Lawn Bowling Club (FPLBC) hosts North East Division Open. 7300 block of Reynolds St., in the Point Breeze section of Pittsburgh, across the street from Frick Art and Historical Center. For more information on the Frick Park Lawn Bowling Club Open House, membership fees, lessons or coaching, visit www.lawnbowling.net or contact Hank Luba at 412.782.0848.

Nine Mile Run Watershed

Mark your calendars for the annual fundraiser for the Nine Mile Run Watershed -- "A Midsummer Night's Storm", Saturday, July 17, from 7p.m. to 11:30 p.m. This event will feature food and drink from some of the best local restaurants, including Point Brugge, as well as acoustic music and, later in the evening, dancing to some of the hottest local DJ's. Last year 175 people attended; with the help of an expanded event committee, we plan to grow the attendance this year to at least 225. Join us for this great evening under the stars in Frick Park! Tickets are available on line at www.ninemilerun.org.

More Gardens Sprout in The East End

Residents are urged to help beautify neighborhoods

The Edgewood Garden Clubs spring plant sale in Memorial Park in mid-May drew a wonderful turnout of neighbors and volunteers. The money raised will be invested in beautification and education in our East End communities. In particular, you will see improvements at the Edgewood Primary School as the memorial garden for Pamela Bergamasco gets underway.

We also are partnering with Nine Mile Run Watershed Association, Lami-Grubb Architects and community volunteers to install a rain garden at the historic train station at the intersections of Edgewood, East Swissvale and Maple Avenues. In addition, our neighbors in Swissvale have undertaken to create a garden at Dickson School, which we will be supporting. If you would like to help, contact Eileen Manz at 412- 243-5950.

In other news, Imagine Charter School has planted its pollinator perennial garden, Native perennials, shrubs and trees are located in the front of the school on Henrietta with the goal of attracting bees and butterflies for students to observe next school year. The other side of the garden is made up of a Three Sisters vegetable garden, tiered potato planters and strawberry plants that students will harvest for a feast in the fall. If you are interested in helping adults and children learn how to garden, please contact Laura Micco at Laura.Micco@imagineschools.com for more information.

The unifying factor in all these garden projects is the community members who had a vision and were willing to commit time and energy to take ownership of their small corner of the universe. Is there a plot of ground near where you live that you feel you turn into a garden with the help of your neighbors and friends? If each of us would invest in a small area, our East End could become a lovelier place. The Garden Club would love to help you make this happen. Please contact us through Katharine Luckett, George Pettrone, Jim Burkett or any other Garden Club member.

You can find more information by googling "The Edgewood Garden Club." ■

Neighborhood Business Spotlight: *William Penn Jewelers and Watchmakers*

William Penn Jewelers and Watchmakers opened its doors in the Fall of 2009, occupying the former "Stonebrakers" space at 1112 South Braddock Ave. Owner Yefim Shimenko along with his son Michael, daughter-in-law Tina, and daughter Galina, operate the long-time, family-owned business. It is a full-service jewelry sales and watch and clock repair center. It also specializes in custom designs, vintage and modern restorations and appraisals.

Tina Shimenko is delighted with the location in Regent Square. The residents have been very friendly, helpful and supportive, she says. In turn, Tina is excited about becoming a member of the RSCA Business group and working to improve the business district. She especially enjoys the holiday lights along South Braddock Avenue and the community feel of the neighborhood.

Tina would like everyone to know that all their work is done on the premises and that the store buys gold. Stop in and get your rings cleaned! ■

Nine Mile Run Watershed Urges Rain Gardens

Initiatives also aim to update tree inventory

The Nine Mile Run Watershed Association is installing six new rain gardens across the watershed this spring in an effort to generate greater interest in this low-impact approach to stormwater management. As a member of the Rain Garden Alliance, the NMRWA is committed to educating the public about the important role that rain gardens can play in solving the region's wet weather problems.

Two of the gardens will be installed on public sites, one in Wilkinsburg's Whitney Park and the other in front of the Train Station on Swissvale Avenue in Edgewood. The others are on residential lots, in visible front or side yard locations. These gardens are being installed at no charge to the property owners, using donated materials and labor. At the conclusion of the Pilot Project, NMRWA will begin offering rain garden installation as a service at a competitive price. Residents or business owners interested in having a rain garden on their property will be able to contract with NMRWA for either design only, or for a complete design and installation. For details, go to www.ninemilerun.org.

In another initiative, the watershed has coordinated a volunteer street tree inventory in the watershed communities of Edgewood, Swissvale and Wilkinsburg. This first look at the urban canopy in the watershed showed us the total number of street trees by municipality, the dollar value of each tree by species and location, and which municipality had the healthiest urban forest. Many changes have occurred since then, older trees were removed due to disease or power line conflicts, and more than 240 young trees planted. Updating the number and health of our trees for 2010 will help NMRWA identify areas for future tree plantings and allow us to advocate for tree care and maintenance in the watershed communities.

The Nine Mile Run Watershed Association 2010 Street Tree Blitz will be held Saturday, June 12, in Edgewood and Swissvale and Saturday, June 26, in Wilkinsburg. Hours run from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on both days. Please join us in this important project. For more information contact Justin at 412.371.8779 X 116 or email justin@ninemilerun.org ■

Clay Court Tennis Club Marks 80th Year of Courts

2010 season kicks off with clinics, tournaments

The Frick Park Clay Court Tennis Club opened its fourth season in late April with free clinics, music and other festivities that drew 150 players and spectators. The free clinics were sponsored by Citiparks, Mt. Lebanon Tennis Center, USTA Pro Circuit Men's Futures of Pittsburgh and the Club4Life. The event also was sponsored by Tennis Village in Shadyside, Urban Active Fitness in Bakery Square, and Calli's Restaurant in Regent Square. Music was provided by DJ Turnstyles.

The club, founded in 2007, is dedicated to the restoration, maintenance, revitalization and improvement of the Frick Clay Courts. It is funded by player member dues, donations, entry fees and local business sponsorships. Membership is open to players of all ages and abilities, and players can sign up year-round.

Here are some of the 2010 Red Clay Season highlights:

CLUB MEMBER LEAGUES, TOURNAMENTS, AND LADDER -- Weekly, May to October. Players of all ages and levels, beginner to advanced, are welcome to be part of weekly leagues, the tennis ladder, as well as three tournaments. Entry is included in the annual club member dues: \$30 for adults (\$40 with T-shirt), and \$15 for juniors ages 18 and under (\$25 with T-shirt). New club members can begin to play anytime of the year.

FREE SUNDAY CLINICS -- noon to 1p.m Beginner adult and children group clinics will take place Sundays beginning June 14. Newcomers, latecomers and players looking to get back into tennis are urged to attend.

ADVANCED JUNIOR CAMP – Monday and Tuesday, June 28-29, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This first edition camp is for boys and girls 14 and under. It will focus on getting players ready to play matches in junior tournaments, reviewing game skills, rules and good sportsmanship. Inquiries about scholarships for local youths are welcome.

2nd ANNUAL FRICK PARK RED CLAY JUNIOR OPEN – Wednesday, June 30 – Sunday, July 4, 2010. This tournament is the only USTA-sanctioned junior competition in Western Pennsylvania to be held on red clay courts. The junior open features singles and doubles competition for boys and girls in three age divisions: 14 and under, 12 and under, and 10 and under. Weekday matches are held during the morning and afternoon. Online registration is available.

RSCA Board Nomination Form

Is the nominee a member of the RSCA?

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

Number 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.

Inquiries about scholarships for local youth are very welcome

PAUL G. SULLIVAN CLAY COURT CHAMPIONSHIPS – Wednesday, July 14 – Sunday, July, 25, 2010 - Citiparks and Frick Park Clay Court Tennis Club will present this popular tournament for adults. This event, formerly the Pittsburgh Park Championships, is named for the late Paul Sullivan, a Duquesne University graduate and tennis coach who directed it from 1930 to 2001. Weekday matches will be held mostly in late afternoon and evenings. The 2009 edition featured 110 player participants competing in seven singles and doubles events. Online registration is available.

For more information about tennis activities taking place at Frick Park, to participate as a club player, sponsor or supporter, for all tournament registrations, please contact the Frick Park Clay Court Tennis Club at www.clayfricktennis.org. ■

(Race, continued from p. 1)

We are also pleased to announce that the race has a new Purse Sponsor – Gordon Shoes! Located at the Waterfront in Homestead, Gordon's has generously signed on to sponsor gift certificates for race winners.

Among other major contributors are the Major Ironman sponsors. These include D's Six Pax and Dogz, Del Monte and Dunning's Grill.

The Ironman Sponsors are Allegheny Chesapeake Physical Therapy, Allegheny General Hospital, CitiParks, Comcast, Consumer Produce, DeFlavio's on the Square Pizzeria, Dick's Sporting Goods, Dollar Bank, East End Food Co-op, Eyes on Regent Square, First Commonwealth Bank, Froggy Radio, Giant Eagle -- Edgewood Town Center, Gymkhana, Highmark Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Katerbean, Kefalos & Associates Real Estate, Lloyd's Insurance & Investments. The Map Room Grill & Bar, McBroom Beer Distributor, Neighborhood Realty Services, NuGo Nutrition, Paul J. Gleason DMD, Family Dentistry, Powell Chiropractic, Rita's Italian Ice, Square Café, Think Tank Group, Wheel Deliver, Whole Foods, Wilksburg Penn, Joint Water Authority and Wise Snacks.

You can see the full list of sponsors at www.runaroundthesquare.com. We couldn't do the race without our generous sponsors –Thank you for all of your support!

Getting involved

If you aren't going to run or walk in the event, there are plenty of opportunities to get involved as a volunteer. Each year we need roughly 200 volunteers for a range of duties: stuffing packets, monitoring traffic, distributing flyers, handing out ribbons and refreshments at the finish line – the list goes on and on. For students, this is a chance to fulfill those school-required community service requirements; because we're a nonprofit we can sign those school forms. It also could make a great service project for college sororities or fraternities.

We'd also like more neighborhood musicians to play on the race course. We have about 10 individual musicians or groups that entertain participants already, but more are welcome. (we pay – hint, hint) If you're interested in entertaining, contact Virginia Linn at r.m.linn@verizon.net.

As a special thank you, a party will be held for volunteers at the end of the year. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Kathryn Griffin at 412-246-9506 or any committee members at runaroundthesquare@yahoo.com.

Event details

Mark your calendar for these important race dates:

If you want to help stuff packets with race materials, come to the Wilkins School on Sunday, Aug. 22 at 10 a.m.

Online registration ends 11:59 p.m. Aug. 25. Only those registering by Aug. 13 at 11:59 p.m. will be guaranteed their requested T-shirt sizes.

Registration costs and dates: For the 1.5-mile Fun Run and Walk, entry fee is \$12 until Aug. 13 and \$15 starting Aug. 14 thru Aug. 27; Dogs, \$8 by Aug. 13; \$10 on Aug. 14 thru Aug. 27.

For the 5K, entry fee is \$19 by Aug. 13 and \$25 starting Aug. 14 thru Aug. 27.

Packet pickup and registration will be held 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Aug. 26 and Aug. 27 at the Wilkins School, 7604 Charleston Ave. There will be NO RACE DAY REGISTRATION. On race day you can only pick up packets from 7 a.m. until 15 minutes before the start of your race.



To contact the RSCA:

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

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Newsletter Announcement

As the Regent Square Civic Association rebuilds its leadership, the publication dates of the neighborhood newsletter have been reduced to four times a year. The next newsletter will be printed in September. If you want to send stories or announcements to the newsletter, please e-mail them to contact@regentsquare-rsca.org. Between published newsletters, the association also sends out e-mail blasts with the latest information. If you are not getting these now and would like to be added to the list, please visit the RSCA website at www.regentsquare-rsca.org and register for email updates. Thank you. ■

Stay Alert, Watch Your Neighbors

Break-ins reported in Square

Over the last month, there have been reports of at least one burglary of a home and a few cars have been ransacked. As safe as we are in Regent Square, the park provides a quick hiding place for thieves who dash in and out of the neighborhood. Keep your cars locked if you park them on the street (or in garages). Lock your doors at home and keep your eyes open. Please report any unusual activity to 911 right away. ■

RSCA Membership Form 2010

[Feel free to make copies of this membership form]

Name _____

Name _____

Name _____

- or -

Business Name _____

Business Owner _____

Alt. Rep. _____

Website _____

Address _____

City | State | Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Support the efforts of the RSCA through your dues and/or a donation of your choice.

- Resident @ \$ 10.00 per person
 1 Business @ \$ 25.00 per business
 1 Donation @ \$ _____

Please send in this form with your check (payable to RSCA) to:

**RSCA Membership
7604 Charleston Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15218**

Add me to the RSCA E-mail List

Contact me to discuss: _____

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

The RSCA is still accepting memberships for the year 2010. Membership fees enable us to: communicate with the neighborhood through production of the newsletter, maintenance of the website, email blasts, and ad hoc mailings; pay for costs associated with facilitating meetings regarding pertinent neighborhood issues, pay for operational costs such as mailbox and phone service and much more. In 2010 or 2011, we hope to apply for additional grants so that we can further our South Braddock improvement initiatives. Grantors consider the level of support (through membership numbers) as an indication of how much the community supports the goal of the grant. So please consider becoming a member today. ■